



Contact: Amber Grabowski  
203 -263- 3711 or [flanders@flandersnaturecenter.org](mailto:flanders@flandersnaturecenter.org)  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Flanders presents Asian Longhorned Beetle Program**

**WOODBURY-** Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, in conjunction with Victoria Lynn Smith, Deputy State Entomologist, Department of Entomology, will present a program on the Asian longhorned beetle, or ALB for short. The ALB is an exotic invader from China that is a real threat to the forest resource of Connecticut and New England. Our forests are prized for their scenic beauty, ecological diversity, and economic value. The ALB has infested cities in states surrounding Connecticut, including New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. The ALB moves into new areas by transport in wood, including pallets, firewood, and wood packing materials. In short, we accidentally help move this insect around. Unfortunately, this beetle remains well hidden until large populations have developed, making eradication and control very difficult. The consequences of infestation are damaged and weakened trees, loss of the trees through eradication efforts, and a drastically changed landscape in the infested areas. By learning how to recognize this insect, what to do if you find one, and ways to prevent its movement into new areas, you can help in the efforts to detect and control this potentially-devastating introduced pest. The program will be on Thursday, September 24 from 7 – 8 PM at the Woodbury Senior Center. The program fee is \$10 per person.

Other up-coming programs include 'Black Bears in CT' by Paul Rego on Thursday, October 22, from 7 to 8 PM. The Woodbury Senior Center is located at 265 Main Street South in Woodbury. Call 203-263-3711 x 12 to register.

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust is a nonprofit organization that focuses on environmental education, and on the acquisition, conservation, and stewardship of open space. Through its land trust initiatives, Flanders actively works to protect important natural sites and the area's landscape character and quality of life. Flanders manages nearly 2,000 acres of preserved land in Woodbury and neighboring towns. Educational programs for children and adults are offered at the Van Vleck Farm Sanctuary,

Flanders' main campus in Woodbury. Trails at its major nature preserves are open to the public at no charge from dawn to dusk. Flanders Welcome Center is located at the corner of Church Hill and Flanders Roads in Woodbury.

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