

Game Commission director is Wildlife Conservationist of Year

HARRISBURG — Glenn L. Bowers, executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission since 1965, has been honored by the National Wildlife Federation as its 1981 Wildlife Conservationist of the Year.

The 4-6-million member federation is the nation's largest citizens' conservation

organization, whose primary goal is the education of Americans about the need for wise use and proper management of our natural resources through programs, activities and services.

Bowers was selected for the organization's prestigious award, given annually to distinguished professionals who have made

outstanding contributions to the nation's wildlife resource, by unanimous vote of the federation's board of directors.

The board made the award to Bowers for his "successful and exemplary example as a wildlife agency administrator through... steadfast support of sound wildlife management, administration and fundamental integrity," which merited the federations' highest form of recognition.

Bowers received the award, a statuette of a whooping crane, an endangered bird, representing the conservationist cause, at the 46th annual meeting awards banquet of the National Wildlife Federation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Game Commission's executive director, a native of York, was appointed to head the state agency on Oct. 12, 1965. A career wildlife management professional, he joined the agency as a game biologist in 1948; was promoted to chief of the division of research in 1957; then was elevated to deputy executive director two years later.

Following World War II, Bowers earned a master's degree in wildlife management from The Pennsylvania State University.

From 1942 through 1945 he served with the Marine Corps, attaining the rank of captain. As a fighter pilot, he flew 86 combat missions in the South Pacific.

While serving in various capacities with the Game Commission, Bowers is credited with conducting pioneer research involving the cottontail rabbit, and with implementing one of the finest white-tail deer management programs in the nation.

He has maintained an ongoing land acquisition movement which has netted almost 1.25 million acres of state game lands for Pennsylvania sportsmen. He was the prime developer of a professional forestry staff within the division of land management.

Under his leadership, the highly successful SPORT program was conceived and initiated. SPORT, acronym for "Sportsmen Policing Our Ranks Together," has dramatically improved hunter ethics by involving laymen in the movement to enhance the image of the sport hunter. Numerous other state agencies have since adopted similar programs.

At the 38th Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference held in Virginia Beach last year, Bowers

was selected as recipient of the John Pearce Memorial Award, the top honor for wildlife professionals in 17 northeastern states and 5 Canadian provinces. That award was presented in recognition of his outstanding professional accomplishments in wildlife conservation in the region.

In 1980 the U.S. Forest Service presented Bowers with a special national award "in appreciation of his significant contribution to forestry and conservation and his high commitment to professional ideals and his courageous professional leadership."

An avid hunter of both large and small game, Bowers is equally at home in the field or in the office. He administers one of the largest wildlife management agencies in the country, with 700 fulltime employees and a \$32 million budget.

He holds memberships in numerous regional and national conservation organizations, including The Wildlife Society, The Isaak Walton League of America, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and was president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1978-79.

PPI cites maximum yield research

DENVER, CO. — "Past research built American agriculture into the envy of the world. But it's not enough to meet future challenges. Maximum yield research will be the direction to progress in the next five years and beyond," predicted R.E. Wagner, president of the Potash & Phosphate Institute. (PPI).

Addressing the 1982 Great Plains Soil Fertility Workshop in Denver, Col., he emphasized the need for more effort toward a strong basic research component.

During a recent trip to Brazil, Wagner observed the large areas of that country being developed for crop production. "Their strong emphasis on research and rapid adoption of new production practices could spell more competition for U.S. markets in the future," he pointed out.

While public funding for soil fertility research in the U.S. has declined, the Potash & Phosphate Institute has taken steps to encourage funding for maximum yield research. The Foundation for Agronomic Research (FAR) was created in 1980 to broaden the base of support. To date, FAR contributors, in addition to potash and phosphate companies, include nitrogen, sulfur, micronutrient, seed, and chemical companies. PPI also has a program of fellowship grants to encourage young agricultural scientists.

"The maximum yield research concept has gained wide acceptance in a relatively short time. This approach will lead to the maximum economic yields which farmers desperately need for survival under the critical challenges confronting them," Wagner explained. PPI and FAR now fund about 40 maximum yield research projects in the U.S. and other countries, including Canada, Peru and Ecuador. Even Mainland China is becoming interested.

There already is exciting progress in increasing output per unit of input. Florida scientists last year produced 402 bushels per acre of grain with double cropping. Oregon researchers produced 182 bushels per acre of wheat in 1981. Researchers in New York, Michigan and Georgia also topped 100 bushels per acre of wheat.

In 1980, New Jersey researchers produced 312 bushels per acre of corn. Their top yield in 1981 was 285 bushels per acre. "Good research can raise more questions than it answers. That's why the basic research component is so important," Wagner said.

"The real challenge in maximum yield research is to identify, characterize and emphasize the positive interactions. That's where the action is and where the progress will be," he concluded.

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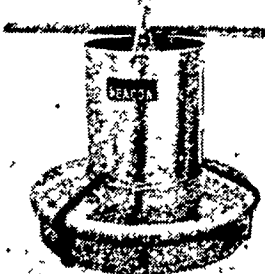
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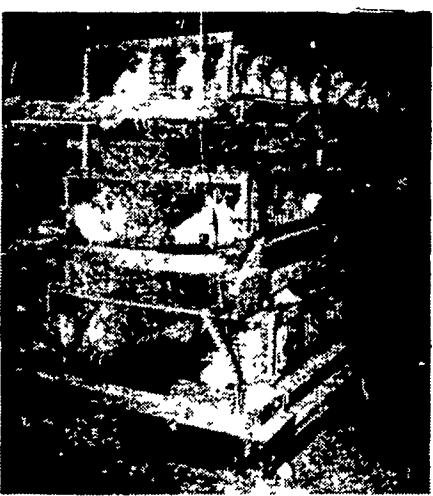
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