

Fall 2009



The Happy Hiker

The Official Newsletter of the Allentown Hiking Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflections Upon the Death of a Member

No doubt we were all shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our long-time member, officer, and friend, Maryann Wagner. I cannot say that I knew Maryann as well as many of you long-time members of the Allentown Hiking Club but I feel I knew her well enough to be profoundly impacted by her passing at the age of 58.

These days we all expect to live longer than 58 years. We have to! We have things to do... things that we've promised ourselves that we would get to when we just have a little more time. There it is again... that word that just keeps haunting me... time. We all think that we will have the time to do the things that we want to do. I'm sure Maryann felt the same way. We'll get around to it somewhere down the road. But not right now. There's just too much other stuff to do.

Maryann's death at 58 years of age just further convinced me that we shouldn't put off to tomorrow, what we could be doing today. Tomorrow never comes and today is all we have to hang on to. So if there is a lesson to be learned from Maryann death, let it be to embrace each day and live it as fully as we possibly can. We may never be able to do everything that we have on our "bucket list" but let's start working on that list today. Let that be Maryann's legacy to the Allentown Hiking Club.

Ed Vatz



Allentown Hiking Club



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Sponsored by City of Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation

www.allentownhikingclub.org

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2010 Allentown Hiking Club Officers

A nominating committee consisting of Ed Vatz, Jim Gabovitz, and Barb Wiemann has been formed to present a slate of officers for 2010. Names of potential candidates should be presented to the nominating committee. The election of officers will be at the monthly AHC meeting on Dec. 2nd.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS – Summer 2009

Bell, Stephani	Bethlehem	Kordeck, Brandon	Allentown
Freedman, Melissa	Catasauqua	Plunkett, Linda	Catasauqua
Gonzalez, Estervina	Whitehall	Rasmussen, David & Ping	Boyertown
Gross, Wayne & Shirley	Canadensis	Schran, Robert	Bethlehem
Grube, Gary & Margie & Family	Bath	Schwarz, Vincent	Catasauqua
Hantz, Graham	Catasauqua	Siregar, Brenda T.	Allentown
Helmuth, Chris	Allentown	Spirko, Jeffery	Allentown
Helmuth, Elena	Bethlehem	Thompson, Nathan & Amy	Allentown
King, William	Bethlehem	Vereneck, Rachel	Sellersville

Upcoming Programs at the AHC Meetings

In addition to the normal business meeting there is also generally a program which is related in some way to the clubs activities. The following is a preview of the upcoming programs for 2009 and into 2010:

- October** - Betsy Lyman will give a presentation on invasive species.
- November** - Sue Weaver from Bicycling magazine will give a presentation.
- December** - Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and scheduling night for winter hikes.
- January** - Janet Goloub will give a presentation on Bolivia.
- February** - Betsy Kelly will entertain us with stories about her bike trip across the USA.
- March** - Scheduling night for spring hikes.



Maryann Wagner

Barbara Wiemann



Allentown Hiking Club (AHC) Treasurer, Maryann (Munchkin Hiker) Wagner, 58, an active club member for 30 years, died August 10. Maryann joined the hiking club in 1976. Her first position with the club was Social Director, a position she held for only 3 months since she was elected club Secretary in December 1978. She remained an active supporter of social events. Maryann served as Secretary for five years 1979-1983.

Maryann's led her first hiking event in 1979, the annual New Year's Eve backpack at the Allentown Shelter. In March 1980 she led the first of her many day hikes. Maryann's typical hike was a five mile jaunt in the Allentown area, followed by ice cream or food. However, she did offer other events such as hiking to both AHC maintained shelters in one day, a full moon hike, Hickory Run State Park, and hiking and kite flying at Valley Forge. Maryann and Holly Vogler also led a day hike to the Gettysburg Battlefield in 1984; this proved so popular that they expanded it to a weekend event in 1985 and 1986, and offered it again in 1990. They also offered a one day hike around historic York, PA in 1989, as well as weekend trips to Corning, NY in 1985 and 1986. Maryann was an active hiker leader for more than 20 years.

Maryann was active in the cross country ski hotline for more than 10 years, and led a moonlight event. She was also a member of the bicycling hot line.

Maryann participated in the club's annual maintenance events and served as a shelter caretaker. She also served, at various times, as the scheduling coordinator, newsletter typist, and newsletter mailing helper.

Maryann was active in the club's efforts to promote hiking, publicize the club, and teach youth. Examples of her involvement were representing the club at the Boy Scout JAMBO in Kutztown in 2008, as well as manning tables to promote the club at the Lehigh Gap Nature Center and EMS.

In 1990 Maryann started her term as club Treasurer, a position she held until her death.

In recognition of her service to the club, Maryann was elected an AHC Honorary member in April 1997.

Maryann was a member of both the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and Keystone Trails Association and consistently attended ATC Biennials and KTA Spring and fall meetings. Maryann received the National Park Service 25 Year Volunteer Award in 2007 at the Ramapo Biennial Meeting.

Mammal Monitoring

Expanding into Pennsylvania this year is a survey of mammal populations along the Appalachian Trail. This research effort began two years ago in Virginia and Maryland. Researchers will use camera traps to try to determine how mammal populations differ in areas of high and low trail usage.

Work began earlier this year, when researchers contacted trail maintaining clubs to obtain clubs' estimates of areas of high and low trail usage. On-trail monitoring began in June, when researchers placed Trail Master trail monitors at strategic locations to confirm trail usage.

In August, the motion-sensitive infra-red cameras used to photograph mammals were placed in selected locations. The cameras can be triggered by movement from a creature as small as a mouse and as large as a bear.

This project has been designed as a citizen-scientist project. Club members form survey teams that are trained on the operation of the monitors and cameras. Each team provides approximately ten hours of field work each month, moving monitors and cameras and downloading/uploading data that can be shared among the survey teams and other ATC members. This is another opportunity to enable the people who are committed to and passionate about the AT to get involved in research on the trail.

This summer will serve as a pilot season to collect baseline data. The study will then continue through summers 2010 and 2011.



Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys*)

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences – Cooperative Extension – Dept of Entomorphia

INTRODUCTION

The brown marmorated stink bug, an insect not previously seen on our continent, has apparently been accidentally introduced into eastern Pennsylvania. It was first collected in September of 1998 in Allentown, but probably arrived several years earlier.

As of March 2009, *Halyomorpha halys* has been recorded from the following 29 counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Berks, Blair, Bucks, Butler, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mercer, Mifflin, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Pike, Snyder, York

This true bug in the insect family Pentatomidae is known as an agricultural pest in its native range of China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. It becomes a nuisance pest both indoors and out when it is attracted to the outside of houses on warm fall days in search of protected, overwintering sites. It occasionally reappears during warmer sunny periods throughout the winter, and again as it emerges in the spring.

DESCRIPTION

Adults are approximately 17 mm long (25 mm = one inch) and are shades of brown on both the upper and lower body surfaces (Fig. 1). They are the typical “shield” shape of other stink bugs, almost as wide as they are long. To distinguish them from other stink bugs, look for lighter bands on the antennae and darker bands on the membranous, overlapping part at the rear of the front pair of wings. They have patches of coppery or bluish-metallic colored punctures (small rounded depressions) on the head and pronotum.

The name “stink bug” refers to the scent glands located on the dorsal surface of the abdomen and the underside of the thorax.

The eggs are elliptical (1.6 x 1.3 mm), light yellow to yellow-red with minute spines forming fine lines. They are attached, side-by-side, to the underside of leaves in masses of 20 to 30 eggs.

There are five nymphal instars (immature stages). They range in size from the first instar at 2.4 mm to the fifth instar that is 12 mm in length. The eyes are a deep red. The abdomen is a yellowish red in the first instar and progresses to off-white with reddish spots in the fifth instar. Protuberances are found before each of the abdominal scent glands on the dorsal surface. The legs, head and thorax are black. Spines are located on the femur, before each eye, and several on the lateral margins of the thorax.



Steven Jacobs, PSU

Figure 1. Adult brown marmorated

DAMAGE

We do not know whether this species will become an agricultural pest in Pennsylvania. In its native range, it feeds on a wide variety of host plants. Fruits attacked include apples, peaches, figs, mul-berries, citrus fruits and persimmons. This true bug has also been reported on many ornamental plants, weeds, and soybeans. Feeding on tree fruits such as apple results in a characteristic distortion referred to as “cat facing,” that renders the fruit unmarketable.

Even though these insects do not harm humans and do not reproduce inside structures such as houses, they cause concern when they become active and conspicuous in fall and spring. If many of them are squashed or pulled into a vacuum cleaner, their smell can be quite apparent.

Management

Before Bugs Enter a Building: Mechanical exclusion is the best method to keep stink bugs from entering homes and build-ings. Cracks around windows, doors, siding, utility pipes, behind chimneys, and underneath the wood fascia and other openings should be sealed with good quality silicone or silicone-latex caulk. Damaged screens on doors and windows should be repaired or replaced.

Exterior applications of insecticides may offer some relief from infestations where the task of completely sealing the exterior is difficult or impossible. Applications should consist of a synthetic pyrethroid (i.e. deltamethrin, cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, cypermethrin, sumithrin or tralomethrin) and should be applied by a licensed pest control operator in the fall just prior to bug congregation. Unfortunately, because insecticides are broken down by sunlight, the residual effect of the material will be greatly decreased and may not kill the insects much beyond several days or a week.

After Stink Bugs Have Entered the Structure: If numerous bugs are entering the living areas of the home, attempt to locate the openings where the insects gain access. Typically, stink bugs will emerge from cracks under or behind baseboards, around window and door trim, and around exhaust fans or lights in ceilings. Seal these openings with caulk or other suitable materials to prevent the insects from crawling out. Both live and dead stink bugs can be removed from interior areas with the aid of a vacuum cleaner.

It is not advisable to use an insecticide inside after the insects have gained access to the wall voids or attic areas. Although insecticidal dust treatments to these voids may kill hundreds of bugs, there is the possibility that carpet beetles will feed on the dead stink bugs and subsequently attack woolens, stored dry goods or other natural products in the home. Although aerosol-type pyrethrum foggers will kill stink bugs that have amassed on ceilings and walls in living areas, it will not prevent more of the insects from emerging shortly after the room is aerated. For this reason use of these materials is not considered a good solution to long-term management of the problem. Spray insecticides, directed into cracks and crevices, will not prevent the bugs from emerging and is not a viable or recommended treatment.

WARNING

Pesticides are poisonous. Read and follow directions and safety precautions on labels. Handle carefully and store in original la-beled containers out of the reach of children, pets, and livestock. Dispose of empty containers right away, in a safe manner and place. Do not contaminate forage, streams, or ponds.



AT Museum To Be Located in Pine Grove

By Larry Luxenberg

The Appalachian Trail Museum, a decade in the making, has reached an agreement to occupy the Old Mill building at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Pennsylvania. The grand opening for the museum, which will be the first hiking museum in the country, is expected to be on National Trails Day, June 5, 2010.

The 200-year-old grist mill, in the historic district of the park, is within two miles of the current midpoint of the Appalachian Trail and immediately adjacent to Pine Grove General Store and near the Ironmasters Hostel, both popular stops for hikers.

Over the next year the inside of the building will be renovated to conform to the uniform construction code and be adapted for use as a museum. The building is owned by the park.

Also planned is a children's discovery area to introduce children to the AT and outdoor activities. The museum will include an inside and outside story telling center to welcome hikers and give visitors a chance to hear directly about trail experiences.

The museum also will display on computers the more than 12,000 thru-hiker photos taken at ATC headquarters in Harpers Ferry since 1979. The photo project, with support from a grant by the Quimby Foundation and in cooperation with ATC, includes a website where all the pictures will be accessible. The website, expected to be completed this summer, can be reached through the ATC site, www.appalachiantrail.org. More information and forms granting permission to display individual photos are available by writing to atmuseum@yahoo.com.

The museum society is continuing to collect artifacts.

This summer the museum society will launch a fund-raising campaign to pay for materials for the building renovation and for exhibits. Contributions can be made to the A.T. Museum Society, which is an independent, tax exempt charitable group.

More information is available at the museum's website, www.atmuseum.org, or contact info@atmuseum.org.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$10.00 PER CALENDAR YEAR FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, AND RENEWALS MUST BE MADE BEFORE JANUARY 31ST TO STAY ON THE CLUB'S MEMBERSHIP ROLLS. DUES CAN BE PAID AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OR MAILED TO THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY. HOUSEHOLD DUES (MORE THAN ONE MEMBER PER ADDRESS) ARE \$15.00.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Edna Himmler > 1754 South Albert St., Allentown, Pa. 18103

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP: —

PHONE:

RENEWAL

NEW

EMAIL:

Dues @\$10.00 / \$15.00 Household _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SHIRTS - T-SHIRTS @ \$6.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA _____

SML MED LRG XLG

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SHIRTS - CLUB GOLF @ \$12.00 + \$3.50 SHIPPING EA _____

SML MED LRG XLG

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CLUB PATCH @ \$1.50 + \$.75 SHIPPING EA _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO "ALLENTOWN HIKING CLUB"

QTY

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Yes :: Please sign me up for the Allentown Hiking Club's email list --- the AHC Forum

