

2009 Annual Awards Banquet

The Luzerne Conservation District held its Fourth Annual District Banquet on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at the Genetti Hotel & Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre. With more than 150 people in attendance, the banquet featured a silent and live auction, games of chance and raffles. Many local businesses and artists donated merchandise and original works of art for the event.

The proceeds from the banquet benefit the Luzerne Conservation District's conservation education and outreach efforts by helping to support our ongoing programming to local homeowners, municipalities, educators, students, and the public through workshops, newsletters, special events, and community programs.

The Luzerne Conservation District took the opportunity to recognize the outstanding conservation efforts of local community members by presenting the 2009 Annual Awards at the banquet.

The following award recipients were recognized for their efforts in protection Luzerne County's natural resources:



Gary Gronkowski (right) on behalf of the **Nanticoke Conservation Club** accepts the *Stanley M. Sowa, Jr. Conservationist of the Year Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (left).



Jeff Ide (center) on behalf of **Ide-L-Acres Farm** accepts the *Lewis Rinehimer Conservation Farmer Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (left) and Chesapeake Bay Technician, Amy Salansky (right).



Karen and Craig Yarrish (center), proprietors of Wild Birds Unlimited, accept the *Conservation Educator Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (left) and Watershed Program Coordinator, Shawn Rybka (right).

Congratulations to each of the 2009 award recipients!



Eileen Cipriani (center) and Vince Holland (center right) on behalf of the **Abrahams Creek Watershed Association** accept the *Watershed Stewardship Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (far left) and Watershed Program Coordinator, Shawn Rybka (far right). State Representative Phyllis Mundy (center left) presented a citation to the association as well.

Members of the **Newport Township Community Organization** accept the *EPCAMR Partnership Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore and EPCAMR Executive Director, Robert Hughes.

Pictured in photo from left are: Bill Hourigan, Heidi Slecky, Robert Hughes, Palmira Gregory Miller, Tom Kashatus and Josh Longmore.



Fran Gough, Advisor (left), on behalf of the first place students at **Crestwood High School**, accepts the *2008 Envirothon Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (right).

Joseph Stachokus (center) of SM Design Group, accepts the *Erosion & Sediment (E&S) Control Professional of the Year Award* from District Manager, Josh Longmore (left) and Resource Conservation Specialist II, Heather Berlew (right).



The Luzerne Conservation District along with Representative's Phyllis Mundy and Karen Boback also took this time to recognize the 2009 PA State Fair Queen, Nicole Clemson.

Pictured in photo from left are: Representative Boback, Miss Clemson, Representative Mundy, Amy Salansky, and Josh Longmore.