

## **BWA 20th Anniversary Dinner Creates Warmth On A Brisk Fall Evening.**



**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Shawnee on Delaware, PA.** The day was dazzling, with sunlight glistening on the gently rippled Delaware River. It was a perfect preface for a spectacular night to come, a gathering of friends, colleagues, art and education. From pre dusk on, the pavilion was abuzz with energy, and buoyant in anticipation of the pending festivities...

With a spectacular view of the Delaware River as the backdrop, the Brodhead Watershed Association celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Friday night, September 25<sup>th</sup>. in the Gazebo on the main lawn of the Historic Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort. Attended by over 100 friends and members of this local leading conservation organization, the event featured an extravagant menu of fall cuisine including one of the Inn's mouth watering specialties, Braised Pork Shank drizzled with a maple demi-glaze presented on

a bed of Mushroom Risotto. Local Trout from the Paradise Fishing Preserve, which is within the Watershed, along with organically raised Pheasant from the local Carl Bear Pheasant Farm of Stroudsburg was also served. Each table was delightfully set with hand picked wine donated by Sorrenti's Cherry Valley Vineyards. A custom engraved memento stone along with the evening's program designed by local artist Darlene Farris-LaBar complemented each seat and centerpieces designed by local floral artist Julie Niering dressed the tables with locally picked plants.

The night's festivities included the presentation of three awards. Bill Manner, retired DER Regional Watershed Management Manager, was presented with the coveted "Friend of the Brodhead Watershed" award. Don Baylor, out going BWA President and Founding Member, received the "Brodhead Steward" award for his years of service and commitment to the health of the Watershed. After her informative presentation on the important efforts of PennFuture to restore and protect our environment, Jan Jarrett, President and CEO received the "StreamSaver" award for their ongoing support of the BWA.

As the night progressed, Dave Morine humorist and author who for 18 years was land acquisition manager for The Nature Conservancy, and author of many books including his just released *Two Coots in A Canoe* (Globe Pequot Press, 2009) provided a humorous look at his experiences and the importance of people who participate in organizations like the BWA. He took extra time to praise the Members and Founders of the BWA for their efforts.

Throughout the event, a video produced by Farris-LaBar projected above, gently filling the ceiling hinted to the crowd of the glorious river before us, and the calming effects of its currents. Voices of laughter, old acquaintances embracing and new friendships born, moved through air as the program moved along. Sculptures from the Fish Trails and Tales awareness campaign and a multimedia sculpture by Farris-Labar casually reminded all of the beauty that our community and its resources inspire.

Joyce Raczko, BWA and event committee member stated, “ we are so delighted at the great response at every level, Sponsorship, donors and even our Silent Auction received support way beyond our expectations. This is a testament to the concern the community has for the preservation of our natural resources”

Although the temperature was in the low 60's, the warmth under the gazebo generated by the guests made for a cozy evening and a commemoration that will long be remembered.