

Hi Green Team,

Our next event is the Annual Mike Utt Memorial River Cleanup and Scioto River Day on Saturday, August 15. We're asking folks to arrive promptly by 9:45a.m. Please bring a walking stick to help you balance in the water if you decide to enter.

***Please note the location of this event has changed.

We'll be meeting at Municipal Building.

The natural world at night is stimulating. Different sounds reach our ears and we have to rely on senses other than vision to be aware of our environment. I have many wonderful memories of "night sounds". A favorite is that of hearing the "breent" of Night Hawks while sitting on my Grandma's back porch each summer. Their cousins, the Whip-poor-wills kept me from sleep lots of nights while lying in a debris hut in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. As a child I mistook the chattering of Gray Tree Frogs for Raccoon calls as I lay awake listening to night sounds. It was later as an adult that I learned the interesting calls of both. Male Gray Tree Frogs call during the breeding season which extends through July. Raccoon trills tend to simply be communication between mothers and cubs as they forage for food. However, raccoons are incredibly vocal and many homeowners mistake their diverse sounds for those of housecats.

Recently I had the chance to spend a couple weekends away from Central Ohio. Both trips afforded valued time away from typical city sounds. One evening as I sat by a fire, I heard a Coyote family join together, their sharp, high pitched howling and yipping carried through the night air so thickly that it seemed I could reach out and grab each of their syllables. Karen Halberg, a coyote researcher in Central Ohio has studied coyote howling for years. Her research has found that two coyotes can sound like five and three can sound like seven. Because Coyotes have the ability to produce multiple tones at one time, most humans cannot distinguish the number of dogs actually howling. Some believe Coyotes howl when while hunting. This is not true. Imagine trying to sneak up on something when you're noisily barking. Coyotes howl for many reasons. One is to form unity within a pack. Another is to check on their pups. Coyotes are great parents and when the pups first leave the den the parents will check up on them through a specific howl.

Howls weren't the only sounds I heard during my time away. The steady hum and tick of insects created the back drop for owl calls which came from all directions as the owls communicated information about their territories and locations. Rustlings in trees kept me wondering too. Were raccoons about, or were flying squirrels gliding through the woods looking for food? Thought to be as common as grey squirrels, flying squirrels are nocturnal, secretive creatures that sleep during the day and come out at night to feed on seeds, buds, tree sap, and all sorts of macro-invertebrates, including the katydid making its "ch, ch, ch" sound.

Katydids and crickets are common even in cities. They communicate by rubbing their front wings together and hear with ears located on their front legs. Both sexes in katydid sing but it is only the male crickets that call. Interestingly, crickets can tell us the

temperature. It's simple. Count the cricket chirps in 15 seconds and add 37. This will give you a rough estimate of degrees Fahrenheit.

There are many insects, frogs, mammals, and birds that become active each evening. Robert Louis Stevenson compared night sounds to a clock saying hours are "marked by changes in the face of Nature". This is true throughout each evening and season and I hope you have time this August to enjoy the sounds of nature at night.