

For the Week of June 6, 2022

Manager’s Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager

Announcement from the Colchester Planning Commission



Given unexpected COVID-related quorum issues for the Commission, the Planning Commission has had to make the difficult decision to cancel their June 7th meeting and **reschedule discussion related to East Lakeshore Drive to Tuesday, June 21st**. While we were prepared and excited to discuss changes to the East Lakeshore zoning, this COVID pandemic has required us to be more flexible and patient than ever before in order to ensure that we have healthy, safe, productive meetings with the full slate of commissioners present.

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In brighter news, we are very excited to share with you that the Planning and Zoning Office has synthesized all of the information from the visual preference exercise held at the April meeting. We will present this in full at the meeting on the 21st, but a few preview slides have been posted. Please visit the [Planning and Zoning website](#) and view the new page dedicated to the East Lakeshore Drive rezoning efforts. There you will see photos from the April meeting as well as the regulatory table for the existing lakeshore district zonings along West Lakeshore Drive.

The meeting’s packet, including the agenda, draft maps, draft text, with even more advance reading time than usual, will be posted very soon. Thank you for your patience and participation in such an important process.

An Update on Spongy Moth (formerly Gypsy Moth) Management

Last year, the Town of Colchester, and many other regions of Vermont, experienced an increased population of *Lymantria dispar* (Spongy Moth, formerly known as the Gypsy Moth) resulting in significant defoliation of trees throughout the spring and summer. Before 2021, there hadn’t been a major increase in Spongy Moth population and large spread defoliation since the early

ADULT



EGG



PUPA



LARVA
(Caterpillar)



1990s, and although this invasive insect is not native to the region, it has been here since the late 1800s. Your Town staff has engaged the State and, as of now, they have no plans to spray this year. Instead, the State is providing [information](#) to landowners letting them make the decisions about treatment themselves. Between 2016 to 2018, the State’s method of education and outreach for treatment strategies was used for the Forest Tent Caterpillar outbreak, which had a positive outcome.

What is the impact of Spongy Moth outbreaks?



Spongy Moth outbreaks occur cyclically and are often naturally controlled by insect parasites and predators, virus and fungal disease, and adverse weather conditions. An outbreak of Spongy Moths occurs when their population exceeds natural enemies, such as when a drought occurs and reduces the activity of the fungus *Entomophaga maimaiga* that can regularly keep populations controlled if sufficient moisture is present. During outbreaks, Spongy Moths can cause large spread defoliation. The larvae typically feed on oak and maple trees, but they will also feed on other deciduous hardwoods such as birch and apple trees. However, Spongy Moths are early

season defoliators. If it isn’t too dry, heavily defoliated trees can produce new leaves over the summer.

What is the Town doing to control the Spongy Moth population?

The Town is currently following the expert advice of the State of Vermont and the University of Vermont who both employ tree specialists with specific expertise in controlling Spongy Moths. While there is a process for Town’s to apply for permits for aerial spraying, it is an extensive process making these types of permits difficult to obtain as there are also disadvantages to spraying. At this time, we believe the best approach continues to be education and outreach, which has been effective for the State. Below are several management strategies for homeowners, along with a number of useful links.

Management Strategies for Homeowners

- **Destroy Egg Masses:** Egg masses can be removed from trees between August and May to reduce the population in the coming year. The egg masses can be removed using a scraper to carefully remove the masses and submerge them into a container of soapy water or alcohol for 2 days before discarding them in the trash. This will destroy the eggs. Do not scrape them onto the ground or try to crush them as they can survive and hatch in the spring. Egg masses can also be sprayed with horticultural oil labeled for Spongy Moth (formerly Gypsy Moth) egg masses. These horticultural oils can be available at lawn and garden centers or online. Be sure to read the label and use the product appropriately.



- **Trapping:** Trapping Spongy Moths during two stages of their life cycle can reduce the population. Late April, just after the larvae has hatched, barrier bands will prevent larvae from climbing back into the trees after ballooning (this is when they drop down on thin silken threads to find a host tree or shrub after hatching). These barrier bands can be constructed from duct tape or other type of material that can be wrapped around a tree trunk and coated with a sticky material, such as TangleFoot or Vaseline. Do not put the sticky material directly on the tree trunk. Butcher paper or paper bags can be placed around the trunk before using the duct tape. Reapply the sticky material as necessary and replace the band when it becomes covered with caterpillars.



During early June, the barrier bands can be replaced with collection bands. A 12 to 18-inch-wide medium-weight, neutral-colored cloth or burlap can be placed around the tree. The material can be fastened to the tree with cord or twine at chest height. Fold the top half of the cloth down to cover the bottom half. The older caterpillars will use these as a place to hide during the day. The caterpillars will need to be removed and destroyed every day, by scraping them into a bucket of soapy water.

- **Pesticides:** Pesticides must be applied between May and June. Two types of pesticides can be used: biological and chemical pesticides.
 - **Biological Pesticides:** *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) is the most common treatment used to control Spongy Moths. This bacterial insecticide kills caterpillars that eat it within a week of its application. The insecticide causes the cells of the caterpillar's stomach lining to rupture. This bacterium is found naturally in soil. The timing of this application is necessary as the

bacterial insecticide can be less effective on the older caterpillars. The bacterial insecticide has no effect on animals, birds, people or other types of insects; however, it can kill other caterpillars of moths and butterflies.

- **Chemical Pesticides:** Many products are available at local garden centers or nurseries. Be sure to check the label to make sure **Spongy Moths** (formerly **Gypsy Moths**) are listed. If you choose to use a chemical insecticide, it is important to always read and precisely follow the label directions, as many of these chemical insecticides can have potential impacts on beneficial insects and natural enemies of **Spongy Moths**. Common active ingredients of chemical pesticides are bifenthrin, carbaryl, seta-cypermethrin, and permethrin.

- **Crush and Brush:** Once in the pupal stage, you can crush and brush the cocoons into a container of soapy water to prevent them from making it to the adult stage. The cocoons of **Spongy Moths** are typically in protected spots, so you will need to be thorough when you are inspecting. The pupae are brown in color and approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ to $2 \frac{1}{2}$ inches long. The adult **Spongy Moths** will appear within two weeks. The female moths, which are white in color, cannot fly making them easier to crush and brush into a container of soapy water. It is important to focus on the female moths as they can lay upwards of 1,000 eggs, so crushing them reduces the number of eggs to hatch during the spring of the following year.



As you try these management strategies, you may find some work better than others or you may find altering the methods to be more effective. For example, in one case, a resident of a neighboring Town has found that using a wet vac to collect and dispose of the pest while they are in their caterpillar stage to be useful, but time consuming.

Vermont State Entomologist Judy Rosovsky predicts the lack of drought and an increase in other natural enemy populations, like certain other insects and birds, will impact next year's number and lessen the degree of defoliation. You can read the full story on the above strategy and more advice and information from Rosovsky on WCAX:

<https://www.wcax.com/2022/05/31/spongy-moth-caterpillars-create-battle-backyard/>

Useful Websites to Review:

<https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Extension-Community-Horticulture/GypsyMothJune2021.pdf>

https://fpr.vermont.gov/sites/fpr/files/doc_library/VT%20FPR_LDD%20Leaflet_Dec%202021_final.pdf

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/gypsymothinwisconsin/pest-management-2/management-guide-for-homeowners/>

<https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/insects-arachnids/spongy-moths>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/invasive_species/Gypsy-Moth/gypsy-moth-life-cycle

<https://extension.psu.edu/preparing-for-high-gypsy-moth-densities-in-2021>

<https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/spongy-moth>

Images from: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/spongy moth in wisconsin/pest-management-2/management-guide-for-homeowners/>

Colchester Historical Society

“Make-and-Take” Summer Classes Offered for Children

Three “Make-and-Take” classes will be offered this summer for children ages 6-10. Classes will be hosted by the Colchester Historical Society and held at the historic Log Schoolhouse located at Airport Park. All materials will be provided, and the topics will be linked to life and pastimes of the Log Schoolhouse time period.



Advanced registration is required, and in-person registration will be held on Monday, June 6, 6:30 p.m., at the Log Schoolhouse located at 500 Colchester Point Road, Colchester, Vermont. The fee is \$5 per child per class. Register for one, two, or all three classes.

The classes will be presented by Michelle Penca, a long-time volunteer teacher of art, gardening, literacy, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). She has taught classes in five different states to learners of all ages. She has a passion for sharing the love of learning while making it fun and accessible.



Leaf Printed Note Card

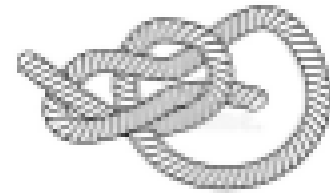
Saturday, June 18, 10-11 a.m.

The beauty of nature can be preserved and put to practical use by a very simple leaf printing technique. While we work on making the printed picture, we will also learn about how leaves help trees thrive. In addition to the note card, students will take home a basic leaf identification sheet to use when they take nature walks. Ages 6 to 10. Class size is limited to 10 children.

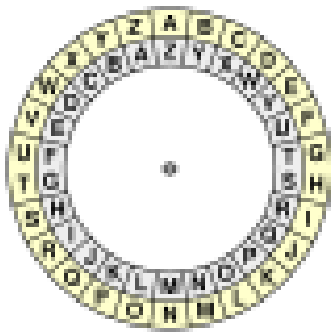
Why Knot?

Saturday, July 23, 10-11 a.m.

Knot tying is a good life skill with many practical applications. Children in earlier times used knots in the home and on the farm. Participants will learn several basic knots and receive a knot sampler to take home. Square knots, clove hitches, half hitches, and bowline knots will be demonstrated. Ages 8 to 10. Class size is limited to 8 children.



BOWLINE



Codes and Ciphers

Saturday, August 20, 10-11 a.m.

In use for thousands of years, codes and ciphers can be simple to amazingly complex. We will focus on basic codes that children will use to code their name and maybe a secret message. The instructor will demonstrate Atbash, Grid, Caesar Cipher and Scytale. Each child will go home with cipher wheels and code sheets to continue to use the knowledge learned. This class, open to ages 8-10, is a nice STEM activity. Class size is limited to 8 children.

Questions may be directed to Carol Reichard at winchris65@comcast.net or 802-497-3036.

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, June 14, 6:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend the meeting or alternatively send a note, up to 1,000 words, to TownManager@colchestervt.gov with "Citizens to be Heard" in the Subject and their name and address in the body of the email. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting (as the information packet for the current meeting is sent out along with the agenda).

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Development Review Board: Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Residents are welcome to attend



Colchester – What do you want to do today?

the meeting or public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to zmaia@colchestervt.gov or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446.

Conservation Commission: Monday, June 6, 5:30 pm at Lower Bayside Park to plant the Bayside and flagpole gardens.

Recreation Advisory Board: Wednesday, June 8, 7:00 am at the Town Offices.

Library Board of Trustees: Thursday, June 16, 4:30 pm, in the Burnham Room of the Burnham Memorial Library.

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMA02v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov