

Westbrook Land Conservation Trust

Forests are complex ecosystems, and in Eastern Connecticut, they are struggling and changing, due to both native and introduced parasites that decimate trees on a large scale. At the Land Trust Open House in February, guest speaker Tom Worthley, Associate Extension Professor at the UConn Cooperative Extension Service, addressed this issue. An insect that has killed many oak trees is the Gypsy Moth. Another very visible pest is the Emerald Ash Borer.

Have you noticed small holes and scraped bark on any of your Ash trees? It could be that the Emerald Ash Borer is doing its work in your forest. Westbrook was confirmed positive for this insect in 2016, and is under federal quarantine, meaning you may not transport ash wood from your property. The Emerald Ash Borer is a green beetle native to Asia. Eggs are laid in folds of the bark. Larvae hatch in a week, then bore into the phloem, eating tunnels throughout winter. The adult beetle emerges in spring through D-shaped holes, as seen in the picture. The damage you see around the holes is due to woodpeckers. In two to four years, the tree may die.

If you have questions about your forest, and similar issues, contact the Experiment Station at CAES.StateEntomologist@ct.gov. Informative websites include <http://www.emeraldashborer.com> and the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at <https://ctpa.org>.

The Land Trust owns 31 land parcels totaling just under 141 acres, as well as the conservation rights to 51 acres. We celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2018. If you live near a parcel, or simply appreciate the protected open space we preserve, please consider joining this organization. Write or email us at: WLCT, PO Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498. Email: WestbrookLCT@yahoo.com.

