

**Agroforestry Resource Center  
Cornell Cooperative Extension**

**News Release**

To: All News Media  
From: Rick Burstell, Program Educator  
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**Ash Tree Tagging Event at the Mountain Top Arboretum**

Acra – The Mountain Top Arboretum, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties and The Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) will be hosting an **Ash Tree Tagging Event** at the Mountain Top Arboretum in Tannersville on Saturday, October 13 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is responsible for the death of tens of millions of ash trees from the mid-west to the Northeast. More than 7.5 billion ash trees in the United States, including 900 million in New York State, remain at risk. The beetle, native to Asia, was first confirmed in the mid-west and Canada in 2002. The EAB is present in several locations of New York State. The largest area of infestation in New York is centered in Ulster and Greene Counties.

The EAB threatens to kill all Ulster and Greene Counties ash trees. The purpose of this event is to create public awareness of the EAB and to promote community preparedness to deal with the issue in the future. Local residents and property owners are encouraged to attend this workshop which will enable them to identify ash trees, the EAB and the damage they do.

The program will begin at 1:00pm with an ash identification discussion followed by an ash tree tagging on the wooded trails of the Arboretum. Following the tagging will be a discussion of the damage to expect and what to do once the borer has moved into the local area. We will also discuss Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, another invasive pest from Asia, that is already established and threatening the hemlocks in the area around the Arboretum and elsewhere.

This is a family-friendly, hands-on free event. There will be snacks and beverages available as well as many hand-outs on Invasive Species. Participants should dress appropriately for hiking short distances. If you have any special needs, please contact us in advance. Registration is requested but not required. To register for this event or to find out more call Cornell Cooperative Extension @ 518 622-9820 or visit our website <http://www.columbiagreene.org/>

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