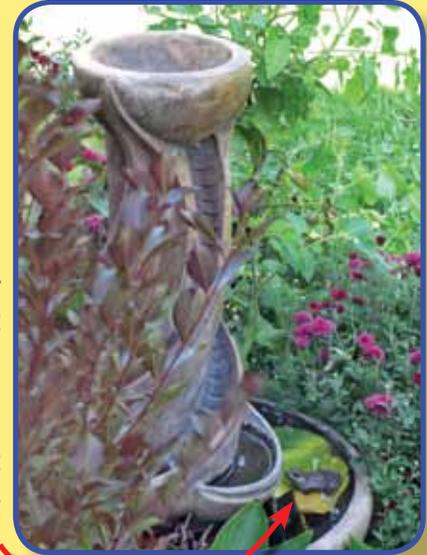


There's something exciting about seeing wild animals, whether we go looking for them... or encounter them unexpectedly.



Watching wildlife and taking photos can be enjoyed and shared with others your whole life long. Insects are fun to photograph—there are so many of them!

If you have a flower garden, you can plant it with wildlife in mind and create habitat for them in your yard or on school grounds. Gardens that attract butterflies, frogs and toads are fun.



Frank Herec



Frank Herec

New Yorkers, young and old, help with important wildlife research. **“Citizen scientists”** gather information and record and report it for many different kinds of studies. They contribute to DEC research about game birds, frogs, toads and furbearers (e.g., rabbits, raccoons, bobcats, American marten). Some citizen scientists are also hunters and anglers who spend a great deal of time outdoors observing wildlife.

Sometimes wildlife cause problems for people. Animals may be in inconvenient places, such as near homes, schools, farms, and airports. Sometimes their search for food and shelter results in damage to property or crops.

Having wild neighbors can be a treat, but not when they make a mess or destroy property.



USDA Forest Service, SRS Archive, Bugwood.org

Sometimes animals seem to be in trouble and in need of our help, but they aren't.

Leave baby animals alone. Often the parent is close by looking for food and will return shortly. It will not return until you're gone. Learn more at www.dec.ny.gov/animals/6956.html, "If you care...leave them there."

If a wild animal appears to be ill or injured, do **NOT** approach it. If you have questions about what to do, call your local DEC office.