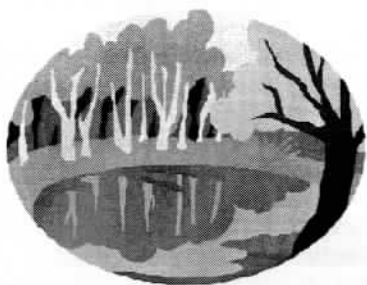


# ALICE AND BOB MESSERICH, OLGA SMYTH WIN CONSERVATION AWARDS



*By Edna Lachmund*

The Emil Schoch Conservation Award was granted to three longtime Clinton residents at the Society's annual dinner meeting on April 4. It was given to Olga Smyth for preserving over 200 acres in Clinton in their natural state, thereby protecting wetlands, streams, woodlands and wildlife habitat. The Smyth property is in the area of Schultzville Road and Sunset Trail. It includes the Smyth homestead, a beautiful old farm with a large swimming pond and a stable. Ms. Smyth has encouraged others to enjoy the historic dirt roads that wind through much of her lands by working with the Hudson Valley Greenway to establish the "Clinton Loop" of the Greenway Trail.

Alice and Bob Messerich received the award for "persevering as productive farmers in Clinton for over 30 years," according to Norene Coller, who presented the awards. The Messerichs operate a free range chicken farm on Old Bulls Head Road in Clinton as well as a chicken

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egg farm in Pleasant Valley. "Their farm planning and operational techniques are environmentally sound" and they have been commended for their practices by the Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation Dis-



trict, Ms. Coller said. The Messerichs market their meat and eggs weekly at the Green Market in New York City, serving hundreds of regular customers who wait patiently in very long lines.

The conservation award is granted annually by Clinton's Historical Society and Conservation Advisory Council. CAC chair Norene Coller said that the award recognizes individuals and families in who show "dedication to conservation of the natural world as exemplified by Emil Schoch." (Emil Schoch was a staunch preservationist who, for many years, ran a well known Christmas tree farm in Clinton.) The award hopes to encourage preservation of natural areas such as wetlands, ponds, streams and wooded areas that protect wild plants and animals, and farm planning and management that is in keeping with best environmental practices.