NEIGHBORLY NEWS

for Wells Landing Residents and Homeowners

www.WellsLanding.org August 2019

Send comments about the newsletter to pamarkham@comcast.net

It Takes A Village . . .

. . . not just to raise the child, but to run the village too! Here in Wells Landing, July's water bill for the pool was nearly twice the normal cost ($775 versus $414).

What's the cause of this expense? Someone left the shower running - for days. And now we all pay for this cost.

Just a gentle reminder: keep your eyes open. If you see something amiss, say something. If something needs doing, do it. Don't wait for someone else. We all need to pitch in to keep our "village" running smoothly. Thanks, everyone, for doing your part!

Massey Lawn Maintenance Services Expanded

The Board has negotiated a modification to our contract with Massey Lawn Services to include pest control for all front yards with grass for only $88 each month! Residents are reminded to water their lawns following the application of (fertilizer or pesticides) chemicals to ensure they are activated for full effectiveness.

Yard Art Meeting: Sept 7

If you're passionate about your Yard Art, you'll want to attend the Community meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 3:30 p.m., in room A at the Orange Park Library.

In this meeting the Board will share proposed rules and regulations (R&Rs) related to Yard Art. Our goal is to obtain your feedback, integrate your ideas, and implement the newly revised R&Rs in January 2020.

We appreciate your support.

Home Hardware Maintenance

In our last newsletter, Board members indicated that we would work toward the coordinated scheduling of repair and installation services (of house number plaques, house lights, mailboxes) for our residents. We have since found that residents prefer to schedule their own repair and maintenance services.

Use the list of home hardware vendors that came with the May-June 2019 newsletter to schedule the repair or replacement of your house number plaques, house number lights, and mailboxes. Thank you!

Take Those Pool Toys With You!

We're glad you enjoy our pool, and we want you to have fun.

But when you're done, take your toys with you.

We're not responsible for things left behind at the pool.

So please, take them home so you'll have them

the next time you come for a swim.

Are Our Trees Under Attack?

In July, a number of dead and diseased pine and hardwood trees were identified on Pine Forest Trail, and some were removed. An Urban Forestry Extension Agent from the UF/IFASS Duval County Extension visited Wells Landing to investigate the rash of dying pine and oak trees in the neighborhood. Attached is the letter that reports the results of his investigation.

The culprit is the Ips Engraver Beetle. Below are illustrations that show how the presence of the Ips Engraver Beetle can be detected.

Why Use the Architectural Change Request?

Several roofing projects are in progress in Wells Landing, but none have received approval through the Architectural Control Committee. If shingles don't meet HOA specifications (brand and color), an owner will incur additional costs if the shingles must be replaced. EEK!

Owners are asked to submit the Architectural Change Request form for *any change in a unit's exterior.* This process is in place to ensure we maintain consistency in appearance among units. You can avoid unnecessary rework and expense by getting approval *before* you start your project.

DETECTION: Often the first noticeable indication of an *Ips* infestation is the fading of foliage from green to yellow to reddish brown (Fig. 4c) as the host tree wilts due to plugging of the xylem by blue-stain fungi (Fig 4d). These color changes can occur in 2 to 4 weeks in warm weather, but may take several months in the winter. In cooler weather, the beetles have frequently vacated the tree by the time the needles fade. Early signs of attack include the accumulation of reddish-brown boring dust on the bark, nearby cobwebs, or understory foliage (Fig. 4a).

If there is sufficient resin pressure within the host, attacked trees will exhibit dime-sized, whitish or reddish-brown globs of resin and boring dust called "pitch tubes" on the bark at each point of beetle attack (Fig. 4b). Unlike those of the southern pine beetle, *Ips* pitch tubes are more commonly seen on the surface of bark plates than in bark crevices. After beetles emerge from the tree, scattered circular emergence holes (1-3 mm diameter) can be observed on the outer bark. By removing a section of the outer bark, the characteristic Y-, I- or H-shaped galleries may be observed in the phloem or engraved on the outer sapwood (Connor and Wilkinson 1983) (Fig. 3). These gallery patterns are sometimes obscured by larval galleries of other phloem borers in the families Cerambycidae (roundheaded borers) and Buprestidae (flatheaded borers) that readily colonize dead pines.

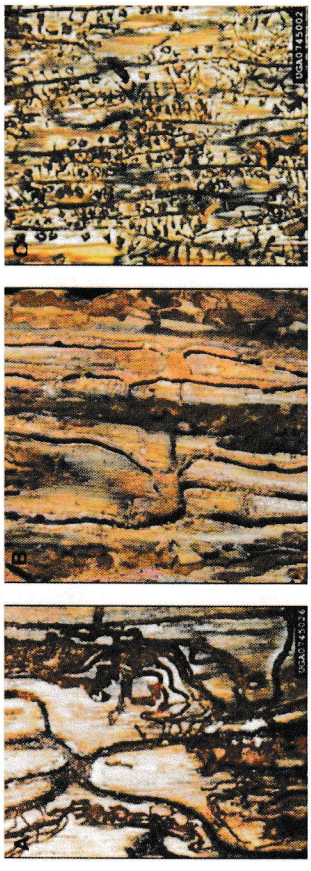
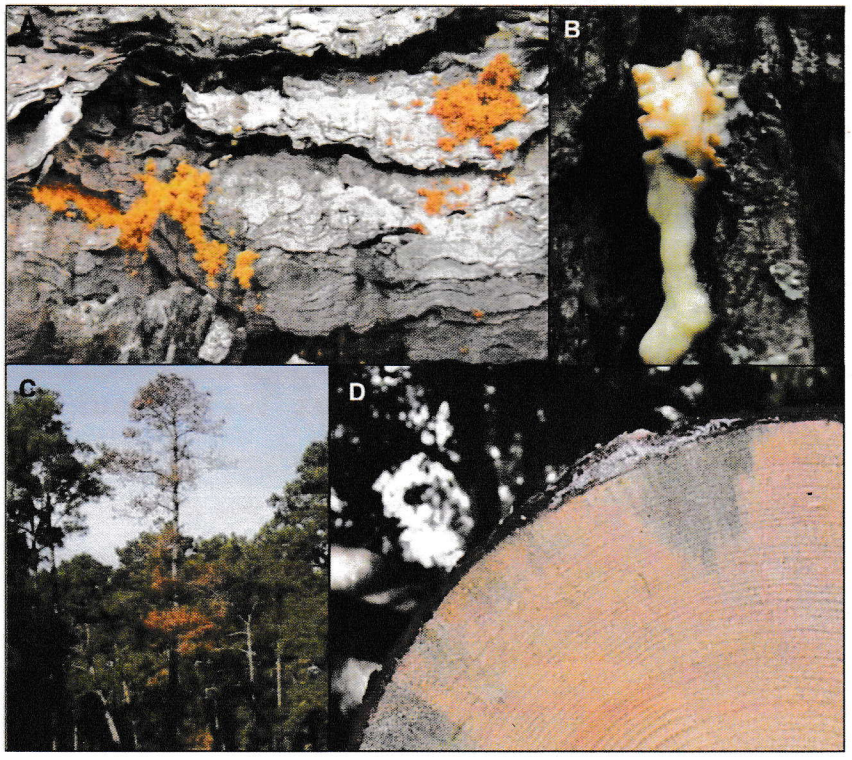


Fig. 3. Galleries in the inner bark characteristic of (from top to bottom) C) I.avulsus; B) I. grandicollis; A) I calligraphus.

Fig. 4. Possible signs of an *Ips* engraver beetle infestation. A) Boring dust; B) Pitch tube; C) Fading crown; D) Blue-stain fungi in the sapwood, emanating from an *Ips* gallery in the phloem. Photography credits: Albert E. Mayfield III, Florida DOACS (A); Wayne N. Dixon, Florida DOACS (B); John L. Foltz, University of Florida (C,D).



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Duval County Extension Agent Inspection Report

DATE: July 24, 2019

EXTENSION FACULTY:
Larry Figart, Urban Forestry Extension Agent, Duval County Extension, lfigart@coj.net
Bradley Burbaugh, Clay County Extension Director, brad784@ufl.edu

PERSON REQUESTING SERVICE: Dena Calivas, Homeowner

SITE ADDRESS: 533 Pine Forest Trail, Orange Park

PROBLEM PRESENTED: Oak and Pine Mortality

OBSERVATIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS:

I visited the Wells Landing neighborhood today at the request of Brad Burbaugh the Director of the Clay County UF/IFAS Extension Office. We were asked to inspect and investigate the rash of dying pines and oak trees in the neighborhood.

I will start with the pines. They appear to be affected by a bark beetle called the Ips engraver beetle. This beetle is a common pest of southern pines. They are attracted to stressed and weakened pines and can build up enough number to kill them. They can also build up a population that can attack and kill neighboring trees although this expansion is short lived. Mortality is usually limited to only one or a few trees in a specific location. However, a checkerboard pattern of fading and healthy trees may evolve as Ips moves throughout an area infesting the weakest trees. In general, widespread drought is one of the main factors that can cause high Ips densities. The following link is to a very well written publication on Ips beetles.

http://southernforesthealth.net/insects/ips-bark-beetle/ips-bark-beetles-in-the-southeastern-u.s/at_download/file

There is no effective treatment for bark beetles. Prevention is by far the easiest option. Once an infestation has occurred removing affected trees as soon as possible will reduce the population of Ips beetles in the area. Here is a link to a publication that helps determine which beetles are attacking and what to do about it.

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/FR/FR39900.pdf

Mature water oaks, turkey oaks and laurel oaks have also been dying seemingly over night by a condition we call "Summer Oak Mortality". It is seen every year when the weather starts turning hot. It is a perfect storm of opportunistic fungi, heat, older trees, and drought. This year it seems to be a little worse due to the hot June temperatures. I wrote an article several weeks ago in the Florida Times Union.

In a nutshell the trees are losing more water from their leaves due to the hot weather than they can pick up from their roots. Their roots are not able to keep up because they are infected by a root fungus called armillaria. The fungus is not very aggressive. It enters the roots through root wounding. This typically occurs during construction or underground utility work. It gradually impacts more and more roots, taking sometimes many years to get to the point where the tree is hampered. During the heat of the summer, the roots need to be working at full capacity, but they can't because of the disease. The fungus has impacted impacts enough roots that the tree cannot pick up enough water.

I don't like to make human analogies, but it is similar to someone with heart disease. They don't realize they have a problem until they become stressed and their clogged arteries cannot pump enough blood to their hearts.

Here is the link to the FTU article:

https://www.jacksonville.com/entertainmentlife/20190614/urban-forester-whats-killing-oak-trees

Here is another link that may help a little. .

https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Our-Forests/Forest-Health/Forest-and-Shade-Tree-Diseases/Common-Causes-of-Oak-Mortality

I know this is a simple answer to a complex problem. Please feel free to follow up with any questions you may have

Sincerely,

Larry Figart

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