



Madeline Island

Wilderness Preserve News

Summer 2022

“SPRING IS A MARVEL”

By Steve Mueller, President

“Such a marvel, the tenacity of the buds to surge with life every spring, to greet the lengthening days and warming weather with exuberance, no matter what hardships were brought by winter.”

— Suzanne Simard, Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest —

Spring is a marvel, especially on our Island, insuring new energy and renewal, “no matter the hardships of winter”, as Simard says. As we emerge from the pandemic this year, the feeling of spring’s renewal brings new hope for us all. As president of the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve, I’ve appreciated the support of our board and membership to persevere through the isolation imposed on us over the last two years. And I’m thankful that our lands have offered solace and renewal for all who needed to escape into nature in order to maintain balance during difficult times. This year you will see a burst of activity from our organization owing to the commitment and contributions of many people.

Education We will be offering an amazing lineup of speakers to engage us in learning about the beautiful part of the world we live in, from the history of logging at our spring reception, to talks about birds, mushrooms and the threats to our lakes and wetlands. Please view the schedule of the events in this newsletter or at www.miwp.org. We hope to see many of you there.

Our Lands and Trails We have beautiful new maps of our lands and trails created by cartographer, island resident, and Madeline Island Trails (MIT) board member, Elori Kramer. (See accompanying article.) We improved the access to our lands with a new parking area at the School House Road trailhead, repaired the bridge on the north end trail, and added more “duck boards” on the wetter areas of the trails. And we received a gracious donation of 20 acres of land near the middle of the Island and close to our other holdings. Thank you to Catherine Corey and Tod Rubin for this generous gift that will protect more of our natural surroundings.

Invasives We are continuing our multi-year program to contain and mitigate the harmful effects of invasive plant species on our Island. We are fighting the scourge presented by buckthorn, barberry and Eurasian honeysuckle. This is a program that will ensure that the entire Island, not just MIWP lands, is protected from these harmful invaders. *(continued on page 2)*



Giving Back to the community This year MIWP donated \$5,000 to fund the Town of LaPointe in its efforts to remove and dispose of old junk vehicles on the Island. This donation is part of our continuing efforts to give back to the community in ways that enhance the beauty and protect the environment of our island home.

Get Involved You are invited to our spring reception, the first we've had in two years, to join with

other members to celebrate our lands, hear an excellent speaker, and find out what we're up to. It will be great to see faces in person again! Look for further details in this newsletter or online.

As always, give what you can, remember us in your estate plan if possible, attend our educational events, and get out on the trails! Volunteers are always welcome!

Steve Mueller, Board President

COMING SOON – WILD MADELINE: THE REVIVAL

By Erik R Olson, Associate Professor of Natural Resources, Northland College

Just like some of the best movies, research projects often have sequels – especially when attempting to understand how things change over time. Unlike most movie sequels, those to scientific studies often provide new and valuable information ... as opposed to a rehash of a well-worn story line. Thanks to a gracious donation from the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve, the *Wild Madeline Project* of Northland College will be revived in 2022. The goal of the Project is to assess the wildlife community of Madeline and to examine the long-term dynamics of wildlife populations within the larger Apostle Island archipelago.

Using camera traps we will collect photos of the Island's wildlife. Over time these thousands of photos get turned into data and those data get turned into knowledge. Our previous work on the *Wild Madeline Project* has already contributed to a baseline understanding of wildlife in the Apostle Islands, with results being used in at least three scientific publications, two graduate student theses, and many undergraduate-student experiences and research projects.

Our prior monitoring in 2016-2018 documented a number of species on Madeline Island, including black bear, white-tailed deer, coyote, red fox, raccoon, mink, southern flying squirrel, short-tailed weasel, American red squirrel, red-backed vole, meadow vole, white-footed mouse, deer mouse, and masked shrew. Some of these species found on Madeline Island are absent from the rest of the archipelago. Madeline Island is unique among the Apostle Islands in

having a year-round human population, a road network, and being the largest island of the archipelago. Thanks to these new funds from MIWP, we will be able to see how the uniqueness of Madeline shapes its wildlife community and how it has changed since 2018.

We hope our efforts will also be educational, as we aim to work with the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve to share information about the Island's wildlife with the broader public. You may see us out and about this year, especially this spring as we install camera traps and collect site data. If you do, feel free to say hello. We will be sharing project updates and interesting wildlife stories in future issues of this newsletter and via the MIWP website: www.miwp.org. If our excitement and progress thus far are any measure of future success, we expect this sequel to be better than the original.



Camera-trap photo of coyote on Madeline Island

RETURN OF THE SPONGY MOTH (FORMERLY GYPSY MOTH)

By Kathy Kromroy

Toward the end of August last year, I noticed pale brown fuzzy blotches, about the size of an oblong quarter, on a few oak and birch trunks on our island property on North Shore Road. I recognized these fuzzy blotches as egg masses that had been deposited by female spongy moths *Lymantria dispar*, formerly called gypsy moths. In September I found a few egg masses on scattered trees and the sign at the Burroughs Trailhead, and in October I saw several trees with at least one egg mass during an hour of looking around the Town Park parking lot.

Background Since its introduction to Massachusetts in the 1860s, spongy moth has spread and is now widely established throughout the northeastern United States and eastern Canada. Spongy moth caterpillars feed on the leaves of trees and shrubs of over 300 species and can defoliate entire forests during outbreaks. Healthy trees may re-foliate the same season, but stressed trees are less likely to recover, and are left more susceptible to other stresses like drought and disease. Repeated years of defoliation can result in significant mortality.

Biological controls for spongy moth (fungi, viruses, parasitic insects) have been introduced in many areas, including the Island, and help keep the population in check. Several physical and chemical management methods are available, the choice of method depending on the use of the infested lands, the size of the infestation, and available funding, among other factors.

At this time, spongy moth is established in the eastern two thirds of Wisconsin, including Madeline and the rest of the Apostle Islands. These areas are included in the spongy moth quarantine, which means that regulations

are in place to restrict the movement of items that could be carrying any life stage (egg masses, caterpillars, pupae or moths).



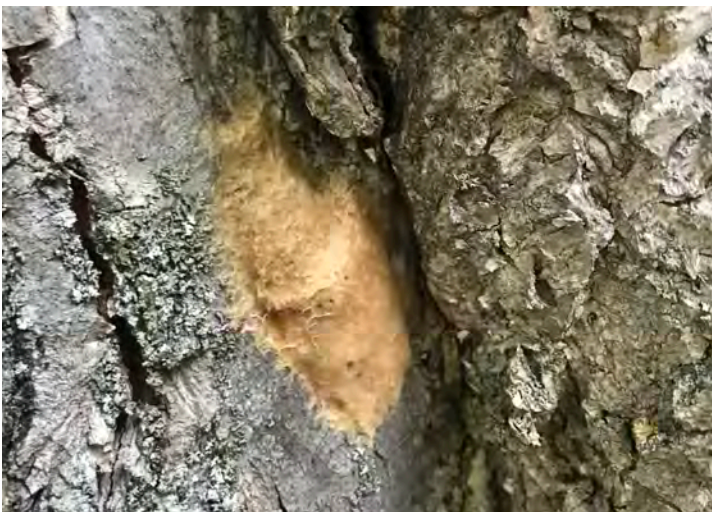
Aerial spray treatments will be carried out in 2022 in western parts of the State, where spongy moth is not yet established, by Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WI DATCP) in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) may treat small areas in places where the moth is established, but most often treatments conducted where the moth is already established are funded by local governments and other groups.

What's going on now? I had not seen any traps for spongy moth on the Island for several years, so I contacted several forest health professionals to request guidance for what we should do in 2022, given the egg masses I had seen. My contacts included Charly Ray, consulting forester for the MIWP, along with Paul Cigan and Andrea Diss-Torrance, plant pest and disease specialists, WI DNR. I discovered that although higher than expected numbers of spongy moths were trapped on the Bayfield Peninsula in the summer of 2021, the consensus is that the number of egg masses I was observing on the island were unlikely to result in major defoliation in 2022.

That being said:

- A survey for egg masses in order to have some measure of the current spongy moth population is a good idea in areas of high public use and areas with trees of special concern. I will coordinate the survey this spring.

(continued on page 4)



Spongy moth egg mass, Burroughs Trail

(Moths, continued from page 3)

- Results of the survey will allow us to estimate the potential for defoliation in 2022 and thus decide if we want to implement any site-specific management activities.
- Reasonable areas for the survey include trailheads, parking areas at the Town and State Parks, and downtown.
- One type of management – destruction of the egg masses, will be done during the survey and through the spring until the eggs hatch:
 - Application of Golden Pest Spray oil directly to the egg masses will destroy them when the temperature is above 40 degrees.
 - Egg masses can be scraped into a container, then soaked in soapy water for two days to kill them.

My to-do list:

- By mid-May, complete the survey and destruction of egg masses at the selected sites.
- Send the egg mass location and count data to Paul Cigan for mapping, review, and guidance on other management actions.
- Arrange for distribution of outreach materials to Island residents and visitors that will enable them to identify and destroy the various life stages of spongy moth, and explain the quarantine restrictions.

For more information, refer to these websites:

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/SpongyMoth.aspx>
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/foresthealth/spongymoth>
<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/gypsymothinwisconsin/life-cycle-and-biology-3/>

THE JULY 4TH PARADE RETURNS *By Victoria Erhart*

It has been a while, and the old parade-making juices are slow to bubble up out of wherever they have been hiding for the last three years. But there WILL be a 2022 MIWP 4th of July Parade and it WILL be fabulous, with all the drama and insight you have come to expect from our dedicated team. Thematically we are leaning towards a celebration of the MIWP trails system, an expansive and ever-improving network of which we are justifiably proud. Details are sketchy but hopes are high, and we would absolutely love to have you join us. Everyone, all ages and all species, is welcome.



Our award-winning entry from 2017

Cast of 1000s (or at least dozens) to be Trail Blazers (wear jeans, bring shovels, loppers, or other trail-making tools), Hikers (wear khaki, bring hiking poles), and Trees (wear neutral, or decorate yourself as a tree). We will have more costume elements to add on parade day, so you can also just come as you are, ready to make noise and have fun. Meet at the marina under the MIWP banner a half hour prior to parade start (the parade usually starts at 10:30 but check with the Chamber of Commerce). For the most up-to-date information, visit our website at www.miwp.org.



SUMMER 2022 PROGRAMS

Saturday, May 28th, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. *Annual MIWP Spring Bird Hike* Victoria Erhart, MIWP board member, and Peter Hudleston, Professor of Geology, University of Minnesota, will lead a hike for beginners and experts alike. Bring binoculars and wear good waterproof footwear. **Location:** Madeline Island Town Park.

Saturday, May 28th, 6:00 p.m. *MIWP's 33rd Annual Meeting & Reception: Logging Days in the Islands*
Speaker: Bob Mackreth, Apostle Island Historian. At the Madeline Island School of the Arts. *(details, next page)*

Saturday, June 11th, 10:00 – Noon. *Early Summer Foraging for Mushrooms*

Leader: Samantha Dobson, naturalist, educator, and Island resident. Learn how to ethically and sustainably harvest early season mushrooms, specifically oyster mushrooms, on Madeline Island.
Location: Capser Trail, Middle Road Trailhead.



Tuesday, June 21st, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Summertime Book Gathering: The Singing Wilderness and Reflections from the North Country by Sigurd Olson

Leader: Alan Brew, Director, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. Sigurd Olson was an American author, environmentalist and advocate for the protection of wilderness. We hope to dust off a couple of Sigurd's classic and most popular writings.
Location: Madeline Island Library. In collaboration with the Madeline Island Book Club.

Wednesday, June 29th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Breeding Birds of the Apostle Islands* **Speakers:** Neil Howk, Apostle Islands park ranger, retired, and Peggy Burkman, National Park Service biologist. The Apostle Islands contain important nesting habitat for colonial waterbirds, bald eagles, a variety of breeding songbirds, and the endangered piping plover. Learn about their status and recent trends. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, July 20th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Great Lakes Water Tension in the 21st Century*

Speaker: Peter Annin, Director, Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation and author, *Great Lakes Water Wars*. The Great Lakes region holds 20 percent of all the fresh surface water on the planet, but despite that abundance, is home to a remarkable amount of water tension, including concerns about water diversions, climate change, fluctuating lake levels and bottled water. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, July 27th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Uncommon Facts about Madeline Island's Common Birds*

Speaker: Laura Erickson, award winning author of 12 books and producer of *For the Birds*. Did you know that the average weight of loons is more than twice the average weight of Great Blue Herons? Or that Great Horned Owls keep their eggs a toasty 100 degrees or hotter while incubating? Hear little known stories and cool facts about Madeline Island's common summer birds. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, August 10th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Ticks and Diseases, More than Lyme Disease*

Speaker: Benjamin Clarke, Professor of Biomedical Sciences, University of Minnesota-Duluth Medical School. Summer is great time for exploring the woods and hiking the trails, but there are creatures that love to hitch a ride as you walk. Dr. Clarke will discuss ticks, where they are found, how to identify them, and what diseases they could share with you. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, August 17th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Meeting and Mixing the Waters: Estuaries and the Health of Lake Superior* **Speaker:** Deanna Erickson, Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve. The estuaries along the south shore of Lake Superior are some of the most productive ecosystems on the Lake. Home to diverse wetlands, flocks of birds, manoomin (wild rice), and rich fisheries, these estuaries are some of the best kept secrets for paddling, fishing, and exploring. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Wednesday, August 24th, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. *Lake Superior Water Levels and Options to Address Coastal Hazards* **Speaker:** Adam Bechle, Coastal Engineering Specialist, Wisconsin Sea Grant. Lake Superior's water level was above average for eight years and set new monthly records in 2019 and 2020, affecting beaches, bluffs, coastal homes and critical infrastructure. This presentation will provide an update on the current water level conditions on the Great Lakes, discuss the processes behind water level changes and coastal erosion, and describe some of the options that coastal land owners can take to address these issues. At the Madeline Island Museum, co-sponsor.

Saturday, September 3rd, 9:00 – Noon. *Shore to Shore Hike, North End Forest* Explore MIWP's north end forest with its stands of ancient hemlock, oaks and maple, and an abundance of mushrooms. The trails are rustic so good hiking boots, (waterproof) and adventuresome spirit are required. **Location:** Meet at Schoolhouse Road Trailhead, 0.7 miles north of intersection with Big Bay Road. The hike will traverse the Island, ending at the Burroughs Trailhead.

Saturday, September 10th, 10:00 – Noon. *Fall Foraging for Mushrooms* **Leader:** Samantha Dobson, naturalist, educator, and Island resident. Learn about mushroom identification, phenology, habitat, and safe harvesting techniques. Also learn how to store, preserve, and prepare your harvested mushrooms. Finding mushrooms is not guaranteed. **Location:** Burroughs Trailhead, 2.5 miles north of Benjamin Boulevard on North Shore Drive.

Saturday, October 1st, 9:00 – Noon. *Annual Fall Hike and Potluck* Join us as we explore the Island's north end forest. **Location:** Burroughs Trailhead. The annual potluck will follow the hike at a location to be determined. All are welcome. For updates and details see the MIWP Website: www.miwp.org.

Programs at the Museum theater have a 70-person capacity ... arrive early.

Hikes will be held, rain or shine. Consult the MIWP website for updates.

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

33RD ANNUAL MEETING AND EVENING RECEPTION

The Wilderness Preserve will be hosting its 33rd Annual Meeting this coming Memorial Day weekend, Saturday May 28th, at the Madeline Island School of the Arts. The event will be an evening reception with an informal buffet of hearty hors d'oeuvres and wine service, catered this year by our own Madeline Island Farmhouse. A social gathering and food service begins at 6:00 pm, with the program beginning at 7:30 pm. This year's program (held over from last year) features:

BOB MACKRETH

HISTORIAN, APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE, RETIRED

“LOGGING DAYS IN THE ISLANDS”

Timber barons and lumberjacks left their marks throughout the Chequamegon region, while the Lake Superior environment presented loggers with challenges seldom seen elsewhere. Historian Bob Mackreth will explore the islands' unique lumbering history, from the days of oxen and ax to the era of Outer Island's flying lumberjacks with their Cessnas and chainsaws.

The price of the Spring Reception is \$35 / person

Reservations can be made online through the
MIWP Website: www.miwp.org
or by mail:

MIWP Treasurer, Ned Hancock
1204 Mount Curve Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403



We've had a busy year with lots of new work accomplished on the trails in 2021/2022. The goal to make the trails more accessible to the community and visitors year round is an ongoing project, but we made a dent and will continue in our efforts. The best time on the trails is in the winter with Nordic skiing, but we are working hard to make muddy summer trails more walkable without needing knee-high rubber boots.

Although we don't have a way to accurately track trail usage, we're confident in reporting that usage is up significantly from years past. Near town, Ken Myhre has been setting a ski track on the east side of the Capser Trail and flat-grooming the majority of that trail to encourage multi-use, which has led to lots of hikers, snowshoers and snowmobilers sharing the trail with skiers. I actually skied past two other skiers and four hikers on the trail during our last big blizzard. On a north-end ski outing in late February the Burroughs Trailhead lot was completely full, and Keith Sowl remarked that he had never seen that happen or that many people skiing in all his years working on the trails. I've also seen numerous cars parked in the new Schoolhouse Trailhead lot on several occasions.

So what are we doing in response to last year's survey reporting that our constituents want to see attention paid to our system of trails? Here's a list of some of this year's accomplishments, skillfully headed up by Tom Kromroy:

- The Burroughs hiking trail from the parking lot to the lake overlook was "duck boarded" to allow hikers to enjoy it all summer long in spite of muddy conditions from spring and rain. This 3-day project was completed by a hard-working group of volunteers and entailed putting the boards together, carrying them to the trail and placing them where needed ... and then after the boards had settled for a couple days, leveling them.
- Duck boards have been placed in muddy areas at the bottom of ravines on the Upper East Loop Trail.
- The footbridge over the stream below the large ravine on the Schoolhouse/Harmon section of trail was replaced.
- Attractive and effective MIWP signs were assembled and installed at the three major north end trailheads - North Shore, Sowl, and Schoolhouse.
- A new, simple, parking lot was installed at the Schoolhouse Trailhead which can accommodate 4+ cars, giving trail users a safe place to park.

We've also been working closely with the Madeline Island Trails (MIT) organization in the maintenance and grooming of the trails on the MIWP lands. Madeline Island Trails (MIT) has:

- Cleared the trails in the fall after big storms to have the trails ready for grooming in the winter.

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(Trails, continued from page 7)

- Regularly maintained and groomed the trails for winter Nordic skiing.
- Created bypass reroutes (winter only) around large ravines on the north end trails to allow for both easier/safer grooming and skiing.
- Installed a “Clemson leveler”, a section of 4” perforated PVC pipe, through the two beaver dams below the Capser Trail bridge to mitigate water back-up from the dams. Water has been flowing through that pipe already this spring, and the water level was well below the bridge late last fall.
- Partnered with the Town of La Pointe (Ben Schram) to help maintain the Capser Trail by removing dangerous deadfalls and encroaching brush from the sides of the trail.

- Volunteered time and expertise to re-design trail maps for both North End and Capser trail systems.
- Begun exploring options for dedicated snowshoe trails on MIWP lands. A trail from Black Shanty Road to the end of Snow Place Road has been flagged for use next winter, with the aim of extending it to the Capser Trail overlook deck on the west and into the State Park and perhaps to the Lagoon Trail on the east.

Work on the trails will continue with a plan to install more duck boards on other problem trail sections, with the Nucy Meech Trail a top priority. New trail signs will be made and installed on the trails. We welcome your ideas for further improvement to make the trails an even more important part of your Madeline Island experience.

NEW TRAIL MAPS

The Wilderness Preserve is excited to share our new trail maps with everyone. Considering a few name changes and the addition of a new trail, our trails committee thought an update was in order. We wanted our friends visiting preserve lands to be better able to locate their position and explore our trails with ease.

Cartographer Elori Kramer generously committed her time to the new maps, and we are grateful for her efforts. Elori is a board member of the Madeline Island Trails (MIT) organization. The maps include both our North End trail system and the Capser Trail on the south end, which we co-manage with the Town of La Pointe. She spent many hours creating these maps in collaboration with the trails committee. There are a few name changes to trailheads and junctions. The new maps are now less cluttered with easier to read distance markings. We also added addresses to all of our trail heads to make them easier for visitors and emergency responders to locate.

Elori said of her creation, "I have volunteered my time and energy towards this because I care deeply about the trails and want them to be improved. I'm out on the trails almost daily, year round, and they're an integral part of my physical and mental well-being. I hope that with these new maps, more people will have access to the trails and be able to enjoy our beautiful island and all the benefits that come with spending time in nature."



High resolution copies of the new north- and south-end trail maps can be downloaded from the MIWP website: www.miwp.org

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Madeline Island
Wilderness Preserve
PO Box 28
La Pointe, WI 54850
www.miwp.org

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of natural areas on Madeline Island!***

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Thank you for your generous contribution!

Your dues are tax deductible. Membership is through December 31, 2022
Please make checks payable to MIWP and send to:

**Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve
P.O. Box 28 La Pointe WI 54850**

or contribute online at www.miwp.org