

NORFOLK WOODLOT OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

www.norfolkwoodlots.com



November 2020

President's Message

The last Newsletter was devoted to addressing the Gypsy Moth, in some hot spots in Norfolk County, that are damaging trees in those areas. An Aerial Gypsy Moth Treatment Information Request Form (GMTF) was also included. The information on this form was to help us ascertain if there is sufficient interest for NWOA to determine how best to recruit, organize and co-ordinate a cost-effective control program for the year 2021. The plan was to pool all the woodlots of NWOA members, that want to participate in a spring 2021 spray program, to increase the acreage sprayed thereby reducing the cost per acre.

Unfortunately, the amount of acreage pooled together from the submitted forms was insufficient to reduce the cost of spraying compared to each woodlot owner spraying on their own. The window of opportunity to assess potential woodlots and book spray contractors for the 2021 is now closed. However, the NWOA Board decided to republish the Gypsy Moth control information from the last newsletter.

COVID-19 regulations have forced us to make some changes to our planned Wednesday March 3rd, 2021 NWOA AGM.

First, there are 3 components to NWOA AGM:

1. The requirement for NWOA to conduct an AGM, within 6 months of year end which dictates NWOA must hold this AGM by June 30th, 2021. The basic AGM requires that the membership reviews and votes to accept previous AGM minutes, conduct election of Board members and vote on

acceptance of the Financial Report.

2. Gathering of members to further their woodlot education by speaking with vendors and groups involved with various aspects of woodlot management, listen to guest speakers, and share anecdotal knowledge.
3. Membership renewal which is tied to Early Bird Draw and Door Prizes.

Second, the Board will be mailing out packages that will fulfill the NWOA bylaw concerning the AGM and membership renewal during January 2021 containing.

1. Membership Renewal which are eligible for a draw of two early bird prizes (chain saw and office chair) for those that renew their membership prior to March 3, 2021.
2. Minutes of 2020 AGM. Please let us know if any changes are required and a proxy vote (in the renewal form) to accept or not via email or mail.
3. Dec 31, 2020 NWOA financial statements. Please let us know your proxy vote (in the renewal form) to accept or not via email or mail.
4. List of current Board members.
5. If you wish to nominate a board member there is a nomination form for Board Member in the renewal form and email or mail back to us.

Third, the fun part, gathering of members to further their woodlot education by speaking with vendors and groups involved with various aspects of woodlot management, listen to guest speakers, and share anecdotal knowledge with each other.

1. The Board is determining if a virtual AGM gathering could be conducted on March 3, 2021. This is the most likely scenario.
2. In lieu of an indoor gathering on March 3, 2021 or virtual gathering the Board is investigating if an outdoor gathering at the beginning of May is feasible. However, given we have no idea what level of restriction we will be under at that time it is exceedingly difficult to put together a concrete plan at this time.
3. You will be notified in January with the package in January.

We welcome your comments, thoughts and ideas for our newsletter, workshops and Annual Meeting. Especially on the 2021 AGM, we work hard to make it fun and informative, so your feedback is essential. Thanks. You can post them on our website www.norfolkwoodlots.com or call me at 519-426-2782 or email me at johndewitt@kwic.com

Tree Farm Day of the Ontario Forestry Association October 1961

I found the following the following report in the files in the now defunct Forest Interpretive Centre and think it may be of interest to some of our woodlot owners. Some of the names may still be familiar. The "Treefarm" program was organized by the Ontario Forestry Association, which was financed by the forest industries, the Provincial Government and the members. It was succeeded by the Provincial "Managed Forest tax Incentive Program" ("MFTIP") and the development of local woodlot owner associations.
Dolf Wynia

Lake Erie District Field Day on John Maguire's Tree Farm # 0-152

On October 11th (1961) all eyes turned to the morning sky, scarcely believing that the fine weather could continue for another day. It did. One hundred and seventy forestry conscious men and women spent the day on the tree farm of John Maguire, viewing demonstrations and discussing woodlot and plantation management.

The morning session was spent visiting seven stations laid out in the hardwood bush. All the aspects and problems encountered in "The Farmers Woodlot" were explored.

The Langton Women's Institute served a hot meal to the group on the shores of the Maguire's 10 acre irrigation pond adjacent to the tree farm. During the relaxing noon hour, the visitors watched log sawing contests, equipment demonstrations and chatted with their neighbours.

J.E.Knowles, MP, Norfolk addressed the group after lunch, explaining the federal role in forestry. He emphasized the importance of forest products in our national economy and the value of accessible forest land in southern Ontario, close to the market. Mr. Knowles was introduced by Dave Adlam and thanked by Monroe Landon.

The afternoon program dealt with plantations. The planting, thinning, pruning and marketing problems were discussed. A practical pruning and thinning demonstration took place, taking the wood from the standing tree to the barked pile ready for the mill. Ron Wagner demonstrated the mechanical barking of the most efficient method of handling pulpwood in this area.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Initiative

Got hemlock?

By Kathleen Ryan

A new invader here in Ontario has the potential to be as devastating to hemlock as emerald ash borer is to ash. Hemlock woolly adelgid, detected in 2019 in Niagara Region, kills all hemlock regardless of tree health. An initiative is underway to compile a database of hemlock across Ontario to facilitate HWA detection, research, and management. To date it includes data from conservation authorities, municipalities, MNR and private landowners. However, many gaps still exist especially in southwestern Ontario. If you have hemlock in your forests, please consider participating in this initiative - contact kathleen.ryan@silvecon.com for details. More about HWA: <http://invasiveinsects.ca/hwa/hwa.html>

**Cavity and stick nests and the birds that build them
by Ian Fife**

November 26 at 7pm – 8pm

Join Ian Fife, Forest Birds Program Coordinator for Birds Canada as he describes how to identify common cavity and stick nesting birds you may find in your woodlot. He will also describe the type of habitat they prefer as well as what to look for when identifying their nests.

All members will be emailed an invitation to attend this webinar.



**Join us for a woodlot/field tour in Norfolk's beautiful
Carolinian forests and learn about our woodlots and
how best to keep them profitable and healthy for
many years to come!**

You are invited to attend a NWOA woodlot/field tour on Saturday, November 28th at 10:00 am. NWOA is seeking to assist land owners with management of their woodlots and to educate land owners about how to identify species, as well as Gypsy Moth and Beech Bark Disease identification.

With the beautiful Autumn weather that we've been so lucky to have lately, we hope to see many of you and reconnect at this woodlot tour.

The first woodlot is located in Walsingham and is owned by Lyle and Laurie LaForge. The access point is at the first field east of Walsingham, on the 6th Concession. Please meet us here at 10:00am. This woodlot is currently marked for harvest. It has over 12 species to be harvested with heavy Beech removal due to Beech Bark Disease. When this woodlot tour is completed, we will all drive to the second woodlot at that time.

The second woodlot we will tour is the Landon Tract, which is owned by the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and is also currently under harvest. Here we will be discussing Oak regeneration and Gypsy Moth identification. The access point for the Landon Tract is located on Charlotteville Road 7, east of Turkey Point Road.

Even though the woodlot/field tours will be held outdoors with room for social distancing, our group will be split into appropriate group sizes. Please bring your masks

If you have any questions, please call **Dolf Wynia** at **519-705-3350**, **John de Witt** at **519-426-2782** or **Mike Penner** at **519-688-1426**.

We encourage everyone to take advantage of this learning opportunity—we hope to see you there!

Gypsy Moth Update- Forecasting for 2021

Are All Trees are Affected?

Although Gypsy Moth reportedly feed on over 300 host plant species, in Norfolk County they seem to show a strong preference for feeding on oak species, but will feed on several other species of tree including, poplar, willow, blue spruce, white pine, “Crimson King” Norway maple, and many different fruit trees (in particular apple species).

Current

Parts of
gypsy moth



Situation in Norfolk

Norfolk County have
population over the



County

been
past 3



experiencing a building
years. The south portion of

Windham township, mostly around the Nixon area, and the east end of Charlotteville township, mostly around the Hillcrest area, was hit with significant Gypsy Moth defoliation in 2018 and 2019. Although the Nixon area seemed to have had some reprieve in 2020, Gypsy Moth defoliation was readily detectable throughout most of Norfolk County this past summer. Field observations by forest industry representatives indicate that Gypsy Moth will be a widespread problem throughout most of Norfolk County again in 2021.

Will Gypsy Moth Kill My Trees?

Despite enduring an attack from Gypsy Moth, most healthy trees with good growing conditions are able to withstand some levels of defoliation. Concerns over tree health arise when the tree is subjected to multiple years of defoliation, or the defoliation is compounded by added stressors such as an attack by other opportunistic insects or pathogens, drought, soil compaction or other poor growing conditions.

In Norfolk County, areas that have been impacted by Gypsy Moth for multiple years, and will be impacted again in 2021 are at a higher risk of experiencing long term damage to host trees. If you live in or near this area, you will want to evaluate the potential for Gypsy Moth damage on your property and have a plan in place to mitigate the potential impacts.

What Can You Do?

Sometimes it can be difficult to watch as trees on your property or in your neighbourhood are stripped of their leaves. The droppings from the caterpillars, referred to as frass, can also become quite a nuisance and make a mess of decks, driveways and pools. However, unless your trees have been defoliated for multiple years in a row, or are stressed due to other factors, it is likely that the trees will survive a gypsy moth outbreak.

Having some comfort level knowing your trees will likely survive an outbreak can be helpful, but you may still feel the need to want to do something. You may also be in an area that has been impacted by Gypsy Moth for multiple consecutive years and want to provide some protection to your trees for the coming year.

There are several control options to consider when trying to manage Gypsy Moth on your property, especially if you are dealing with few trees.

Important Note on Controlling Gypsy Moth!!!

It is important to note, that regardless of the approach used to control Gypsy Moth, in all instances, the objective is to **protect targeted trees from defoliation** and reduce the nuisances associated with Gypsy Moth within a target area. The control measure implemented is **not intended to control an entire Gypsy Moth population**, and will only be effective for that growing season, at most.

The “collapse” of a Gypsy Moth population is reliant on naturally occurring viral and fungal agents. Gypsy Moth is a cyclical insect, and history has shown they will go away once their natural control agents take effect.

Aerial Application of Pesticide

When seeking to protect trees against Gypsy Moth defoliation, aerial application of a pesticide is often a commonly sought-after control method. Aerial application of a product containing *Bacillus thuringiensis variety kurstaki* (Btk) is the most common approach. Btk is bacteria that effect only caterpillars, and only after they have consumed the product. The product is applied to the foliage in the spring, coinciding with larvae development and the emergence of leaves on the trees. There must be adequate foliage on the tree before the product can be applied, and the Gypsy Moth must be actively feeding. The use of Btk is much preferred over other chemical insecticides due to some of the harmful environmental issues usually associated with chemical sprays. Many chemical insecticides are also broad spectrum, meaning they may affect many different types of insects.

Aerial application of a pesticide requires the hiring of a qualified company or individual to undertake the work. In addition to the product and costs associated with applying the pesticide, there are typically other administrative costs to consider, including mapping of the spray areas, the monitoring of leaf and larvae development prior to application, and monitoring of weather conditions during application times. Typically, individual landowners enter into a contract with an operator who is able to provide these services. There are often cost savings realized when multiple landowners coordinate together to spray larger areas under one contract, if some of the administration can be reduced. Aerial application costs will vary depending on the treatment area but will likely be close to \$100.00 per acre with a minimum cost of close to \$500.00.

If you are interested in having your property aerial sprayed with pesticide to protect against Gypsy Moth, you should contact a reputable contractor as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements. Treatment is required early in the season, and the timing window is relatively small. Speaking with your neighbours and pooling resources to treat a larger area may help spread out costs amongst several different landowners and will result in protection over a larger area.

Zimmer Air Service conducted the majority of the Gypsy Moth aerial spraying in Norfolk County in 2008. To contact Zimmer Air Service to request a quote or to have your property evaluated for potential control in 2021, please visit <https://zimmerair.com/>.

Other Control Options for Gypsy Moth on Your Property

Stem Injection of Pesticide

If you know you are going to be dealing Gypsy Moth defoliation on your property, you may choose to treat valuable ornamental or landscape trees on your property with a pesticide that can be injected into the stem of the tree. TreeAzin is probably the most widely used stem injection pesticide in Canada, as it has been used to protect thousands of ash trees across the country against Emerald Ash Borer. The same product will provide protection against Gypsy Moth defoliation if administered correctly. The pesticide is taken up through the conductive tissues of the tree and into the leaves. When gypsy moth consume the leaves, and thus the pesticide, it inhibits the growth of the larvae which reduces the amount of defoliation.



Fig. 2. TreeAzin is administered to an ash tree for protections against Emerald Ash Borer

Application of Foliar Pesticide (small plants and shrubs)

For smaller trees, shrubs, ornamental and garden plants, you may purchase approved pesticides that can be applied to the foliage of the vegetation for protection against Gypsy moth defoliation. *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (or Btk for short) is a recommended pesticide for control of Gypsy Moth. Safer's BTK Insecticide is one such product approved for use against Gypsy Moth, and it can be found at many garden/hardware stores or online. The pesticide is applied to the leaves of the plants after larvae have hatched and began feeding. After consuming the Btk, the larvae become ill and will die.

Fig. 3. Safer's BTK may be purchased at most local hardware stores or online



Folded Burlap Band around Stem of Tree

One non-chemical control method involves the use of burlap and twine to capture caterpillars on the trunk of a tree. A piece of burlap, approximately 2 feet in width or greater, is wrapped fully around the circumference of the tree trunk. The burlap is secured with a piece of twine or rope around its centre, so that at least half the width of the burlap is draped over the rope. The burlap should be tight enough around the tree that caterpillars cannot crawl behind the burlap and up the tree.

The caterpillars will crawl into the folded burlap to escape the heat of the sun, or accidentally as they try to climb the tree. The burlap needs to be inspected regularly, and caterpillars need to be manually removed and destroyed.



Fig. 4+5. Burlap bands used to capture Gypsy Moth larvae.

Sticky Band around Stem of Tree

Another non-chemical control method involves placing a sticky band around the trunk of the tree. The sticky band will trap caterpillars as they travel up the tree to feed, or down the tree to escape the heat of the day.

There are specific products designed for this purpose, such as Tree Tanglefoot, but home remedies such duct tape with the sticky side out, or Vaseline smeared on the non-sticky side of the

These caterpillars are



duct tape may be used. These methods work best when still relatively small.

Fig. 6+7. Container of Tanglefoot used to catch Gypsy Moth larvae, and home-made sticky band using duct tape and Vaseline.

Scraping Egg Masses off Trees over Winter Months

Gypsy moths lay their eggs mostly on the trunks of trees, but in dense populations may lay them on houses, downed woody debris and in the leaf litter of a forest. In the winter months, egg masses can be scraped off the tree into a container of soapy water. The egg masses, after soaking in the soapy water for a couple days, can then be discarded in the trash. Each egg mass can contain 100 to 1000 eggs, so destroying these egg masses can have a significant impact, particularly in low population levels.



Fig. 8. Gypsy Moth egg masses being scraped into a container of soapy water.



Additional information and resources may be located online

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/gypsy-moth> <http://www.invadingspecies.com/gypsy-moth/>

Members can renew their membership, online, using the NWOA website
www.norfolkwoodlots.com and pay online with PayPal.

Go to the website and then to **Members Area**, then to **Member Renewal**.
You may also print the membership application form and renew by mail.

Members who renew early would be eligible for the AGM prize draws.
