

# Random thoughts

**D**uPont, the chemical maker, has set aside 1,000 square miles of properties it owns worldwide as havens for wildlife, including 140 acres in the middle of Sayreville.

Now it's handing over 119 of those prime lands to the borough for addition to the public's open-space inventory. Let's hear the applause. DuPont established its Sayreville preserve in 1990. Since then, it has been maintained by a group of employee volunteers. The group turned the unused portion of the company's 350-acre property from a dumping ground for garbage big and small into a zone of safety for animal, plant and bird life. Unusual species such as the tiny Merlin falcon and the black vulture, a Southern bird, make their homes there. Public access to the private land was always limited. No more. The borough is expected to take possession in about two months.



While we're at it, how about another high-five for Danny Matarese, president of Danco General Contracting of Morganville, who is making a contribution of his own. Danco is demolishing the Red Robin restaurant in Sayreville. A red biplane hangs from the ceiling inside. Rather than auction off the plane to a private buyer, Matarese has opted to donate the plane to the Aviation Hall of Fame & Museum of New Jersey at Teterboro Airport — a winning gesture. The plane will be used in a children's exhibit at the museum, which hosts numerous events for underprivileged and terminally ill kids.