

Forest Health Highlights in Texas 2014

- Pine engraver beetles (*Ips* spp.) and hypoxylon canker continued to dominate the forest health scene in Texas in 2014, as the state continued to recover from the worst drought on record.
- High-value pines in campgrounds in Bastrop State Park that survived a devastating wildfire in 2011 are still being threatened by engraver beetles. One hundred of the most valuable pines in Bastrop State Park and a nearby Boy Scout camp were injected with a systemic insecticide (emamectin benzoate) in late 2012 to protect them from bark beetle attacks. As a result, none of the injected trees were killed by bark beetles in 2013. Monitoring of these high-value trees in one of Texas' most popular State Parks continues.
- With funding from the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), TFS and collaborators installed and monitored 1,631 detection traps for emerald ash borer in 2014. To successfully conduct this survey, volunteer groups (Master Naturalists and others) were solicited and trained in counties not covered by TFS staff. Large, purple tri-panel traps were installed on ash trees in 127 counties in late February or March and monitored in June and August. Fortunately, no EAB were found, indicating that this invasive pest has not yet arrived in Texas.
- As predicted using spring-deployed pheromone traps, no southern pine beetle (SPB) infestations were detected in Texas in 2014, making this the 18th year with no SPB activity.
- Oak wilt, caused by the fungal pathogen *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, continues to be the major tree disease problem in live oak and red oak woodlands of Central Texas in both urban and rural areas. The Cooperative Oak Wilt Suppression Project, funded by the USFS/Forest Health Protection, and delivered by TFS foresters is now in its 27th year. This cost-share program continues to promote public awareness, prevention and control options for affected landowners throughout Central Texas.