



# What's the News on GSOB?

Your Connection for Up to Date Information

June, 2011 - Vol 1, Issue 1

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## Outreach Activities and Displays

### [WCISA Conference](#)

May 10-12, 2011  
Hyatt Regency La Jolla, San Diego

### [San Diego County Fair](#)

June 10 to July 4, 2011  
Forest Area Safety Taskforce  
Display-O'Brian Bldg., Del Mar

### [Insect Festival](#)

July 7-10, 2011  
San Diego Botanic Gardens,  
Encinitas

## Helpful Resources

### [GSOB Tri-Fold Brochure](#)

### [UC IPM GSOB Field Identification Guide](#)

### [Oak Firewood Advisory Flyer](#)

### [Vendors & Sellers Firewood Advisory Flyer](#)

### [Early Warning System Southern California Oak Field Guide](#)

Welcome to the first quarterly Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) Newsletter! GSOB activities have gained a lot of momentum over the past year, with more research, education, and outreach activities underway than ever

before. Additionally, the GSOB effort has gained new partners, including Riverside and San Bernardino Counties as well as the California Oak Mortality Task Force, the newly formed California Firewood Task Force, and the Nature Conservancy through their Don't Move Firewood campaign.



In this first newsletter, you will find important news and updates on GSOB activities as well as information on upcoming events and resources. You will also learn about our new GSOB blog site and Facebook page. So, whether you prefer communication by mail, phone, the Internet, email, or social media, now you can stay up to date!

## Camping Season - Buy and Use Firewood Locally - Spread the Word



With summer upon us, vacationing and camping are on the rise; meaning people are enjoying outdoor fires. Whenever having a fire, it is important to buy wood locally and only purchase enough to last your stay. Research has found that invasive pathogens and pests, such as GSOB, can be unknowingly transported on firewood to new areas, devastating the very trees and forests you love.

GSOB larvae have been found under the bark of firewood cut months ago. Tens of thousands of valuable oaks have already been lost to this pest. Moving GSOB infested firewood beyond the local area where it was cut, increases the risks of losing more oaks throughout the state at a very large expense.

The California Pest Council recently formed a California Firewood Task Force to address risks associated with firewood movement in the State. In addition to conducting research on firewood activities that may be impacting California, a public education and outreach campaign is also underway which will include distribution of educational materials to targeted campgrounds and firewood permit locations as well as a website ([firewood.ca.gov](http://firewood.ca.gov) - under development) with resources available for the public as well as affected industries. Firewood information and downloadable materials can also be found on the [GSOB](#) and [Don't Move Firewood](#) websites.

## Research News



Several organizations are conducting research on GSOB, including scientists from three USDA Forest Service Research and Development facilities; the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection; USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine; and the University of California - Davis, Berkeley, and Riverside campuses and Cooperative Extension. Project highlights include:

- Primary topics of study are biological research, chemical ecology, prevention via sanitation, control with insecticides, bio-control, and the assembly and testing of integrated pest management measures.
- Some private landowners in GSOB-infested areas have agreed to work with researchers, allowing studies to take place on their property. Other research is being conducted in lab facilities or on public lands.
- GSOB has had a taxonomic update: "The *A. coxalis* populations of Arizona and California are now considered a distinct subspecies of the population of *A. coxalis* from Mexico and Guatemala, recognizing *A. coxalis auroguttatus* unique to Arizona and California (Hespenheide and Bellamy, 2009)."
- The first verified year of the GSOB infestation in California occurred in 2000 according to dendrochronology findings.
- Drought stress and GSOB injury findings were published. Coleman, T.W., N.E. Grulke, M. Daly, C. Godinez, S.L. Schilling, P.J. Riggan, and S.J. Seybold. 2011. Coast live oak, *Quercus agrifolia*, susceptibility and response to goldspotted oak borer, *Agrilus auroguttatus*, and injury in southern California. DOI: 10.1016/j.foreco.2011.02.008.

## Education and Outreach



In addition to the [GSOB](#) website, information has been shared with more than 2,000 people through all-day workshops; presentations for community groups and elected officials; in-depth field trainings; and displays at professional and local events. Outcome highlights include:

- In April, KPBS produced and aired a GSOB radio and television [news report](#), featuring interviews with Tom Coleman, USFS, and Tom Scott, UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside.
- Nearly 300 volunteers have been recruited throughout southern California to participate in the Early Warning System (see [Early Warning System](#) section below for more information).
- Seven day-long workshops for land managers and industry professionals were held throughout six southern California counties from September 2010 to February 2011. More than 360 people attended. According to workshop evaluations, 98% responded that they are likely to share the workshop information with others.
- Key scientists and agency leaders have given presentations on GSOB to elected officials in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

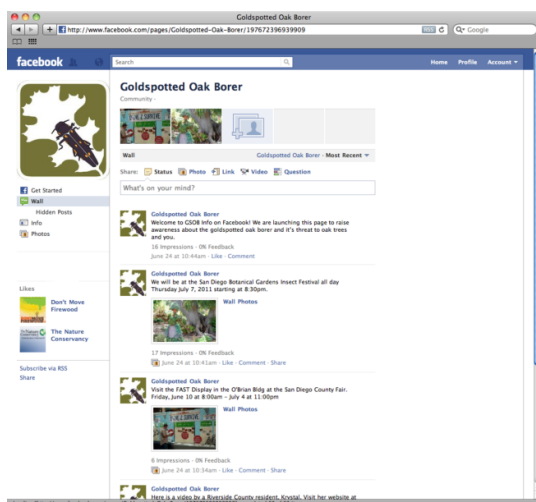
## Early Warning System - Be Part of the Solution



The Early Warning System (EWS) is a citizen-scientist program that was developed to educate community residents and recruit volunteers to assist scientists with oak tree monitoring and reporting. To date, the effort has accomplished the follow:

- Presentations have been given to more than 1,500 people at community group meetings and workshops. As reported above, a quality volunteer team is being organized.
- In-depth field trainings for volunteers were held at Marion Bear Park and William Heise County Park in San Diego County. More of these trainings may be offered. We'll keep you posted as events are organized.
- Interested in becoming part of the solution to stopping GSOB? Let us know by completing this quick [online survey](#) or by sending an email message to the [EWS Coordinator](#).
- Whether you are an EWS volunteer or not, you are encouraged to report any suspicion of a GSOB infestation using this [online form](#).

## Community Corner



### GSOB is part of the social media world!

You can now get quick updates by becoming a fan of the GSOB Information [Facebook page](#), where timely GSOB news is posted along with occasional questions for fans willing to share their stories of how GSOB is impacting them. Together we can spread GSOB news, not beetles. Becoming a fan is just a click away!

[Find us on Facebook](#) 

In addition to Facebook, we've created a Blog about a variety of GSOB-related topics. The goal of the blog is to raise GSOB awareness and increase knowledge about the value of oak woodlands. Subscribe to the [blog](#) so you can be alerted to new postings!

## On The Horizon



In addition to the Firewood Movement public awareness campaign mentioned in the 'Camping Season' segment above, there are several other resources and events under development. Here's a few:

- GSOB's social media presence will be expanding through the GSOB You Tube channel and Flickr site.
- Counties, local communities, and park managers can look forward to Community Preparedness Guidelines and other resources available for download in a new "Toolkit" section on the GSOB website.
- Firewood advisory handouts in Spanish language are being developed and will be posted soon.
- Another workshop is being organized to be held later this year to share current information on the latest research findings and resources.

For questions or comments about this newsletter, email [gsobinfo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gsobinfo@ucdavis.edu).



**[www.GSOB.org](http://www.GSOB.org)**  
**[GSOBinfo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:GSOBinfo@ucdavis.edu)**

UC Cooperative Extension - San Diego | 5555 Overland Avenue | Bldg. 4, Ste. 4101 | San Diego, CA | 92123



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University of California Cooperative Extension - San Diego | 5555 Overland Ave | Bldg 4 Ste 4101 | San Diego | CA | 92123