

Establishing a Sentinel Network to Detect and Report Invasive Species

The Invaders of Texas Citizen Science Program and TexasInvasives.org creates and supports a network of citizens that are knowledgeable about invasive plants and pests and recognize the importance of reporting new infestations to authorities. Our growing network of citizen scientists is being re-trained as a sentinel network to increase the probability of early detection of Emerald Ash Borer, Cactus Moth, Asian Longhorned Beetle, Sudden Oak Death and other pests that threaten the natural biodiversity of our fair state.

Citizen Scientists who become involved with the Sentinel Pest Network will

- 1) Learn to identify and/or recognize the symptoms of infestations of pests such as Emerald Ash Borer, Cactus Moth, Asian Longhorned Beetle and Sudden Oak Death.
- 2) Work with state and federal agency partners to report pests to the appropriate authorities.
- 3) Educate and engage other citizen scientists in early detection and ongoing monitoring of invasive pests.
- 4) Participate in outreach campaigns to disseminate information about pests to the public such as the "Don't Move Firewood Campaign".

To that end, we are offering Sentinel Pest Network workshops to the public. These workshops supplement the Invaders of Texas program by training citizen scientists to identify and report invasive pests while they are out looking for invasive plants.

Invaders of Texas Satellites will have two options: a half-day workshop focusing on invasive pests, or a full-day workshop consisting of a half-day refresher course for the *Invaders of Texas* program and the other half focusing on invasive pests.

We have funding for 10 workshops in 2012, so schedule your workshop, today. Workshops are from 9AM to 4PM and are free and open to the public. Participants are asked to provide their own transportation and bring a camera, sack lunch, and GPS (if available).

If you are interested in organizing and hosting a Sentinel Pest Network workshop, please contact Jessica Strickland (jstrickland@wildflower.org) or call 512-232-0107.