REASONS TO UNFRIEND THE GYPSY MOTH

1. **You Aren’t Made of Money**
   Infestations cost billions: expensive control programs, reduced tourism, replacing trees in forests and at home, and restrictions on exports.

2. **Caterpillar Poop**
   Lots and lots of caterpillar poop. In areas with infestations, what sounds like a steady rain outside for several weeks each year is really thousands of caterpillars defecating in people’s yards.

3. **Environmental Wrecking Balls**
   The ecological damage left by gypsy moth destruction includes: damaged tree canopies, dead trees that fuel forest fires, degraded stream quality, and warmer water temperatures which causes fish decline or death.

4. **Stress Management**
   Defoliating trees stresses them out, jeopardizing their health.

5. **Population Explosion**
   Gypsy moths can lay up to 1000 eggs each year, so their population can rapidly explode.

6. **Allergies**
   Caterpillar hairs can irritate the skin and leave rashes on susceptible adults and children.

7. **Freeloaders**
   Caterpillars feast on your trees and shrubs, without even leaving a thank you note.

8. **Overstaying Their Welcome**
   Once gypsy moth becomes established, as they have in almost half of US states, you can’t get them to leave. They stick around FOREVER.

9. **They Don’t Share**
   Caterpillar feeding reduces food and shelter for other birds and wildlife, including threatened species like the Northern Spotted Owl.

10. **Stowaways**
    They hitch rides on ships, motor homes, and even patio furniture to relocate to a new home.

11. **Creepy Crawlies**
    Millions of caterpillars can cover trees and your car, house, lawn, playground equipment, and can even fall on you.

12. **Not a Walk in the Park**
    Gypsy moths destroy large swaths of national and state parklands.

13. **Go to agr.wa.gov/gypsymoth for more information**