

This training is presented through partnership of the following organizations:



**LAMONT BROTHERS
TREE SERVICE**

**WEBSTER INDUSTRIES,
INC.**



**Southeast Michigan
Resource Conservation
& Development Council**



**Department of
Agriculture**

United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service



This training program is one component of **The Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation and Development Council's** efforts to implement an *Ash Utilization Options Grant* from the USDA Forest Service. With this support, the RC&D Council works to address the emerald ash borer infestation in southeastern Michigan in a positive way by supporting the growth of urban wood utilization alternatives in the region.

For more information about the RC&D's Ash Utilization Options Project, please contact:

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Web Site: www.semircd.org/ash

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SAWING RAILROAD TIES AND LUMBER WORKSHOP

*An Opportunity for Utilizing Trees
from the Emerald Ash Borer
Infestation in Southeast Michigan*

August 23, 2005

With instruction by:

Rusty Dramm

*Utilization Specialist
USDA Forest Service – State & Private
Forestry – Technology Marketing Unit*

Anthony Weatherspoon

*Forest Products Specialist
Michigan DNR*

Jeremy Meyer

Webster Industries, Inc.

Morning Session:

*Northfield Roadhouse
50 E. North Territorial
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189*

Afternoon Session:

*LaMont Brothers Tree Service
6785 Whitmore Lake Road
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189*

WORKSHOP SUBJECTS:

- Overview—Tie Treating Industry
 - Green Tie Demand
 - Tie Markets
- Tie Mill Operations
 - Sawing Ties
 - Tie Specifications
- Feasibility of Sawing Railroad Ties
 - Lumber Recovery—
Ties vs. 2 & 3 Common
 - GRADEYIELD Spreadsheet
Analysis

WORKSHOP OUTLINE:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 7:30 a.m. | Registration |
| 8:00 a.m. | Introduction –
Workshop overview, objectives,
agenda, |
| 8:15 a.m. | Resource supply and
market opportunities |
| 8:45 a.m. | Log specifications & log making –
discussion |
| 9:15 a.m. | Overview of tie treating business |
| 9:45 a.m. | Sawmill layout & operations |
| 10:15 a.m. | Break (coffee, juice, rolls) |
| 10:30 a.m. | Sawing ties |
| 11:00 a.m. | Tie & lumber specifications &
inspection (grading) |
| 11:30 a.m. | Feasibility of sawing ties—
GRADEYIELD spreadsheet |
| Noon | Lunch (included in fees) |
| 1:00 p.m. | Phytosanitary concerns/other
issues |
| 1:30 p.m. | Log scaling and grading –
exercise & discussion |
| 2:00 p.m. | Sawmill demonstration – grade
sawing ties & lumber |
| 2:30 p.m. | Tie inspection –
exercise/demonstration &
discussion |
| 3:00 p.m. | Lumber grading and tally –
discussion |
| 3:30 p.m. | Adjourn |

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

The emerald ash borer is an invasive cambium-boring beetle introduced into the U.S. from Asia. A major outbreak of this insect has established in southeastern Michigan and is now spreading to adjacent regions. Millions of trees are now dead or dying in main 20-county-wide quarantine area in SE Michigan alone. In addition, millions of trees in surrounding areas need to be removed in order to control the spread of this aggressive insect. There is potential to recover some economic value from these removed trees by salvaging and marketing them into railroad crossties, factory grade hardwood dimensional lumber, and other products. Further development of the urban wood products industry could potentially help defray the cost of eradication programs in EAB-affected areas.

A strong housing and remodeling market has resulted in high demand for hardwood flooring in the U.S. Hardwood flooring is produced from mid- to lower-grade hardwood common lumber — the same material that is used to produce railroad crossties. Today, railroad track maintenance programs are on an accelerated pace to catch up on deferred tie replacement in the U.S. and Canada. Consequently, there have been shortages of railroad crossties, which are expected to continue for the next several years. In response, green tie prices have improved dramatically to help fill the need—yet few mills are producing ties.

The benefits of sawing ties instead of lower grade lumber and pallet stock are not generally recognized. Economic feasibility points to the tie market as a profitable market alternative for disposal of emerald ash borer-affected trees and other urban tree removals. This workshop will explore basic markets, tie specifications, manufacture, and financial feasibility for mill operators interested in sawing railroad ties.

REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: _____

Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

I plan to attend. I've enclosed my nonrefundable \$40 registration fee.

**Please mail this form and your registration fee
by August 15, 2005 to:**

Jessica Simons
SE MI RC&D Council
7203 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-9506

Questions?

Please call: (734) 761-6722 X 105 or
send an e-mail to: jessica.simons@semircd.org.