

Carbon County Presents Ag Awards

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Carbon Co. Correspondent
LEHIGHTON (Carbon Co.) — Fellowship, a good meal and presentation of awards were part of the recent annual awards banquet co-sponsored by the Carbon County Conservation District, Carbon/Monroe Farm Service Agency, Carbon/Monroe Natural

meal after which the co-sponsoring groups presented their annual awards.

Clauser presented the awards on behalf of the Carbon Conservation District. The Farmer of the Year award was presented to Paul and Linda Stoss. The Farmer of the Year award is presented to a farmer or organization who

ry Run State Park, explained the history of the dirt and gravel road program in Pennsylvania. Colbert said this government program came from the bottom up with citizen interest in stream protection with a goal of having the natural ecosystem take over as if the roads weren't there.

The legislators were keenly interested in believing that local municipalities would handle the administration of this program. The first township to be recognized was Lower Towamensing, represented by Glenn Hahn, Barry Stroup and Jesse Mendez, for their work on Spruce Road. Towamensing Township was then recognized, represented by Rodney George, for their work on Forest Street. The third township to be recognized was East Penn Township, represented by Gary Kuehner and Troy Smith, for work completed on Wertman Hollow Road.

All three road projects were directly adjacent to tributaries to streams and included road, bank and swale stabilization and drainage improvements.

The Conservation District media, educator and volunteer of the year awards were presented by Susan Gallagher, Chief Naturalist and Jeannie Carl, Naturalist, of the Carbon County Environmental Education Center.

Two individuals were awarded the Volunteer of the Year awards. First was presented to a Master Falconer, Fred Wallace. Wallace, whose vast knowledge of birds of prey has been an asset to not only the staff at the Environmental Center but also to the injured birds brought there for treatment, has spent countless hours volunteering at the Center.

The second Volunteer of the Year award went to J. Randolph Arner. Arner has created a Website for the Environmental Center as well as doing photography, gardening and research for the Center.

This year's Media Conservation award was presented to Alan Gregory who through his writing has been a fearless defender and supporter of natural resources.

JoAnn Murray, a second grade teacher at Franklin Elementary School, was the recipient of the Conservation Educator award. Through her enthusiasm for nature she has brought her class to the Center for an outdoor learning experience each year, even developing a nature study trail on school property.

After a brief public meeting of the Cooperative Extension board of directors conducted by President Monroe Cressley that saw the following named to new terms on the board; Monroe Cressley, Karen VonFrisch, Karan Heffelfinger, Robin Cressley and Julie Lesitsky, Cooperative Extension Director Paul Shealer thanked outgoing board member Joyce Hinkle for having served two terms on the board.

Presenting the Rachel W. Hoffmeier 4-H Scholarship awards was Howard Gregory, president of the 4-H Development Board. This year's winners were Laura Kennedy, 18, a freshman at Lock Haven University majoring in



Carbon County Conservation District award winners: from left, seated, Paul and Linda Stoss, Farmer of the Year; standing, Rodney George representing Towamensing Township; Barry Stroup, Glenn Hahn representing Lower Towamensing Township; Jim Clauser, Conservation District manager; Jesse Mendez, Lower Towamensing Township; Gary Kuehner and Troy Smith representing East Penn Township. The three townships were recognized for the work done under the Conservation District's dirt and gravel road program.



Award winners recognized by the Carbon County Environmental Education Center: from left, Jeannie Carl, Naturalist; Fred Wallace, Conservation Volunteer of the Year; Alan Gregory, Media Conservation Person of the Year; JoAnn Murray, Conservation Educator of the Year; J. Randolph Arner, Conservation Volunteer of the Year and Susan Gallagher, Chief Naturalist.

Resource Conservation Service, and Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Jim Clauser, district manager of the Carbon Conservation District welcomed the guests as 4-H members Jonathan Kuehner lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Nicole Smith lead the group in the 4-H Pledge.

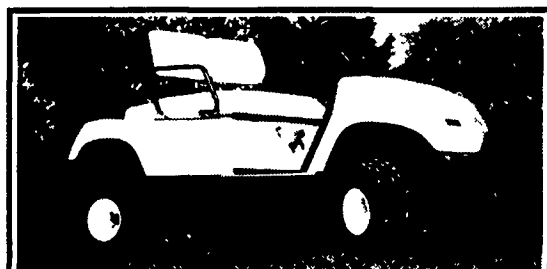
Robert Miller, 4-H leader and

has furthered soil conservation through the establishment and maintenance of soil and water conservation management practices.

The Stoss farm, a 90-cow dairy, in East Penn Township consists of approximately 200 owned and rented acres with primary crops of corn, small grains and hay. Soil conservation practices they have adopted and maintained to ensure soil productivity and stewardship include 120 acres of contour stripcropping systems, two acres of grassed waterways, 3,400 feet of surface water control diversion channels, as well as incorporating green cover crops, conservation tillage and crop rotation.

Woody Colbert, Master of Ceremonies for the evening, then described the Conservation District's dirt and gravel road program prior to Clauser recognizing three townships for their outstanding work under the program. Colbert, a State Conservation Commission employee working out of his Penn State office and former superintendent of Hicko-

vice-chairperson of the Conservation District gave the invocation prior to the



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Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



When we had an ice storm recently, it brought back memories of when I had to drive to a job everyday despite the weather.

For eight years, before I was married, I drove myself and other people to their jobs. When a storm was predicted, my car was parked at a nearby garage close to a main highway. The thought was that I could walk there and get to work as the state was quite slow in opening the road past our house. Anyway, now I am able to stay home and let other people slide on the ice and snow.

However, my sisters and our husbands were able to see "Lewis and Clark" at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg on a nice day. The IMAX theater showed breathtaking scenes of these men as they traveled west to the Pacific Ocean in 1804. Yes, my husband was able to go along. It was a tiring day, but I'm sure he en-

joyed the experience.

This year instead of decorating a large Christmas tree, I decorated a Norfolk Island pine that our son gave me. He even supplied the tiny electric lights and some crystal decorations. Before I could put the tree on an old blanket chest, I had to remove a big box of family pictures that I had displayed there. It looks very pretty, but I do not like to think of all those other pretty decorations stored away in the closet.

This is written 10 days before Christmas, but already I've received a diary, a wrist watch, and a box of candy. We are having an open house the Saturday after Christmas for our extended families. If everyone came that was invited, there would be 150 people. But we know from past parties that only a fraction will come.

computer information systems and Nicole Smith, 17, a senior at Lehigh High School planning to continue her education majoring in physical therapy. Also receiving a certificate of achievement and recognition was Amanda Miller, 18, a senior at Lehigh High School.

Linda Wiles, multi-county commercial horticulture agent, recognized several of her master gardeners for the hours of volunteer service they completed. Those honored were Cindy Kerschner, Ed Knittle, Leeza Fox, Carol Steigerwalt and Liz Morris.

The Laurel Wreath award is presented to an individual or group for outstanding service to the 4-H program. This year two awards were presented by the Cooperative Extension. The first went to Lester and Kathy Wentz who have been long time supporters of the 4-H program in Carbon County. They have been buyers at the annual 4-H Livestock sale for many years, have stored pens used during Round-up and the local fair and as owners of Walck's Restaurant have donated the food for the buyer's luncheon at the fair. Their children, daughter Kelly and son Cory, were active 4-H members and the couple is anxiously awaiting the start of their granddaughter's 4-H career.

The second Laurel Wreath award was presented to the Carbon County Commissioners,



From left, Howard Gregory, president of the Carbon County 4-H Development Board, presented the Rachel W. Hoffmeier 4-H Scholarship to Nicole Smith, 17, of Lehigh. Also shown is Joan Kennedy accepting for her daughter, Laura Kennedy, 18, a freshman at Lock Haven University.

Wayne Nothstein, Charles Getz, and Tom Gerhard. Nothstein and Getz were presented to accept the award for their strong and continuing support of the 4-H program.

Outstanding 4-H Leaders this year were Jane Cosgrove, leader of the Buck and Bolt 4-H Horse Club of the White Haven area and Ed Knittle, leader of the Gardening Club and co-leader of the Sawmill 4-H Bee Club.

Leader recognition 10-year pins were presented to Deanna and Dennis Cunfer, Penny Kleintop and Nancy Smith. Two individuals received their 15-year pins those being Nan Cressley and Mary Hawk.



The Carbon County Cooperative Extension presented Laurel Wreath awards for outstanding support of the 4-H program to the Carbon County commissioners and Kathy and Lester Wentz. From left, Charles Getz and Wayne Nothstein, commissioners; and Kathy and Lester Wentz. Commissioner Tom Gerhard was unable to attend the event.