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*Serving Lenawee, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland,  
 St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties*

## 2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Meetings

- Conducted a legislative breakfast in February to update the Michigan Congressional delegation on Council activities.
- Chairman Morse Brown, represented the Council at the Michigan Association of RC&D Councils Annual meeting in West Branch, Michigan.
- Gordon Ruttan, Council Vice-Chairman, attended the North Central RC&D Conference in Dubuque Iowa.



*Legislative breakfast meeting attended by representatives of Michigan's Congressional delegation.*

### Soft Engineering/Conservation Buffers Project- 319 Grant



*Nichols Arboretum workshop participants learn about soft engineering techniques.*

The final soft engineering technology transfer workshop and installation was conducted in October at The University of Michigan Nichols Arboretum, Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County. The property is owned by the City of Ann Arbor, and is managed by the University.

The Council partnered with the following groups to implement this project: City of Ann Arbor, Huron River Watershed Council, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, The University of Michigan, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washtenaw County Drain

Commissioner, Washtenaw County Road Commission, and Washtenaw County Conservation District.

Similar workshop/installation efforts were completed in prior years in Lenawee, Macomb and St. Clair Counties. Several of the projects received coverage in various publications, including the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's publication; "Restoring the Connection: Stories of Ecosystem Restoration in the Great Lakes"; and "Pipeline" magazine, the journal of the Michigan Association of Drain Commissioners.



*At right, completed soft engineering demonstration project on the Huron River in The University of Michigan Nichols Arboretum, City of Ann Arbor.*

## Ash Utilization Options Project – U.S. Forest Service Grants

**Value-Added Wood Use Grants:** As part of a U.S. Forest Service grant, the Council issued \$138,126 in funding to two small businesses and a research team to develop projects that utilize ash trees harvested from Emerald Ash Borer eradication efforts. The three grant projects have successfully demonstrated how ash can be used in a variety of value-added products.

- ***LaMont Brothers Tree Service***, which ran two of the state's ash disposal facilities, used their grant funding to purchase a portable band saw. Using this equipment, they have been able to convert ~30% of the waste wood they receive into value-added products, including railroad ties, grade lumber, and pallet lumber.
- ***Last Chance Logs to Lumber*** also used grant funding to purchase a portable band saw. The company provides direct milling services to local municipalities and landowners. Their services allow a city to use their own wood for city projects, which reduces both disposal and lumber costs for the community.
- ***Michigan State University's Department of Forestry*** used grant funding to create a set of display materials made from ash wood; studied the effectiveness of whole log insecticide treatments in killing EAB larvae; and researched preservative treatments to expand the use of ash in outdoor projects.



*LaMont Brothers portable band saw.*



*Game of Logging training.*

**Training:** A series of training programs were presented to help local wood industries better understand the availability of urban wood resources and learn new skills that will improve their business practices. Programs have included a timber harvesting/chainsaw safety seminar and a railroad tie sawing workshop.

**Wood Inventory:** Two consultants, Dr. Sam Sherrill of the University of Cincinnati and Dr. Dave MacFarlane of Michigan State University, are in the process of completing an inventory that will evaluate the volume, quality, and estimated value of Southeast Michigan's urban trees and other types of urban wood waste.

**Information/Education:** A website ([www.semircd.org/ash](http://www.semircd.org/ash)) and multiple brochures have been developed. Cooperative partnerships have been formed with state agencies to more effectively address EAB and wood waste issues. Through community wood fairs, presentations at numerous local and regional events and meetings with local and state legislators, the Council has worked to build public

support for a comprehensive urban wood utilization strategy in Southeast Michigan.

The ash utilization efforts have continued to get prominent coverage in various media outlets. Recent stories have appeared in *Biocycle* (the national journal of composting and organics recycling) and *The Detroit News*; and an appearance on Comcast Newsmakers; a news program broadcast on CNN Headline News in the Detroit area.

**Two New Urban Wood Utilization Grants Received:** The Council was awarded two additional grants from the U.S. Forest Service for additional ash/urban wood utilization projects, \$197,625 from the Wood Education Resource Center and \$162,800 from the Rural Development through Forestry Program. The funding from the Wood Education Resource Center will allow the Council to create a "utilization toolkit" for communities, conduct more training programs and outreach, and provide funding for new demonstration projects and research. Through funding from Rural Development, the Council will explore how urban wood can be used in local energy projects, organize an urban wood utilization conference, and conduct additional training sessions.



*Display created by MSU Dept. of Forestry of products that can be made from removed ash trees.*