



RICH'S REFLECTION

February is always a busy month with all of the winter commodity meetings. This year I started the meeting season with a visit to Virginia. The Virginia State Horticultural Society invited me back to give two talks for the first time since I left. It was good to visit with old friends, but the meeting has really changed. We usually had about 120 people register and we had a small trade show with about 40 exhibitors for the two and half day meeting. This year there were only about 60 people in attendance and there was no trade show. Two weeks later I spent two and a half days in Hershey at the Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention. This meeting keeps getting bigger every year.

Pre-registrations for the meeting were at an all-time high and there is a waiting list for exhibitors wanting to participate in the trade show. The weather kept some speakers from attending, but our extension folks were very resourceful and found substitute speakers. Some speakers were able to email their presentations and presented them over the phone. This was not ideal, but everyone seemed to be happy. I saw several of our students in the educational sessions and the trade show, and they seemed to be enjoying themselves. Some Master Gardeners volunteered time to sell extension and regional publications and the county educators took care of all the audio visual needs and moderated many

of the sessions. The fruit and vegetable extension teams deserve a lot of credit for putting together this large program. Each year I see more non-Pennsylvanians at Hershey. I am sure more states were represented, but I saw people I knew from Nova Scotia, California, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. There were at least 10 growers from Virginia and they told me that our meeting is so good that some of them have stopped attending the Virginia meeting. One of the highlights of the convention was the annual awards banquet.

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ADVISING CENTER NEWS

By: Paige Thomas

It is time for your students to apply for a College of Agricultural Sciences/ Department of Horticulture scholarship for the next academic year. The simple application is completed on-line at this web site: <http://agsci.psu.edu/students> Follow link to scholarships. If students don't apply, they won't get a scholarship from

the Department of Horticulture next year. Registration for summer classes is happening NOW. Registration for Fall, 2011 classes begins after spring break and is staggered based on credits accumulated. Thanks for your help in getting this information out to your student advisees.



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Calendar of Events:

- March 1—Applications for Academic Computing Fellowship and AT&T Graduate Fellowship due (Grad Sids)
- March 6-12—Spring Break
- March 7—Pass Doctoral Defense (Grad Sids)
- March 13—Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 17—St. Patrick's Day
- March 20—First Day of Spring

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Mike Orzolek received an award and the Attorney General announced and introduced the new PA Secretary of Agriculture. I also attended the reception for Delaware Valley College alumni. I am sort of an honorary alum because my wife is an alum and I used to host their tree fruit class every year for a peach pruning workshop when I was at Rutgers. The good news is that DVC experienced a substantial increase in horticulture enrollment this fall, so maybe the trend is changing. I also had a breakfast meeting with about 20 county educators and I met with members of the PVGA and SHAP.

The meeting season ended for me when I briefly attended the Christmas Tree workshop here in town. Rick Bates puts together the best meeting of this type in the region and he draws people from quite a few states. I stayed long enough to hear Larry Kuhns talk about the evolution of his weed control program at his farm in Centre Hall. Rick and I also commiserated about the declining number of horticulturists that are available to speak at extension meetings. To put together the two-day program, he had to rely on several retired faculty members. We are having the same problem putting together tree fruit programs. Normally Virginia would not have invited me to speak about peaches because I haven’t generated any new information in 6 years, but there are

currently no researchers in the northeast or mid-Atlantic regions with a significant peach research program. It is frustrating that the demand for horticultural information seems to be increasing as the number of horticulturists is declining. After attending these meetings, it is obvious to me that people around the region view Penn State as the primary source of research-based information. If our programs are to survive and grow, we may have to find a way to leverage support from surrounding states.



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Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on March 13th

Improved plant efficiency is key to solving world hunger

By David Pacchioli
Research/Penn State

The Green Revolution is one of the great scientific success stories of the 20th century. The development of high-yield, disease-resistant varieties of wheat and rice by agronomist Norman Borlaug and others beginning in the 1940s dramatically increased food

production worldwide and saved hundreds of millions of lives.

But Borlaug's approach didn't work everywhere. Low crop yields in developing nations remain a primary cause of world hunger. And with a constantly rising global population, food security is now a 21st-century problem. It's time, plant nutritionist

Jonathan Lynch argues, for a second Green Revolution.

For more on this story, please see
<http://live.psu.edu/story/51029#nw63>

HORTICULTURE SEMINAR SERIES

ALL SEMINARS HELD IN 111 TYSON
4:00-5:00 PM

3/2/11	Honey Bee Decline: A Multitude of Cases	Nancy Ostiguy Entomology Penn State University
3/9/11	Spring Break	No Seminar
3/16/11	Modeling Soil Carbon Stocks in the Heterogeneous Cropland of the Palouse	Armen Kemanian Crop & Soil Sciences Penn State University
3/23/11	TBA	Roger Koide Horticulture Penn State University
3/30/11	TBA	Heather Karsten Crop & Soil Sciences Penn State University

Visit us on the Web
horticulture.psu.edu

SPRING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

All meetings held in room 10 Tyson

MARCH

Wednesday, March 16th
2:00 PM

APRIL

Wednesday, April 13th
10:00 AM

Congratulations!

Mike Orzolek was presented with the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association's Annual Award at the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Banquet in recognition of his long standing record of extraordinary service and dedication to the vegetable growers of Pennsylvania as well as the Association.

Department Birthdays

Bob Snyder—March 10
Sam Trachsel—March 22
Dave Despot—March 23
Jim Sellmer—March 23
Katy Barlow—March 24
Jeanette Arteca—March 26



This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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