

# Hopewell Township Environmental Newsletter

A Publication of the Environmental Commission

## Environmental Commission Members

Jerry Lewis - Chair  
Jane Hankins - Vice Chair  
Beth McClain - Secretary  
Ken Strait - *Liaison to Land Use Board*  
Burt Doremus  
Marion Carl

## Meetings

The Hopewell Township Environmental Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month @ 7 PM except for November and December when meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend.



## EARTH DAY

APRIL 22, 2022

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement. This year's theme is **Invest in Our Planet**. We have the simple yet effective power to make our voices heard through our choices, our civic actions, and our personal interactions. What each of us does, and how we do it, has a huge ripple effect on our ecosystems. Check with the Earth Day website for activities near you.

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2022>

### **EARTH DAY is a GREAT DAY to PUT OUT the HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS!**

It may seem a bit early but think again. Hummingbirds are arriving from their wintering grounds as far away as Costa Rica. They are hungry but there is little for them to eat!

A good hummingbird feeder should have lots of red parts. That eliminates the need for controversial and harmful red dye. Hummingbird nectar can be made by mixing a 1/4 cup of sugar with a cup of boiled then cooled water.



Buy inexpensive feeders so you can put out several. The more you place, the more activity you will have! Hummingbirds do not like to share. Each male will try to claim several feeders and will only allow his mates to drink. Naturally, you'll want a few feeders at your favorite windows. Also consider placing feeders throughout the garden, and even in the woods if you have a wooded lot. Feeders in trees and shrubbery will encourage females to nest on your property.

## Fact Sheet: Microplastics and Drinking Water

The billions upon billions of items of plastic waste choking our oceans, lakes, and rivers and piling up on land is more than unsightly and harmful to plants and wildlife. Plastic Pollution is a very real and growing threat to human health.

The following 10 facts shed light on how plastic is proving dangerous to human health. According to a study conducted by Orb Media on plastics and tap water, 83% of tested water samples from major metropolitan areas around the world were contaminated with plastic fibers. Plastic fibers were also found in bottled water produced by 11 of the world's largest brands purchased from 19 locations in 9 countries. [1] 93% of bottled water showed some sign of microplastic contamination, including polypropylene, nylon, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET).[2]

Each year, about 1 million tons of tiny plastic fibers are released into wastewater.[3]

In 2015, the US passed the Microbead-Free Waters Act, banning plastic microbeads in cosmetics and personal care products sold in the United States. Critically, there are no regulatory limits on the levels of microplastics in bottled water.[4]

A single fleece jacket sheds up to 250,000 microfibers during a single wash.[5] Microfibers from synthetic fibers have been shown to make up the majority of human material found along the world's shorelines, accounting for up to as much as 85% of the total.[6]

Microplastics can also come from car tires. Plastic dust is created by the friction between the wheels and the road and is blown into waterways by the wind. Car tires shed 20 grams of plastic dust every 100 kilometers.

Feeders should be washed with hot water weekly. Water should be changed frequently. Little birds can get sick from bad water!

**THINK RED!** The right flowers are a magnet for hummers. Hummingbirds prefer red, orange and yellow tubular flowers. For instant habitat-on-the-deck, consider potted tropical hibiscus. Tropical hibiscus can be brought inside for the winter. Trumpet creeper vine and native coral honeysuckle are great to grow on trellises and fences. Also consider native perennial flowers such as Turk's-cap lily, columbine, coral bells, scarlet bee balm, bergamot, cardinal flower and milkweed. One of the best annual flowers is Cuphea David Verity which blooms all summer. For shrubbery, consider azalea, rose of Sharon, and blueberry.

**JUST FOR FUN!** Hummers are so attracted to red that they will check out people wearing red hats and shirts. They will also check out floral prints like Hawaiian shirts. Look for hummingbird nests, tiny cups made of spider web and lichen! Nests are the ultimate reward for a hummingbird lovers hard work!

Hummingbirds start migrating south in late August and September. It is a good idea to leave the feeders out until late October. Be sure to thoroughly clean your feeders with hot sudsy water so they are ready for next EARTH DAY!

### Earth Day Quiz: Try your hand at these Earth Day Questions

- \* What was the first book to set the stage for society to change in becoming more environmentally aware?
- \* T or F - The idea for Earth Day came from Senator Gaylord Nelson.
- \* By the end of 1970 (the year of the first Earth day) the Environmental Protection Agency was created. Which act was NOT passed that same year?  
Clean Air Act - Clean Water Act - Endangered Species Act - Marine Mammal Protection Act
- \* T or F - Earth Day is the only day during the year that you should care about the environmental and work to protect it.
- \* T or F - In 2016, the Paris Agreement was signed on Earth Day
- \* Which statement is false? Environmental Education increases public awareness and knowledge *or* Environmental Education advocates a particular viewpoint

