

**Penn Yan FFA Members Attend FFA Camp**  
**MARCY QUACKENBUSH**  
 Penn Yan FFA Reporter

you had to get the entire group up and over it.

Every day you could choose from many activities, including waterskiing, canoeing, sailing, sports, mountain biking, horseback riding, swimming, archery, hiking, arts and crafts, and high rope's course, and the brand new climbing and rappelling tower.

The high rope's course is also made up of obstacles, also 40 feet in the air. The campers were strapped in a harness and sent to their first obstacle, climbing a tree. From there you went to the "multi vine," the "Burma Bridge," the "catwalk," and the "zip line." The tower is a 40-foot high obstacle that campers must climb up using molds to grab on to. When they reach the top of the tower, they must rappel down it. The tower was built this year in memory of John S. Gold, a former member of the New York State FFA.

During the afternoons, campers could participate in leadership contests. Natalie Jensen (Penn Yan FFA treasurer) competed in the creed speaking contest, in which she tied for first place, and the extemporaneous speaking contest, in which she also received first place. Dawn Smart competed in the creed speaking contest and tied for first place.

Five Penn Yan FFA members attended the 50th year of camping at Camp Oswegatchie, the New York State FFA Leadership Training Camp, July 21-26.

The members included Billy Hand, Natalie Jensen (2nd year), John Kriese (Penn Yan FFA adviser), Marcy Quackenbush (New York State FFA officer), and Dawn Smart.

Leadership training was just one of many opportunities each camper had. Every day each camper attended leadership training classes. During these classes the state officers (District 3 President Bob Chapin, District 5 President Ashlee Smith, and District 8 President Marcy Quackenbush) and Leadership Training Coordinator Mandi Millen taught the campers how to improve communication, cooperation, and teamwork skills.

These skills are taught using the low ropes course which are full of obstacles each group had to conquer. Some courses included the "maze" where you and your group had to go through a maze blindfolded with only a rope to guide you through. The "wall" consisted of a 20-foot wooden wall, where

Every night there were night activities like the rodeo, woodsman's night, skit night, and the banquet/dance night. Natalie Jensen was elected as the student adviser of the camp banquet where she also received an Outstanding Leadership Award. Also at the banquet, Dawn Smart received the Believing in Yourself Award and Billy Hand received the Most Likely to Show Up in the Hospital Award.

The Penn Yan Chapter of FFA would like to thank Gloria Carroll and Mr. and Mrs. John Kriese for letting us celebrate 50 years of fun-filled activities at Camp Oswegatchie!

**Maryland FFA Safe Tractor Operator Contest**  
 Kris Manahan of the Frederick FFA Chapter won the first place banner in the Safe Tractor Operator Contest held Aug. 29 during the Maryland State Fair in Timonium.

The contest was sponsored Eastern Equipment Dealers Association as a special project of the Maryland FFA Foundation. The second place individual for the Safe Tractor Operators Contest was Jason Watt of the FSK FFA Chapter.

According to contest superintendent, Dr. Lee Grant of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Maryland at College Park, there were seven regional representatives registered. The contest consisted of three components — a written examination, safe tractor operation, and a problem solving activity. Each student drove a tractor through two courses, one with a two-wheel implement and one with four wheel implement towed behind.

The students were evaluated during the driving section on safety, time, and their accuracy while driving the course. In the problem solving, each student was given a tractor that would not start and had to find the problem and correct it. The top scoring individuals receiving gold medals were:

1. Kris Manhan, Frederick; 2. Jason Watt, FSK; 3. Jeremy Troxell, Frederick.

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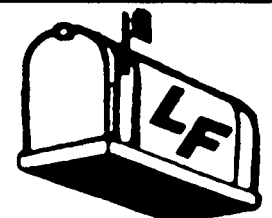
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