



Madeline Island

Wilderness Preserve News

Summer 2011

“SAME AS IT EVER WAS”

By Tom Kromroy, President

(From “Once in A Lifetime” by the Talking Heads)

Listening to this song always reminds me of how lucky I am – with my life, with my family, with my home, with my friends, with my work and with the opportunity to experience the beauty of Madeline Island “same as it ever was”. Thanks to the foresight of the founding families of the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve (MIWP) who saw a once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase wilderness on Madeline Island and thanks to the continued foresight of our members, much of the Island remains same as it ever was.

Because of donations from generous MIWP members, we can protect these lands so that they can be enjoyed in their natural state for generations to come. To all who contribute to preserving the lands that make this such a special place – Thank You! If you are reading this newsletter and you are not a member we encourage you to join today.

Buckthorn Task Force

As part of our effort to protect natural areas of the Island, the Buckthorn Task Force has continued its efforts to control the spread of one of the Island’s most aggressive invasive species – buckthorn. This year the MIWP has partnered with the Town of La Pointe to recruit the AmeriCorps for six to eight weeks to remove buckthorn, along with barberry, another invasive species, from infested areas. The crew often works without charge for labor, but we will need to provide room and board. As a co-sponsor with the Town, the MIWP will contribute \$20,000 to this effort. We hope that by devoting two months to this effort we can significantly reduce the size of the infestations and thus reduce the impact of these invasive species in the future.

Remarkable progress has been made in buckthorn management on the Island in the past couple of years. Let’s keep up the good work! Success will require many hours of volunteer labor. Please come out and work with the AmeriCorps volunteers to demonstrate your support for their efforts.

Gypsy Moth

Madeline Island has been officially declared gypsy moth infested and along with the other Apostle Islands, has been added to the gypsy moth quarantine area. Read more about this pest in this newsletter.

Sustainability

We have many opportunities in our lifetimes to make a difference, but opportunities are few and far between to make this kind of difference – to protect wild lands so that future generations can experience them. This is the goal of the MIWP and I extend my thanks to everyone who supports that goal. Together we are making a difference by helping to keep a part of the Island the “same as it ever was.”



WILDERNESS PRESERVE VS. INVASIVE SPECIES AT 4TH OF JULY PARADE(S)

We did it! The fabulous 2010 MIWP Fourth of July float “**Asian Carp/Carpe Diem**” came home with the whole enchilada. Grand prize, baby. Pictures of six foot carp 20 feet in the air still fill my dreams (the actual carp still fill my garage). Marvelous.



MIWP marchers keep their fish heads on in 2010 parade (note flying carp close behind)

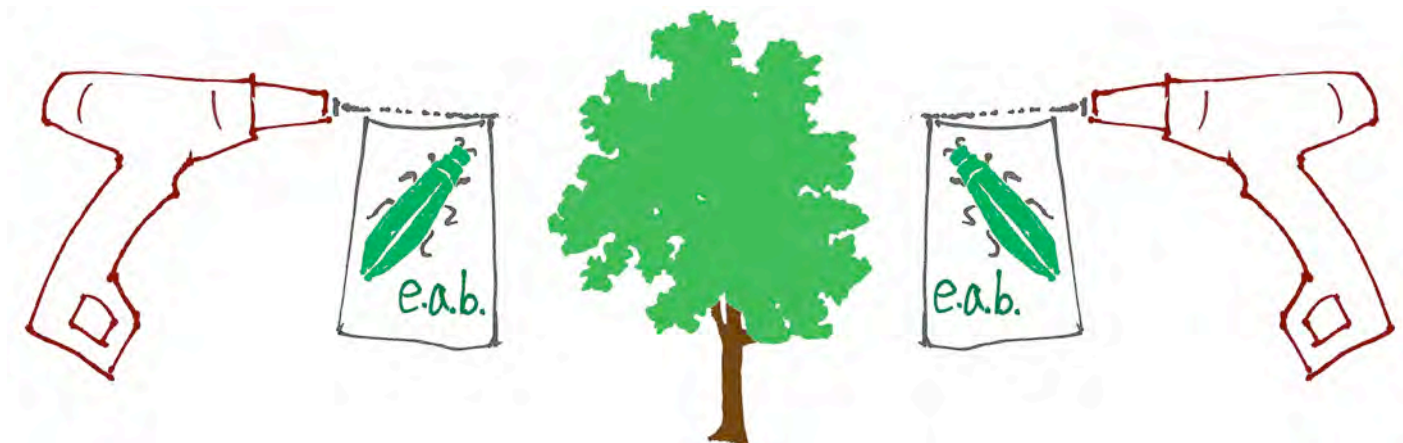


MIWP fishers fend off invasive carp from Island skiff built by Arvid Kron in 1935



For 2011, the MIWP knows a good thing when we see one and we plan to continue in the astoundingly popular “Invasive Species” series with: Emerald Ash Borers! These bad bugs deserve some bad press and we plan to give it to them (ideas?). We’d love you to join us. Costumes are easy: whatever bright green clothing you own, and your own (charged) cordless drill. Plan to meet at the marina thirty minutes before parade time (the parade usually starts at 10:30 AM but check with the Chamber of Commerce) under the MIWP banner. Questions, concerns, suggestions, raw materials? Call Victoria Erhart at 715-747-2277 in early July.

“We may bore, but we’re never boring.”



MADELINE ISLAND QUARANTINED FOR GYPSY MOTH

By Kathy Kromroy

The first article I wrote about gypsy moth on Madeline Island was for the 2006 MIWP newsletter. At that time our moth numbers were low enough that the island was still within the “Slow The Spread (STS)” zone, and we were preparing for the second consecutive summer of treatments. Now, five years later, Madeline Island is infested with gypsy moth, meaning there are established, reproducing populations of on the island and, along with the other Apostle Islands, Madeline is quarantined.

Background

Gypsy moth has been in the United States since 1869 when it was imported from Europe into Massachusetts to breed a hardier silk worm. Some of the moths escaped, and because the insect is not native, natural predators and controls are lacking to keep the population in check. Aided by human transport of “hitchhiking” egg masses, the gypsy moth has become established in 19 states and the invasion front continues to move westward and southward. In areas where it has been established for many years, periodic outbreaks cause an annual average defoliation of over a million acres nation-wide. Especially over consecutive years, defoliation severely weakens trees, making them vulnerable to other pests and diseases which may kill them.



Female gypsy moths laying eggs
(John H. Ghent, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org)

What is a Quarantine?

A quarantine is a regulation that is enacted to help prevent the spread of a pest from infested areas to areas

that either have low populations or don't have it at all. The gypsy moth quarantine means it is illegal to move or transport any wood product or outdoor household articles that have been exposed to gypsy moth from a quarantined area to a non-quarantined area without inspection or certification (ATCP statute 21.10). The following articles require inspection and certification: logs, posts, pulpwood, bark and bark products; nursery stock; Christmas trees; Outdoor Household Articles (OHAs); mobile homes and associated items. In Wisconsin, the quarantine is administered by the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WI DATCP).



Mature gypsy moth caterpillar. Note red & blue dots.
(Ferenc Lakatos, University of West-Hungary, Bugwood.org)

The insect

A few weeks ago I took a walk around our property on the north end. Over the course of an hour, I saw about 75 egg masses – at least a third of which were within reach so I was able to scrape them off the bark, take them back to the cabin, and drown them. That means at least 12,000 fewer caterpillars will be crawling around our woods this summer. While this number is a mere fraction of the total number of caterpillars that will populate our property, I have at least reduced the number likely to fall on me during my nature walks in June and July and hopefully even have saved a couple of trees.

(Gypsy Moth, continued on page 6)

24TH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING AND EVENING RECEPTION

The Wilderness Preserve will be hosting its 24th Annual Spring Meeting this coming Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 28th, at Madeline School of the Arts (**a new venue**). Similar to last year, the event will be an evening reception with an informal buffet of elegant and hearty hors d'oeuvres, complimentary wine service, and coffee /tea and assorted deserts (come with an appetite). This year's evening fare will be provided by the highly acclaimed Ashland Baking Company. A social gathering and food service begins at 7:00 *p.m.*, with the program beginning at 8:00 pm.

Our program this year features renowned polar explorer

LONNIE DUPRE

“ON THIN ICE – NORTH POLE TO DENALI”

“To create and lead successful, pioneering expeditions in the coldest regions of the globe, as a means to inspire, educate and advocate for the environment and for indigenous cultures.”

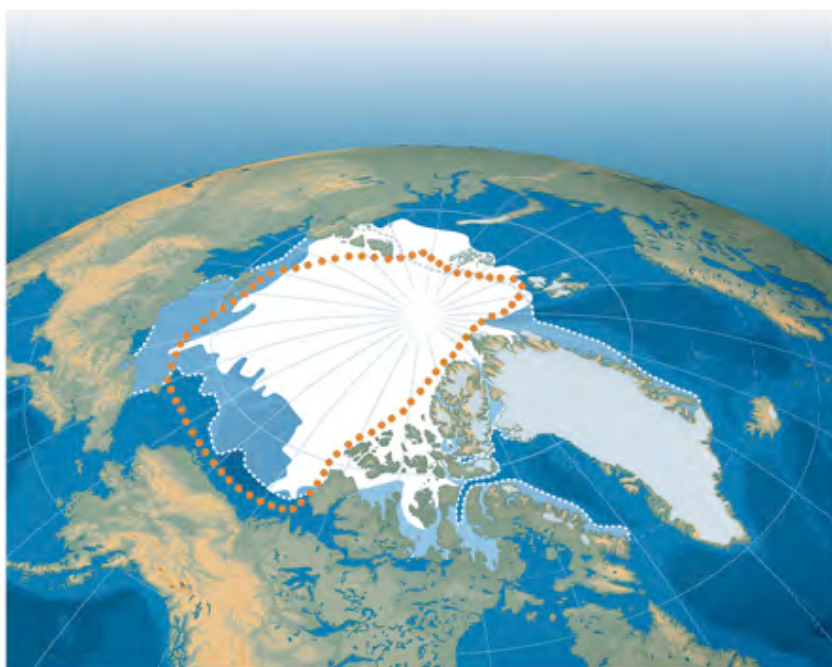
Experience the adventure of polar travel and how climate change is affecting the globe firsthand with a dynamic multi-media presentation from explorer Lonnie Dupre.

Dodging marauding polar bears while traveling over 600 miles of shifting Arctic Ocean sea ice, the One World Expedition was the first to reach the North Pole during summer in 2006. Lonnie will also talk about his Solo January attempt to climb of Mt. Denali.

Join Lonnie as he shares life on the trail with special emphasis placed on global warming, setting and achieving goals, teamwork and overcoming obstacles. There will be breathtaking images along with video.

Lonnie, who lives in Grand Marais, Minnesota, has over 15,000 miles of Arctic expedition travel by dogsled, ski, on foot, and by kayak.

While using traditional Inuit means of travel, he has lead several major Arctic expeditions including treks across the Russian Far East, the first west to east winter crossing of Canada's Northwest Passage, and the first and only circumnavigation of Greenland's 6500-mile coastline...all non-motorized.



The price of the Spring Reception and Program is \$30 per person.

Reservations can be made (through May 24th) by contacting MIWP Treasurer Steve Mueller, 2112 Parklands Road, St. Louis Park, MN 55416 ☞ (952-925-9315) ☞ Email at: stmueller@comcast.net

(maximum 120 guests)

Note new venue: Madeline School of the Arts (978 Middle Road, www.madelineschool.com)

SUMMER 2011 PROGRAM

Evening lectures are co-sponsored by the Madeline Island Historical Museum

Saturday, May 28th, 9:00–11:00 a.m. *Spring Bird Migration on Madeline*

Bring your binoculars and join our 11th Annual Spring Bird Hike with Peter Hudleston and Victoria Erhart. Migrating warblers appear in large numbers at this time of year, along with hermit thrushes, resident chickadees, woodpeckers, and many others. Learn bird songs so even if you don't see the birds you can identify them. Meet at Big Bay Town Park.

Saturday, May 28th, 7:00 p.m. *MIWP's 24th Annual Spring Meeting and Evening Reception: On Thin Ice – North Pole to Denali*

Experience the adventure of polar travel and how climate change is affecting the globe firsthand with a dynamic multimedia presentation from explorer Lonnie Dupre. At Madeline School of the Arts
(see detailed announcement, page 4)

Thursday, June 9th, 7:00 p.m. *Gypsy Moths & Other Forest Pests on Madeline Island*

Hear one of the finest and most entertaining speakers in our upper north area before he retires. Shane Weber, Wisconsin DNR forest entomologist, knows his trees, plants, bugs – and so much more. No power point needed. He is the presentation! At the Madeline Island Historical Museum.

Saturday, June 25th, 9:00 a.m. – noon *Get into The Thick of It! – 4th Annual Buckthorn Work Session and Lunch*

With Biologist Crew Leader, Carmen Chapin, National Park Service, Great Lakes Exotic Plant Management Team. Come help in the continuing battle against this dreaded island invasive. Best practices and all the tools and chemicals needed to do this work will be provided. Wear work clothes, gloves and boots. Celebrate a good team effort at the end with beverages and lunch! Meet at the new and improved Casper Trail, across from the Fire Station.

Thursday, June 30th, 7:00 p.m. *Our Loons – from Lake Superior to the Gulf Oil Spill and Back*

With Erica LeMoine, Loon Watch and Citizen Science Coordinator, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College. The loon is a sentinel species – a living symbol of clean water, good fisheries, and an indicator of healthy aquatic ecosystems. LoonWatch will talk about their volunteer monitoring programs, loon behavior and phenology, potential impact of the Gulf oil spill, other threats to loons, and what you can do to help protect loons and their habitat. At the Madeline Island Historical Museum.

Saturday, July 9th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. *Wetland Medicines and Foods*

Join Pastor Marina Lachecki, St. John's UCC, on this wildly popular annual hike ... in a new location. Pastor Marina will share her wisdom and learnings from Native Americans about the plants found in wetland areas of the Island. Meet at Big Bay Town Park.

Thursday, August 11th, 7:00 p.m. *Wildness in the Soul: Sigurd Olson and the Canoe*

With Alan Craig, Curator, Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum. Sigurd Olson (1899-1982) was an author, environmentalist, and advocate for the protection of wilderness. For Olson, travel through wild lands, nearly always in a canoe, allowed for a deeply spiritual connection to wild places. It was this connection which compelled Olson to fight to preserve these wild places, and inspire others to do the same. This presentation will explore Olson's relationship with the canoe and northern travel, and the tangible results of this relationship that we are lucky to enjoy today. At the Madeline Island Historical Museum.

All events are free (except the Spring Reception) and open to the public

(Gypsy Moth: Continued from page 3)

All the egg masses I found were on oak trees, one of the caterpillars' favorite species, though they will feed on over 300 species of trees and shrubs. As temperatures become warmer, eggs will start hatching, producing tiny black caterpillars that swarm over the egg masses. Over the next 6-8 weeks, caterpillars move up to feed in the canopy as they go through several molts, becoming more colorful as they mature, ultimately sporting five pairs of raised blue spots and six pairs of raised brick-red spots along their backs. A mature caterpillar may reach up to two inches long and can consume one square foot of leaves per day! By midsummer the caterpillars begin to pupate, emerging one to two weeks later as male or female moths.

What can you do?

Movement of firewood is the highest risk pathway for spreading tree pests. In addition to gypsy moth,

infested firewood can spread emerald ash borer, oak wilt disease and Asian long-horned beetle, none of which we want on the island. Simply, **DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD**. The safest firewood is what you get as close to where you are going to burn it as possible. If you do buy firewood, within 10 miles is best and make sure that you purchase only from a Wisconsin certified dealer.

Because gypsy moths will lay eggs on pretty much any surface, be careful not to move outdoor household articles that have been exposed to gypsy moth off the island.

An excellent source of information about what you can do to manage gypsy moth in your yard or woodlot and the gypsy moth quarantine in WI can be found at <http://gypsymoth.wi.gov> or call the Gypsy Moth Information Line at 1.800.642-6684.



TRIBUTE TO PASSING MIWP LEADERS

Russell William Fridley

Last June, the MIWP lost a loyal member and long-time treasurer, when Russell Fridley died at age 82 in St. Paul. Current board members remember Russ as a gentle presence, one who did a fine job supporting the MIWP as treasurer.

Russ served as Director of the Minnesota Historical Society for three decades until his retirement and is credited with building one of the country's finest state heritage organizations. He led the efforts in the restoration of Fort Snelling, the development of historic sites as well as active in the preservation of Voyager National Park, Grand Portage and Pipestone National Monument and obtained the funding for Minnesota History Center.

Ann Hall Dietrich

Long time summer Island resident, Ann Dietrich passed away last November. Among her many contributions to the Island community was her participation on the MIWP board. Ann and her husband Jack raised four children, traveled the world, supported the arts in Minneapolis and Sante Fe, and established the Children's Shop of Wayzata, Minnesota. Ann's love of art and beauty led to work as a docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Art but was evident in her gardens and in all aspects of her life.

