



ECOS NEWS



ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse Celebrating Our 44th Year in Environmental Education

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May 2017

SPRINGTIME AND TICKS

Take precautions against Lyme Disease

Ixodes scapularis is a vector for several diseases (Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis) and is known as the "deer tick" due to its habit of parasitizing the white-tailed deer. However ticks acquire the Lyme disease microbes by feeding on infected mice and other small rodents.

In New York State, Lyme disease is endemic in Suffolk, Nassau, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Ulster, Dutchess, and Albany counties. Cases of Lyme disease have been confirmed in all counties in New York State.

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected black-legged ticks. Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings (e.g., rash), and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks; laboratory testing is helpful in the later stages of disease.

Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly, landscaping, and integrated pest management. The ticks that transmit Lyme disease can occasionally transmit other tick-borne diseases as well.



DYKEN POND WILDFLOWERS

Identification and Folklore

Join our friends from Dyken Pond on a leisurely stroll to look at Spring Wildflowers.

Saturday May, 20th from 10 am to 12 pm.

Learn to identify plants, traditional uses and their folklore.

Free to the public.

Helpful resources for Tick control

The New York State Department of Health.

Information on Lyme disease and other diseases spread by ticks, and suggested repellants. Note that tick identification services are no longer available through the NYS Department of Health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web site.

How to prevent tick bites, check yourself for ticks, remove a tick, symptoms of Lyme Disease, and reducing ticks in your yard and on your pets.

CDC materials cover prevention, transmission, symptoms, diagnoses, treatment, statistics, resources, contacts as well as a link to The Tick Management Handbook (8800 kb, PDF) an 84-page guide for homeowners, pest control operators, and public health officials for the prevention of tick-associated disease, compiled by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

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ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse is a non-political, not-for-profit organization. Our mission is to provide environmental information and educational opportunities that enhance appreciation of the natural world, to build a community that is aware and knowledgeable about environmental issues, and to advocate informed action to preserve our natural resources. ECOS is funded through the support of our members and the community.

JOIN THE LOCAL FOOD REVOLUTION

We are building a new, full-time cooperative market featuring local, organic and sustainably produced natural foods in downtown Schenectady.



ECOS is testing the “Waters”...

We are gauging the interest in hosting another “No Octane Boat Sale” fundraiser. Canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and related gear are either sold by ECOS on a commission basis, or donated to ECOS in which case the donor receives a statement of value for tax purposes.

Last year only three members expressed interest in participating and the sale had to be canceled.

If you have a forgotten or underused boat that deserves more active use with a new owner please contact the ECOS office to express tentative interest in a sale this spring. 370-4125 or info@ecosny.org

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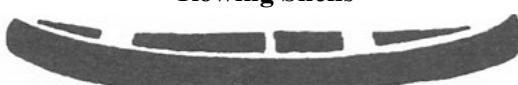


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MAY IS A BUSY MONTH FOR ECOS

It's time to go outside!

Our spring wildflower walks continue Tuesdays May 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 9:30 a.m.

Please see the insert in our April newsletter for location details.

ECOS will be leading nature walks for school children as part of the Cornell Cooperative Education Field Days in Central Park on May 24, 25, 31 and June 1. Thanks to all the ECOS members who have volunteered to lead these walks!

We will also be participating in the following events:

- May 7 Mabee Farm Woods and Waters Day
- May 20 Pine Bush Lupine Fest
- May 20 Niska-Day

Please join us!

Save the date!

On June 3 ECOS will be participating in Friends of Schoharie Crossing's "Day Along the River."

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ECOS Membership
ECOS: The Environmental Clearinghouse, Inc.
P.O. Box 9118, Niskayuna, NY 12309 (518) 370-4125

Please check your membership contribution level.

\$30. Individual \$55. Donor/Organization
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 I would like to be a volunteer. Please send me more information.

ECOS NEWS
President's Letter

Earth Day 2017 finds ECOS trying to get back to the future.

We exist in part because of the first Earth Day back in 1970. ECOS was formed as a Clearing-house for Environmental information, and those who founded and guided ECOS over forty years ago acted locally and took pride in the national efforts to establish standards for clean water and clean air.

For many years ECOS sponsored a Mohawk River Symposium to involve local school children in hands-on discovery of the area in and around the Mohawk River. The history of the Erie Canal, water testing, boat trips on the Barge Canal, field trips to study botany and so forth were all combined into an excellent program for local youth.

During much of the same period of time the state established the Department of Environmental Conservation and the federal government began the Environmental Protection Agency. We have seen smoggy cities clean their air, toxic dumps such as New York's Love Canal cleaned up under the Superfund, and an awareness of the long-term effects of pollution brought to the public's attention.

Now in 2017 we are seeing changes at the federal level of government that will roll back protection, reduce funding for testing and make changes to the basic standards of measurement that we thought were signs of great progress.

What can we do if pollution rates or amounts go up, if our health is threatened, if respiratory ailments increase, or if cancer rates flare up in certain locations (as they did in the Love Canal site that had been a dumping ground for the Hooker Chemical Company) ?

Why does ECOS exist? What is our purpose? Where are we going in the next few years? We find ourselves asking these questions as our membership has slowly declined and we may find ourselves back more or less where we started from in the 1970's.

If our purpose hasn't really changed, and we were successful before, the question is, "Can we be more successful again?" Your Board believes we can be, and is committed to pursuing old and new methods to attract new members and bring programs to the public. We welcome your suggestions, your participation, and your continued support.

Respectfully,
Will Seyse, ECOS President

ECOS NEWS
CALENDAR of EVENTS for MAY 2017

Please monitor weather conditions and call to verify all events!

Date	Group	Activity -Location	Contact
TBA	TNEC	Spring Wilderness Photography Workshop [Adult & Teen] Fee	583-9958
1st (Mon)	HMBC	“Bring back the Bald Eagle” 6:30pm-8pm @ Colonie Library	458-9274
5th (Fri)	APBP	Friday Walk and Talk Noon-1pm. Reg	456-0655
6th (Sat)	TNC	“I Love My Park Day” 9am-Noon	872-0800
	MHLC	Birding Hike at Mosher Marsh @ Mosher March Preserve meet at 8am at Kiosk	436-6346
	SC_ADK	Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area: See Evidence from old farming era	399-7482
	SC_ADK	Big Indian & Eagle Climb	383-1284
	HMBC	Papscane Island Nature Preserve Field Trip: 7am-Noon	370-3923
7th (Sun)	HMBC	Bird Watch @ Vischer Ferry Nature Preserve: Main entrance by Whipple Bridge. 7:30am-Noon	371-3114
	APBP	Wonder Walk: 1:00pm-2:30pm. Reg. Fee	456-0655
9th (Tue)	APBP	Whip-Poor-Will Survey Training: 7pm-8pm. Reg. Age 15+	456-0655
10th (Wed)	GLSP	I Love My Park: Volunteer Cleanup 9am-Noon	279-1155
	APBP	Full Moon Frog Walk, Watch & Listen: 7:30pm-9:30pm	456-0655
11th (Thu)	SC_ADK	Stephen's Pond Northville-Placid Trail Work	466-8544
13th (Sat)	MHLC	Wilderness Craft Program with Ondatra Adventures Meet @ 9:45am at Normans Kill W. Preserve	436-6346
	HMBC	Birds & Breakfast at Five Rivers on Game Farm Rd: 6am-Noon	785-6760
	HMBC	Bird Watch at Dusk at Hundred Acres Woods: 7am-9:30am	796-7868
	APBP	Bird & Bagels: 7:30am-9:30am. 10+ Fee	456-0655
14th (Sun)	GLA	Mother's Day Nature Walk: 2pm-3:30pm. Fee	875-6935
	HMBC	Bog Meadow Brook Bird Watch 7:30am-Noon	744-2637
16th (Tue)	SC_ADK	Keystone Arches: Hiking through History	399-6243
17-19 (Wed-Fri)	GLA	Preparing For The Spring Plant Sale: 9am-4pm	875-6935
18th (Thu)	MHLC	Bozen Kill Hike @ Bozen Kill Preserve in Altamont 10am	436-6346
	SC_ADK	Young Member Social: Wolff's Biergarten in Schenectady	603-953-8782
	APBP	Lecture: “Is Restoration Working?” 6:30pm-8:30pm. 15+	456-0655
19th (Fri)	GLA	Pick of the Pots Sale for Members Only: 5pm-8pm	875-6935
	MHLC	Bike to Work Day with MHLC. Leave at 8:30 on the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail.	436-6346

(Continued on Page 8)

KEY:

APBP Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center
 HMBC Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club
 SPB Save the Pine Bush

GLA George Landis Arboretum

MHLC Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy

GLSP Grafton Lake State Park

TNC The Nature Conservancy

Invasive Species in the Capital Region

Threats and What You Can Do

By Mead Binhammer

Invasive species, or plants, animals and other organisms that have been introduced into a foreign ecosystem due to accidental or intentional movement, can wreak havoc throughout various habitats. As they often lack biological controls, invasive species are often able to spread rapidly, altering an ecosystem's natural structure. In their negative ecosystem impacts, these species can devalue agriculture and forestry operations, while also impacting the native species that can lose important natural resources or be outcompeted by invaders.

Within the Capital District Region, several pests and invasive species are drawing attention of environmentalists. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, the Emerald Ash Borer and Mile-A-Minute Weed, which have become increasingly more prevalent within the region, are species of special concern for local ecosystems.

Emerald Ash Borers (EAB), an invasive wood-boring beetle from Asia, are believed to have been introduced to North America in wood pallets or boxes used for shipping purposes. Millions of trees have died or are affected by Emerald Ash Borers throughout North America. EAB larvae develop in the phloem and become so populated that they prevent the flow of nutrients to the tree, therefore girdling it. Usually, once an ash tree is infected, it will die in approximately 2-4 years. Management practices to control the spread of Emerald Ash Borers include recommendations against transporting firewood, pesticide applications in some areas and quarantines against export of ash products from infested areas. Pesticide applications work best as preventive methods within 15 miles of confirmed sites. Consult with a qualified forester before beginning any treatment.



The **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid** is an invasive insect that is most recognizable by the white masses of wax attached to hemlock needles that are produced by females in late winter. It is native to Japan and was introduced to North America in the mid 20th century. The Adelgids feed on the tree's food storage cells and can kill Hemlock trees by initiating limb dieback. Hemlock trees can be protected individually through the usage of insecticides and biological control agents are being researched, though further study is needed. Hemlock owners can reduce tree stress through watering and pruning, while assisting in preventing spread of the insects by taking care when moving mulch and wood from affected to unaffected areas.



Mile-A-Minute Weed is a barbed vine that can grow up to six inches every day and crowd out other herbaceous plants. It is native to eastern Asia, has leaves that look like an equilateral triangle and spreads through seeds that can be transported by animals and water. A biological agent, the mile-a-minute weevil, has been used against the weed, while chemical and mechanical control methods are also used. Hand pulling and burning vines can be effective, while herbicides applications in moderate doses can also control the plant.

In the Capital Region, several organizations are leading the charge against these invasive species. The Invasive Species Committee of the Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council and the Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management within the DEC continue to help in education and management of these species. More information on invasive species throughout the state can be found on the New York Invasive Species Information website (NYIS.info).



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2682 Aqueduct Road, Niskayuna, NY.**

Continued from page 6...

20-21 (Sa-Sun)	GLA	Landis Spring Plant, Book and Bake Sale: 10am-4pm	875-6935
20th (Sat)	MHLC	Strawberry Fields Farm Preserve Opening @10am	
	HMBC	Find as Many Birds Species As You Can In 12 hours. 12am-12pm. Region Wide	861-6087
	GLA	Meet Some Honeybees: 3pm-4:30pm. Fee	875-6935
	APBP	Lupine Fest: 10am-4pm	456-0655
21st (Sun)	TNEC	Lost in the Woods! Wilderness Survival Essentials [Adult & Teen] 9am-4:30pm	583-9958
	HMBC	Schodack Island State Park Bird Watch: 7:30am-Noon	674-8495
24th (Wed)	GLA	Talk: Ancient Forests of the Northeast: 7pm	875-6935
	AMC	Hike Thacher Park contact Nancy Crowther	698-0531
26-27 (Fr-Sat)	GLA	Public Star Party: 9:30pm	875-6935
	APBP	Karner Blue Butterfly Walk: 11am-12:30pm. Fee	456-0655
29th (Mon)	HMBC	Partridge Run WMA: Meet at N. Scotland Town Hall at 6:30am-Noon	zachsw@gmail.com
	APBP	Karner Blue Butterfly Walk: 1pm-2:30pm. Fee	456-0655
30th (Tue)	APBP	APB Certified Seed Collector: 6:30pm-8:30pm	456-0655