PASA's New Executive Director Introduced At 10th Annual Conference

GAIL STROCK Mifflin Co. Correspondent STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — More than 1,100 people attended the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture's (PASA's) 10th annual Farming for the Future Conference Feb. 9-10 here at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.

This year's conference featured the theme "Food is Our

ness as Usual;" an opening keynote address by Jim Hightower, an author, lecturer, radio commentator, "political sparkplug," and former Texas commissioner of agriculture; concurrent educational sessions on farming, business, sustainable meat marketing, biotech issues, season extension, organic grain, organic fruit production, composting, and much more; the annual

Commonwealth; Beyond Busi- PASA membership and committee meetings; the awards banquet; the sustainable agriculture trade show and marketplace; and closing keynote address by Winona LaDuke, director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project.

> The organization's new executive director, Brian Snyder, was introduced at the conference opening. Snyder has a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School and a master's in business administration from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He comes from the Gould Farm. a sustainable farm and mental health facility in Monterey, Mass. He replaces Tim Bowser, who resigned to take a position with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation "Fires of Hope" program that's designed to promote sustainable food systems across the U.S.

"I had for 10 years the best job in the world - and you paid me for this!" Tim said after accepting recognition at the awards banquet.

Steve and Sherry Groff of Cedar Meadow Farm in Lancaster County received the 2001 Outstanding Sustainable Leadership Award. The Groff family runs a 175-acre vegetable farm in southern Lancaster County and helps conduct PASA field days at their farm. Board member Lee Bentz also presented Groff with an award for his service as a board member.

Preston Boop of Union County also received recognition for his service on the board. Interim Director Lamonte Garber also presented Boop with a framed photograph for his years of service. Lee Bentz was recognized for his years of service and for serving as vice president of the organiza-

The newly elected board members include George DeVault of Pheasant Hill Farm in Lehigh County, Chris Fullerton of the Tuscarora Organic Growers Co-



PASA board member Lee Bentz presents a service award to Steve Groff for his years of service on the PASA board.



Preston Boop, right, accepts special recognition for his years of service to PASA. Lee Bentz presented the

operative in Fulton County, Lyn and agriculture. The organiza-Garling of the Pennsylvania IPM Program, Steve Moore of Sonnewald Farm in York County, and Kim Miller of Wolf Lake Farm in Westmoreland County.

PASA is a nonprofit organization whose members work to improve the economic and social prosperity of Pennsylvania food

tion offers statewide networks that link farmers, consumers, and markets.

PASA's inclusive approach to agriculture attracts as members (800 total) dairy producers, educators, bakers, cheesemakers, shopkeepers, herb growers, and many more.



PASA board member Lee Bentz, right, was recognized for serving as vice president and board member of the organization. Lamonte Garber, interim director, presented the award.



PASA's 2001 Outstanding Sustainable Leadership Award went to Steve Groff, right, of Lancaster County.



Tim Bowser, outgoing PASA executive director.



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