



The Solebury Messenger

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Autumn Issue

October 2018

Fighting the Spotted Lanternfly

Homeowners urged to help eradicate this pest, which threatens Solebury's farms

Autumn is egg-laying season for the Spotted Lanternfly, which makes it a season of vigilance for homeowners and farmers working to eradicate this dangerous pest. There are two actions homeowners can



An adult Spotted Lanternfly, as they appear in autumn.

take between now and the onset of winter: Remove host plants and destroy egg masses.

At the end of the summer, representatives from the US Department of Agriculture spent several days going door-to-door in Solebury to survey Spotted Lanternfly infestations and offer help in disposing of affected plants. This

is part of a coordinated state and federal effort to control the pest in Eastern and Southeastern Pennsylvania, where the threat is most severe.

The USDA inspectors can identify which plants are hosting Spotted Lanternflies and recommend a plan of action. The teams recommend that homeowners either work with their existing landscaping firm or arborist, or the department has contractors who can remove the affected plants and trees at USDA's cost. If you think you've spotted the pest, you can call the task force at (215) 233-6610 for more information.

Host Eradication

The most common host plant is the Tree of Heaven. This invasive species thrives in our climate, grows rapidly and is especially difficult to control and eradicate. It is

commonly found along roadsides and is occasionally used in landscaping. You can learn more about Tree of Heaven at the Penn State Extension Service website, extension.psu.edu/tree-of-heaven, where they have compiled extensive information on identifying and eliminating this plant.

Any shrub or tree that is hosting Spotted Lanternflies must be killed through herbicide applications and removed.

Egg Scraping

Identifying and eliminating egg casings is a bit trickier. The pest lays its eggs on just about any hard surface it can find, including tree bark, cement blocks, or vehicle undercarriages. Some egg masses might be laid at the tops of trees. The eggs resemble smeared putty or bubble gum. They can be easily

...continued on page six

Quarry reclamation on pace for March completion

Blasting will resume at the quarry site this fall, but not for mining. New Hope Crushed Stone will be transforming the stepped terrain of the quarry's east wall into a smooth, 35-degree slope as part of the plans to return the site to a more natural state.

Reclamation of the Phillips Mill Road quarry is on schedule for March 2019, according to state Department of Environmental Protection officials monitoring the site. The work is directed by two consent decrees: One governing the water level in the quarry pit, the other requiring the restoration of Primrose Creek.

Fulfillment of the consent decree obligations this coming spring does not mean an end to

for plantings and landscaping around the old pit, and DEP will be monitoring the water level and creek conditions for several more years to ensure compliance.

Quarry operators have not publicly declared their future plans for the land. While NHCS will continue to own the property, the reclamation of the pit and its surroundings would all but prohibit profitable mining activity in the future.



The east wall of the quarry, in September 2018.

What's in Your Inbox?

Meeting agendas, police alerts, weather bulletins and more are available by email. Visit SoleburyTwp.org and click "Email Notices."

restoration work. NHCS will be responsible

In case you missed it...

Smart911 in Bucks

The Bucks County Commissioners and the Bucks County Emergency Communications Department have partnered with Smart911 to begin a new program that will allow for quicker assistance when a 9-1-1 call is placed. Individuals can now sign-up for free online and give pertinent information on themselves and their family which will allow 9-1-1 operators to dispatch law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services quicker and with more relevant data.

Residents can now create an account at the Smart911 website, www.smart911.com, with basic contact information. Once the account has been activated, the profile can be customized and residents can share as little or as much as they would like emergency response to have in the event of emergency. The information is only viewable by dispatchers and other emergency personnel when a 9-1-1 call is placed, otherwise it remains safe and secure in the safety profile.

Are you in the deer program?

Deer management is an important part of Solebury's long-term plan for maintaining and protecting our vital natural resources.

Solebury has adopted a community-wide approach to reducing deer damage. The program's long-term success depends on the active involvement of more Solebury landowners who are willing to allow sport hunting on their properties. If you are a landowner, we can match you up with a hunter who has been screened, licensed, trained, and committed to the legal and humane harvest of deer.

For more information visit www.soleburytpw.org/deer, call the Township at (215) 297-5656 or email deercommittee@soleburytpw.org.

Township Directory

Emergency? Dial: 9-1-1. Nonemergency? Call: 215-297-5656.
General Inquiries: soleburytownship@soleburytpw.org

Township Manager Dennis H. Carney:
soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org

HARB Administrator, Environmental Advisory Council Secretary
Christine Terranova: cterranova@soleburytpw.org

LPC Administrator, Planning Commission Administrator
Jean Weiss: jweiss@soleburytpw.org

Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice:
soleburyparks@soleburytpw.org

Right-To-Know Officers
Administrative Records: Jean Weiss,
soleburymanager@soleburytpw.org
Police Records: Police Chief Dominick Bellizzie,
police@soleburypd.org

Board of Supervisors

Chair Mark Baum Baicker mbaumbaicker@soleburytpw.org	Vice-Chair Kevin Morrissey kmorrissey@soleburytpw.org
Supervisor Noel Barrett nbarrett@soleburytpw.org	Supervisor Robert A. McEwan rmcewan@soleburytpw.org

Supervisor John Francis
jfrancis@soleburytpw.org

Township Calendar

*Calendar information is subject to changes.
Confirm all dates and times with the Township office.
All meetings are held at Solebury Township Hall.*

October

10/8 Planning Commission
10/9 Environmental Advisory Council
10/16 Board of Supervisors
10/18 Land Preservation Committee
10/25 Parks and Recreation Board
10/29 Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee
10/30 Subcommittee of Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

November

11/5 Historic Architectural Review Board
11/8 Board of Supervisors
11/13 Planning Commission
11/13 Environmental Advisory Council
11/15 Land Preservation Committee
11/15 Parks and Recreation Board
11/20 Board of Supervisors
11/26 Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee
11/27 Solebury Farm Committee

December

12/3 Historic Architectural Review Board
12/10 Planning Commission
12/11 Board of Supervisors
12/11 Environmental Advisory Council
12/20 Land Preservation Committee
12/20 Parks and Recreation Board
12/31 Aquetong Spring Advisory Committee

*Stay on top of meeting times with email alerts!
Visit: SoleburyTwp.org, click "Email Notices"
and enter your email address.*

Landscaping donated to Aquetong Spring Park project

The Aquetong Spring Park project continues to generate interest and enthusiasm as the final stages of planning begin to take shape on the ground. Landscaping along the Judy House and at the park entrance are the latest noticeable improvements.

Professional Landscape Services on Lower York Road, which has worked to beautify and maintain Solebury's parks and recreation facilities for many years, designed

and planted the foundation beds at the Judy House and the beds around the entrance sign, donating all of the materials and labor costs to the Township and Aquetong Spring Park.

PLS President Peter Schwalm says the gift is his firm's way of saying "thank you" to Solebury residents and their commitment to preserving the township's natural beauty.



Brook Trout thriving as Aquetong Creek is reborn

Members of Bucks County Trout Unlimited surveyed the stream flowing from Aquetong Spring to see how the Brook Trout population was faring – and the fish have taken to their new home.

The creek was stocked in April of last year, thanks to the volunteer efforts of Trout Unlimited and the Aquetong Watershed Association, working with Solebury Township.

More than a year later, BCTU volunteers did two informal surveys of the creek and found adult Brook Trout and fingerlings – proof that the transported fish had successfully spawned in their new home. While not a rigorous scientific examination that would yield a definitive fin count, the volunteers say they found abundant trout without much effort.

Aquetong Spring and its environs are one of Solebury's most important natural resources, encompassing the history, culture and natural beauty of the township. For well over two decades, Solebury residents, volunteer committees and township supervisors have dedicated their efforts to the restoration of Aquetong creek and stewardship of the historic spring.

You can stay up-to-date on Aquetong Spring Park on the Township website, at www.soleburytp.org/aquetong-spring-advisory-committee.



Keep a storm kit at the ready

Whether its a late-season hurricane or a gusty nor'easter, keeping your household prepared can be the difference between an event and an emergency. Having a few simple items in a "go bag" is an important part of being prepared for severe weather.

Flashlights, a battery-powered radio and clock, car chargers for your phone, first aid supplies, cash and copies of critical information should be at the ready before a storm hits. Extra batteries and a three-day backup of medications should also be in your kit.

Build your supplies over time, adding a few items each week or month, and be sure to check and replace any items that go bad over time.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency suggests

that your storm kit provides for these basic needs:

- **Emergency Communication.**

Make sure you have everything you'll need to get in touch with your family either through cellular phones or email.

- **Medical Needs.**

Be equipped to tend to any current or unexpected medical conditions your family may have.

- **Critical Documents.**

Place any important documents in a waterproof container to help keep them dry and easily accessible.

- **Tools and Safety Items.**

Small items like matches, flashlights, a multi-purpose tool, and a whistle can make a huge difference for your family while weathering the storm.

- **Food/Supplies.**

Have at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food and water



for your family. Remember to pack anything specific to your family's needs.

- **Hygiene and Sanitation.**

Sanitizer, wet wipes, paper towels.

- **Gear for the Weather.**

Protect yourself by packing warm clothes and blankets; don't forget protective footwear and gloves, too.

- **Comfort & Priceless Items.**

Grab any items that are irreplaceable or may provide comfort to your family, especially your children, and toys for the pets.

Pantry provisions: what to have on hand

Emergency preparedness guidelines recommend that we all keep three days of food and water on hand for each member of the family (pets, too) to weather a severe storm or other major event. But what constitutes emergency food, anyway?

Can you cook if the power goes out? A fireplace, outdoor grill or camp stove will meet your needs, along with a sturdy pot and skillet (non-stick cookware isn't meant for fireplace cooking, but cast iron is). Make sure your storm supplies match your equipment: Think instant rice, not risotto.

Water: One gallon per person per day. But water can get boring quickly, so cold-brew tea bags and powdered drink mix can liven things up.

Buy canned and jarred food that can be finished in one meal. Without a working refrigerator, leftovers are off the menu. Canned beans, potted meat, seafood and chili are good protein sources; a variety of jarred veggies will help balance the meal. Keep a manual can opener handy.

Root vegetables and long-lasting fruit, like oranges and melons, are good to have on hand if purchased right before a storm hits.

For packaged food, stick with high protein items that are filling. Instant oatmeal, single-serving packages of cereal, peanut butter and nut butters are good staples. If you can boil water, you can make pasta with a small jar of store-bought sauce.

Snacks help fend off cabin fever. Candy, cookies, pudding cups; crackers, seeds and nuts, as long as they're low in salt to prevent thirstiness; granola and trail mix all have long shelf-life.



Storm Outage Contacts

PECO 1-800-841-4141 or www.peco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus/Pages/OutageMap.aspx

Verizon 1-800-837-4966 or www.verizon.com/support/residential/service-outage

XFINITY (Comcast) 1-800-934-6489 or www.xfinity.com/support/status

Attention, motorists!

Autumn means falling leaves and scampering deer

Fall is the season for apple-picking and cider, football games and hayrides, and long drives to take in the fall foliage. The falling leaves, love-struck deer, changing weather and the end of Daylight Saving Time come together to make the roadways more difficult to navigate safely.

Dry leaves hide road obstacles and obscure pavement markings; when wet they are as slick as ice. Solebury Township works diligently to remove leaves from our roads, primarily to keep drivers safe from slipping and skidding conditions. While Solebury has a single leaf collection truck to gather and distribute leaves to local farmers for mulch, large leaf piles left at the edge of the road are a safety concern — they block drivers' vision, reduce the size of the running lane and all too frequently blow out across the

roadway.

When driving on a roadway covered in wet leaves, slow down and put extra traveling distance between you and the car in front of you to allow for additional stopping time. When possible, avoid driving through piles of leaves.

Homeowners should pile their leaves away from the roadside and allow a clear line of sight for vehicles on the road.

Deer in carnal pursuit pay less attention to their surroundings and become more bold, leaping across roadways and traveling greater distances in search of a mate. They're most active at dusk and dawn, when a driver's vision is less acute.

Slow the car down in any area marked as a deer crossing. Remember that deer usually travel in herds; if you see one near the road, there are probably several

more nearby. Slow down and proceed with caution, remembering that the deer has only one thing on its mind and it's not your car.

PennDOT also offers these fall driving safety tips:

Increase your following distance in severe weather, at dusk and dawn and when in an area with wet leaves. If you are being tailgated, let the other driver pass.

Check your vehicle's headlights, taillights and turn signals to ensure they are working properly since darkness will be a part of many driver's morning and/or evening commutes.

Make sure you turn on your headlights as the sunlight fades.

Have your vehicle's heating and wiper systems checked to ensure they are working properly.

Scenes from Summer Adventure Camp

Summer Adventure Camp 2018 featured magic and mad science, glitter tattoos (top right) and balloon crafts, beach feet (bottom right) and face painting, and many other special events, sports, and arts & crafts activities. Participants and counselors posed for a last day group photo, with Solebury Township Parks & Recreation Director Dudley Rice (below).



National Drug Take Back Day set for Oct. 27

On Saturday, Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Solebury Township Police will participate in National Take-Back Day, a program to help remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets.

This is a chance to safely dispose of expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications by dropping them off with local law enforcement for destruction. The program also provides an opportunity for police to collaborate with the prevention and treatment community local businesses to establish a safe

collection site.

In Solebury, Township Police and New Hope Solebury Cares will be on location at Giant Food, 6542 Route 202 (Logan Square) as well as at the Solebury Township Police Department, 3092 Sungan Road.

Controlled, non-controlled, and over the counter medications will be collected.



Spotted Lanternfly and other pests require homeowner vigilance

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scraped off with a plastic card or putty knife, but be sure to scrape them into a bag or container filled with rubbing alcohol or hand



The Spotted Lanternfly egg mass resembles smeared putty or bubble gum and can be scraped into a bag or bottle containing alcohol or sanitizer to kill them.

sanitizer to kill them. Smashing and burning the eggs can also be effective.

Chemical Control

Home remedies, often found online, will not be effective and can cause harm to people, pets and plants alike. Penn State Extension strongly recommends against any concoction made from items in your pantry or under the kitchen sink.

Pesticides are most effective against Spotted Lanternfly when applied in spring and early summer.

Some direct sprays might be effective in the fall for individual plants and trees; contact a tree care professional to determine if chemical control would be an effective solution for your particular yard or garden.

Quarantine

The Spotted Lanternfly was first detected in the United States here in Pennsylvania, in Berks County. It has spread rapidly southeast since its first sighting in 2014 and led the state Department of Agriculture to impose a quarantine in affected counties. Bucks County was added to the quarantine earlier this year.

For residents, the quarantine requires that you check all outdoor items for the bug or its eggs before moving them outside the quarantine area. The quarantine currently covers Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia and Schuylkill Counties.

More Information

The Spotted Lanternfly, along with the Emerald Ash Borer and Walnut Tree

Beetle, can severely damage the working farms and tree-filled open spaces that define much of Solebury's character.

The Solebury Township website has a page dedicated to keeping track of these pests at soleburytwp.org/pests. The web page offers an overview of each pest, links to in-depth information from agriculture departments and extension services, quarantine details and maps, expert presentations and other information gathered by the Township's Environmental Advisory Council.