

Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

BUGS in the WINTER?

By: ECB member Pat Venezia

In this month's newsletter, we would like to discuss non-native, invasive insects; particularly these three: the hemlock woolly adelgid, the Gypsy moth, and the spotted lanternfly. Wintertime gives us a great opportunity to inspect trees in our back yards or along trails that we walk or hike for exercise and the overall enjoyment of being outdoors.

Below are a few short explanations to help us recognize these insects and tips for how we can help curb their spread by early detection and reporting our findings. Trees are one of our most crucial, valuable natural resources and the effort to protect them begins right in our own back yard.



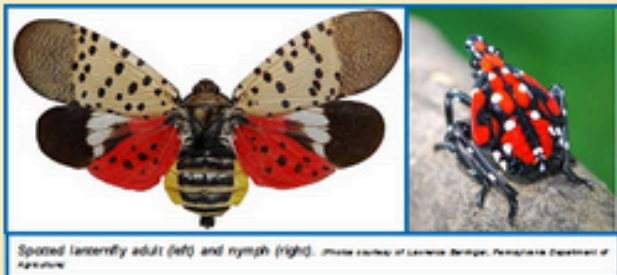
The Gypsy moth. Most of us are probably familiar with Gypsy moths but do you know how to spot their egg masses in the winter? This species has been destroying trees in our region for decades. They have been in our country since 1869. Last summer the Gypsy moth caterpillars caused a mass defoliation event in parts of Ontario County including major damage to trees in the Towns of Canandaigua, Bristol, and South Bristol. Gypsy moths are found in hardwood forests in eastern North America, but their range continues to spread. Its preferred meal is leaves from Oak trees, Aspens, Basswoods, Birch, Willows, Apple & Hawthorns. Young larvae feed on leaves both day & night and in dense populations eat all the foliage from their host tree, then move on to a new food source. In winter months we can search tree

trunks for egg masses that will hatch in the spring (see picture at left). For small areas, some options to curb their hatching are to place burlap on trees to destroy larvae underneath and to remove egg masses before they hatch.

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is an aphid-like insect which attacks and kills hemlock trees. Hemlocks are important because they line the banks of our famous gullies. They shade the waters and help to stabilize the banks. Without them, the water quality in Canandaigua lake would decline due to increased sediment from soil erosion and warmer waters entering the lake. HWA are tiny and are identified by white woolly clusters found on the underside of hemlock tree branches, at the base of the needles. They have been found locally on hemlocks in Barnes Gully, which runs through Onanda Park. The Town has spearheaded an active plan to eradicate the adelgid at the park and save the hemlock trees with the help of funding from New York State through a grant program created to combat the spread of invasive pests.



The HWA has spread along the East Coast from Maine to Georgia. As residents, steps to take if you notice these insects are to: Note the location (road, landmarks, GPS coordinates); take pictures of the infestation, and contact the NYSDEC www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47433.html



Spotted lanternfly adult (left) and nymph (right). Photo courtesy of Lauren Berghel, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

The Spotted lanternfly is a colorful plant hopper native to China and southeast Asia. Of the three insects described in this article, it may be the one we are least familiar with. It was discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 and in 2018 it was found in Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and New York. The concern for us locally is that it has been found in Ithaca. This insect does not discriminate in its food source. It attacks grapes, hops, apples, blueberries and stone fruits which are all an extremely

important part of our local agricultural economy. It is very distinctive in appearance, very colorful. The adult has red hind wings with black spots, a black head, a yellow abdomen with black bands, grayish forewings with black spots and brick-like pattern. In its nymph stage it looks like a fancy ladybug. The lanternfly also lays egg masses, like the gypsy moth and lays eggs almost anywhere, not just in trees. The image at right is of lanternfly egg masses on a branch. So, what should you do if you discover these egg masses? Take pictures & if possible, include something for sizing (coin or ruler) and note the location (road, landmarks, GPS coordinates or email pictures and location to spottedlanternfly@dec.ny.gov



References and Resources:

For information about all three of these invasives, watch this video [Invasive Species -](#)

[Identification and Treatment Options](#)

Spotted Lanternfly, from Cornell and NYSIPM: <https://nysipm.cornell.edu/environment/invasive-species-exotic-pests/spotted-lanternfly/>

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: NYSDEC article www.dec.ny.gov

All you ever wanted to know about Gypsy Moths & much more by Naja Kraus NYSDEC division of lands & forest/ forest health protection.