

## Youth Conservation School

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster County Conservation District, along with local sportsmen's clubs, offers a weeklong summer adventure for teen-agers ages 14-16 interested in outdoor activities.

The Lancaster County Youth Conservation School (YCS) is a resident school program at the Northern County Fish and Game Protection Association in West Cocalico Township, July 21-27.

Topics include forestry, canoeing, wildlife management, archery, survival, and firearm safety. Teens will be able to meet professionals to discuss career options.

For an application, contact Sallie Gregory at (717) 299-5361, ext. 117 by June 1.

## DCNR Secretary Warns Of Spring Wildfire Danger

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Drawing attention to persisting drought conditions that heighten the risk of wildfires in Pennsylvania, Department of Conservation and Natural Resource (DCNR) Secretary John C. Oliver is calling for increased

burned by wildfires each year, and about 85 percent of all fires in Pennsylvania woodlands occur during the months of March, April, and May. Almost all of these fires threaten people and their homes, as well as trees and wildlife.

vigilance to safeguard the commonwealth's wealth of woodlands.

Secretary Oliver's call coincided with Gov. Mark Schweiker's proclamation designating March 17-23 Wildfire Prevention Week.

"Though forests are a renewable resource, they quickly can be endangered by acts of carelessness," Oliver said. "People cause 98 percent of wildfires. A mere spark by a careless person can touch off a devastating forest blaze during dry periods when conditions are especially ripe for wildfires to spread."

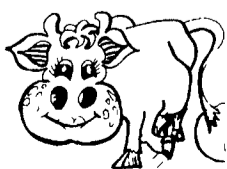
Oliver noted that wildfires during the past two summers have scorched hundreds of thousands of acres of woodlands in at least six western states. A record number of Pennsylvanians answered the call for volunteers to help fight those blazes.

Oliver cautioned that the prolonged drought and often windy conditions may increase the chance of forest and brush fires spreading, but their cause still almost always is traced to human carelessness.

About 10,000 acres of state forest are

## Alfred State Award Grants

ALFRED, N.Y. — The Alfred State Alumni Association has again awarded grants in its Learning Enhancement Program. This program offers financial support to faculty and staff for the design and implementation of learning enhancement projects. Applicants may request up to \$1,000 for supplies and equipment related to projects, which improve and enhance student learning.



## LINK Offers Deer Control Tool

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Landowners and hunters are teaming up through a Pennsylvania Game Commission program to limit game animals and furbearers that cause crop or property damages.

Developed in 1999, the LINK Program attempts to direct hunters to the owners of properties who need assistance, mainly with deer damage.

Known as a "dating service" for landowners and hunters, LINK offers an option for landowners looking for wildlife control solutions and hunters looking for land.

The cost-free program both recognizes the need for wildlife control but also addresses the fact that landowners may be uneasy with inviting the general public onto their property.

A landowner enrolls by filling out a Landowner Information and Property Profile Form and submitting it to the game commission. The form is posted on the agency's homepage (www.pgc.state.pa.us) in the Hunter Information section.

Hunters can browse the landowner information and property profile online and write to landowners if they are interested in hunting on that property.

The hunter then applies to enrolled landowners by sending them a Hunter/Trapper Information and Profile Form, which contains background information about the inquiring hunter/trapper. This application process allows the landowner to decide whether to invite the applicant to the property.

Landowner enrollment is ongoing.

According to website information, "it's far better to allow license-buying hunters and trappers to harvest and make wise use of game and furbearers in season than to remove them as nuisance wildlife, which often is not consumed or utilized."

The LINK Program does not require participating landowners to commit to a long-term arrangement.



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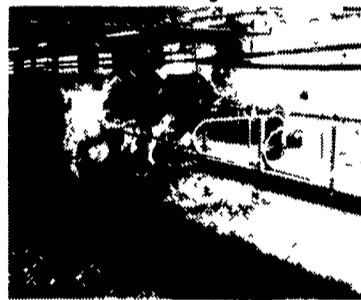
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