



Plant Science Says

September, 1999

New Department Head Arrives

Dr. Norm Weeden has arrived and is beginning his duties as our department head. He will be in and out this first week but starting next Wednesday, he will be maintaining a regular schedule. He looks forward to getting reacquainted with each of you. Stop by and say hi.

Turfgrass candidates schedules

The following are the schedules for the two turfgrass candidates we have coming in. Please plug in where you can and give your input to one of the following people on the search committee: Bob Gough, Dick Pohl, Rick Bates, Cathy Cripps.

Schedule for Dr. Steve Keeley

Thursday, September 9, 1999

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast-Search Committee and Dr. Weeden
- 9:00 a.m. Dr. Quisenberry (202 Linfield)
- 10:00 a.m. Seminar Preparation (108 ABS)
- 10:30 a.m. Research Seminar (108 ABS)
- 11:45 a.m. Undergrad Lunch (Casa Sanchez)
- 1:00 p.m. Dr. Weeden (303 ABS)
- 2:15 p.m. Meet with Faculty (325 LJH)
- 3:15 p.m. Meet with Susie (Student Affairs Secretary 324 LJH)
- 6:-8: p.m. Dinner (to be announced)

Friday, September 10, 1999

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast (to be announced)
- 9:00 a.m. Dr. Kress (202 Linfield)
- 10:00 a.m. Seminar Preparation (108 ABS)
- 10:30 a.m. Teaching Seminar (108 ABS)
- 11:45 a.m. Faculty Lunch (327 ABS)
- 1:15 p.m. ABS and PGC Tour by David Baumbauer
- 2:30 p.m. Hort Farm and Post Farm Tour by Rick Bates
- 6:-8: p.m. Dinner with Dr. Weeden and the Search Committee

Schedule for Kevin Frank

Monday, September 13, 1999

- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast-Search Committee and Dr. Weeden
- 8:00 a.m. Meet with Committee
- 9:00 a.m. Dr. Kress (202 Linfield)
- 10:00 a.m. Seminar Preparation (108 ABS)
- 10:30 a.m. Teaching Seminar (108 ABS)
- 11:45 a.m. Faculty Lunch (327 ABS)
- 1:00 p.m. Dr. Quisenberry (202 Linfield)
- 2:15 p.m. Dr. Weeden (303 ABS)
- 3:15 p.m. Meet with Susie (Student Secretary-324 LJH)
- 6 - 8 p.m. Dinner (to be announced)

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast (to be announced)
- 9:00 a.m. Meet with Faculty (325 LJH)
- 10:00 a.m. Seminar Preparation (108 ABS)
- 10:30 a.m. Research Seminar (108 ABS)
- 11:45 a.m. Undergrad Lunch (Casa Sanchez)
- 1:15 p.m. ABS and PGC Tour by David Baumbauer
- 2:30 p.m. Hort Farm and Post Farm by Rick Bates
- 6- 8: p.m. Dinner with Dr. Weeden and the Search Committee

West to Australia

Mark Young

It is 6:30 in the morning and you're waiting to clear customs in the Sydney airport... you have seen five airplane movies in the past 35 hours...the sight of another airplane meal (?) reminds you of your last grant rejection... and your normally cheerful traveling companion refuses to talk to you...and you are asking yourself was the trip from Bozeman to Sydney really worth it? Clearly it was. A few weeks ago, Debbie Willits and myself attended the six day International Congress of Virology, which was held in Sydney, Australia. This meeting is held every three years somewhere in the world and brings together virologists

from around the world. This year's ICV meeting was attended by three thousand virologists. All aspects of virology were discussed through plenary sessions, workshops, and poster sessions. In general the quality of the scientific program was excellent which ranged from the chemical details of virus function to new and emerging viral diseases. Debbie presented an outstanding talk on viral assembly that was well received by a normally critical audience. I was particularly impressed with the rapid progress in the understanding of gene silencing in plants and the interplay between viral gene products and the mammalian immune system.

Debbie, myself and colleagues from Scripps Research Institution and the University of Oklahoma made a two day 800km side trip to Australia's capitol, Canberra. Along the way, we were treated to numerous sightings of kangaroos, wallabies, exotic Australian birds and a 'bit' of Australian beer. While in Canberra I visited the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, which gave me an opportunity to learn of their recent research activity and to catch up with old friends.

But not all our time was spent in pursuit of virology. After the meeting we traveled 2000km to Cairns located in northeastern Australia. Debbie had a wonderful week enjoying snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef, visiting rainforests, and horseback riding (in addition to closing down a few pubs with new found Scottish friends!). I took the opportunity to explore a section of the York Peninsula by 4WD. I had a wonderful time exploring some truly remote and rugged bush country full of wildlife.

Overall it was an exceeding enjoyable trip, both professionally and personally.

Lab of the Month - Matt Lavin (332 ABS)

My main research direction is the systematics of the legume family (Fabaceae). With over 18,000 legume species distributed world-wide, there is plenty of opportunity for phylogenetic and biogeographic research. If I had to characterize a recent direction of my research, it would be global genetics, as opposed to population genetics. But up until recently, sampling has been problematic. Getting to Mexico, Madagascar, Malaysia and all points in-between is difficult. Two recent developments have given me hope. First, Adam Richman, a bonafide population geneticist is here to keep me intellectually on track, and second, DNA sequencing and PCR techniques have improved so much that it is fairly standard now to obtain good DNA sequence information of plants collected even 10-100 years ago. By extending population concepts like gene flow and isolation to higher scales, I am currently finishing up some projects

that indicate, among other things, that the Tertiary North Atlantic land bridge had a significant influence on the development of continental tropical biotas, and that islands like Cuba (more than Madagascar) harbor remnants of a continental flora that existed over 40 million years ago. This is interesting stuff if you like natural history. In terms of agricultural related research (however peripheral), I have had the opportunity to work with Luther Talbert on the genetic characterization of the wheat genomes, Alfonso Delgado (National University of Mexico) on the genetic variation in the common bean and all of its wild relatives, and Toby Pennington (Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh) on the genetic variation of the peanut and its wild relatives. My research has been largely funded by NSF for the past 14 years. I am up for a renewal this December, and it doesn't seem to get any easier.

Employee of the Month - Matt Lavin (308 ABS)



Matt was born in St. Anthony, Idaho, and spent the next 25 years of his life living in various towns in southern Idaho, western Wyoming, and northern Nevada. Surprisingly, he was raised under an Irish Catholic culture rather than an LDS one. He received a BS and MS degree from the University of Nevada at Reno, not in casino management but in biology. Subsequently he attended

the best university this nation has to offer, the University of Texas at Austin, where he received his Ph.D. in 1986. After a postdoc at Cornell (where he worked in part with the esteemed Norm Weeden), he headed back to the Rockies at MSU in 1989. For whatever reasons, Matt pretty much walks the middle of the road. He regularly uses the Windows, Mac, and Unix operating systems, in high school his friends were both the ropers and the dopers, and now he's venturing into applied research after years of basic stuff. Matt's wife, Kristi, is a nurse practitioner, and their two kids attend the Bozeman public schools (Longfellow and Sacajawea). Their main hobby is skiing. In fact, Matt is preparing for the upcoming cross-country ski season in part by keeping his competitive eye on Mark Young.

The M.S.U. Herbarium - A Brief History by Cathy Seibert

The M.S.U. Herbarium (MONT) was established as a research herbarium in 1898 by H. S. Jennings. Dr. J. W. Blankinship replaced Jennings that same year and is considered MONT's first Curator. By 1905, MONT contained approximately 15,000 (herbarium) sheets of vascular plant specimens and additional specimens of algae, mosses, liverworts, fungi, and lichens. Today, these

specimens give us an idea of what were the native and introduced range plants of Montana from the 1890's. Dr.

kinship, who left the Herbarium in 1906 for private plant pathology consultant work for mining organizations, was replaced by Dr. D.B. Swingle. In 1913, Dr. Swingle initiated the first course at Montana State University on the taxonomy of "higher" plants and published the first edition of his "Textbook of Systematic Botany" in 1928. Dr. Swingle shared curatorial and plant identification duties with H.E. Morris and Dr. F.B. Cotner until his death in 1944. He was officially replaced by Dr. W.E. Booth in the late 1940's. Curator "Ed" Booth wrote "Flora of Montana, Part I" (1950, conifers and monocots) and co-wrote with J.C. Wright "Flora of Montana, Dicotyledons, Part II" (1959, 1966). These two publications created the first State flora of Montana. In addition to teaching Agrostology and Seed-plant Taxonomy, Dr. Booth was also an avid plant collector and doubled the Herbarium's plant specimen holdings (approx. 60,000 sheets) by the time of his retirement in 1972. It was during Booth's curatorship that Montana State College became Montana State University. Dr. J.H. Rumely served as Curator of the MONT Herbarium from 1972 until his retirement in 1988 and during that time greatly expanded the Herbarium's teaching collection, which now supports three botanical taxonomy courses. Dr. Matt Lavin became the Curator of the MONT Herbarium (also known as W.E. Booth Herbarium) in 1988 and Catherine Seibert was hired as Collection Manager in 1989. The Herbarium still houses large teaching collections which support taxonomy courses (two of which Dr. Lavin teaches) and presently has almost 80,000 accessioned (vascular) plant herbarium sheets. The MONT Herbarium usually receives at least 300 visitors a year and provides plant identification services in addition to allowing library use, loaning plant pressing materials, and (approved by Curator) loaning of accessioned plant specimens for research purposes. We receive about 700 specimens from County Extension agents, a few of which are European exotics known from North America for the first time. They could be the future noxious weeds.

Grants

Tom Blake

"Stripe Rust Resistance in Wheat", US-Egypt Science and Technology Program

Mike Giroux

"Genetic and Biochemistry of Wheat Grain Hardness Genes", NRI Competitive Grant

Luther Talbert

"Herbicide Resistant Wheat", Private company

Jamie Sherman and Luther Talbert

Equipment grant, USDA-NRI

New Employee



We have added a new member to the Leon Johnson Support Staff...**Betty Light!!!** She is the receptionist and word processor. Betty and her daughter Heather recently moved here from Florida. They wanted to leave the urban lifestyle behind and start over in beautiful Bozeman. Please stop by and welcome Betty to our department.

New Graduate Student



Rebecca Bargabus is our newest graduate student working toward a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology. She comes to us from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. She is working with Dan Bergey on the peroxidase gene of sugar beet.

Vegetable drop off



This is the time of year when several of you have more fresh vegetables than you can use. If you would like to bring your extra vegetables to the office, (either ABS or LJH), we will email everyone and let them know about them. Those of us without gardens say "thank you" in advance. (Dr. Gough has enough zucchini to feed all of us for a month, so contact him if you are interested).

Office Corner

Sarah Briggs

The University and Department are continuing to struggle with the Banner program. There may be more paycheck errors this month than last month. Also, the budget office has indicated that financial reports will not be available for at least 2 more weeks. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Mary Roloff on the birth of her daughter
Mey Macayle on the 24th at 5:13 a.m. She weighed
almost 7 lbs and both are doing great. Mary would also
like to say thank you to everyone for the coffee and gift
certificate.

September Birthdays

Deborah Willits	3
Irene Decker	5
Barbara Honeycutt	9
Tami Sinnema	20
Gary Strobel	23
William Dyer	26
Mark Young	27
David Baumbauer	27

Happy Birthday!

Recipe of the Month

This addition to the newsletter is basically designed to help
those of you out there (male or female) who prepare dinner
but have very little time or energy to do it. If you have a
recipe or time saving tip, please drop it by the office and I
will share it in future newsletters.

Beef Dip Sandwiches

Irene Decker

Cook roast in crock pot for the day on low. (If deer or elk,
add 2 cups of water). Maybe put an onion with it or
season it however you like. After 9 hours or so slice it thin.
Put some water with beef broth in a pan, add part of an Au
Jus seasoning packet and heat thoroughly. (Follow
directions on the Au Jus package-I don't add a whole
packet and I do add some beef broth). Butter hoagie buns
and broil them for 1 minute or so-do not walk away or you
will burn them. Enjoy!