

**A Chronology of Government Bodies
Which Managed the Commonwealth's
Gypsy Moth Problem**

- Note: The gypsy moth (*ocneria dispar* or *Porthetria dispar*), an European pest, was introduced into the United States from Europe, by E. Leopold Trouvelot, and accidentally released while Trouvelot was conducting silk worm experiments at his Medford, MA home in 1868 or 1869
- 1890: St 1890, c 95: The **Gypsy Moth Commission [1890-1891]** is established to "provide and carry into execution all possible and reasonable measures to prevent the spreading and to secure the extermination of the *ocneria dispar* or gypsy moth"
- 1891: St 1891, c 210: Establishes a **Gypsy Moth Committee [1891-1904]** under the State Board of Agriculture, and repeals St 1890, c 95
- 1894: State Board of Agriculture reorganizes into Committees, and the Gypsy Moth Committee is renamed the "Committee on the Gypsy Moth, Insects and Birds"; though former name is also continuously used
- 1896: Gypsy Moth Committee publishes *The Gypsy Moth, Porthetria dispar (Linn.): A Report of the Work of Destroying the Insect in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Together with an Account of Its History and Habits in Both Massachusetts and Europe*, by Edward H. Forbush and Charles H. Fernald, State Board of Agriculture
- 1898: St 1898, c 544: authorizes the State Board of Agriculture to take charge of exterminating the brown tail moth
- 1901: St 1901, c 378: the **Gypsy Moth Committee** is no longer funded, and directs the disposal of the property of the **Gypsy Moth Committee** to other state agencies, or through public auction; the **Metropolitan Park Commission [1893-1919]** acquires some of the Committee's "goods and materials" (House No. 252, January 1902); **Gypsy Moth Committee** remains intact, within the State Board of Agriculture; see House No. 252 (January 1902), and House No. 259 (January 1903) for an annual report "on the Work of Extermination of the Gypsy Moth"
- 1902: House No. 252 (January 1902): "Report of the State Board of Agriculture on the Work of Extermination of the Gypsy Moth, January 1902": "The records of experiments and work accomplished since 1891, maps showing the infested areas, and other documents of permanent value, are preserved in the office of the secretary of the Board." (pp. 5, 11)
- 1904: St 1904, c 409: Establishes the **Office of State Forester [1904-1919]** within the State Board of Agriculture "to promote the perpetuation, extension and proper management of the forest lands of the Commonwealth, both public and private"
- 1905: St 1905, c 381: Establishes the **Office of the Superintendent for Suppressing the Gypsy and Brown Tail Moths [1905-1909]**; repeals St 1891, c 210
- 1909: St 1909, c 263: Transfers the **Office of the Superintendent for Suppressing the Gypsy and Brown Tail Moths [1905-1909]** to the Department of State Forester (clarified by St 1948, c 660)
- 1914: St 1914, c 340: authorizes the **Metropolitan Park Commission [1893-1919]** to "destroy brown tail moths, gypsy moths and other insect pests on lands near or adjoining lands" under the Commission's care and control
- 1919: St 1919, c 350, ss 39-44: Establishes the **Department of Conservation [1919-1953]**, and merged into one agency the **Office of the State Forester [1904-1919]**, the **State Forest Commission [1914-1919]**, the **Commission on Fisheries and Game [1902-1919; function dates to 1866]**, and the **Department of Animal Industry [1912-1919; function dates to 1860]**. The Department of Conservation is organized into three divisions: Forestry, Fisheries and Game, and Animal Industry; the Superintendent of Moth Work is within the Division of Forestry
- 1948: St. 1948, c 660: Chief Moth Superintendent and the Bureau of Moth Work reorganized, and reporting directly to the Commissioner, and not to the Director of Division of Forestry; in effect, 1948-1953

- 1953: St 1953, c 631: **Department of Conservation [1919-1953]** renamed the **Department of Natural Resources [1953-1975]**; the Department of Natural Resources is organized into three divisions: Division of Forests and Parks; Division of Marine Fisheries; Division of Law Enforcement; a fourth division, Division of Fisheries and Game shall exist with the Department but not under the supervision and control of it, but through the Fish and Game Board (s 7); within the Division of Forests and Parks, there shall be a Bureau of Insect Pest Control (Chief Moth Superintendent); Bureau of Forest Fire Control (Chief Fire Warden); Bureau of Forest Development (Chief Forester); Bureau of Recreation (Chief of Recreation) (s 4B)
- 1956: St 1956, c 657: increases function of Bureau of Insect Pest Control within Division of Forests and Parks; also removes the word 'Moth' from name of the Chief Superintendent
- 1974/75: St 1974, c 806: **Department of Natural Resources [1953-1975]** renamed the **Department of Environmental Management [1975-2003]**; except that the DNR Division of Fisheries and Game, and Division of Marine Fisheries were transferred to the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife & Recreational Vehicles; the Water Resources Commission (but not its Division of Water Resources), the Division of Water Pollution Control, and the Division of Mineral Resources were transferred to the Department of Environmental Quality Engineering; the Division of Law Enforcement and the Division of Conservation Services were transferred to the Office of the Secretary of Environmental Affairs; the Bureau of Solid Waste Disposal was transferred from the Department of Public Works to DEM; subsequently, St 1983, c 289, c 60, and St 1983, c 589, s 18 transfers the Water Resources Commission to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs; St 1983, c 589, s 16 clarifies St 1974, c 806 as it relates to DEM
- 1985: St 1985, c 765: Renames the Bureau of Insect Pest Control in the Division of Forests and Parks to Bureau of Shade Tree Management and Pest Control; function is also increased
- 2003: St 2003, c 41: Merges the **Department of Environmental Management [1975-2003]** and the **Metropolitan District Commission [1919-2003]** into a new agency called the **Department of Conservation and Recreation [2003-present]**. DCR shall have three divisions: **Division of State Parks and Recreation [2003-present]** representing the DEM Division of Forests and Parks [dating from 1898]; the **Division of Urban Parks and Recreation [2003-present]** representing the MDC Metropolitan Park System [dating from 1893]; and the **Division of Water Supply Protection [2003-present]** within which there are two bureaus: Bureau of Water Resources representing the **DEM Office of Water Resources [1956-2003]** and the Bureau of Watershed Management representing the **MDC Division of Watershed Management [1985-2003]** (see also St 2003, c 26, s 698, and many other sections)

Leadership Staff and Offices, 1909-current

Superintendent, Moth Work / Insect Pest Control / Forest Health, 1909-current

Assistant Forester for Moth Work, 1909-1919

Superintendent, Moth Work, 1919-1926

Chief Moth Suppressor/Superintendent, 1926-1953

Chief Moth Superintendent, 1953-1956

Chief Superintendent, Bureau of Insect Pest Control, 1956-1985

Chief, Shade Tree Management and Pest Control, 1986-1996

Program Supervisor, Forest Health, 1996-current

Bureau of Shade Tree Management & Pest Control merges into Bureau of Forestry, 1996 (St 1985, c 38, ss37-40)

Renamed Forest Health, 1996? (2000?)

Shade Tree Management separated, and renamed Urban Forestry

Leon Howard Worthley, Assistant Forester in charge of Moth Work, 1909-1912

George A. Smith, 1919-1936; Assistant Forester in charge of Moth Work, 1912-1919

Harold B. Ramsey, 1936-1942

Harold L. Ramsey (son), 1942-1958/59

Charles S. Hood, 1958/59-1987/88

James M. MacArthur, 1987-1993

Charles M. Burnham, 1993-2010

Kenneth A. Gooch, 2010-present