

Important News from the Conservation Commission

NOW IS THE TIME. . .

. . . to protect a select number of your most cherished and valuable trees from winter moths. A quick-and-easy, non-toxic way is to band the chosen trees with sticky stuff and prevent female moths from climbing the trees to lay their eggs that will hatch out next spring. Time is of the essence, as their reproductive period is now, from November to January. Band them, and watch the moths get stuck!

Bands or band kits are available from local nurseries, hardware and big-box stores, or online (try searching for “pre-coated sticky tree bands for winter moths” or “sticky tree band kits for winter moths”). Online may be the best bet for finding availability. See below for one particular product.

In heavy infestations, multiple bands per tree are recommended, as they can become saturated. For trees with deeply furrowed bark, a layer of quilted material or foam tape applied first around the tree may be necessary, to prevent the moths from crawling underneath the tape. The following product turned up in a search and might eliminate that need:

<https://polymertape.com/products/insect-barrier-tape>. (If you try this, please report back through our Google Group, with results!)

If you prefer to do it yourself, the Harpswell Conservation Commission has produced a bulletin with various approaches:

chrome-extension://efaidnbnmnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.harpswell.maine.gov/vertical/Sites/%7B3F690C92-5208-4D62-BAFB-2559293F6CAE%7D/uploads/WMBarrierHowTo_band.pdf. (Note: This is an older publication and sources may be outdated and links may not work.)

The best news will be found in the soon-to-come December issue of *The Arrowsic Arrow*, where the most amazing story of how a parasitic fly, the size of a house fly, may provide the ultimate answer to the winter moth problem—with just a little patience on our part. *Keep an eye out!*



Male winter moth resting on the side of a house at night.



Female winter moth found on the trunk of a tree. Note the tiny, vestigial wings; female winter moths cannot fly.