



East Pikeland Environmental Advisory Council

E-newsletter, Edition #6

Mark your Calendars!

- **Graham Property Clean Up:** The Township is going to open up a piece of property to the public in the near future and it needs some TLC! Volunteers will help pick up trash, eradicate invasive species, and create new trails.
 - Saturday, March 16, 9am-noon
 - Meet at East Pikeland Elementary School to walk/shuttle to the property
 - Weather appropriate dress, wear close-toed shoes and long pants
 - *This activity will take the place of the spring trail clean up
 - **Tree Planting along the French Creek Trail:** Celebrate Earth Week with us, planting native trees and plants along the trail.
 - Saturday, April 27, 9am-noon
 - Meet at the Rapps Dam Bridge
 - Wear close-toed shoes and long pants
 - **Guided Bird Walk**
 - Saturday, May 11, 8am-10am
 - Bring binoculars if you have them
 - Meet at Rapps Dam Bridge
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Plummeting Insect Populations Threaten the Collapse of Nature

A bombshell report was released this month on the state of insect populations worldwide. The news wasn't good.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>

The analysis found that more than 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered. Insects are going extinct 8xs faster than other creatures.

Because insects are “essential for the proper functioning of all ecosystems” scientists all over the world are very concerned.

What can you do?

- Plant a pollinator garden on your property with native plants to provide food and habitat for pollinators.
 - Stay tuned—the EAC will be hosting a pollinator garden workshop this year, date TBD.
- Stop using pesticides and other weed killers like Roundup.
- Consider taking a class on beekeeping to learn more and perhaps even host a hive on your property.
- Minimize use of outdoor lighting at night. Light pollution attracts, weakens, and kills night time pollinators among other impacts.
 - <https://sustainableamerica.org/blog/can-reducing-light-pollution-help-pollinators/>

Wipe your E-recycling!

Don't forget to completely wipe your computers and mobile phones before recycling!

Many companies will not do this for you, which could put your personal information at risk. For a simple tutorial on how to erase your personal data visit <http://comparite.ch/erase-data>

Knowledgeable Volunteers Needed!

Do you have knowledge that you would like to share? The EAC is looking for residents to lead short workshops or programs on topics like tree identification, bird watching, gardening, composting, and any other activity that involves nature and the great outdoors. If you don't feel comfortable leading something on your own, don't worry! We will happily work with your interest and comfort level.

If you would like to volunteer to share your passion and knowledge, reply to this email and let us know!

Interesting articles and things in the news:

- Avocado pits used to make Bioplastics.
 - <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-environment-plastic/turning-waste-into-bioplastics-mexico-strikes-green-gold-idUSKCN1LS23B>
- London Zoo shares animal X-rays.
 - <https://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-47278653>
- Dragon aurora spotted over Iceland.
 - <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/dragon-aurora-dancing-over-iceland-captured-stunning-photo-ncna974656>
- World's largest bee, thought to be extinct, rediscovered on Indonesian island.
 - <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/world-s-largest-bee-once-feared-extinct-rediscovered-indonesia-n974291>