



**Egypt to open chambers of 'bent' pyramid**

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# OUTDOORS

WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE  
Sunday, April 19, 2009

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## From tank to stream

### Students get hands wet learning about Trout in the Classroom

By JESSICA WELSHANS  
jwelshans@sungazette.com

It's not your typical fish tank, and the species inside it aren't ordinary goldfish.

About 40 brook trout swim inside a 55-gallon tank on the third floor of Jersey Shore Middle School, outside the classrooms of science teachers Bill Ferguson and Tracy Silvis.

The fish are being raised and cared for by the school's seventh-grade science classes through a program called Trout in the Classroom, or TIC. The environmental education program gives students in kindergarten through

(See STUDENTS, Page F-2)

#### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Montoursville high school teacher Steve Trussler and his students will give a presentation Wednesday on the Trout in the Classroom program during the Susquehanna Chapter of Trout Unlimited's meeting at 7 p.m. in the high school.

The meeting is open to the public.

DOUG MINIER/Sun-Gazette Correspondent

Austin White works with a tank of brook trout at Jersey Shore Middle School. Students there are participating in the Trout in the Classroom program, which is sponsored by the state Fish and Boat Commission and other agencies.

### SPRING GOBBLER SEASON STARTS SATURDAY

## Hunting opportunities promising

By PATRICK DONLIN  
pdonlin@sungazette.com

Hunters looking to bag a spring gobbler shouldn't have to go too far from home.

Prospects might even attract visitors.

"The outlook from our officers in the northcentral region is good to excellent," said Rick Macklem, northcentral region spokesman for the state Game Commission. "Some have seen some nice-sized birds here."

The commission trapped turkeys from mid-January through March, and 70 gobblers were captured in the state's northcentral region, Macklem said. The region was required to contribute 50 birds to the gobbler management study.

The birds, lured in with corn and mast, were captured with nets. They weren't harmed, Macklem said.

They were fitted with leg bands that help monitor how turkeys grow and travel.

Hunters should report all leg-banded turkeys, to assist with research.

This is the final year of a four-year tri-state turkey leg banding program, and hunters can earn a \$100 reward for reporting their harvest of a banded turkey.

Half of the turkeys banded include a \$100 money marker on the tag, according to state Game Commission wild turkey biologist Mary Jo Casalena.

"We know 100 percent of the reward bands are going to be reported," she said.

Based on data compiled over the past three years, 87 percent of the non-reward money gobblers and 77 percent of the non-reward money jakes are reported.

(See HUNTING, Page F-4)



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

A successful turkey season ends for two hunters.

## Turkey callers make some noise

By PATRICK DONLIN  
pdonlin@sungazette.com

Just as they use their calls to mimic turkey sounds when in the field, turkey hunters aren't silent when talking about hunting.

Calling is important, according to Top Calls co-owner Russ Wagner of Hartleton. But, he said other elements of the hunt shouldn't be overlooked.

Scouting, stealth and marksmanship are crucial to success.

"A lot of people get so wrapped up in calling that they forget about woodsmanship," he said. "Setting-up is just as important as calling the birds."

The irony to turkey calling is that people are reversing nature.

"In the real world, the hen is supposed to walk toward the gobbler," he said. "When you're

calling, you're calling the gobbler to you."

Some beginners prefer push-button calls, which Wagner said hunters can learn to use in as little time as it takes to push the button — two seconds.

He said some beginners are naturals with the mouth call and can use it right away, while

(See ENTHUSIASTS, Page F-4)



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

# Students get hands wet learning about Trout in the Classroom

(From Page F-1)

12th grade the chance to raise trout from eggs to fry, monitor water quality, engage in stream habitat study, learn water resource appreciation, understand an ecosystem and develop a conservation-minded ethic.

By the end of the year, classrooms release the trout they have raised into designated streams near the schools.

Teachers such as Ferguson and Silvis use the program that is tailored into the curriculum, but it is a lot of hard work on the students' part to keep it going.

Each program, for each school, is funded by different organization. At Jersey Shore, it is a joint project of Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

"Its mission is to teach students about aquatic ecosystems and water quality through raising trout in the classroom from eggs to fingerlings and through monitoring of tank water quality," Ferguson said.

The seventh graders of this school year are the first to participate in the program. When the school applied for the Trout in the Classroom grant, it needed to secure matching funds and provide a detailed plan on how the program would be incorporated into the curriculum.

"The Lloyd Wilson chapter of Trout Unlimited in Lock Haven was generous enough to sponsor us for the matching funds. I am a member of this TU chapter, so I also serve as the liaison to the Lloyd Wilson Chapter," Ferguson said.

Ferguson and Silvis use TIC materials in their teaching, students must care for the tank and keep the trout fingerlings alive.

"We have the small group that is doing more intensive work with the trout tank, including the daily maintenance," he said.

Students must monitor changes in water, test for chemicals, feed the fish and clean the tank.

"Our goal is to raise brook trout so we can release them into the Rauchtown Creek," student Austin White said.

"We are learning about the trout and the perfect water temperatures they need."

Other hands-on activities related to the project incorporate communications technology.



DOUG MINIER/Sun-Gazette Correspondent

**Madigan Miller, left; Hunter Barnes, middle; and Austin White perform a series of tests related to the Trout in the Classroom program at their school in Jersey Shore. Around May, the seventh-graders will release the young fish into a local stream.**

"Students are shooting and editing videos right now about how to perform maintenance on the tank," Ferguson said. "They also are working on a variety of projects related to Pennsylvania aquatic resources and to our trout tank."

A few student-created videos are posted online at [www.jsasd.k12.pa.us/5408381011133914/b](http://www.jsasd.k12.pa.us/5408381011133914/b). More will be added soon.

"We learned the importance of keeping the water at just the right amount. Trout are very specific on what kind of water they like," student Nick Harter of Avis said.

"It has to be cold water. They are cold water fish and they like 48- to 52-degree water," White added.

The project isn't just a weekly workshop.

"We have to change the water every day. Normally we do a 10-gallon change and check the (chemical) levels," student Hunter Barnes said. "The goal is to keep the trout alive so we can release them into a stream in Rauchtown as part of field trip."

Students do four chemical tests daily. They check the water for ammonia, nitrate, nitrite and the pH level.

Brook trout are a very important indicator species, Ferguson said.

"Their survival or failure to survive is indicative

of the quality of their habitat," he said, "so we are approaching it from that standpoint. For trout to live in a stream, the stream needs to have consistently good water quality, as well as an appropriate temperature range and adequate shelter, space and food."

Harter said the program helps students learn about what a brook trout needs to survive in an ecosystem. "If we would just release them into a stream that was really bad (polluted), they would die," he said.

"(This program) helps us learn how fish live and what their environment is like. It could be a dangerous world out there, just from high pH from pollutants for them," student Cody Allen of Nippenose Valley said.

Hunter Barnes is a fisherman himself, but he admitted that until the TIC program, he didn't know much about what he



DOUG MINIER/Sun-Gazette Correspondent

**Fingerling brook trout swim in a tank at Jersey Shore Middle School.**

caught on the end of his hook. He does now.

"If you catch a trout and it looks pretty healthy, you can tell that the stream has not been polluted or affected by other pollutants," he said.

Caring for the trout in the tank is just one aspect of the interactive program.

"Our major focus is on what constitutes a healthy coldwater habitat and what are the major issues in our state that can interfere with a healthy coldwater habitat," Ferguson said. "We've looked at issues such as AMD (acid mine drainage) and agricultural runoff as major sources of water pollution in Pennsylvania."

He believes the program shows the importance of water as a vital resource to all and teaches students to value clean water and healthy watersheds.

"We really want students to value our natural resources, especially clean, fresh water. If they value it, they will want to protect it. The students are the future," Ferguson said. "In a few years, they will be the voters, elected officials, the scientists, the landowners, policymakers and taxpayers. We want to foster the ethic of being a good steward of the planet in their genera-

tion."

When the fish are 1 1/2 to 2 inches long — which should be around the beginning of May — the class will go on a field trip to Ravensburg State Park, to release the trout into Rauchtown Creek.

There the students will rotate through stations and check the chemical, physical and biological parameters of the habitat in the creek.

Ferguson said the class also will practice measuring physical parameters of a stream near the school.

Partnerships are very important when it comes to properly delivering the Trout in the Classroom program.

Trout Unlimited is a major sponsor, both with funding and volunteering time. Members of the Lloyd Wilson chapter will assist with fly-casting lessons during the field trip.

State park environmental education specialists John Kaercher of Little Pine State Park and Maryanne Bierly of Ravensburg-R.B. Winter state parks help out in the classrooms and will direct sessions during the field trip.

Ferguson said the state Fish and Boat Commission helped them with technical support and tank issues.

"We had a tough time

getting our trout to live at first and had to get restarted with new trout," he said. "Amidea Daniel is our main Fish and Boat Commission contact and support person."

Mike Zellers of the Jersey Shore Area Water Authority and Mark Stephens from the state Department of Environmental Protection gave in-class presentations.

"They presented a groundwater model to students and discussed pollution issues in groundwater and the importance of protecting our water supplies to keep them safe for humans," Ferguson said.

Lycoming County Watershed Specialist Carey Entz also was a guest speaker, teaching the students about aquatic macroinvertebrates and acid mine drainage. She also will attend the field trip and supervise the macroinvertebrate collection station.

Students and teachers from Jersey Shore Senior High School's Fishing and Boating Club will assist with fly-tying lessons and casting on the trip.

The Lycoming County Conservation District also has supported the class.

"I have enjoyed the whole process," Ferguson said. "Learning to maintain the trout tank has been a challenge and frustrating at times. But we have improved."

He believes students can directly benefit from all the program has to teach.

"They can tell you what they believe they are getting from their perspective. It will be interesting to see what they see as the important lessons from the TIC tank," Ferguson said.

Students such as Allen prove this, by saying the program teaches them about conservation efforts, too.

"It helps tell us what their lifestyle is and what we can do to preserve it," he said, "and how to keep them alive."

## TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULES

**LYCOMING COUNTY**  
Hoagland Run  
10:45 a.m. April 23, Steam Valley Restaurant.

**Loyalsock Creek**  
11 a.m. April 24, Wal-Mart parking lot, Montoursville.

**Pine Creek**  
10:15 a.m. April 20 and 24, Route 144, Waterville.

**Rock Run**  
10:45 a.m. April 23, Steam Valley Restaurant.

**CLINTON COUNTY**  
Hyner Run  
11 a.m. April 28, Alvin Bush Dam.

**Kettle Creek**  
11 a.m. April 20 through 25 and April 28, Alvin Bush Dam.

**Kettle Creek Lake**  
11 a.m. April 20 through 25, Kettle Creek Lake.

**Left Branch Young Woman's Creek**  
10:30 a.m. April 22, Chapman Township Fire Co., off Route 120.

**Young Womans Creek**  
10:30 a.m. April 22, Chapman Township Fire Co., Route 120.

**BRADFORD COUNTY**  
7South Creek  
Noon, April 20, Troy, 1/2 mile south of intersection of Routes 6 and 14.

**Sugar Creek**  
Noon, April 20, Troy, 1/2 mile south of intersection of Routes 6 and 14.

**Sugar Run**  
1:30 p.m. April 22, Emberz Restaurant, Montrose.

**Towanda Creek**  
10:45 April 22, Hickock Park, Route 14, 1/2 mile south of Canton.

**SULLIVAN COUNTY**  
Lake Jean  
12:30 p.m. April 20,

Frances Slocum State Park Office.

**Loyalsock Creek**  
11:15 a.m. April 23, DCNR Ranger Station, Wyoming State Forest, Route 87, 3 miles north of Sullivan/Lycoming County line.

### TOIAGA COUNTY

**Corey Creek**  
Noon, April 22, Intersection of Routes 6 and 549.

**Hamilton Lake**  
Noon, April 20 through 25, Lake Hamilton boat launch.

**Mill Creek**  
Noon April 22, intersection of Route 6 and 549.

**Pine Creek**  
Noon April 20, Waterville, Route 144.

**Seeley Creek**  
Noon April 22, intersection of Route 6 and 549.

### UNION COUNTY

**Buffalo Creek**  
10:15 a.m. April 22, Barnyard Restaurant, Old Turn Pike Road, Milmont.

**Halfway Lake**  
10:15 a.m. April 20 through 25, Buffalo Shipping Center, Route 45 east end of Mifflinburg.

**Laurel Run**  
10:15 a.m. April 22, Buffalo Shopping Center, Route 45, east end of Mifflinburg.

**Rapid Run**  
10:15 a.m. April 25, Buffalo Shopping Center, Route 45, east end of Mifflinburg.

**Spruce Run**  
10:15 a.m. April 20 through 25, Buffalo Shipping Center, Route 45, east end of Mifflinburg.

**White Deer Creek**  
10:15 a.m. April 23, Mile Run Exit, off I-80, Exit 29, meet at underpass.

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# Outdoor Briefs

## Western hummingbirds topic of meeting

"Rare Autumn Jewels: Vagrant Western Hummingbirds in the East" will be the program presented at 7 p.m. Wednesday during the Lycoming Audubon Society meeting in the recreation-dining hall facility, Little League Baseball complex, South Williamsport.

Wayne Laubscher, a director-at-large on the Lycoming Audubon board, will present the program, which addresses the recently recognized phenomenon of vagrant western species of hummingbirds, particularly rufous, that annually show up in the eastern U.S. in the fall and even winter.

Discussed will be the differences between these visitors and the ruby-throated hummingbird, a possible explanation for the occurrences and the efforts of a small group of bird banders, including Laubscher, who are learning more about the birds' surprising behavior.

For information, visit [www.lycoming.org/audubon](http://www.lycoming.org/audubon).

## Celebrate Earth Day at Montour Preserve

WASHINGTONVILLE — Young children can celebrate Earth Day by going on a nature walk at PPL's Montour Environmental Preserve from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Join Jon Beam, PPL senior naturalist, as he searches for spring wildflowers and animal signs and listens for birds. Children must be 3 to 5 years old. Register ahead of time, then meet at the Environmental Education Center.

For more information, registration and directions, contact the preserve at 437-3131 or [jdbeam@pplweb.com](mailto:jdbeam@pplweb.com).

Other events at Montour Preserve include:

- Spring Woodland Wildflower Walk, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Saturday.
- Free educator workshop on meteorology, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 12. Meteorologist Heather Dock will help teachers explore weather folklore and learn and understand how weather works. Hands-on activities will accompany instruction. Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided. Act 48 hours are available. Registration is required. To register, visit [www.ppl-projectearth.com](http://www.ppl-projectearth.com) and click on "TEA Workshops."

## Extension offers 'kitchen garden' workshops

Two free workshops, titled "The Kitchen Garden" for beginning vegetable gardeners, will be held this spring at the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office, 542 County Farm Road in Montoursville.

Topics covered include how to site a garden, prepare the soil, choose plants, fertilize, differentiate between garden pests and beneficial insects, control garden pests and harvest mature vegetables. Handouts will be available.

Workshops will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday and from 10 a.m. to noon May 2.

Seating is limited and registration is required by calling the extension office at 433-3040.

The classes are presented by the Lycoming County Master Gardeners and are sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.

## Chainsaw safety workshop planned

Thursday is the last day to register for a Chainsaw Safety Workshop to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Ebensburg Borough Office Community Room in Cambria County. A fee applies for this Allegheny Mountain Woodland Association event.

Eighteen participants will take part in a comprehensive training session that includes both a classroom component and a hands-on demonstration in a nearby woodlot.

For more information, call Barb or Paul at Noll's Forestry at 814-472-8560.

## Black Hole Creek group announces activities

The Black Hole Creek Watershed Association will hold a creek cleanup at 9 a.m. Saturday. Volunteers should meet at Hulsizer's Chevrolet in Montgomery. Gloves and bags will be provided.

Other activities this year include:

- Monthly public meeting, 7 p.m. May 5, Montgomery Borough office.
- Sixth annual Black Hole Creek Fishin' Derby, 9 a.m. May 16, at Riverside Campground, Montgomery. The derby is free, and prizes and food will be available.
- Monthly public meeting, 7 p.m. June 2, Montgomery Borough office. Ruby Sanguedolce will present a program about geo-caching.
- Monthly public meeting, 7 p.m. July 7, Montgomery Borough office. Marsha Campbell from the Lycoming County Extension Service will present a rainbarrel workshop.
- Monthly public meeting, 7 p.m. Aug. 4, Montgomery Borough office. Ed Wentzler will present a program on "Primitive Living Skills."

## Women: Learn how to fly fish

WELLSBORO — The Tiadaghton chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold three flyfishing classes specifically for women this spring. The courses, all geared for beginners, will be held at Hills Creek State Park on Saturday, May 23 and June 6. The first session primarily is for teens and their mothers.

Women who are at least 13 years old may sign up. There is no maximum age.

For more information, call Sheila Harris at 814-628-2123.

## Gander Mountain announces spring activities

PENNSDALE — The Gander Mountain store at Lycoming Mall is planning several activities for outdoorsmen and women. All are free and open to the public:

- From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and next Sunday, vendors can participate in Gander Mountain's first Hunting, Fishing and Camping Antiques Buy, Sell and Swap. All hunting, fishing and camping antiques and memorabilia are welcome.

Anyone who would like to set up a table should call Kristi at Gander Mountain at 546-1040, extension 147.

No setup fees will be charged, but tables and tent space will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

• Enroll in the free "Musky University" on May 1 through 3 with instructor Lee Snyder, the creator of "Lee's Trophy Lures." Sessions will be held in the Gander Lodge.

Snyder, from southcentral Pennsylvania, has 56 years of experience chasing and catching monster muskies. He has bagged some of the largest muskies ever caught in Pennsylvania since 1924 when Louis Walker caught the record in Conneaut Lake. Snyder has fished for muskies in New York, the St. Lawrence River, Ontario, Quebec, Wisconsin, Michigan, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. For more details, call Kristi at 546-1040.

**(EDITOR'S NOTE:** The deadline for In the Parks is noon Tuesday. Events submitted after the deadline may not be published.)

## Bald Eagle State Park, Howard

April 23, 30 — Bird Walks, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. park office; Wake up to experience an unpredictable morning of bird watching. Become acquainted with the winged migrants that pass through Bald Eagle State Park. These walks are for novices and experts alike. Each week we will explore local hotspots to see what birds are passing through or have returned for the summer.

April 22 — Monthly Hike 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. meet at the Environmental Learning Center and then travel to the starting point; A new trail will be walked each month. Don't miss out on this relaxing chance to get outside!

## Cherry Springs State Park, Galeton

April 25 — Dark Sky Fund Work Bee, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The annual Work Bee is hosted by the Cherry Springs Dark Sky Fund. The event will take place rain or shine. All participants must be registered by calling the Lyman Run State Park office at 814-435-5010 or e-mail [csspdsf@gmail.com](mailto:csspdsf@gmail.com). Tools will be provided for the various maintenance projects and their will projects

**(EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Sun-Gazette reserves the right to edit items submitted for the "Shooting Sports" section. To submit an event, call 326-1551, ext. 3128.)

## Black Eagle Bowmen

LAMAR — The North Central 3-D Association's archery shoot schedule includes the following events, all of which hold registration from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Clarence Archery: April 19, May 24.
- Black Eagle Bowmen: May 3.
- Three Point: April 26, May 17.

Other archery events include:

- NEPAC Field Shoot at Black Eagle Archery, 9 a.m. May 31.
- PSAA State Target Champ, Indian Park, Montoursville, June 20 and 21

For more information, visit [www.blackaglebowmen.com](http://www.blackaglebowmen.com).

## Consolidated Sportsmen of Lycoming County

LOYALSOCKVILLE — The Trap Club and Broken Rock Skeet Club, six miles north of Wal-Mart on Route 87, is open on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. for members and those who want to join. A fee applies per round and shooters must bring their own shotguns and ammo and wear eye and ear protection.

For more information, call Raymond George at 368-1107.

## Keystone Sportsmen's Association

MUNCY — The Keystone Sportsmen's Association at Muncy Gun Club will hold the following events for its junior league:

- Junior shoot, 1 p.m. April 19, with 50 targets at 16 yards.
- Junior Pre-State Classic, 1 p.m. May 17, with 100 targets at 16 yards.

For more information,

# In the parks



for everyone. Wear work clothes and bring a dish to pass for lunch, hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided.

## Hills Creek State Park, Wellsboro

April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 — Saturday Morning Birding Walks, 8:30 a.m. in April, 7:30 in May. Meet at the park office. Members of the Tiadaghton Audubon Society will lead walkers in a search for water and woodland birds.

May 16 — Step Outdoors Springfest, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your family, friends and co-workers to Hills Creek State Park to participate in recreation activities, and healthy living demonstrations. Some of the activities include kayaking and canoeing, GPS and geocaching, birding, hiking and fishing.

## Little Pine State Park, Waterville

April 23 — Project Learning Tree curriculum seminar, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Seminar is open to educators in the BLAST, Seneca Highlands, Central and Central Susquehanna intermediate units who teach at grade levels kindergarten through eighth. Project Learning

Tree is an environmental education curriculum supplement designed for educators working with students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Project Learning Tree is a collection of innovative, plant-related activities that are hands-on, easy to use, and fun. Registration will be limited to 10 to 20 participants, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration can be made by calling 753-6005 or by e-mail to [littlepine-sp\\_ee@state.pa.us](mailto:littlepine-sp_ee@state.pa.us) and is now open.

## R.B. Winter State Park, Mifflinburg

April 23 — Students Environmental Service Day, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Teachers, celebrate Earth and Arbor Day with your class by getting involved in some environmentally friendly projects at the park. Public, private and home-schooled students may attend. Planned projects include shrub and tree planting, mulching trails and park cleanup activities. A brief program on Earth and Arbor days will kick off the event, followed by the projects. Classes and families need to register by calling the office at 966-1455. Only a limited number of students can be accepted.

April 25 — Volunteers Spring Cleanup, 9 a.m. to noon. Help get the park in good condition after the long winter. Volunteers are needed for raking leaves in the campground, litter and brush cleanups, trail maintenance, tidying the park's butterfly and wildflower gardens and other projects. If you or your group would like a hands-on way to celebrate Earth or Arbor Day, contact the park office for details at 966-1455.

## World's End State Park, Forksville

Through April 30 — "Small Wonders" Preschool Program, 10 to 11 a.m. Each Thursday morning in April, a nature education class for young learners ages 3 to 5 will be held at the visitor center. Rooted in imagination and experience, and rich in science content, the "Small Wonders" program gives attention to language arts, movement, music, visual arts, and science. Lessons are designed to include activities that develop a variety of developmentally appropriate skills. Children who participate will role-play, imitate, imagine, question, experiment, and create — all while learning a great deal of specific information about animals, plants and the world of nature. Registration is required and more information is available by calling 924-1601.

## Firearms Training & Educational Center

Fees apply for the following upcoming courses and events. For more information, visit 531 Washington Blvd., call 326-4181 or see [www.tripolistrigger.com](http://www.tripolistrigger.com). Those who are interested should register early in order to meet the individual requirements and complete a background check.

• Tactics in Self-Defense seminar, 5 to 8 p.m. April 30; 1 to 4 p.m. May 8; or 4 to 7 p.m. May 17, \$69.

Skilled instructors will cover basic defensive tactics and examples of tools to use in a self-defense situation. Topics include improving your state of awareness and the ability to defend yourself; use of pepper spray, demonstrations on how to deploy your hands, keys and other objects in defensive tactics, how to distract the threat, introduction to firearms, and more.

- Beginners Firearms Safety Course: Introduction/Level One, 5 to 8:30 p.m. April 20.
- Firearms Training Program Level Two: Moving from the Threat, 4 to 6 p.m. April 19.

## Whispering Pines Cap and Flint Club

COVINGTON — The Whispering Pines Cap and Flint Club will hold a cowboy shoot on May 3.

For more information, call 723-8885 or e-mail [cowboys8@ptd.net](mailto:cowboys8@ptd.net).



call Don at 435-0451.

## Lambs Creek Sportsmen's Club

MANSFIELD — The club will hold the following events this spring. All are open to the public. For more information, visit the club Web site, [www.lambscreeksc.org](http://www.lambscreeksc.org).

- April 19: Sporting clay shoot, 50 targets, \$10, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- April 26: NRA registered rimfire silhouette shoot, registration at 9 a.m.
- May 3: Sporting clay shoot, 50 targets, \$10, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- May 17: NRA registered rimfire silhouette shoot, registration at 9 a.m.

## North Montour Sportsman Association

WASHINGTONVILLE — A hunters clay shoot will be held at 9 a.m. April 26 at the club grounds. Follow the signs to Sportsmans Road, north of PPL's Montour Preserve.

The 25-clay bird course costs \$5 per round for adults and \$4 per round for juniors (ages 15 and under).

Ammo for 12-, 16- and 20-gauge shotguns will be sold on site, and food and beverages will be available.

White targets will be thrown randomly for prizes.

For more information, call Bob Gainer at 437-3553.

## North Mountain Sportsmen's Club

MUNCY VALLEY — The Sullivan County High School Shooting Sports Club will host a "Shooter's

## PPL holds teacher workshops

Educators are encouraged to join PPL and the state Fish and Boat Commission for a Project Wild Aquatic workshop about American shad and other migratory fish of the Susquehanna and Delaware rivers.

Two workshops will focus on lessons, activities and resources that can be used to teach students about the basic biology, ecology and sociology of this important and historical fish. Participants will receive a copy of the Project WILD Aquatic curriculum guide, shad-adapted lesson plans and additional resources. Workshops are multidisciplinary, designed for K-12 classroom teachers and eligible for Act 48 hours.

Workshops will be held at:

- Susquehanna Riverlands, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 30.
- Holtwood Environmental Preserve, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 7. Includes a field trip to PPL's Holtwood Hydroelectric Plant and Fish Lift along the Susquehanna River.

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# Hunting opportunities promising

(From Page F-1)

The Game Commission only devotes personnel time and their gasoline costs to the study.

"Our licensed dollars aren't paying for this," Casalena said.

She said the National Wild Turkey Federation is paying for the reward money, and the federation's state chapters are paying for the bait and trapping equipment.

The turkey federation is paying Penn State University to maintain the database.

Pennsylvania hunters are selecting to harvest older gobblers — two years and older, according to Casalena. Some turkeys are moving up to 20 miles from where they are banded.

A turkey hunter herself, Casalena is looking forward to the season.

"It's not about the hunt," she said. "It's about being out in the spring and watching the woods come alive."

There's no significant spring gobbler law changes this year, but state Game Commission spokesman Jerry Feaser said it's the second year updated fluorescent orange requirements are in effect.

Spring turkey hunters aren't required to wear or post fluorescent orange — when stationary or moving — but it is recommended.

They are encouraged to wear orange when moving through

the woods. Officials also recommend that hunters wrap an orange alert band around a nearby tree when stationary.

There's good reason orange laws are more lax in the spring, compared to fall.

"The reason is because in the spring, you only have spring gobbler hunters in the woods and they're not using rifles," he said. "In the fall, you're sharing the woods with hunters who may or may not be using rifles depending on how long the overlap in the seasons is."

Fall turkey hunters are required to wear at least 250 inches of orange on the head, chest and back, visible 360 degrees when moving. They don't have to wear orange while stationary, but must post at least 100 inches of orange, visible in all directions, within 15 feet of the calling location.

Deciding the days for the spring turkey season is a simple matter of looking at a calendar, according to Feaser. The Game Commission doesn't change its schedule because of any fishing season, he said.

The commission counts back five weeks from Memorial Day weekend. That's when the one-day youth spring turkey hunt is — April 18 this year.

The 41st anniversary of the spring gobbler season begins the following week. This year, the season runs from Saturday to May 25.

Hunters who have purchased a second spring gobbler season license may harvest up to two bearded turkeys.

The spring wild turkey population peaked in 2001, when it numbered 410,000.

In 2008, hunters took 40,522 bearded wild turkeys in the spring gobbler seasons from an estimated statewide spring population of about 335,000.

"The preliminary 2008 spring gobbler harvest was the sixth-highest on record," Casalena said.

"This year, I predict a slightly higher-than-average harvest, based on the slightly above-average summer turkey reproduction two years ago," Casalena said. "We know, from preliminary data analyses of three years of our four-year gobbler study, hunters select the older 'long-beards' over juveniles, or 'jakes,' and the two-year-old age class, in particular, are the most vocal, and most readily come to a hunter's call."

Although Casalena said many areas of the state had a below-average mast crop last fall, this didn't apply to the area around Williamsport.

Referring to the state's north-central region, she said, "That part of the state did have an above-average mast crop. That's real good for the turkey population."

She said acorns have high caloric content, giving turkeys the energy they need in the spring.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

**Spring turkey hunters are encouraged — but not required — to wear fluorescent orange clothing. The bright color is thought to prevent accidental shootings caused when a hunter mistakes another hunter for a turkey.**

# Enthusiasts comment on orange clothing, bird populations

(From Page F-1)

it takes longer for others.

Mouth calls are the most popular in Wagner's Renovo-based business, but there's a call for anyone.

There's different reasons why mouth calls are most popular, according to Wagner.

"Your hands are free; that's an advantage," he said. "You can have your gun ready and make no movement."

Other calls, such as wooden box and friction calls, need hand movements to operate.

Mouth calls are the least expensive, another advantage to using them.

"But, they won't last forever like friction calls do," he said.

Friction calls typically include a surface, often made of glass or slate, that is scratched with a long pick made of hardwood.

Wagner estimates he sells 30,000 mouth calls a year and 10,000 friction calls, which include not only the glass surface calls but also the more traditional wooden box calls.

He said he sells a lot of wooden box calls to clubs and other organizations that want personalized woodwork carved into the bodies, in tribute of anniversaries and other events.

Wagner said his company strives to support good causes, whether it's supporting injured soldiers, children in need or the sport of turkey hunting itself.

On Wednesday, April 29, he'll be in Wyoming County with a group of U.S. soldiers visiting from



PATRICK DONLIN/Sun-Gazette

**Co-owner of Renovo-based Top Calls, Russ Wagner of Hartleton demonstrates techniques on one of his friction calls at the Gander Mountain store in Pennsdale. To make a call, he uses a hardwood pick to scratch the surface of the disc he's holding, which is made of glass.**

Walter Reed Hospital. The Wounded Warriors program strives to support soldiers wounded serving their country, he said.

He plans to help set up the soldiers with turkey hunting gear and do whatever else is needed to help them have a successful hunt.

"It's something we can do to help out for the sacrifices they've given to us,"

Wagner said.

Throughout the years, he's gone on trips with the Hunt of a Lifetime Foundation, assisting children with special needs who want to go on a hunting or fishing trip.

Last spring, Wagner helped a 16-year-old Lewisburg boy afflicted with muscular dystrophy go turkey hunting.

"It's one of the best

hunting trips you could ever witness," he said.

Wagner's glad the Game Commission eased its laws on fluorescent orange a couple years ago.

He has no problem wearing orange when he's walking. "I think it has its place; it is a safety factor," he said.

But when he's seated, he sees no need to wear orange. Wearing it while seated makes it difficult for turkeys to get close, according to Wagner.

"When you get to your seated location, you shouldn't have to wear it," he said.

Sensible hunters shouldn't put anyone in any danger, according to Wagner.

"If anyone would identify their target before they pull the trigger, there wouldn't be any accidents of any kind," he said.

Shotgun hunters need to get the turkey close to them, often within 30 yards. Referring to that distance, Wagner said, "If someone can't tell the difference between me and a turkey, they shouldn't be in the woods anyway."

Traveling throughout the state, Bob Hart of Nescopeck keeps seeing turkeys.

The Pennsylvania turkey population is healthy, according to

Hart.

"I think the turkey population is probably the best it's been in years," he said. "I see turkeys everywhere. I do a lot of traveling to the New York border and over to Ohio."

"They're more prevalent than deer," he said.

Hart's reasoning is that some hens incubate a dozen eggs at a time, while does fawn one or two in the spring.

There's also a difference in food, according to Hart.

"I think there's more feed for the turkeys than there is for deer," he said.

Hunter Shoemaker, 10, of Lock Haven and other young hunters involved in the state's Mentored Youth Hunting program faced a quandary last weekend — take part in the one-day youth spring turkey hunt or go fishing on the opening day of

trout season.

Fishing for trout on the first day of the season is a tradition his father, Frank Shoemaker of Lock Haven, has long enjoyed.

Frank said he said he supports the new mentored youth hunting seasons. But the youth hunting seasons shouldn't conflict with the prime of the state's trout season, in his opinion.

"If they want to get the youth involved with fishing and get them involved with hunting, it doesn't make sense to have them on the same day competing with each other," Frank said.

Hunter said he enjoys hunting and looks forward to many more days in the field with his father.

But, he said he planned to go fishing with his grandfather on April 18 and hunting turkeys with his father this Saturday.

**Plan your family's summer vacation today!**

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# Crossbow rules, deer licenses among issues on Game Commission's agenda this week

The state Board of Game Commissioners will meet on Monday and Tuesday at agency headquarters, 2001 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg.

The agenda for the meeting is on the agency's Web site at [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us). Click the "Next Commissioners' Meeting" box in the center of the homepage and then on the agenda link at the bottom of the page.

On Monday at 8:30 a.m., the board will hear public comments on the proposed 2009-10 hunting and furtaking seasons and bag limits. Individuals interested in offering public testimony may begin to register at 7:45 a.m. on a first-come, first-to-speak basis. At the completion of the public comment period,



the board will receive various staff reports.

From 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. that day, the Game Commission will bring its latest deer management open house display to the agency's headquarters to enable visitors to review the information.

On Tuesday beginning at 8:30 a.m., the Game Commission will take up its prepared agenda to, among other things, give final approval to hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits for 2009-

10. Doors open at 7:45 a.m.

Antlerless deer license allocations for the 2009-10 seasons also will be presented for the board to approve, as well as a proposal given preliminary approval by a notational vote to remove the prohibition on the use of magnifying scopes on crossbows.

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# Reflections in Nature:

## Phoebe often returns to same nest site to raise two broods each year

Diary entry March 29, 2009: "While on our morning walk, Mary Alice and I heard a phoebe calling."

The Eastern phoebe's name comes from its call, which sounds as if the bird is calling its name, making it an easy bird to identify.

The bobbing and wagging of the tail also are signs used to identify a phoebe.

I usually write in my diary that I hear — not see — the phoebe calling sometime in late March or early April. The peak of the northern migration appears to be from the first through third weeks of April, with the migration completed by the second week of May.

The Eastern phoebe's scientific name is Sayornis phoebe.

Sayornis is the genus name, derived from Thomas Say, an American entomologist who accompanied Stephen Long on his 19th century expedition to the Rocky Mountains. During the expedition, the phoebe, which became the type for the genus, was collected.

Sayornis and ornis come from a Greek word meaning bird, or Say's bird.

The species name phoebe is Latin and comes from both the call of the bird and the name of a daughter of Gaea, who, in Greek mythology, was the Greek goddess of the earth. She was both mother and wife to Uranus or heaven, from whom she was separated by her son, Cornus, a titan. According to Hesiod, she was the mother of all 12 Titans, as well as the Furies and the Cyclopes.

Phoebe (a daughter) may have originated as a mother goddess worshipped in pre-Hellenic Greece before the introduction of the cult of Zeus.

The phoebe belongs to



the Tyrant flycatcher family. The name Tyrant comes from the Latin word tyrannus and the Greek word tyrannos, both meaning monarch, lord and ruler, which is in allusion to the aggressiveness of some members of the family.

The common name of flycatcher comes from the habit of catching flying insects in mid-air.

It is possible that John James Audubon, who was living at his Mill Grove plantation in Montgomery County, banded the first bird in North America when he tied silver thread on the legs of five nestling Eastern phoebes.

Audubon later wrote that he observed two of these phoebes back in his area during the next spring.

The arrival time for the phoebe depends on the winter conditions. In years of persistent cold, the phoebes might not appear until the fourth week of March. During a mild winter, they could appear as early as the end of February.

Phoebes arrive well ahead of most other forested songbirds and are one of the last to leave our area. This allows enough time for the phoebe to have two broods each summer.

The phoebe mainly builds its nest near water, which provides a good supply of mud and moss for the building of the nest and also insects, its main diet.

In Pennsylvania, with our many streams, phoebes find their favorite nesting places on bridges



The Eastern phoebe arrives early in the spring and builds its nest near water. Many times a new nest is built on top of last year's nest. Above, an early arrival checks out last year's nest. The phoebe, above right, is a dull olive green without an eye ring or wing bars. A phoebe's nest, right, is anchored with mud, covered with moss and usually located on man-made structures such as bridges or houses.

and our homes. The nest is anchored with mud and covered with moss.

My bird book tells me that they never nest in trees. Many times, a new nest is built on top of the previous year's nest. One book stated that sometimes the nest from the previous year is remolded and used again.

The female usually will lay three to seven creamy white eggs, with five being the most common.

Incubation is done by the female and usually takes 16 days, with the young leaving the nest in another 16 days. This allows enough time for the female to lay a second clutch of eggs.

Phoebe nests are heavily parasitized by cowbirds and appear to be one of the most common victims of brood parasitism.

The female cowbird will lay a single egg in a phoebe's nest, and this egg usually will hatch earlier than the phoebe's eggs.

The cowbird chick, which grows faster and is

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILL BOWER



much larger, tends to push the young phoebe chicks out of the nest, with the result that the only chick raised is the cowbird. Cowbirds also are infamous for laying their eggs in nests of vireos, finches, warblers and other flycatchers.

The beginning of the fall migration for the phoebe is difficult to determine; however, it appears that the first week of October is the heaviest southward movement, with the majority of the phoebes gone by the first week of November. Here again, some linger until December.

Phoebes winter from Maryland and further south to Florida. During periods of cold weather, the phoebe's diet can be

comprised of fruits such as sumac, bayberry and holly.

Although the calendar says spring is here, snow flurries and low temperatures might keep you indoors.

Here is a suggestion to put you in a spring mood: Pull on your boots, head outdoors and listen for the phoebe's calling. This will surely remind you that old man winter has left and spring is upon us.

*Bower retired after 34 years as a wildlife conservation officer for the state Game Commission. He*

has published several books about his experiences, the latest being "Every Day Was Game Day." Questions and comments may be sent to him at 153 Redington Ave., Troy PA 16947.

THE ORIGINAL  
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By Mrs. HAROLD ALLEN KETTER  
Release week of April 19-26, 2009

Date	Day	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
4/19	Sa	12:50	6:55	1:02	7:15
4/20	Su	1:38	7:35	1:50	7:58
4/21	T	2:18	8:15	2:33	8:36
4/22	W	2:58	8:55	3:05	9:18
4/23	Th	3:38	9:35	3:42	10:00
4/24	F	4:18	10:15	4:12	10:45
4/25	S	5:00	11:00	5:00	11:45
4/26	Sa	5:55	11:55	5:25	12:15

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### ROSE VALLEY-MILL CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

Retired state Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officer Bill Bower shares slides and stories of wildlife and plants during the annual Rose Valley-Mill Creek Watershed Association's annual dinner at the Trout Run Fire Co. last Tuesday.



MARK NANCE/Sun-Gazette

Members look at items up for silent auction during the annual Rose Valley-Mill Creek Watershed Association's annual dinner at the Trout Run Fire Co. last Tuesday. For the first year, the dinner included a silent auction of wildlife and outdoor paintings, photographs and books.

### Penn College archers take two team firsts

Shooting outdoors for the first time this season on April 4 and 5, Pennsylvania College of Technology transitioned well, winning the men's compound and recurve events, while taking third in women's compound in a five-team field at the Adam Wheatcroft Memorial at Harrisonburg, Va.



event and James Fanelli of Glastonburg, Conn., was second.

Lindsey Fackler of Halifax placed second in the women's compound and Danny Wido of Shickshinny finished third in the men's compound.

The team's next outing will be Saturday and next Sunday when it hosts the Eastern Regional Championships.

### Bloomsburg Archery Club plans shoot today

The Bloomsburg Archery Club will hold a public 3-D shoot from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. today. The club grounds are on Thomas Road in Bloomsburg, one mile from the Buckhorn Exit.

For more information, call 570-317-6169.

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