

Berks Extension Honors Master Gardeners

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Berks Co. Correspondent

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — Joe Kuhn never thought a trip to Japan would help him attain his master gardener credits. This Lincoln Park retiree did just that on a trip last spring to Osaka where he visited his daughter.

Kuhn, along with 15 others, was named master gardener recently during the 78th annual meeting of the Penn State cooperative extension of Berks County.

While all candidates for master gardenership have to perform some kind of community service, Kuhn's was unusual.

While visiting his daughter and his 5-year-old grandson, Kuhn inevitably visited the neighborhood park. There, he wrote in an article for the extension, the play areas are maintained by the local residents.

Kuhn immediately saw that the grass around the play equipment needed trimming, the grass growing out of the sandbox needed cutting, and the trash and broken glass needed to be picked up. So he and his daughter spent several days beautifying the place.

Some of the natives watched with a puzzled eye, Kuhn said, and not many spoke English.

"We got by by smiling and bowing," Kuhn said with a laugh. "It was fun."

Most master gardener candidates don't have to travel halfway around the world to do their service projects, said Judith L. Schwank, extension director, but volunteering is part of the course, wherever it takes them.

The other master gardeners are Betty Cannell, Jane Patterson, Norman Reifsnnyder, Iris Lonker, Phyllis Lambert, Helen Coco, Maria Wesner, Oliver Schmidt, Sandra Reitz, Al Consoli, Julianne Seiz, Robert Dier, Jr., Gladys H. McGrath, Jude Thompson, Judith L. Vehse.

Kenneth E. Brandt, executive vice president of the Pennsylvanians for the Responsible Use of Animals (PRUA), described how his nonprofit organization advocates treating animals humanely yet preserving the freedom to choose to use animals for food and clothing, biomedicine, recreation, and entertainment.

"This is the social issue of the '90s," he said, "and it will grow as we get into the next century."

Herb Gebely, manager of the Kutztown Produce Auction, spoke on the 3-year-old business that enables farmers to sell their pro-



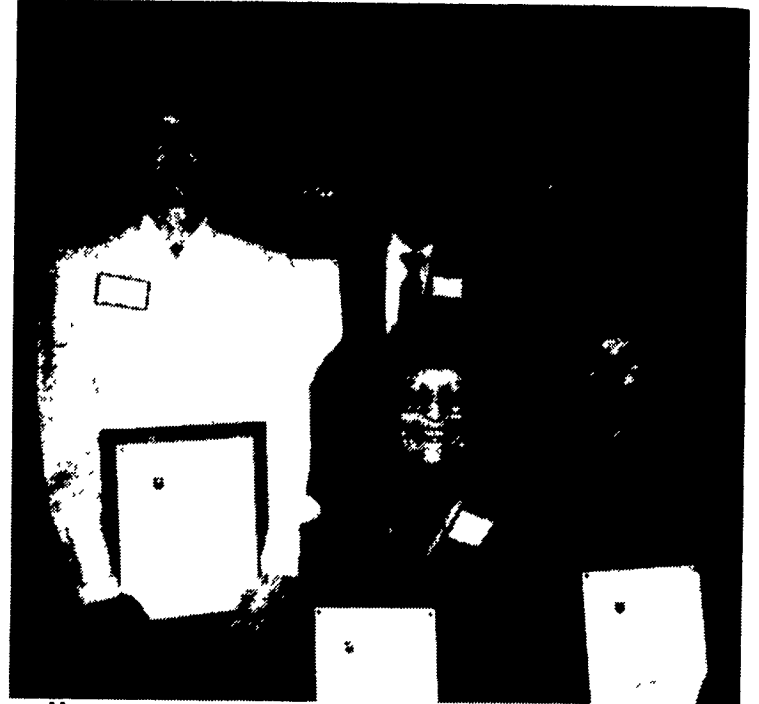
Kenneth Brandt of Pennsylvanians for the Responsible Use of Animals tells the audience at the Berks County Cooperative Extension annual meeting that his group is not a political action committee but an educational group of animal users.

ducts to make extra income. The auction is owned by 31 shareholders and serves more than 780 growers in Berks and nearby counties.

Also speaking were Sandy Gross, Berks County dairy princess and president of the Northern Berks 4-H Dairy Club, and Wendy Stoudt and Jane Treichler of the family living advisory committee.

Exhibits on managing household hazardous wastes, selecting Christmas trees, beef, and composting on the farm were included in the program. The Berks County 4-H Beef Club provided the hors d'oeuvres.

New extension board members elected are Carol Reed, Stella Richards, Melinda Tercha, Robert Tercha, and John Zerr.



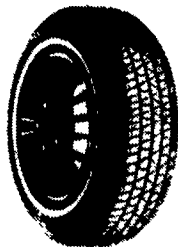
New master gardeners in Berks County are, from left, front row, Phyllis Lambert, Helen Coco, and Maria Wesner. Back row, from left, Jane Patterson, Norman Reifsnnyder, and Iris Lonker.



More master gardeners are, front row, from left, Sandra Reitz, Joe Kuhn and Julianne Seiz. Back, from left, Oliver Schmidt and Al Consoli.

★ WINTER TIRE SALE ★

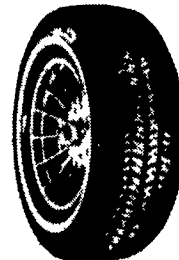
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P205/75R15	\$59.00
P215/75R15	\$61.00

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