



Bald Head Association ~ “The voice for BHI property owners”

910-457-4676 • 111 Lighthouse Wynd, Bald Head Island • www.BaldHeadAssociation.com

Dead or Dying Redbay Tree Procedure

IMPORTANT! Even dead or dying redbay trees still need to go through the ARC approval process for removal. There is also a procedure for properly disposing of infected trees.

As more property owners return to Bald Head Island this spring, you may notice many dead and dying redbay trees throughout the Island. Their brown leaves stand out in stark contrast this time of year and will continue to be noticeable while surrounding plants blossom and grow green leaves.

If you have dead or dying redbay trees on your lot, keep in mind that you still need to go through the ARC approval process for removal. And BHA has a protocol to help minimize Island-wide damage by the removal of trees infected with laurel wilt, which is recommended by the NC Forestry Service.

One way to identify an infected redbay tree is to observe that the leaves die within a short period of time, as little as two weeks. The NC Forestry Service advises that in order to limit the Laurel Wilt fungal infection on Bald Head Island, the proper way to dispose of the infected, cut tree is to do one of the following:

- A. Cut the dead tree down leaving it at the site.
- B. Chip the dead tree leaving it at the site.
- C. Burying the dead tree at the site.

If the killed tree is moved to a new location as firewood or other untreated wood products (such as the Timbercreek Mulch Site), those redbay ambrosia beetles can emerge at the new location and start a new infestation. The NC Forestry Service identifies our best weapon in slowing the spread of this disease is to keep infected trees where they are. To help limit the spread of the disease, do not move dead host material. The Forestry Service reminds us that even moving chips or tree debris to landfills can spread the insect and the disease.

Saws and equipment used to cut and chip infected trees must be cleaned of tree debris and disinfected before moving to a new site. The Forestry Service advises using either rubbing alcohol or a bleach-and-water solution to disinfect equipment after cutting an infected redbay tree.

Bald Head Association appreciates your commitment to, and recognition of, the interdependence of maintaining a healthy Maritime Forest and the survival of Bald Head Island’s delicate ecology.

For additional information about the laurel wilt fungal infection, visit www.ncforestservation.gov/forest_health/forest_health_laurelwiltfaq.htm. For questions and to start the approval process, contact Karen Mosteller, ARC Coordinator at 910-457-4676, ext. 22 or Karen@BaldHeadAssociation.com.