

# Town of Canandaigua News

August 2018

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## Natural Resource Protection News

*From the Town of  
Canandaigua  
Environmental  
Conservation Board*

### Backyard Wildlife Habitat

Creating a backyard wildlife habitat will add much interest to your life as well as benefit the animals – birds, insects, small mammals, amphibians - that grace your neighborhood. All animals have the same basic needs - air, water, food, and cover: a place to rest and to safely raise their young. These requirements have to be available in reasonable proximity, which implies a need for safe passages to where those may be acquired.

Survey your property to see what might already be in place. Tall grasses and areas of wildflowers provide cover for rabbits and ground-nesting birds. A woodpile at the edge of a property may become cover for fox kits. Dense evergreens can shelter winter birds from storms. A



Swallowtail Butterflies enjoying some mud

dead tree in a safe location will be a wildlife hotel. Cavity nesting birds such as bluebirds and any number of woodpeckers will use the tree. Chipmunks and other small mammals may come to stay or to visit.

Water – particularly shallow water – available at ground level will entice and assist all kinds of animals.

Give a toad a drink and it will consume many times its weight in slugs and undesirable insects in your garden. Amphibians are having a hard time surviving for various reasons. Chemicals used for lawn and agricultural purposes and fungal diseases have made

serious reductions in their populations.

A small mud puddle is an attractive place for butterflies to collect needed minerals. Native mason bees use small dollops of mud to seal the egg chambers for their larvae. Native bees do not produce honey, but neither do they sting or defend their nests. They are champion pollinators, so placing a native bee house near your garden and providing a little mud will be a happy event for you and for the bees. Leaf cutter bees will also use bee houses. The small cut-leaf circles used to seal the egg chambers will not damage your plants.  
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Butterflies, bees and humming birds need nectar and pollen in abundance for food. A diversity of native plants that bloom in succession provide those needs throughout the season. Flowering shrubs such as elderberries can provide nectar during the blooming season, shelter and shade all summer long, and berries for birds later in the season.

Thoughtful planning can give your backyard beauty and fascinating wildlife visitors throughout the year. Assess what habitat components you may have already. Consider if there are areas of property that could be either planted to native food and/or cover plants. There are many online and agency sources of information available to help you, and several fine local native plant nurseries in the area.



**A Savannah Sparrow gathering food.** Courtesy, Carolyn Jacobs

## Preparation Begins for the 2019 Budget

From the desk of the Town Manager



As we approach late summer, attention at Town Hall shifts to the development of the next year's fiscal budget. State deadlines for preliminary budgets, public hearings, and adoption require the Town Board to complete the next year's budget by essentially the October/November time frame.

The Town Manager is charged with developing a balanced tentative budget with input from all of the department heads, and then presenting that budget to the Town Board. The Town Board then makes the decision if they wish to make any modifications to the tentative budget before they present it to the general public as a preliminary budget. The 2019 budget development calendar requires that a tentative budget be made available to

the general public by September 12, 2018, with the Town Board considering the establishment of a public hearing on their preliminary budget for October 15, 2018.

While work is just getting started on the budget, the Town Board, the Town's Finance Committee, Town Manager, and staff are evaluating budget lines to produce the most efficient budget possible, while still providing the services requested by the residents of the Town of Canandaigua. If you have any questions regarding the budget process please contact Town Manager Doug Finch.

## New Deputy Town Clerk



Town Clerk Jean Chrisman announces the hiring of a deputy town clerk who has joined her office team.