



**MERRILL
WISCONSIN**
City Of Parks

CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

1100 Marc Dr. • Merrill, Wisconsin • 54452
Rec. Dept. Telephone (715) 536-7313 • Smith Center Telephone (715) 536-6187
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June Meeting Notice

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on **Wednesday, June 4th, 2014, at 4:15 p.m.**, in the basement conference room at the Merrill City Hall.

Voting members of the Commission: Dave Sukow, Don Heyel, Ralph Sturm, Brian Artac, Melissa Schroeder, Michael Willman, and Dorwin Harris.

The following items will be included on the agenda:

1. Approve minutes from previous meeting.
2. Approve claims.
3. Public Comment
4. Begin discussion on Outdoor Pool at Stange Park
5. Review/approve 2014 funded Capital Project for Smith Center (locker room heaters)
6. Discuss Policy regarding Park Rentals by Non-Profit Organizations
7. Set date for next meeting
8. Public Comment
9. Adjournment

Submitted by,

Don Heyel, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

May 7, 2014

The Merrill Parks and Recreation Commission met on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 4:15 p.m. at the City Hall.

Members Present: Ralph Sturm, Dorwin Harris, Don Heyel, Melissa Schroeder, Dave Sukow and Mike Willman.

Members Excused Absent: Brian Artac

Department Staff Present: Dan Wendorf and Dawn Smith

Visitors: Dave Johnson, Kortney Pike and Cory McCorkle

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Willman, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

***Carried unanimously.

***Motion by Sukow, seconded by Schroeder, to approve the claims.
Sturm questioned how Lamers charge for trips. Wendorf stated that they charge by millage.

***Carried Unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was public comment. Cory McCorkle President Merrill Youth Hockey stated that Merrill Youth Hockey would like to resolve the contract between the City of Merrill and Merrill Youth Hockey. Cory stated that both the City and MYH can benefit from getting the contract resolved. Cory stated that if he is not allowed in closed session he would like to sit down with the commission and talk about the contract. Willman stated that he thought it would be appropriate to allow Cory McCorkle in closed session. It was agreed by the commission to allow Cory McCorkle into closed session by roll call. Willman also stated that he wanted to update the commission on a grant that the River Bend Trail wrote. Willman wanted to clarify because last meeting it was stated the grant was going to be \$390,000. Willman stated that the grant was written was for \$120,000 and the River Bend Trail would meet half that amount to do the area from Polk Street to Hwy 64 next year.

The next item on the agenda was to elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Park and Recreation Commission. Sukow nominated Mike Willman for Chairperson, Mike respectfully declined his nomination. Schroeder nominated Don Heyel for Chairperson. Harris seconded the nomination for Heyel as Chairperson. Don Heyel nominated Harris for Vice Chairperson. Harris accepted. Sturm seconded the nomination. Carried.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Harris, to nominate Don Heyel as Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Heyel, seconded by Sturm, to nominate Dorwin Harris as Vice Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Commission.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was discussion and recommendation on location of future outdoor pool. Wendorf stated that a decision has to be made on location so that we are able to move forward with getting the new outdoor pool started. Wendorf stated that once a location is decided and approved a more specific drawing can be done and progress can be begin. Sturm questioned what the old bather load was in the old pool. Wendorf stated it was 250, with about 100 – 150 people attending regularly. New bather load would be 300, using the mid-range hybrid option.

***Motion made by Sukow, seconded by Schroeder, to build the new pool at Stange Park, per public input on the pool location.

Willman stated that there was people at the first public hearing wanting the pool out at the MARC. Willman stated he felt that would be a better location for the pool and more people at the MARC would utilize it. Willman also suggested the vote to be taken on roll call vote.

Sukow – Stange
Heyel – Stange
Schroeder – Stange
Harris – Stange
Willman – MARC
Sturm – Stange

***Motion carried for the new pool to be placed at Stange Park.

The next item on the agenda was discussion on Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Grant with Fred Heider from NCWRPC. Fred Heider stated that he has been working with Wendorf and a committee on the bike pedestrian planning grant in the Merrill Community. Heider went over some of the concerns from the group and some ideas on resolving the concerns of the group. Heider stated that he would like to put a group together to do a walk/bike audit and send them out to some concerned locations and then discuss how to resolve or reroute around some of these concerned locations. The groups will consist of about 4 people per group and will be sent out during the peak hours of driving and when schools are dismissed. Locations that will be looked at is Scott and 1st, Center Ave. and 6th St. and the Bridge by the 3 way stop on Hwy 64. Heider will work with Wendorf on a date and time. When the observation is done Heider will report back to the Commission.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss bike route designation. Wendorf stated that there is money that was awarded in 2011 by the City Council to complete some bike lanes with signage and road stripping. Wendorf stated after the money was given the City Council did not approve the bike routes. After some discussion it was decided to change some of the routes in the downtown area. The map that was provided was changed by the Commission eliminates the bike route portion from Mill St. to Cleveland St.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow, to approve the Bike Route with changes made that the bike route does not pass Skippers in the downtown area.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was discuss potential Optimist Playground at Normal Park. Wendorf stated that the Optimist Club is putting the funding together to build a all ADA accessible playground at Normal Park. Wendorf stated the playground would be a great asset for

the park and visible for the public. Schroeder wondered if this would cause a problem for the Farmers Market. Wendorf stated it would not.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow, to give the Optimist their blessing on the new playground and to keep the commission updated.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss potential sale of “Ranger Station” property. City Administrator Dave Johnson stated he wanted this item on the agenda. Johnson stated that the city was approached by a business about selling the building. After looking into the deed the city can sell the building as long as there is not remodeling done on the front of the building. Johnson stated that it would be nice to put the building back on the tax roll. Wendorf stated that the only thing the building is used for is storage and the summer playground program and both can be relocated. Sukow questioned how the sale would take place. Johnson stated the sale can take place by a set price, public auction or sealed bids with the right to reject any bid, but the sale would have to be posted publically giving anyone option to bid. Schroeder questioned if it would effect the neighbors there. Johnson stated it would not.

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Sukow to make a public sale on the “Ranger Station” with an exceptional offer.

***Sukow, Harris, Heyel, Sturm, Schroeder, in favor of the sale, Willman voted no.

The next item on the agenda was monthly reports by Wendorf. Wendorf stated that a considerable donation was made to Lion’s Park by the Bierman Foundation. Wendorf stated the donation would allow for elimination of almost all capitol requests for many years. Sukow questioned Wendorf on the Ash Trees in town. Wendorf stated all the bad trees have been removed and as the trees deteriorate they are being removed and no Ash trees are being planted. Harris questioned if progress has been made on the parking lot at the MARC by the soccer fields. Wendorf stated there has not been any progress made. Harris stated that the grounds around the building need some repair as it is wet by the soccer building and also something has to be done with the bench that people are using as a bridge to get to the soccer fields. Harris stated someone is going to fall and get hurt. Wendorf stated that it is not a walking path through there and when they take the bench away that is being used as a bridge someone puts it back.

***Motion by Willman, seconded by Heyel to accept the monthly reports given by Director Wendorf.

***Carried Unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2014 at 4:15p.m., in the lower level in the conference room at City Hall.

Public Comment: None

***Motion by Schroeder, seconded by Willman to go into closed session allowing Corey McCorkle in closed session.

Willman – yes
Schroeder – yes
Sturm – yes

Harris – yes
Heyel – yes
Sukow - yes

***Motion by Schroeder, second by Heyel to move out of closed session.
***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Willman, second by Sukow to amend Hockey Contract language in section 4(1) to reflect closed session discussion.

***Carried Unanimously.

***Motion by Schroeder, second by Sukow to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

***Carried Unanimously.

Dawn Smith
Recording Secretary



CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

Smart Move

Memo

To: Park & Recreation Commissioners

From: Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director

Re: Outdoor Pool at Stange Park

Dear Commissioners,

Last week Wednesday, May 21st, I met with Becher Hoppe to begin discussions on the future outdoor pool to be located at Stange Park. This memo is intended to inform you of the processes we need to follow in the immediate future, in order to get ready for final design that we can use for fund raising. As you are all well aware, the Stange Park location comes with a host of hurdles that we need to climb.

The following four paragraphs are paraphrased from discussions with Becher Hoppe:

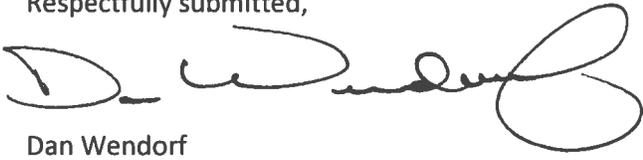
The next step in the process involves moving forward with the schematic design of Concept C at Stange Park. To verify feasibility of siting the future pool at the preferred site, a flood study is warranted. The flood study uses survey (topographic) data and water modeling to assess the impacts of the future pool on the flood zones. The project shall not impact the water surface elevation by more than 0.01'.

To understand the desired area (footprint) of the future pool and amenities so that it can be used in the flood study, schematic design of the current concept is needed. In doing so, the current sketches will be used as a basis to develop the schematic design of the building, pool, and associated features.

Additionally, now is the time to explore State Code requirements in more detail. This includes preliminary discussions with State reviewers relative to the pool code itself and construction of a pool in the desired location. This is important because it is atypical to construct a pool proximate to flood zones. Therefore, understanding the regulatory ramifications is well-advised in these early stages.

Architecturally we will move forward in a schematic design of the facility to meet the bather load of 350 occupants. We will show the footprint graphically with additional growth areas (slides and picnic area). We will prepare a graphic photo realistic image to assist in fundraising. The work completed on this phase will all be reusable if the need arises.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Wendorf'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill

May 27, 2014

Dan Wendorf
City of Merrill Parks and Rec
1100 Marc Drive
Merrill, WI 54452

Re: The Smith Center Equipment Replacement

Dear Dan,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal to replace the East and West Locker Room heating units at the Smith Center.

Provide all labor and materials to replace the following:

- (1) Reznor SCE-350 indoor separated combustion forced air furnace.
 - 24v controls.
 - Power vented.
 - Spark ignition.
 - Natural Gas
 - 409 Stainless Steel Heat Exchanger.
 - 409 Stainless Steel Burners.
 - 2 Stage Gas Valve(s).
 - Left hand controls (facing discharge).
 - 460/3/60 voltage.
 - 1 HP ODP Motor.
 - 750 rpm, 3010 CFM,0.34" ESP,0.37" TSP.
 - IEC Motor Starter.
 - End Cabinet Opening w/duct flange.
 - Filter Rack w/2" Throwaway Filters.
 - Vertical Vent Terminal Kit.
 - Adjustable Drive Blower w/Linked Belt.
 - US Certification to ANSI Standards.
- Provide all ductwork modifications.
- Provide all electrical modifications
- Provide all low voltage wiring modifications.
- Provide all gas piping modifications.

The Total price for the West Heat Replacement -----\$ 22,300.00

Provide all labor and materials to replace the following:

- (1) Reznor SCE-200 indoor separated combustion forced air furnace.
 - 24v controls.
 - Power vented.
 - Spark ignition.
 - Natural Gas
 - 409 Stainless Steel Heat Exchanger.

May 28, 2014
City of Merrill Parks and Rec

- 409 Stainless Steel Burners.
- 2 Stage Gas Valve(s).
- Left hand controls (facing discharge).
- 115/1/60 voltage.
- 1 HP ODP Motor.
- 750 rpm, 3010 CFM, 0.34" ESP, 0.37" TSP.
- IEC Motor Starter.
- End Cabinet Opening w/duct flange.
- Filter Rack w/2" Throwaway Filters.
- Vertical Vent Terminal Kit.
- Adjustable Drive Blower w/Linked Belt.
- US Certification to ANSI Standards.
- Provide all ductwork modifications.
- Provide all electrical modifications
- Provide all low voltage wiring modifications.
- Provide all gas piping modifications.

The Total price for the East Heat Replacement -----\$ 18,500.00
The Total for both units being replaced-----\$ 40,800.00

The Total price if both units are replaced at the same time-----\$ 37,800.00

This pricing does not include:

- Premium labor.
- Tax, if applicable.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our proposal. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

John Deering
Service Manager



merrill

Location. Nature. People.

Smart Move

CITY OF MERRILL

Parks & Recreation Dept. - Smith Center

June 2014 Parks & Recreation Directors Board Report

Parks: With the weather finally turning more seasonal we have been able to play some catch up on our tasks that we had typically had done over a month ago. It makes it especially difficult when everything occurs at the same time but we are fortunate to have a great crew and we have kept a pretty good handle on things. The grass is really starting to grow, which makes things a little more difficult but we have a few seasonal staffers that have arrived from college so we have been able to get them working hard right away. We have been having a few difficulties with the plumbing on our newly renovated restrooms at Ott's Park and as I am typing this we are having the lines televised by the Water Utility to see if they can see anything. If it is clear then we have to go back and work with the plumber who did the job for us, as we didn't have these issues before we made the improvements to those restrooms. We have also been dealing with a frozen pipe leading to the concession stand at Athletic and hope to have that up and running very soon. I think that should be resolved with the warm weather we have finally observed, as the ground there warms up. With the parks open and the weather getting nicer, we have also been dealing with some minor vandalism once again. Mostly breaking and denting garbage cans and a few benches in the river. I met with Becher Hoppe on May 21st to begin Pool discussion at Stange Park. Now that we have clear direction we were able to map out what has to happen in order to proceed. As you may recall, Stange Park is in the flood fringe so we need to do a Flood Study there before we can lay out any design. When this is done we then need to work on the permitting process to make sure the design will work with the information the flood study gives us, as the design must fit the property and the restrictions that come with the site. I hope to have a timeline and summary for you at meeting time that spells all of the procedures out for you. We will be taking delivery on our new mower this week, and the timing could not be any better as we need to get the new one to work right away. I have started the prep work on the other capital improvements in our park (Stange Shelter Roof and Riverside Sandblasting and Repainting). And hope to be ready to bid by mid-summer so that we can have it done right away when the parks start slowing down. We are going to be putting a culvert in the drainage area by the soccer fields and add a granite path over it that will lead from the new parking lot at the MARC. I will be working with the Street Department on the new parking lot area as soon as they have some time in the very near future.

Forestry: We had our Arbor Day/Tree City USA observation and tree planting on Wednesday, May 14th at the MARC. We planted 3 trees to honor the event and those trees were paid for by American Transmission Company. The Emerald Ash Borer topic will start coming up more often again, as it is the flight season for the adult beetles. With the flight season comes new findings on the traps so once again we need to cross our fingers and hope that we survive another season. Many of you may have observed evergreen species displaying brown tops that were exposed during our harsh winter. That is known as "Winter Dissection" and is attributed to extreme cold and dry air at the exposed needles. This is not

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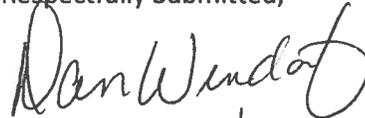
www.merrillparkandrec.com

very common and I have talked with our WDNR Forest Health Specialist and they are not very sure if the trees are going to bounce back or not. They are studying this and observing very closely. As you also may have observed, most of our trees are now starting to bud and leaf out. Trees are almost one month behind a normal year as well due to the unseasonably cold weather throughout spring. Most trees now are at least breaking buds and pushing leaves and should be at full leaf out within a week as the soil is finally starting to warm up enough and water and nutrients are once again flowing up the trees.

Recreation: The end of school and beginning of summer is approaching very quickly, and with that our registrations for our programs are going well. Our numbers are doing very well in most of our programs. Our bus trips are either full or nearing capacity which is very good. Our other programs are filling up very nicely so we are looking at a very good summer. The resident versus non-resident issue has been much better this year, and aside from a few questions it has been pretty seamless. Our summer playground numbers are a bit low, as they have been each of the past few years at this time. We have been seeing a lot of Playground registrations come in last minute each of the past few years and next year I would like to adjust the registration to encourage people to sign up earlier. I would like to have an incentive to sign up early and a cut-off date for registration so that we can plan accordingly.

Smith Center: After a very busy start to our dry floor season, we were able to finally catch up on some heavy cleaning throughout the arena. We didn't have any time at all after removing the ice to get the arena cleaned completely from top to bottom, but we are looking good now and ready for the next wave of dry floor events. We have hosted two open roller skating Friday nights and the numbers haven't been as high as I would like to see but I intend to stick with it, as I know there are still some kids that are finishing up traveling hockey that will be participating. This still has a tremendous amount of potential for us and we will continue working it until we get the numbers up. I have been working with Mechanical Incorporated on the capital improvements for the building (replacing both heaters that serve all of the locker rooms) and do have some prices to include for you and they are attached in your packets. We have a number of events that will be starting in June for dry floor events, and recreation programs that we are gearing up for.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Wendorf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Wendorf
Parks & Recreation Director
City of Merrill

Northern Wisconsin's Forest Insect & Disease Newsletter

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry

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Newsletter Information

You're Getting a New Forest Health Specialist in N.W. Wisconsin!

Paul Cigan plans on starting work as the new DNR forest health specialist for northwestern Wisconsin sometime in late April. He'll be based out of the Spooner ranger station. Like all of my counterparts, he'll be responsible for dealing with all things "forest health" on the non-federal land in his 9 counties. I'm really looking forward to helping Paul get started. He'll need some time to get up and running, but don't hesitate to let him know what you're challenged with in terms of forest health in northwestern Wisconsin. Please welcome him when you have the opportunity and use his help when you've got forest health problems.

Browning Conifers (not along roadways)

Hemlocks, Colorado blue spruces, Christmas plantation firs, and yews have *really* been browning quickly for the last several weeks. I first noticed this change perhaps in late February. The cause is...the cause is...[control+alt+delete]...ah that's better. I had to reboot by brain. It locked up after reading conflicting information from "reliable" sources. I guess my brain is a PC.



Figure 1: An eastern hemlock with winter injury. The section that was buried in the snow during the majority of the winter remains uninjured.

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You may have heard of winter drying, winter desiccation, winter burn, and winter scorch, but let's call this late winter browning "winter injury." Winter injury on conifers is needle damage caused by abiotic stress(es) occurring between late autumn and spring growth.

Research examining winter injury on red spruce strongly suggests winter *freeze* injury is primarily responsible for causing browning needles in the dormant season. In support of this, [Man et al. \(2013\)](#) summarize the issue beautifully: "Although desiccation has commonly been used to explain conifer needle and bud damage during the dormant season...a direct link has yet to be established." I will admit, I'm guilty of explaining this phenomenon in previous years as winter drying.

The concept with winter freeze injury is some conifer needles lose their cold hardiness during winter days with much solar radiation and very little wind. After sundown, Jack Frost quickly returns to the needle microclimate and kills the cold de-acclimated needle cells. This de-acclimatization can occur in mid-winter well before

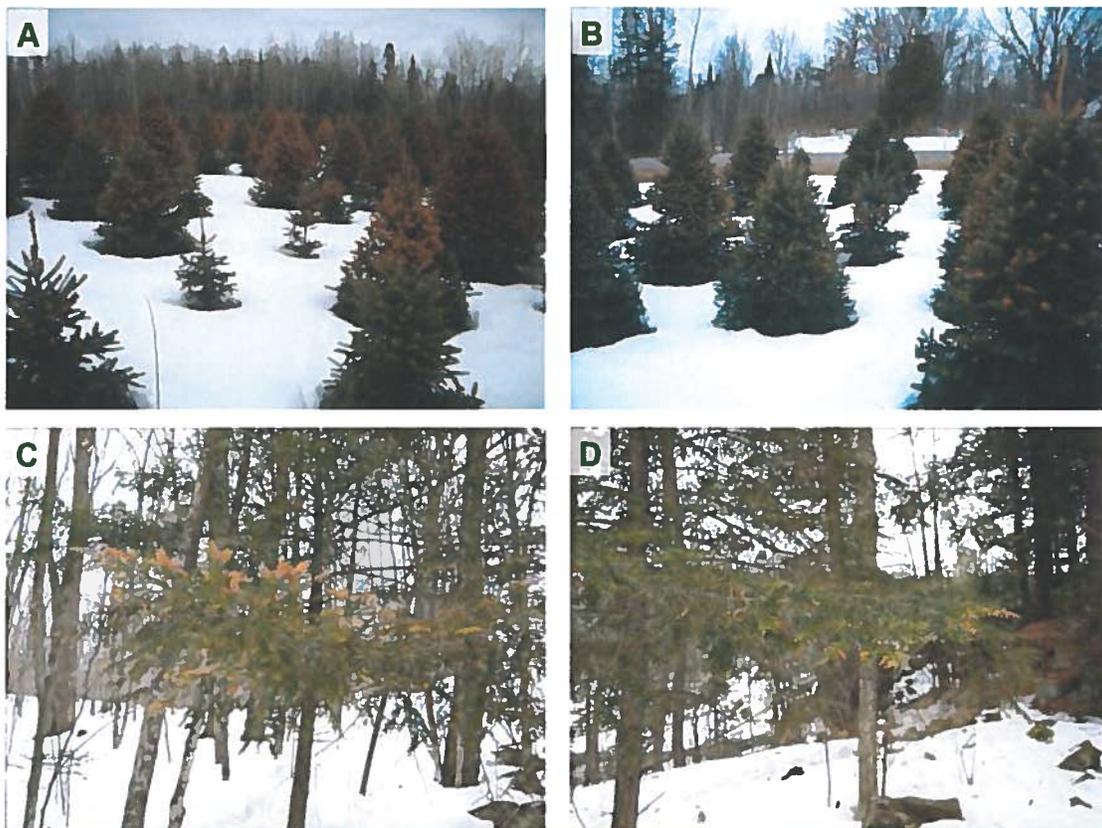


Figure 2: Winter injury on firs (unknown species) and eastern hemlocks in Lincoln Co. The symptom severity on the side of the crowns facing the sun (A and C) are greater than the symptoms on the north-facing crowns (B and D). Note also that only the most recently grown shoots are injured on the hemlocks. This is typical of winter injury.

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symptoms are obvious. It typically occurs on only the latest year of growth on the side of the crown facing the sun. Freeze-damaged cells likely lose water quicker than living cells, so late winter warm-ups dry out freeze-damage cells quickly and exacerbate symptoms.

What will be the impact? Let's wait and see. I suspect mortality will be non-existent as long as no silly sawfly eats all the new growth. Keep in mind that along roadways, salt damage compounds the impact of the apparent freeze injury, which makes those road-side trees more susceptible to additional stressors.

This Winter's Impact on Bugs

All the gypsy moth eggs I collected back in January from Vilas and Oneida County failed to hatch in my office. I suspect the hatch failure has something to do with our cold winter. From this extremely small sample, I'll make the bold prediction that gypsy moth will not cause any noticeable defoliation in 2014 in Wisconsin's northern 18 counties.

Other than gypsy moth egg mortality from our winter, I doubt we'll notice any drastic change in our current critter cadre in northern Wisconsin. After all, the ones that have caused significant damage as of late (twolined chestnut borer, eastern larch beetle, spruce budworm) are natives and laugh hysterically when we express our opinion that thirty below is cold.

Weatherspark.com is an excellent resource to efficiently check on extreme temperatures. From November through March in major populated areas across the northern 18 counties, it looks like Tomahawk came in with the coldest recorded winter low at -32°F , followed closely by Phillips and Merrill at -31°F . Most of these temperatures are recorded at places like airports and not frost pockets, so surely some low lying areas of the Northwoods reached below those temperatures.

The following list (next page) contains insects and *examples* of their *possible* supercooling temperatures. In no way is this list official. It is illustrative. Supercooling temperatures signify when freeze-intolerant insects freeze and die. These data come from many published papers and should be taken with an enormous grain of salt because of countless variables that impact supercooling data (e.g. month, microclimate of overwintering niche, genetics, temperatures in summer and autumn, and more) and because these data are reported as means or extremes. When pondering this list, consider the incredible thermal buffering

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capacity of snow and ice. Unless specified, these temperatures do not necessarily signify 100% mortality:

- eastern larch beetle larval supercooling temp. in December: -56°F
- emerald ash borer prepupal supercooling temp. in November: -31°F
- forest tent caterpillar egg supercooling temp.: -45°F
- gypsy moth egg supercooling temp. uncovered by snow: -22°F for 2 days
- hemlock woolly adelgids: <2% survived in March when exposed between -22 and -13°F

Forest Tent Caterpillars in Northwest Wisconsin

Northern Wisconsin is due for a periodic [forest tent caterpillar](#) (FTC) show. Based off of what MN DNR Forest Health is [predicting for Minnesota](#), and based off of the festering FTC activity in N.W. Wisconsin for the last 3 years, I'm guessing Douglas, Burnett, and Polk will be the first northern Wisconsin counties to welcome back significant numbers of caterpillars since 2002. Will they be noticed in 2014? We will know shortly. Look for noticeable defoliation and caterpillars in later May or early June.



Figure 3: A forest tent caterpillar in mid-June.

Forest Health Links

- A reference for recognizing [insect galleries in ash](#) from Minnesota
- April 30th [forestry pesticide training](#) in Stevens Point
- Bad news for [monarchs](#) in March 2014
- Plight of the [monarchs](#) in 2013
- Why Bees are Disappearing: [TED talk](#) from U. of Minnesota research entomologist.
- [Oak wilt infection risk](#) is high between April 15 and July 15 in northern Wisconsin
- ALB has greater success on [red maples](#)
- Bad breath and [toxic barf](#): caterpillar defense tactics
- [Oriental bittersweet](#): a sweet pub. from our neighbors to the west