

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 Carll

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.



Spring is Coming!

Time to get your garden ready. Below are a few ideas to consider to environmentally help your yard, garden, and/or neighborhood .

One of the first blooms are the dandelions and we are often quick to eradicate them. However, they are one of the first flowers from which bees can begin the pollination process. Consider letting them grow in your yard.

Try planting non-invasive species of plants. Include a variety of native plants ranging from grasses, ferns, flowers, shrubs, and trees. Increase wildlife diversity by removing exotic plants and replacing them with native flora - those which have been growing long enough to have adapted to climate conditions and provide a food source to to beneficial insects. Begin small, one section at a time, so it's easier to maintain (weed it, mulch it, water new plants, and divide perennials). Changing 10% of your yard to more wildlife friendly planting will make a big difference.



Benefits of Native Habitats

Environmental

- Create habitat for birds, wildlife and pollinators
- Improves soil health and water infiltration and reduces soil compaction

Economic

- Reduces maintenance costs over traditional landscapes

Community

- Offers educational opportunities for schools, environmental commissions and green teams
- Be sure to visit Hopewell's Open Space Wildlife Habitat just off of Sewall Road.



Add a birdbath and watch the birds and even the butterflies huddle around to drink, bathe and escape the heat.

Check out these resources for more information:



Pat Sutton's Wildlife Garden
www.patsuttonwildlifegarden.com

Doug Tallamy -Bringing Nature Home
www.homegrownnationalpark.org

SJRCD (South Jersey Resource Conservation & Development Council)
[@www.sjrcc.org](http://www.sjrcc.org)

Rutgers Cooperative Extension - <https://cumberland.njaes.rutgers.edu>

The Native Plant Society of NJ - www.npsnj.org

Spotted Lantern-fly Beware

Check trees for the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) and scrape off the egg sacs they left last fall to prevent them from hatching and damaging more trees. These bugs are bad — bad for our backyards, our native ecosystem and our economy. An invasive pest with a healthy appetite for plants like grapevines, hops and other fruit crops and trees, the spotted lantern-fly feeds on a wide range of fruit, ornamental and woody trees, piercing the plant stems and tree bark, thus depleting the plant's energy reserves and costing hundreds of millions of dollars annually in lost agriculture. As SLF feeds, the insect excretes honeydew (a sugary substance) which can attract bees, wasps, and other insects. The honeydew also builds up and promotes the growth for sooty mold (fungi), which can cover the plant, forest understories, patio furniture, cars, and anything else found below SLF feeding. If you see a Spotted Lantern-fly, help us Stomp it Out! SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov to report SLF sightings.

