



News Springs Eternal

July 2009

May Bird Walks at YSF

Vincent Smith of Valley Forge Audubon Society led two bird walks at Yellow Springs Farm in May. Both Sunday mornings were good days for birders. Many thanks to Vince and Sharon Burke for sharing their knowledge and good company.

Over two Sunday mornings, the following species were observed:

<i>American Crow</i>	<i>Eastern Bluebird</i>	<i>Orchard Oriole</i>
<i>American Goldfinch</i>	<i>Eastern Towhee</i>	<i>Red-bellied Woodpecker</i>
<i>American Robin</i>	<i>European Starling</i>	<i>Red-tailed Hawk</i>
<i>Baltimore Oriole</i>	<i>Gray Catbird</i>	<i>Red-winged Blackbird</i>
<i>Blue Jay</i>	<i>Great Crested Flycatcher</i>	<i>Song Sparrow</i>
<i>Carolina Chickadee</i>	<i>Green Heron</i>	<i>Tree Swallow</i>
<i>Carolina Wren</i>	<i>House Finch</i>	<i>Tufted Titmouse</i>
<i>Cedar Waxwing</i>	<i>House Wren</i>	<i>Turkey Vulture</i>
<i>Chimney Swift</i>	<i>Mourning Dove</i>	<i>Warbling Vireo</i>
<i>Chipping Sparrow</i>	<i>Northern Cardinal</i>	<i>White-breasted Nuthatch</i>
<i>Common Grackle</i>	<i>Northern Flicker</i>	<i>White-eyed Vireo</i>
<i>Common Yellowthroat</i>	<i>Northern Mockingbird</i>	<i>Wood Thrush</i>
<i>Downy Woodpecker</i>		<i>Yellow Warbler</i>



Dedication of WCU Outdoor Classroom



On April 21, 2009, Al and Catherine Renzi joined West Chester University in celebrating the dedication of its first outdoor classroom/laboratory. Yellow Springs Farm provided many of the native plants there. This outdoor space is important for transforming the campus into a more sustainable landscape, offering habitat for birds and beneficial insects, and providing learning opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

Renzis go to House Agriculture Committee in Washington DC



Catherine and Al Renzi were invited to the House Agriculture Committee in Washington DC in May to talk about Yellow Springs Farm. We shared our story of sustainability on a 21st-century farm with photos and products from the Farm, and explained how we have benefitted from a USDA Value-Added grant. This event was sponsored by the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. We were proud to be among three farmers invited to talk with policymakers and staff on Capitol Hill. This is what agricultural policies look like from farmers' point of view!

Maintenance Tips for Summer in Native Gardens

1. Enjoy the butterflies and hummingbirds as nectar flows to flowering species.
2. Butterfly and moth caterpillars are using many species leaves as host plants; be especially careful to avoid using pesticides that might affect this lifecycle. If you see holes in some leaves, it might be a positive outcome.
3. Use compost to top dress plants in the root zone. This will retain moisture much better than mulch, and supply plants and soil with good nutrition during stressful heat and drought periods.



4. Plan to divide spring and early summer blooming perennials in September. It is usually better to divide later bloomers in spring.
5. Prune shrubs soon after blooming, as needed. Be careful not to prune Spring bloomers such as Azaleas in late summer and Fall, as you will likely reduce buds and blooms for the following Spring
6. Blueberry plants can be fed with organic slow-release berry mix to promote fruiting for next year.

7. Raspberries and Blackberries are still fruiting. Remove any diseased canes when you see fungus or mildew, but enjoy the ever-bearing varieties high yields throughout the summer.
8. Think about planting trees and shrubs in fall. It is easier to establish good root systems when woody plants are installed in fall. If you wish to plant larger specimens such as ball and burlap plants, order them now for fall digging and installation.
9. Respond to foliar mildew and fungus problems brought by high humidity with natural solution. Use Seacide liquid, Diatomaceous Earth granules, or Neem Oil sprays, for example. Please ask us for advice in choosing the best solution.



10. How does your pond look? Is duckweed or algae a problem? We have natural pond clarifier solutions, attractive floating islands for nutrient uptake, and advice for selecting oxygen diffusers. Planting the pond banks with native species also helps keep sediment and runoff out of your ponds and improves water quality.

Summer on the Farm



[Click here to view slideshow](#)

Save the Dates for YSF Fall Plant Sale

NEW DAY - Fri
Sept 11, 2009
12 noon - 7 pm

Sept 12 - 13, 2009
10 am - 4 pm

Rain or Shine

www.yellowspringsfarm.com

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