

Audubon

(continued from page 1)

Council, including one for their participation in creation of *Exploring Audubon's Lehigh* Auto Tour. John James Audubon lived near Jim Thorpe, and the tour leads drivers through areas where he traveled and painted.

The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society developed and maintains the Audubon Trail at the Seven Tubs Nature Area in Plains Township. John Wasilewski, a math teacher at Northwest Area and Chapter vice-president, was instrumental in its creation. "It's a good wildlife and birding area," he says. Wasilewski's devotion to the environment led him to the Audubon Society. "It's something that I really believe in."

The Chapter also maintains a Bird Hotline; just phone 825-BIRD to hear the latest sightings. The first taped report was recorded on April 26, 1983, and has been updated almost once a week since then. "It's an informational service on where to go, what to see," says Bill Reid, Tunkhannock. Reid knows of a couple in Harrisburg who will phone the line and then drive north to the recommended spots to view birds.

Although birding has been perceived as a leisurely hobby, in reality, bird counts and reports have become an important part of understanding the environment. As research dollars decrease, Audubon Society bird counts, such as the bi-annual counts run by the chapter here, become more influential. Members of the Chapter have testified at hearings about the situation of the environment in Luzerne County, according to member Sandy Goodwin of Beaumont. "They're saying bird counts are more important than ever," says Goodwin.

"Birds are one of the best barometers of problems in society and the environment," notes Reid. The banning of the pesticide DDT resulted from analysis of bird studies. The population of birds that winter in Central and South America is decreasing due to the destruction of the rain forests there, adds Reid.

In the Back Mountain, changes

"The Audubon Society focuses attention on the declining environment."

Edwin Johnson
Dallas

in bird populations also have been noticed. More house finches and mockingbirds fly here, while purple finches are decreasing. Fewer hawks are visible. Ducks and Canada geese winter locally. What does this mean for us?

"The Audubon Society focuses attention on the declining environment," says Edwin Johnson, Dallas, a previous president of the Chapter. "Building has destroyed habitats and there is more bird feeding."

"It used to be a thrill to see them fly over," remembers Reid. Now those same Canada geese are a source of waste pollution. Members of the Audubon Society have witnessed the changes in the environment of the Back Mountain. Farmland has become housing developments, and forests have turned into parking lots.

One member of the Audubon Society is continuing his commitment to the environment. Chapter President Robert Houck is taking a further step by working with the Back Mountain Land Trust and Linda Thoma to create a conservation easement for his eight-acre Nescopeck farm.

"I am dismayed by the random development that takes place," says Houck. Already, the Audubon Society has created a bluebird trail, Kestral and Flicker boxes, and roost boxes.

In addition, the Curren family left money to the local Audubon Society chapter to fund a wheelchair-accessible site. The Chapter plans to build a wooden walkway at the farm to enable people in wheelchairs entry to bird habitats.

"There is a variety of habitats here," says Houck. A small swamp, wetlands, forest, and open fields comprise the farm, which has been



Long-time members of the Greater Wyoming Valley Chapter of the National Audubon Society, from left (CM designates charter member, PP is past president, NAS is 20-year or more member); seated, John Jakoby, PP; Shirley Templin, CM; Sr. Susan Nowalis, CM, PP; Linda Scholl, CM; Bob Houck, PP, NAS. Standing, Stanley Yancis, CM, NAS; Bob Wasilewski, PP; Joe DeMarco, NAS; Mark Blauer, PP; Ed Johnson, PP.

in Houck's family since 1882. The easement, which will be held by the Back Mountain Land Trust and managed by the Audubon Society, will ensure that the land remains in an undeveloped state as a sanctuary for wildlife.

The local Audubon chapter sponsors many events. Meetings are held 7:30 p.m., the third Monday of each month at the Dallas Methodist Church on Church Street in Dallas. Every fourth Sunday of the month, the Society sponsors a bird walk in Kirby Park beginning at 8 a.m. Walkers meet under the Market Street Bridge; newcomers are welcome.

On Monday, March 15, Edwin Johnson will present a "Beginning Birding" program for first-time birders at the Dallas Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. Novices are welcome and wanted. Anyone can enjoy the outdoors, and involvement in the Audubon Society is an easy way to start. And, adds Johnson, "It's the challenge of going out and trying to find things."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB WASILEWSKI

Birding at the GWVAS Houck Sanctuary, Bob Wasilewski, Jane Maleczyk, Sandy Goodwin, Bob Houck, Ellen Whipple.

Jobson

(continued from page 1)

"Paul had so much courage," Jones said. "He never felt sorry for himself and did not want people to feel sorry for him. He wanted everyone to fight it with him."

The disease that eventually claimed Jobson's life can progress rapidly, but it often takes a slow path, deteriorating muscles and causing gradual paralysis. "We never discussed timetables," Jones said. "This was just too soon." That is especially true since Sharon Jobson is expecting the couple's second child in May.

Contributions to help the Jobson family will still be accepted at the PNC Bank branch, 14 N. Main St., Plains.

"Paul had so much courage. He never felt sorry for himself and did not want people to feel sorry for him. He wanted everyone to fight it with him."

Bill Jones
Family friend, benefit organizer

Protest

(continued from page 1)

tained during the game. She said in Waterloo Illinois a donkey kicked a student twice in the knee after being prodded. The student required knee surgery. He sued the school and received \$110,000.

The event is not expected to make much money for the school. Mallick said last year the event took in \$738 and the company that supplied the donkeys charged \$700.

Mallick circulated a petition to stop the game and received 125 signatures. She will present it to the principal on Wednesday.

"... no animal should be used for entertainment. These donkeys give up their whole lives to playing basketball."

Emily Mallick
Dallas junior

Legal clinic

(continued from page 1)

Melissa Pennel of Dallas, owner of Ernie's Fitness Club, took advantage of the clinic after she bought out her former partner's part of the business. Excited about improving and expanding the services offered at her club, Pennel says she checks in with the clinic for legal advice. "It's really quick and convenient and they give good practical advice in an efficient manner. You throw an idea their way and get solid advice in return," explained Pennel.

For Raquel Alvarez of Dallas, the legal clinic

provided an important link to obtain an inheritance overseas. Walter referred Alvarez to an attorney friend of his in South America. "I needed a connection with someone who knew someone. I think the clinic is wonderful and very important," she said.

Walter said he enjoys helping people. "This gets me away from my computer and allows me to see real people. Also, there is professional responsibility to take care of the community and the needy," said Walter, referring to a rule expressed in the

American Bar Association House of Delegates. Pro bono work is considered an important part of the job, he said.

Erik Dingle and Jim Reinert round out the four attorneys. Both live in the Back Mountain. Dingle, who has a practice in Fort Worth, said he is happy to give back to the community he loves. "I was born and raised here. This is my community," he said.

For more information about the Back Mountain Free Legal Clinic, call 696-1144.

Tele-media to hold public meeting

A Public Hearing will be conducted with the Tele-Media Cable Company on March 16, at 7 p.m. at the Harveys Lake Municipal Building.

The Tele-Media Cable Company is planning to update its distribution lines and cable service in Harveys Lake Borough.

The public is invited to attend to express its concern and input.

If you cannot attend the hearing, call the Borough Office to register your concerns.

Lake-Lehman Pre-school Program to hold registration

Robert Kunkle and Dave McLaughlin-Smith, Elementary Principals for the Lake-Lehman School District, announce Kindergarten Registration and screening for eligible kindergarten students on March 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Lake-Lehman School District policy states that a child must be five years of age on or before September 30, 1999 in order to register for kindergarten for the 1999-2000 school year. Kindergarten in the Lake-Lehman School District is an all-day program.

A Pre-Kindergarten Survey Clinic will be conducted at the same time as registration. The evaluation will consist of the following screening areas: 1) Hearing; 2) Speech and Language; 3) Vision; 4) Motor Perception and Coordination; 5) Kindergarten Readiness Assessment.

Parents are asked to bring all necessary immunization records to school at the time of registration. No child will be admitted in the Lake-Lehman School District until proof of immunization is pre-

sented to the school nurse. Parents are also required to furnish proof of age before entrance to kindergarten. Please bring your child's Birth Certificate along with his/her Social Security number.

Registration will be held in the Lake-Lehman Elementary Schools according to the following alphabetical schedule of the last name:

Lehman-Jackson
Mon., March 8: 8:30 (A-B); 9:30 (C-F); 10:30 (G-I); 11:30 closed; 12:30 (J-L); 1:30 (M).

Tues., March 9: 8:30 (N-P); 9:30 (Q-R); 10:30 (S); 11:30 closed; 12:30 (T-V); 1:30 (W-Z).

Lake-Noxen
Wed., March 10: 8:30 (A-C); 9:30 (D-G); 10:30 (H-K); 11:30 closed; 12:30 (L-O); 1:30 (P-R).

Thurs., March 11: 8:30 (S-T); 9:30 (U-W); 10:30 (X-Z) 11 a.m. closed.

Ross
Thurs., March 11: 1:00 (A-D); 2:30 (E-H).

Fri., March 12: 9:30 (I-L); 10:30 (M-P); 11:30 closed; 1:00 (Q-S); 2:00 (T-Z).

Westmoreland PTO to hold farewell

The Westmoreland PTO would like to invite you to come and help us say farewell to a part of the Back Mountain history at Westmoreland Elementary School, Lehigh Street in Trucksville on March 13, from noon until 6 p.m.

How To Get A GUARANTEED 11% Discount On Your Next Kitchen Or Bath Improvement And Have Your Job Done Right The First Time!

To help kick off your project on the right foot, we're having our special "Think Spring" Sale! Now through March 15th, we'll knock 11% off the purchase of your kitchen or bath cabinetry! And it's not a fake 11%. We won't just add 11% to our estimate. It'll be an honest to goodness discount of an additional 11%. However, you must present this ad to qualify for the discount. So pick up the phone right NOW, call us for an appointment and you'll receive our FREE Kitchen and Bath Remodeling Guide. Or if you wish stop by our new Showroom at:

The Design Center Outlet
1620 Route 315, Laffin
VILLAGE
Custom Cabinetry
655-7800

"Outstanding Health Care... 7-Days-A-Week!"

Kurt D. Maas, M.D.
Board-certified family physician

That's our healthy commitment to the Back Mountain Community.

Our name has changed but not our commitment to you. Whether you're an existing patient or a new one, call for a convenient appointment 7-days-a-week. If you need immediate medical attention, and are unable to call, just visit our office and we'll see you. Get the health care you deserve, whenever you need it!

Jane E. Durkin, D.O.
Richard A. Huntington, M.D.
Irvin Jacobs, M.D.
Diane A. Lowe, M.D.

Kurt D. Maas, M.D.
Gary D. Nothstein, D.O.
Louise C. Hughes, P.A.-C
Christine A. Dopp, P.A.-C

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 8 AM - 8 PM
Saturday: 10 AM - NOON, 1 PM - 3 PM
Sunday/Holidays: 1 PM - 3 PM

WYOMING VALLEY
PHYSICIAN NETWORK

Primary care and so much more.

Back Mountain Medical Center
100 Upper Demunds Road
Dallas, PA 18612

675-2111

An affiliate of WYOMING VALLEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

BMT U.M. Women to meet March 9

Invitations have been sent to Back Mountain United Methodist Women to join the Dallas Women on Tuesday, March 9 at 1 p.m. and hear the Rev. Fudge, Retired P.M. Minister, speak on "Resurrection at the Crossroads".

Devotions will be led by Emmajean Pittman, Spiritual Growth chairperson.

Refreshments will be served by Margaret Baker, president and fellow members. Reservations should be made by calling Margaret Baker at 675-0561 by March 5.