

## LOCAL

## EDUCATION

# Teachers honored for environmental work

They lead E-Club at South Lebanon Elementary.

Contributed Report

KINGS MILLS — The Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District recently recognized two educators that excel in natural resource education.

The district honored Janet Scruby and Julianne Elder from South Lebanon Elementary for their role in sustaining an environmental after-school science club, E-Club, in which students learn about recycling, gardening, protecting water quality and other environmental issues.

The after-school program was developed 18 years ago by a teacher who has now retired from the school district. The E-club students oversee a recycling program, school gardens and the annual Community Stewardship fair that showcases sustainable businesses in Warren County.

Scruby and Elder have developed a successful building-wide behavioral program that gets students excited about gardening. Students that meet behavior goals will get Sprout pencils. The pencils are used like normal pencils in the classroom. When they become too small to use they are planted. Instead of an eraser, the top of the

pencil has seeds such as tomatoes, flowers and herbs that germinated when planted. Students are excited to plant their sustainable pencils.

In their own words, both Scruby and Elder stated “they aspire for their students to live by the standards we follow for environmental stewardship and hope that they are able to lead the rest of the student body at South Lebanon Elementary with their wonderful example. As environmental stewards, we want to be anxiously engaged in everyday habits that promote an awareness of our surrounding environment and how our choices influence these delicate ecosystems.”



South Lebanon Elementary teachers Julianne Elder (center) and Janet Scruby (right) were honored by the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, including Amy Pond (left), education and marketing specialist for the district. CONTRIBUTED