

Charlestown Township Newsletter

Summer 2020 Newsletter

Vol. 3

Published by the Board of Supervisors

4030 Whitehorse Road, Devault, PA 19432 - (610) 240-0326

Township Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Visit our Website at: www.charlestown.pa.us



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BOARD MEETINGS

Supervisors

1ST Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission

2nd Tuesday @ 7:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

Semi-monthly 3rd Tuesday
@ 4:00 p.m.

Environmental Advisory Committee

2nd Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation

3rd Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

Meetings will be held via Cisco WebEx until further notice.

Volunteers make Everything Awesome!

- by Chris Lawrence, Parks & Rec Board Chairman

Charlestown is a great community, full of great people who work together to keep it that way! Charlestown Parks and Recreation has worked based on volunteer effort for many years. This includes running the youth sports activities our residents enjoy, to keeping our trails open and maintained. The Parks Board is made up of a group of volunteers who help manage trails, open spaces, environmental issues, and more. The leaders of our youth sports groups (PMYC, PASC, HKRS, GVMBC) are critical to ensure that those groups can function, and kids can stay active.



We have recently had a handful of new volunteers join us, and we wanted to say thank you! From painting picnic benches and mulching around the PMYC clubhouse, to scout projects on the parks and trails, everyone who helps maintain our parks spaces and activities deserves a hearty thank you!

This fall, rather than our normal Charlestown Day celebration, we'd like to call on the residents of Charlestown to take part in a belated socially-distanced Earth Day cleanup. Along the edges of your own properties or in parks, streams and trails nearby, there may be pockets of litter waiting to be cleaned up nearby! If so, grab a few immediate family members and pick up what you can! Make sure to stay safe, apply suntan lotion, keep away from any busy roads, and check for ticks after you're done. All working together, separately, we can keep this township in tip-top shape!

Who can collect the most litter safely? If you do a family litter cleanup, post a picture of the results to the Charlestown Parks Facebook page with the hashtag #TrashTag!

Charlestown's First Ever! Drive-in Movie Night



August 15th at 7:30 PM, in partnership with the Technical College High School and with the help of local coordinator GoFox Events, Charlestown Parks and Recreation will host our first drive-in movie!

After overwhelming demand, we will be presenting one of two possible options – it's up to you to decide!

Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone

---OR---

The Princess Bride ???

The event will be free but ticketed, as there is limited space for cars. Please see our Facebook page for the link to vote for the movie you'd like, and to sign up for tickets starting the first week in August: <https://www.facebook.com/CharlestownDay>

If you'd like to help sponsor the event and get your name up on the big screen before the movie, or if you'd be interested in helping direct parking from 6:30-7:30, please contact us via Facebook, or reach out to Parks board chair Chris Lawrence directly at river_wind@mac.com.

***Attend our Public Meetings
Virtually thru Cisco Webex Until further Notice***

Meeting	Date	Time	Meeting #	Password	Meeting #	phone #	Passcode
Board of Supervisors	8/3/2020	7:00 PM	132 876 6328	9ARgnVvie55	132 87 6328	408-418-9388	92746884
Planning Commission	8/11/2020	7:30 PM	132 020 8473	SFbyPXed835	132 020 8473	408-418-9388	73297933
Environmental Advisory Committee	8/12/2020	6:00 PM	132 031 3265	hkY7Kk2hNF3	132 031 3265	408-418-9388	45975524
Parks & Recreation Board	8/20/2020	7:30 PM	132 310 8400	mhPeXMdS797	132 310 8400	408-418-9388	64739637

Call the Township Office for Assistance if you need help learning how to access our meetings.

POLLINATOR GARDENS

- by Carol Armstrong, Environmental Advisory Committee

Summer often means eating delicious cherries, apples, blueberries, peppers, mint, beer, and so much more. One of every three bites of all the food we eat comes to us from pollinators¹. Also medicines and fibers are dependent on the pollinating services of insects, birds, and bats. The ability of birds and other wildlife to be healthy and reproduce also depends on the seeds and fruits of pollinated plants. According to research cited by the Xerxes Society for Invertebrate Conservation and the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), as many as 40% of pollinators are at risk of extinction in coming years. This includes extirpation (local extinction) of 20% of our native bumblebees in North America, and of 17+ species of butterflies.

What are the problems in conservation of pollinator insects and birds?

- Loss of habitat that results from fragmentation of wildlands from development;
- Lawns and gardens that do not bear the native plants that pollinators evolved with, and thus do not provide necessary nutritional sources;
- Pesticides usage; in fact, if pesticides are in contact with a blooming plant, then mortality of pollinators is assured. Pollinators pick up everything that we apply on our gardens, lawns, and trees;
- Climate change with its associated heating, diseases, and pests.

Let's Get to Know Some Critical Pollinators:

- Bees are the most important pollinators because they evolved physiological features that lead to their pollinating 450 different plants species in Pennsylvania. Although many people are familiar with honey bees which were brought to North America from Europe in the 1600s, actually 90% of our native bees are solitary. Bumblebees are social and nest in the ground in groups. Digger bees and carpenter bees, both important pollinators, are solitary and nest in the ground (digger bees) or in wood such as old logs in the forest (carpenter bees). Our native pollinators are very efficient because:
 - they feed exclusively on pollens and nectar;
 - they have hairy bodies to which pollen and nectar easily clings;
 - they have tolerance for cold and wet weather, are up early in the spring, and up early and late in the day;
 - Male native bees can pollinate;
 - Natives are very fast fliers and can visit many flowers.
- Dependence on our native pollinators extends to **birds**, **bats** (also spreads seeds), **solitary wasps** (do not live in large colonies, typically do not sting), **butterflies**, **moths**, **beetles**, and **flies** – the second most important pollinator! Many of these pollinators also are key in the environment because they control pests.

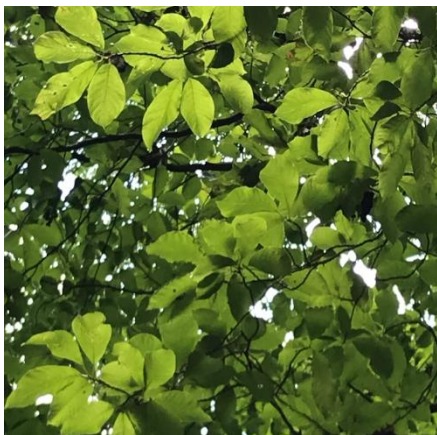


How to Protect Pollinators in Your Garden:

By thinking globally and acting locally in your garden this summer, you can do a lot to conserve and protect pollinators by avoiding pesticides (including herbicides), and by planting trees, shrubs, and flowers that provide pollinator habitat and nutrition.

¹ Penn State Extension, an educational network funded by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and state and county governments

Plant and Tree Recommendations – Must Haves:



Choose native plants first. Many studies show that native plants are four times more attractive to pollinating insects. About 30% of pollinators are specialists for nectar and pollen from specific plants. In general, many perennial plants that have greatest benefit in the garden have compound inflorescences – the complete flower head – which attract the greatest number of insects.

Choose diversity. Select flowers by color, soil moisture requirements, length of hours of sun needed, and time of bloom; types of soil might be relevant. White flowers are more attractive to pollinators, as bees can see color in the ultraviolet range.

How many plants do you need?

Plant in small or large clusters, as this makes them more visible from the air to insects seeking nourishment. Plant at least 3, or 5 or more plants of each type in a cluster, and do not mulch in between which prevents solitary pollinator nests. Rather than mulching under trees or shrubs, you can plant perennials underneath them.

Do not cut down your pollinator plants in fall because overwintering birds are dependent on the larvae of moths and butterflies that overwinter inside dead plants.

Plants: These are suggestions of some favorites, but not a complete list for our area:

- Asters: New York and New England asters such as Bushy aster, White wood aster, Aromatic aster, and Smooth blue aster (very hardy)
- Beardtongues: Penstemon
- Black-eyed susans: Rudbeckia
- Blazing stars: Liatris
- Blue lobelias: Campanulaceae family
- Bonesets: Eupatorium (one of my favorites, blooms late in the summer/early fall)
- Cilantro, Dill and Fennel
- Goldenrods – Wrinkleleaf goldenrod: *Solidago rugosa*, *Solidago rigida*, but *Solidago canadensis* is a native that can be invasive
- Jacobs ladder: *Polemonium reptans*
- Joe pye weed: *Eutrochium*
- Meadow rues (for Canadian owl moth): *Thalictrum*
- Milkweeds – Common, purple (shadier spot, better soil), whorled, swamp (moist and more clay), Butterfly weed (hot dry poor soil)
- Mint family – #1 is Mountain mint, Anise hyssop, Catmint, etc.
- Phlox
- Purple coneflower: *Echinacea*
- Rattlesnake master or Button snake-root (native to tallgrass prairies of eastern North America): *Eryngium guccifolium*
- Scarlet beebalm (red) and Wild bergamot (lavender): *Monarda*
- Swamp marigold or beggarticks: *Bidens aristosa*
- Trout lilies: *Erythronium americanum*
- Violets – Fritillary caterpillars larvae like violet patches, so do not apply pesticides/herbicides
- Virginia bluebells: *Mertensia virginica*



Trees/shrubs:

American holly: *Ilex opaca*

Black tupelo: *Nyssa sylvatica* – both beautiful and good for bees and other wildlife in early to late spring

Buttonbush: *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Clethra

Eastern Redbud: *Cercis canadensis*, also a favorite of leaf cutter bees

Hackberry: *Celtis occidentalis*

Native Pussywillow: *Salix discolor*

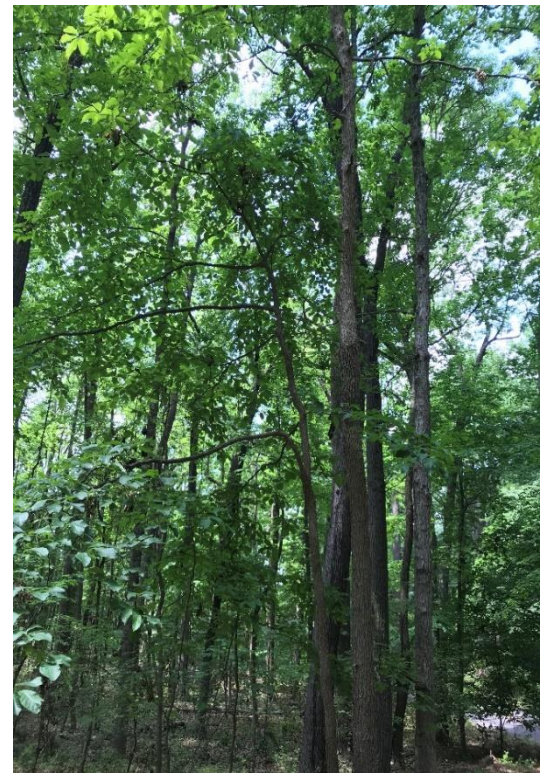
Ninebark: *Pysocarpus opulifolius*

Oaks – top keystone plant that supports over 900 insect species

Red and sugar maples, as they bloom early in the season

Red-twigged dogwood shrub: Red osier

Virginia sweetspire: *Itea virginica*



Is it too late to plant pollinator plants?

No! The best time to plant native wildflower seeds is in the fall. Shrubs and trees will also do well if planted in the fall.

Sources of information to select pollinator plants and prepare your garden for them:

The DCNR is an excellent source for invasive plants and how to remove them. Gardens for pollinating insects need hosts who provide:

1. Food – nectar and pollen that give carbohydrates, water, fats, vitamins, minerals. If you go a month without blooming pollinator plants, some natives insects will suffer
2. Water – an additional source for times of dry weather and for larger pollinators.
3. Shelters and nesting places
 - a. HELPFUL: undisturbed ground, no pesticides, bare patches are helpful, hollow and pitchy stems are used by tunnel nesters, old logs provide nests for bees. Leave garden clean up for the spring as many insects overwinter in brush and leaves.
 - b. AVOID the following features because insects cannot nest there or penetrate them: thick turf, compacted soil, mulch, landscape fabric, and heavy watering.
4. Protection – Safeguard the habitat from disturbance and chemicals. Host plants are needed for larvae/caterpillars

How to get involved:

You can join the Pollinator Friendly Garden Program. You can apply for Pollinator Garden Certification by Penn State.

Other Resources:

Conserving Wild Bees for Pennsylvania – Penn State University, Entomology

Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder (on the web) gives you information on the plants requirements and growing patterns

NEW HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT PROCEDURES!

Pre-registration is required!

Visit our website <https://www.chestercountyswa.org/117/Household-Hazardous-Waste> or copy these links:

Saturday, August 1:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/household-hazardous-waste-event-in-chester-county-tickets-113101345168>

Sunday, August 2: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copy-of-household-hazardous-waste-event-in-chester-county-tickets-113663488554>

Both events in Coatesville/Caln. We are trying to schedule two other events this year.

All HHW items must be in the trunk, cargo area of an SUV, or bed of a truck. HHW staff will remove all items. Do NOT leave your vehicle!

Stay in your vehicle. Masks must be worn.

This will be a “contact-less” event!

Don't Miss Out! Opt In to Our Web Update Notification List

If you would like to be notified when items are posted to the Charlestown Township Website, submit your name and email below. This is for your benefit only. We do not collect this data for any other purpose or transfer it to others. A weekly update is typically sent out each Friday, with occasional special notices at other times.

Anonymous Donors – Riparian Buffer at Brightside Farm Park

- by Pete Goodman, EAC Chair



It must have been the flush of greenery flowing out of the tops of the protective tubes that inspired two individuals to contact the EAC to offer \$2,000.00 and \$1,000.00, a total of \$3,000.00 for plant material for the riparian buffer. We were shocked and thrilled. Further, the individuals wished to remain anonymous. We had been informed earlier this year that the Chester County Conservation District had been awarded a grant on behalf of the Brightside riparian buffer in the amount of \$7,647.00.

Little did we know what the EAC was getting ourselves into when Carol Armstrong proposed the idea of a riparian buffer planting at Brightside Farm Park. Even with great support from the Green Valleys Watershed Association the process seemed difficult to get the trees and shrubs planted.

In November the planting of the first phase was accomplished using the contractor Crow and Berry to remove the invasive plants in the area and plant the donated trees and shrubs. Many of the native species planted will produce fruits, berries or nuts some of which can be harvested by residents.

Protection from deer browse and antler rubbing was accomplished by using tree tubes, some short and others five feet tall.

By the middle of spring many of the trees were pushing up through the netting on the top of the tubes. The netting prevents birds from entering and getting trapped in the tubes.



Your EAC is working on a plan to leverage these newly donated funds along with the two previous grants to fulfill a concept that we have shared from the beginning. The concept is to get a functional forested buffer established on the unnamed tributary of Pigeon Run, a tributary of Pickering Creek, that flows out of the ground in Brightside Farm Park. We are working towards more invasive removal and planting this fall.

Chester County Voter Services – All the Info you Need to Prepare for the November 3rd General Election

Do you need to:



- Register to Vote?
- Check your registration status or change party?
- Request an absentee ballot?
- Request a mail in ballot?



Answers can be found at <https://chesco.org/156/Voter-Services> - Fill out the forms you need right here!

Butterfly Walk at Brightside Saturday August 29th

Hope you are all well and can join us for a butterfly walk at Brightside on Saturday, August 29, at 10:00.

Meet in the parking lot at 3040 Yellow Springs Road.



As we will be in the sun, wear a hat and sunscreen and bring water.

Also, please bring your face mask. We can watch butterflies from a

distance. But, if we are lucky enough to find their caterpillars, we will be very close to each other.

Hope you can join us this year!

- Esther Underhill, cell for day of walk: 267-615-1577

Charlestown Township
P.O. Box 507
Devault, PA 19432



Census Deadline Extends to Oct. 31st

Have you returned your census form or responded online yet? Here are some of the reasons why responding to the Census is important:

- It's the Law!
- Charlestown's liquid fuels funds and other grants municipalities are based on our population.
- Congressional representation – census results determine the number of seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives and the number of electoral college votes. It also impacts congressional and state legislative districts.