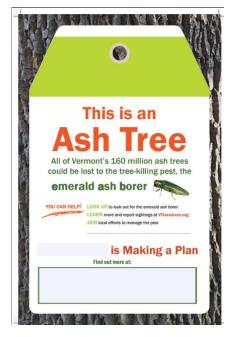**Raising Awareness of What's at Risk:**
How to Conduct an Ash Tree Tagging Event in Your Neighborhood

Unfortunately, most people cannot identify ash trees and therefore have no idea of what's at risk until it's too late. Tree tagging events have been organized in Montpelier and Johnson, Vermont, New York, Indiana and other Midwestern states as an effective way to raise awareness about the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Organizers have found that after a tree tagging event, people are often surprised at the number of ash trees in their neighborhood and have a better appreciation for how important ash trees are to the landscape. People with a clear idea of how many ash trees are at risk in their yards and neighborhoods tend to act earlier to manage EAB than people who don't grasp the magnitude of the problem.

The tagging project involves flagging trees and attaching informational cards to select ash trees using flagging tape. Each tag includes a space where you can put your community's name and where people can go to find out more information.

The tags can be removed anytime. However, we recommend removing them after a couple of months, to avoid them breaking and becoming litter. Plus, some landowners may only want them left up for a week or so. Try to pick locations that are heavily visited, and remember to get permission from landowners. Possible sites for tagging include:

- Town greens, parks or recreation fields
- Community street trees
- Forest recreation areas: trailheads, campgrounds, other popular spot

More resources and detailed instructions for organizing a tree tagging event, including a "how to" checklist, sample event announcement, tips for engaging the local media, and sample check-in sheet, can be found at:
https://extension.entm.purdue.edu/arrestthatpest/index.php?page=part5/index (Although this is written for youth groups it works equally well for any community group!)

We suggest laminating the tags so that they hold up longer. Most copy shops have laminators. You can use flagging ribbon, available at most hardware stores to attach the tags to trees.