

'Jane Fest' draws crowd

More than 300 people turned out on a crisp night to honor the memory of Jane Yocum while supporting the effort to eradicate breast cancer. The second "Jane Fest" was held at the Irem Temple Country Club pavilion, with good food, music and company in abundance.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Bill Purpura and Mary Daly mixed it up on the dance floor.



Dan Gallagher was flanked by Terry Clemente, left, and his wife, Cathy. He was a primary organizer of the event.



Bob Yocum posed proudly with his sons Brad, left, and Robert.



Marsha Butchko, a good friend of Jane and a survivor of breast cancer, greeted those attending.



Jim Chupka brought out the goodies to complement a cake made especially for the event.

West Nile

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that straddles the border of Dallas Township and Wyoming County and the fourth was found on Bronson Road in Lake Township.

Rugletic said so far this year there have been a total of eight birds that have tested positive in the county. Pools of water with larvae that have tested positive with the virus have been found in Exeter and Hazleton city. So far, no positive pools have been found in the Back Mountain.

Rugletic said the fact that infected birds have been found in the Back Mountain, doesn't necessarily mean that there are virus-carrying mosquitoes in the area. "You don't know where those birds came from," he said, adding that the birds could have flown in from anywhere.

To help determine if the source of the virus is local, it is common to set mosquito traps in the vicinity of where infected birds have been found. Traps have been set on Dodson's property in Kunkle and more are planned at other Back Mountain sites where the positive birds were discovered.

Rugletic said it was important to put the traps at the Kunkle home because the two birds found in that area were discovered only 200 yards apart. The other five virus-carrying birds found in Luzerne County were picked up in Butler Township (2), Rice Township (1), Hunlock Creek (1) and Wilkes-Barre (1).

August and September are the worst months for the virus, according to Rugletic, who said the type of mosquito that carries the virus is in season then.

Only some mosquitos carry virus

Not all mosquitos can carry the West Nile Virus. In fact, there are at least 65 different types of mosquitos in the Northeastern United States and only about 15 of those are able to carry the virus.

Large mosquitos that mature in wooded areas, like those throughout the Back Mountain, do not carry the virus, said Ron Rugletic, Executive Director of the Environmental Special Projects office. Instead, the ones to worry about are those that breed in storm drains and containers such as old tires.

Bobcat

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lynx or swamp cat, is the only wild feline predator in our state. It is known for its faintly spotted fur and "bobbed" tail.

"That's a really big, healthy looking one," said Joe Wenzel, Wildlife Education Supervisor for the PA Game Commission District Office in Dallas. "There is a good sized pocket of bobcat from here out to the Red Rock area," he added.

It is very rare to see a bobcat in nature, let alone in a back yard, and it is really special to get a picture of one.

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