

NORTH SHORE JOURNAL

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Christine Mallory, Editor

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Little Yellow Airplanes Coming to Lake County 2018

By Kitty Mayo

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is planning chemical applications by airplane to areas of Lake County with non-native gypsy moths this summer.



mda.state.mn.us

Lake County is currently the only gypsy moth quarantined county in the state. There is also a very small quarantine area in the Twin Cities limiting tree trimming and removal in an outbreak area in Lowry Hills in Minneapolis.

Cremers says that the only way gypsy moths can spread on their own is by first-stage larvae blowing in the wind. Under their own steam, larvae are only able to spread naturally about one-and-a-half to three miles. However, with unwitting human assistance through firewood or even trash cans, gypsy moths are spreading at a rate of about 15 miles each year.

"Pretty much anything that is outdoors can transport gypsy moths," said Kimberly Thielen Cremers, "Pots, garden tools, tents, awnings, and lawn furniture. But the biggest risk comes from tree trimming and firewood." Cremers is the Pest Mitigation and Biocontrol supervisor for the Department of Agriculture.

Working off of data collected in previous seasons through survey traps, plans for aerial applications are in place for 2018.

Six total sites are scheduled to be treated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture this year: one large area east of Ely, two sites in Two Harbors, the lakeside area in Duluth, Cloquet and Minneapolis.

The Ely site is near White Iron Lake, including about twenty privately owned acres, and 11 acres in the Bear Island State Forest. Because of the lower concentration of moths here, and alternate life stages present, applications spaced seven to 10 days apart applied aurally are planned for July.

The active ingredient for the mating disruption application is called Disparlure, a synthetic insect sex pheromone. Emitted just before male moths come out, Disparlure causes confusion that disinhibits mating of gypsy moths. Disparlure is embedded in

waxy droplets or small plastic flakes. Disparlure was used on over 500,000 acres across the country last year.

One site in Two Harbors covers 526 acres off of 7th Avenue and is slated for two applications of Btk (Foray 48B). Btk is an insecticide made from the bacterium bacillus thuringiensis that naturally occurs in soils. Btk is considered a biological agent and does have to be ingested by feeding gypsy moths in their caterpillar stage. According to Cremers the Btk product breaks down after five to seven days. Targeted dates for Btk application are most likely in June, with two applications seven to 10 days apart.

The most significant site is near Split Rock and Beaver Bay and totals about 73,000 acres. Most of the land is public, including Superior National Forest, state forest, scientific and natural area and county land, with about 10 percent of the area being in private ownership.

Cremers says there is a potential environmental impact by Btk to other pollinators, such as non-harmful moths and butterflies. However, it is not known to impact bees and is not expected to harm monarch butterflies since the applications are planned to occur in a time frame prior to the returning monarch migration.

Damage to foliage from gypsy moth infestations can create stress on trees and can lead to die-off. However, Cremers says that while efforts by the Department of Agriculture along with cold temperatures of the region can keep them in check, their numbers are not likely to ever be gone.

When the dates for applications near, pre-spray postcards will be sent out to nearby residents. The option of being added to an email list serve is also available for notifications. Questions can be directed to Kimberly Thielen Cremers at: (651)201-6329, or Kimberly.TCremers@state.mn.us.

Nordic Nature Group

By Kitty Mayo

Youth is no excuse for ignoring big issues in Olya Wright's world. At 12 years old, Wright is clearly already an activist for protecting the environment.

Wright, a resident of Grand Marais, started the Nordic Nature Group (NNG) with several other young people three years ago. Defining their mission as helping nature, and taking care of the earth, the Nordic Nature Group has already tackled global climate change at a local level.

Several Grand Marais youth presented a challenge to the city council last year, backed by data they had gathered, to up their climate impact game. The result was the immediate decision by the council to embrace a climate change action plan that integrates input from youth. The youth-led

climate resolution was only the third of its kind to be passed across the country. Grand Marais' plan includes a commitment to reaching net zero emissions by 2040.

Now Olya will be one of the featured speakers at the "Southern Minnesota Youth Clean Electricity Summit" in Rochester, Minn. this April 14th. With 83% of electricity being generated by coal in many southern Minnesota cities, Olya hopes to inspire other youth to come up with strategies to reduce carbon emissions.

Watch a youtube video of Olya talking about her reasons for organizing around a cause that is near to her heart at: "iMatter in Grand Marais Minnesota", <https://youtu.be/6z7e-5CpGKq>.

Libraries Now Offer Tools to Create and Share Ebooks

In conjunction with other Minnesota libraries, Arrowhead Library System now offers a new suite of resources – collectively called MN Writes MN Reads – to help local authors connect with local readers, and potentially with readers across the country. MN Writes MN Reads consists of three resources that allow authors and readers to create, share, and read ebooks. These resources, Pressbooks, SELF-e, and BiblioBoard, are free to members of the community via the MN Writes MN Reads website – www.MNWritesMNReads.org.

Pressbooks enables writers to convert their manuscripts into a variety of ebook formats, including ePub, MOBI, and PDF. Pressbooks helps writers format their books with professional design templates and includes tools to assist with book organization. After converting their book into ebook format, authors can distribute their book however they choose. One free option is SELF-e.

SELF-e is portal for sharing ebooks. Titles submitted to SELF-e undergo a basic screening process and then are added to the statewide MN Writes MN Reads collection. In addition, titles submitted are screened by staff from Library Journal. Library Journal selects a limited number of titles (at this time only fiction) to make available to readers across the country. Authors retain all rights to books submitted to SELF-e.

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Funding for these services comes from library systems around the state. As the Arrowhead Library System (ALS) Executive Director Jim Weikum explains, "Minnesota writers are now able to create content in a variety of ebook formats, and the readers will be able to find that content in a special online collection highlighting those self-published authors."

Libraries are increasingly places of content creation, in addition to content consumption, and MN Writes MN Reads offers tools to help writers create and share their work. Arrowhead Library System is excited to offer MN Writes MN Reads, which will enable the sharing of a wide and diverse array of local stories. These resources will give local writers broader exposure and give readers access to locally-produced content.

Visit MNWritesMNReads.org for more information.