

I am seeing a lot of folks out gardening, and beautiful eastern red buds and flowering dogwoods are adding color to the landscape! It finally feels like spring has sprung! However, May also means Memorial Day is around the corner, and the unofficial beginning of summer. When opening up summer homes/cottages, stock up with local firewood, avoid pruning your oak trees until mid-July, and check your car and gear for bugs and egg sacs before leaving your current residence!

Spongy Moth Is A New Name For An Old Foe

Spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is the new name for gypsy moth, a species that many Michiganders have probably seen at some point, and introduced by a naturalist into Massachusetts in 1889. There have four life stages: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa and adult as seen in the diagram below. Female adult moths are white with black lines, while male moths are grey to dark brown with dark lines. At this time of the year, you likely will be seeing larva emerging and crawling on trees, who are easily identified by red and blue spots on their back and lots of hair. Caterpillars spin a silk strand and hang down, waiting to be blown onto another tree (called ballooning). They favor oak trees, but will feed on the leaves of willow, mountain ash, crabapple and others. Populations fluctuate year to year, and spike every 7-10 years.



If you look closely, you might see some small spongy moth caterpillars on your trees!
Photo credit for diagram: Ohio Department of Agriculture

Repeated infestations can harm trees overtime, and can be a nuisance for those trying to spend time outdoors. Naturally occurring nucleopolyhedrosis virus helps control populations, especially when we have a moist spring. People can also control infestations by applying a bacteria-based pesticide (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) when small caterpillars are present (is less effective when they are larger). If you see egg masses between fall and spring, scrape them off trees and place in the trash. If you plan on travelling between now and July, remove any caterpillars or egg masses from parked cars, tents, chairs and backpacks.

Upcoming Events

June 4th—Washtenaw County Conservation District Native Plant Expo & Marketplace, 20501 Old US-12 Hwy, Chelsea, MI 48118 (9am to 1pm).

washtenawcd.org/npem.html

June 9th—Not MI Species Seminar (virtual, 9am to 10 am). Didymo” What you need to know.

register.gotowebinar.com/register/4455354579598489871



Website of the Month

A website run out of the University of Georgia’s Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. This site has pictures, invasive species information, as well as links to other organizations where you find range maps, management and control options, and contact info for local organizations!

invasive.org

Invasive Species Spotlight—Asian Longhorned Beetle

- *Anoplophora glabripennis* is a beetle likely introduced via wood crates or pallets
- Adults are 0.75 to 1.5 in long, black with white spots, long striped antennae
- Larvae tunnel into the wood of tree branches and trunks of a variety of trees (favoring maple trees)
- Adults are active until October, and females lay eggs on the bark
- Can spread via firewood



Photo Credit: M. Bohne

Native Species Spotlight—White-Spotted Pine Sawyer

- *Monochamus scutellatus* ranges from Newfoundland south to Alaska
- Adults are 0.75 to 1.25 in long, black with a white spot top center of its wing covers
- Long back antenna
- Larvae help break down dead trees
- Commonly mistaken for the invasive Asian longhorned beetle



Photo Credit: T. Arcand

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Shikha Singh at shikha.singh@macd.org or (517) 395 - 2089.

Visit our website for more events and resources: jlcisma.weebly.com



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