

# Kids Korner

## Turtles, Other Water Creatures Under Care Of Twin Valley Aquaculture Students

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff  
ELVERSON (Chester Co.) —

Legend has it that Stumpy the painted turtle put up a gallant fight — too bad, however, because he lost his right arm along the way.

Long ago, in a pond not so far away, Twin Valley High School students rescued Stumpy, now going on 14 (old for a turtle), from the fight with a snapping turtle.

The right-armless but dashing turtle has taken it well over the years — once the students can finally scrub the algae off his protective shell to find his *true* age.

Stumpy, like many one-time

denizens of the somewhat shallow waters of the nearby Twin Valley Pond, as students call it, has a new life in a tank, along with other turtles that are cared for at the high school, which towers up in the hill of the valley.

Stumpy the turtle tries to keep up with other inhabitants, including a red-eared slider, snapping, and map turtles in the tank.

Stumpy the painted turtle has yellow, naturally colored stripes along his appendages. But according to Amy Kline, a 10th grader at Twin Valley, other painted turtles can exhibit red or orange colorings.



In the 1,500-gallon pool, before it was drained to make way for renovations, about 80 tilapia made their home, along with 30-50 catfish (sold to Shady Maple Supermarket in Blue Ball). The tilapia still remaining in the raceway measure about 6-8 inches long and were placed there last fall. Students holding up fish from left, Amy Barnett, 11th grade, catfish; Lee Millisock, 12th, tilapia; and Jeff McCoy, 12th grade, white catfish.

How old is Stumpy? Amy said you can tell by the rings on the shell. Each "ring" or block denotes a year in the life of the turtle. On Tuesday this week, with help from fellow aquaculture student Angela Brent, 10th grader, both used a scrub brush to take off some algae tank buildup from its outer shell. They counted the blocks — 14 to be exact — on the shell.

Students in the aquaculture and ag sciences programs at the high school use the Twin Valley Pond, near the elementary school, to capture species for use in the tanks at the facility. They have acquired tree frogs, tadpoles, newts, and salamanders, according to Angela. The pond is a Class I pond, with no

(Turn to Page B11)



Jeff McCoy, 12th grader, helped to load up a pickup truck filled with an ice drum with about 30-50 catfish, being transported to market. Here he checks out the tilapia in the raceways.



Jacqi Hartung, 11th grader at Twin Valley, maintains a tank of the fast, aggressive Cichlids at the school.



Students in the aquaculture and ag sciences programs at the high school use the Twin Valley Pond, near the elementary school, to capture species for use in the tanks at the facility. They have acquired tree frogs, tadpoles, newts, and salamanders, according to Angela. The pond is a Class I pond, with no fish living in it because of its lack of oxygen. From left, Angela Brent, Beth Zerr, and Amy Kline inspect the pond.



Amy Kline, left, and Angela Brent, hold up the painted turtles kept in the tank at Twin Valley.