

Third Graders

(Continued from Page B10)

The discussion on lady bugs, friends of the garden, got more interesting after Sara Zerbe exclaimed, "It got on me!"

"Little critters live in ponds," Buzz Frances, Caretaker of Water told his audiences. Buzz is the Erosion Control specialist for the county conservation district.

Water is a home for a variety of life. Utilizing a microscope, students observed organism that live in the water for at least part of their life.

Using a variety of "experiments," Frances demonstrated the answers to various questions of his own. How does water evaporate? Students watched water boil and steam rise.

How does condensation form?

It's like pouring a glass of ice water in the summer and touching the moisture that develops on the outside of the glass. What is pH? Ask a student after they volunteered to taste the vinegar, observed

the Alka-seltzer fizz or read the litmus paper. They would tell you it is a measure of the materials acidity. Organisms require a desirable pH to live. Pollution causes the acidity level of the water to change.

Dave Varone, recycling coordinator of Berks County and Caretaker of Resources, put students' knowledge of recycling to the test. "What's the difference between a #2 plastic bottle and a #2 solid container?" he asked. "It's in the shape," he responded.

Students were told to recycle bottle shaped containers and use others to store leftovers, in other words, recycle necks not no-necks.

"How can I tell if my can, which looks like tin is really tin and not aluminum?" asked the caretaker. "With a magnet," was the correct answer offered by several knowledgeable participants.

"Why shouldn't you put a plastic oil can in the recycling contain-

ers?" Varone asked. According to Daniel Levensgood, "Because it's advertising for a bad race car driver." "Good answer, but because the oil might spread to other containers is more correct," laughed Varone.

What can newspaper, even the shinnies be used for? Ceiling tiles, copy machine paper, newspaper and paper bedding can be manufactured from it. Students had the opportunity to place paper bedding into an animal pen.

Caretakers of Soil, Cory Dreibelbis and Jason Zerbe, high school juniors, used their expertise learned in the environmental agricultural courses. "What is soil made of?" they asked. Each student was directed to take a handful of soil and observe the various parts. They listed rocks, roots and worms as possible answers. Students then placed the soil in jars to which they added warm water. After shaking it, they watched as layers separated in the jar. Heavier particles of sand settled to the bottom, followed by silt and clay,

with organic matter resting or floating on top.

"Which will water flow through faster — sand, silt or clay?" Cory asked. He selected three students who poured an equal amount of water through a container of each. It passed through the sand first, since sand does not hold much moisture, then through the silt and finally the clay, which has a high water holding capacity.

Tammy Balthaser, Caretaker of the Community and Beef Council representative, tied it all together. She had students list what they were caretakers of. Ashely Deck listed her home, brother, and watching him while Nathan Manbeck wrote farm, cows and feed.

As caretakers, students were reminded that they also had needs for survival. Students shared some of their needs: water, air, food, love, friends and communications. Utilizing their needs, Tammy tied their written comments together using a web effect.

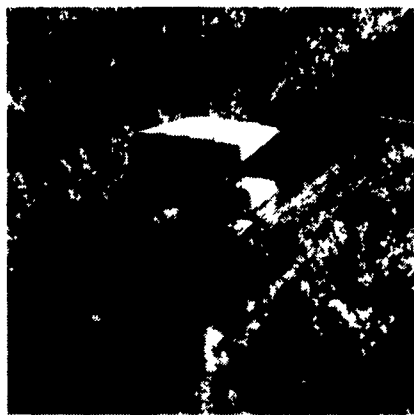
"When do we eat?" was a favor-

ite question of the third graders and adults after the smell of the grill food filtered through the air. A break mid-day from the educational sessions provided students with the opportunity to see a milking demonstration, tour the farm and play games. The lunch provided a cheeseburger grilled by Charles Snyder, superintendent; Linda Misterkiewicz, high school principal; and Dale Light, assistant to building and maintenance. Organized by Raeanne Grumbine, cafeteria manager, the lunch provided students with a picnic setting.

Serving as group leaders were high school students: Laura Phillips, Heather Nichols, Brandy Huey, Michael Gross, Kim Eckenrod and Amy Phillips, Ethan Beard and Carol Knepp served as program assistants for the day.

The school day event was sponsored by Penn-Bernville and Bethel PTO, Tulpehocken Adult/Young Farmer Organization, PA Beef Council, and the Tulpehocken FFA and Agriculture Education Department reported instructor Christine Williams.

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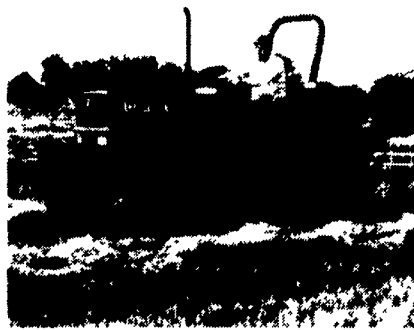
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