

Murrysville Wildlife Webcam receives award

Bill and Donna Powers, of Murrysville, were awarded EarthCam's "25 Most Interesting Webcams" for 2007 for their PixController Wildlife Webcam.

EarthCam is one of the world's largest and most highly regarded webcam networks on the internet. Now in its ninth year, their annual webcam award honors top internet camera producers worldwide. Starting with over 5,000 video cams, they then narrowed it down to the top 125 semi-finalists. From there, a VIP panel of judges chose the top 25 for the year.

EarthCam describes the PixController webcam as "an excellent example of a place where

technology meets the environment." The Powers' have their webcam set in the woods of Murrysville, where internet viewers worldwide are able to watch whitetail deer, raccoons, wild turkeys, gray foxes and other native western Pennsylvania animals 24 hours a day.

"The thing that makes our webcam unique is that we have a 'base' webcam that is on all the time, but we also have several remote webcams running simultaneously out in the woods," says Bill Powers. "When an animal is sensed in front of one of the remote cameras, that camera will switch on and that is what will be shown on the web. This really helps to keep things interest-

ing for our viewers."

"You never know what you might see when you watch the webcam. In the spring time there can be a strutting Tom turkey in front of his hens. White-tail deer make a visit to the cameras in the mornings and evenings along with gray squirrels and various birds; and we've even seen red and gray fox on the cameras. We plan to move one of the remote cameras to a known fox den and broadcast the live video over our webcam this spring," says Powers.

Additional 2007 winners include an underwater cam in Boston, a coral reef in Bonaire, views of a boat excursion in Switzerland, the chaos of Time Square, and a wildlife cam in Africa, among others.