Florets
Twin City Garden Club
May 2024

Announcements

Meeting: 1 pm Tuesday May 21, 2024 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect, Champaign

Program: Multi-Season Gardens
Presenter: Kathy Mundell-Bligh
Kathy Mundell-Bligh is the Coordinator of Educational Services at the Wendell Niepagen Greenhouses and Garden Center in Bloomington-Normal, IL. Her program will discuss how to plant and maintain a multi-season garden

Flower Show 101: Our discussion will center on the upcoming Flower Show to be held June 29, 2024. We will review how to exhibit horticulture and complete an entry tag, review the design section, and then take questions.

Refreshment break **Hostesses**: Patty Lipton and Donna Edwards
Floral Arrangement: Donica Halcom

Penny Pines jar will be present plus Plant/Seed Exchange

Business meeting:
Call to Order
President's Opening Remarks
Recording Secretary Minutes/Approval
Treasurer's Report
Corresponding Secretary Report
Standing Committee Reports

Membership	Facebook	Sunshine
Program	Website	Philanthropy
Yearbook	Social	Sunshine

Old Business
New Business
Adjourn

Birthdays: Mike Skreiner, 5/4; Frances Simpson, 5/9 Jeanne Greenwalt, 5/10; Donna Edwards, 5/19, Erin Hardway, 5/23, Susie Kautzer, 5/31

Membership: Welcome our newest member: David Delaney
1015 W. Healey St, Champaign IL 61821
(217) 841-1236
delaney61821@gmail.com Birthday: 4/13

IN THE GARDEN with periodical cicadas
Could you, would you even consider the option of eating them?

Yes, the cicadas are coming, recent posts have them 45 miles south of Springfield. Estimates vary on their appearance here in Champaign, though weather forecasters claim that as the soil temperature reaches the "right level" of 68 F emergence will happen – and we are getting close to that mark here, with a few of the warmer days this past week and more forthcoming. Have found another source listing 64 F plus warm rain as the trigger, but we have passed those two factors. So as of this moment, we are still waiting, waiting….

For review, if you missed it, the problem is the co-emergence of two broods of cicadas: Brood 13, primarily in the southern part of Illinois and Brood 19, more in the northern part. One point of significance: this coincidence of emergence only last happened here in **1803** and as the math works out, the next big breakout will be 2245. Note, just a bit confusing: Brood 13 (the Northern Illinois Brood) is on a 17-year cycle, having last erupted here in 2007; Brood 19 (the Great Southern Brood) is on a 13-year cycle, last here in 2011.

Predictions are for enormous amounts, alarming not only for the insistent, irritating noise but also for damage to vegetation, primarily trees, plus the wide areas of infestation that include not only Illinois but also states ranging from Wisconsin down through the southern U.S. and the Carolinas.

This area has little respite from cicadas. Groups of what are termed annual types have short life cycles (2-5 years) and numerous varieties so there is an always overlap. Most unusual about the #13 and #19 is the length of time that is spent underground feeding on the roots of their habitat. After finally emerging the major time frame for their activity is late May to early June and may last until July – and then the annuals will start up in the hot days of August. One important distinction is the timing of their mating calls: annuals are active in the very late afternoon to sunset while the periodicals favor the late morning to early afternoon.

Similar to many insects, cicadas have a complex life cycle that includes the initial form that is tiny with a worm-like appearance (instar) through the nymph form which does fall to the ground, burrowing into the ground to feed on grass and tree roots, continuing to molt through several more nymph forms which finally emerge from the ground shedding its hard-shell exoskeleton to become a fully-formed winged adult. The incessant noise comes from the males seeking mates. Damage to the tree occurs as the female cicada prepares a location for laying her eggs.

For further in-depth coverage and background on cicadas, try this link cicadasafari.org, developed by Prof Gene Kritsky [Ph.D. UIUC, 1976] from the Center of IT Engagement at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati OH. This group has also created an app **Cicada Safari** that is downloadable from Apple or Google Play. Not only a source of information, everyone is encouraged to record images to their device to help their staff identify the species type (at least 3-5) per brood, which in turn will verify whether the location has Brood 13 or 19. Just downloaded and logged in: no photos from here, but quite of few from a bit southwest, in Decatur and Springfield.

One alternative to controlling the huge numbers that may overwhelm us: eat them! Not all insects are edible, but cicadas are, having been likened to shrimp. Eating insects by humans is not a new notion. A good history can be accessed at wikipedia.org using the keyword *entomophagy*. Cookbooks, such as "Cooking with Cicadas" and the "Cicada Cookbook" are a starting point (a recommendation by UI Extension Specialist, Ken Johnson). Do be careful: avoid if allergic to shellfish and watch out for pets, especially dogs who can eat them, but not to an excess.