NACTA Convention
By Lance Stott
From June 7th through June 9th 2006, Tracy Dougher, Cheryl Moore-Gough, Bob Gough and I attended the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Convention at the University of British Columbia campus in Vancouver. Despite the fact that Tracy’s and my cab driver did not know where our dormitory was located, we arrived unscathed. The next morning, while Tracy went running I explored the campus a bit and took a long walk on Wreck Beach.

It was a nice refresher course in plant identification for me and I think I drove everyone else nuts with it. Wednesday afternoon we kicked off the convention with a nice dinner, a welcome from NACTA President Keith Karnok from the University of Georgia, and the keynote address by Moura Quale, Deputy Minister of the BC Ministry of Advanced Education. We occupied the remainder of the afternoon with two seminars about integrating education across the curriculum presented by the Faculty of Land and Food Systems of UBC. That night we had a barbecue at the Cecil Green Park House with a nice view of the ocean and a fantastic garden.

On Thursday, we were pleased to attend the blue ribbon presentation by Dr. Wayne Banwart from the University of Illinois. After Dr. Banwart’s speech, we grabbed our boxed lunches and loaded busses for tours of Urban Agriculture, Horticulture Technology and Biosecurity or Agriculture on the Fraser Delta/Pacific Flyway. Tracy and I elected to go on the Horticulture tour and saw cut rose production as well as cut cymbidium orchids. We also toured a retail nursery after a Phytophthora ramorum (Sudden Oak Death) quarantine.

Friday was filled with a smattering of presentations in concurrent sessions whose titles ranged from “Do They Hear Me?” to “Modern Labor Economics for Students in Agriculture” and everywhere in between. I attended a roundtable discussion over lunch about focusing students on a lifetime of learning rather than just completing the requirements of a degree. We finished out the day with the NACTA business meeting and, finally, a Reception and Awards Banquet. NACTA President Keith Karnok handed over the reins to next year’s president Allen Zimmerman. Awards were also presented to outstanding graduate student teaching assistants and faculty.
Cheryl, Bob, Tracy and I were all up very early Saturday morning to catch our prop planes (yes 2 of them) from Vancouver to Seattle and then from Seattle to Bozeman with a little stop in Butte. It was a very rewarding experience and I think we all came away even more excited about college education than before. Next year the convention will be held at the University of Illinois. I’m sure that it would be worth your while to attend.

**Strobel Makes Cover of Inventor’s Digest**

says the intrepid research. “We are really just at the beginning.”

**Travel Awards**

Lance Stott, graduate student, and Leah Grunzke, horticulture undergraduate, have each received $500 travel awards from the American Society of Horticultural Sciences to attend the annual meeting in New Orleans, LA in late July. Leah also received the ASHS Industry Division Student Travel Grant of $750 and a conference fee waiver. Both students are entered in their respective student poster competitions. Lance will be presenting on “Evaluation of California Native Grasses for Revegetation Sod” research he has done with Tracy Dougher and Leah will be presenting on “Hybrids Versus Heirlooms: A Comparison Study in Garden Productivity and Marketability for Small-scale Commercial Growers” work she has done with David Baumbauer and Tracy Dougher.

**A New Book on Gardening**

Bob Gough and Cheryl Moore-Gough recently signed a contract with Globe Pequot Press of Connecticut for a new book on gardening in Montana. Part of Globe Pequot’s Gardener’s Companion Series, the book will be the latest edition in a series of state-specific gardening books to be published by that company. The Montana book will cover all aspects of gardening in the state, with specific chapters on vegetables, fruit, annuals, perennials, lawns, trees, and shrubs to complement general chapters on climate, soils, and irrigation. A valuable chapter on biotic and abiotic plant problems in the state will make the book particularly useful to home gardening enthusiasts. The book is due to be published in spring, 2007.

**New Employees**

**Stan Bates – Research Associate (Tom Blake)**

Hi, my name is Stan Bates. I have been hired to fill Pat Hensleigh’s shoes which seem pretty large. I moved here from
Tucson, AZ, where I ran my own landscaping business for a year and a half. When the temperature was breaking 100° in the middle of May, I decided it was time to move. My wife Amy and I have six children ages 5 to 15. I received my degree from the University of Idaho in Plant Sciences, science option after which I spent five years working for Exelixis Plant Sciences as a research assistant. In that position, we tried to figure out what genes in Arabidopsis thaliana do.

My hobbies include anything to do with the outdoors and working with the Boy Scouts.

**Jinling Kang – Research Associate (Chaofu Lu)**

I am Jinling and I am from China. I am very happy to be a member of the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology team. I love the people here. You are so friendly, just like my old friends. I received my Masters in Plant Genetics and Breeding from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. My research will focus on molecular cloning of fatty acid desaturase in camelina and plant transformation.

Montana is so beautiful; my family and I will enjoy exploring it.

**Joanna Dumas – Student Affairs Secretary**

My husband, Tim, and I moved to Bozeman two years ago after living in Vermont and Massachusetts for seven years. I am a New England native, originally from New Hampshire, but am very happy to be living in Montana. For the past 7 years I have been a floral designer. I enjoyed working with flowers but am looking forward to a more predictable schedule, especially around holidays! I graduated from the University of Massachusetts and am excited to be back on a university campus. My husband is a sport’s writer for the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. His beat is the MSU football team.

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my two cats, Pixie and Phoebe, walking with my dog, Bubba, and spending as much time in Yellowstone as possible.

**Lisa White – Accounting Associate**

I am originally from Emmetsburg, IA, which is a very small town in Northwest Iowa. I went to college at the University of Northern Iowa and just recently graduated with an Accounting degree. My husband and I just celebrated our second year anniversary. We have a German Shorthair named Potter who will turn 2yrs. old on July 4.

We enjoy going hiking and biking. I am also a huge Notre Dame Football fan. One of my relatives was actually a head football coach there for five seasons from 1954-1958. I have been watching them play my whole life. My husband is working with a grad student from the Fisheries department this summer in Buffalo, WY. We have only been in Montana for a little over three weeks and are enjoying ourselves immensely.

**Lily Davis – Admin Associate – Potato Lab**

Hello! My name is Lily Davis and I am the new Administrative Assistant for the Potato Lab. I have been working in the lab’s office since May 8th, two days after my commencement ceremony here at MSU. I graduated with a degree in Organismal Biology and with an Honors Degree from the
University Honors Program. As a student, I worked for the University Honors Program, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Museum of the Rockies, and Priscu Labs. I am originally from Lantana, Florida which is on the east side of the state, midway between Orlando and Miami. I came to Montana to be closer to mountains, to experience a real winter with snow, and to escape from the crowds of large cities. I love it here in Bozeman, where I live with my boyfriend, Mackenzie, and our pets; a cat named Peekaboo, a gerbil named Westley, and a plethora of fish in their spacey (and very difficult to move) 55-gallon tank. In my short time working in the Potato Lab, I am meeting many kind and helpful people, learning from a few mistakes, learning more about both paperwork and potatoes than I could have imagined, and having loads of fun! Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself, and take care!

New Graduate Student
Ernesto Moya – Jacobsen

I am from Chile and am hoping to start work toward my Ph.D. this fall here at MSU. I chose to study in the Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology because of the great recommendation given to me by my friend Ivette Acuña, a previous graduate student of Dr. Jacobson’s. My wife, Vanessa, is practicing as an attorney in Chile. She will be coming to Bozeman in November. All my life, I have been interested in agriculture; I am the son of a farmer in one of the principle areas of agricultural production in Chile. I attended high school in an Agricultural Vocational School in San Vicente de Paul, Coltauco, 6th Region of Chile. In this school, I obtained the title of “Technician in Agriculture”. After high school, I studied in the School of Agriculture and Forestry in the Pontifícia Universidad Católica de Chile. There, I obtained the professional title of Agronomist and received my M.S. I worked there as a research assistant until arriving here in June. In Chile, I worked in the areas of evaluation of fungicides, the effect of biocontrollers and extracts of native plants on the control of pathogens and the use of software in the assessment of plant diseases. Before I moved to Bozeman, I was working on the project “Why are plants affected by diseases - The secrets of plants and microbes”, with the intent of motivating children in elementary school to follow a career in science agricultural, especially phytopathology. In my first month in Bozeman, I have been fascinated by the beauty of the area. Some of the beauty reminds me of southern Chile. Likewise, I hope to visit Yellowstone Park soon and go to a rodeo. I love reading, bicycle riding, and playing soccer, but the best part is meeting new people and making new friends.

New Grants
Sands, David, “Novel Uses for Amino Acids in Weed Control”, Montana Department of Agriculture

Funding for Barley for Rural Development Program
By Tom Blake
Funding was approved for ‘Barley for Rural Development’, a CSREES Special Program to support development of higher value (e.g. malting) barley for dryland producers in Montana and Idaho. The MSU barley project leads the program, with the University of Idaho as collaborator. Total funding is $720,000, with the funds split evenly between MSU and UI.

Also, funding was received for the MSU component of the USDA Barley Coordinated Action Program, a barley genetics project led by the University of Minnesota with 10 states involved. Our job is to provide information on drought adaptation.

Publications
Castillo, U., Strobel, G.A., Mullenberg K., Condron M.M., Teplow, D., Folgiano, V., Gallo,


**By Bob Johnston (Irene Decker filling in)**

**Going back in a document**

No matter where you are in a document, the fantastically useful Go Back command scrolls directly back to the last place you clicked—which usually means the last place you edited—even if it was in another open document. In fact, each time you use the Go Back command, your insertion point jumps among four places: the last three edit spots and your current position. The Go Back keystroke in Windows is Ctrl+Alt+Z; on the Mac, it's Command-Option-Z. (You may as well use the Customize command to change these keystrokes to something more convenient, though. I've remapped that keystroke to Ctrl-G on the PC and Command-G on the Mac.)

**Inserting a blank screen in your presentation**

When your presentation is interrupted by discussion, helpless laughter, etc., press the letter B key (or the period key) to put up a blank black slide. Or press W (or the comma key) for a blank white slide. Either way, your audience can now focus on you, or each other, instead of being distracted by your slide.

**Scrolling through web pages**

If a whole Web page doesn't fit in a single window, life's too short to use the scroll bar. Even the mouse's wheel, if it has one, requires some time-consuming precision. Instead, press the Space bar to see the next screenful (when your insertion-point cursor isn't in a text box, of course). Press the Option key with the Space bar to scroll up again. (The Page Up and Page Down keys work, too, but the Space bar is a bigger target.)

**By Bob Gough**

**How much water does a plant use?**

The question cannot be answered simply, though it’s commonly asked. The amount of water lost by a plant through transpiration depends upon the plant species, age, and cuticular thickness, wind speed, air and soil temperature, soil type, plant nutrition, ambient relative humidity, plant canopy density, time of day, degree of overcast, and the initial availability of water. In general, plants lose about 98% of the water they take in. So the problem is complex and is impossible to answer simply. Still, because it's so often asked, here's a few examples of water loss in some plants under some circumstances. Remember, these are rough estimates.

- One corn plant between early May and early September loses about 54 gallons of water. An acre of corn transpires about 324,000 gallons each season. This is equivalent to covering the acre with a sheet of water 11 inches deep.
- An acre of red maples (Acer rubrum) would lose about 833,563 gallons, or the equivalent of covering the acre with 28.3 inches of water.
- Pine and spruce have one of the lowest transpiration rates, losing about 1 - 4 grams of water per square decimeter of canopy per day. That's about 100 - 400 grams per square yard of leaf surface per day. There are 454 grams in a pound.
- Birch is higher, losing about 340 grams per square yard of leaf surface per day.
- White oak growing in North Carolina, can lose up to 1400 grams per square yard of leaf canopy per day.
- That boxelder in the back yard likes water, but loses only about 640 grams per square yard per day.
- Lemon trees can lose up to about 4500 grams per square yard of canopy per day.
Recipes
Fried Rice with Cilantro
You can use either chicken, pork, bacon or seafood.
- great with calamari and prawns.
4 tablespoons vegetable oil
5 cloves garlic, finely chopped
2 green chilies, diced
2 cups cubed skinless, boneless chicken breast meat
2 cups cooked jasmine rice, chilled
1 tablespoon white sugar
1 tablespoon fish sauce
1 tablespoon soy sauce
2 teaspoons chopped green onion
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil leaves
5 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Heat the oil in a wok or large skillet, over medium-high heat. Fry the garlic until golden, then add the chili pepper and chicken meat, and stir-fry until cooked through.
When the chicken is cooked, add the rice, sugar, fish sauce, and soy sauce. Cook over medium heat, stirring gently. When the mixture is well blended, stir in the green onions, basil, and cilantro. Cook for 1 more minute, then serve hot.

July Birthdays
Jinling Kang  1
Susie Couch  2
Andy Hogg  8
Jack Riesselman  9
Petrea Hofer  28
Ray Ditterline  29
Susie Siemsen  22
Katie Cash  3