

## Back Mountain Trails always expanding

Plans are in place for more trails and improvements to existing ones.

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

A love affair has developed between area residents and the Back Mountain Trails. Fanning desires, the Anthracite Scenic Trail Association has firm plans for more trails and improvements to existing ones.

The Anthracite Scenic Trail Association has big dreams to live up to - more trails, bridge repair and, possibly, a pedestrian trestle.

Starting out 13 years ago with a 2.2 mile stretch weaving along the Endless Mountains from Parry Street in Luzerne to Carverton Road in Trucksville was just the beginning for the Anthracite Scenic Trail Association.

The association's goal - to provide an area for all to enjoy the natural beauty of the Back Mountain - created a drive to acquire easements from property owners to allow the trail to proceed through small portions of their land.

Today, the native hiker can enjoy walks along Toby's Creek from Harris Hill Road to Lehigh Street, with parking provided off Harris Hill Road.

Judy Rimple, president of the Anthracite Scenic Trail Association, said the entire Back Mountain branch extends about five miles.

Joggers, bicyclists and walkers can now enjoy the nature surrounding Toby's Creek in two locations. A trail running parallel to Main Street in Luzerne along Toby's Creek and ending at the Luzerne Fire House and a trail from Franklin Street in Shavertown wind through a tree-covered path

ending at Lower Demunds Road in Dallas.

People are using the trails more frequently, Rimple said there are no firm numbers of trail users but plans call for counters to be installed. Other future plans include the placement of more benches, picnic tables, replacing the bridge by the waterfall behind the Dallas Area Municipal Authority and a bicycle ramp at the trail entrance off Carverton Road.

The wooden stairs by the Carverton Road Trail opening by the Trucksville Volunteer Fire Company have caused quite a stir among avid bicyclists. The well-constructed stairs require bicyclists to carry their bikes up or down but Rimple said a bike ramp is planned for installation.

She said the association has a dream of acquiring a trestle for pedestrians and cyclists to be placed in the vicinity of the former railroad bridge spanning over Carverton Road.

"This is a long-term dream of ours," she said.

Money for maintenance is raised through fundraisers such as the Tour of Back Mountain Gardens which was scheduled to be held June 27. Rimple said other funds are received through grants and donations.

Help from volunteers is extraordinary, according to Rimple.

"We had about 50 volunteers from UGI, Blue Cross and the United Way to help clean up the trail," she said.

Trail enthusiast Elizabeth Dunsavage, of Luzerne, started using the trail when it first opened and now jogs from Luzerne to Trucksville four times a week.

"I love the trail," Dunsavage said. "My favorite part is the waterfall."



Justin Beaupre, of Dallas, enjoys a walk on the Back Mountain Trail recently.

An entrance to the Back Mountain Trail off Harris Hill Road in Trucksville.



## L-L ballplayers continue careers

Four Lake-Lehman High School varsity baseball players recently completed their 2009 senior seasons and will continue their academic and baseball careers at the college level.

Eoin Ellis will attend Misericordia University, tri-captain T.J. Stepanski has signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Clarion University, tri-captain Mike Eckman will attend the University of Scranton and tri-Captain Bob Peron will attend King's College.

The Lake-Lehman team completed its 2009 season with an 18-7 overall record, finishing as the District 2 AA runner-up. The Black Knights' appearance in the District 22 AA title game was their second in the last three seasons.

The Black Knights are coached by Mark LeValley, who is assisted by Chip Sorber and Shane Kupsky.



Four Lake-Lehman High School varsity baseball players recently completed their 2009 senior seasons and will continue their academic and baseball careers at the college level. From left, are Eoin Ellis, T.J. Stepanski, Mick Eckman and Bob Peron.

## LAKE-LEHMAN GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM RECEIVES SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD



The Lake-Lehman girls varsity basketball team has been awarded the 2009 Annual Sportsmanship Award by the District II PIAA Basketball Officials. From left, first row, are Ashley Blazaskie and Marissa Moosic. Second row, Gaby Olshemski, Selena Adamshick, Anne Wallo, Carol Mosier, Senior Katee Pelleschi and Devon Boyle. Third row, Tracey Halowich, principal, Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School; Charlie Lavan, assistant girls coach; Barry Horvath, assistant girls coach; Jim Spencer, head girls coach; Dave Clancy, boys head coach; Brian Cutter, seventh grade boys coach; and James McGovern, superintendent, Lake-Lehman School District.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Foley named PSU baseball coach

Sean Foley, of Mountain Top, has been named head baseball coach at Penn state/Wilkes-Barre.

Foley is the past assistant head baseball coach at King's College. He was the head coach for the ninth and 10th grade levels for the Keystone State Games Pocono Region to the collegiate level for the Plains Collegiate Team that participated in the Scranton Summer League.

He currently works as the facility director at Phoenix Rehabilitation and Health Ser-

vices in Hanover Township.

#### Mini-football camp planned

A mini-football camp focusing on drills and fundamentals will be held July 13, 14 and 15 at the Dallas High School football field. The camp will be conducted by Dallas High School football coach Ted Jackson and members of his coaching staff as well and current and former Mountaineer football players.

Applications may be picked up at the Ranch Wagon on the Dallas Highway or by calling 696-3748.

#### Jr. Mounts plan

#### golf tournament

Dallas Jr. Mounts Second Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, July 25, at Wilkes-Barre Municipal Golf Course with a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start.

Cost is \$65 per person for the Captain and Crew event. Contact Sue Berlew at 406-3167 to register.

#### Middle School Pool open to public

Afternoon Public Family Swim and Lap Swim is available for residents of the Dallas School District at the Dallas Middle School Pool from 4 to 7

p.m. Monday through Friday and from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sundays through August 7.

All swimmers must provide identification and those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$2 per swimmer.

#### Mountaineer Diving Club

The Mountaineer Diving Club is a United States Diving Club for experienced divers and those new to the sport of competitive diving.

Contact Coach Kimberly Kuzma at kuzma@dallasd.com for information.

### BACK MOUNTAIN LITTLE LEAGUE RESULTS

#### SENIOR LEAGUE

**Back Mountain 7**  
**Ed Lark 3**

Back Mountain Senior League defeated Ed Lark, 7-3.

Kyle Caffrey gave up two hits for a complete game victory. Bryan Mathers and Kevin Muldoon had two hits each.

Jake Chielli had a two-run two-out double in the bottom of the sixth inning while Nathan Kish had a two-out RBI single.

TJ Schultz led the defense. George Simms took the loss.

**Lehigh Construction 4**

**Back Mountain 3**

BMT Senior League dropped

an extra-inning game against GWA Lehigh Construction, 4-3.

Chris Murphy got the win while Pat Condo took the loss. Starting pitchers BMT Mark Malloy (one run, five hits and eight strikeouts in six innings) and GWA Sam Ermano (two runs on three hits in six innings) pitched well, but were not involved in the decision.

Condo, Malloy and Kyle Caffrey had two hits in a losing cause and Jake Chielli had a two-out RBI triple in the bottom of the seventh inning to tie the game.

Ermano had three hits and Murphy had two doubles.