

## CAPS

### **Monitoring for Thousand Cankers Disease of Black Walnut**

Joe Rackley, Plant Protection Specialist, recently observed declining black walnut trees in Mohawk Park, Tulsa. In response, he organized an investigation with Jen Olson and Rick Grantham of the OSU plant disease and diagnosis lab, Sue Gray of OSU extension in Tulsa, Maureen Turner, the Tulsa City Horticulturalist, and Mike Perkins, the Urban Forester city of Tulsa and Barbara Fuson, State Survey Coordinator. Symptomatic walnut trees were examined in the field for the cause of decline. City of Tulsa's parks management used cherry pickers to remove limbs from the upper canopy. Rackley demonstrated shaving thin layers of bark to detect the walnut twig beetle, a technique he recently learned from the HISCC meeting in Tennessee. Collaboration between state, city and university increased the number of first detectors for Thousand Cankers Disease, which is crucial to increase the chance of detecting an infestation while it is still manageable.



*Tulsa City Parks helped ODAFF get a sample of a walnut tree with Thousand Cankers Disease symptoms*

### **Bioblitz!**

Bioblitz! is an event hosted October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> by the OU biological survey to inventory biodiversity in Oklahoma and educate children, high school students, college students, and citizen scientists. Oklahoma CAPS was given the opportunity to set up an informational booth and lead a talk to interested people. Although 350 people were registered for the event, 333 actually showed up.



*333 children, students, teachers and professors took inventory of biodiversity in the Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge*



*Entomologists from OU, OCU, the Sam Noble Museum and other institutions volunteer helping with insect identification*

Barbara Fuson led a walk on how to look for imported fire ants and symptoms of emerald ash borer and thousand cankers disease of walnut. 20 participants learned how to look for symptomatic trees and suspicious-looking ant mounds outside of the quarantine. Of those 20, five citizen scientists signed up to volunteer for Oklahoma Bug Watch, which will begin in the spring of 2012, at the start of the emerald ash borer flight season.



*Barbara Fuson educates citizen scientists about imported fire ant biology*