

Annual District Awards and Recognition Banquet

Craig and Botetourt Conservation Farmers of the Year

Local conservation partners gathered to recognize the 2007 Conservation Awards recipients on November 29th. at the Fincastle Fire Station Meeting Room. Representatives from the Farm Service Agency, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Department of Forestry, Botetourt County, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Western Virginia Land Trust, Valley Conservation Council, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service attended the Mountain Castles Soil and Water Conservation District's annual awards dinner to recognize the Conservation Farmers of the Year for Botetourt and Craig Counties. There were two awards in Forestry Management presented by forester, Bob Boeren.

Chairman Harold Entsminger, Jr. welcomed the guests and introduced the partnering agency representatives. A special thank you is extended to guest speakers from the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Mark Hollberg, the District Coordinator and Jim Echols, DCR Regional Manager.



(L to R) Chairman Entsminger, Carolyn and Carter Fleming

The Craig County 2007 Conservation Farmer of the Year Award recipient is Carter Fleming. The Fleming's 260 acre farm is located along Barbours Creek outside of New Castle. The farm has 10 paddocks for pasture and hay divisions and cattle can drink from eight fountains or troughs. The Fleming's keep 90 to 100 cow/calf pairs, and are involved with a replacement heifer development and marketing program. Andy Allen, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, and a Mountain Castles SWCD Director, presented informa-



tion about the Fleming Farm to the guests and spoke of Fleming's most recent involvement with the Botetourt Regional Cattlemen's Association and the replacement heifer program where bred heifers go to market at the Roanoke-Hollins Stockyard. Allen also indicated that Carter Fleming was the Craig County Extension Agent from 1965 to 1991, and currently serves on the board of directors of the Botetourt Regional Cattlemen's Association.



(L to R) Chairman Entsminger, Louis, Betty and Trevor Saville

The Botetourt County Conservation Farmer of the Year Award recipient for 2007 is Louis E. Saville. The 533 acre farm is located near Craig's Creek on route 615 in Botetourt County. Mr. Saville has participated in the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice Program and has completed conservation projects on the beautiful farm. The installation of stream fencing, cross fencing, and an alternative water system with over 6,000 ft of water lines has allowed for an excellent rotational grazing system using five paddocks. The Conservation guests were delighted to hear Mr. Saville speak about their farming operation and the conservation practices that help to protect and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Forestry Award

Bob Boeren, forester with the Virginia Department of Forestry, presented the 2007 Forestry Award to Mr. Harold Sandusky. Mr. Sandusky owns 480 acres of forestland near Eagle Rock in Botetourt County. Mr. Sandusky planted pine on over 280 acres and has controlled soil erosion on over 100,000 feet of logging roads. Boeren also presented the 2007 Urban Forestry award to the Town of Buchanan. The Town of Buchanan met the four standards to become a Tree City USA. The National Arbor Day Foundation runs the Tree City USA program. The four standards are adopting a public tree ordinance, forming a tree board, spending \$2 per capita on tree care, and having an Arbor Day and proclamation. Mayor Tom Middlecamp and Harry Gleason, Downtown Revitalization Program Manager, accepted the award on behalf of the Town of Buchanan.

