

Browntail Moth Winter Web Warning - from Ken and Marnie Crowell about what you missed...

This past weekend IHT sponsored a work party at Scotts Landing to learn about control for browntail moths. Allison Kanoti, Forest Entomologist, Maine Forest Service, DACF, and Karla Boyd, MS Student, University of Maine, Orono led this informative and hands on learning experience. If you have hardwoods on your property -especially oaks, apples, hawthorns, roses, or cherries— you will want to inspect them for winter webs ASAP, before the leaf buds open and the caterpillars become active.



Boyd and Kanoti- note the warning about frequent stops. That could be you once you learn to look for the webs! And you will want to get out your nippers and pole saw as the overwintering webs are usually high up in the tree.



You can see the webs on the TIPS of the branches. Often the silky WHITE of the webs is quite visible. The old leaves may be visibly skeletonized. Inside the folded leaves are colonies of 25-400 caterpillars that do not yet have the irritating brown hairs. This is the time to get them!

At Mariners' Memorial Park, fortunately we found very few webs; but we marked with orange tape the Dr. Tennis memorial tree on the left side of the road on the way into the parking lot and we marked another on a hawthorn on the left by the shore at the boat launch. Take a look before May when we will remove the webs so we won't have the caterpillars shedding their irritating hairs. Here are the links to the PDF for the booklet which tells you all about the issues and why we all ought to care here on Deer Isle.

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/browntail_moth_info.htm

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/documents/browntail_moth_brochure.pdf