

Lancaster Banquet Honors 'Conservation Ethic'

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NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Approximately 170 people gathered recently to "recognize those who epitomize the conservation ethic" in Lancaster County, according to Don Robinson, administrator, Lancaster County Conservation District.

The conservation district's 52nd annual banquet, conducted at Yoder's Country Restaurant, New Holland, honored both individuals and businesses with awards highlighting conservation activities in agriculture, construction, community and public service, and youth education.

During the evening, Robinson recognized Warren Archibald, retiring district conservationist with 41 years of service to conservation. Archibald, who came to the Lancaster field office in 1974, has worked as a "behind-the-scenes conservation professional for 28 years," said Robinson.

Archibald "encouraged us always to do whatever we had to do to get conservation on the land," said Robinson.

The Outstanding Cooperator of the Year was given to Earl G. and Grace Martin, Ephrata. Over the years Martin has worked to convince 11 different landowners on 17 parcels of land to install conservation practices such as waterways and/or terraces on their property.

His conservation efforts go back 30 years. He has installed thousands of feet of waterways and terraces, besides planting cover crops or working to get a stormwater basin and pipe installed.

The 2003 Soil Stewardship Award went to the John David Martin family, Churchtown.

Martin's father, Paul Martin, began working with the Soil Conservation District in 1958 by installing contour strips.

John David has added further improvements such as waterways and an "Archie basin," a small stormwater basin and pipe to take low water flows. The farm has also been preserved through the county agriculture preservation board.

Barbara Rathbone Frank, a biology teacher from Penn Manor School District, received the Environmental Educator Award.

Her curriculum includes such projects as a reading program for students to learn about the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Frank's students have also completed water quality projects on the Conestoga River and have analyzed a nearby construction site.

In addition Jereme Dippner, Jacob Ault, and Steve Witmer were recognized for their volunteer work at the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School.



The following people received the Conservation of Natural Resources Award for the Lake Placida project: Jim Baney, Landstudies project manager; Brad Clubb, president, Flyway Excavating; Dan Errett, Lake, Roeder, Hillard and Associates; Larry Bekelja, Elizabethtown College; and James Wenger, Derck and Edson Associates.

Dippner, Ault, and Witmer, former conservation school students, returned to the school to serve as counselors.

Kauffman's Fruit Farm, Bird-In-Hand, was the recipient of the Lancaster County Youth Conservation School Service Award. For several years the business has supported the conservation school's food preparation.

Several organizations were involved in an effort to restore beauty and water quality to Elizabethtown College's Lake Placida.

The college received one of two Building Industry Conservation Awards, the Conservation of Natural Resources Award.

The designing, landscaping,

engineering, and construction efforts help to manage storm water, in addition to efforts such as planting flowers, controlling the waterfowl population, removing sediment, and slow erosion along the water's edge.

Involved with the project were Derck and Edson Associates, Flyway Excavating, Inc., Landstudies, and Lake Roeder, Hillard and Associates.

Jake King, Ja-Lyn Developers, received the Conservation of Natural Resources Award during the banquet. The award recognized his work for the past 10 years developing the Rockwoods project in Mount Joy Township.

Also honored for their part in the project were Abel Construc-

tion for site work, Rettew Associates for plan design, and Mount Joy Township.

The project included land which was not prime farmland, significant woodland, or land adjacent to wetlands. The award recognized the project's erosion control methods, topsoil conservation, and water system upgrading.

The Watershed Excellence Award went to the Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance (LCWA), an organization that has worked for the past three years on restoring portions of the Little Conestoga Creek watershed.

Restoration efforts included restoring a tributary stream and



The Youth Conservation School Counselor Award went to Jereme Dippner, with more than three years of service to the school. He is joined by his wife Julie.



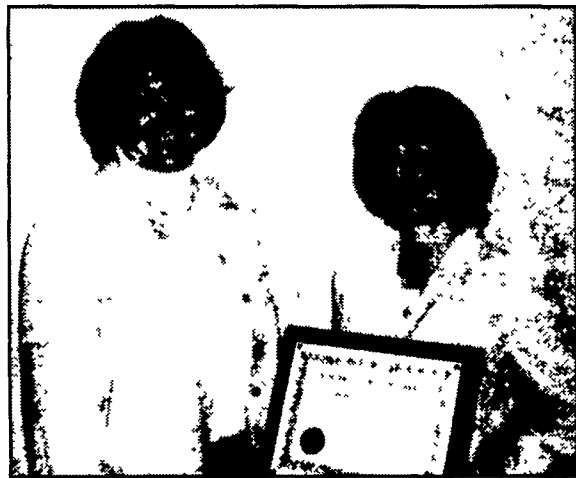
Warren Archibald, retiring district conservationist, holds a picture of the James Kreider farm, where he helped to install conservation practices when he came to the Lancaster field office in 1974.

helping landowners establish forested riparian buffers. The group has also worked to educate local residents about watershed issues by conducting municipal officials meetings, educational workshops, and native landscaping programs.

Additionally, Katie Nickles and Mark Rineer Jr. were recognized as recipients of the Lancaster County Conservation District Ann Brow Memorial Scholarship for 2002.

Nickles is attending Penn State and studying environmental resource management. Rineer is attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and majoring in fisheries science.

The Lancaster County Conservation District accepts applications from graduating seniors planning to pursue a major that focuses on resources or conservation.



Barbara Rathbone Frank, a biology teacher from Penn Manor School District, received the Environmental Educator Award. She is joined by Sallie Gregory, education coordinator for the conservation district.



The 2003 Soil Stewardship Award went to John David Martin and his wife Mary.



The following people gathered to receive the 2003 Watershed Award: Jinnen Boyle, Pennsylvania DEP; Roy Baldwin, state representative; Michelle Spitko, president, Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance; Dan Synoracki, on the board of directors; and Matt Kofroth, watershed specialist at the conservation district.



Jake King, left, Ja-Lyn Developers, also received the Conservation of Natural Resources Award. Also receiving awards as part of the project were Tony Kreider, Abel Construction Company; Blaine Miller, Mount Joy Township; and Kim Graybill, Rettew Associates.