

(Continued from Page A30) operations.

When the county realized its loss of the heavy industry that supplied taxes and high-paying jobs, the new leadership sought to court residential development.

With the heavy industry curtailed, aquatic life reflecting clean water health began to reappear in the limestone spring-originating Quittapahilla Creek.

Along with the contributions from several fairly healthy tributaries, the Quittapahilla Creek recovered in recent years to the point where, in the mid-1980s, it began to once again receive trout stocking by the state Fish Commission, on a put-and-take basis.

In the meantime, the tributaries upon which the lower Quittapahilla depends for decent water quality have been suffering from residential development and parking lot stormwater runoff, and drying of aquifers.

The Quittie Creek Nature Park has continued to be improved through the efforts of many, helped along through the organizational and time-dedication of the Laskys and others.

This past year, several hundred feet of the stream within the park has received streambank protection devices, designed so as to prevent storm water erosion of the clay soils.

The park has benefitted from donations of materials, equipment, time and labor from local companies and businesses, other organizations and individuals.

In addition, the stretch of the Quittapahilla that runs through the park is designated a delayed-

harvest stream under the state Fish Commission program. As such, it has been promoted in angling publications, and many people from different and distant parts of the state and other states have visited to fish.

In addition to the Quittie Park work, Ann is also on the board of directors of the Swatara Creek Watershed Association, and has participated in the cleanups along the Swatara. She also participates in a citizen water quality monitoring project with the Department of Environmental Protection.

Dave is a founding member of the Quittie Park Committee, a member of the Swatara Creek Watershed Association.

He organized the initial meetings that led to the creation of the Quittapahilla Watershed Association, on which he serves as chairman.

The purpose of the association is to maintain and improve ecological qualities of the Quittapahilla Watershed. He has involved landowners, volunteers, businesses, civic groups and educational organizations in planning and implementing projects along the Quittapahilla.

**Educator**

Kathy Sattazahn, a fifth grade teacher at Union Canal Elementary School was awarded the district's educator of the year award.

She has developed a comprehensive approach to environmental education in her classroom, including the establishment of a nature trail on school property that includes the planting of trees and shrubs purchased through fundraising projects by the children, as

well as those donated by Sattazahn, whose husband operates a nursery.

She said that the work has been fulfilling and enriching for her, as well as the children. According to the teacher, anytime natural resources and wildlife are incorporated with the classroom, there is no problem with keeping the interest of children.

**Landowner Of Year**

Dr. Timothy Trayer and family were recognized as the recipient of the district's landowner of the year award for the work on the family's 183-acre farm, where Timothy has taken over a tree-plantation and conservation effort begun by his father, Raymond.

A regionally known veterinarian, the Trayers — Timothy, wife Debra and children Troy and Amy — all help on the farm and helped with woodlot management, and planting and maintaining a plantation of Paulownia trees, as well as a hardwood stand managed for sawtimber and pulpwood.

The have been cooperators with the county Conservation District since 1994.

Since then, they have implemented a conservation plan which included 2,500 feet of sod waterway; two water control structures; 1,350 feet of underground outlet; 1,890 feet of tile; and 200 feet of water diversion.

They are one of a very few cooperators who practice woodlot management, according to Wertz.

They were the recipients of the 1998 Goddard Forestry Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts for their efforts on the farm.

The South Londonderry Township farm was purchased by Ray-

mond in 1962 and the same year a conservation plan was written.

The Paulownia plantation was planted in 1994 and coppiced (cut to the ground) in 1996. The subsequent fast growth reaches 15 to 20 feet the first year.

The reason for the two-year growth and then cutting back develops the root system.

Best management practices are followed in the harvesting of the trees, and throughout the farm.

**Special Recognitions**

Two special recognition awards for conservation were made by Jackie Parker, mayor of Lebanon, on behalf of the Conservation District.

Parker presented them to Edward Keener, engineer for the City of Lebanon, and Charles Bowman of Bowman's Stump Removal and Tree Service.

Keener has been in charge of City of Lebanon water and wastewater facilities for years.

Lebanon has had the reputation for being the county's largest owner of municipal watershed lands, with properties extending into Lancaster County to the south, and Schuylkill County to the north. It also draws water supplies from the Swatara Creek.

During the 1970s, Lebanon's watershed property that reached into Lancaster County was sold to the state Game Commission with the city retaining water rights.

More recently, the Schuylkill County watershed reservoir, locally known as High Bridge (for an old railroad bridge that spanned a narrow gap in the mountains), was enlarged to increase capacity. It adjoins state Game Lands as well, and provides some natural recrea-

tional opportunities.

His office has also encouraged urban forestry initiatives.

Along with the city, Bowman has been a dependable and consistent volunteer of service to the city's urban forestry program.

For much of the last decade, he has been committed to volunteering his time and resources to aid the Conservation District.

According to Wertz, Bowman has become almost an essential element to the District's Arbor Day program, and has benefited the program in other ways.

"He sets a great example for the many volunteers including countless students, as they work to sustain Lebanon's greenery for generations to come," Parker said.

Mayor Parker also turned the tables on Wertz and Beamesderfer, presenting them with special appreciation recognition from the City of Lebanon for their dedication and long-time efforts in establishing and promoting the wise use of natural resources and enhancement of the local environment for all.

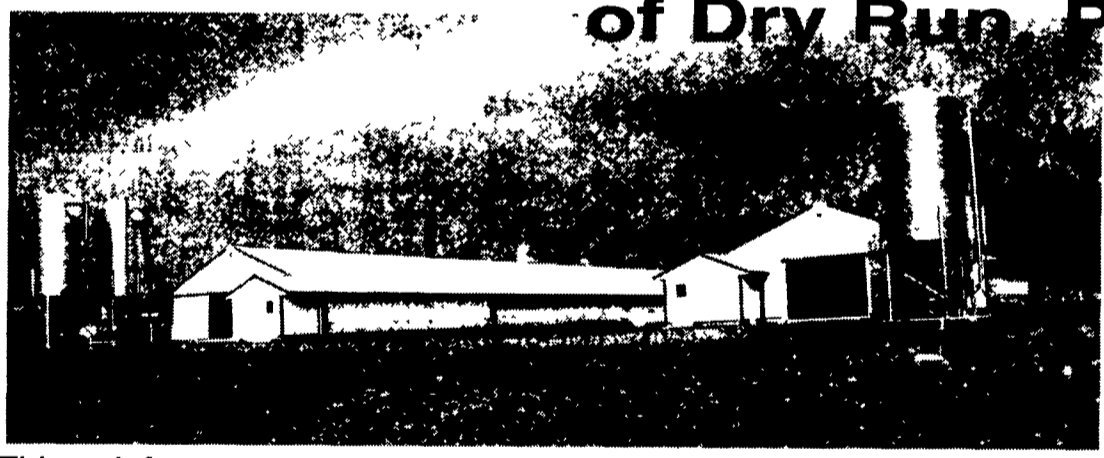
**Recognitions**

A number of other individuals and businesses were recognized for efforts to the District and programs, such as the Envirothon.

Included were Blouch's Mobil, Tammy Granger, Genevieve Mehler, Karen and Richard Light, James Logan Jr., Dian and Emmett Beamesderfer, Joan Keener, Sue Miller, Jeanne and Jerry Boltz, Jineen Boyle, Bob Arnold, Diane Allwein, Hershey Foods, and the boards of the Conservation District and Agricultural Land Preservation were all recognized for their volunteer services with programs.

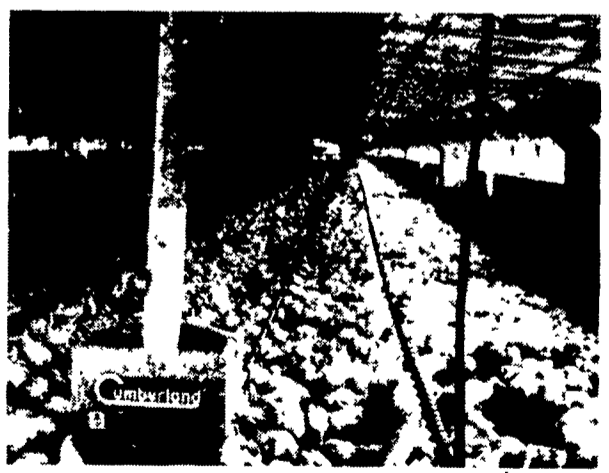
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