

Conservation Champions Honored At Banquet

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster County Conservation District served its 51st annual banquet at Yoder's Restaurant here March 14.

The evening was highlighted by an awards ceremony recognizing a number of people who have made soil and water conservation a priority in their life and work. They include youth, educators, developers, an engineer, and a farm family.

H. Andrew Jackson and his family received the 2002 Soil Stewardship Award for a lifetime of dedication to conservation-based farming practices on their 130-plus acre farm near Peach Bottom.

Jackson was born on the fourth-generation farm and grew up helping with the 30-cow dairy

operation. His father first had the farm laid out in contour strips in the 1930s, and it has been farmed that way since.

Along with wife Eva and their three children, Jackson purchased the farm in the 1960s. Crop production and soil conservation are the main focuses on the farm today.

Conservation technician Eric Samus spoke about the high priority put on tradition and land stewardship on the Jackson homestead.

A conservation-based rotation of hay, corn, and wheat, along with cover-cropping and maintaining contour strips, add up to a "shining example of traditional and simple forms of soil conservation," he said.

Jackson's son, Andrew, and grandsons Troy and Randy, have also taken conservation practices

well beyond the home farm, installing conservation terraces and waterways on many southern Lancaster County farms as part of their excavating business.

Other groups recognized for outstanding attention to conservation practices in Lancaster County included those who partnered on the Rt. 30 construction project west of Lancaster. These included the Dick Corporation, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and Michael Baker, Inc.

The developers of Stony Battery Corporate Center also received a Conservation of Natural Resources Award.

Regency V Partners, working together with ELA Group consultants and West Hempfield Township officials, designed a comprehensive stormwater management system that resolved flooding problems on the Stony Battery site.

Derek Daly, Bill Lewis, and Jason Wagner were recognized for their work as counselors and positive role models at the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School.

Fred Habegger and Barry Runk of Grant Heilman Photography, Inc., were also recognized for their service to the school.

Habegger's photographs, developed by Runk, have documented the hundreds of students who have benefited from conservation school activities over the years.

Jason Wagner and Stephanie Feister each received the \$1,000 Ann Brown Memorial Scholarship for beginning their college career this year in a curriculum that focuses on natural resources and/or conservation. Feister plans to major in agricultural sciences and education at

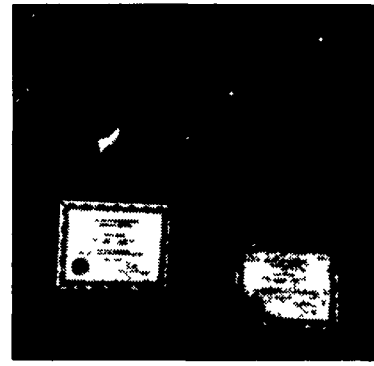
Penn State, and Wagner in biology and ecology at Millersville University.

Carey Kalupson, ag teacher at Solanco High School, received the Environmental Educator Award for offering his students opportunities to learn conservation practices firsthand. Kalupson has initiated various projects for students, including stream stabilization and stream bank fencing.

The Conservation Service Award went to Eric Ashley, a former district engineer.

Ashley began as a technician with the Lancaster County

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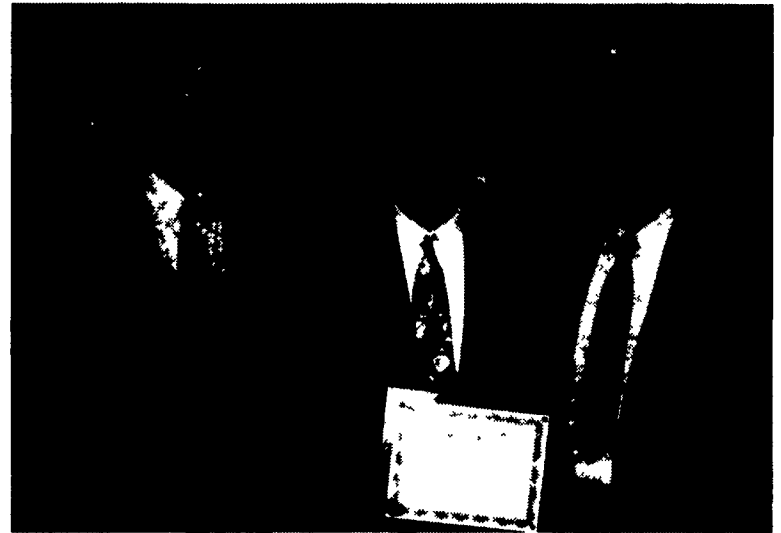
Barry Runk, left, and Fred Habegger have handled Youth Conservation School photography for many years.



Solanco High School ag teacher Carey Kalupson, right, receives the Environmental Educator Award from Bob Lauffer.



Recognized for their work as volunteer counselors at the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School, from left, Jason Wagner, Derek Daly, and William Lewis. Photos by Dave Lefever



Conservation Service Award recipient Eric Ashley, center, with Wayne Carvell, left, and Donald Robinson, Lancaster Conservation District administrator.

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