



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: September 17, 2021

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Gypsy Moth Tracking and Counting Survey Work Begins

Friends of the St. Clair River (Friends) field staff have begun conducting visits to properties where Gypsy Moth infestations occurred in order to document egg masses. This surveillance work will assist St. Clair County in forecasting the gypsy moth population in 2022, as well as any potential treatment zones. While Gypsy Moths are gone for this year, their egg masses will remain through next spring. Residents are encouraged to leave egg masses in place and not remove them so they can be counted for survey work.

St. Clair County residents that had an issue with gypsy moth and completed the St. Clair County Caterpillar Survey will be contacted about a visit to their property. Residents that had an issue with gypsy moth may complete the survey at www.stclaircounty.org/Caterpillars/CaterpillarsSurvey.aspx. Those without access to the survey can call Friends at (810) 294-4965. A series of free Gypsy Moth educational events are planned for this fall. Pre-registration is required at www.scriver.org.

- Group Watch: How to Survive a Gypsy Moth Outbreak: September 27, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Zoom
- How to Count Your Gypsy Moth Egg Masses: Saturday, October 9, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Columbus County Park
- St. Clair County Gypsy Moth Program Update: Monday, November 8, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., Zoom

In August, the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Friends to conduct fall surveillance to determine the prevalence and density of egg masses, as well as provide community outreach programs on the subject. This is the first step toward a Gypsy Moth suppression program in St. Clair County. Friends are recruiting volunteers that would like to be trained in Gypsy Moth egg mass survey work. For more information, contact Kirsten Lyons, Stewardship Director, at stewardship@scriver.org or at 810-294-4965.

Friends of the St. Clair River is Michigan's Thumb Coast Watershed Organization committed to inspiring citizen action through stewardship, monitoring and education to restore, protect and enhance the St. Clair River and its watersheds. Visit them at www.scriver.org and Friends of the St. Clair River on social.

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