

Unseasonably warm days upset balance of nature

those sources are not available in any great abundance. If that happens, some will survive and some will perish. That's the way of nature.

I heard a male mourning dove cooing this weekend in preparation for nesting which is way too early in our area. The cottontail rabbits are also running around, even in daylight hours, as they prepare for their first family of the new season.

Time will tell

Many things seem to be occurring a month early, in comparison to other years. I've noticed a few night crawlers out already in our flower beds. This is the earliest I've ever seen them out. At this time of the year, with the days becoming longer, nature is of course responding to the beginning of a new season. Whether the abnormally warmer days will harm or help our wildlife remains to be seen. The next few weeks will tell.

I enjoy the warmer days, although I also enjoy winter. I am concerned, however, with these worldwide drastic changes in weather patterns. It bothers me when many people don't seem to be too concerned. These patterns will affect how we and the world of nature, of which we are a part, survive in the future. We need to stop worrying about only ourselves and take a look at the big picture. It bears watching.

Joe Derek is the city naturalist for Farmington Hills. Leave him a question or comment at 248-473-9574.



How is the unusually warm weather of the past week affecting our wildlife?

In my lifetime, I can't remember drastic weather changes like we've experienced in the last few years.

Nature has been a hobby of mine since childhood and I feel that we humans are largely responsible for the environmental changes we are seeing worldwide. You can't clear out millions of acres of rainforest without causing weather patterns to change. But that's another article for the future.

The biggest impact I've noticed with this warm weather is that some birds are already migrating back to Michigan. This past weekend, we had a couple of male red-winged blackbirds at our bird-feeder. I normally don't see them in our area until the end of March.

Grackles, which are black with a long tail and about the size of a bluejay, have also returned. Many animals that hibernate or remain dormant through the cold months have come out of their dens. Our local roads, the past weeks have had quite a few roadkills due to the break in the weather.

Upsetting the balance

What problem can occur is that too many bird species could return that feed primarily on insects and berries and of course at this time of the year

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



ALBRECHT-SZUMA
Allan and Jonel Carewell of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter

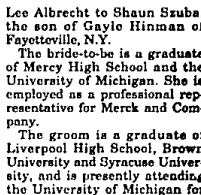
BRANT-MANRIQUEZ

Bob and Sharrise Branton of Boyne City announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Ann, to Mark Manriquez, son of Sofia Manriquez of Houston, Texas.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Western Michigan University. She teaches high school Spanish in Houston, Texas.

Her fiancé is employed in business administration at MCI World Com in Houston, Texas.

An August wedding is planned at Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.



CHARLES AND PHYLLIS SURMA
Charles and Phyllis Surma of Farmington Hills and Thomas and Phyllis Guiringer of Commerce, have announced the engagement of their children, Melissa P. Surma and Matthew P. Guiringer.



MR. AND MRS. HARRY BEUSTRIEN
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Beustrien of Farmington Hills

SURMA-GUINGER

Charles and Phyllis Surma of Farmington Hills and Thomas and Phyllis Guiringer of Commerce, have announced the engagement of their children, Melissa P. Surma and Matthew P. Guiringer.

Melissa is a graduate of Farmington High School and Michigan State University. She is employed at Burdines' "The Florida Store" in Miami, Fla., as a young contemporary clothing buyer.

Matthew is a graduate of Walled Lake Central High School and Michigan State University. He is employed by Nabisco Inc. in Miami as a customer sales representative.

announce the engagement of their daughter, Kathleen, to Andrew Nicely, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Nicely of Paradise Valley, Ariz.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree and master's degree in public health. She is employed as a consultant at Covance.

The groom is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He is an attorney at Meyer, Brown & Platt in Washington.

An April wedding is planned at Fox Hills Country Club in Plymouth.



customer sales representative.
A June wedding is planned.

North students ponder career choices

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
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Want to know what it takes to build a backyard deck in the middle of winter? How about getting the skinny on architectural blueprints or getting an important story into the newspaper before the printing presses roll?

The recent career cluster during Student Enrichment Time at North Farmington High School gave ninth graders the chance to check out two of nine different professions, with each student attending two 35-minute sessions.

Perhaps those presentations, on Tuesday, Feb. 1, might have even sparked enough interest for students to begin seriously pursuing a particular field with an eye on college in four years.

"It gets you ready for when you want to make a decision about what career you want," said North freshman Ben Panock, who attended sessions on print journalism and construction from Farmington Observer reporter Tim Smith and North alum Mike McCoy, CEO of Design/Sales for Walled Lake-based Coy Construction Inc.

Brian List, who also sat in on the McCoy presentation, said the SET career clusters is "a realistic way of learning. It's helping me figure out what I want to do."

During McCoy's talk, he

advised students to not get uptight if they didn't already have a career path chosen. More important, he explained, was finding something they liked to do and go from there.

"Make sure you like what you do," said McCoy, a former Raider athlete. "You're going to be doing it for a long time."

Establishing good habits

McCoy also touched on the importance of possessing employment attributes such as showing up for work every day, being reliable and having a good attitude.

Other careers scheduled to be represented during the Feb. 1 morning sessions included medicine, law enforcement, law, engineering, accounting and finance, architecture, government, counseling, sales and marketing, veterinary medicine, education, music, massage therapy and professional athletics.

Prior to one of two sessions on journalism held in his classroom, North teacher Jeff Simpson agreed about the importance of career clusters.

"It's getting acclimated to high school and planning ahead," Simpson said. "I think, going into college these days, you need to have some idea (for a career) if you want to get done in four or five years... If you don't have an idea you could be there for a lot longer period."

Simpson also said SET -

scheduled every Tuesday from about 9:10 to 10:40 a.m. - was helping ninth graders make an easier transition to high school.

Making the availability of SET elective choices in the first place was the high school's move to block scheduling for the 1999-2000 year.

One of the teachers instrumental in the move to block, Mark Wilson, said last Tuesday was a unique SET session throughout the building. Freshmen learned about future careers, while in the auditorium seniors were getting information about graduation, prom, all-night parties and ordering caps and gowns.

As of next year, all three high schools will have one form or another of block scheduling, which enables time for more

classroom discussion and projects.

Wilson emphasized that, under the former "traditional" schedule, Tuesday's visits from professionals would have forced the loss of instructional time. Students would have been pulled out of other classes in order to attend a special assembly, for example.

The North schedule includes one day (Monday) filled with seven 47-minute classes. On Thursday morning is an "optional X-block" in which students are not required to be in school until 9:10 a.m. Earlier Thursday morning, teachers spend time on staff development and planning.

Students attend the same three classes on Tuesday and Thursday, and four other classes both Wednesday and Friday.



Rapt attention: Students listen to a presentation on print journalism.



Closer look: After the main presentation ends, architect Marty Smith explains technical drawings to student Glenn Legacki.

Korean War vets sought

The Commemorative Community Committee to honor veterans of the Korean War era is currently conducting a search to locate veterans of the armed forces who served from 1950-53.

Wally Christensen, active in American Legion Post 346 in Farmington and organizer of the annual Memorial Day parade, would like to assemble a cadre of Korean War veterans to march in this year's parade. The parade is scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, May 29.

Several community groups are planning programs and tributes throughout the year. Some of the plans include Korean War veterans speaking to students in Farmington Schools as part of a living history program, a musical salute from the Farmington Musicals during the annual Festival of the Arts celebration in April, and special recognition in November during the Farmington Hills Senior Activities Center's annual "Stars and Stripes" program.

The commemorative period officially begins June 25, 2000 - the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the war - and officially closes Nov. 11, 2003. The idea is to thank and honor these veterans and their families for their service, especially those who lost loved ones; recognize and remember the prisoners of war and those missing in action; and provide the public with a clearer understanding and appreciation of the lessons, history and legacy of the Korean War.

For more information, call Wally Christensen at 474-8554, or fill out the coupon below.

50th Anniversary of Korean War Era Commemorative Community Committee
22408 Floral, Farmington, MI 48338

If you wish to purchase a Korean War Era Commemorative Flag similar to the one pictured here, please contact the committee address above.

Veteran or family ☐

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Phone Number _____

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Volunteer to talk to Schools/History Class (yes) (no) ☐

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