

March, 2005

Dear Land Stewards,

What a great time of the year! As each season changes, I find myself thinking, “This time of year is my favorite...” To my way of thinking, one of the benefits of living in our latitude and geographic region is the wide variety of weather that we have a chance to experience.

While each season has its own special merit, I think most people would agree that spring is special. To sense the sunrise getting earlier each day, to feel the renewed power of the sun, to witness the first junco on the ground in your yard, to wait for the first ephemeral flowers in the woods—these things are precious, and fleeting. As the natural world begins its new cycle of growth again, I hope you’re taking the time each day to feel the changes and enjoy the creation.

We’re trying something new with this edition of the newsletter—a few color pictures to help you get in the mood for the outdoors. Please let us know if it does the trick!

Best wishes,

Mark Kopecky  
Agriculture & Natural  
Resource Agent  
Price County UW-Extension

Gail Huycke  
Community Resource  
Development Educator  
Price County UW-Extension

Butch Lobermeier  
Land Conservationist  
Price County

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## Wildlife Habitat Packets Available for Spring Plantings

The Price County Land Conservation Department is currently taking orders for the popular Wildlife Habitat Packets. These packets provide an economical way to create small wildlife oases in a yard, small acreage lot in the suburbs, or to enhance a corner of the back forty. The LCD purchases bare root seedlings in bulk at greatly reduced cost, and passes the savings on to landowners wishing to attract more wildlife to their properties with small scale habitat plantings.

The LCD packets provide a cost savings of about 50% over the purchase of a similar number of seedlings individually.



The Wildlife Habitat Packets cost \$20 each and consist of 30 seedlings, five each of six different species. Orders for single species may also be made at a cost of \$20 for 25 seedlings. All the plants in the packet are native or non-invasive species that have proven benefits to wildlife. The packet for 2005 spring planting will have a combination

of White Pine, European Mountain Ash, American Plum, Elderberry, Nanking Cherry, Service Berry, and Red Splendor Crab Apple. Seedlings range in size from 6 inches to eighteen inches in stem height which makes them easy to hand plant with a bar or shovel.

County conservationist, Butch Lobermeier says that anyone can improve wildlife habitat on their land regardless of the size or location of the parcel. Each new habitat project reverses the long trend of habitat loss across the landscape. Planting a small habitat oasis improves the environment and rewards the landowner with the calming sights and sounds of nature. The availability of preferred species from regional nurseries was limited this year. Lobermeier recommends getting orders in early as there are only 100 packets available this year and demand is expected to be high.

Wildlife Habitat Packet order forms can be obtained by contacting the Price County Land Conservation Department at (715) 339-2550, electronically at [lcdclerk@co.price.wi.us](mailto:lcdclerk@co.price.wi.us), or by stopping by at the Normal Building, Room 204, 104 S Eyder Ave. in Phillips.

## Natural Shores Buffer Recognition Program

The Price County Land Conservation Department has started the "Natural Shores" Buffer Program with development assistance from the South Fork Flambeau River Watershed Association. This program is designed to give recognition to landowners practicing sound shoreline stewardship and to help educate other riparian landowners about the importance of natural shorelines to the waterways of

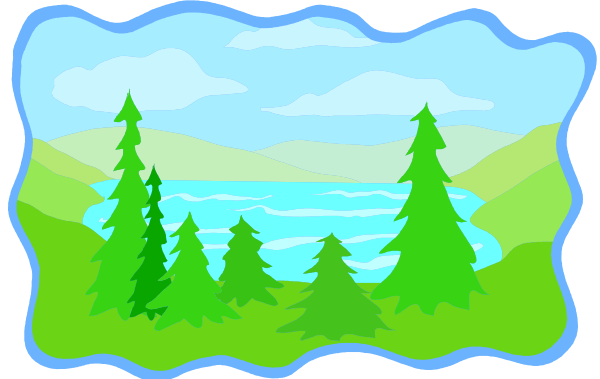
Price County. This voluntary program gives recognition to riparian landowners that are providing critical habitat and water quality protection through their native shoreline buffers. Landowners that have buffers meeting established minimum buffer standards are eligible for certification in the program. Each landowner receives a certificate of inspection and a shirt embroidered with the Price County Natural

Shores logo. Landowners wearing the shirt will have opportunities to promote shoreland stewardship to those who are inquisitive about the logo.

The minimum buffer standards required for certification are those meeting the current Price County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Shoreland zoning was developed to stabilize the loss of shoreline habitat and degradation of water quality due to rapidly increasing development activity. This standard includes a 35 foot minimum buffer depth, 30 foot maximum viewing corridor, natural vegetation including trees, shrubs, and ground cover, controlled run off, and stabilized shoreline. This is the basic criteria required for any new shoreline construction activities.

Some landowners may have shorelines that don't currently meet the minimum standards but are interested in restoring their shorelines to meet those standards. Landowners considering restoration may request technical design and cost sharing assistance for the restoration from the Land Conservation Department. Assistance is

also available for buffer enhancement projects such as tree drops, rock structure habitat, and buffer expansion.



Maintaining natural buffers is every riparian landowner's responsibility. Take pride in the work you have done by certifying your buffer and receiving a "Natural Shores" shirt as a small token of appreciation for being a good steward of the shoreland.

If you are interested in certifying your buffer or in exploring restoration options, please contact : Price County Land Conservation Department; Normal Building, Room 203; 104 S. Eyder Av.; Phillips, WI 54555. Or call at (715) 339-2550.

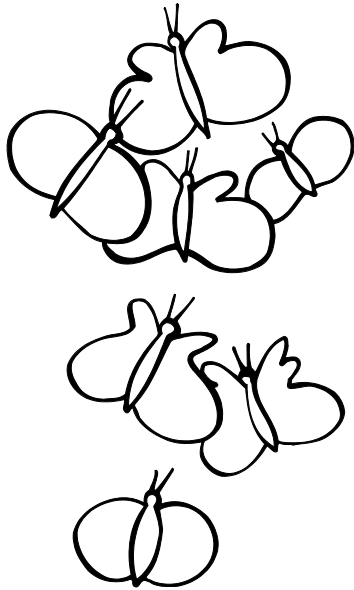
## **Gypsy Moth Treatments Proposed For 19 Counties**

MADISON--Gypsy moth spray planes will be a familiar sight in some counties this spring and summer while in others, the low-flying yellow planes will be a new experience. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture proposes to treat 64 sites covering more than 300,000 acres in 19

counties to control the spread of the destructive forest pest, gypsy moth.

"Gypsy moths have been slowly spreading across Wisconsin since the early 1990s," explained Chris Lettau, gypsy moth program coordinator with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and

Consumer Protection. "Oak trees are the preferred food of the gypsy moth, but as their population grows, they increasingly will feed on the leaves of hundreds of other species of trees and shrubs. Gypsy moths



threaten our forests and urban trees, which can negatively impact Wisconsin's timber, paper, nursery and tourism industries. It can be very unpleasant seeing defoliated trees and thousands of caterpillars in the summer."

Beginning in May, 38 sites will be sprayed with *Bacillus thuringiensis* sub sp. *kurstaki* or Btk. Btk, the commonly used biological pesticide, has been successfully used in gypsy moth treatments for more than 30 years. Gypsy moth caterpillars eat the leaves that have been treated with Btk. The product causes the caterpillars to stop eating and they eventually die. These 38 sites will receive two applications of Btk, about 7-10 days apart.

In June and July, 11 sites will be treated with pheromone flakes. These tiny, plastic flakes carry the scent of the female gypsy moth that confuses the male moths and disrupts the mating cycle. "The flakes are about 1/16 inch in size and are paper thin. We only apply about one-fourth cup of flakes per acre," Lettau explained.

The remaining 15 sites will be sprayed with a naturally occurring gypsy moth virus called nucleopolyhedrosis virus. "NPV causes the gypsy moth caterpillar to wilt and eventually

die. It is a devastating natural disease of this pest. NPV causes the gypsy moth caterpillars to take on a characteristic oily/shiny appearance and hang in an inverted V-shape. This biological pesticide is part of our integrated pest management approach that uses different tactics to control the moths," Lettau said.

The counties with proposed treatment areas are Ashland, Bayfield, Clark, Crawford, Dane, Eau Claire, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, Price, Richland, Rock, Rusk, Sauk, Taylor and Vernon.

Studies following major spray programs in urban areas have not found any human health effects attributable to either Btk, pheromone flakes or NPV. The spraying process can be somewhat startling however, because the three products must be applied with an airplane.

"When we spray an area, whether it is with Btk, flakes or NPV, the planes must fly 50 feet above the treetops so the products get onto the tree leaves. This means the planes are loud and they will make repeated passes over an area until the spraying is complete. We begin spraying in the early morning to take advantage of low winds, and for Btk, we need high humidity," Lettau explained.

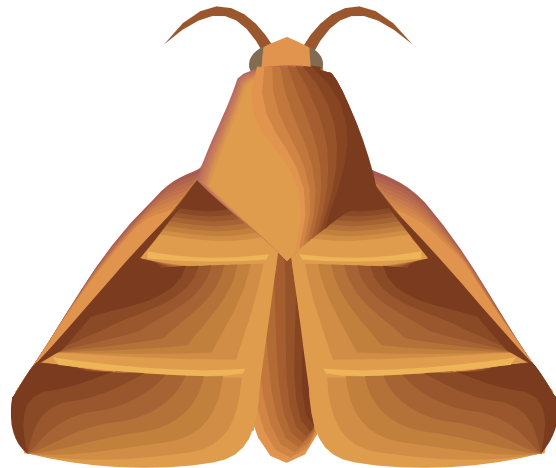
The maps will soon be available on the Gypsy Moth Program Web site at <http://datcp.state.wi.us/>. Once on the site, enter the keyword 'gypsy moth'.

"As we get closer to the spray season, we will mail additional notices to people living in and around the spray sites. We also will contact local media and local officials. Staff are in the process of visiting each spray site so we know if there are schools, daycare centers, hospitals or other places that may

need some additional notice on the day that we treat the area," Lettau said.

Call the toll-free gypsy moth hotline at 1-800-642-MOTH (1-800-642-6684) with questions or to request maps of the spray areas.

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Wisconsin Cooperative Gypsy Moth Program  
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## **STOP THE SPREAD ... of Aquatic Invasive Species**

The spread of aquatic invasive species is literally costing the taxpayers millions of dollars in degradation of plant, wildlife and fish species, impairment of natural habitat and the lowering of property values both on waterways and on land. Ashland Bayfield Douglas Iron Land Conservation Department, UW-Extension, The Nature Conservancy, the Governors Council on Invasive Species and several other agencies have teamed up to create a workshop to help individuals learn how to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species from lakes and streams.

Join us April 7 at Lakewoods in Cable, Wisconsin for this full day conference to learn what you can do to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. The cost to attend this workshop is \$20.00, which includes a lunch buffet, breaks, and educational materials. Please contact Sarah Traaholt at 715-685-2672 for more information.

This workshop is made possible by a lake planning grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Main Entry: **stewardship** 🗣️

Pronunciation: 'stü-&rd-"ship, 'styü-; 'st(y)u(-&)rd-

Function: *noun*

**1** : the office, duties, and obligations of a [steward](#)

**2** : the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; *especially* : the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care <*stewardship* of our natural resources

--(From Merriam Webster's on-line dictionary)

## Northcentral Wisconsin Land Stewardship Conference Coming April 9<sup>th</sup>

If you're interested in learning more about how to manage your land and practice good stewardship, you still have time to register for the Northcentral Wisconsin Land Stewardship Conference at the Rib Lake High School on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

The conference will address issues of interest to both new and veteran landowners. The keynote address will feature noted naturalist and author John Bates ("A Northwoods Companion," "Trailside Botany" and others) who will speak on "Our Connection to the Land." The program will run from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, featuring twelve breakout sessions covering topics on woods, water, wildlife habitat, and general land ownership issues. The event includes a catered meal and hands-on demonstrations of forestry tools and chainsaw safety. Participants will receive handout packets with background information relating to the conference

sessions, and will also be able to view exhibits from private and public organizations that work with landowners and visit with their representatives.

The conference is sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Offices, Land Conservation Departments, and Department of Natural Resources private lands foresters in Price and Taylor Counties along with the Upper Chippewa Basin Education program and Pri-Ru-Ta Resource Conservation and Development Council.

The cost to attend the workshop is \$20 per person and includes all materials and lunch. The registration deadline has been extended to Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>—if you'd like to attend and haven't sent your registration in yet, please call by noon on Monday. For more information or to register, please call the Price County UW-Extension Office at 715-339-2555.