This issue:

President-Elect Message

Spring Greetings!

We have all been through challenging times due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but spring has arrived and with it renewed hope. The daffodils and hyacinths are blooming, and I feel hopeful that, with greater numbers of people receiving vaccinations, we can slowly and safely resume in-person activities when regulations permit.

The Garden Club of New Jersey will continue to conduct its business virtually, until it is once again safe for us to gather. Our Board of Directors and Committees meet via Zoom and have become quite proficient in this process. It has been necessary for us to socially distance but, through technology, we have managed to fulfill our need to communicate and see one another remotely.

We are pleased that a surprising number of clubs have submitted applications for state awards. Our Awards Chair, Peggy Morrissey, is doing an outstanding job ensuring that as many clubs as possible are recognized for their efforts. Applications have been forwarded to NGC and CAR for further award consideration.

GCNJ hosted its two-day virtual event, "The Go Wild Winter Festival," on March 10th and 11th. The theme of the event was conservation, to align with our new Conservation Pledge, which continues GCNJ's commitment to advocate for the protection of our environment. The event consisted of five one-hour sessions addressing topics related to the event's central theme.

Areas of concern ranged from protecting New Jersey wildlife, to preventing billboard blight beside our roadways, to the passing of the Liberty State Park Protection Act. The speakers were excellent and informative, providing an opportunity to raise our level of conservation awareness so that individually, and collectively, we can make a difference. A special thank you goes to those who worked so diligently to make this event a success. This includes Teddie Falcone, Diana Kazazis, Ellen Preissler, Beverly Kazickas, Jane Bianco, and Onnolee Allieri. Stay tuned as we plan to have additional virtual events in the future.

Our own Mary Warshauer will be installed as National Garden Clubs, Inc. President in May. We are all enormously proud of Mary as she assumes this position. She is possessed of qualities that will allow her to shine in her new role. She is knowledgeable, well spoken, and always conducts herself with grace and dignity. We know that Mary will do a wonderful job leading our national organization and representing, not only us, but all NGC affiliated clubs. Go Mary!

The GCNJ Annual Meeting will be held virtually on June 10th. We are planning to conduct a hybrid virtual meeting, with the installation of officers to take place in-person while all other participants will join remotely.

Ballots for passage of the GCNJ 2021-2022 budget and election of nominated officers for the 2021-2023 term will be emailed, prior to the meeting, to delegates designated by their member clubs. The meeting will be conducted, as usual, with award and scholarship announcements, reports of officers and the installation of the 2021-2023 GCNJ officers by newly elected NGC President, Mary Warshauer. In addition, when business has concluded, we will have world-renowned arborist, Dr. Margaret Lowman, as our speaker. Dr. Lowman, also known as “Canopy Meg”, explores the tree canopy in forests around the globe. She will tell us about her mission to save the world’s forests.

Further information and registration is available on our website. Please plan to join GCNJ for its first virtual Annual Meeting.

Warm regards,
Cecelia Millea
GCNJ President-elect/Acting President
cmillea@msn.com

The Call to the 95th Annual Meeting

June 10th, 2021

"Find Shelter Under the Trees"

The Garden Club of New Jersey will hold its 95th Annual Meeting on **Thursday, June 10, 2021**. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the meeting will be held virtually. It will be a hybrid Zoom meeting with the installation of officers to take place in-person, at a location to be determined, while all other participants will attend remotely. Newly elected NGC President, Mary Warshauer, will install the Executive Board for the 2021-2023 term. The program will begin at 10:00 am. All necessary business will be conducted, awards and scholarships will be announced, and we will have a very special speaker at the conclusion of our business meeting.

Our speaker is world-renowned arborist, Dr. Margaret Lowman, also known as "Canopy Meg." Dr. Lowman explores the top of the tree canopy in forests throughout the world to explore and conserve our global forests. She is a unique, exciting, and motivational speaker.

Online registration will be necessary to join the meeting. However, the event is free of charge to all GCNJ members. **Find out more information here along with the link to register for the event:** https://www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org/call-for-the-95th-annual-meeting/

Please plan to join us virtually on June 10th as we utilize this new format to host the 2021 GCNJ Annual Meeting.

Cecelia Millea
GCNJ President-elect/Acting President
cmillea@msn.com

GCNJ Annual Meeting Keynote Speaker

Margaret "Meg" Lowman

Margaret "Meg" Lowman, Ph.D., known affectionately throughout the world as "Canopy Meg," is a global pioneer in forest canopy ecology. She is one of the world's foremost "arbornauts" - someone who explores and studies the vast forest canopies that make up what Meg has termed the Earth's "eighth continent." A tireless educator, strong advocate for girls, women, and minorities in science, Meg has published numerous books; is a sustainability advisor; contributes to boards; and speaks widely and frequently to diverse groups, schools, and international symposiums and conferences. Over the past 40 years, her work in forest canopy science has involved groundbreaking results in 46 countries and all 7 continents.

Her latest project is Mission Green, a non-profit addressing the need to conserve global forests. Studies show that forest canopies are critical for the future of our planet as they provide fresh water, pollinator habitats, soil conservation, spiritual heritage, timber, carbon storage, medicines, food, climate change control, and house 50% of Earth's biodiversity. Through photosynthesis, canopies provide the most efficient energy production on Earth. Forests keep both ecosystems and humans alive.

Dr. Lowman's most recent book, a memoir called "The Arbornaut: A Girl Who Climbed with Koalas," aims to inspire young women to seek careers in field biology. Meg currently serves as a visiting professor for the National University of Singapore; research professor for the University of Sains, Malaysia; adjunct professor at Arizona State University, and National Geographic Explorer in Ethiopia working to save their last 4% forest fragments. Meg considers herself a storyteller as she shares a lifetime of adventure, the mysteries of life in the treetops, and her mission to mentor future environmental stewards.

Sources: CanopyMeg.com and Mission Green

Upcoming Events

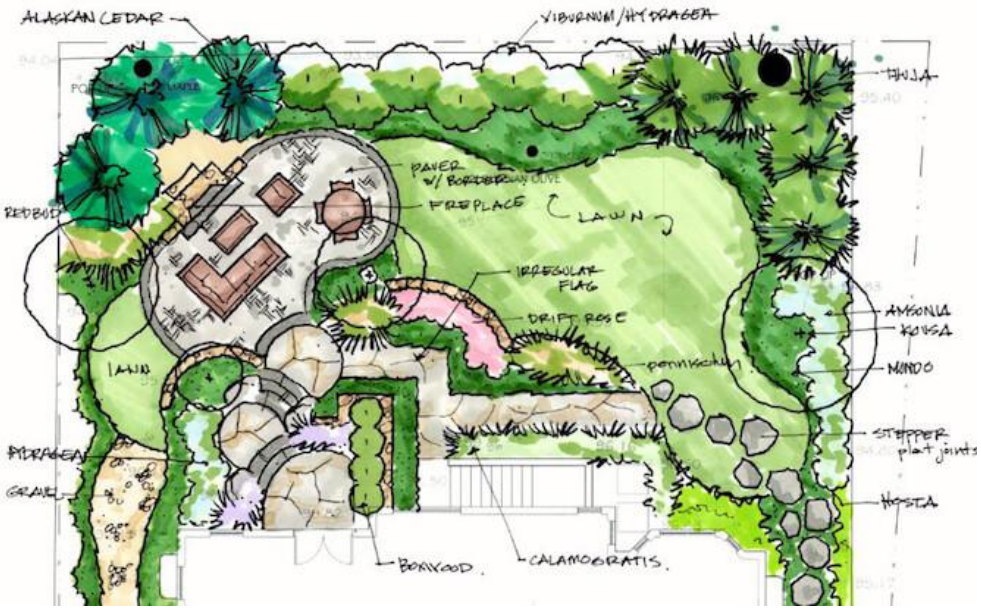
May 22, 2021 - Terra Nova Garden Club of Edison's Annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday from 9:00 – 3:00 with a rain date of Sunday May 23rd at Thomas Edison Center, located at 37 Christie Street, Route 27, Menlo Park, NJ. Sale will feature annuals, perennial, house plants, vegetables, herbs, and sale of local honey. Contact Jane Bianco, at Flowerlady128@hotmail.com or 732-382-1512 for further information.

June 6, 2021 – The Women Gardeners of Ridgewood postponed their Secret Gardens Tour last year but will host it this year on Sunday, June 6th from 9am-5pm Rain or Shine. Tickets are $30 thru June 4th via PayPal on their website: www.womengardenersofridgewood.com. Additional information can be found on their website or their Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/WomenGardenersofRidgewood. For more information, contact Maria Gilosa at mariagilosa@mindspring.com.

June 10, 2021 – GCNJ 95th Annual Meeting. (see article "Call to the 95th Annual Meeting" on page 3 for more information)

June 16 & 17, 2021 – Landscape Design School Course 3, Series 18. For more information see Landscape Design School article on page 6.

July 17 & 18, 2021 – The Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly Garden will hold a Butterfly Count & Open House on July 17 & 18, 2021 (weather permitting). It is a free event, located on the school grounds of Memorial School at 300 West Stewart Street, in the heart of Washington Borough, New Jersey, 07882. Children are encouraged to come, but must be accompanied by an adult. Garden Club families and friends are invited to stop by the garden for an hour or more between the hours of 10 am to 2 pm. All visitors are asked to remain socially distanced and wear a face mask when within six feet of others. For more info on this event, contact the KNMBG Garden Designer, Tomas Gonzales, (the KNMBG/ NABA Liaison) at (908)328-3875. The KNMBG has a Facebook page where cancellations due to weather or a high heat index will be announced. The page is entitled, "Karen Nash Memorial Butterfly Garden."



Save the Date…. Landscape Design School

June 16th and 17th

Course 3, Series 18

GCNJ will host this class virtually through Zoom.

The Landscape Design School Courses (four in total) are designed for all those interested in expanding their knowledge of landscape design, use of plant materials, ecology, land utilization, and developing a greater overall appreciation and understanding of their surroundings. The student will get on-site practice in evaluation of public and domestic design. Members of NGC clubs may receive the NGC Consultant certificate after fulfilling its requirements.

A school is a series of four two-day courses designed to discuss various Landscape Design topics. Course 3 will have the following instructors:

- Bruce Crawford
- Dr. Randi Eckel
- Roy DeBoer
- Denise Mattes

Speakers are always subject to change.

Please visit the website for the National Garden Club https://www.gardenclub.org/landscape-design-school and Garden Club of New Jersey for more information https://www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org/landscape-design-schools/ or reach out to:
Terese Blake, GCNJ Landscape Design School Chair terese.blake@gmail.com

GCNJ ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS & ALERTS

A National Resolution

On March 25th, a bi-partisan resolution was passed by unanimous consent in the U.S. Senate that declared this past April 2021 as National Native Plant Month. According to the Audubon Society, this resolution recognizes the benefits of native plants for people and wildlife. Native plants have evolved over millions of years providing food and shelter while helping the environment combat the challenges of changing climate. Therefore, gardeners are encouraged to add native plants to their landscaping.

CICADA ALERT-Nature's Mystery

After a 17-year nap this spring, billions of cicadas will emerge from their underground beds. These "Sleeping Beauties" have spent years hibernating and taking nourishment from tree roots. Finally, in 2021, once the soil temperature has warmed to 64 degrees, they will migrate to the surface. These emerging broods are non-toxic to people and an excellent source of food for birds and small mammals.

This year's group of cicadas was born back in 2004, waiting to re-emerge above ground in May. Each year, a different brood of cicada appears throughout much of the eastern United States. The majority is on a 17-year cycle with a different brood emerging annually. In the Southeast, the annual broods of cicadas re-appear on a 13-year cycle.

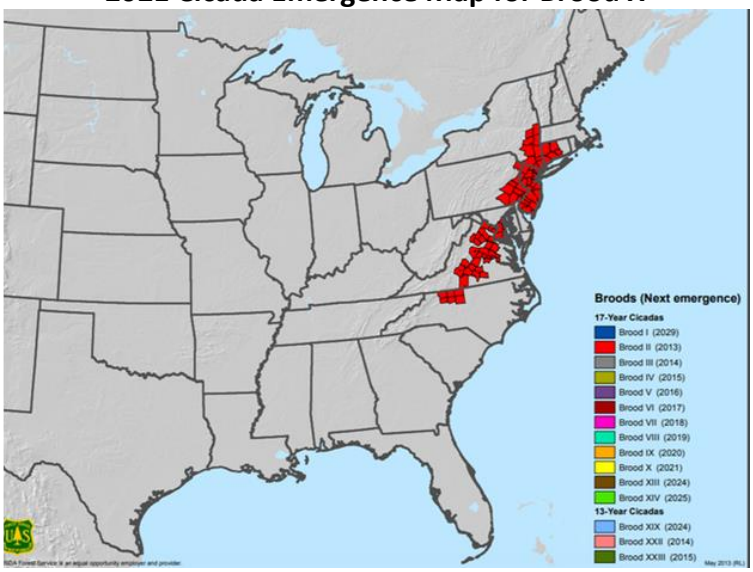
This spring, when the cicadas do emerge from their underground tunnels, it will be a short life. Within 4 to 6 weeks, they sprout wings, sound off with mating calls, lay eggs in tree branches, and die. By July, their eggs will hatch and a new batch of young insects will tunnel under the ground to live in silence for another 17 years. Known as Brood X, the 2021 group is the largest emergence of cicada from the approximately 15 broods that reside in the eastern half of the country. Very soon, about 35 million people from Tennessee to New York will have the opportunity to hear and perhaps see the 2021 brood.

The first written record of the emerging Brood X cicadas dates back to 1715 in Philadelphia where

they were thought to be a type of locust, as described in the bible. When the broods do emerge, they can be spotted climbing up plants and flying through gardens; however, there is little evidence that the insects will do significant damage. In fact, cicadas benefit gardens by emerging from the soil creating holes that increase aeration and water penetration. During the cicadas' short life cycle, exoskeletons and dying adults will break down into organic matter and nutrients that enrich the soil.

Once they do emerge, the cicadas move quickly onto trees where they call to each other, mate, and lay eggs on pencil-thin branches. They will make small slits in the tree branch, creating nests in order to lay their eggs. This process can damage the tips of the trees and cause die back, although no long-term harm should affect the trees. The best way to manage the cicada invasion is to allow nature to take its course over the next couple of months. The use of insecticide to control the population will do little to impact the hordes of Brood X. However, the chemicals can be very harmful to the bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects that pollinate flowering trees and plants. So please, embrace the loud humming sound that comes from the male cicadas looking for mates and let one of nature's strangest mysteries reveal itself in your yard. It will all be over quickly and not take place again in New Jersey until 2038.

2021 Cicada Emergence Map for Brood X

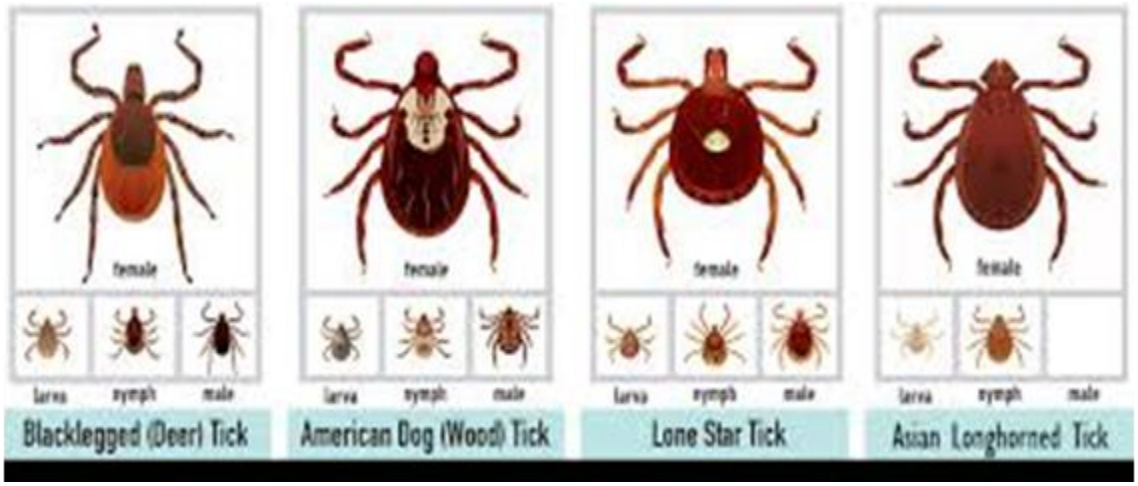


TICK ALERT
Concern Over Ticks Found in New Jersey

It is that time of year … Tick Season! Since it is also known as Gardening and Outdoor Season, it is Extremely important to be diligent in taking the necessary precautions to guard yourself, family, and pets from tick bites. In the northeast, being careful should be a way of life for gardeners, golfers, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts in order to protect against contracting tick-borne illnesses. Each tick species carries and spreads different types of germs that lead to a number of diseases. Some tick species, such as the Blacklegged (Deer) Tick, do not go fully dormant in the winter. Instead, they become active whenever the temperature rises above freezing. The females particularly need a meal in order to lay eggs in the spring.

Listed below are tick species found in New Jersey, along with descriptions and illnesses associated with them. Possible symptoms of a tick-borne disease include fever, headache, muscle ache or rash. If you are bitten by a tick, remove it, and store it in alcohol. The alcohol will kill and preserve the tick for identification purposes, if necessary. After a bite, if you develop any of the aforementioned symptoms, immediately contact your physician for treatment.

Four Common Tick Species Found in NJ



Blacklegged (Deer) Tick: Commonly found residing in shaded areas at the edge of forests and in leaf litter. The adult Deer Tick is most active from September to April (fall to spring). However, Deer Ticks can transmit disease at any stage of their lives, so it is considered a year-round threat. The associated diseases are Lyme disease, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, and the deadly Powassan Virus.

American Dog (Wood) Tick: Most concentrated at the edge of forests and in coastal grasses. Not as prevalent as the Deer and Lone Star Ticks, the Dog Tick is typically a threat from March through August, peaking in June. The associated disease is Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Lone Star Tick: This tick thrives in scrub oak areas and is often found in large numbers. In some ways, the Lone Star Tick is the most dangerous of the ticks found in New Jersey. The associated diseases are Ehrlichiosis and Alpha-Gal Syndrome.

Asian Longhorned Tick: Frequently located in manicured lawn grass and shrubs, this tick has been found in full sunlight and latched on to wildlife, pets, and people. The female Longhorned Tick can reproduce without mating and thousands of ticks may be found at a time. First discovered in the United States in 2017, research is ongoing to determine what diseases are transmitted by the Longhorned Tick.

Taking Precautions to Protect Yourself

Cover your Skin: Limit the amount of exposed skin while outside. Wear closed-toe shoes, long sleeves, and pants, tucking your shirt into your pants and the pant legs into the top of your socks. Wearing a hat and tying back long hair also helps to protect against exposure.

Wear Repellents: Treat your clothes and shoes with permethrin or buy clothing already treated with tick-repellent. Be sure to read the instructions since many repellents are for clothing only and should not be sprayed on your skin.

Be Aware: Best to wear light-colored clothes so that ticks are easily spotted. Any "hitchhikers" can be brushed off and removed from your clothes. Be sure to check yourself periodically, particularly your shoes and pant legs. A lint roller is handy for going over your clothing to remove any tiny ticks and larvae.

Limit Your Exposure: Stay out of tick infested areas. These spots tend to have overgrown vegetation. The best way to control ticks is by removing weeds and heavy leaf litter from around your home. It is also important to avoid using garden chemicals because of the potential harm to pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and beneficial insects.

At Home: Shower as soon as possible scrubbing the areas in which ticks most commonly hide such as your scalp, ears, neck, armpits, waist, legs, and any folds in the skin. Wash and dry your clothes on high heat for one hour to kill any additional ticks.

Perform Frequent Tick Checks: Check yourself regularly-better yet, have someone else check you. It is important to find ticks on your skin as soon as possible. In most cases, a tick may not have transmitted germs or disease, if it is attached to your skin for less than 36 hours. So be sure to check daily, during the height of tick season.

Love Your Pet: Be sure to check your pets thoroughly and frequently to keep them safe from tick bites and to prevent ticks from being brought into the house.

What To Do: Lastly, if you do find an attached tick, use tweezers to grab the body and remove it, being sure not to leave the head behind on the skin. Dispose of the tick by flushing it down the toilet or killing / preserving in alcohol for possible identification. Treat the bite with an antiseptic. Following these precautions will serve you well and keep you safe to enjoy the beautiful spring weather, the benefits of gardening, and nature's bounty.

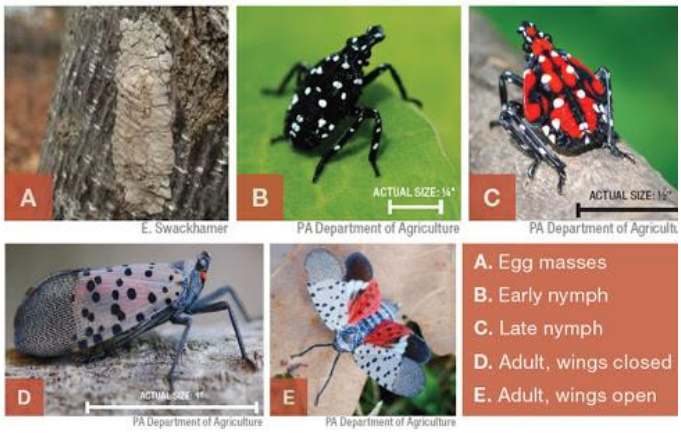
Beverly Kazickas
Environmental Chair
Kazickas55@aol.com
Sources: The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, CNN, The Center for Disease Control (CDC), Vox, Cornell University, and Rutgers University

Spotted Lanternfly

Last October I was on a trip with my son to Reading Pennsylvania for a steam engine ride. Afterwards, walking around, I saw this very colorful moth-like bug on the ground, one that I had never seen before. After doing some research, I found that it was a Spotted Lanternfly or SLF (Lycorma delicatula) and found that they are a very destructive species and wanted to educate our members as to what to do if they find one.

Identification

The Spotted Lanternfly is a sap-feeding insect native to China and other parts of Southeast Asia. It was first found in Pennsylvania in 2014, and has since been found to have confirmed populations in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New York, Connecticut and Ohio. The spotted lanternfly adult is about 2.5 cm (1 inch) in length. The wings are greyish-brown with black spots, with the wing tips having a darker, brick-and-mortar pattern. The hind wings are mainly red with black spots, followed by a white band and a black tip. Spotted lanternfly females prefer to lay their eggs on the tree-of-heaven, but will lay their eggs on any flat vertical surface, including other trees, stones, vehicles, outdoor furniture, and many others. The eggs are laid in groups of approximately 30-50, and then coated with a waxy gray film. When this film has dried, it can look similar to a splash of mud, which can make them difficult to notice. The eggs will hatch in the spring, usually in late April or early May. The nymphs are small and are black with white spots when they first hatch. As the nymphs mature, they start to show red coloring, especially around their head, abdomen, and wing pads.



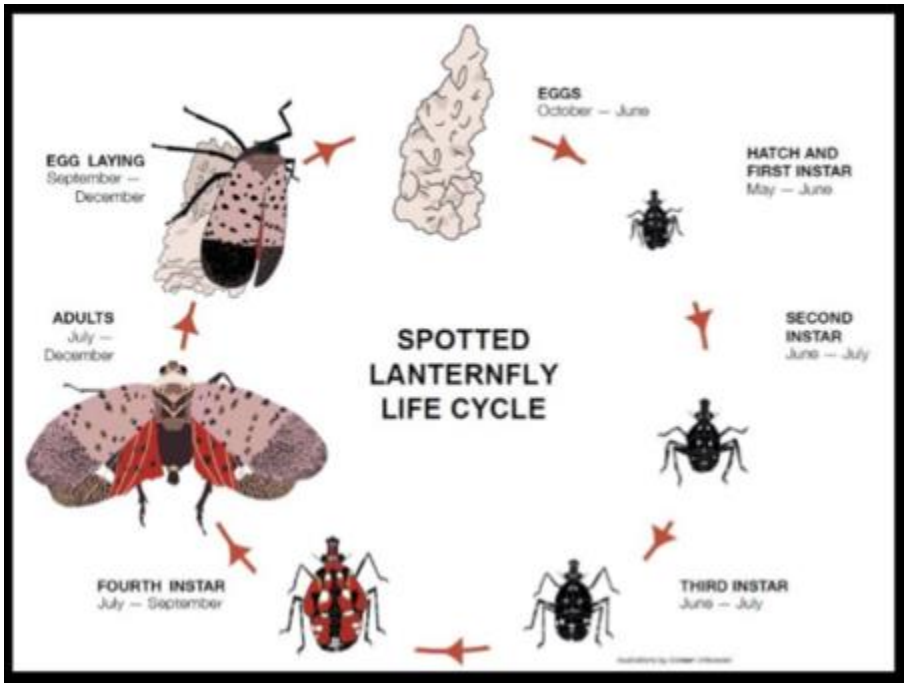
One habit that has been observed in the nymphs is a tendency to crawl up the tree in the morning, and then back down the tree in the evening. As the nymphs often do this in large groups, it can be very noticeable.

Behavior

The SLF are not known to cause any harm to humans or animals but through their piercing-sucking mouthpart, feed on sap from over 70 different plant species. It has a strong preference for economically important plants including grapevines, maple trees, black walnut, birch, willow, and other trees. While they are feeding, they are simultaneously causing wounds to the tree, which significantly stresses the plants, which can then lead to decreased health and potentially death.

As SLF feeds, the insect excretes a honeydew like 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.

Spotted Lanternfly Life Cycle



Learn More About What You Can Do

- From the NJ Department of Agriculture: To report a sighting, use the reporting tool. For other questions, call **1-866-BAD-BUGZ** or email them at SLF-plantindustry@ag.nj.gov.
- Penn State Zoom Recording of an Introduction to the Spotted Lanternfly:
  - https://psu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_uwrjvkrv
- Medham-Chester Patch Article - NJ: Stop Dangerously Invasive Lanternfly Spread In 8 NJ Counties | Mendham, NJ Patch
- A recommended way of trapping SLF in the nymph stage: https://youtu.be/oBr-osdUKu0

Contributed by Karen Eardley – News Leaf Editor

CRAWFORD'S CORNER

Lilac: The Color of Fragrance

Over the years, I have taught a number of garden design classes and inevitably someone wishes to know if there is a formula to help with the design process. This leads to a discussion on the ill-fated "cookbook" design process, focusing upon the Elements and Principles of Design. The flaw of this "recipe" is that both the Elements and Principles were developed for artwork and sculpture. Consequently, they focus upon the human sense of vision and ignore the remaining four senses. Certainly, a garden would not be complete if it was not for something soft to touch, soothing to hear, satisfying to taste, or sweet to smell. For the garden in May, nothing says "sweet to smell" like *Syringa*, the genus for Lilac.

Lilacs are found in the Olive or Oleaceae family and like most plants in this family, are resistant to deer browse! Currently, discussion continues on the exact number of species, as it varies from 12 to about 20, distributed from the Balkan Peninsula of South Eastern Europe to Eastern Asia. The name *Syringa* was created by the Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) in 1753. It is derived from the Greek *Sûrinx* or *Syrinx*, meaning a hollow tube or pipe. The central pith found in the older stems of many Lilacs is hollow, allowing the stems to be used as shepherd's pipes or flutes!

The common name recognizes the flower color, which is typically a bluish purple or lilac. The species most frequently encountered in gardens is *Syringa vulgaris*, a native of the stony, dry hillsides of the Balkan Peninsula. The species epithet of *vulgaris* does not infer that the plant is rude, but rather that it is common! Interestingly, this species did not appear in gardens as the result of a plant expedition or other scholarly pursuits, but rather was found in gardens within the Ottoman Empire (1299-1923), and from there emanated to gardens throughout Europe to become "common". It was also becoming relatively common in the US during the 1700's, with numerous plantings appearing on old homesteads. The popularity of this species was further enhanced by the prolific work of the French horticulturist and floral breeder, Victor Lemoine (1823-1911). Lemoine not only produced many desirable selections within other genera, such as the double flowered *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Grandiflora' or PeeGee Hydrangea, he created over 200 cultivars of Lilac, many of which sport double flowers with extra petals that are still in production today! As a result, *Syringa vulgaris* is often referred to as the French Lilac.

Syringa vulgaris is an upright, multistemmed shrub reaching 12' in height, with a long-life expectancy. In fact, there are many plantings that date back to the early nineteenth century around old homesteads. Cold hardy to zone 3, plants thrive best in full sun, with well-drained soils of a neutral pH, but it is very forgiving and can thrive in less-than

ideal conditions. Vigorous younger stems produce 4-8" long fragrant panicles of ½" diameter lilac, purple, white, blue, pink on page 12, and even bicolor flowers! As the individual stems age and gradually decline in vigor, they should be trimmed back to approximately 12" above the ground come spring. This will stimulate vigorous new shoots to flush up from the base. The 2-5" long cordate foliage is often the victim of powdery mildew, which appears as a white coating on the leaf. It is not harmful to the plants, but simply deters fall color and the leaves drop while still green.

If a more compact selection is desired, consider planting *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin'. Frank Nicholas Meyer (1875-1918) first discovered the plant in a garden near Beijing, China in 1908. In 1912, he was honored with the species epithet when the German botanist and garden designer, Camillo Karl Schneider (1876-1951), officially described the plant. Interestingly, Meyer was as prolific at collecting as Lemoine was at breeding. He collected over 2,500 different plants throughout Asia before his untimely and mysterious death! The species was also collected in 1920 by Joseph Hers (1884-1965) near Chengchow, China. Hers was a Belgian railroad engineer who, from 1919-1924, collected and sent numerous cuttings and seeds back to the Arnold Arboretum from Northern China. In both cases, the plants were budded onto privet understock and have never been seen growing in the wild. The "straight"' species creates an attractively mounded shrub, growing to 8' tall and over 10' wide. Evidently, Meyer and Hers collected different forms of the plant since a more compact form slowly started to circulate and confusion arose over its proper name, with some people giving it species status.
In an effort to eliminate any further confusion, Peter Shaw Green (1920-2009), of the Royal Botanic Garden, created the cultivar name of 'Palibin' in 1978. **As pictured above on left**, 'Palibin' is more compact in size, reaching 5-6' tall by 8' wide and honors the Russian botanist Ivan Vladimirovich Palibin (1872-1949), who had collected a number of Lilac species. It blooms slightly later than *Syringa vulgaris* and is reddish-purple in bud opening to a light violet pink in flower. The flower panicles are typically 3-4" long **(pictured above right and at end of article)** and are somewhat rounded in form, literally covering the plant in mid-May. The foliage is smaller than the Common Lilac, reaching up to 2" in length with a satin sheen. Come fall, the leaves develop a lovely deep purple color and few issues with powdery mildew!

Another exceptionally fine plant for the garden is *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *patula* 'Miss Kim', commonly called the Manchurian Lilac. Similar to Palibin Lilac, the Manchurian Lilac has a rather interesting and lengthy story. The name *Syringa pubescens* was originally authored in 1840 by the Russian botanist Nicolai Stepanowitsch Turczaninow (1796-1863). The species epithet refers to the rather downy or fuzzy feel to the leaf. Since Lilacs are similar to *Ligustrum* or Privet, and, as noted above, were often grafted onto Privet rootstock, there was a lot of confusion as to which species belonged to which genus, and in 1900, Ivan Vladimirovich Palibin (name ring a bell?) renamed the plant *Ligustrum patulum*. The species epithet is from the Latin, referring to the spreading habit the plant can assume as it ages. In 1938, the Japanese botanist Takenoshin Nakai (1882-1952) renamed it *Syringa patula*, which lasted until 1990 when the Chinese botanists Mei Chen Chang and Xin Zu Chen gave *patula* a subspecies ranking and resurrected the original species name! The plant is a native from Northern China into Korea and is hardy from zones 3-7. The selection 'Miss Kim' originated from a plant on White Cloud Peak in South Korea's Han or Bukhan Han or Bukhan Mountains, discovered by Elwyn Meader. Elwyn Marshall Meader (1910-1996), received his Master's in horticulture at Rutgers in 1941, and went on to be a professor of horticulture and plant breeder at the University of New Hampshire from 1948 to 1966. From 1946 to 1948, he served as a horticulturist in the Army and was stationed near Seoul, Korea. On the first Veterans Day, November 11, 1947, Meader took an afternoon to hike White Cloud Peak where he noticed a rather low growing form of this Lilac species. He gathered all 12 seeds that remained on the plant and once at the University of New Hampshire in 1948, he germinated the seeds. One seedling that remained compact, lacked any mildew on the foliage, and had an attractive deep burgundy fall color, was selected by him. In 1954 he released this very attractive seedling as 'Miss Kim' (**seen above left in bloom**). The origin of the cultivar name was either a tribute to all the wonderful women he met while in Korea or for a woman who helped him during his time stationed in Korea.

Aside from its lengthy history, Miss Kim Lilac is a great plant and a tribute to Elwyn Meader's talents, foretelling of his very productive future in plant breeding. Unlike the species, which can grow to 10' tall and wide, Miss Kim retains a more dignified height of 6-7' by an equal width. The flowers (**pictured above right**) typically open in late May, following 'Palibin'.

The panicles are 4-7" in length with the individual flowers lavender-pink in bud, opening to white star-shaped flowers, with a noticeably light blue cast. The fall color is indeed a deep burgundy, and like 'Palibin', requires little pruning or care to retain its shape and vigor. Like all Lilacs, both 'Palibin and 'Miss Kim' prefer well-drained, humus rich soils with a pH near 7 in full sun.

There are certainly many other Lilac species and cultivars to tantalize your garden, all deliciously fragrant and all reminding us that the key to good garden design should never be "cookbook in style." With many Lilac selections also having attractive habits with low maintenance requirements and the ability to provide wonderful floral arrangements for the table, Lilac is indeed the color of fragrance.

Bruce Crawford
State Program Leader in Home and Public Horticulture (NJAES)
bcrawf@njaes.rutgers.edu

Bruce Crawford is the Rutgers State Program Leader for Home and Public Horticulture. He is a part-time lecturer in Landscape Architecture at the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and regularly participates in the Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education Program. He was also past President of the Garden State Gardens Consortium.

BLUE STAR NEWS

The Blue Star Committee of GCNJ is working hard to bring markers to all counties in New Jersey!! 2021 will be a busy year, with several dedication ceremonies being planned.

The "FIRST" Blue Star Marker established in New Jersey (and thus, the "FIRST" marker in the country!) will have a re-dedication this October 9. The marker is located at the Cushatunk Rest Area on Route 22 in Whitehouse. It was purchased by the Community Garden Club of Hunterdon County and they will hold the re-dedication ceremony. Mark your calendars and come out to see where it all began! (See flyer below)

We are close to our goal of bringing at least one marker to each county in New Jersey. We have plans for our remaining "uncovered" counties as follows:

- **CAPE MAY COUNTY** should have had its marker installed as of this writing. It is located on the Department of Transportation site on Route 9. Watch the next News Leaf.
- **PASSAIC COUNTY** will also have its marker installed on Route 23 by May. We hope to have news of a dedication planned for the week of July 4.
- **GLOUCESTER COUNTY** is still without a marker, although the Greater Woodbury Garden Club is hoping to work with GCNJ to apply for a marker.
- **HUDSON COUNTY** GCNJ is working with the Superintendent at Liberty State Park to establish a marker in Liberty State Park. Friends of Liberty State Park are also supporting us in this effort, which we will hopefully complete by 2022.
- **SUSSEX COUNTY** GCNJ hopes to be able to place a marker at the Sussex County Fairgrounds site in 2022.

When these projects are complete, it will bring the total number of markers in New Jersey to 40!! Thank you for your help and support of this wonderful project.

Joan Cichalski,
Chairman of GCNJ Blue Star Committee
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Information for the next issue:

July 1 is the deadline for articles for the Fall News Leaf as well as listings of upcoming club events and online ads.

Send articles and upcoming events to Karen Eardley at k.eardley@live.com

Go to GCNJ website at www.gardenclubofnewjersey.org for more information.

Happy Summer and Stay Safe!