

Savannah Dhu Tour Brings Surprises to Wayne County Nursing Home Residents

Lyons, New York, April 23, 2007 --- Wayne County Nursing Home (WCNH) residents and staff were treated to a special experience on Thursday April 19, 2007 at the Savannah Dhu nature preserve in Savannah, New York.

Linda Gillette, Community Relations Coordinator at Savannah Dhu, escorted a group of Wayne County Nursing Home residents on a guided tour of some of the 5,000 acre nature preserve. Many of the residents were not aware of the extent and ecological treasures that are present at the preserve, in such close proximity to the Home.

The residents, along with Jane Beach, Activities Director at WCNH, learned about the use of solar power and other energy conservation methods used at the center, and its impact on the mission toward conservation.

Savannah Dhu is owned by Bob and Sue Congel, who frequently open the private preserve to members of the surrounding community in an effort to share the rich environment and their love of nature.

Residents were treated to spectacular views of the large herds of White-tailed deer, as well as having a chance to observe the elk herd that is unique to the Savannah Dhu. The preserve also stocks a small herd of very rare Pere David deer

as well as Sika deer. Russian wild boar are also present, along with many other wildlife.

In addition to the deer and elk, the residents spotted a Trumpeter swan swimming on one of the many man-made ponds, along with ducks and Canada geese. The network of ponds and channels are stocked with trout, large and small mouth bass, walleye, pike and tiger muskies, many of which came from the preserve's own fish hatchery.

The tour concluded with a drive to Attitude Adjustment Road, along a waterway, with a view of the stone and timber lodges that have been built inside the nature preserve.

"We have such deep appreciation for the Congels' dedication to conservation and for their generosity in sharing their love of nature and their beautiful preserve with our residents," said Jane Beach. "It was a very special experience to see everything that exists there, as well as having the thrill of seeing elk that close. The residents truly enjoyed the educational tour from Linda Gillette, and we look forward to coming again for another visit."