

The SHORE LINE

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Noel Yancey - Editor

Joan Dawson - Associate Editor

Faced with the likelihood of another devastating infestation by tussock moths in early summer, the town plans to attack the pests with an aerial spraying program which has been tentatively set for May 1 and 2. A Kinston firm which uses a helicopter for spraying has been retained to do the job which will cost the town from \$5,000 to \$6,000, Mayor Ken Hanan told the Board of Commissioners at its April 9 meeting.

PKS DECLARES
WAR ON MOTHS

Art Browne, a member of a committee which planned the campaign against the tussock moth, assured those attending that the chemical to be used in the spraying, BT, is a specific against the moth but is harmless to human beings, pets, vegetation or automobile finishes or anything else. He said the State Forestry Service is hopeful that the spraying plus tiny wasps which prey on the moths will bring their outbreaks under control. These wasps already have been introduced.

For the past three summers the moths in the caterpillar stage have virtually defoliated trees and other vegetation in the heavily-infested area which extends generally from Knollwood Drive to the western city limit on the south side of Salter Path Road -- although there are a few infested areas between the road and the canal. One of these is from Mimosa Boulevard to the east for a few hundred yards. Another is in Beacon's Reach. The aerial spraying will be confined to these infested areas which measure about 200 acres.

Most PKS residents have encountered the pests during visits to the Situm in late May or June during the past three summers. They infested the walkway to the Situm by the thousands.

"Tussock moths are devastating pests," said Browne who lives in the heart of the infested area. "They denude live oak trees, and after they finish with them, they go after anything else available -- azaleas, camelias, even vegetable gardens.

Browne said that if the weather or the moths do not cooperate for the spraying on May 1 or 2 then it will likely be done around the middle of the following week.

TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES, N.C.
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Pine Knoll Shores-MHC, N. C.
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m/m Jack Goldstein
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