

when the theft was discovered.

"We have one left, because he was too big to fit through the hole," said Brittany Bradwell, an assistant manager at the store.

Bradwell said the store had filed a report with Plaistow police about the theft. The store had been keeping the animals in an outside enclosure due to the nice weather; it is the first time they have had a problem like this, according to Bradwell.

A tortoise can best be described as a land-dwelling turtle, and certain species can grow to become several feet long. They also have advanced life spans, living up to 200 years. The stolen tortoises, according to Bradwell, were relatively young -- anywhere from 30 to 50 years old.

Workers at the store were quite concerned about the animals' welfare, as tortoises are not simple house pets.

"They need all sorts of special lighting, special food, and special care," Bradwell said. The store has asked anyone with information about the stolen tortoises to call them at 382-3338. Anyone with information may also call the Plaistow police department at 382-6816.

I found this article on line. It kind of caught my eye because it was about Blanding's turtles in the Biddeford area. I didn't know that they found them there. It turns out that they have. It could have been a transplant or it could be a real find. About 25 years ago Helen Purley (the mouse lady) said she caught one in Scarborough. She kept it in her barn for years.

Funds needed to open Blandings Park Sanctuary (Aug. 1, 2008)

By Kevin Robbins

Two years ago Dave and Peggy Ayers founded the Blandings Park Wildlife Sanctuary. Now, the Ayers are trying to raise enough funds to purchase more land and maintain the sanctuary, which has yet to open.

Pool Street, West Street, Guinea Road and Granite Street in Biddeford enclose the proposed area of the sanctuary.

"There has been so much going on, we are doing everything we can," Dave Ayers said.

Dave Ayers said they currently have 130 acres of land; however, they want to eventually have 1,000

acres of land. By the end of the year they hope to have 200 acres. He said the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife recommends at least 500 acres be devoted to a wildlife sanctuary for it to be viable for turtles, Dave Ayers said. The Blandings turtle, which is endangered and has been seen in the area, is the sanctuary's mascot.

Peggy Ayers said a new Web site is in development and should be operating by the end of the year. She also said the main entrance to the sanctuary will be constructed sometime in fall 2008. As of now, there is no public entrance into the park, though there are existing unmarked trails that can be accessed on foot.

Both Dave and Peggy Ayers sit on the park's board of directors along with Brady Construction owner Paul Brady and Biddeford resident Mary Ellen Charles. In addition, there is an advisory board, a land stewards committee, and an outreach committee.

Brady said he is examining the land for potential trail locations; However, equipment is needed to create trails and the organization cannot bring equipment in the park until the main entrance has been created, Dave Ayers said.

In order to raise awareness about the sanctuary, the Ayers have hosted lectures at McArthur Library in Biddeford. A lecture in July showcased reptiles and amphibians in "The Mysteries of Water and Wildlife." The lectures were free and geared toward children. Blandings Wildlife Park Sanctuary is currently accepting donations to purchase more land. The sanctuary is classified as a public benefit 501(c)3 land trust, which means any donations to the

Important if you want Rodents

We will be bringing rodents to the Portland Reptile Expo for sale to non-members as well as members. The current inventory and prices are in the classified section of this newsletter, and on our website. In order to get these prices you must call or email me to reserve you order. See the classifieds for info.

At the show the prices will be higher than posted here and we won't be able to give you the discount just because you're a member. The prices here are basically our cost and obviously it wouldn't be much sense to sell at cost at the show. So help me out and pre-order. That way I can have it ready for you. Also we will have a freezer there so don't worry about rodents thawing while you're enjoying the show.