

Enjoy nature in any season

Nature's Way

**Evelyn
Anderson**



Are you weary of snow and ice? Does the word "escape" sound mighty good to you right now?

If so, I recommend that you escape to a mountain — one in the Alleghenies in Pennsylvania.

Yes, I know that you'd find plenty of snow and ice there as well as along the lakeshore here in Erie. But I'm referring to just one relatively small area of it, near Tyrone, where the Bontas live.

To get there and experience winter solitude, mountain spring, endless summer days and autumn peace, all you need is Marcia Bonta's book "Escape to the Mountain: A Family's Adventures in the Wilderness," which will take you on the "thrill of discovery" to "a new life" and an intimate look at nature.

If you are a Marcia Bonta fan, and countless folks are, you've probably already read her book by that title. It was published by A.S. Barnes and Co. in 1980. The one I'm referring to is the newly expanded edition published by **Axios Press**. It's a book worth rereading, plus it now has an epilogue you won't want to miss.

Those who met her when Presque Isle Audubon Society brought her here several years ago to talk about some of her

experiences will appreciate what she says when looking back over the 30 years that passed since she wrote that first edition.

Bonta is a prolific writer. Each month she has an article in "Pennsylvania Game News," and a recent issue of "Bird Watcher's Digest" has her exceptionally good article about cardinals.

She's had at least 10 books published. There are her Appalachian books: "Appalachian Spring," "Appalachian Summer," "Appalachian Autumn" and "Appalachian Winter," published by University of Pittsburgh Press. She also wrote "Women in the Field: America's Pioneering Women Naturalists," and "American Women Afield: Writings by Pioneering Women Naturalists," published by Texas A&M University Press.

There's a chapter in her book "Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania" about Presque Isle, a place she and her husband, Bruce, have visited several times. There's also her book "More Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania," which you may also want to read, as it could give you some excellent ideas of interesting places to visit this year.

Read anything by Bonta, and you will find that these long, cold winter days are passing all too quickly. That's because you'll be absorbing so many interesting things about nature — yes, even nature in winter — that you'll not want to miss a second of what's going on in the outside world.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jean Stull, Jerry McWilliams, Marcia Bonta and Bruce Bonta visit the banding station on Presque Isle State Park on Sept. 17, 1988.

