Director's Notes

The Artful Classroom

A child becomes totally engrossed, immersed in the process of making a work of art. The sensation of feeling the smooth thick paint sliding onto the easel paper calms the child and brings pleasure in the creation. When the child grapples with the challenge of representing an object or person on the page, he or she is engaging in a task that is both demanding and satisfying.

Teachers provide an assortment of art material that children may choose from to make their own unique creations. We do not have the children copy a teacher's model or make a designated product. We encourage them to use the materials in different ways. Art is a vital and vibrant part of the early childhood program, contributing to all aspects of the young child's development.

As they draw, paint and sculpt children think creatively making decisions and solving problems. Children's fine motor skills are developed naturally through manipulation of brushes, crayons, Scissors and clay. All of these activities prepare children for writing in later years. Language also is developed as kids talk about color, shape and size as they describe their work to friends and teachers.

To encourage your child's artistic enterprises, provide large blank paper, watercolors, markers, or chalk for use at home. Art supplies also make great gifts!

Value your child's effort and expose him or her to quality artwork through visits to museums and art shows. Recognize that children learn in a variety of ways and that creative activities provide positive, satisfying experiences for all children.

From: Family-Friendly Communications for Early Childhood Programs

Summer Camp

Let your child's learning continue through the summer! These hands-on and interactive camps encourages learning in a fun and relaxed environment. **Friends are welcome to attend.**

Summer Camp registration forms are available in the ECEC office or online at: www.zionhinsdale.org

Cicadas

Our Hinsdale community will be experiencing the fascinating emergence of the 17 year cicadas sometime during the month of May- June. Millions of the flying, noisy insects will visit our outdoor spaces. The Cicadas are harmless and can't bite or sting. If you would like to learn more:

The Morton Arboretum—https://mortonarb.org/blog/be-prepared-for-cicadas-in-may/

DuPage County Forest Preserve—https://www.dupageforest.org/what-we-do/news/conservationist/2024/spring

April 2024

Zion Lutheran ECEC

204 S. Grant Street
Hinsdale, IL 60521
630-323-0065

www.zionhinsdale.org

Upcoming Dates:

- ☺ April 6th—Welcome back to school
- ☺ April 15 Local Author Book reading, Brittany Jelinek
- ☺ April 16 - Chapel
- ☺ April 26 Prom 5:30-7:30

The full School Calendar can be found on our school website.

http://www.zionhinsdale.org

zionlutheranecec@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/zionECECHinsdale

Instagram: Instagram.com/zionecechinsdale

YouTube: YouTube.com/Zion Lutheran ECEC Video

"This is the day
the Lord has made"
Psalm 118:24

"The mission of Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center is to open the door to a lifetime of learning In a Christ-centered community."

Enrollment for 2023-2024 school year is open. If you have any friends who are looking into preschools, pass along a good word of mouth for Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Education Center. Thanks!

The Morton Arboretum | THE CHAMPION of TREES

Be Prepared for Cicadas in May

February 27, 2024

Sometime in mid-May, the Chicago region will see a remarkable natural phenomenon that only occurs once in 17 years: an emergence of periodical cicadas.

For about four to six weeks there will be millions of big, red-eyed insects flying around and making an ear-splitting noise, especially in areas with lots of old trees. They will be annoying, but they are harmless to people and pets; they can't bite or sting. Children are often fascinated by the huge, slow-moving, easy-to-catch bugs. By the end of June it will all be over.

While the insects are harmless to people, pets, plants, and healthy mature trees, there is some risk of damage to young and other vulnerable trees and shrubs. After the cicadas pair up through those ear-splitting mating calls, the females make small slits in slender twigs and lay

their eggs there. This is not a problem for healthy, mature trees. However, small or newly planted trees, whose branches are mostly twig-sized, are at more risk of lasting damage.

The best way to protect these young trees is to wrap their branches in fine-mesh netting before early May. Tulle–the nylon or polyester mesh used to make ballerina tutus, sold in fabric and some hobby stores–works well. For more details on how and when to wrap trees, see the Arboretum's comprehensive cicada FAQ.

Homeowners, landowners, and communities may want to consider postponing tree planting until after the cicadas have subsided in late June, or until autumn. If you do plant trees in spring, plan to wrap them in netting.

Since the cicadas do not eat plants, they will do no harm to the flowers and new leaves of springtime gardens. They also bring a benefit: After they mate, they will die and their bodies will break down into the soil, adding free fertilizer for lawns, gardens, and forests.

There will be a lot of cicadas: In heavily wooded areas, scientists say, there can be as many as 1.5 million cicadas per acre. But there will not be more cicadas this year than there usually are in a 17-year emergence. It is true that two synchronized periodical cicada groups, or broods, are emerging simultaneously in 2024. However, those two broods mostly inhabit different geographic areas of the United States. In the Chicago area, there will be only one brood emerging.

The cycle of periodical cicada emergences has been going on for many thousands of years in the eastern United States. The insects emerge every 17 years in northern regions and every 13 years in more southern areas. Native trees evolved with cicadas, making them partners in a natural ecosystem where they flourished together long before people arrived. The cicadas are native insects and we have moved into their territory.

Their simultaneous emergence in vast numbers is a survival strategy for their species. When millions of cicadas are all active at the same time, there are too many to eat. Predators such as squirrels, skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, and many kinds of birds will gorge themselves, but enough of the cicadas will escape to mate and lay eggs.

Scientists are fascinated by the life cycle of cicadas. These insects spend 99 percent of their lives living underground in nymph form, feeding on sap from tree roots, and only live above ground as adults for a few weeks. It's known that the nymphs emerge in response to rising soil temperature, but researchers still aren't sure how they all know to emerge at once. Their mysteries are captured by their scientific genus name: Magicicada.

To learn more about what to expect from the cicadas' emergence and how to protect young trees, see the FAQ. If you have specific questions, consult the Plant Clinic. Watch the Arboretum website for more information on cicada-related events.

Print this page

BY MATT MULLIGAN, ECOLOGIST, NATURAL RESOURCES

They're Baaack! The Return of the Periodical Cicadas

The year 1803 was a notable one in U.S. history. Thomas Jefferson was president, the country nearly doubled in size with the Louisiana Purchase the 17th state in the union. It was also the year of a spectacular natural phenomenon: the joint emergence of two broods of periodical cicadas. Th summer will mark the first time in 221 years this will happen again, and one of the broods will be here in DuPage.

Cicadas have an interesting journey of development. As young nymphs, they spend years underground, feeding on fluids from the roots of trees. . as adults, they climb to high locations and go through one last molt, emerging soft and white from their rigid exoskeletons. You can often find th shells attached to tree trunks or on the ground. After a few short days, their wings and new exoskeletons dry and harden, and the insects fly away

To attract females, male cicadas produce loud distinctive calls that can seem deafening to anyone standing nearby. After mating, the females pun trees and shrubs and lay their eggs inside. Days later, the eggs hatch, and the newborn cicadas fall and burrow into the soil, starting the process a

Annual dog day cicadas spend between two to five years underground, and there are always adults emerging every July and August. They're 1.2 and have green to brown bodies with black markings and whitish undersides. Periodical cicadas, though, burrow for 13 or 17 years, depending o emerge all in the same year. Seven different types live in eastern North America: three 17-year species generally in the north and four 13-year in Midwest. Adults are about an inch long and have black bodies, striking red eyes, orange wing veins, and a black W near the tips of their forewing

After their final molt, male periodical cicadas live about two weeks. Females live four to six, during which time each can lay up to 600 eggs. You ants hatch after six or seven weeks, fall to the ground, and burrow. When they emerge 13 or 17 years later, they exit through openings in the grou diameter of a penny.

A CICADA MOLTS FOR ONE LAST TIME. ONCE THE EXOSKELETON HARDENS AND THE WINGS UNFURL, IT WILL BE A WINGED ADULT.

ANIMALS GORGE ON PERIODICAL CICADAS, BUT BROODS ENSURE THERE'LL BE SURVIVORS T THE NE

As in 1803, this year, 17-year cicadas (called Brood XIII) and 13-year cicadas (called Brood XIX) will emerge at the same time. It's weather-dep will likely be between May and June. Before you anticipate a double dose, though, know that here in Illinois, the two broods will emerge adjacer will likely not overlap. In DuPage, we'll see Brood XIII; Brood XIX will appear further south. According to maps and records from the Illinois N Survey, the transition zone will likely be between Kankakee, Chebanse, and Clifton as you head south on I-57. There are no guarantees, but if yo trying to experience both broods at the same time, your best bet would be a short car ride to a public green space with mature trees along this stre There are physical differences between broods, but the average observer will likely not notice them. Different cicada species, for instance, can pr sounds, patterns, and frequencies. Each species has its own song so as not to attract females from another species. If you're interested in trying to differences, you can find links to several cicada calls at cicadamania.com.

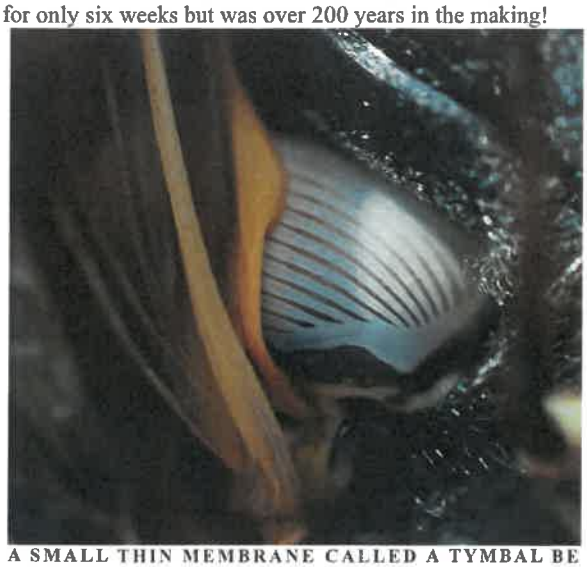
Here in DuPage, it should be easy to find 17-year cicadas in backyards and forest preserves, whether you're a trained scientist or a curious first-ti Because periodical cicadas emerge all in the same year, they arrive in high densities that can range from over a million per acre to a more typical per acre. They're virtually defenseless from predators such as birds, spiders, snakes, and dogs, so they rely on this safety in numbers to ensure en survive to produce the next generation.

If (well, more likely when) you encounter a cicada, you have nothing to fear. They don't bite or sting, and they typically keep to themselves. The though, especially the males, which call not only to attract mates but also to deter perceived threats.
When you're out, bring binoculars if you want to spot cicadas up high attached to large trees, but you can usually see them on the ground withou typically fly and buzz during the day with peak activity from afternoon through dusk, so you'll have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the show.

As you're out observing, consider taking photos and posting them to community science apps such as iNaturalist or Cicada Safari. Both apps are to share sightings with specialists so they can better understand nature on a regional scale. In DuPage forest preserves you can catalog your cicad observations in iNaturalist at inaturalist.org/projects/forest-preserve-district-of-dupage-county.

To experience this rare natural event to the fullest in the forest preserves, check out our lineup of "Cicada Adventures" programs on Page 10. An preserves this May and June, relish the fact that you are part of something that lasts for only six weeks but was over 200 years in the making!

A FEMALE 17-YEAR PERIODICAL CICADA USES ITS OVIPOSITOR AT THE END OF ITS ABDOMEN TO PIERCE A SMALL TWIG AND DEPOSIT ITS EGGS.



A SMALL THIN MEMBRANE CALLED A TYMBAL BE WINGS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSECT'S TREM