



Introduction

My name is Tucker the Turtle, and I live in many places as you will see.
I'd like to share my poems, won't you take a trip with me?

To my home in the forests, rivers, and ponds is where we are bound.
We'll move among the trees and flowers, crawling across the ground.

I'll tell you about the pests I've met and how my home has begun to change,
As non-native invasive species quickly spread across my range.



Tree-of-Heaven

*Y*OU were brought here from China and you quickly had us beat,
Spouting up in many places like the sidewalk and the street.

Your leaves look like our hickories, yet they lack their many teeth,
And at the base a single gland I see from underneath.

I detect the Tree-of-Heaven by its leaves and nasty smell,
And miss the native trees and shrubs it surely will expel.



Asian Longhorned Beetle

I WAS walking through the woods one day when I saw an interesting sight,
Two big beetles whose long antennae were banded black and white.

They turned their heads and looked at me saying, "Hello," with a smile.
"We'd like to start our family here and stay for a long, long while."

"With jaws of steel, we love to kill your maples and other trees,
Which means you'll lose your syrup, and the homes of birds and bees."

"We've traveled around the country, hidden in your firewood.
We shouldn't have been transported, now we're here for good."