

Plant Science Says



March, 2001

Who We Are

by Dr. Norm Weeden

All of us contribute to the reputation and productivity of this department. However, the department is large and multifaceted, and sometimes it is difficult to relate how all the parts contribute to the whole—or what the whole really is. This note is one of a series of short articles that will give my perspective on various aspects of the department, sort of a who we are and where we are heading. The subject of this article is our undergraduate teaching role, specifically what our strengths are and what we can and should be offering students who are enrolled at Montana State University.

Fortunately, we not only have a unique role in the state, and regionally the region, but also our role can be articulated relatively succinctly and clearly. We are the only department in the region including Montana, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and the Dakotas that includes all fields of plant biology from the very basic to the applied. Other than in the fields of forestry and plant ecology, our role in the state is to provide expertise on plants (interpreted broadly enough to include fungi) and their pathogens. In a sense, we are married to plants both in sickness and health.

No other single department in the region offers a student training in traditional botany, horticulture, crop science and plant pathology. At our peer institutions in the region (SDSU, USU, UI/WSU, or CSU) knowledge regarding the plant sciences is spread over at least two departments. Indeed, I am not sure if there is a department in the nation with such a holistic view. From this perspective, the role we play in the state and the region becomes clear—we are a center for knowledge about plants. Other schools in the region may have a similar assemblage of expertise, but we should be more efficient and interactive. If our unique grouping of expertise means anything, it means we should develop better solutions to and a deeper understanding of plant-related problems more rapidly than related departments at other universities. In other words, we should be the leading plant science department in the region.

Thus, we can confidently state to prospective students that if they are interested in any aspect of the plant sciences (again except forestry and plant ecology), they should come to PSPP at MSU. We can argue that they will receive a better education in plant biology at MSU than at any other institution around. Conversely, we are responsible for providing that knowledge and expertise about the biology, culture, genetics and diseases of plants needed by the people of Montana. Perhaps more specifically for undergraduates, we are expected to provide the information and training that permit our majors to understand and work with plants more fully than students at any other university in our region. We have the expertise; our teachers are dedicated. Even now, a degree in Horticulture or Crop Science from Montana State University has a good reputation. Let us make it our goal that our students obtain the best education in plant sciences available in the northern Rocky Mountain and Great Plains region. In five years, we should find that not only will our graduates be highly sought after but also high school students interested in plant biology will rate MSU among their top choices.

Crop Pest Management School

Luther Talbert and Jack Riesselman were contributors to the success of the 2001 Crop Pest Management School. Luther and Jack were the two highest rated speakers during the three day school. The CPMS takes place every winter in January for 3 days. The featured speaker this year was Dr. Leonard Coop. He spoke on phenology (growth) models and degree days which is a way to measure the amount of heat that reaches the earth's surface. In attendance this year were 6 consultants, 8 NRCS representatives and several ag producers. The School took place in the PGC, close to the specialists and their research. This makes it possible for the attendees to view fresh specimens and immerse themselves in a research environment.

BOB'S BYTE

Bob Johnston

Sharing Resources with Other Computers – Part II

If you have multiple computers that have network connections it is very easy to share files or printers among

these machines. If you do share resources you can save dollars by not having a printer attached to each computer or in the case of files, having multiple copies of files which may have different contents.



To share resources, the ability to do this must be turned on from the machine to which the printer is attached or from which files will be shared. To do this, **Right Click** on Network Neighborhood and select properties. Click on File and Print sharing and then click on the resources you wish to share. Close out of this screen and return to the properties screen. Click on the Identification tab and note your node name and which workgroup your computer is associated with.

To share either folders or drives with another computer, right click on the folder or drive and select sharing. Assign a name if you wish and then select the type of access. If you select read only, the computer sharing will not be able to modify the drive or folder contents. If you select full access, this allows for complete access to read and modify either files or directories. Unless it is necessary to give full access to your machine, sharing only directories is much safer. Be sure to select a password which is not easy to guess – Alphanumeric is best. If the sharing is setup correctly, a hand should show under the folder or drive icon.

To access a folder or drive being shared, find the computer name under Network Neighborhood and click on it. The shared resources will be listed under that computer name. Once you see the list, you can right click on the resource that you wish to access and then select map network drive. Supply the password and your machine will connect and it will appear that the shared folder or drive is just another drive attached to your machine (just like the N: or P: drive).

NOTE: If you authenticate through MSU with an NT client license using a user name and password (this will be mostly the office and administrative people), the procedure is a little different – See me for info.

New Employees

Soren Brauner



Dr. Soren Brauner, Professor of Biology at Ashland University in Ohio, is on sabbatical in Dr. Weeden's Lab until July. Soren received his B.A. in Environmental Biology, M.A. in Botany at the University of California at Santa Barbara, and

his Ph.D. in Genetics at U.C. Davis, where he was in Leslie Gottlieb's lab along with Dr. Weeden. His interests are in

evolutionary genetics, and he is currently working on peas to gain experience in the use of molecular markers for mapping quantitative trait loci. He is an avid hiker and looks forward to exploring the Montana wilderness this summer.

Grants

Mark Young

DEPSCoR, Viral-based architectures for Nanomaterials Synthesis

Recipe of the Month

Cardamom Cream Crepes

Mix:

1 ½ cups all purpose flour

1 T white sugar

½ t. baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

Stir in the following:

2 cups milk

2 T butter, melted

½ t vanilla

2 eggs

Beat all ingredients until smooth. Lightly butter 6 inch skillet, heat over medium heat until bubbly. Pour slightly less than 1/4 cup batter into skillet, immediately rotate skillet until batter covers bottom. Cook until light brown. Run spatula around edge to loosen; turn and cook other side until light brown. Stack crepes, placing waxed paper between each, keep covered.

¾ c heavy cream (whipped)

¼ c packed brown sugar

¼ t ground cardamom

1/3 c sour cream

1 (16 oz) can whole berry cranberry sauce

Cream brown sugar and cardamom in chilled small bowl with electric mixer on high speed about 2 minutes or just until soft peaks form. Fold in sour cream.

Spoon about 2 T cream mixture onto each crepe; roll up. Place 2 crepes, seam sides down, on each plate. Top with a dollop of whipped cream and cranberry sauce.

March Birthdays

Brian Beecher 21

Vladimir Kanazin 24

Elaine Nichols 31

Happy Birthday!





Richman



Kirstin Coolga



Dick Pohl



Matt Lavin



Tracy Dougher



Norm Weeden



Mareike Johnston



Mark Young



Irene Decker



Sarah Briggs



Martha Mikkulson



Jim Berg



Lynn Goosey



Don Mathre



Gary Strobel