

Annual Wildcat celebration draws nature and antique-loving crowd

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

The fifth annual "Celebrate the Wildcat" event at Adams Mill near Cutler drew visitors from far and near Saturday. The weather cooperated to promote not only the enjoyment of the creek but also the jewel of the local community, the Adams Mill. The day was sponsored by the Wildcat Creek Foundation, Wildcat Guardians and the Wildcat Creek Watershed Alliance. Participating

groups included the Promoting Wildcat Valley organization, Cutler Presbyterian Church and the privately owned Adams Mill and surrounding grounds. The events of the day featured free canoe rides around a natural oxbow, nature hikes, tours of the mill and local artist and craftspeople booths. Promoting the Wildcat Valley group sold food to raise money to build a permanent secure display in the local cemetery for the Ball Hill Church bell. The Presbyterian Church sold goods from the kitchen for church-sponsored events.

However, Adams Mill, which sits on 10 of the 14.5 acre-grounds, was the center of attention and activities. Mark and Jill Scharer purchased the property approximately 15 years ago.

The mill was built in 1845 by John Adams and is now a museum of Americana open to the public for tours. Mark Scharer, who hails from the Battle Ground area, is an architect and designer. Jill was a teacher when the couple purchased the mill and has since retired to spend more time developing activities for the business.



Mill, grounds and more!

Saturday's weather was conducive to the celebratory events to spotlight the Wildcat Creek at Adams Mill near Cutler. Featured on the grounds were not only artists, craft and food vendors, but the newly built camping cabins behind the mill. Three log cabins were built in 2008 for small groups to rent. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

The grounds were cleared over the years to allow for primitive camping and to accommodate school tours, weddings, reunions, group meetings such as a local spinners and weavers guild and company outings. Recently three cabins, along with a separate shower and functioning bathroom building, were built for tentless

campers and small groups.

"This is really a labor of love for us," Jill said. "But we are looking for a not-for-profit to purchase it or help us do some things we need to do now."

"I think the community should own it now," she added. "The mill is thriving with visitors and groups and campers. Volunteers help

keep it open when I can't be here, but those resources are limited for us."

Scharer said a flood several years ago destroyed the water flow to the mill and the water wheel stopped turning. She and her husband took steps to correct the situation, but the work done by contractors was not adequate to make the wheel fully func-

tional again. She said more work must be done for the water wheel to work correctly.

Adams Mill appears on the National Register for Historic Places and is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 6 p.m. or by appointment. The Scharers can be reached at (765) 268-2189.



Lady Oracles end season in Regional championship game

Finish with 4th place Class 2A ranking

The Lady Oracles Softball team found its season come to a halt in a heartbreaking 10-inning nail biter late Saturday night at the 2A Regional in Greentown. They end the season with 26 wins against 5 losses, ranked fourth in Class 2A.

The Lady Oracles lose four seniors - Brittney Atwood, Leslie Kayser, Aspen Wallace

Special Olympians win 10 gold medals

Carroll County Special Olympics athletes had an impressive medal count following last weekend's 40th Annual State Games.

Ron Rice won two gold medals while single gold medal winners were Rita Bane, Jessie Collins, Charles Fry Sr., Selena Wagoner, Diana Knight, Junie Sherman, Robert Walker and Doug McCarty.

Silver medal winners were Kelly Buell, Darlene Goyer, Kristian Jenkins, Bethany Cadwallader, Stephen Cadwallader, Joe Landon, Shawna Sherman, Diana Williams, McCarty and Walker.

Winning bronze medals were Jesse Cadwallader, Caryl Sherman, Ashley Walker, Alex Satterfield, Amber Stover, Knight and Jenkins.

They also won four 4th place ribbons, five 5th place, and one each of 6th, 7th and 8th.

Emily Downham was a ribbon winner.

Volunteers included Mary McCarty, Dorothy and Jack Stover, Mike and Rebecca Cadwallader, Cindy Wagoner, Kay and Richard Goyer, Jeremy Miller, Finote Asfaw, and Paul Knight.

DCMS names honor roll students

Delphi Community Middle School Principal Barry Stone has announced the honor roll for the last nine-week grading period. Students receiving academic recognition include:

A Honor Roll

EIGHTH GRADE - Evan Atkinson, Deanne Crawford, Karli Edging, Danielle Kelley, Mariah McCauslin, Laine Rader, Alexis Smith, Andrew Taylor

SEVENTH GRADE - Hayes Cronk, Bryer Houston, Kolby Myer, Bransen Shidler

SIXTH GRADE - Adam Shanks

A/B Honor Roll

EIGHTH GRADE - Brittany Allen, Nick Banes, Morgan Baxter, Brooke Beale, Taylor Brown, Brianna Calloway, Erik Carpenter, Braden Clawson, Sarah Coghill, Chase Cripe, Chrystal Field, Shelbi Fisher, Jessica Flora, Joshua Flora, Nichole Hall, Grace Hampton, Cayla Hawn, Megan Honeycutt, Taylor Hudelson, Lis-mabel Polanco, Kayli Reef, Fallon

and Morgan Lavy - but return a host of underclassmen. They look forward to next season already.

Regional Semi-Final

The first game of the Regional found the Lady Oracles facing defending state champion, Lewis Cass. Delphi and Cass had met in the first contest of the year with the Oracles winning 1-0. In this contest the Lady Oracles showed no sign of big game jitters as they jumped out to a five-run lead in the top half of the first inning. Carli Rouhier put the Oracles on the score-

board with a two-run homer, driving in Chanler Norman. Caitlin Schock followed Rouhier with a triple. Danni Burge, Brittani Rhodes and Brittney Atwood all singled with only Atwood being stranded on second as the Oracles batted through the line up in the first. The Lady Kings came back to score 3 in the bottom of the first but that was as close as the score would ever be as the Oracles had 15 hits and scored a single run in both the second and fourth inning as well as two runs in both the sixth and sev-

enth innings.

Whitney Arion was the leading batter for the game, scoring 4 runs on 4 singles, Norman had 3 RBIs and Rouhier, Schock and Atwood had 2 RBIs each. Schock was the winning pitcher, her eighth win of the season.

After the 3-run first inning for the Lady Kings, Schock spread out only 4 more hits in the final six innings. She was also helped with some slick defense in the fifth inning when, with bases loaded, Jordyn Bieghler snagged a hard hit fly ball then caught a Cass

runner off base with a quick throw to first to end the inning. The final score was 11-6, Delphi.

Regional Final

For the second year in a row the Lady Oracles faced the Argylls of Madison Grant High School in a regional game. This was the first trip to the Regional finals for both teams. Madison Grant had defeated South Adams 5-2 earlier in the afternoon.

Madison Grant is led by senior pitcher Sara Webster, one of ten seniors on the ros-

ter. Webster was able to keep the Oracle batters off balance, giving up only three hits through the first six innings. With one out in the top of the seventh inning Oracle pitcher Atwood reached first on a throwing error by the Argyll shortstop. The next batter, Rhodes was hit by a Webster pitch; Webster then loaded the bases by walking senior catcher L. Kayser. Wallace's single gave the Lady Oracles their first run of the game.

See Lady Oracles page 2B

Bowfishing Classic helps rid local waters of invasive fish

Burrows man is tournament organizer

Comet staff report

The 4th annual Houston Bowfishing Classic (HBC) will be held June 20 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in north central Indiana.

"Our shoot focuses on ridding our waters of invasive fish," said tournament organizer Dustin Houston of Burrows.

"With the growing concern with invasive fish in our local waters, a lot of people throughout the state and the nation are focusing on the topic of bowfishing and the removal of invasive fish," he explained.

"We shot dozens of them in our night shoot last year," he said. "Besides the Asian carp, grass carp and bighead carp are becoming a huge problem in our rivers. There are no natural predators for them in our waters because they are not native to our waters. They are a serious threat to game species of fish and are reproducing at an alarming rate in the lakes and rivers in our area."

Check-in for the June 20 HBC will be at the Houston farm near Burrows. All shooters will need to be registered by 7:30 that morning. Shooters in two-person teams will leave at 8 a.m. after they have been informed of all rules and regulations.

Legal shooting will be any tributary of the Wabash within the boundaries which are anywhere north of I-70 in the south to I-30 in the north

(all shooting to be done in Indiana).

Legal fish will be all species of carp, buffalo (no other sucker fish), gar, dogfish (bowfin), and shad.

Awards will be a mix of cash and prizes. According to Houston, one of the prizes will be a new AMS Fire Eagle bow.

Excess proceeds will be donated to Fishing Has No Boundaries, a national organ-

ization with a local chapter, that takes people with special needs boating and fishing.

"We have rid our waters of thousands of cancerous fish in the past three years with the small number of teams we have had," Houston said.

According to Houston, since the HBC was organized in 2006 it has grown to be the biggest bowfishing tournament in the state, gaining national recognition and

drawing shooters from all over Indiana and surrounding states.

Houston said a 2-3 person night shoot will be held Aug. 15 and he is working on a third shoot on the Mississinewa Reservoir for September.

For information on the HBC and the June 20 tournament, contact Houston by phone at (765) 714-4638 or email dchouse22@yahoo.com.

DCES first grade teacher is ready to start her second career

Comet staff report

Delphi Community Elementary School has lost a first grade teacher, Grace Youngberg, to retirement. With the end of the school year, she concluded a 33-year teaching career with plans to begin a new, yet undefined career.

Reflecting on her years as a teacher, Youngberg said, "Teaching has been a passion of mine. It was my main focus for many years. I wanted the children to learn to read and learn about the world so that they could become and do anything they wanted in life."

"As a teacher, it was a learning experience for me, too," she said. "You gain the most experience by being in the classroom. The children helped me to see the world through their eyes everyday. Even though the method of teaching reading and math has changed over the years, educators are striving to find the best way for children to learn."

Youngberg explained that one of the biggest changes she has seen in teaching came when the state downsized the classroom for the lower grades.

"The children were able to receive more individual help," she said. "That is especially needed at the lower

grades. That has now changed back to larger class sizes and it is more stressful on the teachers and children. Also, the state has standards that we need to teach the children at a younger age than when I first started. This, too, has caused more stress on the children and teachers to try to achieve higher goals and accomplishments."

"It has always been my goal for everyone to improve throughout the year. Now the state wants all children to achieve a 'passing' goal without considering their individual circumstances. Stress on achieving seems to be higher than ever."

38-year DCMS teacher retires

Comet staff report

Delphi Community Middle School social studies and U.S. history teacher Charles T. Wilson retired at the end of the 2009 school year after a 38-year teaching career.

"I became a teacher because I enjoy history, government and working with young people," Wilson said. "I wanted to instill in students an appreciation for the country and its history."

Teaching also gave Wilson an opportunity to pursue a military career. In 1998 he re-

Youngberg is quick to add that there have been many rewards.

"One of which is when I see a child who has struggled with learning to read, one day pick up a certain book and begin to read. A light goes on and says 'I get it. I can read.'"

"Another is when the kids do not give up on trying to learn a new concept."

"Teaching has always been rewarding," Youngberg said. "I will miss many parts of it."

Wilson is a native of Delphi who resides in Monticello. She graduated from Delphi Community High School in 1972 and earned her undergraduate degree in 1976 from the

School of the Ozarks.

She has taught not only first grade but second grade, readiness and art.

"As I retire from teaching at Delphi, I plan to work at home and with other people," she said. "I hope to find a different career that helps people. God seems to be leading me in a totally different direction from the classroom. I am looking to Him for his guidance."

"The possibilities are endless and open at this point in time. Life is an adventure and we never know where it might lead us. So I am planning to have a great adventure!"



Wilson

tired from the Army Reserves after attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Wilson, a native of Carlisle, graduated from Carlisle High School and Indiana State University in Terre Haute. He started his teaching career in the Delphi Community School Corporation in 1971 and has taught sixth, seventh and eighth

grade social studies and U.S. history ever since.

He has served as a sponsor for the middle school honor society, student council and as the middle school social studies department chairman.

Wilson and his wife, Elaine, a second-grade teacher at Delphi Community Elementary School, reside in rural Delphi. They have one son, Thomas D. Wilson.

Wilson said that his future plans include spending more time with his family in Florida and closely following his son's Air Force career.