

Plant Science Says



Merry Christmas!

Volume 12, Number 11

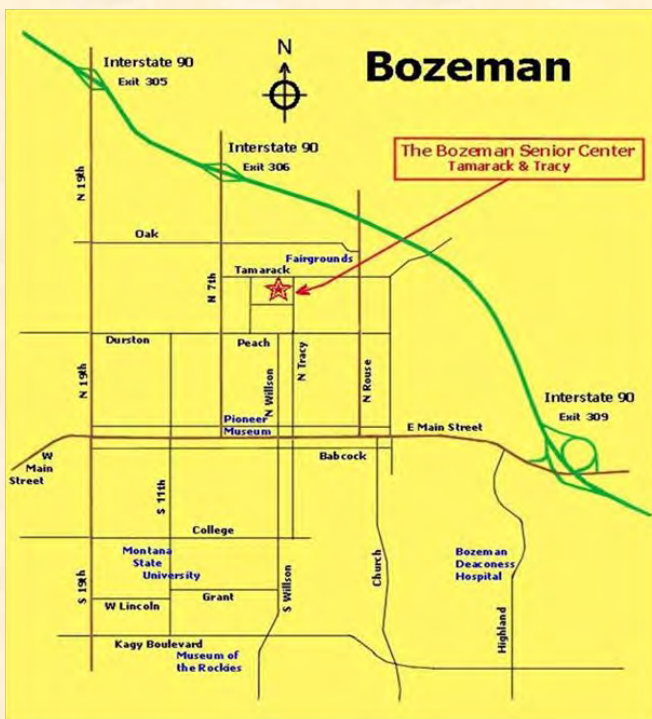
December, 2009

Departmental Christmas Party



The Departmental Christmas party will be on Friday, December 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bozeman Senior Center. Dinner will be at 5:45 p.m.; Santa will be showing up around 7:00 p.m., and after that you will have the opportunity to play Bingo.

Please bring one of the following to share: **Hors d'oeuvres, a vegetable or potato dish, salad or dessert.** The meat, rolls, and drinks will be provided. Please join us! Note: They do not allow alcoholic beverages as it is a city owned facility.



MSU Horticulture Club Earns Grant By Tracy Dougher

The MSU Horticulture Club has received a grant for extracurricular plant production activities from the Cenex Harvest States Foundation. Hort Club President Tara Gregorich wrote the proposal to the CHS Foundation College Club Mini-Grants program, a program geared to strengthen learning experiences and professional development opportunities for agriculture-related college clubs. The CHS Foundation provides up to \$1,000 to innovative leadership and professional development programs with an agriculture focus. The CHS Foundation (www.chsfoundation.org) is the major giving entity of CHS Inc. (www.chsinc.com), a diversified energy, grains and foods company committed to providing the essential resources that enrich lives around the world.

Landscape Design Updates By Page Huyette

PSPP 480 Portfolio Design is wrapping up for the semester. This online class instructs students in defining web presence, target markets for employment, and designing an online web portfolio. See some examples of student portfolios in progress at the end of the newsletter.

PSPP432 Advanced Landscape Design presented their master plans for the MSU Hort Farm to faculty, staff and other guests on November 20th. The class is now working on completing designs for project sites on Bozeman's North 7th Avenue and master plans for Irving Elementary School's new garden & outdoor classroom.



Landscape Design students measuring at Irving School



PSPP 432 Landscape Design students

New Employees Carol Sharrock—419 LJH



Hi, my name is Carol Sharrock, and I started working with Jamie Sherman in the Wheat Genetics Lab at the beginning of **October**. I'm working on marker assisted selection for wheat stem sawfly resistance.

I graduated from U.C. Davis with my **bachelor's degree in Bacteriology**, and worked as a Research Associate at U.C. Davis, and also for biotech companies in Berkeley, CA and Madison, WI before moving here to Bozeman with my husband, Bob. I worked in the Microbiology Dept. here at MSU as Instructional Lab Manager before transferring to PSPP. Bob and I have two grown daughters, Katy and Julia. In my free time I like to hike, camp, and read.

Grants

Kevin Wanner, Western IPM Center. "Mountain Pine Beetles Attacking High Value Urban Trees". \$68,731. This is a two year study to develop and promote integrated pest management practices for managing mountain pine beetles in urban environments.

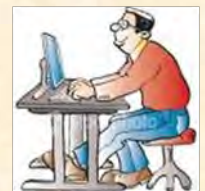
Books

Dunkel, F., G. DeFoliart, and D. Gracer. The Food Insects Newsletter, Volumes 1-13, 1988-2000.

These 414 pages include color illustrations and seven color plates, a highly entertaining collection of food insect festival photos, invaluable indexes, an unabridged reprint of the entire 13 volumes of the Food Insects Newsletter, scientifically accurate biochemistry, basic biology, recipes, and many other ways to learn about how most of the world enjoys food insects. It carries a strong message of why it is important to encourage cultures for whom it is an essential part of their daily protein intake, especially for the kids, to eat insects, and to continue those healthy choices. This book is the most comprehensive collection of food insect information published.

Bob's Byte By Bob Johnston

This bit of information is a follow up to the Windows 7 information article in the October newsletter. As I mentioned in that article, Windows 7 will only update a computer currently running Windows Vista. I did, however, come across a piece of software that will allow you to update a Windows XP computer. If you have an interest in doing this, look into buying a copy of PCmover developed by a company called LapLink. This program has a wizard



which will walk you through the update process and will move all your data and program files. The wizard will give you a list of current programs and will allow you to select just the ones that you wish to move. This is a great way to get rid of old unwanted applications. A couple of items to be aware of is the fact that this application will not move old device drivers and you may need to go to the computer manufacturer's website to get the latest device drivers compatible with your new operating system. In addition, some antivirus and copy protected media files may need to be reinstalled.

The History and Meaning of Mistletoe

By Toby Day



Mistletoe in oak tree, Photo, Martin LaBar

One of the things I love about Christmas is all the history behind our holiday traditions. For instance, why do we decorate Christmas trees, why do we hang wreaths on our doors, and why is it customary to kiss under the mistletoe?

The history behind mistletoe has to be one of my favorites.

Mistletoe (*Phoradendron flavescens*) is a partial-parasite plant, also known as a hemiparasite, and is native to North America. It grows predominately in the Eastern-half of the U.S. from New Jersey to Florida, but will grow as far west as New Mexico. The leaves of the mistletoe are often pointed and leathery, the berries vary from white to red, and the flowers can vary from white to red and even green in color.

Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that has the ability to produce chlorophyll for photosynthesis and grow on its own. However, most of the time mistletoe grows parasitically on the branches of predominately oak and apple trees, extracting nutrients from its host. Because the mistletoe is

parasitic, it has been wrapped in magic and mystery recorded as far back as the first century.

Druids in the first century believed the mistletoe could ward off witches and witchcraft, while in the eight century, Vikings believed that mistletoe could raise the dead (I often wonder why mistletoe isn't associated with Halloween rather Christmas, but I'll leave that for another time). For many centuries it has been associated with healing powers, protection from evil and the weather, an antidote for many poisons, and was even thought to be able to put out fires.

Most Christian traditions and customs surrounding mistletoe came about because of early European folklore that believed mistletoe carried pretty amazing mystical and magical powers. None is more powerful than mistletoe's ability to bestow love and peace. In Scandinavia, mistletoe was used to declare peace during war time, even amongst warring spouses. Many cultures used mistletoe as an aphrodisiac. Infertile women consumed mistletoe in trying to conceive children throughout the middle ages.



Photo courtesy of Getty images stock

The tradition of kissing under mistletoe most likely came about because of an eighteenth century English tradition of the kissing ball. When a young lady was standing under a clump of mistletoe (the kissing ball), especially when the mistletoe was all made up for Christmas, She could not be refused a kiss. The kiss could mean a lot of

things - a lasting friendship (which is it's why it is O.K. to kiss friends under the mistletoe), romance (which is why I tried so hard to kiss any girl I could in 7th grade), or goodwill

(which is why it is O.K. to kiss your aunt Edna or uncle Frank, even though you don't want to).

However, my favorite part of kissing under the mistletoe isn't its powers or traditions. It is how the word "mistletoe" was derived. Mistletoe has long been considered magical and mysterious because people generations ago thought that the plant didn't grow from seed, but rather mysteriously just appeared.

Today, we understand that mistletoe usually grows from seed that has been digested from birds. This wasn't fully understood and many thought that the plant grew from birds and their droppings. Therefore, the word mistletoe originally called "misteltan" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words "mistel" meaning "dung" and "tan" meaning "twig". Yes, you guessed it. The word mistletoe means, well, "poo-on-a stick". There's something for you to think about while you got your lips puckered under the mistletoe this Christmas.

Recipe of the Month

Breakfast Casserole (Tamara brought this to coffee the Friday before Thanksgiving)

- 1 lb pork breakfast sausage
- 1/2 lb grated sharp cheese
- 1/2 t dry mustard
- 1/2 t paprika
- 1 t salt (may use less depending on how salty you like things)
- 1 c sour cream
- 16 eggs (depending on desired number of servings)
- Vegetable oil spray or butter



Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Cook sausage in a large skillet, then drain. Spray a 9x13 with vegetable spray. Put half of the grated cheese on the bottom of the dish. Mix spices with sour cream, add in the sausage, the spread sausage-sour cream mixture over grated cheese in dish. Beat eggs and pour over sausage mixture. Sprinkle remaining grated cheese on top. Bake for 25-30 minutes and serve. Serves 14.

December Birthdays

- Ted Clack 3
- Bill Grey 4
- Nancy Blake 6
- Jackie Campbell 11



Elena Kalinina Turner	21
Cheryl Moore Gough	23
Ross Winton	24
Sue Brumfield	26
Lucy Cooke	30



Once again, it has been great working for all of you this year. We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Tamara, Joanna, Courtney and Irene

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDENT PORTFOLIOS

Created by Chelsey Gilman



PORTFOLIO

by Chelsey Gilman

Welcome to Chelsey's blog!

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Satullo Residence

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