

Whitehouse Tree Commission

Minutes of meeting of August 22, 2019

Attendance: Commissioners Sheri Luedtke (Chair), Chris Manzey, Amy Schultz, and Elliot Tramer. Council representative Richard Bingham; Staff representative Mark Thomas; and guests Noah and Valerie Werning.

Meeting was called to order by Sheri Luedtke at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes of July 25, 2019 meeting were approved as printed (moved by Amy Schultz, second Elliot Tramer).

Old Business

1. In order to complete the Tree Commissions packet for our renewal certification as a Tree City, Sheri Luedtke will look into whether we need to increase our budget for 2020 by at least \$100.
2. Richard Bingham stated that it is possible that the Municipality will approve a budget increase for the Tree Commission to pay for the tree signage that Noah Werning is proposing for his Eagle Scout project.
3. Amy Schultz and Sheri Luedtke reported that they have manned a Tree Commission table at the Wednesday night Farmers market. They wanted the Council to know that someone stopped by to specifically commend the Municipality for their beautiful plantings this summer. Sheri Luedtke also reported that there are still several potted trees left from Arbor Day and she will continue to try to give them away at the Market.
4. Noah Werning and his mother, Valerie Werning, reported to the Tree Commission and presented the following series of handouts showing the progress he has made toward his Eagle Scout project.
 - (a) A Tree Map with trees planted along the bike path. This map needs to be trued by a Tree Commissioner.
 - (b) A list of the scientific names of the trees to be labeled. Again, this will be checked by Elliot Tramer.
 - (c) Three options for posts to support signage were presented. The Home Depot option at \$8.17 seemed the most reasonable.
 - (d) An aluminum sign from "Next Day Sign" was priced at \$8.00. It has our Whitehouse logo, the tree's scientific name, and a QRL to link the reader to our website for information.
 - (e) An example of one tree's website information sheet with standard tree facts and interesting information such as the tree's ecological importance, historical importance and 'did you know'.

A discussion ensued with a decision to explore whether Home Depot might donate materials; use an angled top to the wooden posts; make sure screw holes are in the aluminum signs; and used cement in the holes to securely anchor the posts.

5. Tree Inventory was updated by Mark Thomas. Two Callery Pears were taken down in the Village Meadows and one dead tree on Toledo Street will be taken down.
6. Sheri Luedtke will be adding Arbor Day Bulletins to the Forms and Docs cabinet, as well as Noah Werner's Eagle Scout proposal and project handouts.

New Business

1. Mark Thomas reported on the Fall tree planting schedule. Primarily, trees that have been removed will be replaced and new plantings are planned for new developments (trees paid for by the developers).
2. Sheri Luedtke inquired whether all the Silva Cells have been placed in the Downtown area. Mark reported that more Silva Cells were yet to be installed on the west side of Providence Street up to Veterans Park and in front of the Whitehouse Inn. Sheri would like to have pictures for our 2019 Growth Award application. Sheri Luedtke will contact Steve Pilcher for further installation time lines. Stephanie Miller, the regional Urban Forester, wants to be here to see installation and to get pictures to encourage other communities to follow our lead.
3. Sheri Luedtke reported that she is in contact with Stephanie Miller who will meet with Tree Commissioners as we survey the cemeteries. Sheri will suggest meeting with Stephanie on September 9th or 23rd.
4. Elliot Tramer reported that he has contacted Todd Crail about the Invasive Species Removal Project around the Quarry this fall. Todd's teaching assistant, Madison Myers, will be coordinating UT student volunteers. Sheri will contact the Nature Conservancy to borrow their "dabbers"; the Metroparks for herbicide and brush removal; and buy pizza. A good time for this project would be at the end of September.
5. Elliot Tramer reported that Amy Stone, our Lucas County Ohio State Extension agent, noticed bag worms on the oak trees at the round-about on Rte. 64 at Finzel. Amy recommended waiting until May/June to treat these trees. An OSU Extension Bulletin is appended.
6. Elliot Tramer presented a rough draft of a Tree Commission Strategic Plan. Discussion ensued and Elliot will update and email the Tree Commission members the revised document for further discussion. We would like to approve a Strategic Plan at the September meeting.
7. Amy Schultz reported that she has received a copy of the Tree Commission's Master Plan from Janet Traub and is currently on her computer. She will print off a hard copy and place it in the Forms and Docs cabinet.
8. Elliot Tramer mentioned an article from Science News titled "Planting forests can buy time to fight climate change." The article stresses the importance of re-foresting tree-friendly areas, such as urban forests, as a means of combatting climate change.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. (moved by Elliot Tramer, second by Amy Schultz)

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Manzey

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Ohio State University Extension

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Bagworm and Its Control

D.J. Shetlar

The common bagworm, *Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis* (Haworth), is an interesting caterpillar. The most commonly observed form of this pest is the spindle-shaped silk bag camouflaged with bits of foliage, bark, and other debris. Completed bags range from 1½ to 2½ inches long. The larva within the bag is brown or tan, mottled with black, and the bee-like adult males have clear wings and fur-covered bodies. The females remain larva-like and do not emerge from the bag. The larva may stick its head and front legs out of the top of the bag to feed and move. When disturbed, the larva immediately pulls its head into the bag and holds the opening closed. Mature larvae may stay on their host plant or drag their bags some distance before firmly attaching the bag for transformation into the adult stage.

The bagworm occurs in the eastern United States from New England to Nebraska and south through Texas. The larvae seem to prefer arborvitae and red cedar but many other conifers and deciduous trees are attacked. These include pine, spruce, cypress, juniper, willow, black locust, sycamore, apple, maple, elm, poplar, oak, and birch.

A relative of the bagworm is the grass bagworm. This tiny caterpillar feeds on grasses and makes one-inch long silk bags with pieces of grass attached. When the grass bagworms pupate, the larvae may attach their bags to fences or the sides of buildings. No damage is done to the turf.

Types of Damage

Bagworm females cannot fly and local populations can build rapidly when established on preferred hosts, especially arborvitae, cedar, and juniper. Crowded larvae may eat the buds on these conifers causing branch dieback and



Nearly mature bagworm larva crawling on branch.

open, dead areas. Excessive defoliation of these conifers may cause entire plant death during the following season. Moderate defoliation is unsightly. This pest rarely builds up large populations in forested areas.

The mature larvae usually attach their bags to a branch by wrapping extra silk, which does not decay rapidly. This band of silk may girdle the branch as it grows, resulting in dead branches several years later. Be sure to cut off this silk band when removing bags from a plant.

Life Cycle and Habits

Bagworms have a single generation per year and overwinter as eggs inside the female bag. There may be 300–1,000 eggs in a bag. The eggs delay hatching until late May or early June. As they hatch, the small blackish larvae crawl out the bottom of the bag and



Mature bagworm bags attached to a juniper branch.

spin down on a strand of silk. These larvae on a string are often picked up by the wind and ballooned to nearby plants. When a suitable host plant is found the young larva immediately begins to form a new bag over its body. This bag is only about 1/8 inch long and is soon covered with sawdust-like fecal pellets.

As the larva feeds and grows it enlarges the bag and begins to incorporate bits and pieces of plant material. By mid-August, the larvae are mature and they often move to a sturdy branch or other structure where they attach the bag firmly with a strong band of silk. The larvae orient themselves with their heads down and pupate. The female pupa looks much like the larva while the male forms characteristic wing pads and other adult-like structures. Within four weeks the males emerge and actively fly about in search of females. Mature females call by releasing a sex attractant pheromone. After mating, the female literally mummifies around the egg mass, which remains in place until the next spring.

Control Measures

Bagworms are difficult to control because they are often unnoticed until mature. Mature larvae will often pupate early if they detect pesticides on the plant foliage. Though there are a few known parasites and predators, they are often not adequate in urban habitats.

Option 1: Cultural Control—Mechanical Hand

Picking. If the bags are few in number and easily reached they may be picked off the plant and squashed. This can be done easily in the late fall when deciduous foliage has been dropped or the bits of plant material on the bags turn brown and can be easily located on evergreens. Be sure to cut the attachment silk band so that the branch will not be girdled in the future.

Option 2: Biological Control—Use the Bacterial

Spray Bt. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) is effective against bagworms if it is used against young larvae. Applications should be made at the end of June after all the eggs have hatched and the larvae are through ballooning.

Option 3: Chemical Control—Insecticide Sprays. Stomach insecticides are very useful for control of bagworms. Remember that the plant foliage is to be thoroughly covered because the larvae are protected from contact by being in the silk bag. Generally, pyrethroid insecticides are selected (these generally have names that end in "-thrin") for larval control as they provide quick knock-down of small to large larvae.

Option 4: Chemical Control—Timed Sprays Using Degree-Day Emergence. Using a base temperature of 14.4 degrees C (57.9 degrees F) the median first emergence is 380 DD base 14.4 degrees C (716 DD degrees F) and the median last emergence is 572 DD base 14.4 degrees C (1062 DD degrees F). Allow for an extra week of ballooning after the last emergence mark has been reached before applying Bt or an insecticide. A less precise degree-day model uses a 50 degrees F base which calculates last emergence around 900 DD units.



A grass bagworm larva crawling on a grass blade.

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. Due to constantly changing labels and product registration, some of the recommendations given in this writing may no longer be legal by the time you read them. If any information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned, nor is criticism meant for products not mentioned. The author, The Ohio State University, and Ohio State University Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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