

Natural Resource Protection News

From the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board

Staying Active in a Crisis

Excerpts from NYSDEC Publications

Social distancing protocols might keep us from doing many of the activities we enjoy. However, there are ways to keep busy and entertained while also keeping yourself and everyone else safe. Here are a couple of suggestions from the ECB and the NYSDEC to keep our community active during this crisis:

Spring Cleaning for Roadside Ditches

Does the sight of roadside litter bug you? Here's your chance to help improve the looks of our road shoulders, and keep our lake free of the beverage containers, plastic bags, stray papers and other debris that are carried to the lake along with storm runoff. **Meander along your neighborhood streets and pick-up that litter.** It's a great activity for families.

In the near future, the Environmental Conservation Board and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, in cooperation with several municipalities surrounding the lake, will be seeking volunteers for a roadside litter pick-up program, linked to the United Way's planned Day of Caring. The date is yet to be rescheduled, but keep an eye out for more information in future newsletters.

Gardening

Good news! You can still work on your garden! We are dealing with a lot of uncertainty right now, but you can still get your gardens started. Plant some healthy fruits and veggies, or a rainbow of flowers and native plants. Make sure to check with your local supply shops for adjusted hours and protocols.

Don't have a yard? Start your planting indoors.

Cornell Cooperative Extension has some gardening tips available on their website for your outside or inside gardening questions. <http://cceontario.org/gardening>

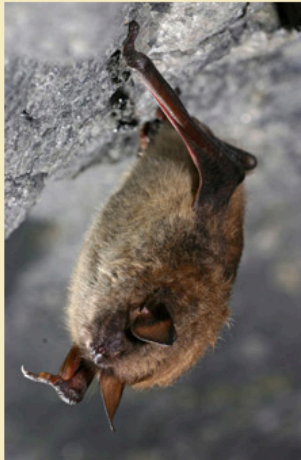
We Missed it....But April 17th was International Bat Day

Any day is a good day to appreciate New York's nine bat species. When spring temperatures become warm enough, bats will leave their hibernation sites and may be seen flying in search of insects. Unfortunately, many species of bats, including the little brown bat, have faced severe population declines due to white-nosed syndrome.

Some bat facts:

- They are insect-eating machines, eating thousands of mosquitoes and other flying insects in a single night!
- Bats use echolocation (rapid pulses of sound that bounce off an object) to detect and catch insects.
- They are the only mammal that can fly.
- Bats are more closely related to primates than to mice.

To view bats, check out your local park or forested area, especially near water and along trails. Even your own backyard can be a great place to view bats if you have trees near your home!



Learn more about bats in [Bats of New York State](#) (PDF). Bats generally do not come close to people. However, if you do encounter a bat on the ground, do not touch or pick it up as they can carry rabies. https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/administration_pdf/batsofny.pdf