

**Alloway Township Environmental Commission
49 S. Greenwich Street, Alloway, NJ 08001
September 9th Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Attendees: Joe Ingerson Mahar, Anne Sullivan, Chris Gilbert, Craig Kane,
Autumn Angelus and Marilyn Patterson**

Absent: Frank Ponti

Members brought in items that they thought would be of interest to the rest of the commission. Chris Gilbert brought in clam shells found in Alloway Lake that we identified as Asian Clams. They do not appear to be a problem species. Anne Sullivan brought in a caterpillar that Joe Identified as a Saddleback Caterpillar. It can give you a nasty sting causing a painful rash. Marilyn brought in a Spicebush Caterpillar. The Spicebush Butterfly lays its eggs on either a Spicebush or a Sassafras bush, the emerging caterpillar folds a leaf in half to form a tunnel where it can hide from predators. It comes out to feed at night. Autumn showed us a short film of a mosquito drinking blood from a capillary.

Marilyn handed out books of nature trails in Salem, Cumberland and Cape May Counties, that were produced by New Jersey Audubon some years ago. This book is now online and the paper books are being discontinued. The Salem County Nature Club is helping to distribute the discontinued books.

The minutes were approved with changes.

Correspondence: We received a letter from the Salem County Mosquito Commission informing us that it is applying to renew its permits. Autumn discussed what this meant.

Joe talked about mosquitoes interbreeding causing the new species to spread more naturally.

Joe talked about Pepper Weevils. They are carried into the area on imported peppers, spreads to the fields, but while it is spreading rapidly, it does not winter over.

We had a general discussion about Solar Panels and fires. This was prompted by the recent packing plant fire.

No information was available on activities of other commissions.

The Planning Board meeting for this month was cancelled.

According to the newspaper, the Plan for De-Commissioning Cobb's Mill Dam is being appealed.

The Salem County Nature Club, Inc. is donating 100 Monarch Tags to the Alloway Eighth Grade for use in their Science Classes. They will tag the Monarchs they raise as well as any the SCNC brings to them. The data collected from tag recovery will help scientists determine the health of the population arriving in Mexico for the winter.

The meeting was adjourned.