



GREEN NEWS

'BUCKETS OF DOOM' COME TO SUMMER CAMP



Photos: (left) Nancy Bowden shows campers live mosquito larva. Ooooh.... (right) A camper poses with her artistically-decorated bucket. Photos by Paula Jones.

By Paula Jones

Chair, Bloomfield Conservation Energy & Environment Committee

On July 11th the Conservation Energy & Environment Committee (CEEC) partnered with Bloomfield's Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Department in a summer camp program making mosquito "Buckets of Doom." The bucket of doom is a low-cost, environmentally friendly, mosquito management system that any person can make.

The main supplies needed to construct one are a 5-gallon bucket, some straw or grass clippings, water, and mosquito dunks (available at local hardware stores and garden centers). It's also a good idea to put a piece of chicken wire or similar screening over the top of the bucket (to prevent small animals from falling in) or to place a

sturdy stick in the bucket (to allow anything that falls in to climb out).

After campers decorated their buckets, CEEC members Nancy Bowden and Jessica White talked to them about the life cycle of mosquitoes. Campers learned to identify each phase in the life cycle: adult females lay eggs on standing water; eggs hatch into larva; larva develop into pupae; pupae develop into adult mosquitoes; and then the cycle starts again. "Buckets of Doom" work by interrupting this life cycle, killing mosquitoes in the larval stage so they don't repeat the cycle.

The campers' artful buckets have been placed around the 330 Park Avenue campus so that they can monitor the buckets and see how well they're working - hopefully keeping the mosquito population down.

Look for them the next time you're there.

The previous day the CEEC partnered with the Bloomfield Public Library (BPL) and the West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District to present the program "Protecting Yourself from Summer Bugs." This webinar covered mosquitoes, ticks, and yellow jackets. For details on these bugs you can watch the BPL program at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9x1q2DaQIU>. To learn how to make your own bucket of doom for your yard or event, watch the mosquito segment starting at about the five minute mark.