

Last week we again had a family visit us with their children. This time the boys were preschool and needed a lot of attention. So, the family did not hunt tourist attractions. We have a large basement with a lot of toys and that kept them busy most of the time.

And, we had another family gathering while they were here. My sister, who lives in Michigan, had her children gather from three states to meet their cousins. Today's world really scatters us as we go where the jobs are. College educations help to disburse the young people all over the country.

Previously, I had an opportu-

nity to revisit The National Watch and Clock Museum in Columbia, Pennsylvania. It has been expanded and renovated in the last year. The 12,000 timepieces are very attractively displayed. They range from early sundials to modern watches.

I was especially interested in the tall case clocks commonly known as Grandfather clocks. One among them was the fancifully signed Martin Shreiner clock, which was made by my three times great uncle. His children followed in his footsteps and also were clockmakers. The museum is fun and educational and has a library and research center where you can browse.

We had a lot of April showers

Hundreds of thousands maybe even millions - of mayflies will soon be emerging from the western shores of Lake Erie.

Their number one goal? To find a mate, lay eggs, then die.

That's the reason entomologists, or people who study insects, think they all emerge at once — there's a better chance for the mayflies to find that special insect mate.

Adult mayflies are about an inch long with big wings and two or three threadlike tails. Immature mayflies, called nymphs, look very different. They are narrow, long and oval-shaped, with shovel-like front legs and seven pairs of gills on their belly. All mayfly nymphs live at the bottom of quiet bodies of water or rapidly flowing streams for about two years. They'll molt - or shed their hard shell to grow bigger — about 20 times before they change into the adult form.

Adult mayflies only survive about a day. They don't eat,

recently and my sugar peas are really growing. They are almost a foot high and are climbing up the fence that my husband put up for them.

## Mayfly Woes

crawl or walk; they only fly and mate within the swarms of thousands of mayflies that emerge from the water, all at the same time. Males die right after they mate. Females fly back over water and release as many as 8,000 eggs.

The eggs sink to the bottom, and, once they hatch, the whole cycle starts all over again.

Mayflies are great food for fish and birds, they don't bite or sting, and they're a sign of clean water. But people think they're nuisances because so many die at once - if left in the sun, the mayflies begin to stink like dead fish! Scientifically yours, Twig -

## Orchid Show May 6-7

UNIVERSITY (Centre Co.) — The Central Pennsylvania Orchid Society will hold its 35th Annual Orchid Show at the Agricultural Arena on the Penn State Campus on Saturday, May 6 from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sunday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The show

is open to the public and admission is free.

A discussion on orchid culture and problems will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday and at 11 a.m. on Sunday. A special hour is reserved for photographers on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Orchid plants, orchid books, and potting supplies will be on sale.

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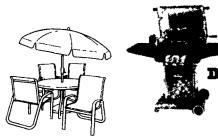


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