

Jackie and Darryl Speicher honored for environmental work



Darryl Speicher, a 3-term veteran of the BWA Board, and Jackie Speicher, currently serving as BWA's Streamwatch Outreach Trainer, are also the founders of the Pocono Avian Research Center. It is for their work with PARC that they are recognized by the Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners. Jackie and Darryl received the 2014 Environmental Partners Award at the annual dinner on October 30.

Congratulations to Darryl and Jackie!

(The following is reprinted from the Pocono Record from September 28, 2014)

Darryl Speicher believes in the environment and, through his work as an environmental educator at the Pocono Avian Research Center in Cresco, he's helped to increase awareness of natural resources, particularly the native birds and habitats of the region through research and community involvement.

"From the beginning, since our founding in 2000, we've focused on research and education and we have been dedicated to fostering an appreciation of our native birds and their habitats," said Speicher, who co-founded the center with his wife, Jackie.

The Speichers have been chosen to receive the 2014 Environmental Partnership Award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Environmental Partners, which they will receive on Oct. 30, at the Woodlands Inn and Resort in Wilkes-Barre.

Each year, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, a nonprofit that's dedicated to protecting and restoring the natural and built environment through innovation, collaboration, education and advocacy, hands out partnership awards and an environmental leadership award.

Officials said the Pocono Avian Research Center is being recognized for increasing awareness of natural resources. They said PARC believes that the most effective way for any organization to find solutions for complex environmental questions is through multiple partnerships.

"We've formed some great partnerships with organizations like the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, the Brodhead Watershed Association and others," Speicher said. "We've also been able to offer educational programs for schools here in the area and other groups and we've made the topics to include native birds."

One of the projects Speicher said he's most proud of is the bluebird boxes that are being installed in various locations. "It provides an opportunity to investigate the habitats of these small birds," he said. "A nest box trail can provide some wonderful observations and it teaches so much, including about the biology and natural history of the local birdlife."

Speicher said the environment counts as very important to him, and it should be to all. He said he's looking forward to the awards ceremony, not so much for a trophy or certificate, but to mingle with others who display a great interest in the environment.

"It's a great opportunity to also meet the folks who thought we were worthy to receive an award," Speicher said. "We take all of this seriously and we're proud of PARC."