

Upper Deerfield Township

Environmental Commission

Eagle Population Grows



Bald eagles seen fishing on Sunset Lake, Silver Lake and Cohansey River

Record local sightings of Bald Eagles during the 2021 breeding season reflect an increase of 36 new nests and 220 nesting pairs throughout the state, according to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

(DEP). Most of the nests are in Cumberland, Cape May and Salem counties where water and fish are plentiful. The DEP maps nest sites, so if you have one near or on your property be sure to report it to

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/pdf/eglrpt00.pdf>

The majestic birds' return from near-extinction is due to "a combination of proactive wildlife management, strong public investment and the unparalleled dedication of biologists and volunteers," according to David Wheeler, executive director of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation. "It's an amazing story New Jersey should celebrate," he said recently, noting that in the 1970s only a single nesting pair existed in South Jersey, primarily because of contamination by the insecticide DDT. Since the US government—along with many other countries—banned DDT in 1973, the eagle population has slowly recovered.

Named the national bird in 1782, the bald eagle symbolizes strength, courage and freedom.



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SEED EXCHANGE

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TREE-PLANTING

Environmental Commission to replace dead trees on Veteran's Drive

Beware the Spotted Lanternfly



Invasive Pest Comes to South Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Agriculture has been tracking the advancement of the Spotted Lanternfly since it entered NJ from PA last year. If you see it, take a specimen or a photograph or call the New Jersey Spotted Lanternfly Hotline at 1-833-223-2840 (BADBUG0) and leave a message detailing your sighting and contact information.

The spotted lanternfly (SLF), an invasive insect that has decimated forests in Pennsylvania, has now entered South Jersey. The insects cause serious damage to trees plus millions of dollars annually in lost agricultural production. Although they feed on all kinds of plants, they have a strong preference for hardwood trees such as maple and black walnut; stone fruit trees including apple, peach and cherry; as well as grapevines. Their favorite plant is Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*), an invasive wild-growing tree found along roadsides throughout NJ.

SLF lay eggs in the fall on trees, rocks, telephone poles, and other convenient surfaces. Egg masses contain 30-50 eggs each and are covered with a muddy-colored wax (*see photos below from PA Department of Agriculture*). The eggs will hatch in May, so take the time to search for and destroy them in March and April. Scrape the waxy masses into a container and coat them well with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer before disposing of them.

The insect feeds on plant sap and excretes what is called “honeydew,” a sticky liquid. The honeydew covers the leaves and then gets moldy, which cuts off sunlight and kills the host plant. Honeydew also coats yards, patios and porches, attracting gnats, bees and other insects.



(To be continued)

