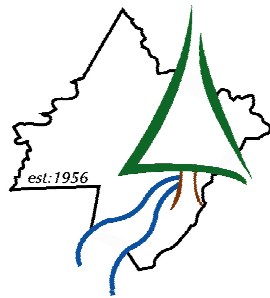


October 21, 2008



Conservation Horizons

Pike County Conservation District

District Annual Dinner Celebrates Local Environmental Leaders

The Pike County Conservation District Board and Staff held their Annual Dinner on October 17th at the Inn at Lackawaxen with a presentation on the Roebling Bridge and an awards ceremony. Each year the District hosts this annual dinner to celebrate conservation milestones and individuals who have made a significant contribution to the protection of Pike County's natural resources.

The evening began with an exceptional presentation on the Roebling Bridge by Ryan Stubblebine of the National Park Service's Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Originally constructed from 1847-1848, the Delaware Aqueduct as it was then known, carried coal boats weighing up to 130 tons over the Delaware River on their trek from Honesdale, PA to New York City Markets via the Delaware and Hudson Canal. The Roebling Bridge, which is the oldest wire cable suspension structure in the western hemisphere was built at an original cost of \$41,750 and served faithfully until the demise of the canal in 1898. It is listed by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark and a National Civil Engineering Landmark and is located in Lackawaxen, Pike County.

The District presented a certificate of appreciation to a local engineering group, Kiley Associates, LLC, for their efforts in promoting best management practices in our region. In May 2008, staff from Kiley Associates coordinated an educational opportunity for design professionals, contractors, community association members and municipal officials on the use of pervious concrete in Northeast PA. This two day program, presented by Ken Crank, Director of Concrete Promotion for the Pennsylvania

Aggregates and Concrete Association, included classroom instruction and hands-on demonstrations on this alternative paving material.

The District also presented a certificate of appreciation to the Birchwood Lake Community Association's Lake Management Committee for their outstanding efforts in local environmental education. After working with the District to secure a League of Women Voters Water Resource Education Network grant, the Lake Management Committee set out with an ambitious schedule of educational programs throughout 2007 & 2008 that served both its own residents and the surrounding community. The Committee focused on septic system maintenance, geese population control options and lake management training and monitoring, held a lake appreciation day and children's fishing contest and established a native plant demonstration area along the riparian border of one of their lakes. The committee also developed and distributed a "Lake Friendly Landscaping" brochure that provides examples of native plants that can be used locally.

The District presented a Pike County Environmental Legacy Award to George Frank of Matamoras, who also received a Certificate of Appreciation from Congressman Chris Carney for his service to the community. A retired math and science teacher, George served on the Pike County Conservation District Board for 27 years before his retirement from the Board in 2008. George was originally nominated for the position by the Pike County Federation of Sportsmen's Club in 1980 and was a hands-on board member who actively participated in the District's annual tree seedling sales, poster contests, student scholarship awards, Youth Conservation School, the Teedyuskung Creek Restoration project, and yearly Adopt-A-Highway cleanups. George also served as District Vice Chairman and Treasurer during his tenure with the Board. An avid photographer, George contributed hundreds of pictures to the District that displayed the many beautiful sights and natural resources of Pike County.



(Pictured above from left: Ed Zygmunt, Field Representative for Congressman Carney's office, George Frank, and Scott Savini, PCCD Board Chairman)

September Question: More than 37 percent of the plant species currently found in Pennsylvania did not occur here at the time of European settlement. True or False?

September Answer: True. This includes several invasive plants, such as purple loosestrife, Japanese honeysuckle, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, and autumn olive. Many of these, such as autumn olive, were planted as wildlife food and cover, and others, such as Japanese honeysuckle, were introduced as ornamentals.

October Question: How many acres of farmland are lost each minute as cities and suburbs spread into the surrounding communities?