

Outdoor Snooper



geese that you see crowding on and around lakes and reservoirs, attacking golfers, messing up putting greens and eating farmers' crops.

Margaret Brittingham, Associate Professor of Wildlife Resources in the College of Agricultural Science explains that the geese problem was actually an unexpected result of an attempt to help geese when the population was very low.

When I was young, the only time I saw geese was during spring and fall, as the migrating birds flew from their breeding grounds in Hudson Bay to Chesapeake Bay, where they spent the winter. Actually, as early as 1900, these flocks of geese were in sharp decline from over-hunting.

In the 1930's, state and federal wildlife departments began to stock geese that were trapped in other places. By chance, a strain of giant geese captured in Minnesota and Wisconsin were released in Pennsylvania. These larger than average geese weighed about 12 pounds, as compared to the 8.5 pounds of the Atlantic Migrant geese. The giant geese, it was later found out, didn't migrate

from their midwest home areas, and of course, they didn't leave their new homes in Pennsylvania.

The use of live decoys for hunting was legal in the early days, but when the federal government adopted a regulation that outlawed their use, a new population arose. These live decoy geese, due to their inbreeding, had lost their desire to migrate, and since they could no longer be used for hunting, large flocks of the non-migrating birds were released, only adding to the problem.

By the 1970's, game agencies finally realized they had a problem with the "resident geese." For a few years, these geese were trapped and transferred to other parts of our state and to other states. Soon, when the "stay at home" geese were found out, other states didn't want them, but the problem had already been spread. Before 1930, there were no Canada Geese nesting in Pennsylvania. Now they nest in every county in the state!

One problem in any state is the federal government's control of all migrating birds, ducks, geese, doves and the like, the feds control the hours, seasons, and the bag limits. State Game Managers

"Resident Geese"

are hoping the federal government will become more liberal in granting special permits to deal with the problem resident geese. It is estimated 250,000 resident geese inhabit Pennsylvania and have become a nuisance, contaminating water, damaging lawns and golf courses, and causing major crop damage. Even though the resident geese don't migrate, they are treated by the same laws that limit the killing of migratory geese.

There is some concern that hunting may not control their numbers. Other methods such as euthanizing birds, destroying nests and eggs may be used to regulate the population. The Game Commission is hoping to manage the resident geese with hunting. They are trying to have better success of goose control in the suburban areas. Along with understanding the complaints from the "Animal Rights" people and the folks who just like to feed birds, managers must time hunting seasons so the migrating birds have gone south, and only the resident birds are available.

As they used to say on the radio, "stay tuned" to see if and how the geese problem will be solved.



Berks-Mont Photo by Harold Hoch
Eve Eichert smashes the ball past Schuylkill Valley blockers in their recent game. The Lady Lynx stand at 3-1 in 2001.

Royals wrap up

In the last several weeks the Reading Royals Ice Hockey Club has been very active. They signed their third player, defensive mainstay Chris Aldous, in a trade with the Pensacola Ice Pilots.

Following Aldous's signing, the Royals signed another defenseman, A.J. Begg. Begg played four years at the University of Maine.

The Royals made several moves to bolster their roster. They have picked up four players in trades acquiring the rights to forward Oak Hewer and goaltender Sean Degagne from Pensacola.

The Royals have also assumed the rights to forwards Sandy Cohen and Devin Hartnell from the Florida Everblades.

To date, the Royals have signed five players.

General manager Ray Delia and coach Al Sims unveiled the team's jersey at a press conference held at the Fairgrounds Mall, Monday, September 17 at 2 p.m. The home game jersey is predominantly white and the away jersey is predominantly black. The jerseys have gray and purple trim and the Reading Royals logo (a roaring male lion).

Guys and Dolls bowling results from Emmaus

Members of the Guys and Dolls bowling team have a number of bowlers from the Boyertown area that bowl at the Emmaus Bowling Center. Following is the results of last week's games.

Mens' and Series:	High	Games
Al Weinsteinger	-	226
Al Weinsteinger	- 625	
Brian Hansley	-	225
Brain Hansley	- 615	
Dave Gamler	-	224
Dave Gamler	- 614	
Womens' and Series:	High	Games
Crystal Wiles	-	193
Barb Derr	- 527	
Marlene Hansley	-	192
Marlene Hansley	- 505	
Barb Derr	-	191
Kathy Latshaw	- 483	



Berks-Mont Photo by Harold Hoch

Oley Valley goalkeeper Greg Smith gets help from his defense as Brandywine Heights player Mike Diehl tries to head the ball into the goal. Helping to prevent the goal; is Tim O'Niell, Steve Granitz and Jon Tranquillo (8).

Dressage at Devon

Thousands of people can't be wrong! Dressage at Devon is an event that shouldn't be missed, attracting more than 10,000 people for its Saturday competition alone.

This year marks the 27th Dressage at Devon Horse Show, which takes place September 25 - 30 at the Devon horse Show Grounds on Route 30 in Devon.

Dressage at Devon is the highest rated international dressage

competition outside of Europe, with approximately 600 horses competing for the Performance and Breed Divisions. The show is a qualifying competition for the prestigious World Equestrian Games, a qualifying competition for the North American Young Rider's Dressage Championship and the East Coast Series Final for the Cosequin USDF Breeder's Championship.

Have you asked a specialist about your bladder problem?

Most bladder problems can be cured.

One out of six women over the age of 45 has some problem with bladder control. And almost all of these problems can be cured. But first, you have to ask for help.

A wide range of treatment options, from exercise to surgery, can give you back control of your life. One new option is a 30-minute minimally-invasive surgical procedure performed under local anesthesia to repair stress urinary incontinence.

If you have problems when you laugh or sneeze, or if you're constantly looking for the nearest restroom, call 610-402-CARE to make an appointment with a urogynecologist.



Marisa A. Mastropietro, M.D., has joined Vincent Lucente, M.D., at LVHVN. She is the region's only graduate of a three-year fellowship in urogynecology and reconstructive pelvic surgery accredited by the Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She completed her fellowship at Indiana University in Indianapolis and her training in OBGYN at Allegheny University Hospitals/Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia. Dr. Mastropietro welcomes new patients.

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Halloween Pet Costume Contest & Parade on Saturday, October 27th - Enter Now!
Pet costume prizes awarded for Scariest, Funniest, Most Original and Best Pet-Owner Costume Combo.
Other contests include: Pet Recipe Contest - Like to cook for your pet? Enter your best recipe! Entry deadline: Oct. 24
Painting Contest (Animal paintings only!) for children ages 6-10. Entry deadline: Oct. 24.
Funny Pet Video Contest. Maybe your pet likes to perform, but not in public. Then this is their chance to shine! Entry deadline: Oct. 13.
Top 3 winners in each contest receive cash prizes. Please call 610-367-2461 for more details and contest rules.

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