

# Warren 4-H Leader Receives National Award For Natural Resource Work

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — David F. Miller, consulting forester and 4-H volunteer leader from Warren, received this year's National 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries Adult Volunteer Leader Award at the 64th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Burlingame, Calif.

"Dave is a perfect example of a stellar youth leader," said Adam Downing, Penn State Cooperative Extension 4-H and forestry agent in Warren County. "It's rare to find someone with not only the desire to help local youth, but also the commitment to stick to it and make a difference."

Sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries Adult Volunteer Leader Award honors six outstanding 4-H leaders each year. Other sponsors include the Wildlife Management Institute, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Boone and Crockett Club and the National Rifle Association.

Winners are selected based on their experiences, accomplishments and future plans as 4-H wildlife and fisheries leaders, as well as their 4-H leadership in other areas and other natural resource involvements. Each winner receives an engraved plaque and an original watercolor painting by a nationally known wildlife artist.

Miller led the "Woodwanderers," a 4-H wildlife club in Warren, for 10 years. The club met monthly and completed many field trips and educational tours. "Some of our most enjoyable trips have been the evening barred owl surveys, taxidermy demonstrations, wetland

tours, sawmill and paper mill tours, night raccoon hunts and all-day shooting sports and archery field days," Miller said. "Just for fun, we've also built campfires, roller-skated and gone sledding."

The "woodwanderers" also got involved in community service projects, such as participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program, preparing Christmas breakfast boxes for elderly shut-ins and battered women, planting wildlife food plots on national forest lands,

and building wildlife brushpiles on state gamelands and county conservation lands.

"Volunteering has been enormously rewarding," Miller said. "Seeing the interest in the outdoors that these kids have and helping them develop their skills and knowledge gives me the incentive to continue."

Miller credits the kids' parents and the Penn State Cooperative Extension staff, as well as the following public agencies and private

businesses that donated time, facilities and materials: the U.S. Forest Service, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania Game Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corp of Engineers and the Warren County Conservation District.

"Local sawmills and stores also have donated lumber and hardware so we could build bird feeders and bluebird houses to enhance bluebird habitats," Miller said. "It's very uplifting to know that so

many individuals are willing to help when it comes to our kids."

Miller hopes to impress on young people the importance of conserving our renewable natural resources, and to make them aware of the value and enjoyment of wood products, hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, water quality and habitat protection. "Kids need to be informed so they'll make good decisions about natural resources when they're adults," he said.

# Barber Receives New York Farm Bureau's Top Honor

ALBANY, N.Y. — J. Roger Barber of Barber Farms in Schoharie County, received New York Farm Bureau's distinguished service to agriculture award for 1999 during ceremonies at the organization's state annual meeting. The award is presented each year to an individual whose career reflects high concern for the agricultural industry and whose achievements have contributed to the betterment of farms and farm life.

"On behalf of the more than 30,000 New York Farm Bureau members, I am extremely pleased to be able to present this award to Roger," said John Lincoln, president. "I have known and worked very closely with him on many projects and issues over the years and he is truly deserving of this recognition."

Barber is widely known as the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets during the term of Governor Hugh Carey. However, Roger has been a champion of agriculture all his life. He was the very first New York Farm Bureau membership chair and served as

the president of the Schoharie County Farm Bureau. In 1968, he was elected to the New York Farm Bureau state board of directors and chosen vice president in 1973, a position he held through December 1975.

He was raised on the family farm near Middleburgh in Schoharie County, the same farm that was purchased by his family in 1857. This year's honoree has been involved in a multitude of agricultural organizations including: the Holstein Association, New York State Agricultural Society, LEAD-NY, The Cobleskill College Foundation, The National Commission for Small Farms, the State Committee of the Farm Service Agency, the Farm Credit System, the Governor's Task Force for Agriculture with Ag Commissioner John Dyson in 1974 and many others.

During the time he served as NYFB vice president, he worked with other Farm Bureau leaders to establish the Milk Producers Security Fund. He has also been very involved in local politics. In 1961, his constituents chose him as the

Supervisor of the town of Fulton, serving a total of six years on the county board of supervisors and two terms on the local school board.

Awards are many for Roger, including the State University's New York Distinguished Citizen Award in 1990 and most recently the New York State Agriculture

Society's Distinguished Service Citation in 1998.

"His strong leadership and sincere interest in the health and vitality of the Agriculture Community in New York State through the years make him the perfect choice for this prestigious award," added Lincoln.

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