

Fallow farm gets face-lifts as conservation park

GAITHERSBURG, Md. — Undaunted by the overcast and drizzling skies that hung over Gaithersburg on October 11, about 500 spectators and 100 volunteer workers turned out Saturday to launch the Izaak Walton League's new conservation park.

While bulldozers and graders roared in the background, an impressive collection of county, state and national officials praised the League's efforts and spoke of the importance of natural resource conservation.

Keynoting the morning program was Robert Herbst, assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Herbst set the tone for following speakers when

he congratulated the IWLA's Lois Green Chapter, on behalf of President Carter and himself, on "this gift of land that will be held for the youth and adults of this area and for what you are doing to improve it."

Following Herbst at the podium were Congressman Michael Barnes; Senator James Clark, president of the Maryland Senate; Charles Gilchrist, Montgomery County Executive; Royce Hanson, chairman of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission; John McLaughlin, president of the IWLA's Maryland State Division; Jack Lorenz, executive director of the national IWLA, David P. Doss, assistant state con-

servationist for the USDA's Soil Conservation Service and Gary Margheim, environmental coordinator for the SCS national office. Neal Potter, Montgomery County Council chairman, stopped by later in the day.

The highlight of the morning came when the chapter dedicated the new park to Malcolm E. King, King, described by associates as a "con man for conservation," was credited with organizing the field day and lining up over \$200,000 worth of materials, equipment and labor in contributions.

In fact, it was King who persuaded the late Lois Green to donate the 55 acres of farm and forestland to the IWLA's Sligo Chapter and an

adjacent 220 acres to the county's park and planning commission. Saturday's events in the transformation of the fallow land into a conservation park that will be open to civic groups and schools for conservation activities and nature study.

The focus of the field day was the completion of a soil, water and wildlife conservation plan. Designed by SCS in cooperation with the Montgomery Soil Conservation District, the purpose of the conservation measures was to improve the resources of the immediate area and improve water quality downstream.

While onlookers strolled the grounds, four bulldozers, provided by Worthy Brothers and F.E. Gregory

and Sons, began carving a 1-acre pond. Adult volunteers laid sod donated by Paul Pearson and helped Ernie Musser and Sons landscape the lawn around the chapter house.

Nearby a well drilling rig was demonstrated by Easterday Well Drillers and the Maryland and Delaware Drillers Association.

Over 7,000 wildlife shrubs and pine trees, provided by the Maryland Wildlife Administration, were planted by 53 members of the Metropolitan Police Boys' Club and other volunteers. A.B. Viers and Rockville Crushed Stone contributed

over 40 truckloads of gravel used on the new access road.

There were other activities as well, including conservation exhibits, solar panels, nature trails, and a gasohol still managed by Charles Savage and Senator Clark.

It was Clark who best summed up the spirit of the day.

Remarking to another worker, Clark said "After the kids left, I picked up one of the planting bars and started planting some of those trees. Before I knew it, there were a dozen other people doing the same thing. That shows how contagious conservation is."

Check water supply before winter

NEW HOLLAND — Some areas of Pennsylvania may have home water supplies inadequate to meet the demands of modern living, says N. Henry Wooding, extension agricultural engineer, Penn State.

The flow from springs and wells that was satisfactory several years ago may not be enough for a modern home with multiple bathrooms and automatic dishwashers and laundry equipment.

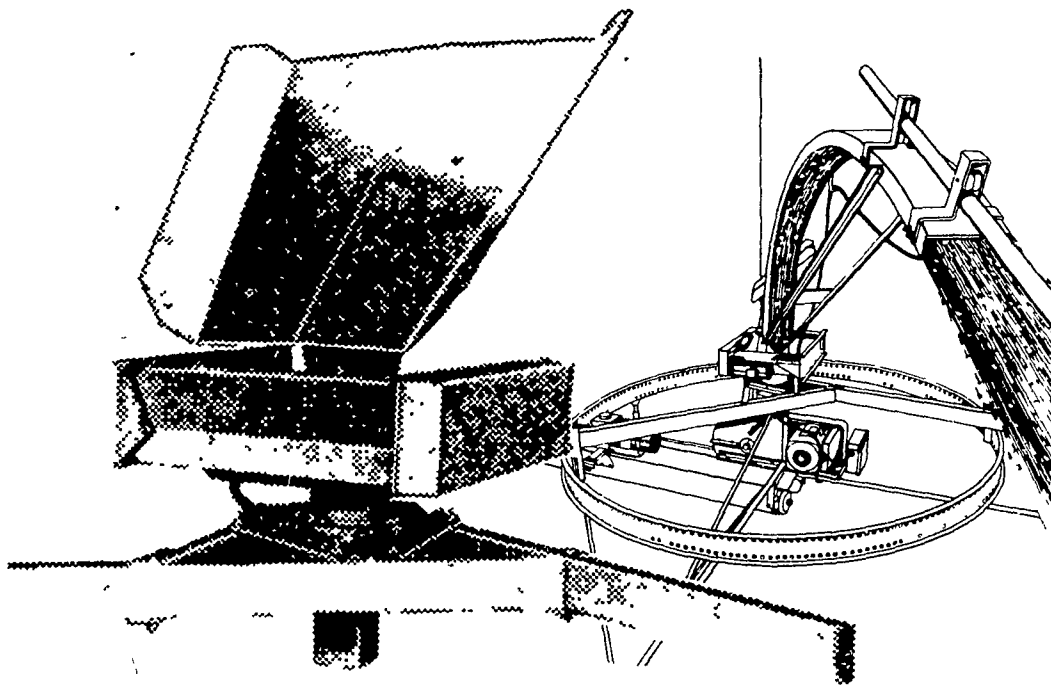
Homeowners and others who depend on springs for their water supplies should check their sources before winter begins. Inspect the spring site and locate the primary water flow. Remove silt, sand, and debris down to the rock or impervious layer. If

necessary, build a head wall or lay a drain tile to intercept seepage occurring in the wet area. Construct a good tight concrete or masonry box to provide the storage necessary to meet the peak demand.

Even though a steady flow may be only a few gallons per hour, if it is intercepted and stored, the flow during the 24-hour period may provide enough water to satisfy the daily requirement.

Anyone who contemplates developing a spring for a new source of water should realize that most springs are recharged with surface water percolating through shallow layers of soil and rock and in many instances the water will be polluted and not safe to drink.

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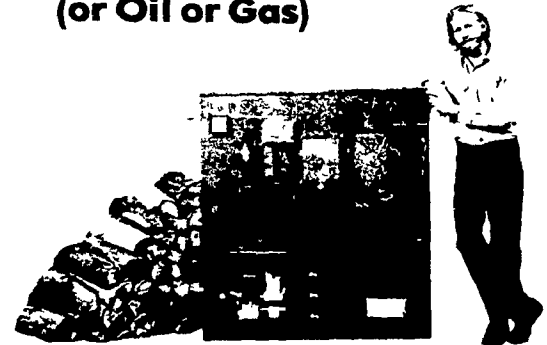
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