

## “Buy Local, Burn Local” Campfire Wood

By Piera Siegert, State Entomologist,  
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Invasive insect pests are threatening the health of the trees and forests that are such an important part of the wild and scenic nature of New Hampshire. While state and federal agencies routinely survey for these invasive species, you can help by not giving pests a free ride in campfire wood. Trees cover 84% of New Hampshire’s land area, supporting wildlife and contributing to the economy, culture and character of the state. Emerald ash borer – a tree-killing beetle that attacks ash trees and is considered the most destructive forest pest in North America – has been found in four counties in south-central New Hampshire. Hemlock woolly adelgid, elongate hemlock scale and red pine scale are other recent arrivals,



Tree damaged by wood-boring insects.

spreading within the state and causing additional tree decline and mortality. Less than 30 miles away from the state line, our neighbors in Worcester, Massachusetts, are dealing with another pest we don’t want – the Asian longhorned beetle, a wood-boring insect that primarily threatens maples.

Threats from invasive pests are not new. Here in the

northeastern U.S., we have the highest number of non-native forest pests in the country, due to our history of industrialization, tree diversity and forest fragmentation – all of which promote pest arrival and establishment. Since the mid-1970s, however, the frequency of introduction and establishment



*Insect-damaged cordwood. A quarantine is in place forbidding the transport of firewood across state lines and restricting movement within N.H. Visit [www.nhbugs.org](http://www.nhbugs.org).*

of non-native, wood-boring insects has increased dramatically. These pests spend much of their lives hidden under tree bark and within wood, making them a challenge to detect. These wood-boring insects are readily moved as stowaways in trade goods and in solid wood packing materials.

### Buy It Where You Burn It

When the insects escape into new environments, they have a good chance of finding new homes in nearby forest or landscape trees. Wood-boring pests usually remain below the radar until their populations build to detectable levels. During this time, they are often unknowingly moved further distances through nursery stock and

forestry products. This is especially true of firewood moved by campers and other recreationists.

We all enjoy a nice bonfire when we’re camping, so what’s the right thing for an outdoor enthusiast to do? The answer is simple: buy it where you burn it. Local or certified heat-treated wood poses very little risk for introducing destructive pests, and using it helps protect our natural resources. To make it easier to connect outdoor enthusiasts to locally sourced campfire wood, New Hampshire has recently joined “Firewood Scout” ([firewoodscout.org](http://firewoodscout.org)). This free, mobile-friendly website makes it convenient for visitors to New Hampshire’s forested landscapes to leave their wood at home and buy local wood close to where they camp, hunt or fish. More than 500 vendors are listed on Firewood Scout, making it easier than ever to find competitively priced firewood bundles near any New Hampshire destination.

Don’t cause a new pest infestation and ruin your favorite place to camp! Keep an eye on local tree health and report suspicious tree decline to [nhbugs.org](http://nhbugs.org).

Learn more at [nhbugs.org/firewood-campers](http://nhbugs.org/firewood-campers).



*Insect-infested campfire wood bundles.*

### What can you do to protect forests in the Granite State?

1. Pests travel in wood, so don’t move firewood long distances or out of quarantined areas.
2. Buy it where you burn it. Visit [firewoodscout.org](http://firewoodscout.org) to find local firewood vendors.
3. Purchase only what you need and burn it all before you leave. Taking it back home can be risky, too!
4. Tell others about the risk of transporting firewood.



Dwight Pennell

### Trapper Education Honors

**Dwight Pennell** of Tufonboro was honored in April for 25 years of service to the Trapper Education Program. Pennell is an active

trapper, Carroll County Director for the N.H. Trappers Association, a N.H. Trapper Association trapping “Hall of Famer,” and one of two licensed fur buyers in the state.

“Without dedicated volunteers like Dwight, delivering the Trapper Education Program throughout the state would be almost impossible,” said Fish and Game Trapper Education Coordinator Eric Geib.

## 2015 Fish and Game Commission Awards of Excellence

In May, the N.H. Fish and Game Commission honored these individuals for outstanding efforts in support of Fish and Game's mission.



Denny Corriveau

**Denny Corriveau**, also known as the “Wild Cheff” was honored with the Communications Award of Excellence. A true ambassador of the outdoors, Corriveau is a master game chef who presents seminars on healthy eating and cooking wild game and fish.



Monadnock Regional Middle High School students

Six students from the Monadnock Regional Middle High School – **Joe Repucci, Dawson McLean, Madison Daniels, Kyle Allison, Emily Read and Alana Sprague** – were honored as Youth Conservationists for their work studying water quality in the Ashuelot River watershed.



Kris and Jim Riccardi

The Ellis R. Hatch Junior Award of Excellence was presented to **Jim and Kris Riccardi** of Newport for their work with the Let's Go Fishing and Becoming an Outdoors-Woman programs. Over the past 25 years, Jim and Kris have introduced countless anglers to the sport of fly fishing.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Dave Pushee and Pemigewasset TU Support Inland Fisheries Research

The Inland Fisheries Division relies on dedicated volunteers throughout New Hampshire to assist with electrofishing and habitat, aquatic macro-invertebrate and stream crossing assessments. These devoted volunteers are helping the Department protect and restore aquatic species and ecosystems. Our volunteers often become local stewards, facilitating greater local project ownership. After we conduct initial baseline studies, volunteer groups can help protect pristine areas and address the impacts in disturbed locations. This help often comes from Trout Unlimited chapters, local land protection groups, town conservation commissions and river advisory committees, as well as lake and watershed associations – groups with a shared interest in promoting water quality, healthy ecosystems and open spaces.

**Dave Pushee** of the Pemigewasset Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been the driving force behind generating interest among volunteers and coordinating with Inland Fisheries staff. Dave, who lives in Plymouth, regularly ensures that there are an appropriate number of interested volunteers, willing and ready to assist with collecting scientific data. The chapter has actively supported Fish and Game assessments annually since 2009. This collaborative effort has resulted in a wealth of information from the Lakes Region and central New Hampshire that describes

the health of wild brook trout and other fish communities. Dave is also a talented photographer who has provided invaluable documentation of our survey areas; his photos are regularly used in presentations and grant applications.

In 2014, Dave and other members of the Pemigewasset Chapter of Trout Unlimited supported a habitat project in which The Conservation Fund purchased a 5,435-acre parcel abutting over six miles of the White Mountain National Forest in the towns of Campton and Sandwich. Efforts to formally protect this parcel are underway. Over the past two field seasons, the Inland Fisheries Division and Trout Unlimited collected a great deal of information on wild brook trout populations and the condition of aquatic habitat in the area. This data has been used to help justify funding for protection of the property, as well as to implement a large-scale habitat reconnection project. By replacing five road-stream crossings with bridges that provide the free movement of brook trout, this project will ensure that over half of the Beebe River Watershed will have a connected stream network in which wild brook trout can access necessary areas to sustain themselves and thrive. Protection of this property also will help maintain the long-term recreational use of the area.

– Ben Nugent, Fisheries Biologist



COURTESY PHOTO

Dave Pushee coordinates volunteers to collect scientific data that helps determine the health of wild brook trout in central N.H.

### Wild NH on Your Schedule at: [wildnh.com/multimedia](http://wildnh.com/multimedia)

- **New Hampshire's Wild Side** – Saturdays 7:00 am and Sundays 11:00 pm on WBIN-TV.
- **Granite State Outdoors TV** – On a community TV station near you.
- **NH Fish and Game Channel** – On demand streaming video, tips and features.
- **Outdoor Almanac Radio** – Insider's guide to Wild NH with Peter St. James.