



Friends

of Thacher and Thompsons Lake State Parks

Emma T Thacher Nature Center, 87 Nature Center Way, Voorheesville, NY 12186

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Friends website: www.friendsofthacherpark.org

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID by Dan Driscoll

The hemlock woolly adelgid is in Albany County. Friends of Thacher Park board member Sigrin Newell, PhD, found it near her home in Glenmont in eastern Albany County, and it has been found in several other places in the county. The lack of natural enemies contributes to explosive population increases and rapid spread of the adelgid. Once a hemlock is infested, the adelgid can kill the tree in 3 to 10 years. All ages and sizes of hemlocks are susceptible. What to do?

The adelgid has an unusual life cycle with two generations per year. It is dormant during the summer and feeds actively during the winter when predators are fewer. Adelgid eggs and crawlers are easily transported by wind, wildlife (especially birds) and humans. The adelgid is tiny, about 1/16 inch. Except for newly hatched nymphs, it is covered with wool-like wax filaments that it produces to protect itself and its eggs. The best time to see these woolly "ovisacs" is from late fall to early summer.

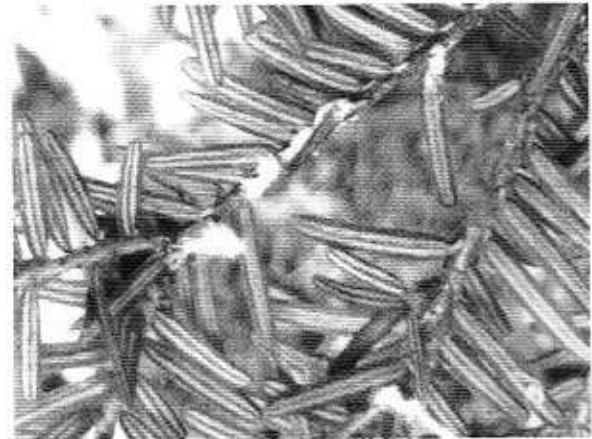
If you have a hemlock that is important to you, check the underside of several branches yearly. In a grove of a few acres, 10 to 25 trees should be checked. The white ovisacs are found at the base of needles; they look like small Q-tips.

What should you do if you find them? You could pray for a period of extreme winter temperatures (-30 to -40° F) that can kill adelgids. But researchers are working to develop effective chemical and biological controls. Currently, insecticides can be effective on

individual small trees, but they must be applied repeatedly. Pyrethroids, horticultural oil or insecticidal soap sprays have been found to be effective. However, many pesticides can only be applied by a licensed pesticide applicator. Systemic treatments, injected into the soil or tree trunk can be longer lasting and can be effective on larger hemlocks.

The adelgid is not a native species, so it has few natural enemies. Several predator insects known to feed exclusively on adelgids have been imported and are being investigated for biological control.

To report possible infestations call DEC's toll-free Forest Pest Hotline at 1-866-640-0652.



WE SO VERY MUCH NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH THE FALL FESTIVAL.

We need folks to help with old fashioned games and activities, with face painting, crafts, you name it. Please call Jöy at 872-1237.

Updates



FALL FESTIVAL

**THACHER PARK'S PEAR ORCHARD PICNIC AREA
OCTOBER 6, 10 – 4 (RAINDATE OCT. 7)**

History Hayrides on the Helderberg Express!
Live Birds of Prey! Pumpkin Chuckin!
Pioneer Games and Activities!
Pony Rides!
Story Telling! Live Music! Fresh Produce!
Skillet Toss and Horseshoe Contests!
Chainsaw Carving Demos! Scavenger Hunt!
Face Painting! Hot Cider and Donuts!
Harvest & Halloween Crafts for kids AND adults!
Vendors! AND MORE!!!
Delicious food available by
Thompson's Lake Reformed Church!
\$6.00 parking fee per car

The Native Plant Corner – Laurel Tormey Cole

Fall Native Plant Sale!!

Fall is a great time to add to your garden beds. Replace those exotic plants that didn't survive the drought . . . and those plants that don't feed native bees or honey bees . . . or add to your hummingbird or butterfly garden...

The nature center has lots of beautiful plants ready for transplanting right into your garden. Trees, shrubs and perennials are all available. All come complete with growing information. Low prices and quantity discounts. Shop through the fall, Tuesday thru Sunday, 9am - 5pm. Closed on Mondays.



Rose Mallow

The next Friends Meeting is September 12 at 7pm. The Friends of Schoharie Park are more than welcome to join us! The Annual Meeting will be on November 14th. All meetings are at the Thacher Nature Center.

Check for updates at www.friendsofthacherpark.org

Officers of the Friends Board of Trustees

President:	Barbara Flindt	765-4997
Vice President:	Jim Schaller	861-7452
Treasurer:	Betsey Miller	869-0739
Secretary:	Sigrin Newell	439-6705

Other Trustees

	John Kilroy, past president	
Doug Fraser	694-6613	Christine Gervasi 872-1501
Chuck Ver Straeten	872-2223	Bert Schou 221-8693
Dan Driscoll	872-0602	Linda Hodges 872-0940

As always, call 872-0800 or 872-1237 to verify activity times and dates.

Please feel free to call any board member with questions or suggestions.

Many thanks to Dan Driscoll, Nancy Engel, Laurel Tormey Cole, Joy Scism, Jim and Bonnie Schaller, and Rodger Fink, webmaster.

Want to contribute? Please email barbvoor1@verizon.net or call me at 765-4997.

— *Barbara Flindt, Editor*



Friends of Thacher Park Member Form

Member benefits: Newsletter, Scheduled Events Calendar & 10% Discount at the Nature Center Gift Shop. Renewal date follows name on address label.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

I'd like to become a member of the Friends of Thacher/Thompsons Lake State Parks. Enclosed is my check for \$_____. I am renewing my membership, enclosed is my check for \$_____.

- Individual \$20 Supporter \$40 Donation \$_____
- Family \$25 Corporate \$100 Senior (62) \$5
- Student \$5 Benefactor \$100

Please make checks payable to the **Friends of Thacher/Thompsons Lake State Parks** and send to Bonnie Schaller, 6324 Hawes Rd, Altamont, NY 12009. For more info: bonsgreta@yahoo.com

From Jim and Bonnie Schaller -

The new Boardwalk on Trail W-1 (Salisbury Trail extension) in Thacher Park is completed! The irony - when we began the project in June, we worked in foot-deep mud and water. Now, when the finishing touches were done, it was bone-dry!

As previously mentioned, the Tanner family of Whipple Road furnished lumber and materials for the 5 ft. wide - roughly 20 ft. long project, and labor on the initial building day. They transported additional lumber to the site later, and the job was finished in two more brief trips. Thank you Tanner Family!

To be sure, rains will come again, but this brief section of trail will now be high & dry!



Please fill out and return the enclosed survey, either by dropping it off at the Nature Center, mailing it to: Friends of Thacher Park, c/o Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center, 87 Nature Center Way, Voorheesville, NY 12187 or-

Fill it out on-line at www.surveymonkey.com/s/PV9KLPN or, find the link on our website. Thanks!

Friends of Thacher/Thompsons Lake State Parks
c/o Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center
87 Nature Center Way
Voorheesville, New York 12186-2601



Fall
Festival
Oct. 6

Next:

Saturday, September 29
Highway Clean-up!
8am at the Hop Field Area

Birds on the Wing: 11th Annual Hawk Migration Watch!

Saturday, September 8, 10am – 4pm and Sunday, September 9, 10am – 2pm at the Thacher Park Overlook.

Come join old friends and many returning fellow hawk spotters and help celebrate the 11th Anniversary of this spectacular event. Will Aubrey, hawk enthusiast, educator and hawk watch leader will once again be on hand, with binoculars pointed skyward, shouting out locations of migrating raptors (and some locals, too). His enthusiasm for the birds is contagious. Just one look and you are hooked. Quoting Aubrey: "Each year about three thousand hawks, vultures, osprey, falcons, harriers, and eagles pass over this site on the way to their winter feeding grounds extending from the southern United States on down into South America. The usual peak for the migration at this site each year seems to be around the 15th of September. Despite a multitude of variables ranging from weather to the availability of prey species along the migration corridor, historically there has been amazing consistency around this date. Each year, we have gathered at the overlook to renew old acquaintances, sharpen and hone our spotting skills, and view the early migrants. And it's free for the experiencing!"

Throughout the day, hawk watchers may participate in many activities. Most of the activities will be ongoing throughout the day... hawk watching and counting, butterfly tent and picture taking opportunities. Wildlife rehabilitator Richele Ford will be presenting programs with live birds of prey. Walt Leclair will have his beautiful handcarved birds available for viewing and purchase. Find out about wildlife and rehabilitation with North Country Wildcare, learn about raptors, test your wingspan and learn to identify flying birds by their silhouettes.



Come and design and paint your own Hawk/ Butterfly T-shirt. Food and refreshments will be available from the Overlook Café.

Hawk Watching will continue on September 9, from 10 – 2. A Junior Birder program is also planned for that day. Interested junior birders may contact the Nature Center at 872-0800 for more information and to register for the program.

Bring your binoculars and have a great time at this wonderful annual event!

We Need You! We need 2 more volunteers to help with t-shirt painting. This is a fun but busy activity, and we have only had a reply from 1 person so far. Volunteers receive free t-shirt. Please call Joy at 872-1237