

# Field Notes

From Schiff Nature Preserve



Celebrate **Earth Day** by  
becoming a member of Schiff.

339 Pleasant Valley Road, Mendham, New Jersey 07945-2922 • 973.543.6004 • [www.schiffnaturepreserve.org](http://www.schiffnaturepreserve.org)

## Emerald Ash Borer

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (*Agrilus planipennis*) is a non-native beetle that was accidentally introduced to the United States from Asia in wood packing material. The feeding habits of EAB larvae cause death to ash trees (genus *Fraxinus*), EAB's preferred host. Since its initial detection in Michigan in 2002, EAB has spread to 31 states and 2 Canadian provinces. It has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America and is considered to be the most destructive and expensive insect ever to invade the United States. Experts predict a 99% mortality rate for ash trees. Ash is an important component in the forests at Schiff. Ecological impacts include the loss of an important tree species that provides food and habitat for wildlife and changes to forest understory dynamics as ash trees decline and fall.

EAB was detected in New Jersey in Bridgewater Township, Somerset County in May 2014. It has been found in 13 counties including Morris County as of early 2018. Schiff must manage for the arrival of this pest and its anticipated impacts on the Preserve. The Schiff Conservation and Stewardship Committee is developing a plan to address the problem. The first step is to inventory ash trees on the property to determine areas of most concern. Next, we will create a removal plan for those trees that are hazardous to structures and roads, followed by ones near trails. Funding for the removal of so many trees is an expensive concern for the Schiff Board. We look forward to your continued support of Schiff with this project and others that allow for a positive visitor experience on the preserve.



Ash leaves

## Environmental Book Club is Open to All Schiff Members Janis Slutsky, Trustee

Since 2005, the Schiff Environmental Book Group has read 110 nonfiction and fiction selections. The group selections give perspective to environmental issues such as climate change, extinction, recycling, pollution, population, and local history and exposure to works by masters such as Aldo Leopold, Thoreau and Rachel Carson. The discussions are insightful, educational, and amusing. Some of our favorites include:

***Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World*** by Michael Pollan

Utilizing apples, tulips, marijuana and potatoes, Pollan illustrates a complex coevolution between plant and humans.

***Walden*** by Henry David Thoreau and ***Sand County Almanac*** by Aldo Leopold

Henry David Thoreau is sometimes called the father of American conservation. The author creates a visual insight into the reasons he lived at Walden and what he has to teach us about this inspirational place. ***A Sand County Almanac*** serves as one of the cornerstones of modern conservation science, policy, and ethics.

**Author Carl Safina** is one of our top writers for his style and ease of discourse with natural history topics. We read two of his books and recommend both, ***Eye of the Albatross: Visions of Hope*** and ***Survival and Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel***.

***The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*** by Dan Egan offers well-paced, intellectually stimulating arguments, bolstered by well-researched and captivating narratives.

***Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in the Age of Extinction***, by David Quammen. The award winning author blends elements of science, historical narrative, and travel, as he takes a close-up look at island biogeography.

The Environmental Book Club is just one of the many rewarding ways to connect with nature, make new friends, and spend time at Schiff Nature Preserve. Please consider becoming a member of Schiff and attend one of the upcoming meetings. Additional information can be found on our website. Happy Reading.

## Help Spread the Word about Schiff

Tell your friends and neighbors why you chose to become a member of Schiff. Ask them to support Schiff. We rely heavily on revenue from membership, and have made it even easier to become and stay a member of Schiff with our recurring PayPal payments, if you so choose!

- **Introduce your friends and family to our ever changing and improving website, Facebook, Nextdoor, and Instagram posts.** Please share our posts and events and comment! We appreciate your testimonials.
- **Take pictures when you visit.** Use the hashtag #schiffnaturepreserve OR #supportschiff.
- **Take friends and family to the preserve to enjoy our trails, nature center, and programs.**
- **Attend (and bring your friends) our Special Events,** like our Environmental Film Festival, our Annual Members meeting, Music in the Woods, or Paws for the Preserve.
- **Wear your Schiff Nature Preserve hat, tie dye, or magnet proudly and let all your everyone know you Support Schiff!**

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## Summer Nature Program for Kids Provides Nature Immersion

Co-Directors Jenny Chmura and Christi Lorenson believe the best way to enjoy the season is by getting outside; hence with the excitement they had creating this year's Summer Nature Program. Using their teaching experience, knowledge, and love for the outdoors, they designed nature-based programs to teach, motivate, and encourage children ages 4-13. Earth Rocks, Forestville, Happy Habitats, and Woodland Workers are just a few



of the programs offered this year. Children will embrace nature through hiking, habitat exploration, shelter building, animal tracking, wineberry picking and crafts, including Schiff's signature tie dye making! Schiff's Summer Nature Program strives to make every child's experience one that builds confidence, friendships, enthusiasm, and a deep appreciation for the natural world around them. Please visit our website to learn more!

## 10th Annual Environmental Film Festival — Reinventing Power

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Schiff's Annual Environmental Film Festival! The festival will be held on Saturday, June 1, at 6:30 p.m., at the Nature Center, due to pending roof renovations at the Woodbadge Lodge. The location is new but the event once again promises a wonderful evening of educational and thought-provoking films, discussion, and snacks.

The feature film, *Reinventing Power: America's Clean Energy Boom*, takes us across the country to hear directly from the people making our clean energy future achievable. These individuals are working to rebuild what's broken, rethink what's possible, and revitalize communities. These stories are proof that America does not need to choose between keeping our lights on and protecting our communities. Critically, *Reinventing Power* underscores the notion that we don't have to sacrifice jobs for a clean environment.

Supporting a clean energy future means building a better, more prosperous future for everyone. Over the documentary film's 50 minutes, attendees meet people in eight states whose lives were changed by the renewable energy industry while exploring various aspects of the clean energy industry from innovation to installation.

Following the feature film, audience members will have an opportunity for questions and deeper discussion with a representative from

the New Jersey Clean Energy program. This program promotes increased energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable sources of energy including solar, wind, geothermal, and sustainable biomass.

This year's film has been sourced from the Sierra Club, America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters. In addition to helping people from all backgrounds explore nature and our outdoor heritage, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action.

The evening begins at 6:30 pm with fire side s'mores and check in with the movies starting at 7:00 pm. For more information, visit [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org). For tickets to the event, visit <http://www.schiffnaturepreserve.org/calendar.cfm>.



## DID YOU KNOW?



### What does Emerald Ash Borer do to ash trees?

Adult females lay eggs on the outer bark of ash trees during the summer. After hatching, larvae bore through the outer bark and feed on the inner bark disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients. The larval feeding areas cut off the flow of water and nutrients in the tree, resulting in death within one to three years.

### What does Emerald Ash Borer damage look like?

Some symptoms include canopy thinning, epicormic sprouting (a shoot growing from an epicormic bud, which lies underneath the bark of a trunk, stem, or branch of a plant), extensive woodpecker damage, and crown dieback, but other conditions (disease, soil compaction, stress etc.) can cause these symptoms, so they do not conclusively indicate EAB.

## Special Event – New Speaker Series

This year Schiff is introducing an exciting Speaker Series which will explore various topics related to wildlife and local history, giving our community an opportunity to gather in Schiff's Nature Center. The first presentation will feature Ashleigh Scully, an internationally acclaimed youth wildlife photographer on May 11 from 3:00-4:30 pm. Ashleigh will show her captivating photos and share her experiences documenting wildlife around the world. Photography will be on display and for sale. Ashleigh will gra-

ciously share the revenue of photo sales with Schiff.



On May 19th, from 4:00-5:30 pm, following the Schiff Members Meeting, the second speaker series will explore topics related to the connection of the land under Schiff's management and the Boy Scouts of America. Schiff is honored to offer an afternoon of reminiscing with former Scouts who participated in the Boy Scouts National Training Program when it was located at Schiff from the 1930's until the 1970's. W. Barry Thomson, local author, historian, and friend to Schiff will moderate as Scouts reminisce. Artifacts and photography will be on display.

Finally, on November 10th, from 4:00-5:30 pm,

W. Barry Thomson returns to discuss the history of the Pleasant Valley Farms. Much of the land under Schiff's management was transferred over time first to the Williams family who built the Brookrace estate, then to the Boy Scouts of America, subsequently becoming the Brookrace neighborhood and the beautiful open lands that Schiff Natural Lands Trust works to preserve. All funds raised by ticket sales will directly support the land stewardship activities and educational programs offered by Schiff Natural Lands Trust. Space is limited, so please purchase advance tickets.

## Schiff welcomes new Board of Trustees Member- William (Bill) Sandelands



Schiff's Board of Trustees welcomes our newest trustee, Bill Sandelands, partner of Sandelands Eyet LLP. With

over 30 years of experience practicing law in mid-sized litigation firms, Bill has been named in the 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 editions of New Jersey Super Lawyers®. Bill is a litigator with extensive experience handling a diverse civil case load at the state and federal trial court level and on appeal, with an emphasis on lender, commercial, foreclosure, real estate and general business related litigation.

Bill and his family have resided in the Mendham area for the past 24 years, the last 12 of which as a neighbor to Schiff. Bill brings 30 years of experience as an attorney in private practice to his position as trustee. Bill's law firm, Sandelands Eyet LLP, is a regional firm based out of Bedminster, NJ. Bill obtained his undergraduate degree at Boston University and his law degree at Yeshiva University. Bill enjoys hiking the local trails and cycling through the New Jersey countryside. Since joining the Board, Bill has joined the Finance and Administration committee where his professional experience shall prove valuable. We are fortunate and grateful for Bill's service. Thank you to Bill!

## Schiff's Maple Sugar Open House was Sweet!

On a cold but clear March day, some 60 visitors, friends, and members enjoyed Schiff's fun and educational Maple Sugar Open



House with trustees, staff, and volunteers. Board members Janis Slutsky and Ken Rendall collaborated with Jon Rybkiewicz from The Maple Shop in Chester to optimize our tapping strategies and increase our yield. With Jon in attendance, the public got to view evaporation in process, visit, and discuss the ins and outs of the maple sugaring process, take a hike to view the tapped sugar maple trees, and enjoy a few maple infused snacks prepared by board and staff. It was a great day, enhanced by the posting of a few of the recipes on social media.

### How do I know if I have to be concerned?

In order to determine if you have Emerald Ash Borer, you must be able to identify an Ash tree. Use this helpful link to the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to help you identify an Ash tree: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/identifyingashtrees.html>.

### What are the treatment options?

There are insecticide and removal options to consider. See this helpful link: <https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/pdf/eabinsecticidefactsheet.pdf> when considering insecticides. Many consider removal of high risk trees the best option while others may determine that they will take no action. Consult a professional for the best understanding.



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## Come Out & Enjoy Schiff

Discounts for Members. More Info @  
[www.schiffnaturepreserve.org](http://www.schiffnaturepreserve.org)

April 25, 2019 (Thursday) 4:00-5:00 pm  
**Puppy Trek**

April 28, 2019 (Sunday) 2:00-3:30 pm  
**Nature Art Walk**

May 8, 2019 (Wednesday) 10:00-11:00 am  
**Baby and Me Hike**

May 11, 2019 (Saturday) 3:00-4:30 pm  
**Speaker Series – Wildlife Photographer Ashleigh Scully**

May 11, 2019 (Saturday) 7:00-9:00 pm  
**Music in the Woods – Tom Rice & Friends**

May 19, 2019 (Sunday) 9:00-11:00 am  
**Volunteer Day @Schiff**

May 19, 2019 (Sunday) 3:00-3:30 pm  
**Members Meeting**

May 19, 2019 (Sunday) 4:00-5:30 pm  
**Speaker Series – Scouts Reminiscence**

## WHERE'S SCHIFF?

40° 45' 48.332" N / 74° 37' 15.641" W



### School Field Trips

What better place to take a class for a field trip than into an actual field, forest, and river? Schiff's School Field Trips are led by experienced educators and include hikes and hands-on nature based activities, exposing students to the outdoors and creating an awareness and appreciation for local plants, animals, and ecosystems. See our website for more information and tell your child's teacher about the field trips at Schiff.