



# BCK CISMA

January 2019

## HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID

The emerald and mossy hues of evergreen trees can be a welcome sight for weary eyes in the winter. Evergreens, like the hemlock tree, are also an extremely important source of food and shelter in the winter. Currently, Michigan has 170 million Eastern hemlocks, but their numbers are threatened by a tiny bug called Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). HWA is a dark reddish-brown invasive pest that is native to Eastern Asia. It was introduced to Eastern United States in the 1950's and was detected in Michigan in 2015. Currently Michigan populations have only been found along the coast of Lake Michigan.

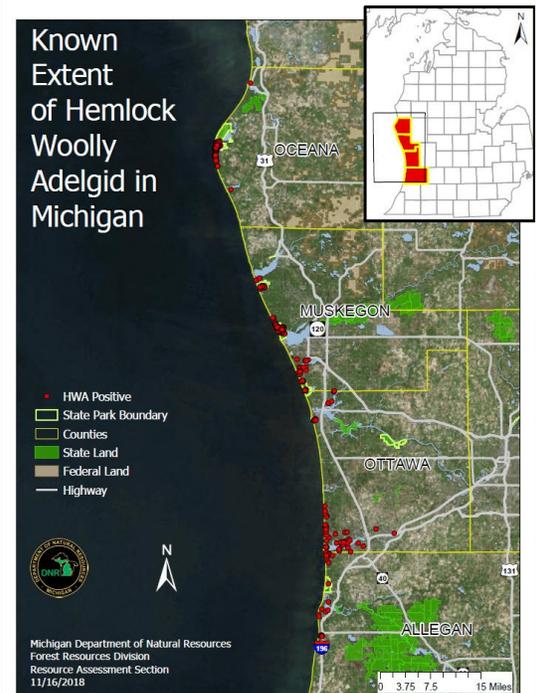
HWA is less than 1/16 of an inch big, making it almost impossible to see without the use of a magnifying glass. As HWA feeds, though, it produces woolly, wax ovisacs that are visible. These ovisacs are formed to protect the insect and its eggs, and they are the best way to identify HWA. They look like small pieces of cotton on the underside of the branch at the base of the needles. Feeding occurs between late fall and early spring, so winter is the best time to look for HWA's ovisacs.

HWA has sucking mouthparts that allow it to feed on the sap of a hemlock tree. Taking sap from the tree weakens the hemlock, making it more vulnerable to other insects and disease and eventually leading to mortality. Once infected, the hemlock has around four to ten years before mortality.

HWA can be spread by humans and mammals brushing up against an infected tree and then later touching an uninfected hemlock. To protect your hemlocks, prune branches so that vehicles will not brush against them and move bird feeders away from hemlock trees. If an isolated tree becomes infected, remove that tree to prevent spread to nearby trees. For more information or to report HWA, visit [savemihemlocks.org](http://savemihemlocks.org). BCK CISMA is dedicated to curbing the spread of invasive species in Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. If you have invasive species concerns within those counties please contact Fallon Januska at [fallon.januska@macd.org](mailto:fallon.januska@macd.org) or 269-908-4136.

## BCK CISMA this month in numbers

- 4** active outreach events
- 55** impressions
- 8** passive outreach efforts
- 1,615** impressions
- 3** publications with articles
- 30,000** impressions



## Steering Committee Updates

The next BCK CISMA Meeting is Tuesday, February 5th from 1-3pm. The meeting will be held in the auditorium at the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary. The goal for this meeting is to finalize the strategic plan edit and mission statement. Please come to the meeting with ideas on possible wording for the mission statement.



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**BCKCISMA**  
 Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area