

Student Uses Artistic Talent To Raise Funds For FFA

LOU ANN GOOD

**Lancaster Farming Staff
TERRE HILL (Lancaster Co.)**

— Sights are set on a pair of mallards to help bring in the money — \$25,000, to be exact.

How well those mallards set the stage will be evident on Monday, July 20. That's the date for the annual Fore FFA Golf Tournament, which will be held at both Foxchase Golf Course and Hawk Valley Golf Club this year to accommodate golfers.

After a day of golfing for FFA's benefit, an awards dinner and auction will be held in the hopes of raising funds for the state FFA Foundation.

The item expected to generate the most interest showcases the talents of Grassland Chapter FFA member Greg Yoder.

His original painting of "Weedy Retreat Mallards" will go to the highest bidder.

For those who can't outbid the bidder, time-limited edition prints, remarque, and artists' proof of the original painting will be sold.

A time-limited edition means that the edition size will be determined by the number of prints ordered by Sept. 1. Each print is numbered with the assigned number being in the order of the purchase. The lower numbers are worth more as collectors' prints.

Artist proofs or APs are the first 20 prints that come off the press and are numbered in a series.

A remarque is a special AP where the artist, in this case Greg, will do a colored pencil sketch on the margin of the print, thus making it one of a kind and adding additional value to the piece.

Each FFA chapter donates an

article for the auction. Some of the other items to go over the auction block include a picnic table, Winross and Ertl trucks, water garden plants, handmade and hand painted bird houses, sporting goods, a wooden bread box, a pump and trough planter, a child's patio set, child's wicker love seat and table set, a handmade cedar chest, sports tickets, golf apparel, Joe Paterno autographed football, plants, FFA collectibles (tractors, trucks, and corks) art prints, and other items.

Orders are being taken now for a signed numbered print of Yoder's "Weedy Retreat Mallards," which costs \$70. An artist's proof is \$100, and a remarque is \$140. Print features include museum quality paper and matting. Prints can be purchased through mailorder by sending the appropriate amount plus \$7.50 for shipping and handling and 6 percent sales tax for Pennsylvania residents. Double-matted and framed editions cost an additional \$70.

Half of the proceeds for the prints will go toward the State FFA Foundation and the other half will help Greg pay his way through art college.

Greg is the son of Glen and Kirsten Yoder. Growing up, Greg, at an early age, became fascinated with the wildlife living on the acreage surrounding the family's home on the outskirts of Terre Hill. It seemed natural to him to sketch the wildlife that lived in the woodland on their property.

Although Greg always enjoyed artwork, it wasn't until he was in seventh grade that he knew he wanted to make art his career. He began using both a sketchbook and



In addition to being an accomplished artist, Greg Yoder has received awards for his work in preserving and improving wetland habitat. His FFA advisor Bob Lauffer said that FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premiere leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education. Lauffer recognized Greg's potential and encouraged him to combine his interest in wildlife and art.

a camera to capture wildlife and waterfowl in their natural habitat. He also started working on improving the wetland habitat around their home.

Twice, in 1995 and in 1997, Greg entered the Pennsylvania Junior Duck Stamp Competition, and his artwork was selected best of show among all age groups in the state.

"Greg excels in academics and could do well in any field he selected," said Bob Lauffer, ag sci-

ence instructor at Garden Spot High School. "Greg is not only talented, but he is really hardworking, budgets his time well, and is good at encouraging younger FFA members."

Like many students, Greg did not join FFA in his freshman year because he didn't realize that he could combine those classes with college preparatory studies.

Lauffer became aware of Greg's work in creating a natural habitat for wildlife and convinced him to combine his wildlife interest with ag science studies.

Greg joined Garden Spot High School's Grassland Chapter FFA. He has excelled in many competitions. He won the State FFA Aquatic Resources Career Development Event in 1996 and placed second in the state in the FFA Wildlife CDE in 1997. For the past three years, Greg has helped his team win first place in the Lancaster County Envirothon. He was also named

the state winner in both environmental science and wildlife competitions.

Greg was the statewide winner of the Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Project Record Book Contest for his work in improving the wetlands near his home.

In June, Greg was named the Lancaster County FFA Star in specialty agriculture and he received the Keystone FFA Degree.

Before he heads off to Rochester Institute of Technology in the fall, Greg will be the featured artist in residence at the State College Arts Festival, July 9-12.

Greg plans to focus his art training on becoming a book illustrator.

For more information about the golf tournament, the auction, or the prints, contact the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, P.O. Box 10493 Calder Square, State College, PA 16805. Phone (814) 353-9230.



"Weedy Retreat Mallards," an original painting by FFA member Greg Yoder will go to the highest bidder at the auction held following the annual Fore FFA Golf Tournament. Limited edition prints of the painting are also available through special orders. One half of the proceeds from the sale of the limited edition print will support the activities of the State FFA. An investment in this FFA project is an investment in the future of our most valuable resource — youth.



Pennsylvania Game Commission honored these Garden Spot students with plaques and checks for winning the top spots in the state for the Wildlife Conservation Project Record Book Contest. From left front are Greg Yoder, top winner, and Junior Zelsert. In back are Kendal Yoder, Eric Zimmerman, and Jeremy Weber.

DOMESTEAD NOTES

