

HVNC's summer insect course produces amateur entomologists

For four Sundays this summer six students met with Dr. Dan Townsend at Hidden Valley Nature Center, in Jefferson, to learn about insects. Dan introduced the basics of insect anat-

omy, physiology and development, and the characteristics of the major orders of insects. Participants learned how to collect and pin insects and began to build a reference insect collection for HVNC. Perhaps best of all were the two collecting trips taken each day to explore the various insect habitats that HVNC offers at forest edge, meadow and pond habitats, each of which yielded a diverse bounty of insects.



Dr. Dan Townsend, center, explaining amazing insect adaptations at HVNC insect course. Contributed photo

Some highlights included the halteres on crane flies and other true flies, which provide stability in flight, the amazing arm-like lower jaw of dragonfly larvae, and the powerful predatory forelegs of assassin and ambush

bugs. Along the trail, occasional digressions into the worlds of mushrooms, lichens, amphibians and wildflowers were appreciated. Thanks to the generosity of Dan Townsend the walks in nature of these six students will now be richer experiences. Their foundation of skills and knowledge will enable them to continue studying insects wherever they find them.

Dr. Dan Townsend is a professor of biology at the University of Scranton where he has taught courses in ecology, evolution, biostatistics, physiology and environmental science, and conducted research for 25 years. He is an active volunteer in a variety of environmental groups, whether serving as a member or ecological consultant.

For more information on HVNC visit www.hvnc.org or contact Gary at 586-6752 or waywards@hotmail.com.

Palermo Library plans busy September

by Ellie Budzko

After an extremely busy, exciting and rewarding summer of activity, Palermo Library is not slowing down, offering a variety of events for all ages, with diverse appeal.

Beginning on Wednesday afternoon, September 1, area quilters will gather in the community room to practice and/or develop their quilting skills. For more details contact Betty Holzer at 993-2270. This group will foster the ambitions of the novice while inspiring the imagination of the practiced seamstress. Sign up now.

On Wednesday, September 8, at 9:30 a.m., Irene Mortko will return with her story hour talents, this time reaching out to the preschool child. Irene, a retired early childhood educator has worked with many libraries for over 20 years. Her folk art skills, particularly with painting and craft work, have earned her the recognition so rightly deserved as she continues to offer programs for children of all ages. Though she is a resident of New Jersey she and her family have summered in Palermo for over 25 years. This wonderful preschool program, perfect for the stay at home parent or child care giver, will run for five weeks.

Monday, September 13, 7 p.m., marks the debut of an intriguing lecture series hosted by Peter Cates. Voyages in Recorded

Plaques of thanks



Elaine Porter holding a plaque of thanks to our past and present veterans. Elaine has made 50 of these for men who served in the Armed Forces of the United States. It is a way for her to say a great big "thank you." The first plaque she made was for the memory of Tom Dostie and it has grown from there. This lady is so talented in her wood carvings of birds of all kinds. She has won approximately 25 blue ribbons for her carvings, not to mention second and third prize ribbons.

Submitted by Janice Hisler

Music will run for six weeks as Peter traces the composers, artists and personalities who have left a permanent documentation of their art through the medium of recorded music. Peter, who does the bi-weekly column, "Platter Perspectives," for *The Town Line* brings experience and passion to this lecture series. There is no charge for the lectures but donations are welcome.

An early December craft fair is already taking shape. Space is somewhat limited so contact Fred Davis at 993-2246, to reserve yours.

The library thanks all of you, whether volunteer, patron, or passerby, for your support as they grow and reach out to the community, and beyond.

See you at the library.

Skunk trapped in Albion tests positive for rabies

by Marion Foster

A skunk recently trapped near the Hussey Road here in Albion has tested positive for rabies. Rabid skunks can pose a threat to people, pets and livestock. Residents need to be familiar with the signs of rabies in skunks, call the Animal Control Officer if they encounter a skunk that is behaving oddly, and be vigilant in keeping pets rabies vaccinations current.

Residents of the Bog Road have noted an increase in cars traveling fast and coming close to people who may be walking or riding horseback along the road-

side. The speed limit on the road is 45 MPH, but this may not be a safe speed in areas where homes are clustered. The town constable will be making rounds on the road more often and residents are encouraged to report the license plate number of offending vehicles. Let this remind everyone to be considerate of our neighbor's

safety and use caution to avoid accidents. Let's continue to enjoy the slower pace of country living.

An extensive program of ditching and culvert replacement along the Knights Road will be completed within the next few weeks. Please travel cautiously in that area and use alternate routes when possible.

Fairfield town clerk graduates

Fairfield Town Clerk Tracey Stevens graduated from Municipal Clerks' Institute and Academy on July 22, upon completing a three-year course of study in municipal clerking.

Stevens has been the town clerk in Fairfield for six years, also serving as voter registrar, welfare director, community center manager, notary public and webmaster. She holds an associates degree in business administration from Thomas College and is a Certified Clerk of Maine (CCM). President of the Somerset County Municipal Clerks Association, Stevens is also a board member on the legislative policy committee of the Maine Town and City Clerks Association. She is on the board of FEMA's emergency food and shelter program as well as service unit secretary for the Salvation Army.

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