

Eagle Scout candidate wants to make Jackson Twp. bat-friendly

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

With some help from his township's supervisors, a Jackson Township youth may be well on the road to becoming an Eagle Scout.

Samuel Smith, 17, approached the supervisors at their regular work session November 29 to ask them to sponsor his Eagle Scout project, the construction and distribution of 15 wooden bat houses as an environmentally-friendly means of insect control.

The supervisors were happy to help out.

"Jackson Township has a substantial bat population," Smith said. "Bats can eat between 3,000 and 7,000 insects every night - much more efficient than any bug

zappers made today. It makes sense to encourage the bats by preserving existing roosting sites and creating new ones."

In addition to munching mosquitoes, bats also feed on other night-flying pests, including the corn-borers and cutworm moths which make farmers' lives miserable, Smith said.

Made of good one-inch pine boards, the bat houses are specially designed for the bats to climb in and roost comfortably while being impossible for squirrels and other creatures to take over. Smith estimated that each bat house can comfortably accommodate up to 10 bats.

Once his troop, Dallas Troop 232 at Gate of Heaven, and the Eagle Board of Review formally approve the project, Smith will

obtain the materials for the houses and have them assembled by fellow troop members.

"If anyone wants to help out, I certainly will be able to use donations of one-inch good pine boards," he said.

Smith plans to obtain permission to place the completed bat houses at Becker's Pond, Poston Pond, Hillside Farms, Lake-Lehman High School, the Penn State-Lehman campus and the park behind the Jackson Township Municipal Building.

Smith, a senior at Lake-Lehman High School, said that he can't take full credit for devising the bat house project. His sister, Maureen, had shown him a bat house kit in a catalogue, which inspired him to research bat habits and housing.



SAMUEL SMITH

He hopes to have formal approval for his project from the Eagle review board by mid-December, when he will begin soliciting donated wood for the houses.

Once the 15 bat houses are completed and set out, the rest will be up to the bats.

Bear season a good one, Game Commission says

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biologists can determine its age for statewide statistics.

The three-day bear season, November 22-24, was very good this year, according to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northeast Region Office in Dallas.

The Northeast Region operates four bear check stations, including one at its office on Route 415, which had hunters' vehicles lined up after dark waiting to check their bears in.

Game Commission personnel weigh each bear, measure it and remove a back tooth so that state

According to preliminary figures, 443 bears were harvested in the region, including 55 in Luzerne County and 15 in Wyoming County. Several hunters harvested bears weighing more than 500 lbs., while several juvenile bears born this year and weighing approximately 50 lbs were also harvested.

This was a very good year for hunters because the bears were in excellent condition due to a good mast (food) crop, a Game Commission spokesman said.



SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE COMING SOON - Sen. Charles Lemmond (R-20), right, and Rep. George Hasay (R-117) are shown holding a sample of the new wildlife conservation license plate available to Pennsylvania motorists.

New PA license plate has conservation theme

A new special license plate with a conservation theme will soon be available to Pennsylvania motorists. The four-color plate features a saw-whet owl on a hemlock bow; the Keystone logo; and the slogan, "Conserve Wild Resources." Purchases of the plate will benefit the Wild Resource Conservation Fund, which is dedicated to the management and conservation of Pennsylvania's

plant life and non-game animals.

Anyone interested in obtaining a plate can request an application by writing to the Wild Resource Conservation Fund, P.O. Box 8764, Harrisburg, Pa. 17105. Completed applications should then be forwarded, along with check or money order to: Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Transportation and Safety Building, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

Lehman Township property taxes due by December 9

Lehman Township property owners and residents are reminded that December 9 is the deadline for payment of the 1993 county/municipal, school, street light, and per capita taxes.

All unpaid property taxes will be returned to the Luzerne County tax claim bureau for delinquent

collection. Township and school per capita taxes will be returned to the Calvin McHose Agency and H.A. Berkheimer Associates respectively for collection.

All taxes are now payable at penalty value.

If there are any questions please contact the tax office at 675-2246.

Back Mountain briefs

Lake Twp. recycling Dec. 11

Lake Township Recycling Center will be open on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 10-12 noon, accepting aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown and green glass. Plastic #1 and #2 only can be accepted. No motor oil containers can be accepted.

Pet photos with Santa help SPCA

The S.P.C.A. of Luzerne County will hold its seventh annual Pet Photos with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 11 and Sunday, Dec. 12. On Saturday, Dec. 11, dog pictures will be taken. On Sunday, Dec. 12, cat pictures will be taken. Hours on both days will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the S.P.C.A. building on Fox Hill Road in Plains. Donation will be \$5 per picture.

Fraternity honors Krochta

The Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society for adult students who combine significant academic achievement with family, professional and community responsibilities, recently inducted 20 Dexter Hanley College students into the University of Scranton's Alpha Upsilon chapter. Included was: Carol D. Krochta, Shavertown.



Talkin' Turkey

During National Education Week, Dallas Elementary School's second grade students under the direction of teachers Ms. Mary Ann Zezza, Mrs. Mary Ann Yurko, Mrs. Sharon Lyons, Mrs. Marilyn Klick and Mrs. Beverly Bunney presented a Thanksgiving program entitled "Let's Talk Turkey!" Family and friends were entertained by a variety of songs, poems, a line dance and a play. The music teacher, Mr. Harold Hoover, rehearsed the musical selections with the students and accompanied them during the program. The physical education teacher, Mr. Larry Griffin, choreographed the line dance. In honor of the students, a cast party was held following the program. Pictured are several members of the Dallas Elementary School's second grade class.

Business owners:

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