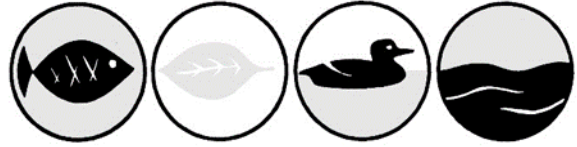


N.I.C.C.



August 2015 Newsletter

Are Fireflies Seeking A Mate When They Flash At Night

While walking along the Potomac River one evening this week we saw a large number of fireflies in the foliage along the river bank.

It had been a great walk with lots of ospreys fishing, barn swallows enjoying insects overhead, leaping bass making huge splashes, and even an encounter with a slightly confused beaver. But the fireflies were the evening's most engaging sighting.

There weren't huge numbers of them, but they're a sure sign that we're moving into the height of summer. And now that summer is here (at its accompanying heat) many of us will be encountering fireflies in our yards and gardens.



Despite their small size and preference for dark places, fireflies deservedly receive a lot of attention when summer arrives. And there's a lot more going on than many of us realize...

A Tale of Lust and Death

Their remarkable green and yellow flashing lights have a hypnotic effect on people. Children in particular are drawn to fireflies. But the same throbbing glow that attracts youngsters often leads male fireflies to their deaths.

In warm-weather months, especially where open meadows and forests coexist, the adult male fireflies of most species set out on mating flights in the evening hours. The females, meanwhile, await their mates in the foliage, blinking seductively. The task for each male is to find an unmated female of its own species.

It's critical that the female be unmated because in many firefly species the females change through internal chemistry into man-eaters once they successfully mate. Thereafter they use their blinks to attract meals. Some females even imitate the idiosyncratic blinking patterns of other species in an effort to attract as many unsuspecting males as possible.

Somewhat flattened beetle with threadlike antennae; large, widely separated eyes; and head clearly visible from above. Primarily black, with two bright-red eyespots on its thorax and yellow edging on thorax and wing case. The terminal segments of its abdomen are white-yellow and glow every 2-3 seconds while flying. Both sexes with flashing green light. Larva spindle-shaped with light organ below abdomen at rear.

Dimensions 3/8-5/8" (9-15 mm)

Food Carnivorous, feeding mostly on insects, but also on invertebrates such as land snails on occasion.

Life Cycle Eggs laid singly among rotting wood or humid debris on ground. Larvae (also known as glowworms) hatch in spring, grow through summer and then overwinter in pupal chambers just below soil surface. Pupate the following spring with adults emerging early summer to late August.

Above article taken from eNature.com
Posted on July 15, 2015

CHIPPING NICC TRAILS SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 9 a.m.

Back on June 27, several NICC members and some non-members helped chip a good portion of our trails. With cooler weather coming, it was the decision of the board to try and finish this project on Oct. 10. If you can give us a hand even if it's for an hour it, will be greatly appreciated. So, mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 10 at 9 am. See you there.

YOUTH EVENT SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2015 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This year marks our 8th Annual Youth Event. This event is in conjunction with the Northwest Towns Sports Club. This year we are changing the date from August to September. There will be firearms and safety review, trap shooting, air rifle range, and more. Check our website for more information. See enclosed flyer for more information.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Aug 10 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm
- Sept 12 Youth Event-----9 am – 3 pm
- Sept 14 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm
- Sept 20 Trap Shoot-----10 am – 2 pm
- Oct 3 Adopt-A-Highway-----10 am
- Oct 10 Chipping NICC trails-----9 am
- Oct 12 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm
- Nov 1 Trap Shoot-----10 am – 2 pm
- Nov 9 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm at the Antioch Library
- Dec 14 Board/General Meeting-----7 pm at the Antioch Library



*Let us put our minds together and see
what life we can create for our children.*