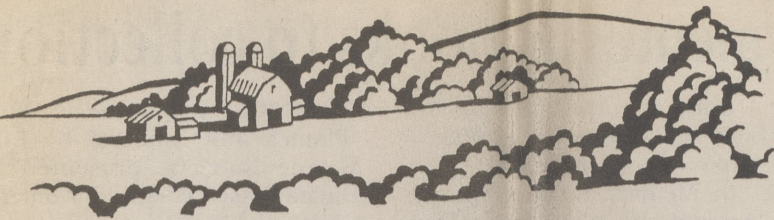


**GUEST COLUMN**



The logo for the Back Mountain Regional Land Trust.

**“What’s on the Horizon”**

*Holiday Greetings to All. The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust has taken on a commitment to The Dallas Post for one article each month, which will address issues of the “green” variety - the land, air, water, flora, and fauna. The Land Trust may not necessarily write each article. The position taken may not be the opinion of the organization. But each piece will provide the readers with “green” food for thought. As Executive Director of the Land Trust, I will present the first “green” issue: “Why the Land Trust Is Here.”*

Linda Thoma

Land trusts or conservancies exist to protect, preserve or conserve something specific. A specific type of land, habitat, wildlife or even architecture or period of history can be the focus of their efforts. Because they are non-profit 501(c)(3) entities, the Internal Revenue Service recognizes land trusts and conservancies as the approved or permitted holders of property rights that are donated or sold by landowners (a.k.a. conservation easements). This nonprofit status enables the donors of these rights to receive respectable tax benefits, providing certain conservation purposes have been met. Without the benefit of a land trust or conservancy operating in an area, valuable conservation resources may never be protected, thus risking loss of open space, wildlife habitat, watershed, and scenic vistas to name a few.

The Back Mountain Regional Land Trust (BMRLT) is your local hometown conservancy. I use the term “hometown” loosely. Frequently, our name confuses people. We serve much more than the Back Mountain area. The word “regional” covers all of Luzerne, Wyoming and Susquehanna counties. (We surely could use help selecting a more appropriate name.) We currently protect 171.5 acres with five different landowners in three different counties: three parcels in Wyoming County, one in Susquehanna County and one in Luzerne County.

When we receive property rights by way of a conservation easement, we are bound by law to hold or protect them in perpetuity. We do not take anything that we are not given or sold nor do we own the land as a result of this transaction.

BMRLT chooses to use conservation easements as its tool-of-

choice. The alternative option of owning lands carries with it great responsibility, liability and expense. For us to consider this tool, we would need the backing of sufficient financial resources, such as an endowment, grant monies or community fundraising. It is neither impossible nor unthinkable, simply a highly guarded and seldom used tool.

Land preservation in any form takes resources. We have not been in the habit of charging landowners for our services. The monies that do change hands are for the endowments that must accompany each conservation easement. This money is invested and will cover yearly routine monitoring expenses and, in the event of an unresolved easement violation, our pooled endowments will be used to cover court costs and legal fees.

The Land Trust relies on membership donations, gifts and grants to carry on business-as-usual. The busier we are the more financial backing we need. At this moment, we are extremely busy. If you still have one of our Holiday Annual Appeal solicitations in your “To Do” pile, we would certainly appreciate your assistance.

Volunteer labor and in-kind goods and services are other items in short supply. Needed skills run from legal review of documents to web site development to marketing to policy creation to planting window boxes in the Spring to decorate our entryway. We have oodles of ideas for activities, events and dinners but no one to plan them. We have opportunities to take people out on preserved lands, scenic waterways, productive farmland and rich wildlife habitat but no one to organize them.

BMRLT wants to be involved in this community more than it is. We have tools and resources to share with municipalities, builders/developers, educators, churches, landowners and land lovers. However, we need the help of our communities, neighbors, families, and friends to carry out our mission. We are in this for the long haul. We have a vision for our corner of the world and you are in it.

To find out more about the Land Trust or to make a donation, call or write to Back Mountain Regional Land Trust, 11 Carverton Road, Trucksville, PA 18708; phone (570) 696-5545; fax (570) 696-5546; email bmrlt@epix.net.

**MOVERS AND SHAKERS**

**Dr. Mahmoud H. Fahmy**, of Dallas, a member of the Board of Trustees at Luzerne County Community College, recently represented the College at the annual Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) convention in Atlanta, Georgia.



The theme of this year’s convention was “The Transformation of Community Colleges-The New Century.” Keynote address was given by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley who discussed access and accountability in American education. Other featured speakers included Judy Woodruff, veteran TV journalist and new anchor at CNN and the Rev. Bernice King, nationally-known speaker and daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thousands of community college trustees, presidents, chancellors, corporate officials, and higher education policy leaders from North America and Europe attended the convention. The convention program included sessions designed to help trustees become better policy makers and advocates for community colleges.

According to Dr. Fahmy, “We are proud to mention that LCCC is recognized nationally due to our active participation in the ACCT.”

Dr. Fahmy, who is an associate member of ACCT, is serving on the membership/communication committee. On the state level, Dr. Fahmy was appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge to serve on the Working Group on

the Future and Finance of Community Colleges. He has been a member of the LCCC Board of Trustees since 1994 and served as chairman of the Board for 1995-96.

**Kurt Moody O.D., F.A.A.O.** attended Academy ‘99 in Seattle, WA from December 9-13. Academy ‘99 is the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry. Highlights of the meeting included over 200 hours of continuing education courses, scientific presentations and more than 90 exhibitors. More than 4,000 optometrists, vision care professionals, vision scientists and optometry students from around the world attended this prestigious meeting.

Dr. Kurt Moody, O.D., F.A.A.O. is a diplomate in the Cornea and Contact Lens section of The American Academy of Optometry. Professionals who achieve Diplomate Status must first become Fellows of the Academy by completing a rigorous candidacy process consisting of extensive written work and must also pass an oral examination. A panel of leading optometrists and vision scientists must approve both the written work and oral examination. Diplomate Status recognizes professionals who have achieved enhanced level of clinical or research knowledge and competence in their area of interest.

Dr. Kurt Moody, O.D., F.A.A.O. graduated from Pennsylvania College of Optometry and practices in Dallas.

**Lake Twp. recycling center open Jan. 8**

The voluntary recycling drop-off center for Lake Township will be accepting recyclables on Saturday Jan. 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the township building. The following items may be dropped off: aluminum and bi-metal cans, clear, brown, and green glass, plastic #1 and #2 only. No motor oil containers or scrap aluminum can be accepted. This month newspaper will be collected at the same time. Please pack tight in paper bags with the glossy inserts removed.

**Anthony Anzalone named to Hoban honor roll**

Local student, Anthony Anzalone, son of Dr. and Mrs. A. Anthony Anzalone of Shavertown has been named to the high honor roll at Bishop Hoban High School for the first quarter. Tony’s aspirations are college football and Marketing/Broadcasting. Tony is a Junior at Bishop Hoban High School.



TONY ANZALONE

**BIRTHS**

**NESBITT HOSPITAL**

**MARANSKY**, Martin and Michelle, Trucksville, a son, Dec. 27, 1999.

**WASSER**, Scott and Rhonda, Shavertown, a son, Dec. 28, 1999.

**OBITUARIES**

**FREDERICK WEISS**

Frederick S. Weiss, 87, of Beaumont, died Jan. 3, 2000, at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, he was a son of the late Valentine and Bertha (Cooper) Weiss.

He attended GAR High School, Wilkes-Barre, and resided in Beaumont for the past 60 years. Before his retirement, he was employed as a warehouse supervisor with Acme Markets, Forty Fort, for 45 years.

He was a member of the Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Dallas; the George M. Dallas Lodge 531 F&AM, the Caldwell Consistory, Bloomsburg, and the Irem Temple, Wilkes-Barre, and

its Provost Guard.

He was preceded in death by two great-grandsons.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, the former Agnes Denmon; sons, Frederick W., Dallas and John H., Noxen; daughter, Anna Mae Jones, Washington, N.J.; sister Vera Kresge, Wilkes-Barre; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Interment will be in Orcutt’s Grove Cemetery, Noxen.

Memorial donations may be made to the Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Dallas, or the Shriners Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania, c/o Irem Temple, Wilkes-Barre.

MORE OBITUARIES ON PAGE 10

**PROPERTY TRANSFERS**

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of Dec. 17 - 23:

AABCO Development Company to James A. Mission, et ux, Lot 16, 17, Dallas Borough, \$75,300.

Patrick P. Musto, et ux, to Saul Mendelsohn, et ux, 3.68 acres, Dallas Twp., \$159,000

John E. Halbing III, et ux, to

Bonaventure J. Russomano, et ux, Lot 9, Dallas Twp., \$30,500.

John E. Halbing III, et ux, to Daniel J. Ackourey, et ux, Lot 18, Dallas Twp., \$33,000.

John E. Halbing III, et ux, to Thomas J. Dougherty, see deed, Dallas Twp., \$37,500.

James H. Wilcox, et ux, to Jesse Goldman, et ux, Lot 51 Sutton Hills, Jackson Twp., \$183,500.

Gerald R. Fisher, to Carole M.

Brown, see deed, Kingston Twp. \$20,000.

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of Dec. 24 - 30, 1999:

Daniel M. Kim, et ux, to Jay Leo Schwartz al, Lot 3 Tredinnick Sub, Dallas Borough, \$127,000. Maureen M. Bufalino, to James A. Woods, Hillside

Condominium 5A, Dallas Twp, \$130,000.

Mary D. Glenn, to James Cole Sr., et ux, Lot 15, Kingston Twp., \$9,800

Dennis L. Markle, et ux, to David Ezyk, et ux, Lot 29 Mountain Springs, Ross Twp., \$8,000.

Gary W. McHenry, et ux, to Rodney A. Coombs, et ux, see deed, Ross Twp., \$170, 200.

**BMT Library adds new books**

The Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, announces the addition of the following books to their collection:

- FICTION**
- “A Walk to Remember” by Nicholas Sparks
- “Destination 2020 White House” by Peter Grant
- NON-FICTION**
- “The Way We Lived Then” by Dominick Dunne
- “Guinness World Records 2000”

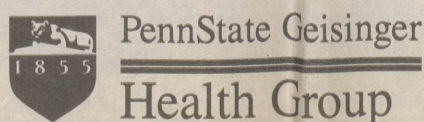
- “Child’s Magazine’s Book of Children’s Parties”
- “A Field Guide to Your Own Back Yard”
- “Storage” by Dinah Hall
- MYSTERY**
- “Aunt Dimity’s Christmas” by Nancy Atherton
- REFERENCE**
- “The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2000”
- “N.A.D.A. Official Used Car Guide-December 1999”

**We’re moving!**

Effective January 3, Michael Kovalick, D.O., will be moving his practice to our Dallas office, located on Route 309, in the Dallas Shopping Center.

You may continue to see Dr. Kovalick at his new office. Please call 675-2000 for an appointment.

Thank you for your patience during this transition. We look forward to caring for you and your family at our new office!



Please call 675-2000 for an appointment.

*“A Wedding to Remember”*

Many people start their New Year by making plans for a wedding. And each January readers of The Post look forward to this special feature section which includes articles, photographs and numerous pieces of information to make their wedding a “dream come true”. Also important to this section is advertising which will be the key to drawing customers to your store. Promote your business and the professional service you provide by advertising in “A Wedding to Remember”.



A Special Feature in

**The Dallas Post**

PUBLICATION DATE: WED., JANUARY 26  
AD DEADLINE: FRI., JANUARY 20  
(One day earlier if proof is needed)

For more information on “A Wedding To Remember”

Call The Dallas Post • 675-5211