

Middle Creek Area To Open

The Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties will be opened to the public on Sunday, April 1.

Acquisition and development of the Pennsylvania Game Commission facility, begun in the mid-1960's, is nearly complete. The area, which will be managed primarily for waterfowl, is located immediately south of Route 897 between the villages of Kleinfeltersville and Cocalico.

Special hours of operation and regulations governing use of the area have been drawn up by the Game Commission. They are as follows:

The Administration and Visitors Center will be open to the general public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday to the opening of the waterfowl season.

After the opening of the waterfowl season, the Center will be open on Sundays only until November 30. The Center will be closed on selected holidays.

School, youth and organized groups desiring to visit the area and Center are requested to make reservations at least three weeks in advance of the desired date. Requests will be honored in the order in which they are received.

Groups will not be scheduled to visit the area and Center at the following times during the operation of the controlled shooting area, on the opening day of the regular small game season and the week following, and during the firearms seasons for deer.

All school and youth groups must be properly supervised by an adult leader who must remain with and accompany the group during the visit to the area. Leaders will be required to attend an orientation session before bringing a group to the area. The sessions will be conducted periodically by Game Commission personnel to familiarize group leaders with the area, Visitor Center, Commission regulations, etc. Ideally, there should be one leader for every 20 youngsters.

Commercial tours are welcome to visit the facility during the regular hours it is open to the

public. However, because of limited staffing, no special presentations or tours guided by Game Commission personnel can be accommodated.

Game Commission personnel are hopeful that groups visiting the area will be limited to about 100 individuals. However, smaller groups are better for visiting the Center and viewing wildlife on the area.

Requests to use the Center for group meetings will not be entertained at this time in an effort to reduce manpower and maintenance costs. The costs of

operating the Middle Creek Area are borne by Pennsylvania sportsmen through their purchase of hunting licenses; taxpayers do not contribute to the upkeep of the facility.

Although Middle Creek is being developed primarily for waterfowl, management of other wildlife species on the area is being emphasized as well. Heavy public use of the facility is expected by picnickers, bird-watchers, fishermen, hikers, boaters, photographers, etc.

Information is available from and inquiries should be directed to the Resident Manager, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, R.D. 1, Newmanstown, Pa. 17073, telephone 717-733-1512.

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Red Rose FFA Officers Ready Constitution Changes

Officers and advisors of the Lancaster County Red Rose FFA met last Tuesday evening in the agriculture department at Penn Manor High School. The purpose of the meeting was to complete unfinished business, changes to the constitution from the previous meeting, and to start planning the County Leadership Training Conference.

The constitution was read with all the recommendations for changes inserted. There was some discussion and then it was suggested that the secretary send out a copy of the constitution with changes included to all the Chapters in the county. This will give delegates a chance to look it

over before voting on it at the May meeting.

Planning for the annual County Leadership Training Conference was begun. It was decided to hold the conference in the beginning of May. No definite date was set until several schools were checked to find a suitable date.

Schools represented included Penn Manor, New Holland, Brownstown Vo-Tech, Pequea Valley, Solanco, Lampeter-Strasburg, and Ephrata.

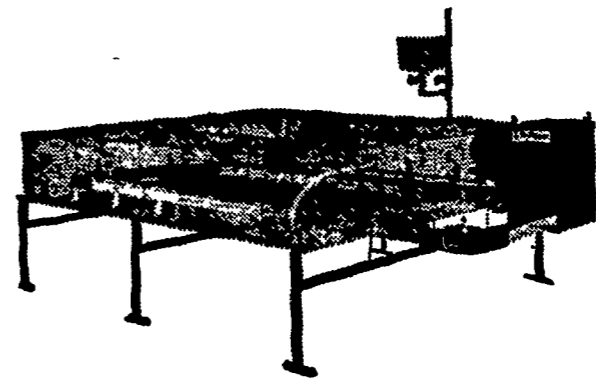
The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 at Lampeter-Strasburg High School.

County Reporter, Mel Weiler

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