

# OUTDOORS

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## Commission celebrates 150 years during LakeFest

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To commemorate and solidify the 150th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) a new book will be released in early July entitled, "To Protect, Conserve and Enhance: The History of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission."

The 400-page book full of vintage photos and artwork and written by Kenneth C. Wolensky Ed. D., will trace the Commission from its origin to the present day.

According to PFBC Executive Director John Arway, "This history book not only chronicles the PFBC's past and its accomplishments, it also serve as a history of the emergence of Pennsylvania fishing and boating as we know it today. You will want this book for your personal collection." Information on how to



Photo by Jim Moses

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat District 4 Commissioner and District Manager of the Somerset Conservation District Len Lichvar, left, presents an award from the Conservation District recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the Commission and its long standing partnership with the district to PFBC Executive Director John Arway.

purchase the book will appear soon on the Commission website at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com).

Locally the year-long celebration came to Somerset County at the recent LakeFest event with Executive Director John Arway and Policy Director Tim Schaeffer attending. A long list of special

guests spoke regarding the important role of the Commission and its connection to the natural resources and recreation in Somerset County.

Somerset County Commissioner James T. Yoder presented Arway with a proclamation from the county designating June 4, 2016, as Fish and Boat

Commission Day in Somerset County. State Sen. Pat Stefano said, "I wish the Commission a happy birthday and thank them for all they do to generate and sustain tourism in the entire state."

State representatives Carl Metzgar and Bryan Barbin presented the commission with a cita-

tion from the state House of Representatives for the agency's contributions to the citizens of the state.

Somerset Lake Action Committee Chairman Jeff Payne noted that, "The PFBC is the key agency that works to make our water resources viable for recreation and all other important uses."

Somerset Conservation District board member Dave Mankamyer referenced that, "The District and the PFBC go back a long way and have had a positive and productive relationship for decades."

Other speakers included Executive Director of the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce Ron Aldom, President of the Somerset County Conservancy Jim Moses, Somerset County Farm Bureau Environmental Coordinator Tom Croner, Chairperson of the Somerset County Parks and Recreation Board Meg

Moses, President of the Somerset County Sportsmen's League Rich Berkley, Vice Chairman of the Stonycreek-Conemaugh River Improvement Project Joe Gorden, member of the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited Rick Buchanan and Somerset Township Supervisor Dan Halverson.

As Arway pointed out "It is certainly significant for Somerset County to recognize the Commission since the county and Somerset Lake serve as home to the Southwest Regional Office of the PFBC that houses law enforcement, fishery biologists and education staff that cover the entire southwestern part of the state."

The past as well as the future of both the PFBC and Somerset Lake and the county have been intertwined and given the obvious local interest in both that connection appears to be stronger than ever.