

May 20, 2013



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PARK PICKS
by
FRIENDS OF THE ALLENTOWN PARKS

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park system even better.*



"If insects were to vanish, the environment would collapse into chaos." - by Edward Osborne "E. O." Wilson (1929-) American biologist and naturalist, two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times best seller.



Insect Discovery Walk—fun for all

Muhlenberg Professor and entomologist **Marten Edwards** captivated about 30 walk participants with insect stories and findings in Cedar Creek as well as area trees and vegetation.



Afterwards everyone enjoyed a few rounds of Bug Bingo, confirming information presented during the walk.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21 @ 5:00—7:30 p.m. – Little Lehigh Cleanup— Friends & the Little Lehigh Chapter of Trout Unlimited conduct a cleanup of the Little Lehigh Creek from the covered bridge to 15th Street. Please wear long pants, non-slip soled shoes, didymo-free waders acceptable. Meet at the covered bridge. Registration requested—please email littlelehighchaptertu@gmail.com or info@allentownparks.org. Rain date is May 28.

May 25 @ 10:00 a.m. – Lehigh Canal Park— Discovery Walk: Hike & History of D & L Canals/ Trails led by Silas Chamberlin of the D & L National Heritage Corridor. Meet at Canal Park pavilion.

**Volunteer Recognition
Jr. Girl Scout Troop 6851**



We thank Junior Girl Scout Troop 6851 for painting eight batboxes and preparing them for new inhabitants. In this way we hope to help the local bat population.



Bats play a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and have an enormous impact on pest control. Unfortunately, White-nose Syndrome (WNS) has devastated bat populations across the eastern United States during the past five years, causing "the most precipitous wildlife decline in the past century in North America," according to biologists. WNS has killed more than 5.7 million bats since it was discovered in a single New York cave in February 2006. (Bat species that hibernate in mines or caves are susceptible to WNS.)

WNS is not harmful to humans, however, for bats there is no cure or effective treatment and mortality in some species, such as the small tri-colored bat, has exceeded 98 percent. Pennsylvania bat populations have also experienced an enormous decline and tracking studies are currently underway. Save the date **August 21 at 7:00 p.m.** when Friends and local bat biologist Sarah Bouboulis conduct a bat count in area parks.