

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

April 19, 2022

Letter to the Editor,

Dear Cook County Residents,

As a business owner of Bear Track Outfitting Co., Bally Creek Cabins, and Fishin' Chics Charter Service, for the past 50 years, I would state that the 3% lodging tax and the 1% Visit Cook County tax has run its course. In reading the article in the North Shore Journal dated April, 2022 written by Steve Fernlund, it states the lodging tax collected \$1.83 million in 2021 and the Visit Cook County over three years was \$1.54 million.

The County auditor's website states that 25% is used for funding the Cook County Visitors Bureau. I believe there should be an accurate accounting of this 25% which is \$457,500. and should become public information.

In the early 1980's, I was president of the Tip of the Arrowhead Association which promoted tourism in Cook County. At that time we had a board of directors (consisting of volunteer tourism businesses) and one hired employee, Bud Kratoska of Trout Lake Lodge. I don't know how many people are employed at the current Visitors Center, but it seems a little large for a county of 5200 people. I am wondering what all these people actually do at the Visitor's Center. We have fewer restaurants for tourists, A Fisherman's Picnic that is on life support, No more John Beargrease Sled Dog Race coming into town, very few services for winter snowmobilers, no more dragon boat races, no canoe or kayak races and very little interaction with resorts, outfitters, and motels who collect this lodging tax. The Visitor Center publicizes the Music Community who do not contribute to the lodging tax nor do the bars and restaurants who reap the benefits of this promotion.

Recently, a group of citizens went to St. Paul to lobby for a 30 year continuation of the 4% lodging tax. With the exception of Linda Jurek, Director of Visit Cook County, and a few others, most of the attendees have nothing to do with tourism. I believe it is time to end the 4% lodging tax, and perhaps only have a 1% lodging tax which should be plenty to cover the expenses at the Visit Cook County Center. It is time to stop gouging the tourists who frequent our beautiful county. The bars and restaurants could also pay a 1% sales Tax to offset any shortfalls to Visit Cook County. I feel that the lodging establishments are not getting a fair and just use of this money.

It seems as if the lodging tax is being collected for use by the County Chamber of Commerce after combining with the Visitors Bureau. This is NOT legal as stated in the original legislation. Where is the other \$1,372,500. Dollars being spent? I believe we need some truthful answers for the residents and businesses of Cook County.

I am just curious who paid for the food and lodging for the whole group that went to St. Paul. There are many questions coming from concerned citizens regarding our tourism economy which is about to implode because of lack of employees, lack of services, and a lesser tax base with the increase of non-profit businesses buying up commercial property, and the lack of zoning restrictions in the village of Grand Marais have caused a lack of housing for people who want to LIVE and WORK here.

Respectfully,  
David Williams,  
Owner/operator Bear Track Outfitting Co.  
since 1972

# Emerald Ash Borer Found in Carlton and Lake Counties

## *Emergency quarantine on wood movement put in place for portions of Carlton County and Lake County*

St. Paul, MN: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Carlton and Lake counties for the first time. EAB was first discovered in Minnesota in 2009, and there are now 34 counties in the state with EAB.

In Lake County, a staff member of the Superior Hiking Trail Association noticed insect and woodpecker damage to an ash tree along a trail in the city of Two Harbors and reported the find to the MDA. MDA staff were able to find live EAB larvae and collect samples.

While working in northeastern Minnesota, MDA staff also noticed a tree in the city of Cloquet with extensive woodpecker damage. Live EAB larvae were found and collected for official identification.

Emerald ash borer larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk. Often, the trees show several signs of infestation because of this. Woodpeckers like to feed on EAB larvae and woodpecker holes. This may indicate the presence of emerald ash borer. Also, EAB tunneling can cause the bark to split open, revealing characteristic S-shaped galleries underneath.

Because this is the first time EAB has been identified in Carlton and Lake counties, the MDA is enacting emergency quarantines which limit the movement of firewood and ash material out of the areas. The emergency quarantine will cover the northeast corner of Carlton County, from the Fond du Lac Reservation on the west to the county line on the east and the Carlton/St. Louis County line on the north to Highway 210 and the border of Jay Cooke State Park on the south. In Lake County, a partial quarantine will cover the southwest corner of the county and extend approximately from the northern edge of the St. Louis County quarantine east to Lake Superior, with the quarantine's eastern edge southwest of Castle Danger.

The MDA issues quarantines for all counties known to have EAB to reduce the risk of further spreading the tree-killing insect.

A virtual informational meeting for residents and tree care professionals in Carlton and Lake counties will be held on Monday, May 9, 2022. Experts from the MDA will give a brief presentation followed by a question-and-answer session.

### **Emerald Ash Borer Virtual Informational Meeting**

Monday, May 9, 2022, 10-11 a.m.

Register at [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab)

The public will also have an opportunity to provide input on the proposal to add the Carlton and Lake County quarantines to the state's formal quarantine. The MDA is taking comments on the proposed formal quarantines now through June 9, 2022, and recommends adopting the quarantine on June 14, 2022. The proposed quarantine language can be found at [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab).

Comments can be made during the virtual meeting or by contacting:  
Kimberly Thielen Cremers  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
[kimberly.tcremers@state.mn.us](mailto:kimberly.tcremers@state.mn.us)

There is more EAB information on the MDA website at [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab).

## WILLIAM M. KELLEY HIGH SCHOOL 2021/2022 ~ Quarter 3

### "A" HONOR ROLL

#### GRADE 7

Grace Berntson  
Lilly Ernest  
Sierra Geatz  
Willow Henschel  
Camryn Hipple  
Anna Klemmer  
Stella LaPointe  
Karly Nelson  
Addison Velcheff  
Shyann Williams

#### GRADE 8

Randy Ernest  
Joshua Henschel  
Christina Kaiser  
Dakota Klinker  
Valerie Melander  
Malaya Peterson

#### GRADE 9

Pipa Beckstrand  
Sophia Blanck  
Amira Mansouri  
Sarah Maxwell  
Talon Williams

#### GRADE 10

Dakota Barstow  
Barrett Blanchard

#### GRADE 10

##### Continued

Isabelle Carey  
Kathryn Carpenter  
Hannah Henschel  
Logan Milczark  
Marley Schumacher  
Jake Stadler  
Brooke Velcheff

#### GRADE 11

Josephine Carey  
Hope Ernest  
Natalie Kaiser  
Laura Sullivan  
Colleen Szurpicki

#### GRADE 12

Nathan Bilben  
Elijah Blanck  
Raina Braun  
Amy Carpenter  
Hannah Fransen  
Livia Hoff  
Kaleb Krech  
Damon Sullivan  
Anna Thompson  
Hannah Thums  
Nicole Tibbetts  
Faith Williams

### "B" HONOR ROLL

#### GRADE 7

Tucker Bautch  
Ollie Braun  
Callie Ernest  
Hayden Ernest  
Cooper Goutermont  
Abigail Hinton  
Niranjan Hirani  
Berkley Hoff  
Dayne Kais  
Theron Kappes  
Mikaela Lindgren  
Sawyer Ramsdell  
Nolan Robinson  
Signe Singleton

#### GRADE 8

Sophie Betzler  
Abigail Johansen  
Skylee LaVigne  
Camille Lovold  
Morgan Meeks  
Madison Ollman  
Ashlyn Schwarz  
Madison Sundvick  
Nicholas Swartz  
McKenzie Thums  
Jack Virginia

#### GRADE 9

Ayden Althaus  
Cole Anderson  
Remy Braun  
Jacob Carpenter  
Elleah Grignon  
Alexa Harrison  
Marlee Lehtinen  
Mary-Jayne Murphy  
Emily Peterson

#### GRADE 9

##### Continued

Isabel Singleton  
Avry Thompson  
Danielle Lillis  
Makai Whitehead

#### GRADE 10

Fisher Betzler  
Tucker Cook  
Braylen Hoff  
Lilly Johansen  
Alyssa Klinker  
Bryan Lillis  
Chloe McWatters  
Kaisa Robinson  
Dylan Schwarz  
Natalie Sundvick  
Cash Williams

#### GRADE 11

Elisabeth Althaus  
Chase Dow  
Hailie Hartshorn  
Chase Hipple  
Inga Lakey  
Samuel Peterson  
Natalie Reineccius  
Cassidy Sullivan  
Danika Thompson  
Rhylee Thums  
Wyatt Williams  
Owen Zabrocki

#### GRADE 12

Neveah Norlund  
Manor Ollman  
Wyatt Parker  
Tor Soderstrom

## Lake County Veterans Services

*Assisting Veterans and their families*

### **Are you a Lake County Veteran with a discharge above dishonorable?**

If so, contact your Veterans Service Officer for federal and state benefits eligibility and details.

#### **Two Harbors (Main) Office:**

616 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616 • **218-834-8326**

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday  
- Please call for an appointment

#### **Silver Bay Office:**

99 Edison Boulevard  
Silver Bay, MN 55614  
**218-220-6273**

Wednesday by appointment only

**Veterans**  
Linkage Line  
your link to experts  
[minnesotaveteran.org](http://minnesotaveteran.org) | 1-888-LinkVet

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