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The Environment Report
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Reporter Wins National Headliner Award for Journalism

ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Rebecca Williams, reporter and producer for The Environment Report on Michigan Radio, has been selected to receive a first place National Headliner Award for her series of reports on the Emerald Ash Borer, entitled "Tree Killing Bug Wiping Out Ash."

Williams's award is in the category of "Breaking News or Continuing Coverage of a Single News Event," and surpassed both ABC News Radio and CBS Radio News to take the top spot in that category.

"Tree Killing Bug Wiping Out Ash" is a continuing series of stories about how this invasive beetle has killed over 20 million trees. People in the nursery and firewood industries have lost their livelihoods, homeowners and cities are struggling to pay for the damage, and scientists are warning that we don't fully understand the extent of everything that could be lost in our forests.

The National Headliner Awards program was founded in 1934 by the Press Club of Atlantic City. It is one of the oldest and largest annual contests recognizing journalistic merit in the communications industry.

This year's awards will be presented to recipients at a special ceremony in Atlantic City on May 19. Outstanding journalists from around the country will gather to honor their fellow news writers, photographers, and reporters.

"I'm thrilled," says Williams, "to receive this recognition of our in-depth coverage of such an important problem."

The Environment Report from the GLRC is a production of Michigan Radio, the public radio service from the University of Michigan. The Environment Report is an environmental news service distributed free of charge to more than 140 public radio stations in 16 states.

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