



WHEREAS, Browntail moth (BTM) populations in Maine have been in an outbreak phase since 2015, and BTM is not a pest that can be eradicated; and

WHEREAS, most areas of Maine, especially settled areas that have significant host tree populations such as oak, apple, crabapple, pear, birch, cherry, as well as other hardwoods, are at risk of infestation by the caterpillars; and

WHEREAS, while long-lasting tree defoliation and branch dieback are major concerns, the caterpillar's microscopic, toxic hairs can cause trouble breathing and skin irritation similar to poison ivy from a few hours up to several weeks; and

WHEREAS, state agencies are committed to coordinating within state government, with local communities, and directly with citizens to respond to this issue; and

WHEREAS, winter is the best time to safely clip and destroy BTM winter webs within reach or to hire a licensed arborist or a licensed pesticide applicator to reduce populations that are out of reach; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive BTM information and tools compiled by state agencies and the University of Maine, including research, infestation tracking, FAQs, and educational resources for communities, municipalities, businesses, and healthcare providers, are available by dialing 211 or visiting 211maine.org;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the month of February 2022 as

Browntail Moth Awareness Month

throughout the State of Maine, and I urge all citizens to learn more about BTM, look for it where you live, work and play, join in clipping overwintering webs, and take other actions to reduce impacts in the spring and summer.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twelfth day of January Two Thousand Twenty-Two

A blue ink signature of Janet T. Mills, written in a cursive style.

Janet T. Mills
Governor

A blue ink signature of Shenna Bellows, written in a cursive style.
Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State