

## **Dear Lake Association Members,**

Your effort in communicating how important it is to not spread aquatic invasive species is commendable. The area around your lakes should be equally protected. Trees are a huge part of the landscape along the lakeshore and the surrounding community. A tree infested with invasive species is difficult to identify in the early stages. The most recent invasive species is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) which has killed millions of ash trees since 2002 when it was accidentally introduced into Michigan from China. Minnesota currently has the largest Ash tree population in the United States. Here are a few ways you can protect your trees from invasive species as much as you protect your lake:

- ***Do not bring any unfinished wood product out of the EAB quarantined counties of Hennepin, Ramsey, Houston, and Winona Counties.***
- ***Don't move firewood to or from your lake home from long distances. (You typically can't see if firewood is infested or not, so why take the risk?)***
- ***If you do need to move firewood a long distance, only buy MDA Certified firewood (look for the logo).***
- ***When you burn firewood, burn it all. Moving firewood from place to place provides a vehicle for unwanted pests to move to a new location.***

For further information about preventing the spread of invasive forest pest, please visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's website at [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us) and at [SaveOurAsh.net](http://SaveOurAsh.net). Please spread the word about this destructive pest!

Thanks for your help in keeping Minnesota's landscape healthy and native.

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