

Moth from page 1D

Township officials were unaware of a widespread problem there.

In Redford Township, maintenance supervisor Bill McSwen says the caterpillars have not been identified there — yet. But McSwen is attending a tree seminar next week sponsored by the Michigan Department of Urban Forestry and plans to be ready when the unwanted parasites arrive.

Gypsy moths endanger trees at only one stage — when a caterpillar. Caterpillars usually begin to hatch in early May. By June, they are about two or three inches long and wander constantly, feeding at night.

Roughly from the end of July to early August, after 10 days in dark colored pupal cases, adult moths emerge. At this stage, no

longer feeding off foliage, their sole purpose is to procreate.

The female moth is creamy white and doesn't fly, but emits a chemical called a pheromone to attract the nearest male moth. She lives about a week, just long enough to lay eggs.

The male is brownish and flies in a zigzag pattern. He can mate with many females. Each resulting egg deposit contains between 50 and 1,500 eggs to hatch the following spring. And thus goes the cycle.

To seek out and destroy egg masses, homeowners should look for a flat off white velvety patch, the size of a quarter, attached to woodpiles, loose flaps of bark, the underside of branches or any other protective area. The egg mass is intertwined in a matting of hair from the female moth's



body. It's water repellent and a good insulator, surviving temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees F.

In some communities, like Bingham Farms, gypsy moths are just beginning to be a problem.

"In our survey sites, we came across one area with egg masses on an oak tree," said Kathy Hagan, Bingham Farms clerk and coordinator of a seven-community

consortium fighting the infestation together in Oakland County.

"We have since had a call from a resident who thinks the caterpillars on her garage door are gypsy moths. We'll look at them."

Consortium members are Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Farmington Hills, Franklin and West Bloomfield. Their consultant is Carl Dollhopf of Westland.

In Bloomfield Township, gypsy moths were first identified in 1978.

"Oak trees are a prime target," said Kuchera, of Bloomfield Township. "We did an aerial spray and began a monitoring program."

In addition to chemical spray, the township set up moth traps — milk cartons with roofs emanating the scent of the female moth

to attract males. "We'd set those traps up, kill them and count them. But we didn't have the resolution to pinpoint the area," Kuchera said.

"We switched to egg mass counting in the fall. We follow a more aggressive program than the state."

The state sprays in several central Michigan counties, but not yet in Oakland or Wayne.

Contrary to popular belief, population explosions don't happen suddenly. An area will undergo a gradual population buildup for a time before the population goes into a phase of rapid release, according to MSU data.

The state's struggle with the gypsy moth dates back to the late '50s in Central Michigan. The moth has since spread to the remainder of the state.

Next week: moth management

A glossary

Some common gypsy moth-related terms:

- **Caterpillar** — the larva of moths and butterflies.
- **Defoliate** — Remove leaves from plants. One gypsy moth caterpillar can remove over a square yard of leaves from plants.
- **Exoskeleton** — Insects do not have an internal skeleton. Instead, they have evolved an outer shell (exoskeleton) that provides structural strength and protection.
- **Instar** — Growth stages of immature insect forms. As immature insects grow (in this case, caterpillars), they outgrow their exoskeleton and must shed it.
- **Molt** — As the gypsy moth caterpillar grows, it must periodically shed its skin to shed for additional growth. It will molt four to six times.

— Source: MSU Extension

Gypsies invade Oakland towns to varying degree

BY MARY RODRIQUE
STAFF WRITER

While Bloomfield Township and Franklin have worse infestations, Beverly Hills is just now feeling the affects of the gypsy moth.

"We are on the eastern edge of the problem," said Patrick Sullivan, assistant manager of Beverly Hills.

The village has conducted a male moth trapping program for the past five years to get an accurate count. The numbers are increasing.

"Lately we look for egg masses on bark or limbs. Those show where caterpillars will hatch in spring. We haven't found a lot in Beverly Hills," Sullivan said. "But the males can fly about two miles and these high winds are helping them."

"Residents shouldn't be alarmed. We haven't found egg masses here. The problem is to the west of us."

Maurice Brackenbury, who lives west of Lahser, between 13 and 14 Mile roads, has been setting gypsy moth traps for Beverly Hills for years.

"I live on a wooded ravine so I'm concerned I might have a problem," said Brackenbury, who has seen the gypsy moth in his subdivision, but not on his property — yet.

"Although it's not as bad as Franklin, we definitely have a problem. For the five years I've been setting traps, every year is getting worse. Some people believe there is a cycle. But we've had an increase every year."

The count let village officials know the right time to spray to keep the infestation suppressed. Elimination of the pesky defoliator is impossible.



WILLIAM HANSEN

Terminator: Franklin resident Arnie Anderson demonstrates the use of burlap traps to help determine the extent of gypsy-moth caterpillar infestation and pinpoint places most in need of spraying. Note the white egg sacs just below the small tree branch and how chewed the leaves are.

■ **'Residents shouldn't be alarmed. We haven't found egg masses here. The problem is to the west of us.'**

Patrick Sullivan
assistant manager

"Most people think the inch worm or the tent caterpillar is the gypsy moth," Brackenbury said. "Gypsy moths are secretive. Their

large areas of oak trees. That's a good habitat."

ty percent of leaves can be gone and most people would be unaware of an infestation problem."

The focus now is to put traps out again around the Fourth of July when the caterpillars transform into moths.

"This will show us the number

and the movement. Right now, the worst infestation in Beverly Hills is along the western edge. The eastern edge is not affected," Brackenbury said.

Arnie Anderson is in charge of the volunteer program in Franklin. The former Livonia resident moved to Franklin just last year and discovered gypsy moths four houses away from his new home.

"I don't have any on my property," he said. "I observe the trees and leaves daily with binoculars. You can look for them on the leaves."

Last fall, Franklin began an egg mass program, where the focus is destroying the fuzzy quarter-sized mass that cocoons the caterpillars from late summer until the following spring.

"It's under control. But requires substantial attention," said Anderson. "I counted 271 egg masses in the worst tree in the village, near 13 Mile and Woodside — the most heavily infested area. That alone could account for a quarter-million caterpillars."

Last month, Franklin sprayed 270 acres. The worst 100 acres had a second spraying.

Anderson is going to be trying a fairly new technique soon — stapling burlap flaps on target trees and inspecting them weekly for larval counts.

The technique reveals the potential for rising gypsy moth levels and allows observation of gypsy moth disease. Counts of 50-100 indicate populations may be rising. Counts above 100 indicate potential defoliation.

"Gypsy moths are secretive. They hide during the daytime. We'll check the strips once a week for caterpillars," he said. "The infestation follows where we have

PLANTS AT RISK

MOST AT RISK TO DEFOLIATION:

- All oak
- All aspen and poplar
- Gray paper (white), and river birch
- All willow
- All apple and crabapple
- All thornapple and hawthorne
- White pine
- Blue spruce
- American beech
- Basswood
- Sweetgum
- Junberry or serviceberry
- Witch hazel
- Hazelnut
- Mountain ash

SOMEWHAT AT RISK TO DEFOLIATION:

- Black walnut and butternut
- All cherry and plum
- Norway, red and sugar maple
- Hophornbeam or ironwood
- Hornbeam or blue beech
- Alder
- Elm
- Hickory
- Eastern redbud
- Sassafras
- Paw paw
- White and Norway spruce
- Balsam fir
- Eastern hemlock

MINIMAL AT RISK TO DEFOLIATION:

- Ash
- Tulip tree or yellow poplar
- Sycamore and London plane tree
- Northern catalpa
- Honey locust
- Black locust
- Horsechestnut
- Dogwood
- Eastern reedcedar
- Juniper
- Yew
- Lilac
- Azalea
- Rhododendron
- Arbutus
- Viburnum

SOURCE: MSU Extension

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Realtors give \$5,000 for homeless in Pontiac

BY DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

Brokers and agents affiliated with the Birmingham-Bloomfield Board of Realtors are used to dealing with the upper end of the housing spectrum much of the time.

But they haven't forgotten the little people, either.

The board, after applying for and receiving a \$5,000 grant from the Fannie Mae Foundation, turned the money over to Lighthouse of Oakland County, an emergency human services provider.

The grant will be applied to acquire land and renovate a dilapidated 700-square-foot building into a community center in Unity Park. That area of southeast Pontiac has been designated for home rehabilitation and revitalization.

"The \$5,000 cash grant will get us started on the renovation," said Tim Thorland, neighborhood development coordinator for Lighthouse. "We're going to gut the interior and have a kitchen, bathroom and one large meeting room. Basically the whole house we'll do with volunteer labor."

"Only four (Fannie Mae) grants were given throughout the country," said Kerry Schreiber, a Realtor associate with Max Brook and chairwoman of the board's community service committee. "The purpose was to align Realtors with housing developments for the poor."

Schreiber envisions Lighthouse's community center as a focus point for meetings, day care and informal classes.

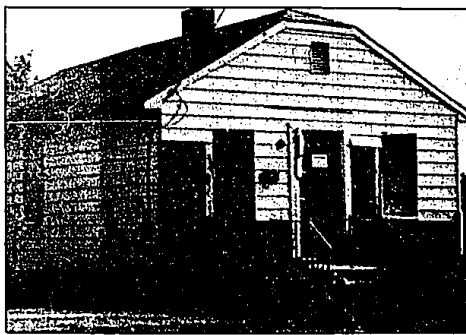
The Birmingham-Bloomfield board recently extended a three-

year commitment to Lighthouse for an additional five years, Schreiber said.

"The thought behind it is Lighthouse helps prevent homelessness," she said. "We thought it parlayed to our industry very well. We wanted to do something of consequence and give something back to the community. They're so well run, efficiently run."

The Birmingham-Bloomfield board had previously raised and contributed some \$13,000 to the organization, said Norman Kenting, executive director for Lighthouse.

"We are honored that the Birmingham-Bloomfield board has chosen Lighthouse to be their service activity in this community," she said.



Community center: This abandoned house will be renovated into a meeting place for residents of Unity Park in Pontiac, thanks in great part to the Birmingham-Bloomfield Board of Realtors.

CONDO QUERIES



ROBERT M. MEISNER

Keeping condo employees in line is board's job

Our on site maintenance man seems to be usurping his prerogatives and telling board members what to do. He is cocky because he feels he has a political following at the condo, having done a lot of personal favors for certain members. The board would like to put him in his place. What do we do?

Keep in mind that the condo's board of directors allow for only one full-time employee and one part-time employee. If an employee

is not properly discharging his job responsibilities, he should be properly admonished. The employee should be reminded of his job duties in writing and told to adhere to them. If he continues to violate his job duties, he should be terminated after the association's attorney has reviewed the case.

I have two cats in my condo and the bylaws allow for only one. I got the second cat since everyone knows that cats need a com-

panion. How can I convince my dog-oriented board to give me a break? The bylaws do give the board discretion to permit more than one cat or dog if they want.

If the bylaws give the board that discretion, I would make your argument that your cat needs a companion and no real harm or adverse precedent will be established if the board gives in. Also check to see if there are other residents who have gotten permission for more than one

dog or cat. Robert M. Meisner is a Birmingham attorney concentrating his practice in the area of condominiums, real estate and corporate law. You're invited to submit questions by writing Robert M. Meisner at 30200 Telegraph Road, Suite 467, Bingham Farms 48025. This column provides general information and should not be construed as legal opinion. To leave a voice mail message for Robert Meisner, dial 953-2047, mail box 1877.