

Snyder County Conservation District Holds Awards Banquet

The Snyder County Conservation District (SCCD) held its annual banquet on Friday, March 9, 2017, at the Christ Community United Methodist Church, 3939 Park Road near Selinsgrove. One hundred thirty-five (135) attended the event. Individuals, organizations and FFA members were honored for their efforts toward conservation.

Before awards were presented, a meal served by the church was enjoyed by all. The guest speaker spoke about facts and myths about the mountain lion in Pennsylvania at the event's conclusion.

Several Snyder County FFA members were recognized for their placement in the SUN (Snyder-Union-Northumberland) Area conservation public speaking and forestry contests held last year. Each member received a certificate and monetary award. (Photo next page)

Conservation Public Speaking: Allison Rice, 1st place, Midd-West; Addie Lannan, 2nd place, Selinsgrove; and Makenna Hoffman, 3rd place, Midd-West.

Forestry: Jacob Dock, 1st place, Selinsgrove; Parker Arbogast, 2nd place, Midd-West; and 3rd place, Makenna Hoffman, Midd-West and Ryan Perkinson, Selinsgrove.

Several other awards were given out as well: (Photos on next page.)

- Distinguished Service Award: Roger Reichenbach, retired Selinsgrove Area High School agriculture education teacher, for thirty-eight (38) years of service for the Snyder County Conservation District as a director and associate director. He was also chairperson of the SCCD Board of Directors for many years.
- Conservation Education Award: Dr. Derek Straub & Dr. Kathy Straub, Susquehanna University professors for their research and educational outreach. Derek and his students have studied how fog can transport and deposit pollutants. Kathy has been holding seminars on climate change and is leading in construction of PA's largest solar arrays.
- Conservation Contractor Award: Chapman Township Supervisors were honored for their continuing work in creating a better public road system with reduced environmental impact through the Dirt, Gravel, & Low Volume Road (DGLVR) program.
- Conservation Patron Award: Bingaman & Son Lumber, Inc., was recognized for their continuing support of Snyder County Conservation District and its programs, as well as the annual Susquehanna Valley High School & Middle School Envirothons.
- Conservation Farmer of the Year Award: Todd & Nolan Keister of Keister Family Farms, LLC, raise turkeys and crops in Franklin Township. Manure produced on the farm is stored in a newly installed waste storage facility and is used on their farms or exported to nearby farmers. When asked about their drive for conservation, Nolan states, "We want to keep a nice and neat farm". The Keisters care about how their farm looks to themselves, their neighbors and what comes off their farm.

After the awards were given, Kerry Gyekis, a consulting forester, gave a presentation on the history, facts and myths of mountain lions in North America and Pennsylvania. Mountain lions, not currently confirmed in PA, are also known as pumas and cougars.





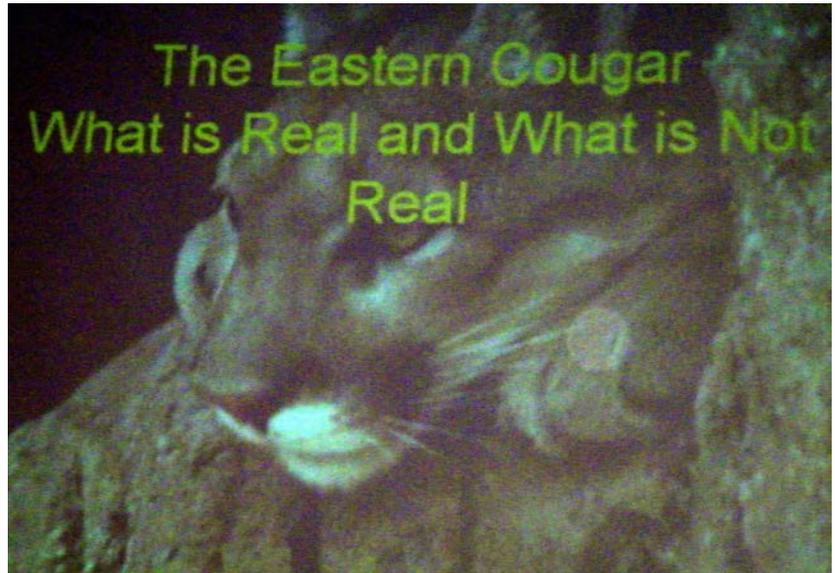
Above: SCCD Board Chairperson Annette Gray (left) presents Roger Reichenbach a Conservation District jacket and Distinguished Service Award plaque.



Left Photo: Dr. Derek Straub (center) and Dr. Kathy Straub (right) each receive the Conservation Educator Award from SCCD Board Chairperson Annette Gray. Right Photo: Todd Keister (right) and Nolan Keister of Keister Family Farms, LLC, receive the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award from SCCD Board Chairperson Annette Gray.



Left Photo: Wayne Biller (right), Township Supervisor & Roadmaster, accepts the Conservation Contractor of the Year Award for Chapman Township from SCCD Board Chairperson Annette Gray. Right Photo Theorn Jordan (right), Bingaman & Son Lumber, LLC employee, accepts the Conservation Patron Award for his employee from SCCD Board Chairperson Annette Gray.



Kerry Gyekis (upper left photo), consulting forester, give a presentation regarding the mountain lion, a.k.a. the eastern cougar.

For more information about the awards, Conservation District programs, or anything else, please contact the [Conservation District](http://www.snyderconservation.org) at 570-837-3000 or visit us at our website at www.snyderconservation.org.

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