



The Price of Education

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

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The Price of Education: We all know the importance of professional education as a means of staying current within our industry, connecting with colleagues and increasing our value to our employers. Realizing, of course, the state of our current economy, I was taken aback when a salesperson recently told me that a significant portion of our membership did not attend the March Mega-Seminar because of the cost. Maybe I am way off base here but I find this hard to believe considering the cost of the event was \$75 for one day or \$125 for two days. There are numerous costs associated with organizing these events including speaker transportation, lodging, and honorariums as well as seminar meals and refreshments and a variety of incidentals to boot. This last seminar, held at Dellwood GC (thank you to Superintendent Eric Petersen) netted less than \$2,000. It is the Education Committee and BOD's goal to keep participation costs to a minimum. The BOD, including myself, felt that the seminar fees were very reasonable. If you have a different take on the situation, please contact myself or a member of the BOD to share your thoughts or concerns. We believe one of the primary purposes of our MGCSA is to provide quality educational opportunities at affordable prices. Your continuing input is vital to this goal.

EAB Field Demonstrations: Several weeks ago I had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on group demonstration put on by the St. Paul Parks Department, the MN Department of Ag and the U.S. Forest Service. Using draw knives we operated on sections of ash trees removed from infested areas in St. Paul that may or may not have contained EAB larvae. Under the watchful eye of MDA and USFS "experts" we surgically de-barked sections of cut up ash trees, removing thin layers of cambium tissue in search of this secretive pest. It wasn't long before a shout went out - the first specimen had been found. Not long after that I discovered my first larva. They are difficult to extract in one piece, as I soon found out, especially if your cuts are too aggressive.

Several things became apparent during this exercise. Spotting larval activity beneath the bark is very difficult. Telltale signs include areas of bark that are split and/or raised due to callus tissue forming beneath the bark around the pest activity; a defensive measure initiated by the tree. Also, the group noticed a characteristic staining in the cambium tissue prior to uncovering the S-shaped galleries of these insects. One of the specimen trees we worked on showed no visible signs of infestation prior to removal though it was growing in close proximity to a visibly infested tree...very stealthy indeed!

The EAB adult flight season begins around May 1. Both the pruning and removal of ash is not recommended in known EAB-infested areas during summer due to the risk of adults emerging from the material while in transit or at a disposal location.

Several EAB websites that may be of interest to you: <http://gis.mda.state.mn.us/eab/MN> infestation map down to neighborhood level;
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/sitecore/content/Global/MDADocs/pestsplants/eab/bmps4eab.aspx>

BMP's for known EAB infested areas:
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/eab/reviewarchive.aspx> EAB Regulatory Review for the latest info on EAB in MN - usually updated weekly. To subscribe, follow the directions at the top of the website page.

The Myths: I recently came upon the website www.debugthemyth.com and thought I would share it with you. It is devoted to promoting factual, accurate information on pesticides and fertilizers and features commentary by such experts as Dr. John Stier, UW-Madison. If you are looking for ideas for your member newsletter or GC Maintenance blog, this site may offer some assistance.

BOD News: In response to past survey results, the BOD recently voted to pursue the sale of MGCSA logo clothing. Due to the complicated nature of such a venture, we have decided to move forward slowly. The plan is to have some golf shirts and sweatshirts available for sale at upcoming monthly meetings. If these offerings prove popular, we will designate two time periods per year when individuals may order additional clothing. Our goal is not to make money on this program but to provide reasonably priced apparel for our membership. Our Executive Director, Scott Turtinen, will be the point man for this program.

I hope to see you at the Spring Mixer at Eastwood GC in Rochester. Assistant Superintendents - this one's for you!
(But all are welcome)

*Until Next Month,
Paul Diegnau, CGCS*