(continued from page 1)

to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Marla Briggs, Staff Ecologist for Audubon International. These efforts include planting native shrubs and trees, providing nest boxes for bluebirds and wood ducks, winter feeding, maintaining a wetland area, planting buffer strips along the banks of small streams, and monitoring water

There were six different categories in which the club was certified: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Public Involvement, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation and Water Quality Management. They will be expected to continue to work on these programs and to report to the Audubon group once every two years to maintain their classification.

According to Karen Balchunas, Horticulturist, and Scott Schukraft, Superintendent, the members of the club have been very supportive. Schukrast stated that the membership had not incurred substantial costs associated with the program but that "the educational awareness level has increased dramatically in terms of how we maintain the golf course." He went on the say that "We are trying to be environmental stewards; that's important to us, and we'd like to make the membership aware of that."

The members are actively involved by reporting sightings of birds and other animals and by checking bird nesting boxes and installing butterfly boxes.

The wildlife inventory completed at Huntsville Golf Club during the three years of this program is impressive indeed. It includes 18 species of mammals, most notably black bear, eastern coyote, red fox, and mink. It also includes more than 85 species of birds, one of which - the great egret - is listed as threatened in PA. Other birds sighted include the bufflehead duck, great horned owl, green heron, least flycatcher, northern parula warbler, ruffed grouse, scarlet tanager, solitary vireo, woodcock, and chimney swift. Club members may soon consider binoculars an essential part of their golf equipment.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program based in Selkirk NY was extremely helpful during this entire process. They provided information and direction. Huntsville Golf Club hired a water quality expert, Peggy Minnis, Ph.D., of Norwalk CT, to spend

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"We are trying to be environmental stewards; that's important to us."

Scott Schukraft Course superintendent

three days on the course helping with the study of stream quality.

She taught the staff how to examine and identify the small creatures that live in the mud and on the rocks on the bottom of streams (scientifically known as benthic macroinvertebrates) which are often used in determining the general health of the streams.

According to Balchunas, "Huntsville has also become active with Wyoming Seminary Lower School (7th and 8th grades). The science teacher, Mrs. Carol Turner, has coordinated efforts with her students and Huntsville to learn about and build two wood duck and five bluebird nest boxes for the course. They were also able to visit Huntsville and place the boxes they built."

The staff hopes to offer such opportunities to other groups in the future; but, since Huntsville Golf Club is private, they have not yet implemented programs for the

In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also includes programs for schools, individuals and businesses. For more information on any of these opportunities, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick RD, Selkirk NY 12158 or phone (518)767-9051.



Students from Wyoming Seminary Lower School 7th and 8th grade have constructed nest boxes that have been placed around the course at the Huntsville Golf Club.



Karen Balchunas, Horticulturalist/Environmentalis, identifies stream-dwelling animals as part of the certification process.

Cats

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in their temperament," and they follow her around the house.

Dale says that Titania can hardly be called a business. She says, "I never break even, but I love it. It's an interest. It's a hobby." After eight years breeding the Manx, Dale and Smith have only just started getting kittens that they can take to cat shows.

Smith says, "You have to be very careful with the breeding. You have to know the genetics. If you breed junk to junk, you'll get cats with diseases." She adds, 'You're lucky if you get one show kitten out of 20.

But on October 30 and November 1, all the hard work paid off. The two began taking their cats to cat shows in September. By November 1, a black manx named Spot in the Dark had won six ribbons at the Cat Fanciers Association (CFA) cat show at the Allentown Days Inn. Cats are judged by breed, by color, and overall. If a cat is awarded six ribbons, the cat is considered a Champion.

The partners have had four champion cats including Spot. Dale, Smith, and the cats travel to cat shows within a 300 mile radius. They hope to make Spot in the Dark a Grand Champion. To earn that status, a cat must be awarded 200 points. The two plan to travel to CFA shows in Hershey and Philadelphia in the upcoming

Smith and Dale are currently raising 34 cats. Dale advertises

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"They're smart. They go in my pockets and steal my keys, my glasses." Marilyn Dale

Manx cat breeder

her business in cat magazines and says she has sent cats as far as Texas, California, and New Hampshire. They now have 10 cats for sale and three that they will place in homes. Once the mature cats have delivered a good sized litter, Dale has them spayed and places them with friends or

Dale is very particular when she sells her cats. She says she will not have kittens ready for sale for Christmas. She shies away from "seasonal" buyers who might not want the pets after a holiday. She has also thrown people out of her cattery. She recalls one couple came in with swatches of fabric to pick out a cat. She shakes her head and says, "Some people are

Dale has two manx cats in her home as well as several dogs. Smith, also a pet lover, says she has a "mutt" cat from the SPCA. Smith, once a pet groomer at Blue Ribbon, tells people that if they're just looking for a pet to go the SPCA, because those cats are destroyed in a few days.

Christmas Bazaar to be held December 7

Bloomingdale United Methodist Church will hold a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 9-3 p.m. Lunch will be available. Crafts, baked goods, candy. For information call 477-5651 or day of event, call 256-3931



