

Bradford County Conservation honors members

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent
ULSTER — "Human association with black bears increase their size and reproduction - tons of food are deliberately put out for the bears," stated Gary Alt, Wild Life Biologist of the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

"The result is that the average weight of the Pennsylvania Black bear is 400 pounds compared to 250-

300 pounds nationwide; and the average litter is 3 cubs compared to the usual one or two."

Gary Alt, whose specialty is black bear management, was the main speaker at the fourth annual Conservation Banquet held recently at the Ulster Fire Hall sponsored by the Bradford County Conservation District and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The crowd of over 150 people chuddled repeatedly at Alt's amusing narration of his slides showing how bears are trapped and equipped with radio collars. The bear radios enable the Game Commission to monitor the habits of the bear and to gain much useful data for their future management.

Lyle Harding, executive director of the Bradford County ASCS, served as master of ceremonies. He introduced Neal Halstead, chairman of the Bradford County Conservation District, who presented the Distinguished Service Award to Gary Strausser, general manager of the Canton Radio Station WKAB.

The Environmental Education Teacher of the Year Award was given to Ted Keir, a teacher of Earth Science at Athens High

School. Keir is an avid sportsman, in addition to being an authority on local Indian lore with a large collection of Indian artifacts.

Ralph Bouse of Asylum Township was presented a certificate on behalf of the ASCS for the completion of a management seminar for ASCS committeemen. The award was given by Louise Rinker of Forksville, chairperson of the Pennsylvania State ASCS committee.

Chester Harris of Milan, Conservation Officer for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, presented an award to Barry Bradley of Mosherville, for having a conservation farm plan and for doing outstanding work in developing wildlife habitat. According to Harris this is only the fifth such award given in the state of Pennsylvania.

Entertainment was provided by the vocal music of Mary Bruce and Doug Yale of Ulster. The meeting

was adjourned after the presentation of numerous door prizes donated by local merchants.



Neal Halstead, left presents the Environmental Education Teacher of the year Award to Ted Keir at the 4th annual Bradford County Conservation Banquet.



Gary Alt, Black Bear Specialist of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, laughs with Barry Bradley, winner of the Wildlife Conservation Award.

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VVND alert

(Continued from Page A1)

Lock poultry house doors. Prohibit all unauthorized entry unless visitors use proper sanitized clothing and boots.

Report unusual losses, egg production decreases or egg quality problems to the

nearest regional office of the State Agriculture Department or the County Extension Office.

Good security is the main barrier against the disease. Vaccination against Newcastle disease may reduce losses but may not fully prevent infection. Use of La Sota Newcastle vaccine does blunt the spread of the disease.

Laboratory tests are needed to differentiate VVND from domestic Newcastle disease.

Poultry infected with the Exotic Newcastle virus sometimes die before signs of the disease appear. Death can occur anytime after the first symptoms of depression.

Infected birds appear listless with heavy breathing and become progressively weaker. They commonly have watery, greenish diarrhea, which may be bloodstained. They have swelling of the head, especially around the eyes.

VVND is a highly contagious virus disease that can affect all species of birds.

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