



MLNC

Mt Lebanon Nature Conservancy



Fall, 2020

Member Newsletter



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Adapting to the New Normal

Parks Provide Relief from Quarantine 'Cabin-Fever'

2020 has been a year like no other. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives in so many ways. We've all had to adapt. And, there is still uncertainty about when and how things can go back to normal (or something close!)

We are fortunate here in Mt Lebanon to have so many natural areas in our community. Most of us live within a short walk or drive from a natural area, such as Bird Park, Twin Hills Park or Robb Hollow. We can take a break from technology and sedentary activities to clear our heads and move our bodies.

There are many more people using our parks now. Spending time in nature as a way to adapt to the challenging circumstances.

MLNC had to adapt to continue our mission to the community. We changed to virtual programming including School in the Park.

And, we hosted socially distant volunteer days focused on tree planting and invasives removal. Hundreds of native trees of many species were planted to help restore biodiversity. It's vitally important to the health and longevity of our parks and we need that diversity in our lives too. So, check out our volunteer opportunities on our website and come join us in the parks!

Virtual School in the Park

Continuing a beloved Mt Lebanon tradition

Video SIP stations enabled "The Show to Go On"

When in person instruction was canceled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, School in the Park went virtual!

Five of our amazing, experienced instructors recorded each of the typical School in the Park stations: birds, stream, field edge, invertebrates, and forest.

Through their teachers, every third grader in the district was sent YouTube video links of the stations and an introduction by the coordinators, Angie Phares and Sarah Levinthal.

Students were also able to print a bingo card to fill out in the parks on their own time, and were able to pick up supplemental materials, including the popular owl pellets, at their schools to follow along online.

For the first time, School in the Park is available to anyone. Check out our Facebook page for links to the videos.



Live chicken featured in Bird Station



Walking Stick featured during Invertebrates Station



SIP Coordinators Sarah Levinthal and Angie Phares

Annual MLNC Member Mtg

November 8, 2:30pm

ZOOM Virtual Meeting (registration required)

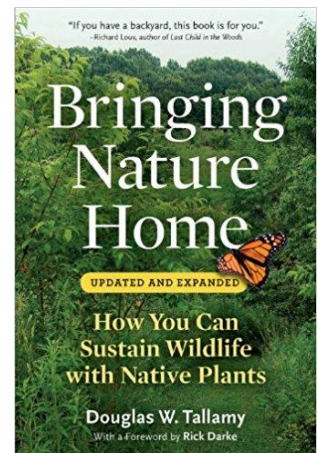
Our featured speaker is **Doug Tallamy, PhD** professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at University of Delaware and New York Times Best Selling Author of Nature's Best Hope and Bringing Nature Home.

Topic: **Nature's Best Hope**

How we can and must take steps to reverse declining biodiversity

Free to the public

Go to Lebonature.org to register





PROGRAM REVIEW

MLNC brings expert hikes and lectures to the community each year

2020 PROGRAMS IN REVIEW

Is Spring Out of Sync?

Mason Heberling, Curator, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Gardening for Challenging Spaces

Gabi Hughes, Audubon Society

Nature, Wellness and You

Dr. Mary Beth Mannarino, Psychologist, Professor Emerita, Chatham University

Re-Wilding Your Backyard

Roxanne Swann, Beechwood Nature Reserve

Nature's Best Hope

Doug Tallamy, PhD
Professor of Entomology and
Wildlife Ecology at University of
Delaware

MLNC thanks the Mt Lebanon Public Library for their support of our programming.

Special thanks to Mickey Stobbe, departing Board Member and VP of Programs for her excellent programming and speakers.

Please watch our EVENTS page on Lebonature.org for our 2021 programs

Local Scouts Contribute

While COVID has affected our scout-related projects this year, we managed to accomplish a couple through the efforts of Troop 284 of Mt. Lebanon.

In August, Tanner Pardi took a step closer to his Eagle Scout ranking by creating several hundred feet of new trail in Bird Park, which now connects several existing trails into a coherent system. Mr. Pardi scouted out the best routing for the trail, cleared fallen trees and added a gravel base topped by a softer wood chip surface. Two footbridges were constructed over drainage swales for easier passage.

This fall, Luke Dewuilt will be leading the same troop in a nearby area, correcting erosion and drainage issues on a connected trail and improving the trail surface as part of his Eagle Scout requirements. This upper trail loop in Bird Park has been a Troop 284 focus over the past few years, with sections improved through various projects by Hunter McQuaid, Scott Jones, Nicky Phillips and now Tanner Pardi and Luke Dewuilt.

MLNC is grateful to the families and friends of Troop 284 for their hard work. Thanks also to the Mt. Lebanon Public Works Dept for supplying the materials.



Troop 284 Mt Lebanon

Clearing fallen trees to make way for a new trail connector to create clear system between several trails

Troop 284 Mt Lebanon

Happy crew after completing work on one of the footbridges to improve access



Special thanks to Ron Block, MLNC Board member who plans and coordinates Scout projects

MLNC Needs You

Our work protecting and enhancing our Mt Lebanon parks, our programming such as School in the Park (a 35+ year tradition), and expert led hikes and lectures are made possible through community support.

We accomplish much of our work through volunteers and with funding derived from memberships and donations.

Check out our programs and volunteer opportunities on our newly redesigned website: Lebonature.Org

**Please consider joining/donating to MLNC
Look for the DONATE TODAY button on
our home page. THANK YOU!**



Lebonature.Org

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