



CHADDS FORD TODAY



Volume 2, Issue 2

Brought to you by the Supervisors of Chadds Ford Township Delaware County, PA:



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FOR MEETING DATES & UPDATED NEWS VISIT:

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The Chairman's Corner by Frank G. Murphy

BEE FRIENDLY CHADDS FORD



In the everyday hustle and bustle of our lives it can be easy to overlook the importance of doing our part to maintain nature's balance in the environment. But as I recently learned, even small changes in our actions can have a large impact on nature. I just attended the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) annual conference in Hershey. This event offers many educational seminars on topics ranging from stormwater requirements to accounting practices, and also allows time to meet with municipal services organizations, state and federal agencies, conservation and historic groups, and many other interesting opportunities. One of the most unique topics I learned about at this year's conference was the importance of promoting honeybee health both throughout the state and in our own back yards.

Now I know that at this point, some readers may be questioning my choice of front page article material, but please consider the following information, taken from the pollinator.org website:

Birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles, and other small mammals that pollinate plants are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food. They also sustain our ecosystems and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce.

Pollinating animals travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies in a vital interaction that allows the transfer of genetic material critical to the reproductive system of most flowering plants – the very plants that bring us countless fruits, vegetables, and nuts; ½ of the world's oils, fibers and raw materials; prevent soil erosion, and increase carbon sequestration. This nearly invisible ecosystem service is a precious resource that requires attention and support - - and in disturbing evidence found around the globe, is increasingly in jeopardy.

Research reveals that Pennsylvania pollinator populations in general are experiencing many challenges, with beekeepers reporting a 52% loss of their colonies during the winter of 2016-2017. Many issues are caused by disease, misuse of pesticides, and weather changes. There is also an economic impact because crops grown as the result of pollination contribute more than \$260 million dollars to Pennsylvania's economy every year.

How can the Township help? My fellow Supervisors and I have already taken steps to increase pollinator habitat in several ways. A municipal park and playground is being planned for installation at the Township complex with a pollinator garden as part of that plan. Township and PennDOT officials have met to discuss the upcoming Route 1 repaving project. Among other items, the Township has suggested raised bed traffic islands at the intersection of Routes 1 and 202, to contain pollinator friendly native plants. The same concept is included in the Walkable Chadds Ford plan. Further, in the everyday review of stormwater/erosion and sediment plans, the Township Engineer encourages plant growth by promoting the use of retention ponds, swales or other solutions that provide bees access to water.

How can you help? Here are some ideas to start: create pollinator habitats in your gardens; reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides; minimize your environmental impact by buying local, and celebrate "Pollinator Week," June 17th – 23rd. Twelve years ago, the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Look for more information on all of these suggestions via a link on the Township's website at www.chaddsfordpa.gov and lets **BEE FRIENDLY** Chadds Ford!



New Season for an Old Place: The Battlefield



Today, the Brandywine Battlefield Park site is rather quiet—the loudest noise you'll hear is the traffic passing by on Route 1. Although, over 200 years ago, on September 11, 1777, the sights and sounds were much different as the 52-acre park was the site of George Washington's continental encampment.

The largest single-day battle of the American Revolution took place in the Brandywine Valley as the Continental Army made every attempt to stop the British soldiers from advancing to Philadelphia. Of course, the British brought along Hessian soldiers to outnumber the Continental Army, and the Continental Army recruited local Quakers—and, well, the general consensus among the Quakers was to not fight. Joseph Townsend wrote of his experiences and described the destruction during and after the battle of the peaceful valley. Gideon Gilpin suffered great losses and was coerced into choosing a side swearing an oath of allegiance to the Continental Army after the battle only to be expelled from his local meeting house. Besides the losses that the Continental Army and local Quakers both suffered, the British also suffered greatly in their ultimate campaign to control Philadelphia.

The battle covered 10 square miles or roughly 35,000 acres—today, that's about 15 different municipalities. Chadds Ford Township is the lucky municipality to encompass the site that memorializes this great battle that holds such important value to American culture and history. So consider visiting an old landmark as the new summer season arrives. Take a blanket and have a picnic at the Brandywine Battlefield Park!

For Information on Upcoming Battlefield Events, visit:
www.BrandywineBattlefield.org/Events

Staff Pet Spotlight: Betsy the Betta



Betsy the Betta provides Matt DiFilippo, Township Administrator, with hours of relaxation. When he's not staring at Betsy or feeding her bloodworms, she likes to hide in her 3 1/2 gallon tank. Thankfully, she's easy to take care of and Matt doesn't have to worry about her getting lost or running out of water. Not only does Betsy provide a calming and relaxing atmosphere, she also provides water for Matt's many indoor house plants—and maybe that's the real benefit of Betsy—because the plants are many, and a lot bigger since Matt started using Betsy's water for his plants.

Resident Reporter: Jonathan Sharp, Bullock Rd. WEATHER WARNINGS AND TRENDS



The National Weather Service uses the *SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program* to obtain valuable weather information. *SKYWARN* is a volunteer program with up to 400,000 storm spotters nationwide. Anyone can volunteer to be a storm spotter. To become a *SKYWARN Storm Spotter* one must take a two-hour long class conducted by the National Weather Service (NWS). Information on upcoming classes may be found on the NWS website, www.weather.gov/phi/skywarn.

SKYWARN Storm Spotters report multiple weather phenomena such as severe thunderstorms, wind gusts, funnel clouds and tornadoes, and winter weather such as heavy snow and ice in the winter time. Jonathan has reported snow totals for the area during the winter snow events, and most likely snowfall totals you've seen reported on TV or radio for the Chadds Ford area have come from him as a storm spotter.

SKYWARN Storm Spotter reports can be used for climate data by NWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to identify weather trends for the area over time. To report severe weather warnings, damage after an inclement weather event or snow or rainfall totals, Jonathan makes a phone call to the NWS office in Mount Holly, NJ, or goes online to their Facebook page and sends them a message.

Volunteer Opportunity: Concordville Fire

Concordville Fire and Protective is always looking for volunteers! Citizens of good moral character, sixteen years of age or older, are eligible for membership in the Concordville Fire & Protective Association. Contact Concordville Fire for more information at 610-459-4749 or visit the "Apply" section of their website at www.Concordville.org.



Burn Permits for Bonfires

Spring yardwork usually leads to weekend bonfires. There is no fee for a burn permit, but you need one for the safety of Township residents. Contact the Township for more information or visit the website for an application: www.ChaddsFordPA.gov.



Spring Cleaning: Clean Your Home's Exterior for Added Charm and Value

A picture is worth a thousand words. The "curb appeal," or picture of your home in the mind's eye of your neighbors and passers-by can enhance your property's value whether you realize it or not. A well-landscaped home has a significant price advantage over homes that are poorly landscaped or have no landscaping at all. A recent article stated the added value of a well landscaped home ranges from +5.5% to +12%. For example, a \$300,000 home with a well-maintained yard may have an increase in home equity by \$16,000 to \$38,000 over a similar property where the yard and home exterior are not well-maintained. So as you can see, landscaping may provide an immediate increase in home value that can continue to grow as years go by, provided you continue this good practice, of course.

It's advisable to consult a landscape architect to help design a complete plan for your property to create a professional looking landscape. The expense of the design is usually off-set by the increased value your home will gain. Implementation of the plan can be made in smaller sections, as your budget allows. You may even be able to do some of the work yourself. Take a good look at your lawn. Well-defined edges between the mulch and grass will give a professional look. If you do not have an edger, there are places where you can rent one to use. Mulch the shrub and flower beds. Fertilize your lawn, shrubbery and flowers to give them sharp color and a rich fullness. Just be sure to purchase the right type of fertilizer and follow the instructions carefully. Make sure the products are pet and insect friendly!

Strategically placed plants in containers can enhance areas of your property where planting a flower bed is not practical. This adds more warmth to hardscape areas, such as driveways and pool decks. Keep in mind that landscaping is to your home what a frame is to a painting. How is your exterior lighting? Are the bulbs bright enough? Do the lamps need cleaning or replacing? Do you need more strategically placed lights near walkways or door ways? Clean your windows and wash your doors... it is amazing how much pollen can build up in one season. Power washing or painting your siding, stucco and shutters for a clean, sharp look. Step back and look at the exterior of your home and property from the street. Take a few photos and begin to plan your strategy for improving your home's look and value. Spring is a great time to pay attention to your home's exterior!



Managing Stormwater by Vice-Chair Samantha Reiner . . .

Lawn vs. Garden: Plant a Rain Garden

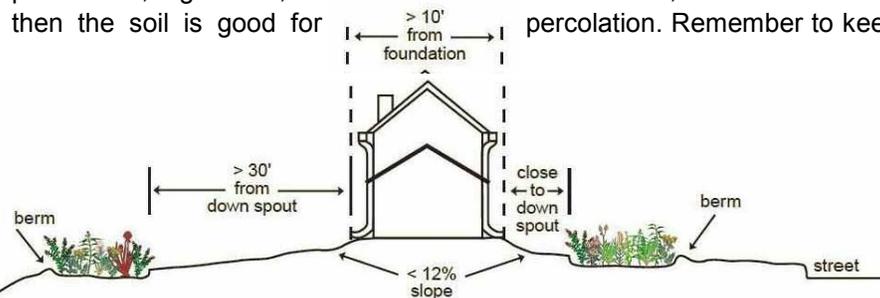
To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. A well-manicured lawn looks great, but when it comes to managing stormwater runoff, a rain garden is better because it soaks up rain water that drains from your roof, driveway or other impervious or non-porous surfaces found on your property. Besides, it's one less patch of grass you have to mow! Rain gardens allow much more stormwater runoff to filter back into the ground than conventional patches of lawn, which sometimes can act just as "hard" as impervious coverage in the sense that rain runs off your lawn rather than soaking into it.

In Pennsylvania, landowners have rights to develop their land. As developments have replaced forested and natural lands, rain water has increased flooding and streambank erosion. Of course, local, state and federal laws have become more strict as a corrective action for past foibles in allowing more concrete than trees to spot our landscapes. Collectively as a group, individual homeowners can protect their local streams and eco-systems, and in some cases, their own fresh water drinking supply.

Planting a rain garden on your property can be one of your greatest environmental legacies to your surrounding eco-system. In addition to protecting the banks of the Brandywine or Harvey Run or Chester Creek or any one of their tributaries in our Township from streambank erosion, planting a rain garden also allows you to increase the biodiversity of your yard and the surrounding environment. Now's your chance to attract some pollinators you read about on page 1! You may not only be protecting your drinking water, but your food source, too!

Rain gardens should be placed in a sunny, gentle sloping area on your property with good soils that percolate. To test percolation, dig a hole, fill it with water, and see if the water is gone the next morning. If the water is gone, then the soil is good for percolation. Remember to keep your rain garden at least 10 feet from your home

so as not to damage your home's foundation in any way. Rain gardens can be as big or small as you want, but the recommended size is 10—15 square feet. Happy planting!



CHADDS FORD TOWNSHIP STAFF

TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Maryann D. Furlong

SEWER AUTHORITY MANAGER:

Valerie J. Hoxter

TREASURER:

Barbara A. Biedekapp

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR:

Matthew B. DiFilippo

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Colleen M. Ranieri

BUILDING INSPECTOR/ZONING OFFICER:

Fran H. McArdle

FIRE MARSHAL:

Tom Nelling

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www.ChaddsFordPA.gov

Chadds Ford TODAY
10 Ring Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317



The Chadds Ford Historical Society will hold their "Valley Jamboree" at the Barn Visitors Center, 1736 N. Creek Rd. on Sat., May 18th, 11AM—7PM and Sun., May 19th, 11AM—5PM. The event will feature live bands, food, beer and wine, crafters, and activities for kids. General Admission, \$15 (18+), \$5 (6-17) and free for children (<6) and free for members with their membership card. Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on a leash and cleaned up after. Police and parking attendants will be onsite to guide you to parking areas adjacent to the Visitors Center on N. Creek Road. DO NOT PARK along Route 1 (Baltimore Pike), Creek Road (Route 100), or in nearby developments, neighborhoods or businesses.

TOWNSHIP MEETING DATES

Board of Supervisors:

- Regular Meeting: 6/5/2019 at 7PM
- Regular Meeting: 7/9/2019 at 7PM
- Regular Meeting: 8/7/2019 at 7PM
- Regular Meeting: 9/4/2019 at 7PM

- Workshop: 5/22/2019 at 7PM
- Workshop: 6/26/2019 at 7PM

- Workshop: 7/24/2019 at 7PM
- Workshop: 8/28/2019 at 7PM

Planning Commission:

- Regular Meeting: 6/12/2019 at 7PM
- Regular Meeting: 7/10/2019 at 7PM
- Regular Meeting: 8/14/2019 at 7PM
- Regular Meeting: 9/11/2019 at 7PM

Open Space:

- Regular Meeting: 6/13/2019 at 7PM
- Regular Meeting: 7/11/2019 at 7PM
- No meeting in August*
- Regular Meeting: 9/12/2019 at 7PM

Please check the Township's website, www.ChaddsFordPA.gov for a full calendar of all 2019 meeting dates or upcoming special meetings.



Chadds Ford Historic Society

2019 Exhibit: Thrills, Hills and Spills: Apr.5th—Dec. 31st

Valley Jamboree: May 18th & 19th

Yard Sale: June 8th

Chadds Ford Days: Sept. 14th & 15th

Visit www.ChaddsFordHistory.org

for more events.



Brandywine River Museum

Antiques Show Preview Party: May 24th

48th Annual Antiques Show: May 25th—27th

First Sundays for Families: June 5th & Aug. 4th

Visit: www.Brandywine.org for more events.



Brandywine Battlefield

History in the Neighborhood: May 19th & June 23rd

Georgius Rex (GR) Day: June 8th

Kid's Day: June 9th

18th Century Day: June 16th

Visit: www.BrandywineBattlefield.org

for more events.



Christian Sanderson Museum

Open March—November
Saturdays & Sundays
12PM—4PM

\$8.00 Adult Admission
\$5.00 Children Admission (6-12)
Free for Children under 5

Visit: www.SandersonMuseum.org for more events.

