

CRC 2019 Awards Dinner Finds a New Home Celebrates Environmental Stewardship

CRC presented awards for environmental stewardship November 6, 2019, carrying on its annual tradition, held this year for the first time at the Barn at Tyler Arboretum in Media. This year's awards were presented to: the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College (Organizational Stewardship Award); Apple Leisure Group of Newtown Square (Corporate Stewardship Award); Tracy Bouvette of Swarthmore (Environmental Leadership Award); and Kurt Leininger of Malvern (Volunteer Stewardship Award). The annual event is hosted by CRC to recognize extraordinary contributions by individuals and organizations for work and dedication to our watersheds.

"Each of our awards recipients embody the drive needed to keep our environment and especially our watersheds healthy," said CRC Executive Director Meghan Lockman. "Their contributions in the areas of organizational excellence, corporate responsibility, individual leadership and volunteer stewardship have made a real difference this year."

The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College is a living memorial to Arthur Hoyt Scott. Mr. Scott's family made a generous donation to found the Arboretum in 1929 to establish a "garden of ideas" on the campus as a visual demonstration to serve home gardeners in the region. The idyllic property that today makes up the Swarthmore College campus is often named one of the most beautiful in the country, in large part due to the Arboretum's plant collections and gardens. Crum Woods encompasses 220 acres of campus as mostly forested land straddling the Crum Creek in Swarthmore. The Arboretum staff and dedicated volunteers work to make Crum Woods represent a natural ecosystem indicative of Eastern Pennsylvania. Claire Sawyers, Executive Director of the Scott Arboretum, accepted the award for the organization.



Newtown Square and Cheyney University in West Chester. The company's hardworking and committed group of volunteers made a real difference in these watershed sites. CRC looks forward to many more projects with them in the future. Ferenc Kitinger of Apple Leisure Group accepted the award on the company's behalf.

CRC's first-ever Corporate Stewardship Award was presented to Apple Leisure Group of Newtown Square, one of the world's leading travel, leisure and hospitality management groups. Apple Leisure's AM Resorts is North America's fastest growing luxury resort company. Their commitment to the environment is also well established and growing with each year. Last year, Apple Leisure Group became CRC's first corporate partner, sponsoring two significant tree planting and streams cleanup projects at Garrett Williamson in

Environmental Leadership Award recipient Tracy Bouvette of Swarthmore, has a 40+-year career in the areas of water resources and environmental management. After retiring from consulting, Tracy joined the CRC Board four years ago. In July 2016 he became Board President and Acting Executive Director of CRC, making critical contributions during an important time for the organiza-

tion, especially in the areas of fiscal management, refining the organization's mission, and enhanced fundraising. Tracy left the CRC Board in 2019 and now spends more time at his second home in Woodstock, NY, working locally on environmental issues.

Kurt Leininger of Malvern was presented with the Volunteer Stewardship Award. Among Kurt's many years of volunteer contributions to CRC, he has served as an enthusiastic site coordinator for the annual CRC Streams



Cleanup. Kurt also locates potential new sites for many CRC projects, scouting the watersheds for locations that would be suitable for cleanups or plantings.

In addition to the 2019 Awards presentations, guests enjoyed a presentation by Colin Purrington of Swarthmore on the dreaded spotted lanternfly. The former Swarthmore College evolutionary biology professor currently writes a blog in which he shares his nature photography and various biology projects, most recently giving away 500 milkweed seedlings to spur the population of monarch butterflies in Swarthmore.

"CRC's annual awards dinner is a way to celebrate those who love and care for our watersheds," said CRC Board President Ted Leisenring. "Our mission is to protect our local watersheds and we can't do it alone. Thank goodness there are talented organizations and individuals like this year's award winners to help."

In addition to a silent auction, attendees at the annual dinner also contributed to the CRC Tree Fund, which funds tree plantings throughout the year. Trees are one of the most effective land covers for maintaining water quality, collecting and filtering rainwater, and releasing it slowly into our streams. CRC plants 300 to 400 trees a year along with hundreds of shrubs in areas along creek beds and in neighboring woodlands.

CRC also extended a special thank you to its many sponsors, who are dedicated to CRC's mission: to support, encourage and promote the enjoyment, restoration, conservation, protection and prudent management of the natural resources of the Chester, Ridley and Crum Creek watersheds.

