



EAST NOTTINGHAM TOWNSHIP

2017 SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

One Last Editor's Note



Since 2004 I've been doing the East Nottingham Township Newsletter. It began with a few other volunteers and eventually ended up with just me doing most of the writing with an occasional article from a resident. The past couple of years it's felt like the newsletters have been getting a little stale to me and I imagine to you also.

Thankfully another resident has come to the rescue and volunteered to take over most of the writing. Walt Leis has graciously accepted this responsibility. Walt is a "retired" geologist, who up until recently had been on the Planning Commission since 2005. He and his wife own a sheep farm in ENT. Walt has a passion about our community, as I have, and loves our rural/country lifestyle.

I have agreed to continue on to do graphics and the mechanics of the newsletter. But Walt is going to be the driving force of it from now on.

Thank you, Walt, for allowing me to "pass the pen" onto you. I am sure all the residents of the township will appreciate a new perspective, new ideas, and a new style of writing as much as I do.

PJ

of this newsletter, we have nothing definite to report about possible travel adjustments that may affect you. We will try to keep you updated on the township website (www.eastnottingham.org) as word comes from Saint David's Maintenance Center.

Maryland DOT has been working on installing "Traffic Calming Roundabouts" along Rt 273, just south of East Nottingham. The Roundabout at the 273/Appleton Road intersection should be completed in spring of 2017 and that will free-up the travel to Newark DE, BUT. Not-so-fast, another one is just beginning its construction at the intersection of Route 273 and Blue Ball Road in Maryland, which turns into Barren Road in Elk Township, which turns into Fifth Street in ENT. Construction is planned to begin in summer 2017 and will take about one year. This will be a major bottleneck so, consider some route adjustments in your travels that include Barren Rd.

Talking with the Roadmaster, we've been informed that East Nottingham Township doesn't have any major repairs or repaving scheduled on township roads this year. It will, however, respond to emergency road repairs due to storm or seasonal damage. SO, keep alert when you see traffic cones or road work signs. Always drive safely.

Road Maintenance



The spring and summer road work season is soon upon us and, for folks in East Nottingham, we have only two areas of planned road work that have been communicated to us from both PennDOT and Maryland DOT.

PennDOT is planning some unspecified bridge repair and maintenance that may begin in 2017 (or it may not, due to budgetary constraints). Several small bridges in the Octoraro and Elk watersheds that lie within the township have been surveyed during the summer of 2016. As of this date no work schedules for bridge repair (or replacement) has been communicated to the East Nottingham Roadmaster. Therefore, as of the date

Slow Down in the Township



There are a few drivers who feel that speed limits and roadway laws are only for the "other guy". These drivers don't feel compelled to read and follow speed signs. To willfully ignore the speed limit signs and stop signs is dangerous, selfish and just plain dumb.

Since 1989, East Nottingham has seen one of the largest influxes of Amish neighbors than any other township in Chester County. The Amish enjoy their lifestyle which includes visiting neighbors, often by foot or by scooter. They gather at each other's homes for bi-weekly Sunday worship services. They

gather for Tuesday or Thursday wedding celebrations in the fall every year. Most importantly however, in my list of reasons to drive more safely is the presence of all the little Amish kids who daily walk from home to their one room school houses and back again. Usually, in the mornings, about 7:30 AM, it's a common site to see a small cluster of care-free Amish kids. This is followed by the same little bands at 2:30, walking home. The Amish safety and school committees outfitted the traditional Amish kids garb with the additional "PENNDOT green" safety vests for all the kids to walk. This last item is a safety feature the Amish found necessary to avoid being struck by careless drivers.

Don't be one of the few selfish and senseless drivers who speed up just as they come along side of a group of laughing Amish kids. The kids are walking home from school, let's not endanger their lives. Let's think about our own kids and how we cherish them and are forever concerned about their safety. Our Amish neighbors deserve our care.

Monarch Butterfly Recovery



Our trees have been under attack by invasive burrowing insects for over 30 years. Honey bees are in decline and have been so for the last 20 years. I'd like to discuss a decline of

Monarch Butterflies, a decline so severe that the Eastern population of this butterfly, if not reversed, could result in the virtual extinction of this population of butterfly that has been a summer visitor in our gardens and fields centuries before our nation was formed. In Eastern US, there are five major North/South Monarch Butterfly "Flyways". Their routes extend east from the Mississippi River, within which these little creatures make annual migrations south to their overwintering grounds † the states of Michoacán Mexico, and following these same routes they make their springtime return to breeding grounds that extend as far north as Maritime Canada and the lower Hudson Bay.

One of these flyways lies within our area of Pennsylvania. This easternmost migration route follows the Delaware River into New York State and

into Maritime Canada. All the eastern flyways converge at an area in Southeast Texas, called the "Texas Funnel", where all these migration routes converge and continue to the Sierra Madres in Michoacán State. A western flyway lies along the US Pacific Coast. In this flyway, the migration route of the western population lies entirely west of the Sierra Nevada and extends from Southern California north to Vancouver. This population of Monarchs appears to be stable (learn more about Monarch flyways at www.Texasbutterflyranch.com)

The big problem, and the main reason for the decline of the eastern population of Monarchs, is the loss of habitat both in their wintering-over lands and their breeding ranges in the US and lower Canada.

In Michoacán, Mexico the mountain forests are being decimated by unsustainable lumbering. Many exotic resinous pine forests exist on the eastern slopes of the Sierras. These are the same areas preferred by over-wintering Monarchs. In order to slow down the deforestation the Mexican government has established a number of parks with connecting trails so that hikers and tourists can observe the pines covered with tens of millions of monarchs waiting to begin their northward journey in early March of each year. We can hope that they get a grip on the deforestation, but absent that, there is something we can do to assist the population to remain stable.

In the US, the problem of habitat loss revolves around changing farming and landscaping practices. Farmers are clearing farmlands right up to their property lines and no longer allow "hedge rows" which contain numerous berries and plants including the perennial milkweed, which is the sole food plant of the monarch larvae. Around here the monarchs arrive in early to mid-May. The butterflies actually begin their northern migration from Mexico and arrive in our area in three generations. Each generation will cross about 1000 miles before breeding and dying and each complete generation will take under thirty days depending on the availability of milkweed plants along the route. By the time the caterpillars reach the Mason Dixon Line in May, the milkweeds in our area should be starting to appear.

We told you all that to tell you this. We can save the Monarch population by making up for their habitat losses. This is easily accomplished by planting rose flowered milkweed plants or we can plant seeds for subsequent year's milkweed plants. The milkweed plant preferred by Monarchs is the Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). This is the broad leafed milkweed that we see along roadsides or sloped areas that are too steep to plow. Other varieties of milkweeds that the Monarch will deposit their eggs include the showier Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) and even the "Milk free" Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

We planted about twenty *incarnata* plants in June 2016 along Fifth Street. By the end of the butterfly breeding season (which in our area is about mid-September) we had three successive generations of East Nottingham Monarchs.

For more information on the Monarch go to https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch_Butterfly/migration/

Stormwater Management Techniques

In the last Fall/Winter newsletter there were some tips for helping to keep our stormwater runoff clean. Here are more tips, from the **Green Guide to Clean Water for Residents by Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association**, to follow in the spring and summer months.



April: Leave grass clippings; mulch properly.

- Cut grass at 2½ to 3 inches tall. Mow often enough so that clippings are not longer than one-third (1/3) of the grass blade, so they can decompose easily into the soil.
- Excess nitrogen and phosphorus from lawn fertilization is frequently a pollutant to streams, fostering the growth of algae which deplete oxygen levels, harming fish. Spare your stream by avoiding spring fertilization, and leave your grass clippings on your lawn instead. Grass clippings supply between 25% and 50% of nitrogen and phosphorus needs.
- Mulched beds trap and infiltrate more rainwater than lawn or bare soil. Spread out any excess mulch away from trees and shrubs, making sure the tree's "flare" is exposed, and allowing it to

decompose. Top off with a thin layer of fresh mulch, making sure the mulch is no deeper than 3" and does not touch the tree bark. Never spread fresh woodchips around trees or shrubs; their decomposition will harm plants.



May: Replace some turf with mulched beds, a rain garden, or pocket meadow

- Create new areas in the yard that will absorb roof water from downspouts, runoff from paved areas, and puddles in compacted soil areas. Start a flower or vegetable patch, build a bog or rain garden, or establish a pocket meadow, to absorb rainwater. Mulch all bare soil in planted beds and under trees and shrubs with composted leaf mulch from your municipal leaf composting operation.

Learn more from downloading CRC's rain garden brochure:

<http://www.crcwatersheds.org/resources/view/96>

Check out Swarthmore College's Sustainability Website:

<http://www.scottarboretum.org/Sustainability/ourpractices.html>



June: Raise mower height; judiciously control weeds and pests

- Raise your mower height to 3 inches for summer months. Taller grass grows deeper roots, shades and protects the soil, is less prone to disease, pests, and weeds, and captures more excess rainwater on the property.
- Leave an unmowed edge (three feet or more in width) along streams, ponds, and drainage channels to prevent erosion.
- Late May or early June is a good time to spread biological controls on your lawn or garden, such as beneficial nematodes to control Japanese beetle grubs. Avoid use of chemical pesticides and herbicides if possible, they damage beneficial insects and soil structures. If weed problems develop, spot treat specific weed patches rather than treating the entire lawn or garden.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Regular Board of Supervisor meetings:

April 11	May 9	June 13
July 11	August 8	September 12
October 10	November 14	December 12

Regular Planning Commission meetings:

April 24	May 22	June 26
July 24	August 28	September 25
October 23	November 20	December 18

All meetings are held at 7pm in the Township Building.

Dumpster Weekend – April 14 from 7 am to 6 pm and April 15 from 7 am to 3 pm, at which time the dumpsters will be promptly removed, so don't wait until the last minute. Details of what items are and are not acceptable to be disposed of are on the township website and the Armstrong Cable Channel. Or call the township at 610-932-8494.

Primary Election Day is Tuesday May 16, 2017.

The OARA is hosting the 1st annual MLB Pitch Hit & Run on 4/29 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Registration opens at 8:30, and participation is free. Open to boy and girls 7-14. To be held at Shelton Field-900 Locust St. Oxford. OARA is seeking sponsors, who may email John Stonska at jstonska@yahoo.com.

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

Anyone living in the township and having some information or news that could be of interest to our readership Please consider writing an article. We'd love to hear from you. (NO we don't pay and we will probably edit the article to fit within our allotted space). Our next newsletter will be in fall of 2017. SO, if you have an article idea, let us know by July. Write to zoningofficer@zoominternet.net

East Nottingham Township
158 Election Road
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Tel: (610)932-9812



Visit Us on the Web
www.eastnottingham.org

Board of Supervisor meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

Planning Commission meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month.

All meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Township Building

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