

Wissahickon Nature Club

SPEAKER

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 pm. Dianne Machesney will present **The Spotted Lanternfly**. Dianne Machesney is a Penn State Master Gardener and a naturalist with a life long love of gardening and nature. The Spotted Lanternfly is a particularly devastating invasive insect making its way westward across Pennsylvania. Dianne will address what we all need to look out for as we prepare for this serious agricultural pest, and what to do if you find one.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TREASURER'S REPORT
 ACCORDING TO TREASURER
DIANNE MACHESNEY:
 PREVIOUS BALANCE \$1358.43
 DEPOSITS DUES 25.00
 EXPENSES - 0 -
 CURRENT BALANCE \$1383.43

THANK YOU
 TO **KATHY SAUNDERS, FOR BECOMING OUR NEW PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON.** PLEASE CONTACT HER IF YOU CAN PRESENT A PROGRAM, OR IF YOU CAN RECOMMEND A SPEAKER. HER CONTACT INFO IS IN OUR MEMBERSHIP BOOKLET.

JUDY STARK HAS SET UP OUR OUTINGS. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION

WORTH REPEATING
 IF YOU, TOO, CAN COME TO LOVE THIS LAND AS OUR ANCESTORS DID, ALL THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD WILL FALL AWAY LIKE AUTUMN LEAVES IN THE WIND.
 TONY TEN FINGERS
 WANBII NATA'U
 OGLALA LAKOTA

Don't miss our next meeting. On Thursday, May 9, **Ryan Tomazin** will present **Holistic Birding: Seeing Without Seeing, Hearing Without Hearing**. The slideshow and audio will focus on trying to deepen our senses beyond the obvious, for when birds don't behave and sing nicely in full view. The theories will draw upon Ryan's personal experiences with our eclectic feathered brethren.

Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania
 Loree Speedy 724.518.6022 loreespeedy@gmail.com
<http://www.botsocwpa.org/>

Fern Hollow Nature Center
 Sam McClain-Capezuto, Director
 412.741.6136
<http://www.fhnc.org/>

Outside My Window Outings Kate St. John 412.421.1566
www.birdsoutsidemymwindow.org/events/

Three Rivers Birding Club
 Bob VanNewkirk, President 412.366.1694
www.3rbc.org

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
wpamushroomclub.org
 Cecily Franklin 412.781.6581 <cs4wpmc@gmail.com>

Bald Eagle webcam WATCH LIVE ANYTIME:
<https://cbsloc.al/2MXuxfo>



What to look for
By Chuck Tague

Excitement: cicadas and migrating birds

A Phenologic perspective: May 9, 2002
through May 30, 2002

phenology: a branch of science dealing with the relationship between climate and periodic biologic phenomena (as bird migration and plant flowering)

Tornado season has begun. The National Weather Service confirmed that five tornadoes touched down in western Pennsylvania on April 28. Two twisters hit in Mercer County, two in Butler and the strongest, an F-2 on the Fujita scale with estimated winds of 135 miles an hour, did considerable damage in Indiana County.

The Fujita Tornado Damage Scale is used to compare the strength of tornadoes based on the damage they cause. Tornadoes that cause slight damage are F0 tornadoes. The most destructive tornadoes are F5. The Fujita scale in estimated miles per hour is: F0 = 40-72; F1 = 73-112; F2 = 113-157; F3 = 158-206; F4 = 207-260; F5 = 261-318.

Be alert for approaching storms and take watches and warnings seriously.

Look under rocks and logs. In much of western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio you might find some large pale insects. These are the Periodical Cicadas, or seventeen-year cicadas, that are preparing to emerge from their long period of underground development. Insects, in the genus *Magicicada*, have a long life span as far as insects go. They live underground as nymphs for seventeen years in the north and thirteen years in the southern states. They survive by sucking root xylem fluids. *Magicicada septendecim*, last emerged in Allegheny County in 1985. In West Virginia and the southwestern Counties of Pennsylvania, *Magicicadas* appeared in 1999. This emergence was designated Brood V.

Chris Simon, of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut, explains that broods of Periodical Cicadas "are comprised of all populations of Periodical Cicadas that emerge in the same year. Broods tend to be geographically contiguous thus are single-aged cohorts that are temporally isolated from other such groups. Cicada populations comprising a brood may cover areas varying from a few counties in one state to the majority of counties in as many as 15 states."

A Roman numeral designates each brood. The first of Brood VIII should be seen and heard in mid May. Male periodical cicadas produce "songs" with a pair of tymbals, or ridged membranes, found on the first abdominal segment. Their hollow abdomen acts as a resonating chamber. Males congregate and sing loudly in high, sunlit branches and sing. These choruses can be deafening. Females join the group to mate.

Beaver Kits are born in May. They will remain inside the den for about a month before their initial swim. White-tailed Deer will soon fawn.

Look for the Black Terns to return to Hartstown Marsh. These graceful birds glide and dip over marshes feeding on dragonflies and other insects. Endangered in Pennsylvania they breed only in Crawford and Erie Counties. They lay their eggs in a depression on the floating mat that forms in the emergent vegetation of a deep marsh. A good place to observe them is the road between the marsh and the railroad tracks just north of Hartstown. Please observe from a distance and do not disturb these their breeding area.

Bird Migration keeps getting better. Look for new species just about every day. Waves of warblers will come and go. Look for the thrushes to skulk through the forest floor and listen for their nocturnal contact chips as they migrate through at night. More breeding birds will arrive. Willow Flycatchers will be buzzing "Fitz-bew" in scrub and dry edges of wetlands. Yellow-breasted Chats will be honking and squawking on brushy slopes. Great Crested Flycatcher will be weeping in the forest.

The females of many species of songbirds, as do some non-breeding males, move north later than breeding males. Although males of a species are singing and on territory, others may still be moving north. In addition look for these late migrants; Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, Alder and Willow Flycatchers. Some late warblers are Mourning Warblers, Connecticut Warblers, Cape May Warblers, Canada Warblers and Blackpoll Warblers. Keep and eye out for Philadelphia Vireos. Migrating shorebirds may show up anytime through early June.

The Common Nighthawks will be back, soaring over the city at dusk.

Esther's Wildflower Report

In late May, look for Canada Anemone, Wood Anemone, Great Solomon's Seal, Spiderwort, Red Champion, Indian Fire Pink, Indian Cucumber Root, Musk Mallow, Cow Parsnip, Virginia Waterleaf, Green Violet, Miami Mist, Green Dragon, Yellow Goat's Beard, Violet Wood Sorrel, Common Wood Sorrel, Barren Strawberry, Wild Columbine, Wild Pink Azalea, Doll's Eyes, White Clintonia, Wild Hyacinth, Cancer Root (parasitic), and Squaw Root (parasitic). May orchids are Showy Orchis, Yellow Lady's Slipper, Whorled Pogonia and Lily-leaved Twayblade.

Early June Flowers include; wild roses, M. Ninebark, Purple-flowering Raspberry, Arrowwood, Hemlock Parsley, Carrionflower, Figwort, Swamp Saxifrage, Goat's Beard, Orange Hawkweed, Two-flowered Cynthia, Yellow Stargrass, Blue-eyed Grass, Low Bindweed, Rattlesnake-weed, Cat's Ear, Wild Coffee, Creeping Bellflower, Mullein-Pink, Barbara's Buttons, Bowmans Root, Evening Lychnis, Four-leaved Milkweed, Virginia Snakeroot, Bur Reed and Glaucus Honeysuckle.

At the Wildflower Reserve in Raccoon Creek State Park look for Few-flowered Valerian. This puzzling flower is not in all field Guides. You have to look for the yellow-green blossoms of the Striped Maple, *Acer pensylvanicum*.

Luna Moths, large pale green creatures with long trailing tails on their wings will be visible around lighted areas near woods. It is almost Junebug time? When will the first Monarch arrive?