



Lake Bluff Open Lands Association

www.lbola.org

2008 Winter Newsletter

LBOLA Warmline 847-234-2860



You're Invited to LBOLA's 2nd Annual Winter Solstice Celebration at the Skokie River Preserve

All right. Our first celebration really didn't happen as it was snowed/sleeted/rained out last year, but we look forward with great anticipation to this year's celebration.

The word *Solstice* combines the Latin *sol*, or sun and *stat*, to stand. During the winter solstice, the sun reaches its southernmost point below the earth's equator, usually on December 21, then just stands there for a bit before beginning its return northward along the celestial sphere.

The winter solstice marks the shortest day, the beginning of winter and the longest night. (It can only get better from here!) Historically, people have sought relief from this, the darkest and coldest night, by lighting candles or making fires to warm their bones, their spirits and their souls (and maybe their soles too).

Please join us as we create our own warmth and camaraderie in the stark, natural beauty of the winter prairie at the Skokie River Preserve just before sundown 4:00 on December 21st.

Parking for the Skokie Preserve is just east of the Mariani offices, just west of the water plant. For additional information, please call the LBOLA warmline at (847) 234-2860.

(More) Ravenous Pests Arrive in Lake Bluff!

By Dave Szaflarski

Dateline: 1868, Medford, Massachusetts. A naturalist attempting to breed a better silkworm used Gypsy moths and several of the moths escape from his home laboratory. He alerts neighbors of the break out - but no one apparently feels concern about the escaped moths. Within ten years, the insects had denuded all the vegetation in his neighborhood.

Dateline: summer 2008. LBOLA's Rockland Wetlands Preserve (located at the N.W. corner of Greenbay Road & Rte. 176) a bur oak tree was denuded and stripped of its leaves. The Village Forester later confirms that gypsy moths are indeed the culprits to this shocking defoliation, which can severely weaken a tree and lead to its demise.



*Male and Female
Gypsy Moth Adults*



*larval –
caterpillar stage*

Ravenous Pests (continued)

After 140 years of expanding its range from Medford, the gypsy moth is sadly now well established locally as a serious threat to the health of our trees. This summer, large infestations popped up in Lake Bluff and Lake Forest. The North Terrace, Whispering Oaks subdivision (in Lake Forest) and the Lake Forest cemetery were all hit hard.

The gypsy moth is an invasive species, native to a broad range of Europe and into Asia where it has natural predators that keep it in check. Here in the United States, it lacks those natural and native checks and balances and unfortunately, it seems to have sweet spot for our cherished oak trees.

Homeowners first became aware of the moths in late July and August as the adult moths fluttered around, but this is not the life stage that threatens our trees. Of the four life stages; eggs, larvae, adult and pupae, the two stages that homeowners should be aware of are the egg and larval stages (aka - creepy-crawly caterpillar) as these are the stages where a little vigilance may pay off.

At this time of the year (Fall) homeowners can look for the egg stage on bark on tree trunks (or nearby tree trunks), or the undersides of branches. The eggs mass looks like a tan colored web of eggs, relatively small in size at around 2-inches or so around. One can simply look up into your trees and scan for these egg masses. If found and are reachable from the ground they can be scraped off and enclosed into a securely tied and air tight plastic bag and thrown into the trash. It is important to make sure they are completely sealed and air tight as this will suffocate and kill the eggs. If you find numerous masses it is advisable to call an arborist who has the necessary equipment to spray the egg masses high up in the trees. These egg masses are typically sprayed with a solution of soybean oil and water, which has the effect of suffocating the eggs.

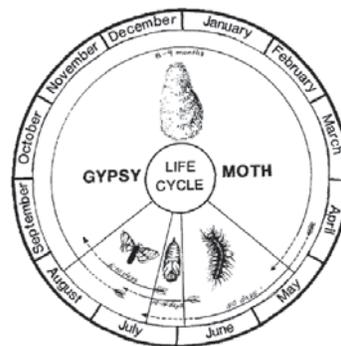
Any eggs left over winter will hatch in late spring/early summer and begin to grow into caterpillars that go up into the trees to eat the leaves. As caterpillars, they undergo several growths into larger caterpillars and continue to munch and munch into the summer months. At this larval stage many communities (both Lake Bluff and Lake Forest) elect to control larger infestations by spraying them from helicopters overhead. In these aerial raids, the leaves of the trees are sprayed with a naturally occurring fungus that is ingested by the caterpillars and effectively kills them.

If you have a few trees that are of concern to you we'd like to recommend a simple method of control. When you notice caterpillars on your trees, wrap the tree trunk in burlap, which will provide a cool hiding place for the culprits during the heat of the day. The caterpillars can simply be plucked from beneath the burlap wrap and tossed into a bucket of soapy water. If you have a few cherished trees and you can closely monitor them on a daily basis, this can be an effective method to minimize the numbers of caterpillars. However, depending upon the number of trees you have on your lot and the degree of infestation, it may make more sense to seek professional help from an arborist.

While there are many variables in the gypsy moth populations that may make them swoon or boom, we hope you find this information useful. The best tree management plan is that our trees not be taken for granted but looked after and appreciated. Recently, the Village adopted a stronger tree ordinance and we feel this spreading of tree education is an important component to the appreciation of our trees that add so much to our community.

Incidentally, our big bur oak in the Rockland Wetlands leafed out again and had a very nice summer!

To better understand this latest pest in our midst, we recommend the following web sites: The Wisconsin Gypsy Moth Site <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov/> the University Of Illinois Extension website - www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/gypsymoth/ and the Village's own http://lakebluff.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7BB32DBACE-EB1F-4F3C-BFFC-EB6C5F5D8CC9%7D



Gypsy Moth egg mass

Lake Bluff Develops New Tree Preservation Ordinance

Following years of preparation, countless hours of deliberation during 13 public meetings on the subject, Lake Bluff has a new tree protection ordinance. Where the old ordinance allowed wholesale removal of mature trees with virtually no questions asked, our new ordinance places a value on all significant or mature trees while placing far less or no value on weedy, fast growing or non-native trees.

The removal of significant trees will require tree replacement and provide for the replacement of removed trees with an equivalent number of inches (in diameter) of replacement trees– or provide funds to a Tree Bank for planting elsewhere in the Village. Replanted trees will come from a list of preferred trees based on their nativity, longevity and ability to thrive in Lake Bluff.

Native tree enthusiasts should bear in mind that each spring, LBOLA conducts a native tree sale! Given the advanced age of many of our most impressive oaks and hickories, it is very important that we begin to replace them sooner rather than later.

We appreciate the advice, support and encouragement that LBOLA members have provided throughout this process. We should all be proud of this significant new protection for Lake Bluff's heritage trees.

Whole Foods Shopathon for LBOLA a Success

A big Thanks to all who made the effort to shop at Whole Foods in Deerfield back on April 16th. In an effort to support LBOLA, Whole Foods pledged 5% of their daily profits to further our efforts. We were pleased to accept a contribution of over \$3,780 as a result.

LBOLA to Conduct Prescribed Burn Orientation

Have you ever witnessed a natural areas prescribed burn with fascination and wondered what it would be like to participate?

Over the past 10,000 years, fire is the most significant force that has shaped the evolution of the prairies, woodlands and savannas of the upper Midwest.

Prairies and savannas are a battlegrounds where woody shrubs and herbaceous vegetation struggle for access to sunlight. Luckily for the herbaceous grasses and wildflowers, fire routinely swept over the landscape and cleared it of woody opportunists including dogwood, hawthorn, viburnum and others.

Without the effect of fire, prairies and savannas would have quickly disappeared in favor of forests. Forests too burned on occasion with sensitive maples and ash giving way to more fire-tolerant oaks and hickories.

Each spring and fall, LBOLA and other land management agencies like LFOA and local forest preserves introduce fire to our natural areas in an effort to return to the land nature's most effective restoration tool.

Over the past 15 years, over 50 residents have assisted us in our controlled burn activities. We welcome the assistance of safety-minded adults who are committed to restoration of Lake Bluff's natural areas. To join our burn-crew, either call the LBOLA warmline at 847-234-2860 or email info@lbola.org to learn about our burn orientation and our schedule of upcoming burn activities.

Forest Preserve Referendum Wins in a Landslide

At the ballot box, voters sent a clear message that open spaces are important to them. Of the \$185 million approved in the referendum, about \$148 million of the new funding will be used to acquire an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 additional acres of land in Lake County. About \$37 million will be used to add trails, restore more habitats for endangered wildlife and plants, improve educational, historical and cultural facilities, and renovate existing preserve and facilities. In Lake Bluff, we are hopeful that some of those renovation funds will find their way to the Lake Bluff Site where LBOLA maintains trails that access the hidden and mysterious Jensen Pond and the ancient Southern Grove of gigantic Bur Oaks.

Summer 2008 – Land Management Report



Bill Nordeen and George Morton host a workday at Lake Genevieve.

There were quite a few achievements from our land management team over the summer. More than ever before, our early summer efforts were focused on addressing invasive weeds in a timely manner and for once, we were ahead of the curve. Our major preserves received significant attention with regard to garlic mustard in June, followed by Canada thistle in July. During mid summer we were able to broaden our focus including buckthorn, honeysuckle, teasel and others, though there never seems to be enough time or man/womanpower!

Andy Olnas, returning from last year's team, led our summer crew. Andy is a serious student of environmental science whose interests have taken him to Champaign-Urbana where he is pursuing a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Andy's crew included **Brett Leutwiler, Ricky Kawala, Samantha Pabich, Aaron Wang, Jack Kirk, Peter Trausch, Elizabeth Rowe** and **Eric Maier**. We appreciate the hard work and dedication each student brought to LBOLA and look forward to benefiting from their experience next summer!

Thanks go to LBOLA members as well! Your contributions fund each summer's land management efforts, employ Lake Bluff young adults and contribute to the restoration of our local preserves! Please continue your support by making use of the enclosed remittance envelope.



LBOLA
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