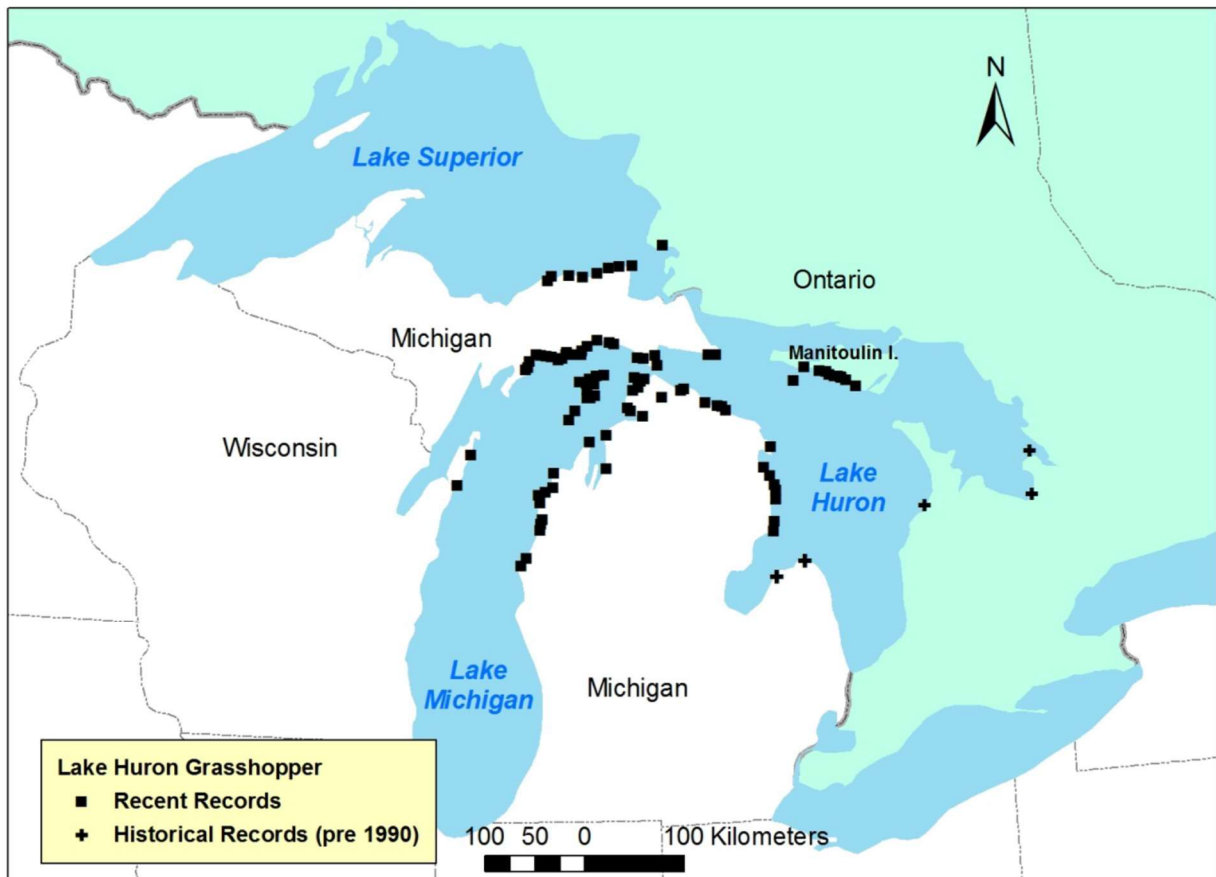




Press Release: February 20, 2018

Two rare and possibly linked species under investigation at Bluewater Dunes.

In the summer of 2017, two naturalists were sent to Bluewater Dunes from Awenda Provincial Park. They were looking for The Lake Huron Grasshopper or Locust (*Trimerotropis huroniana*). As shown on the map below, the grasshopper was thought to be extirpated (destroyed) in the southern Georgian Bay area, yet they had heard of sightings.



Source: COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report on the Lake Huron Grasshopper *Trimerotropis huroniana* in Canada THREATENED 2015



Coincidentally, a confirmation was received from Mr. Mike Oldham (MNRF), that a rare dune reed (*Calamovilfa longifolia magna*) has reformed on the Bluewater Dunes. This has been a result of the Dune Restoration plan. Mr. Oldham indicated there are no records of that plant living in Simcoe County. Aerial photography shows none of the reed in 2002 but a growing population of it in 2008, 2012, and 2016. The Dune Restoration plan started in 2006-2007.



Calamovilfa longifolia magna



Lake Huron Grasshopper

The Bluewater Dunes Protection Association (BDRA) wondered if the two species were interlinked. Researching information on the Lake Huron Grasshopper (locust), it was found that one of its prime sources of food is *Calamovilfa longifolia*. Are they linked? This will have to be studied in depth at The Dunes this summer of 2018.

Lake Huron locusts are herbivorous, feeding primarily by clipping off vegetation near the base of dune grasses and forbs. Species common in locust habitat include dune grass (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), and wild wormwood (*Artemisia campestris*). Nymphs (young locusts) may also supplement their diet by scavenging dead insects.

Source: Michigan Department of Natural resources.

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10370_12145_12204-69882--,00.html