**Periodical Cicada Returns**

Last appearing in 1998, Brood XIX of periodical cicada will pupate into adulthood and join us above ground this spring. Brood XIX is a 13-year cicada grouping that stretches from Missouri to Illinois and south into northern Louisiana then east to North Carolina.

Periodical Cicada will start to emerge from late April to early May and be around into early July. They are large insects ranging from .75 to 1.5 inches long. Individuals can scare some people as they accidentally fly into them. The males will fly to the top of trees with sunny leaves and start to sing to attract a mate. The large number singing will develop into a joint cadence. The volume of the singing can become annoying. After mating, females will look for small twigs, preferably 1/4 to 1/2 inch in diameter, to lay eggs in. The female inserts a saw-like ovipositor to open a slit in the twig where she will lay her eggs in it. She will repeat this multiple times possibly creating a continuous slit along the twig. The nymphs will hatch after 6 to 10 weeks, then drop to the ground to burrow in and feed on tree roots.

The sheer numbers of cicada all at one time will ensure most trees will have some damage—apple, pear, dogwood, oak and hickory are favorite hosts. Branches with severe damage will have twig dieback. On larger, established trees this will not be a problem for tree health, but will create an short term visual of brown leaves. Highly valued ornamental trees, young trees, and small shrubs may be protected by wrapping with mesh cloth with openings less than 3/8 inch. Be sure to tie the cloth tightly around the trunk to prevent cicada from climbing in from below. While sensitive to some protective chemicals, female cicada usually will be able to lay some eggs before succumbing.

Corrective pruning of small damaged trees in the winter may be needed to re-establish a central leader of the main stem.

Are You Storm Ready?

Southwest Missouri has had its share of tree damaging storms in recent years, but did we learn anything from the experience? We cannot prevent storms, but we can prepare for the results. Preparation includes many things and is necessary to efficiently respond to an emergency.

At a minimum, an inventory of resources available to respond to a tree-storm emergency is needed. This includes all equipment and its capabilities; personnel, how to contact them, and their responsibilities; other entities that also may be responding (utilities, emergency services, etc.); list of priorities in order of importance (ie. clear critical emergency routes first, drop/remove dangerous trees/branches, proper pruning, debris removal, etc.); establish temporary and permanent debris disposal sites; wood utilization options; emergency contracts with vendors for such situations (pre-approved and appropriately documented); establish a record keeping process; and estimate a budget based on previous storms.

One effort that can help make estimates is to do a pre-storm sample inventory. The i-Tree Storm protocol provides a way to do this. It is available for free from www.itreetools.org. Another effort than can reduce overall risk is a Tree Risk Management program where public trees are evaluated for potential failure and risk of damage to people and property. Learn more at www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/utrmm/. Of course, post-storm replanting efforts should be prepared within an overall tree management plan. As always, feel free to contact me for assistance with these issues at 417-639-3423 or jon.skeinner@mdc.mo.gov.
Web Site Review

Not certain what to do to prepare or react to a tree-storm emergency. The Urban Natural Resources Institute of the U.S. Forest Service held a webcast in June 2006 on this topic. The recorded program provides an outline for preparation and implementing storm recovery operations. You may watch or download and watch this program by visiting their webcast archive at www.unri.org/webcasts/archive/june-2006/

Pest Highlight - Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Yellow-bellied sapsucker is a transient flying north for the summer and south for the winter. Southern Missouri is in the northern edge of the winter range. Female birds fly farther south, so the few birds here during the winter are male. They create holes in the tree, usually in a row or block of rows, to feed on the sap and insects attracted to the sap. This activity benefits other wildlife as well with sap as a source of food.

Individuals become concerned when they either notice the holes and/or sap bleeding. Often, mistakenly thinking an insect borer of some kind is attacking their tree. Insect borer holes will not be in rows, but randomly spaced. Occasionally, sapsuckers will have random holes as they “test” trees, but most folks will not notice them.

Damage is normally not a concern for a healthy tree. An occasional branch may be girdled. Harassment techniques like shiny ribbons, owl balloons sometime scare away the birds. Barriers like burlap or metal window screen on the activity area will encourage the bird to move on. Bird tanglefoot, a sticky, wax-like substance, spread below active holes will make landing uncomfortable and also discourage the bird.

April 1
Missouri Arbor Day

April 7 - 8
Prof Grounds Mgmt Society Regional Grounds Mgmt Seminars and Site Visits, Springfield, MO, Information and registration at www.pgms.org/2011RegionalSpringfield.htm

April 18
ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Hot Springs, AR, Registration deadline March 31, 2011, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

April 20
ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Jefferson City, MO, Registration deadline April 4, 2011, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

April 29
National Arbor Day

May 2
Tree Biology 101, Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, Joplin, MO, Register by contacting Jon Skinner (jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov, 417-629-3423)

May 12
ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Springfield, MO, Registration deadline April 26, 2011, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/

June 10

June 17
2011 Midwestern Chapter Tree Climbers Competition, Stagecoach Park, Olathe, KS, Information at www.mwisa.org

June 18 - 18
American Conifer Society Central Region Meeting, Ames, IA, Information at www.conifersociety.org/doc_manager/ select Central, then spring 2011 newsletter

June 18
ISA Certified Arborist Exam, Oklahoma City, OK, Registration deadline June 2, 2011, Register at www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/