

*Plant Science  
Says*



*Happy  
Easter!*

*April, 2006*

### **Promotion and Tenure**



Congratulations to Andreas Fischer on receiving tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor. Also, congratulations to Cathy Cripps on successfully passing her three year retention review.

Dean states, "You were the sole winner this year from among our Montana State University faculty. Your consistently high teaching scores, your high degree of professionalism and instructional integrity, your affable personality and your perseverance in carrying out your instruction duties all reflect most highly upon your department, your college, and your university." Congratulations Cathy!

### **Paul Trusty wins the Forest Fungal Ecology Research Award**



This award is presented annually by the Mycological Society of America to one MS or PhD student working on ecological studies of

fungal interactions in old growth forests or other unique or endangered ecosystems. Proposals should address innovative approaches to examining fungal systems or interactions of individuals, or groups of fungi, with hosts or substrates in old growth forest or other sensitive ecosystems. Paul's proposed research project is "The impact of fire on the mycorrhizal status of *Pinus albicaulis* (whitebark pine) on the Fridley Burn, Gallatin County, MT" and will be conducted this summer. It comes with a stipend of \$1000. Paul is a graduate student of Dr. Cathy Cripps doing his research in the Mycology Lab and he is also a teaching assistant for the new Howard Hughes Undergraduate Program. Congratulations to Paul!

### **Cripps Wins Teaching Award of Merit**

Congratulations to Cathy Cripps on receiving the Teaching Award of Merit. This is presented each year by the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture to an outstanding faculty member in our Land-Grant System. Dr. Bob Gough, Associate



*Dr. Bob Gough presents teaching award to Dr. Cathy Cripps*

## Cindy Morris Returns to Work on Project



Cindy Morris will be back in Bozeman for the month of April. She is coming back to work on a joint project with the CBE (Anne Camper and Phil Stewart), Dave Sands, and the University of Concepcion in Chili (represented by Kathy Sossa who is currently a postdoc in

Anne Camper's lab). The project concerns the development of methods for testing the sensitivity of epiphytic plant pathogenic bacteria to biocides and their use in screening for new biocides among natural plant products. The techniques being developed will take into account the properties of bacteria "in planta" that can influence their resistance to biocides, in particular their formation of biofilms.

## ew Grants

Luther Talbert, "Wheat Applied Genetics", University of California, Davis

## Publications

Osmundson, T.W., Cripps, C.L. and G.M. Mueller 2005 (published May 2006). Morphological and molecular systematics of Rocky Mountain alpine *Laccaria*. *Mycologia* 97(5): 949-972.

## Utility Programs to Make Your Life Easier

**By Bob Johnston**

The new website is now online. When I redesigned the site I set it up so that faculty can access and update their own webpages. If you are interested in doing this, let me know. You will need to download a program called Contribute onto your computer which will give you access and authoring rights to your folder. The cost of the program via the MSU site license is 57 dollars per user.



Here are some utility programs that might make your life easier. Microsoft Word has a hidden data

feature that allows it to keep track of revisions, reviewers and reviewer comments. If you don't want to share this information with the world, Microsoft has a program that will strip this information from the word doc file. Go to Microsoft Corp., [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com); search for **rhdttool.exe** to download. After you install the program, you will find a button called remove hidden data under File (at the top of the Word Menu). Select this button and the Word will save your file without the hidden data. Stripped data will be shown so you can see what was removed.

There is an add-on program for Word that functions like the reveal codes feature in Word Perfect. The program called Crosseyes can be found at the Levit & James website at [www.levitjames.com](http://www.levitjames.com). The program opens a window that shows exactly where format settings, language markers, bookmark codes, and every other Word feature begins and ends – very useful. You can download a copy and try it for free for 3 weeks. After that the cost is 34.75 per copy.

## How large a ball of earth should be taken with the rootsystem when a tree or shrub is transplanted?

**By Bob Gough**

This question comes up all the time. The answer is to take a ball as large as you can move. And that may not be all that large. Here's how to calculate the weight of a root ball of "average" soil:



First, there are some rules you need to know. We recommend that a rootball less than 20 inches in diameter needs to have a depth at least 75% of the diameter. If it's 20 inches, the depth needs to be at least 15 inches. The depth of root balls 20 to 30 inches in diameter should be at least 66% of the diameter, and root balls between 31 and 48 inches in diameter need to be 60% as deep.

Calculate the weight of the rootball by using the following formula--Take one third of the product of the square of the diameter times the ball depth and multiply that number by 0.075. That will give you the weight of the root ball in pounds.

For example, say we have a root ball that is 12 inches in diameter and 12 inches deep. Then  $12 \times 12 \times 12 = 1728$ .  $1728/3 = 576$ .  $1728 - 576 = 1152$  cu. in.  $1152 \times 0.075 = 86.4$  pounds, the weight of the ball.

Add to that the weight of the plant and the weight of any excess moisture in the soil and you'll have all you can handle just to move a small tree.

## Recipes

### Quick and Easy Pancit

- 1 (12 ounce) package dried rice noodles
- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1 onion, finely diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups diced cooked chicken breast meat
- 1 small head cabbage, thinly sliced
- 4 carrots, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 lemons - cut into wedges, for garnish



1. Place the rice noodles in a large bowl, and cover with warm water. When soft, drain, and set aside.
2. Heat oil in a wok or large skillet over medium heat. Saute onion and garlic until soft. Stir in chicken, cabbage, carrots and soy sauce. Cook until cabbage begins to soften. Toss in noodles, and cook until heated through, stirring constantly. Transfer pancit to a serving dish and garnish with quartered lemons.

## April Birthdays

Bill Pond	11
John Sherwood	12
Mike Giroux	12
Toby Day	15
Amanda Henry	19
Matt Lavin	20
Andreas Fischer	25
Nina Zidack	26
Jeremy Jewell	28
Rich Stout	30



## An April Fool's Joke From the Past The Predictions of Isaac Bickerstaff

In February 1708, a previously unknown London astrologer named Isaac Bickerstaff published an almanac in which he predicted the death by fever of the famous rival astrologer John Partridge. According to Bickerstaff, Partridge would die on March 29 of that year. Partridge indignantly denied the prediction, but on March 30 Bickerstaff released a pamphlet announcing that he had been correct: Partridge was dead. It took a day for the news to settle in, but soon everyone had heard of the astrologer's demise. On April 1, April Fool's Day, Partridge was woken by a sexton outside his window who wanted to know if there were any orders for his funeral sermon. Then, as Partridge walked down the street, people stared at him as if they were looking at a ghost or stopped to tell him that he looked exactly like someone they knew who was dead. As hard as he tried, Partridge couldn't convince people that he wasn't dead. Bickerstaff, it turned out, was a pseudonym for the great satirist Jonathan Swift. His prognosticatory practical joke upon Partridge worked so well that the astrologer finally was forced to stop publishing his almanacs, because he couldn't shake his reputation as the man whose death had been foretold.