

Colorado SWCD holds Annual Awards Banquet

The 50th Annual Awards Banquet of the Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was held March 25 at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Weimar at 6:30 p.m.

SWCD Chairman Henry Sunderman of Eagle Lake gave the welcome, SWCD Board Member, Jimmy Kleimann of Columbus, read an inspirational prelude to the pledge of allegiance of the United States flag.

Rev. John Bily, pastor of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Weimar gave the blessing before the meal. John Batla Catering served a fried fish meal. Vocalist Donald O'Mary of Columbus, accompanying himself on acoustic guitar, entertained the audience with John Denver style.

SWCD Vice-Chairman Lawrence Shimek introduced CSWCD Directors Henry Sunderman, Doris Albright, Ted Schutz and Jimmy Kleimann; and District Secretary/Technician Beverly Tuck.

Also introduced were the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel who serve Colorado County and the Colorado SWCD which included NRCS Resource Team Leader Dennis Neuman, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Glenn Minzenmeyer and NRCS Resource Conservationist Jim Ulbricht.

Other dignitaries from the Texas SWCD Board included Information and Education Program Administrator Clyde Gottschalk of Temple, Area III Field Representative Roy Freeman of Kennedy, and Regional Office Manager Stephen Deiss of Wharton.

NRCS dignitaries included Assistant State Conservationist Dexter Svetlik in charge of Field Operations from the Corpus Christi Zone Office and Program Manager Jerry Pearce of Hallettsville.

County officials present were County Judge Al Jamison; Commissioners Tommy Hahn, Pct. 3, and Darrell Gertson, Pct. 4; County Agent Benard Mitchell; and County FCS Agent Amy Erwin.

Guests included Lawrence Friedrich of the Fayette SWC, Charles Goeke of the Austin County SWCD, and NRCS Resource Team Leader for Austin and Washington Counties Jim Hluchan.

Gottschalk, I/E Program Administrator for the TSSWCB, presented a short program on environmental education.

Theo Schultz, chairman of the Environmental Education Committee, recognized the members of the committee and recognized the teachers and parents of the winning students.

Edna Shimek, member of the Environmental Education Committee, announced the coloring contest winners: pre-k, J'aya Denley of Columbus Elementary (CE); Kindergarten, Chelsea Ramirez, Weimar Elementary; first grade, Kari Christen, St. Michael's School (SMS); second grade, Casey Henry, CE; third grade, Chelsea Hollywood, SMS. Awards were presented by Dwight Mazac of the Columbus State Bank.

Brenda Kleimann, member of the Environmental Education Committee, announced the winners of the poster contest: first place, Colin McIver, SMS; 2nd, Chris Boeer, SMS; 3rd, Sean Thayer, Weimar Jr. High (WJH); 4th, Stacy Scardino. McIver's poster placed third in the Area II competition and will be recognized at the Area III banquet in Yoakum May 4. Awards were presented by Jeff Kolenovsky of Kolenovsky of Fayette Savings Bank.

Elementary essay winners were announced by Joyce Loessin of the Environmental Education Committee; first place, Andrew Loessin of CE; second, John Wooten, CE; and third, Evan Kubicek of CE. Elementary essay awards were presented by Rusty Ray of the Lower Colorado River Authority.

Sylvia Addicks, member of the Environmental Education Committee, announced the junior high winners: first place, Jill Kloesel, SMS; second, Kelly McCord, WJH, third, Jeffrey Leopold, St. Mary's School.

Junior high awards were presented by Leona Lyons of the Perry Paul Hastedt Auxiliary #6113.

Rev. John C. Bily of St. Michael's Catholic Church was recognized as the Conservation Minister. Betty Hatterman of Hill Bank and Trust in (See Awards, Page 6)



Travis Wegenhoft of First National Bank of Eagle Lake, at left, presented the Conservation Business Award to Thomas Kallina of Area Rice Marketing Co. of Eagle Lake.

Conservation Minister Rev. John C. Bily of St. Michael's Catholic Church received an award from Betty Hatterman Hill Bank and Trust.

Headlight Photos by Lynda Appelt



Clarence Friedrich of Colorado Valley Telephone Company, at left, presented the Conservation Teacher Award to Ann Heintschell of St. Michael's School.

Terah Lux and Joan Coufal of Coastal Banc presented Edna Shimek and Mary Corcoran with Conservation Homemaker Awards.

MORE LETTERS...

New resident lauds Eagle Lake and its citizens

My husband and I will be moving to Eagle Lake in the very near future. I think this is a very challenging time for Eagle Lake and I hope we will be able to contribute something to this friendly town.

Several weeks ago, I was reading the *Headlight* and an article regarding the Main Street Revitalization Program mentioned Eagle Lake's natural resources. The natural resources I am most aware of are the friendly people... my neighbors, city workers, merchants, mail carriers, volunteers at the Museum and all the people who have stopped by when I am working in the yard to welcome us to Eagle Lake.

I am excited about the Main Street Revitalization Program and think it is a wonderful idea.

We come to the Lighted Christmas Parade every year and think it's a perfect way to start the holidays.

We also come to the Prairie Chicken Festival and each year it gets better. This year it sounds very interesting with some of the new events that have been added.

We're looking forward to being residents of Eagle Lake and hope to contribute where we can.

Sincerely, Patty Holloway

More on standardized dress

More and more our children are treated like prisoners. Parents no longer have the right to decide what our children should wear. Instead the school district's school codes decide what the children wear. What's Colorado County coming to? Are we all going to be prisoners one way or another?

People of Eagle Lake and Colorado County, you have the right to decide if you (agree or) disagree on the uniform that the school dress code is asking our children to wear!

Speak and be heard. Or you'll be a prisoner of other people's law.

Concerned Citizen (Name withheld by request)

What is Boot Camp?

I feel the community of Eagle Lake and Colorado County needs to know what Boot Camp is all about.

Boot Camp has various complaints against it, and would maybe have more if only people would speak out and not be afraid. This is why I am speaking my mind.

Right now, Boot Camp has a case pending in Colorado County.

In my opinion, Boot Camp to me should be a place for rehabilitation with discipline but for criminals or out of control teens and not students with minor discipline problems. That's why we have parents, teachers and principals.

I think that if things would go back to when we were able to discipline our own kids, they wouldn't be the way kids are now.

But, because parents and teachers are afraid to discipline kids, they let the system handle it instead and look what happens.

All I ask is that before your kids get put in Boot Camp investigate if for your own kids safety. I feel the parents and teachers should put up with kids for minor things the way we used to be able to.

I also feel that the Boot Camp needs to thoroughly investigate their employees before hiring them.

Raza Unida, Concerned Citizens
(Name withheld by request)

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