

Berks Conservation District talks water shortages

NEW SCHAEFFERSTOWN — Tulpehocken High School was the host of this year's Joint Annual Conservation Banquet of Berks County Conservation District and the Berks County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Guest speaker for the Friday evening meeting was George Wolff, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, Inc

Wolff stressed the importance of conserving water and remarked that it is one of our nation's most pressing problems

"We are in for very difficult times," he added grimly.

Explaining, Wolff said last year's DER chart for rainfall patterns and charts of the early 1960s almost match, prompting Wolff to

believe that we may have another three years of dry weather

The incredible distance that salt water moved up into the Delaware River last year is an indication



Speaker George Wolff, president of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, warned farmers about a potential water shortage crisis.

that we are using more now than in the 1960's, he also commented

Not only must we conserve water, we must also learn how to use less of it, the district director remarked.

Noting one area where more and more water is being lost, Wolff cited sewerage systems. More communities are going into sewer systems and getting away from septic tanks where water leaked back into the ground

Not it is going down the rivers to the ocean, the speaker explained

"We must save the sewerage effluent," Wolff remarked. Continuing he told the large audience present that he recommends its use to farmers. It is an extra half inch of water a week plus free nutrients. You'll be able to survive the dry periods, he added

Also addressing the audience were Mary Ann Rimby, chairman of the Berks County Conservation District, and Mark Balthaser, Chairman of the ASCS.

Rimby noted the increasing success of the annual seedling sale, noting that an order for this year has been placed for 175,000 seedlings.

Awards were presented to the following: David O Shurey-30 years service. ASCS Committeeman; Maurice K. Goddard, Regional Forestry Award-George

Hamm, Outstanding Conservation Educator-David P Nace of Brandywine School District; Outstanding Conservation Farmer-J Paul Miller; Outstanding Conservationist-Solon C. Phillips, Outstanding Conservation Organization-Izaak Walton League; Wildlife Conservation-Flying Hills Farm; Conservation

in Fisheries-Mohnton Fish and Game Protective Association.

The following were cited as Honorable Mention Conservationists: Earl Latshaw, District Township; Jackson G. Ney, Jefferson Township; Lynn E. Stoudt, Jefferson Township; and Frederic B. Thomson, Heidelberg Township.-LS



David Shirey, received a three years service award from Mark Balthaser, Chairman of the Berks County ASCS.

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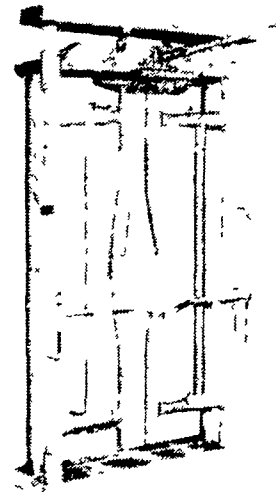
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