

# IT'S HERE... EMERALD ASH BORER

(Agrilus planipennis Fairmaire)

By Dennis Wilson, Certified Arborist, MN Tree Inspector

Photos by Jeff Hann

- When did it arrive? The insect arrived in the United States in 2003 in Ohio through packing crates; it arrived in Minnesota in 2009.

- Where is the insect today? Emerald Ash Borer is in 14 States and two Canadian provinces (three counties in Minnesota; Hennepin, Houston and Ramsey)

- What does it do? Adult beetles nibble on the Ash tree foliage but cause little damage, the larva (immature stage) feed on the inner bark (cambium) of the plant disrupting water and nutrient transport up and down the plant.

- Why is it serious? So far the insect has killed tens of millions of Ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone, with Minnesota having roughly 900 million ash trees (second only to Maine) the species will decimate and the states eco system will change.

- What can be done? Treating Ash trees with a systemic insecticide (insecticide that is taken up through the plant as opposed to a topical that is sprayed on top of the plant) injected into the trunk of the plant seems to be the most affective in protecting the tree. Injections also protect the tree the longest with some of them lasting two to three years. There has also been mixed results in other methods of getting the insecticide into the plant such as soil drenching and soil injection, and both of these methods only last in the plant for one year.

- When should Ash trees be treated? Treatment can take place in the Spring during the months of April to June and again in the early fall from the months of September to October.

- Who can treat Ash trees? Please consult a Certified Arborist such as Lawn Ranger on your different options available to you. Micro injections and some soil injections can only be done by a trained licensed professional; there are products available to the public to protect their Ash trees if they want to do them themselves through soil drenching.



P.O. Box 39451  
Mpls. MN 55430

Address Service Requested



PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit  
No. 1425



Lawn Ranger-now of Facebook.  
Become a 'fan' for the latest tips, news, and upcoming.



FALL 2010  
Volume #3



## A PEEK AT THIS EDITION'S ARTICLES



JOE'S  
TRAVEL  
ADVENTURE



TURF  
CARE



IT'S HERE...  
EAB



MEET  
ANNE

Ranked in the top 150 Grounds Management companies in the U.S. by Landscape Magazine and in the top 100 & Ice Management Companies in the U.S. by Snow Magazine

# A TRIP INTO THE AMAZON

By Joe Unger, Owner/President



A lot of people do months of research on their trip abroad. Not me, usually I start reading on the plane or train. This makes for an exciting trip. When I arrive with my backpack there is no booking for a place to stay, no plans. This can sometimes be difficult, especially if you can't speak the language or read their script (orthography.)



Having said the above, I was backpacking in South America, specifically Ecuador. Not far from Quito (the capitol) was the Amazon Basin. This would be my chance to experience one of the most biodiverse places on the planet.

So I hopped on a canoe with a bunch of nutty ornithologists (bird watchers) from every corner of the world. They had all sorts of expensive gear and would carry books to verify their new sightings. To me if it flies, I call it a bird. I do believe these people would kill their first born just to spot that rare bird sighting!

So, it was very hot out and these nuts were yelling out these rare bird sightings. We were in this beautiful little canal opening up into a small lagoon when one of the ornithologists yells out, 'There's a black caiman.' Soon all these people are spotting more caiman.



So I'm looking up trying to spot these supposed birds 'caiman'.

Then one of the guys on the boat with a big smile asks "Does anyone want to swim?" Hey this lagoon looks great, so I jump in the water to everyone's horror. One problem, Black Caiman are not birds. They are 8' alligators! I was swimming in the middle of a dozen caiman. Long story short, they didn't eat me, after all I'm here to tell the story. Needless to say, I will never be a first choice as a tour guide!



## Meet Anne

We are excited to announce that Anne Kreiser, CPM has joined our team at Lawn Ranger as our 'Business Development Manager'. Anne joins us with a long distinguished and respected career in Property Management. Her insight and experience in the Property Management world will help to forge a stronger relationship with our current and future clients, eliminating that occasional disconnect that exists between Management Companies and Service Providers. Her addition will also further enhance our already high levels of service and will help to refine our services and develop relationships that continue to set us apart from our competition. Welcome aboard Anne!



IF YOU WISH TO NO LONGER RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL: CSCHUETTE@LAWNRANGERMN.COM OR CALL 952-937-6067.

## Turf Care

By Jesse Flury, Grounds Supervisor

Here in Minnesota we experience hot and dry periods of weather, which can be problematic to your property. During these times, it's necessary to take extra measures to ensure your properties maintain a rich green color throughout the summer.

One step to promote healthier turf is to raise the height of the mower deck so grass stays a bit taller. The biggest mowing mistake the typical homeowner makes in cutting grass too short. Some people even scalp their lawn, using the 'putting-green' look as the ideal model. This can have negative impacts for several reasons:

- Moisture and nutrition demands are heightened as the grass tries to recover from being cut too short.
- The soil dries out faster, which increases the ill effect of drought.
- Weed germination is enhanced as well as growth since the taller grass blades aren't shading the weeds and hindering their growth.

One of the vital practices in lawn care is always having sharp blades. Maintained and sharp mower blades allow for a clean blade cut. Dull blades rip the heads off grass blades and cause ragged edges. Not only does it cause a cosmetic issue, rough ragged cuts result in 'brown tip' where the blades aren't upright and have a brown appearance. When the blades of grass are not upright, larger openings in the turf are created, resulting in moisture loss and increased stress during the hot summer weather. These openings also leave the grass vulnerable to disease.

So don't let the heat of summer leave you with a brown lawn. Implementing these practices will lead you on your way to a green and healthy lawn.

