



**ILLINOIS  
FIRST DETECTOR**

WHAT'S THE POINT?  
WHY YOU ARE IMPORTANT; ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN ILLINOIS FIRST DETECTOR

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## Why are we here?

- Invasive species have and continue to threaten our forests, prairies, waters, food supply, gardens, and resources.
- There is a large contingency of cooperators maintaining vigilance and priority in preventing, detecting, managing, and battling invasive species.
- We need a bigger army! We need your help!
- Budgets and staffs are thin, so the more eyes we have helping the cause, the better our goals can be met and we can hopefully achieve early detection.
- Build on, expand, and improve our detection ability as a state.

## What makes a species *INVASIVE*?

- Invasive species = “a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration **AND** whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” (NISC 2006)
- Can be exotic (federal issue) or “domestic” (state(s) issue)

Introduced → Established → Invasive

## It All Starts at the Front Lines...



### How Much is Coming In??

- About 32,000 containers at US port DAILY.
- 11.6 million annually
- 90% enters at only 10 of the 300 ports
- Actually, as of 2009, approx. 80% of all containers were non-intrusively scanned.
- Goal of 100% by 2012 (abandoned for risk based approach)
- But, main focus is special nuclear materials, not necessarily agricultural products



### Detection and Monitoring Surveys

- We conduct surveys for 2 primary reasons;
- Detection – to find pests early before they become established. Usually at calculated high risk sites such as warehouses, mills, firewood dealers, campsites, growing locations, etc.
- Monitoring – to “keep an eye on” the movement of known present/established pests and how they are spreading.
- Usually some overlap.



### What Happens When They Make It In?

- Not all pests are regulated
- In the “severe” cases;
- Multiple agencies get involved in response
- USDA takes national lead on exotics, States take state lead in local detection and regulatory policy
- States (Ag or DNR) take lead on domestic
- Local (county, township, municipal) can create policy
- Cooperative effort



### Problem is...

- **They still get in!**
- In the last 2 decades;
- Sudden Oak Death (1995)
- Asian Longhorned Beetle (1996)
- Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (1998)
- Emerald Ash Borer (2002)
- Thousand Cankers Disease (2010)
- Spotted Lantern Fly (2014)



### And Become Established...

- Garlic Mustard
- EAB
- Dutch Elm Disease
- Asian Carp
- Zebra Mussels
- Soybean aphid
- Pine Shoot Beetle
- Phragmites
- Etc...



### Who's Looking for Them?!

- USDA APHIS
- USFS
- CAPS/INHS, UI extension, and plant clinics
- IDoA (and other state Departments of Agriculture)
- IDNR (and other state DNRs)
- Cooperators (Morton Arb, CBG)
- Industry (arborists, PHC specialists, growers/sellers)
- Municipal arborists and forestry staffs
- Volunteers (1<sup>st</sup> Detectors, Citizen Scientists, etc.)
- Concerned citizens



### Illinois' Current Capacity

- 19 IDOA field staff
- 10-12 U of I Plant Clinic
- 2-4 CAPS w/Kelly
- 62 CBP\*
- 12 PPQ officers and technicians
- 16 IDNR district foresters
- Only 1 Chris Evans

Approximately 125 professional individuals, 250 professional eyes



### Professional Groups

- IL State Pest Analysis of Risk Committee (SPARC)
- -State wide, multi-agency group addressing broad commodity, pest, and pathway risks; provides technical advisory info for policy, regulatory, and detection efforts.
- Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project (FPOSP)
- -Smaller state wide, multi-agency and cooperator group addressing forest health specific topics; reviews trends, threats, and outreach issues associated with tree health.
- Illinois Invasive Species Council (IIPSC)
- 16 person council of industry and IDNR staff; minimize adverse economic and ecological effects of invasive plants in IL.



## Illinois First Detector Network

- 2013 - 324 attendees (51,950 2')
- 2014 - 175 attendees (25,050 2', 18 returnees)
- 2015 - 222 attendees (25,700 2', 18 returnees)
- 625 attendees, 102,700 2' = 206,650 eyes
  
- 3100 MG, 700 MN
- 3800 individuals, 7600 eyes
  
- All additional volunteers
- 880% increase in detection capacity



## Can I really make a difference?

Agencies certainly intercept more on the front lines such as ports and nurseries, but that's not the case beyond that front line.

Believe it or not, more high profile detections in the environment seem to be made by non-agency individuals.

Don't believe me?



## A few of the nasties "you've" detected... (\*indicates regulated pest)

- EAB\* (2006)
- ALB\* (1996)
- VLB (2013)
- Jumping worms!!!! (2015)
- BMSB (2010)
- Giant Hogweed\* (2006)
- Japanese Chaff Flower (2008)
- SNEED (2011)



## Your Roles and Responsibilities

- Have an understanding of why you are important and where you fit in to the work being done.
- Familiarize yourself with some of the highest rated pests of concern here in Illinois.
- Recognize and detect new pests.
- Be ready!!
- Record data, take photos, submit samples, report.
- Notify an Agency within the network.
- Keep records - more info may be needed later on.
- Be available if further info or sampling is needed.
- Spread the word.
- Work as an extension of the network, and become a vital part of the network!



## If you find something...do's

- It is always better to be safe than sorry.*
- Collect and secure a sample whenever possible.
- Record everything you possibly can.
- Gather as much evidence as possible – too much is better than too little.
- Check a few other locations with similar plants or conditions for any consistency in infestation.
- Let an official within the network know, they will tell you what else may be needed.



## If you find something...don'ts

- Go to the media.
- Confirm it on your own.
- Make assumptions one way or another.
- Over think it.
- Worry about being wrong.



## What Will Your Efforts Contribute?

- An expanded network of detection capabilities in Illinois.
- Hopefully leading to better early detection ability, which is one of, if not our greatest, challenges.
- An ability to evaluate risk and threat prior to significant damage occurring, or...
- An ability to mobilize and respond rapidly if a management plan or response is already established.
- An expanded outreach effort.



## Barry Albach



## ALB - The Perfect Example

- ALB was first reported by Barry Albach, a Skokie municipal worker, in 1998.
- Around July 4, he took some firewood from a coworker who lived in Ravenswood that had cut some branches in his yard. Mr. Albach saw a “funny” looking bug on his truck a few days later, and noticed more in back with the wood.
- He did a quick internet search and found reports of ALB in NY, so he called USDA to report it.
- USDA made a site visit, and on July 13 they confirmed ALB.



## ALB continued...

- Federal, State, and City of Chicago official began to survey in the Ravenswood area immediately.
- That Monday an infested tree was found, and Tuesday USDA, IDOA, and City of Chicago began a formal tree survey.
- USFS became involved, as well as a major PR effort including Mayor Daley, Carol Mosley Braun, and US Sec of Ag Dan Glickman. Media got involved to inform and garner public support.



## ALB...

- All said and done 1576 trees were removed due to eradication.
- 90K+ trees were treated annually.
- 50+ square miles were quarantined to prevent spread.
- ALB was declared eradicated on April 17, 2008
- Just shy of 10yrs after Mr. Albach had the intuition to report what he saw.



## Be Like Barry

- Questions?

