

Young gardeners learn, help, teach

By CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK
Post Correspondent

DALLAS TWP. — They planted herbs in their old shoes, made homemade paper "grow cards" pressed with seeds that can be planted, and helped keep the butterflies warm. Eighteen fifth grade Dallas Elementary students came across these interesting projects as part of an after-school program taught by the Luzerne County Cooperative Extension.

The program, intended to make junior master gardeners out of young people, was taught by Mary Pat Appel, a coordinator from the cooperative extension, and was brought to Dallas Elementary School by Mary Ehret, the "Earth Day Chairman" of the PTO. Ehret says it couldn't have happened without financial and moral support from the school, which accommodated the children after school and allowed some class time for the projects. The materials also were provided by the school.

During the program, fifth graders paired up with and



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Placing garden stones at Dallas Elementary School were, from left, Sarah Zablottney, Alexandra Rego, Katie Cohen.

taught 224 kindergarten through second graders as part their final project. The older children found this to be one of the most rewarding activities, Ehret said.

The eight-week program, which took one hour each day after school, included three projects in each subject segment, an individual project, a

group project, and a community service project. The topics covered included plant propagation, composting, the role of insects in ecology, environmental relationships, plant selection and placement.

On Arbor Day they planted a "serviceberry" tree which they hope will provide food and a nesting site for the birds in the

schoolyard habitat next to the building.

They also made "butterfly stones," hand-decorated ceramic stepping stones. "We placed these stones here today to keep the bugs warm," said fifth grader Sarah Zablottney. "Since they (the insects) get very cold and the stones help them warm their wings."

NOISE

Continued from Page 1

ago. "I can set my clock for every Sunday night between 11:15 and 11:20. That's when they start up their machinery, and it goes on all night long."

At the May 23 board of supervisors meeting, township engineer Thomas Doughton read a letter dated May 16 from Randy Mark, Pulverman's owner. In the letter, Mark states that remedial actions agreed upon with the township's noise consultant, Dr. Howard Kingsberry from Penn State University, are nearly completed. He listed the most recent improvements as installing an interior wall system, installing ceiling panels and insulation and conducting noise test to ensure compliance with the

township ordinance.

Mark said the walls were completed and the ceiling work would be done by June 30.

Mark invited Doughton to inspect the improvements, during which time he promised to provide Doughton with a complete list of all mitigation efforts.

Another neighbor says she has seen little change since Mark began the work.

"There's been no improvement. It's ridiculous," said Ruth St. George. She said the only time it's quiet is on Sundays when the plant is closed. She lives across the street from the plant on Lower Demunds Road and said the noise is just as irritating on her side of the road as

it is behind the plant in Orchard View Terrace.

"I've been inviting people (township officials) from the beginning to stand in my driveway to hear the noise and they never show up." She said that most of her neighbors are senior citizens and have no way to get to the meetings to voice their complaints.

St. George said she knows a few people who work at the plant. "In the beginning, they all thought we just wanted to get rid of Pulverman. That's not true," she said. "We just wanted to cut out the noise."

Solicitor Thomas Brennan said he believes that the only conceivable solution would be to complete the ceiling installation. "The regret is that all this money has not resulted in a solution to the problem," he said.

Doughton said the township has spent \$5,000 to \$6,000 so far on litigation and noise studies with nearly \$2,000 on Kingsberry's fees alone. He said he called Mark to schedule an inspection but has not heard from him yet.

Mark has not responded to several interview requests made by The Post since the controversy began in April 2004.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

LENA ZEST MOAN GASES
ELAL ANTA INGE ANGELA
ALSO GOUT SIRE NORMAN
FATHERSDAYS CAIRESMEIM
AGE VEE SWEET
SPA ABJURED TATE SHAM
WAXED OTIS SEVERE AMO
ABET RYAN CANOE GELID
PALACE MACAW IODINE
APT SAM BARD ATOM
AFRAID THEYLLGETME
SARA INRE LEE TAR
ORATOR AARON LYNDON
LIBEL AGLET ALMS ORLY
ASI DEPOTS ALOE CRAGS
READ MINH ALABAMA MAE
AMOS EKE ALE
SOMETHINGICANTAFFORD
PIRATE MORT SUEZ ROAR
STAGED ASEA IDLE EZRA
TUNER NETS FELL MEET

Puzzles appear on page 8

Rational Numbers answers

1	0	2	2
9	3	4	4
4	4	6	5
		3	2
1	3	3	4
8	9	2	7
9	2	3	9

King Crossword Answers

HAIR PSI SEAL
AGRA RIM PALO
LEAN EXPLORER
FENCES SAILED
HASP MLI
EXPOSURE SEAM
LIE TRESS SPA
FITS EXPECTED
ETA YOWL
HARASS UNICEF
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Ide reunion June 25

The 103rd Ide family reunion will be held June 25, at Francis Slocum State Park, Pavilion #1. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish for the traditional common buffet which will begin at noon. The theme for this year's reunion is "We Are Family." Attendees are requested to bring either a family heirloom, or a picture of a family heirloom or ancestor and tell something about them.

The committee is in the process of updating the family genealogy. "It's a gigantic undertaking," said Audrey Ide, who is helping to coordinate the effort. The record was last updated in 1992.

Anyone who is unable to attend the reunion, but has genealogy information that should be included in the new book, may forward it to the committee. The goal is to include all descendants in this updated genealogy and renew contact with "dozens of cousins" who have missed previous reunions.

AUCTION

Continued from Page 1

tion, library staff member Brian Fulton will sell tickets. The cost will be \$2 for three tickets and \$5 for an arm's length. Drawings will be held every two hours and winners will split the proceeds with the library.

"It seems to go well at sporting events," Fulton says, "so we thought why not try it here?" The 50/50 raffle will most likely replace instant bingo games. Auction attendees can also participate in old favorites. The grill raffle is being held for the third time. This year Paul Sabol, auction volunteer, will be raffling an all stainless steel, 40,000 BTU Charbroil grill. The grill that features three burners, a 28 burger capacity, stainless steel cooking surface, a lifetime warranty on the burners and a rotisserie.

The grill is purchased with donations from community

members, and last year this fundraiser alone raised roughly \$2,500 for the library.

"It's for a darn good cause," Sabol notes. "I see the value in the library for children and members of the community."

In addition to the grill raffle, auction-goers can buy chances to win one of many prize gift baskets donated by community members and local businesses. Baskets generally are valued between \$25 and \$50, but this year the group will also be raffling chances for an IPOD basket. Other themed baskets include health/exercise, salon, gardening, cooking, and car care baskets.

"We try to appeal to all ages," explains Neela Patel, who shares the position of gift-basket chair with Mary Lou Grant. This has also been a successful fundraiser in past years, earning \$4,187 last year for the library.



A 2005 Peterbilt tanker is the newest addition to the Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Department.

TANKER

Continued from Page 1

Wilkes-Barre. He is grateful that his employer allows him to leave if the department is called to a major event, a policy that is not universal, he said.

Right now, there are no junior firefighters in the department. "It's getting hard to get young guys in." Anyone age 16 or older can join, and Manzoni is hoping to see pick up some

new members during the open house. "We'll have a stack of applications," he said.

The open house will include a tour of the station, demonstrations of equipment used in fires and rescues, children's activities, door prizes and free refreshments. It will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the fire hall at 1160 Chase Road. Just look for the fire engines

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