



EARTH CARE @LEWINSVILLE

ALL CREATURES GREAT, SMALL, AND NOISY!

The highly anticipated Brood X cicadas have emerged after 17 years underground and they are.... everywhere! We have been well prepared by an abundance of articles and news features in recent weeks. Our own “Kid’s Stuff” (May edition) included quick facts, book suggestions and a fun video to engage our children, as well, in this natural phenomenon. We are fully armed with facts and science. We know not to fear these strange insects, that do not sting, bite, or harm food crops. We know not to use pesticides to deter them: such treatment is unnecessary, does not work and harms other animals in the attempt. We know they will disappear for another 17 years about 6 weeks after emerging.



Figure 1 - Photo by Bill Nino, Unsplash

But how often do we take time to contemplate these periodic visitors as a reminder of the mystery and power of God’s creation? The complexity and diversity of the creatures God declared good is truly astounding. We can marvel at the way huge hordes of cicadas emerge precisely on schedule, defying our attempts at understanding the how and the why. We can celebrate their connection to other parts of creation through the food bonanza they provide to many animal species. All those unsightly shells? Think of them as free fertilizer! Holes in your yard? Helpful soil aeration! The chorus we humans consider “noise” is actually a complicated communication filled with nuance and meaning to the cicada community.

One can surely sense the presence of a great Creator in this elaborate system. Perhaps if we think of the insistent cicada choir as an example of “creeping things” praising God as mentioned in Psalms 148:10 (KJV) the din won’t seem quite so annoying.

To learn more about cicadas and how you can help scientists track the presence and well-being of Brood X, download the free [Cicada Safari app](#) to your smart phone and report your cicada sightings.

-- [From the June 2021 Newsletter](#)