



Larry Dapsis **Entomologist – Cape Cod Cooperative Extension**

Ticks: *“One Bite Can Change Your Life...”*

Lyme Disease is the most prevalent tick-borne disease in Massachusetts and is now considered to be a public health crisis. In addition to Lyme, deer ticks can carry the pathogens which cause Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Relapsing Fever and Powassan virus, all of which can be very serious. This program will review the basic life cycle and ecology of deer, dog and lone star ticks.

Pollination Ecology – How Can We Help Bees?

Honeybees, both locally and nationally have been suffering catastrophic losses. This program will review honeybee biology and the factors responsible for this problem. In addition, we will review the state of wild pollinators like bumble bees and the things residents can do to help them. Many of the fruits and vegetables we eat require pollination. The current situation with murder hornet in the US will be discussed.

The Good, the Bad and the Bugly

Gardening can be quite a challenge. Not every insect in a garden is a potential pest. We will review the common pests of fruits and vegetables in addition to the fascinating natural enemy complex that helps keep them in check.

Insect Evolution

Insects are the most numerous and diverse group of animals on the planet representing over 25% of all forms of life on the planet. A series of examples will be showcased to show structural adaptations for protection including changes triggered by manmade events like pollution. There are evolutionary adaptations in behavior to enhance protection from natural enemies and to enhance predation ability...fireflies present a stunning example here.

Edible Insects, an Introduction to Entomophagy!

Insects are part of many diets around the world with the exception of North America and Europe. There are a number of valid reasons to consider rethinking our attitude about insect-based foods including sustainability and nutrition. Don't be faint of heart for this exciting tour of culinary treats.

Bio for Larry Dapsis – Entomologist since age 5. B.S. Environmental Science & Biology at Fitchburg State University and M.S. Entomology at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. Forty-four years of professional pest management experience including Vegetables, Cranberries and Household Insects. Joined Cape Cod Cooperative Extension in 2011 as Deer Tick Project Coordinator and Entomologist and is a member of the Barnstable County Working Group on Lyme and other Tick-Borne Diseases.