



THE MOUNTAIN MEMO

VOL. 4, NO. 1

MAR 1988

DOGWOOD AND/OR REDBUD?

One thing missing on our mountain is a profusion of W. Virginia's state tree, the Redbud (Judas Tree) and the Dogwood. Because buying young trees for transplantation can be quite costly, the Board decided to look into the cost of buying in bulk. To this end, Gerri Suznevich has looked into the matter and has found the following to be the best bargain:

1. White Dogwood: Grows to 40 feet. Dense, lustrous, green foliage, turning bright scarlet in the fall. Clusters of white flowers up to 5 inches in diameter bloom in late May, giving way to bright red berries in clusters in the fall.

1 yr. seedlings, 4"-8": 50 @ \$27.00

2. Eastern Redbud: Small, pinkish-purple flowers, early spring. Large, dark green heart-shaped leaves. Height: 20 feet; Spread: 12 feet.

2 yr. seedlings 18 - 24" 50 @ 58.00

If you are interested in purchasing seedlings for your property, please contact Gerri at (301) 963-2170. For each lot of 50 seedlings ordered, the individual cost to property owners will be .54 ea. for dogwood, and \$1.16 ea. for redbud. There is the possibility that the cost per seedling will be even less, should the total orders given to Gerri amount to 100 or more. Gerri can fill you in on the details when you call her. Since the spring planting season is almost here, please call her right away so that you can get your order (prepaid) to her within the next two weeks (by March 15).

SECURITY NOTES

On April 10, new locks will be installed on the gates. A new key will be mailed to each property owner on March 18.

To avoid possible problems, you should take both your "old" and "new" keys to the mountain during the initial replacement period. Once you are sure the old key is no longer needed, discard it. If you do not receive a key by March 25 (or if you want additional information), please contact me at 301-437-4096.

Ken Kisting
Security Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

The lots that are now delinquent are listed below. The amount listed includes a \$5.00 late fee. If these payments are not received by March 31 a notice of lien will be placed on their property at the Morgan County courthouse on April 4.

LOT NO.	DELINQUENT FEE
A-4	\$30.00
A-7	30.00
B-4	55.00
B-5	55.00
B-7	55.00
B-8	55.00
B-10	55.00
C-18	30.00
C-23	55.00
D-8	55.00
D-18	55.00
D-21	55.00

If there is any difficulty making the payment please call me and I will be happy to make payment arrangements with you. There will be no further notices. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Shirley DePaolis
Treasurer



AT LAST, WE HAVE C&P SERVICE

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Ted DePaolis

Security Committee
Ken Kisling

Events Committee
K. Roach

THE MOUNTAIN MEMO is published four times a year (March, June, Sept and Dec) and is the Cacapon Highlands Property Owners official newsletter. All material for publication must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

The service that will be offered will be Berkeley Springs. This is the C&P rate class 2 (R/C2) in West Virginia. This means a call to Berkeley Springs is a local call. If you choose the economy service the call will cost you 10 cents on top of your monthly bill.

At this time, there is no scheduled construction for our area. It may help to expedite the construction if you call in to request service as soon as possible.

The following is a schedule of rates for service on the mountain:

Flat Rate-	32.53/mo. for unlimited local calls
Message Rate-	22.38/mo. for 45 local calls/mo.
Economy Rate-	18.33/mo. plus 10 cents/local call

Touchtone- 1.25/mo.

Wire Maint. fee .50/mo.

Guard. Plan 2.00/mo.

Basic Hookup 47.00 this only brings service to the cabin. Additional labor for jack installation is based upon a 15 min. rate. The first 15 min. is 24.75 and each additional 15 min. is 14.40. (normal jack installation is 30 min.)

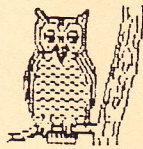
For your information the engineer in charge of the Cacapon service installation is Mr. Tim Neeley.

Here is the way for you to initiate your telephone service on the mountain. Call the C&P Service center, call this number collect it takes a little while to get the service order completed. Call Collect 301-797-2200.

They will ask the following:

1. Name (For the Berkeley Springs phonebook)
2. Billing Address
3. Daytime phone
4. Service location (Cacapon Highlands Lot number)
5. Type of Service (Flat rate, msg. rate, Econ,)
6. Touchtone or Pulse
7. Wire Maint./Guardian Plan (y/n)
8. Jack installation ?

When you have supplied all the requested information, you will be given an order number. This number you will need to know if you want to find out any information about your installation in the future. You will also receive a tentative phone number. Then all you have to do is wait for the service.



THE GYPSY MOTH AND THE HOME OWNER

Excerpted from The U of M Cooperative Extension Service Fact Sheet 242

The gypsy moth caterpillar is currently the most serious threat to oak forests in the United States. Defoliation usually occurs where oaks are the most abundant trees. If you have oak trees on your property, gypsy moths pose a threat to the beauty and value of your land. When a heavy infestation occurs in a populated area, the numerous, wandering caterpillars become a nuisance to people also. The following information will provide you as a concerned citizen with details about the identification, habits and control of the gypsy moth.

Eggs

Adult female moths cannot fly so they crawl about to lay their eggs. The eggs may be found on the undersides of branches, as well as on the ground under stones and boards. Each egg mass is covered with fine yellow hairs from the females abdomen which turn tan, and then almost gray. The entire, felt-like, oval mass can be as large as 40 mm (1-1/2 inches) long and 20 mm (3/4 inch) wide, and contain about 500 eggs.

Young Caterpillars (or larvae)

The newly hatched caterpillars are only 1 mm (1/16 inch) long and mostly black. The larvae of the first caterpillar stage crawl into the tops of the trees where they are seldom seen. In trees where they are overcrowded, some larvae spin a silk thread and hang from it until the wind carries them away. This "ballooning" is one way gypsy moths spread. After feeding a short time, the caterpillars shed their skins and grow to about 10 mm (3/8 inch) in length. The second stage is mostly black but has a visible narrow line of orange marks down the back. The third stage is about 15 mm (5/8 inch) long and looks like the second one except that it has 10 pairs of blue spots down the back. The second and third-stage caterpillars also feed during the daytime in the tops of trees. During most of May the caterpillars are small, not quite half grown. The feeding damage looks like a "shothole" but is not detectable from the ground. This is unfortunate since this is the best time to spray trees for excellent gypsy moth control.

Older Caterpillars

Important changes occur in habits and appearance of the fourth-stage caterpillars. They are about 25 mm (1 inch) long after they shed their skins. The first five pairs of blue dots, which are really raised humps or tubercles on the back of the caterpillar, remain blue but the last five pairs turn brick red. Rather than feed during the day the fourth-stage caterpillars rest and only feed at night. In the daytime, they hide on the trunk in shaded areas. In large populations not all caterpillars find resting places in trees. Some crawl down the trunk at dawn and find hiding places on the ground. At dusk



cont. from pg.3

they migrate back up the tree to feed all night. This activity usually begins in late May. In June, the caterpillars begin eating entire leaves and leaf loss (defoliation) becomes evident when large numbers are feeding. The fourth-stage is usually the first one noticed by homeowners.

Male caterpillars have only five stages while females have six. These last stages are the largest. The female can grow to about 65 mm (2-1/2 inches) in length. Both stages also add another pair of tubercles, making a total of five blue pairs and six red pairs. These last stages feed voraciously in June and are responsible for most of the leaf loss. Beginning in late June, these large caterpillars crawl away from defoliated trees by the thousands. At this time they can be searching for more food or for hiding places in which to change into the pupal or resting form. This searching activity takes them up house foundations, on decks, lawn furniture, campers, trailers, air conditioners, sheds and sometimes into houses which are not tight enough to keep them out. This activity can continue to be a nuisance until early July, and it causes much annoyance to homeowners.

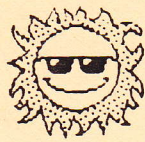
Pupa

When a suitable protective place is found, the long, hairy caterpillar transforms into a smooth, teardrop shaped, dark brown, motionless pupa about 15 to 28 mm (up to 1 inch) in length. Pupae can be found wedged alone or in groups in bark crevices. When these preferred places are filled, others wind up at the siding overhang just above the house foundation, around door frames, in wood piles and under other objects in the yard. Pupae and egg masses attached to cars and trailers are transported to other parts of the country- perhaps to areas where they can begin new infestations. Hitchhiking is the most common way the gypsy moth has spread in the United States.

Adult Moths

These emerge from pupal cases from late June to late July. Female and male moths differ in habits and appearance. Female moths have wings but cannot fly. Their wings are white with small dark marks along the front edge and tips. These marks can be rubbed off from flopping about. With wings outspread, female moths measure up to 50 mm (2 inches) from tip to tip. Few moths this size have white wings. Their enlarged abdomens are covered with light yellow hairs and no markings. Only one common moth in Maryland is similar, but it has distinct black dots on a bright yellow abdomen. Since male gypsy moths are brown with numerous black markings they can be confused with many other moths. The day-flying male moths are attracted to the female's sex odor(pheromone). In response to this odor they often fly miles from where they develop as caterpillars. Identification of male gypsy moths is useful only to entomologists. Neither sex of the adult moths eat leaves. Adults live a short while, during which they mate and the female deposits the egg mass.

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Advice to Citizens

While moth larvae will eat leaves of many trees, oak is their preferred food. Deciduous trees usually can tolerate up to 50% defoliation without serious effects. Trees like oaks often can be completely defoliated in one season and not be killed. They usually grow new leaves by the end of summer. Defoliation for several years in a row, however, can be fatal.

Control with Insecticides

The cheapest, easiest and most effective control is to spray your trees with an EPA approved insecticide.

If you are unable to spray your tree tops, you can hire a professional arborist. They can use highly effective insecticides unavailable to homeowners such as Dimilin W-25 (diflubenzuron) and Turcam (bendiocarb).

The cheapest and most effective way to spray large numbers of tall trees is from an aircraft. Aerial applicators are available for hire, but this approach is best suited to tracts of land larger than 5 to 10 acres. Cooperative aerial suppression programs are conducted by the U.S. Forest Service, the State Department of Agriculture, and your county government.

There are early warning signs of infestation because most populations build slowly over the years. Therefore egg masses and wandering caterpillars are usually seen the year before serious defoliation occurs. Normally, medium-sized shade trees preferred by gypsy moths are not seriously defoliated unless there are more than 10 visible egg masses on each. When this number of egg masses is seen, insecticides can be sprayed the following May to prevent serious defoliation.

FROM THE TOP

Our new fiscal year is off and running. I chaired my first Board meeting on January 30, getting my first experience in trying to fill Shirley DePaolis' shoes. (Boy, does she have big feet!) Fortunately, my first steps were made rather easy: except for the ownership question of Firetower Road, I was left with no old business. The legal work required in paving the way for our telephone service has been settled, and C & P is now taking orders. (See details elsewhere in this letter.)

Back in September, the Board voted to repair portions of Hill Road and Ridge Road. We hope to have this work done shortly. You will also notice elsewhere in this issue that the gates will soon be rekeyed. Please take notice!

Our new business this date is the Gypsy Moth whose presence has been threatening our area for quite a few years now. Upon reading that the State of West Virginia was planning to spray for Gypsy Moths, I looked into the matter and found that our property had been sprayed last year and that, as a result, there is little evidence of this very serious pest now present in our area. However, I was told by the State Agriculture Representative that spraying is effective only for a two to three year period and that it may be necessary to spray next year. Unfortunately, this will not again be a free service, as West Virginia does not have the funds needed to keep up with pest control for the entire state. The Board discussed this issue at length, and prepared to tackle it, should the need arise, by including in our budget for the coming year, funds for spraying. I will be keeping in

touch with the West Virginia Agriculture Extension Service to stay abreast of this situation. In the meantime, I would advise property owners to educate themselves regarding the Gypsy Moth and to be on the lookout for its presence on their property. Our Editor, Tom Thompson, has been good enough to type up some information on this for you, and it too appears in this issue.

Kay Roach is busy doing coordination work for our annual meeting which is tentatively scheduled for May 14. You should be hearing something on this in the near future, but may want to mark your calendars in advance.

I hope I will see you there!

Carol Thompson

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Forwarding and Address
Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS

