Upper Dublin: Birds and Bugs Highlighted in First Event

Upper Dublin, located in eastern Montgomery County is the first municipality to work towards Bird Town designation under the new protocol (est. Jan 2014). The effort, led by resident Cindy Nuss, includes the gathering of fifty pledge names (done!), holding speaker events (one done!), and having a presence at a public event (done!).

On Sept. 22, Bird Town teamed with the Women’s Farm and Garden Association to bring entomologist Dan Duran to the township building to speak. Thirty people enjoyed Dan’s fascinating talk on backyard insects, birds, and native plants. More talks and events are in the planning stages.

Upper Dublin is key to the Bird Town network because of its potential of important partnerships (Temple Ambler, WVWA, etc.), its presence in the Wissahickon Watershed and its ability to demonstrate storm water management practices through backyard and buffer enhancement. Stay tuned for additional programming in Upper Dublin and neighboring new Bird Town, Lower Gwynedd.

COMSTAR Recognized for Support

Comstar Supply Inc. in Collegeville was recently recognized for their support of the Bird on a Wire Awards which has provided cash awards for Bird Town participants that are creating conservation designs and activities. Comstar is a family-owned business that cares about its employees and the communities where they live and work. Their generous donation to these awards is, in part, a tribute to its founder, Earl Punchard who passed in 2008. The hope is that these awards will help engage local governments in conservation and promote healthy, environmentally-sound communities. In doing so, part of Earl Punchard’s legacy is the wonderful natural protection and quality of life that good environmental stewardship inspires. Pictured right is Phil Wallis, Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania, Chad Punchard, President of Comstar, Gwen Punchard, owner, John Rogers, Bird on a Wire administrator, and Steven Saffier, Audubon At Home Coord.
Newtown News...

by Autumn Thomas

Newtown Township Bird Town recently made an appearance at the Annual Newtown Veterinary Pet Fair on Saturday, September 20th. They featured information on monarch butterflies and how homeowners can provide habitat to foster the butterfly’s caterpillars and provide sources of nectar to provide energy to fuel their fall migration to Mexico. Bird Town also had two demonstrations during the event where monarch butterflies were tested for parasites and tagged for MonarchWatch.org, then released to start their journey southward. Adults and kids alike were in awe!

The week following Newtown Township Bird Town hosted their 2nd Annual native plant and seed swap on Saturday, September 27th. Interested gardeners brought their divisions or seeds collected from their native plants to swap for new native plants or seeds to expand upon their habitat gardens. Milkweed seed was a big swap item this year. Many native gardeners are aware of the numerous challenges the monarch butterfly migration is currently facing and realize action needs to be taken immediately in home gardens, school gardens, and our neighborhood parks. Planting milkweed is one of the easiest actions homeowners can make to sustain the species since this is the only plant the butterfly’s larvae can feed on.

Winter Woodpecker Woes

Woodpeckers chipping away at your wood siding or shingles? Could be they’re searching for good winter roost sites or insects. Check this website for information and remedies: www.birds.cornell.edu/wp_about

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