

OHIO Woodlands Water Wildlife

Fall 2016

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The Year of the Cicada's

Kathy Smith, Extension Program Director - Forestry

Were you in the zone this year? You know the 17-year cicada zone. This was the year that Brood V of the 17-year periodical cicada (*Magicicada spp.*) emerged in eastern Ohio. Starting in late May and lasting through June and into early July the cicada's made their presence known with the male's loud singing and cicadas hanging out on the plants in your landscape and woods.

If you were paying attention in mid-May the cicada nymphs began to emerge from the ground. Areas with heavy populations may have seen the soil in the woods

turn to a churned up mess thanks to the emergence and various wildlife digging them up. The cicadas emerged as mature nymphs and walked up a nearby plant to shed their nymphal skins.

Once emerged the cicada's climbed trees or flew to new trees. Males mated with females and then these mated females used their ovipositors to cut a slit into the twig creating a pocket for her eggs. The female will lay approximately 24-28 eggs in each pocket continuing along the twig until she has perhaps cut 5 to 20 pockets.

The damage to the trees vascular system as a result of the egg laying process caused many stems beyond these egg laying sites to die. The resulting flagging



17 year Cicada, along the banks of the Big Darby River, Franklin County. Photo: John Nagy

(wilted and dead leaves at the tips of branches) has made many trees in eastern Ohio look much the worse for wear. In many cases these stems have also snapped off and fallen to the ground.

After a few weeks the eggs laid in the slits hatch and the resulting nymphs burrow into the soil to spend the next 17 years feeding on tree roots. The nymphs will either drop to the ground (if the stem they were laid in is still attached to the tree) or just work their way from the stem on the ground to the soil.

The flagging can look very dramatic and it does raise some questions about the trees and their health. Small trees heavily infested may have a real struggle to compensate for the damage done by the female cicadas. Larger trees will look unsightly this year but if they went into this in good health the damage to the tree should be minimal.

The greater impact will be to the mast production for these trees. Many oaks that were heavily damaged are losing a good portion of this year's acorn crop. Also, remember that for red oak the tree could be losing this year's crop and next year's crop depending on if the acorns lost were first year or second year acorns.

It won't only be acorns that will be lost. Any tree and shrub has the potential to lose a good portion of their mast. The cicadas were found to have laid eggs on many plants from oaks and hickories, to sassafras, walnut, maple, black gum, viburnum, dogwood, sumac and even



Not all trees were impacted to the same degree.
Photo: Kathy Smith, OSU Extension



In the 2 photos above Mature nymphal emergence on the forest floor.
Photos: Marne Titchenell, OSU Extension

poison ivy. Our invasive species did not escape the damage either as the slits were documented on bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, privet and even multiflora rose.

How trees will respond to the vascular damage will vary by tree species, the overall health of the tree and



Slits created by egg laying female cicadas.
Photo: Kathy Smith, OSU Extension



Cicada emerged. Photo: John Nagy

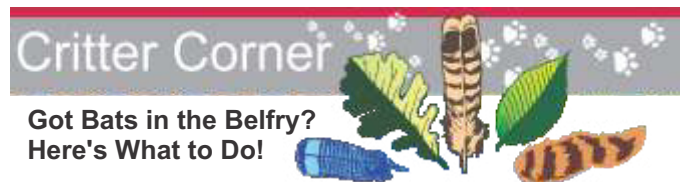


Red oak acorns lost to the cicada damage
Photo: Kathy Smith, OSU Extension

the amount of vascular damage that occurred over the entire tree. In areas of heavy cicada populations the amount of damage seemed to be highly variable and so too the resulting overall impact. Time will tell how these trees respond. What we do know is that it will be another 17 years before we see this brood of cicadas again.

2016 Farm Science Review

Farm Science Review is September 20, 21, 22 at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London, Ohio. This year the schedule of talks at the Gwynne Conservation area at the Review has a different mix of topics that occur over the 3-day event. Tickets for the event can be purchased at the Review or purchased ahead of time from your county OSU Extension office. For more information on the Review go to <http://fsr.osu.edu>



Marne Titchenell, Extension Program Specialist - Wildlife

March through September is the active time for bats in Ohio. Ohio's 11 species spend their summer hours like every other species in Ohio – feeding and reproducing. There is no question Ohioans benefit from the feeding of bats – a single bat can consume over 1000 mosquito-sized insects in one night. The reproduction side of things however, can sometimes cause an issue...especially if the result is a colony of bats in the



home. Two Ohio bat species will commonly share living space with humans; the little brown bat and the big brown bat. The females of both of these species form maternity colonies (these colonies range in size from 50 to over 100 females) in which the females birth and raise

2016 Gwynne Conservation Area Schedule of Events

DAILY EVENTS
Pasture and Grassland Management Tours, 12:30-1:30
Chainsaw Safety and Maintenance: Tues & Wed, 12:30-2:30; Thurs, 11:30-1:30
SWCD National Archery Program for Schools-style Archery: 10:00-3:00
Preparing for the Envirothon: 9:30-10:45

	Cabin	Wildlife & Aquatics	Woodland Amphitheater
Tuesday - Sept 20 th	DAILY EVENTS (top of page)		
10:30			
11:00	Things You Should Consider Before Selling Your Timber <i>Dave Apsley, OSU Extension Bob Mulligan ODNR</i>	Grazing Warm Season Grasses <i>Bob Hendershot, NRCS - Retired</i>	Prairie Plant ID Walk <i>Rob Chapman, Wildlife Specialist</i>
11:30			
12:00	Creepy Crawlers in Your Woods, <i>Brian MacGowan, Purdue Extension</i>	Hunting and Trapping Rules and Regulations <i>Matt Teders, ODNR</i>	Invasive Species Identification and Control <i>Steve Rist, ODNR</i>
12:30			
1:00	Zika Virus Update for Ohio <i>Joe Boggs, OSU Extension</i>	Pollinators and Native Plants <i>Amanda Bennett, OSU Extension</i>	
1:30		Fish Cover <i>Bill Lynch, Retired OSU Extension</i>	What's New in the World of Invasive Species <i>Amy Stone, OSU Extension</i>
2:00	Wildlife Night Sounds <i>Rob Chapman, Wildlife Specialist</i>		Trees and Taxes <i>Lenny Farlee, Purdue Extension</i>
2:30	Attracting Songbirds to Your Property <i>Marne Titchenell, OSU Extension</i>	Methods for Reducing Black Vulture and Coyote Predation on Livestock, <i>Tommy Butler, USDA</i>	Tree ID Doug McLaren <i>University of Kentucky Extension - Retired</i>
3:00			
Wednesday - Sept 21 st	Demonstration: Protecting Ohio's Rivers and Streams,		11:00-1:00, (Daily events top of page)
10:30			
11:00	Things You Should Consider Before Selling Your Timber <i>Dave Apsley, OSU Ext Bob Mulligan ODNR</i>	Fish Stocking in Ponds <i>Bill Lynch, OSU Extension - Retired</i>	The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Managing Disease on Common Trees and Shrubs <i>Clifton Martin, OSU Extension</i>
11:30		Measuring Dry Matter in Grazing Systems <i>Christine Gelley, OSU Extension</i>	What's New in the World of Invasive Species <i>Amy Stone, OSU Extension</i>
12:00	Delaying Age: The Struggle to Maintain Ponds at The 'Young' End of the Continuum <i>Bill Lynch, OSU Extension - Retired</i>	Food Plots <i>Tim McDermott, OSU Extension</i>	Tree Planting <i>Lenny Farlee, Purdue Extension</i>
12:30			
1:00	How to Kill a Tree <i>Amy Stone, OSU Extension</i>	Deer Exclusion Fence <i>Lenny Farlee, Purdue Extension</i>	
1:30		Managing Aquatic Vegetation <i>Perry Orndorff, SWCD-Retired</i>	
2:00			Low Impact Logging - Is it Right for You? <i>Lee Beers, OSU Extension</i>
2:30	Who is Using my Bluebird Box? <i>Marne Titchenell, OSU Extension</i>	Hydroponics <i>Brian Kleinke, OSU Extension</i>	
3:00		Aquaponics <i>Matt Smith, OSU Extension</i>	Plant Scene Investigator: What is Wrong with my Tree? <i>Amy Stone, OSU Extension</i>
Thursday - Sept 22 nd	DAILY EVENTS (top of page)		
10:30			
11:00	Delaying Age: The Struggle to Maintain Ponds at The 'Young' End of the Continuum <i>Bill Lynch, OSU Extension - Retired</i>	Managing Nutrients on Pasture <i>Chris Penrose, OSU Extension</i>	The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Managing Disease on Common Trees and Shrubs <i>Clifton Martin, OSU Extension</i>
11:30	Vermicomposting Babs Janko, Madison County MGV		Tree ID Walk <i>Kathy Smith, OSU Extension</i>
12:00	Backyard Composting <i>Sara Ernst, Franklin Co. SWCD</i>	Basics of Pond Aeration <i>Perry Orndorff, SWCD-Retired</i>	
12:30			
1:00	Aquatic Plant Management <i>Bill Lynch, OSU Extension - Retired</i>	Top Ten Ways to Attract Wildlife to Your Woodland, <i>Marne Titchenell, OSU Extension</i>	

their young together. In their natural habitat, these maternity colonies would be found in hollow trees or under peeling bark. But the little and big brown bats have discovered that human structures also provide good habitat.



This small maternity colony of tri-colored bats lives in the nature center of one of Ohio's state parks. Many times bats share space with humans without issue. Photo courtesy Kim Baker.

It is possible to remove bats from a home with a bit of work and patience. The most effective way is exclusion, which involves identifying where the bats are entering the building and covering those access points with one-way exclusion devices. These devices allow bats to leave the building but not reenter. Patience is required to wait for the young to be able to fly on their own. If exclusion takes place before the young can fly, the mothers will be excluded and the young left inside to die. *Therefore, excluding a bat colony in Ohio should never take place between May and August.*



Above is a baby bat (called a pup). Do not handle bats unless it is absolutely necessary (in the case above, the young pup needed help returning to its colony). If you must handle a bat, be sure to wear thick work gloves to protect against bites. Photo courtesy Kim Baker.



Natural places for bats to roost are in hollows of dead standing trees, tree cavities, or under loose bark (like this little brown bat is utilizing).

This time of year, new young of the year are testing out their wings and learning to fly. That means if you have a colony of bats in your home, towards the end of July into the early part of August you may notice a few more bats in your home than usual. These young bats haven't quite keyed in on their navigation skills, causing them to take a wrong turn that leads to your living room instead of outside!

Bat exclusion professionals are available for hire, but do-it-yourself instructions can be found here: <http://www.batcon.org/pdfs/binb/ExcludersGuidelines2014.pdf>. The biggest challenge if doing-it-yourself is identifying all the access points bats use to enter and



Photo credit Marne Titchenell

Bat houses are a good way to keep bats in the area after an exclusion has taken place.

exit a building. This often involves roof access and can be dangerous. For a list of wild animal control operators by county, some of which exclude bats, see:

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/Portals/wildlife/PDFs/Licenses%20&%20Permits/CNWACO%20Current%20License%20Holders.pdf>.

Maternity colonies will return to the same place year

after year to reproduce. If they are excluded, they will need to find another place to roost and their ferocious appetites will go with them. Consider putting up a bat house to keep them in the area. Bat house plans and instructions on where best to place them can be found here: <http://www.batcon.org/resources/getting-involved/bat-houses>.

Calendar of Events

September 9	Forest Health: Non-Native Invasive Insects	OSU Mansfield
September 20-22	Farm Science Review	London, OH
October 14	Improving Your Woodland	OSU Mansfield
October 15	Capturing Natures Wonders	OSU Mansfield



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