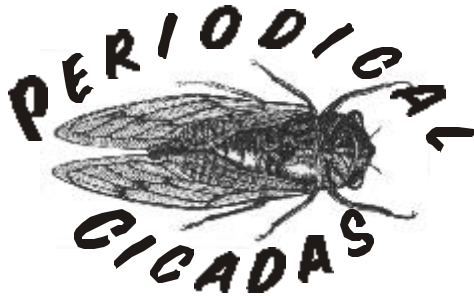


Public Is Invited

Marietta Natural History Society

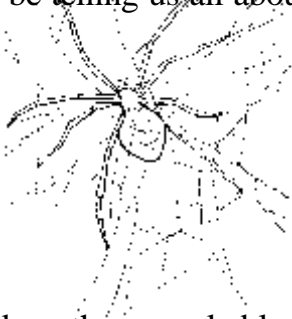
Spring 1999 Newsletter



The 17 Year Wonder

The life cycle of periodical cicadas involves a phenomenal 17-19 year larval stage spent underground. The entire population of an area, called a brood, emerge en masse and pupate into adults. This is the year for Brood V to emerge right here in the River City. Dr. Kritsky, College of Mount St. Joseph, is an authority on cicadas, and he will be telling us all about this fascinating insect.

Thursday, April 8, 7:00 PM
Thomas Hall, Room 124
Marietta College
Presenter: **Dr. Gene Kritsky**



Thursday, May 13, 7:00 PM
Thomas Hall, Room 124
Marietta College
Presenter: **Dr Rich Bradley**



Spiders, the remarkable web-weaving arthropods, encompass a wide diversity of species that have unique appearances, web structures and ecological roles. Dr. Bradley, who is coordinating the effort to inventory spider populations in Ohio, will tell about the diversity of arachnids found in our home state.

Thursday, June 10,
~~6:30 PM~~

Field Trip
to Buckley Island

Meet at Williamstown Launching Ramp
Leaders: **Janet Butler & Patti Morrison**

Buckley Island is the latest acquisition by the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Janet Butler and Patti Morrison of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will lead us on a trek to see a mussel bed affected by zebra mussels, look at restoration efforts, see nesting birds, and hear about island history and future plans. Wear clothing and shoes appropriate for hiking.



Who are we? Statistical profiles of Ohio counties, including Washington County, are available from several web sites. For example "Ohio County Profiles" (<http://www.ODOD.ohio.gov/osr/profiles/>) prepared by the Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, provides current and historical data on population size, age distribution, income levels, housing units, climate, employment, etc. "The Government Information Sharing Project" of Oregon State University (<http://govinfo.kerr.orst.edu/index.html>) compiles even more extensive demographic, economic, and governmental information from the Census Bureau spanning several years and sources. Want recent statistical information about Marietta? You can get it from the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA) of the University of Missouri (<http://www.oseda.missouri.edu/usinfo.html>). With a few clicks from the "Cities/Places" links, you can have summaries 'in computero' of recent Census Bureau data.

Young Birds: How to Recognize Them by Julie Zickefoose

1. Size: Lots of people are surprised to find that most newly fledged birds are not noticeably smaller than their parents. They may be shorter in wing and tail, but, by and large, their body size is nearly that of an adult bird. Exceptions are mourning doves, grackles, and game birds like quail, grouse, and turkeys, which do quite a bit of rowing after their first flight.
2. Plumage: Through binoculars, several characteristics of juvenile plumage become clear. though they've long since lost their down, fledglings do appear fluffier, and their feathers have a softer texture than adults'. Their feathers lack the sheen of their parents', and markings may be blurred by indistinct. Close inspection may reveal a few filoplumes of down still adhering on brow or nape. Jays or titmice may look like they have a "butch cut" instead of the long crest of an adult.
3. Soft parts: Bills and feet of juvenile songbirds often have a different color from adults'. Young cardinals are obvious, with black (instead of orange) bills. Most other juvenile songbirds have paler bills and feet than their parents.
4. Eyes: Birds whose eyes are pale as adults usually start off with dark eyes. Young mockingbirds, grackles, and some woodpeckers have noticeably darker or grayer irises than their parents.
5. Behavior: Crouching, fluttering the wings, and begging for food are hallmarks of juvenile birds, but beware! Adult females of many species may do the same as part of courtship displays.
6. Voice: Listen for high-pitched, insistent, and sometimes downright annoying calls from juvenile birds at your feeder. their voices are reedy, even squeaky, and they tend to repeat the same calls incessantly to let their parents know their whereabouts and famished condition. Cardinals, finches, and orioles are among the noisiest.

From Backyard Bird News, special Thanks to Bird Watcher's Digest for permission to reprint.



From Sunshine to Lanterns by Almuth Tschunko Dept. of Biology, Marietta College

Years ago I read an account of one of the first groups of Chinese visitors touring the US. At the end of the tour, when asked about their impressions of the US, one person commented on the many beautiful yellow flowers that grew in the lawns.

How has it happened that Americans have gotten brainwashed into hating these sunny yellow flowers, the dandelions, to the point of dumping millions of pounds of toxic herbicides on lawns to destroy them? Is the dandelion poisonous? No! Is the dandelion covered with spines that hurt bare feet? No! Do you get an itchy rash from touching dandelions? Not most people! Does it stink? No! Does it have drab, unattractive flowers? No! So what is its crime? It is abundant.

The common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) has been revered for hundreds of years as a medicinal plant in Europe, used as a general tonic and for a variety of ailments. That explains for example the dandelion being pictured on the back of one of the German banknotes, and the dandelion being held by a European in an old official portrait.

See Dandelions, Page 5



April 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Remember to mark Natural Areas and Non-game Wildlife on the State Tax Form				1 April Fools Day & Passover	2 Arbor Day Observed in Marietta	3
4 Daylight Savings--set ahead 1 hour Easter	5 Don't Spray Your Dandelions Cut Them Instead			8 MNHS Meeting X	9	10 Wash. County Paint Swap Day
11 First Whip-Poor-Will's Calling	12	13	14	15 Δ	16	17 Household Hazardous Waste Day
Still Time to Follow Through on New Year's Resolutions						
18	19 Charles Darwin died 1882	20	21 John Muir's Birthday (1838)	22 E Earth Day!	23 Morels making appearance	24 Turkeys on nest with clutch of 10-13 eggs
Redbud Trees In Full Bloom						
25	26 John James Audubon's Birthday (1875)	27	28	29	30 A	
This Week is Peak of Woodland Spring Wildflowers						

It takes sunlight 8½ minutes to reach the earth!

June 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
	Honeybees Beat Their Wings On Average 250x Per Second					
6 X	7	8	9	10 MNHS Meeting	11	12
Some Types Of Lichens Take A Century To Grow				Most Whitetail Fawns Are Born In Next Few Weeks		
13 Δ	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19
Consider Not Mowing Weedy Areas Until Wildlife Young Mature						
Most Hummingbirds Nest Now, Settling 2 Pea-Sized Eggs						
20 E Father's Day	21 Summer begins! (Solstice)	22	23	24	25	26
Build A Bat House				Bats Consume Hundreds Of Insects Each Night		
27 Red Admiral Butterflies Are Laying Eggs On Thistles	28 A	29	30			

Lunar Labels

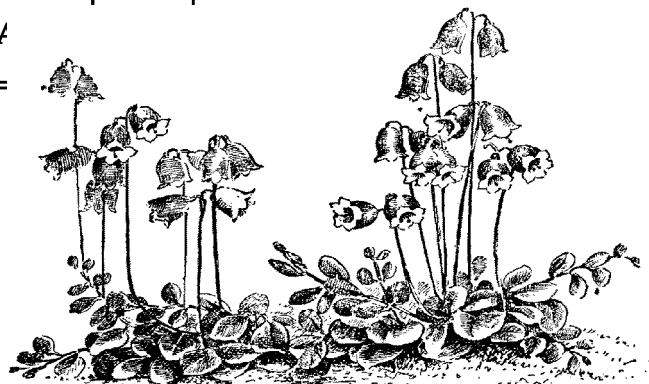
We noted in the previous Newsletter the occurrence of 'blue' moons (a second full moon within the same month) in January and March, 1999. But what about other full moons—do they have names? Apparently so, in American Indian and folklore traditions. Can you match these full moons with the month in which they occur?

- A. Hunter's Moon
- B. Harvest Moon or Fruit Moon
- C. Thunder Moon or Hay Moon
- D. Grass Moon or Egg Moon
- E. Moon Before Yule or Long Night Moon
- F. Rose Moon, Flower Moon or Strawberry Moon
- G. Sap Moon, Crow Moon or Lenten Moon
- H. Planting Moon or Milk Moon
- I. Frosty Moon or Beaver Moon
- J. Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon
- K. Snow Moon, Hunger Moon or Wolf Moon
- L. Old Moon or Moon After Yule

(Answers on pg 4)

May 1999

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Mars closest approach to Earth is on May 1st						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 X
Take The Kids To The Forest			Teach a Child a New Tree or Flower			
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13 MNHS Meeting	14 Lewis & Clark leave St. Louis-1804	15 Δ
Save Paper: Use Both Sides						
16	17	18	19	20	21 E	22
Watch For First Monarch Butterflies Coming North						
23 Carolus Linnaeus born 1707	24	25	26 Rachel Carson Born 1907	27	28	29
			Japanese Lilac Trees Begin To Flower			
30 A	31					



Garlic Mustard— Woodland Invader by Marilyn Ortt

Competition from invasive exotic species is second only to outright habitat destruction in causing increasing rarity in native species.

An especially insidious invasive is garlic mustard since it moves easily into forested areas. Once established, it is extremely difficult to control.

Garlic mustard, a native of Asia and Europe, now has a wide distribution through northeastern North America. Although unrelated to garlic, leaves of this member of the mustard family have a garlic odor. Apparently it was introduced in this country by early gardeners for medicinal purposes.

Leaves vary in shape from kidney-shaped with wide teeth near the base of the stem whereas stem leaves are more triangular in shape. Small white flowers make up a simple terminal cluster on the 1-2' stem. Each flower has 4 petals which are narrowed at the base as is typical of the mustard family.

The narrow linear capsule contains shiny black seeds which are dispersed when the capsules burst upon maturation. Seeds germinate in summer and the plant overwinters as a rosette of 3-4 leaves. The leaves stay green during the winter and the following spring the plant bolts and flowers in early May here in southeastern Ohio.

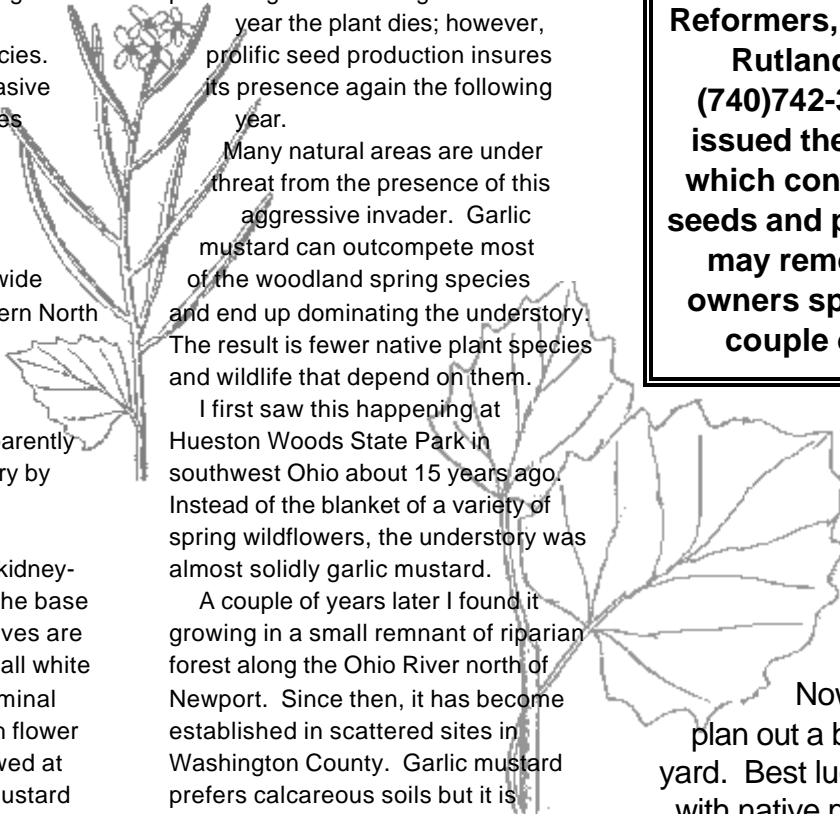
The plant is a biennial. After producing seeds during the second year the plant dies; however, prolific seed production insures its presence again the following year.

Many natural areas are under threat from the presence of this aggressive invader. Garlic mustard can outcompete most of the woodland spring species and end up dominating the understory. The result is fewer native plant species and wildlife that depend on them.

I first saw this happening at Hueston Woods State Park in southwest Ohio about 15 years ago. Instead of the blanket of a variety of spring wildflowers, the understory was almost solidly garlic mustard.

A couple of years later I found it growing in a small remnant of riparian forest along the Ohio River north of Newport. Since then, it has become established in scattered sites in Washington County. Garlic mustard prefers calcareous soils but it is adapting very well to our more acid clays.

If you suspect you have garlic mustard growing in your woodland or nearby, bring a plant to the next MNHS meeting. If you are concerned it won't last that long, dry it between newspapers with a book placed to flatten it.



Interested in planting meadow and woodland wildflowers native to southeastern Ohio? Land Reformers, 35703 Loop Rd., Rutland, OH 45775, (740)742-3478, have just issued their 1999 catalog which contains listings of seeds and plants. Members may remember the two owners spoke to MNHS a couple of years ago.

Time to Plan your Butterfly Garden

Now is the time to plan out a butterfly garden your yard. Best luck will be achieved with native plants that provide nectar for adults and leaves for larvae to feed upon. A list of local butterflies and the types of plants that provide food for adults and larvae can be obtained from MNHS board members or the Newsletter Editor.

Photographs of garlic mustard can be found at

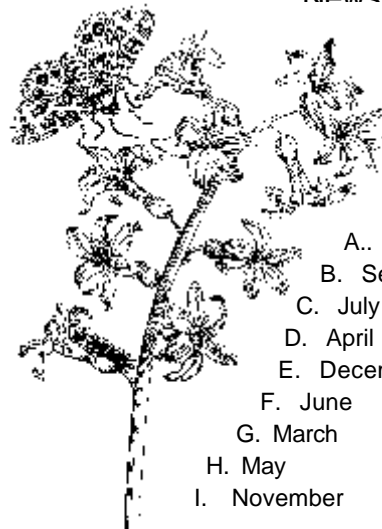
http://www.savedunes.org/HTML/garlic_mustard.html

Suggestions, Comments or Contributions for the MNHS Newsletter?

Send them to the editor:

625 5th St Marietta, OH 45750 374-8778

spilatr@s@marietta.edu



Answers to moon quiz on page 3.

- A.. October
- B. September
- C. July
- D. April
- E. December
- F. June
- G. March
- H. May
- I. November
- J. August
- K. February
- L. January



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AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE by Marilyn Ortt

The American burying beetle is a federally and state endangered species in spite of once having a widespread distribution through eastern North America. Small populations are now known only in Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Block Island, Rhode Island. At least one specimen was collected from Washington County circa 1920. The last record in Ohio was 1974 from Hocking County near Old Man's Cave. As is the case with most organisms, the more that is known about its life history and biology, the more interesting the species becomes.

The American burying beetle is largest of its genus ranging from 1" to 1½" long with shiny black body and elytra which are marked with characteristic scalloped red-orange markings. Unlike smaller relatives, this species also has a red-orange marking on the shield-like area behind the head.

Their antennae are quite sensitive to the odor of decomposition and this nocturnal beetle is quickly attracted to a small dead animal. They can fly up to one and one-half miles in a single night.

The carcass may just provide a meal for a beetle but if the season, location and size (chipmunk-size is ideal) are appropriate, the male emits a pheromone which attracts a female beetle. Working from beneath the carcass they can move it up to several feet to a site where the soil is less compacted. By dawn the carcass will be buried at a depth of about 4" after which it is cleaned of feathers or fur. Up to 30 eggs are then laid in a brood chamber near the carcass and, unlike most non-social insects, one or both parents stay with the eggs. Even more unusual, they not only guard the eggs and then the larvae after they are hatched, they also feed and tend them for about a week until larvae are able to crawl to the carcass to feed on their own. They pupate in the surrounding soil and emerge as adults 45-60 days after the eggs were laid.

The reasons for the increasing rarity of this once widespread species have invited many theories. That such a widespread species could become endangered within a hundred years is a sobering thought. What else are we missing?

The Endangered Species Act (sometimes referred to as Noah's Ark) required that a recovery plan be implemented. As part of this plan, in July, 1998 the Ohio Division of Wildlife reintroduced 35 pairs of American burying beetles onto state land in southeastern Ohio from a population in Oklahoma.

If the reintroduction 'takes', this fascinating insect will

once more fill its ecological niche in our

Dandelions, con't. from page 2

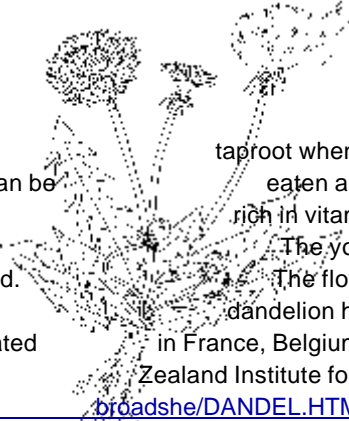
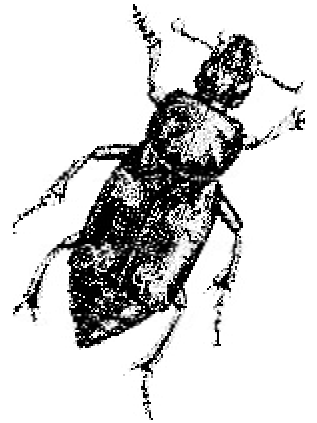
Every part of this plant is edible. The coffee substitute. The jagged leaves can be leaves are nutritious and especially settlers as soon as the snow melted. The flowers can be dipped in batter and fried. wine. Bees also make an excellent

The dandelion is commercially cultivated even the US. The web site of the New Zealand Institute for Crop And Food Research has a web page on the dandelion (<http://www.crop.cri.nz/broadshe/DANDEL.HTM>), which gives detailed information on the cultivation and harvest of dandelions for market. There is even a list of sources for buying seed!

In May when your lawn turns into a carpet of yellow flowers, don't panic. If you watch your neighborhood, you will notice that this mass flowering lasts only briefly, whether or not herbicides are applied. Bees and numerous other insects visit the flowers for their pollen and nectar. Interestingly enough though, this plant can form seeds without pollination or fertilization having occurred.

Remember in childhood, the joy of blowing a dandelion "lantern" to set the little parachuted seeds free in the breeze? Remember making dandelion wreaths, or picking a cheerful golden bouquet to bring to Mom? Now imagine a childhood without dandelions.

In his book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, Robert Fulghum says it best in an essay on dandelions: "If dandelions were rare and fragile, people would knock themselves out to pay \$14.95 a plant, raise them by hand in greenhouses, and form dandelion societies and all that. But they are everywhere and don't need us and kind of do what they please. So we call them "weeds," and murder them at every opportunity." If you do have the urge to get rid of dandelions, consider eating them!

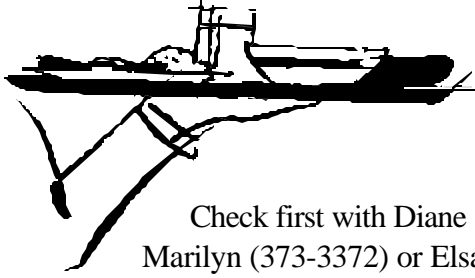


taproot when lightly roasted and ground, make a good eaten as salad greens or cooked as a vegetable. The rich in vitamin A and C, and were available to the The young buds can be cooked or pickled; the The flowers can also be made into a fine dandelion dandelion honey.

in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the UK, New Zealand, and Zealand Institute for Crop And Food Research has a web page on the dandelion (<http://www.crop.cri.nz/broadshe/DANDEL.HTM>), which gives detailed information on the cultivation and harvest of dandelions for market. There is even a list of sources for buying seed!



**You can have
Dinner with the speakers
5:00 at the Levee House**



Check first with Diane (373-8031),
Marilyn (373-3372) or Elsa (373-5285).
to be sure speaker will be there. Members
should make their own reservations.



The MNHS Vision

- i To foster awareness of and sensitivity to our environment and its biodiversity**
- i To provide a place where people with these interests can gather for information and activity**
- i To create a presence in our community representing these ideas**



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