



**NEW/BEGINNING TEACHER COLUMN**

*AgriScience and Leadership Development*

A seminar on Agriscience and Leadership Development Activities is scheduled for January 7, 2002, from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm in the Pennsylvania Room in the Farm Show Complex. We will provide you with resources and materials on the topics. Registration information will be mailed to all those individuals who agreed to participate in the Center for Professional Personnel Development's New and Beginning Teacher Program. You can earn ACT 48 hours by attending this seminar. If you are a new teacher in your first 3 years of teaching and want to be part of the program please contact, Tracy Hoover at [tsh102@psu.edu](mailto:tsh102@psu.edu) or 814-863-7463.

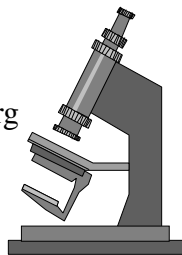
*Transpiration Workshop*

Cheryl Smith of Ward's Biology is conducting a Transpiration Workshop at Cumberland Valley High School on November 14, 2001, beginning at 4:30.

Please invite your science colleagues.

For reservations, contact Krista Pontius  
[kpontius@greenwoodsd.org](mailto:kpontius@greenwoodsd.org)  
 or 717-589-3116

Hope to see you there!



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**A Day of Exploration & Learning**



*Danaca Clark, AEE 412 Student, addressing Diversity*

On October 11, 2001, the AEE 311 and 412 students at The Pennsylvania State University gathered at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA for the annual Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Develop – FCLPD. This year's them was "FFA Makes it 'REEL.'"

Fifty-one state high schools brought more than 600 students to the one-day event. Paul Hosteter, State FFA President, served as MC for the FCLPD. He and his fellow teammates kicked off the conference with the FFA Opening Ceremonies and a welcome. As the morning progressed, Paul presented Nancy Campbell, FFA Foundation member, with a FCLPD T-shirt and thanked Hoss's for their support to the PA State FFA Association. The freshman students spent the day rotating through eighteen

*(continued on page 4)*

# Sites of Interest

## Tree ID and Measurement

Various extension materials are consolidated onto this website, which was developed for the 4-H forestry competition: <http://forestryjudging.nres.uiuc.edu/Index.html>. This site contains identification information for 25 common trees, a section that explains tree measurement, and a tutorial on using a compass.

There is also a site that was developed for the 4-H tree



identification project and contains a dichotomous tree key: <http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/forsite/idtree.htm>

If you click on the link "Dendrology at Virginia Tech" at the bottom of the page, you will find links to other tree-related information, such as "Ask Dr. Dendro" (aka John Peterson at Virginia Tech). The website allows searches by Latin name or common name in the angiosperm or gymnosperm families--it even explains those Latin names.



## World Lecture Hall

University of Texas at Austin has an online World Lecture Hall with <http://wnt.cc.utexas.edu/~wllh/index.cfm> Click on "Browse by Area" at the top of the home page and then select "Agriculture."

There are 6 agriculture courses, two of which have excellent resources for agriculture teachers. First, "Evolution of Crop Plants" by Paul Gepts of University of California at Berkeley has extensive lesson outlines and resources that start with the origins of agriculture and conclude with the future of crops.

The other course that offers excellent resources for teachers is "Soil-Plant-Microbial Interactions" by Davey Jones of the University of Wales at Bangor. There is extensive information about mycorrhizal fungi with beautiful photos and illustrations.

## A Melting Pot

To get the latest on grant opportunities go to [www.schoolgrants.org](http://www.schoolgrants.org). The site also includes information on writing tips, sample proposals, fund raising opportunities, contests, scholarships and safe schools ideas.



## Grant Funding Available

The American Association of University Women Educational Foundation is accepting applications for the 2002-2003 Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowships and Community Action Grants. The fellowships for professional development provide female K-12 public school teachers with up to \$5,000 for workshops, courses or conferences, including a five-day Teacher Institute held July 2002 in Washington, DC. Fellowships include seed money for planning a project to advance gender equity in classrooms and schools. Applications for the fellowships must be postmarked no later than January 10, 2002.

Grants are \$2,000 to \$7,000 for a one-year project, or \$5,000 to \$10,000 for a two-year project. One-year grants provide seed money for a clearly defined activity that must be innovative, community-based, and related to education and equity for women and girls. Two-year grants require a focus on activities supporting K-12 girls' interests and achievements in math, science and/or technology, as well as school/community partnerships. Both applications may be downloaded at <http://www.aauw.org/3000/fdnfelgra.html>, or call 319-337-1716.

## Penn State Turfgrass and Agricultural Equipment Service Certificate Program

Nationwide there exists a shortage of qualified agricultural equipment and small equipment service technicians. The traditional agricultural equipment dealerships and small engine/equipment distributors for servicing all types of self-propelled or attached equipment need these technicians. An additional and generally unrecognized market for service technicians is the turfgrass industry. The turf industry needs service personnel to maintain the equipment used on golf courses, and the increasing number of golf courses in the United States provides a growing market for this occupation.

Penn State's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering has developed the Turfgrass and Agricultural Equipment Service Certificate Program to train service techni-

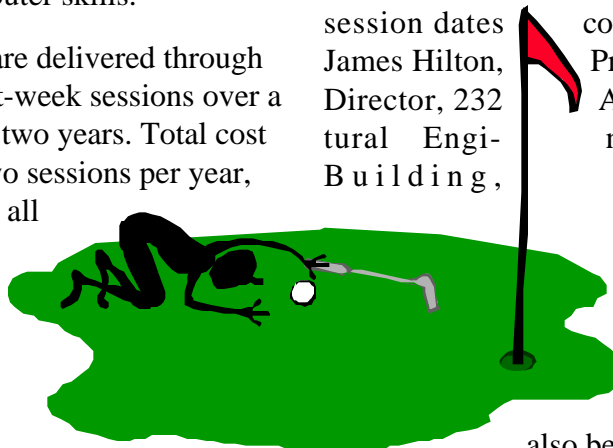
cians to meet these needs. Participants in the program will upgrade their current skills in hydraulics, electronics, machinery management, engines, and power transfer, as well as gain hands-on experience with the latest turfgrass equipment. Additional topics covered include communications, public relations, business applications, and computer skills.

Courses are delivered through four eight-week sessions over a period of two years. Total cost for the two sessions per year, including all books and supplies, is \$4,500/year for Pennsylvania residents and \$7,900/year for non-residents. Housing is available in the State College area and is the respon-

sibility of the student.

As your students consider career options suggest they take a serious look at the service technician program. Setup a visit to a local golf course or country club and talk with the golf course superintendent to assess the need for service technicians in the turf industry.

For more information and session dates contact Dr. James Hilton, Program Director, 232 Agricultural Engineering Building, University Park, PA 16802. Dr. Hilton may also be contacted by phone at 814-863-1817 or email [jwh2@psu.edu](mailto:jwh2@psu.edu).



## Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences

It goes without saying that Ag Science teachers play an invaluable role in shaping the future of agriculture in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and beyond. Many of the students who participate in the State's agriculture programs will go on to become influential agricultural leaders. In support of your efforts as an Ag Science teacher to develop these leaders, the State established the

Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences (PGSAS) in 1986, a familiar fact for those of you already aware of PGSAS.

PGSAS is a five-week, intensive program for selected high school sophomores and juniors throughout the State. It provides a unique blend of hands-on learning in classes, field trips, and research and social

opportunities. Together these opportunities provide students with a unique and exciting chance to explore the breadth of the agricultural sciences.

As an Ag Science teacher, you will have recently received a package of information about PGSAS. In the months to come, we encourage you to make an effort to share that (PGSAS...continued on pg. 5)

*(A Day of Exploration & Learning...con't from p. 1)*

different workshops presented by the AEE 412 students. Each freshman participated in three workshop sessions which dealt with different issues in the FFA such as etiquette, leadership, conflict, communication, CDE's, SAE's, and travel safety. While the freshmen were in their workshops, the PA State FFA Officers led a concurrent workshop for chapter officers.

*(Right) Students interacting during morning activities*



*(Left) David Steinfelt & Nate Jamison, AEE 412 Students- Reeling in the FFA Opportunities*

out when they compared blue grass to bent grass at the "Science of Turfgrass" workshop at Penn State's Valentine Research Center. "Turfgrass is the most intensely managed system



*(Below) Student writing a good team characteristic for "A Real Team Circle"*



They addressed ideas such as brainstorming, communication and teamwork.

As the chapter officers and freshmen were engaged in their events, additional high school students were active at the Ag Arena with the College of Agricultural Sciences Exploration program. Students took part in a day of campus tours and informational sessions, facilitated by Marianne Fivek, Assistant to the Dean for Student Recruitment and Activities. During the program, the students were exposed to agricultural careers and Penn State offerings.

More than 30 teachers found

in the world," said George Hamilton, a former ag teacher and faculty member in the Agronomy Department, who conducted the site visit. Hamilton showed the group how turfgrass is environmentally friendly and functions as a filter. "Turf's not always an obvious part of the curriculum because it's not part of the food and fiber system," Hamilton noted.

After lunch the teachers returned to the Penn Stater where Tim Mauk of the Columbia-Moutour AVTS demonstrated The Council's new Turfgrass CD and revealed many of his secrets for maintaining his

school's one-hole golf course. Tim Mauk was our state's representative at The Council's Turfgrass workshop and led the group in activities that can be done in class. The teachers left

the workshop with a 90-page manual on CD, which was purchased by the Center for Professional Development, plus lesson plans, activities and many resources. Lessons on the CD are cross refer-

enced to National Science Education Standards and Standards for School Mathematics. Scott's Inc. donated their bug and weed guides to the teachers. A follow up workshop is being planned for spring 2002.

The Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development is hosted by the Agricultural and Extension Education department at The Pennsylvania State University and is partially sponsored by the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation. The FCLPD is held annually in the fall of each year and is open to any school with an Agricultural Education Program.

## Introducing... Joy Ewing

You control your future. . .

Joann "Joy" Young is a first-year teacher in the Kennard-Dale School District in York Co. She is not far from her own high school, Solanco, where she graduated from the agricultural science program and grew up on a nearby dairy farm. These were the two main influences in her decision to become an agricultural science teacher. Joy also has a strong background in FFA and served as a state officer in high school and a collegiate FFA officer while at Penn State. Joy graduated this past May from Penn State with strong interests in greenhouse management and animal science.

Philosophically, Joy feels that



"You control your future and your life. Be responsible for your successes and your failures." Thus far, it looks like mostly successes for Joy. She's very busy, of course, but having a great experience thanks to good students and a supportive faculty. "Penn State did an excellent job preparing me to face the world of high school from the other side of the teacher's desk. I can say I have learned the real life side of all

the theory we learned in the classroom. Just about every warning I was given came true and every exception I was told about is there. I really feel there is nothing that can truly prepare you for teaching other than experiencing it," Joy noted. She's teaching agricultural mechanics, animal science and agricultural business management. Joy really appreciates the classroom management she learned as an undergraduate, where she learned to put students first so the students have fun while learning. As far as future plans, Joy hopes to see the Kennard-Dale Agricultural Program grow and develop into the tremendous program that the community needs and pursue her master's degree.

(PGSAS...cont'd from pg. 3)

information with the outstanding students in your classes. PGSAS is searching for those students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in the sciences and who have a high interest in food, agriculture, and/or the natural resource sciences. As an Ag Science teacher, you are in a great position to know who these students are and tell them about this opportunity.

This spring, 64 students will be chosen from across the state to participate in PGSAS 2002. To be one of the 64, the student's application must combine a

strong academic transcript, strong teacher and counselor recommendations, and carefully written essays. The most difficult of the three is the essay section.

If you are assisting students to complete their applications, encourage them to carefully write their essays. The essays play a significant role in selecting students. Essays must provide a sense of personal voice—that is, they should provide a clear sense of who the student is and evidence of a strong interest in the agricultural sciences. Additionally,

like many things in life, it helps to be creative.

The deadline for this year's applications is Monday, February 4, 2002. If, in the months to come, you or your students have questions about the application procedure, please feel free to contact Dr. Marianne L. Fivek, PGSAS Director, at 814-865-7521 or [mafivek@psu.edu](mailto:mafivek@psu.edu), or visit [www.pde.psu.edu/esgovsch.html](http://www.pde.psu.edu/esgovsch.html).



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....**

- November 9 ..... State Keystone Degree Evaluation, PSU  
 November 15 ..... PYFA Award Applications due to Denise Sanner, Kutztown Award Chairperson  
 Nov. 28 - Dec. 1.. National YFEA Institute, Falls Church, VA  
 November 30 ..... FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM  
 December 4..... Schools will be notified of Farm Show Exhibits by C. Weller  
 December 4..... Farm Show Pre-registration - Voc. Horticulture Exhibits, due to CTSO Office  
 December 11-15.. NAAE Convention, New Orleans, LA  
 December 12-16 . ACTE Convention, New Orleans, LA  
 January 5-11..... PA Farm Show, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg  
 January 7..... PA FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 4:00 PM  
 February 5-7 ..... PYFA Convention, Lebanon, PA  
 February 7-9 ..... PA State Project Book Evaluations, Hampton Inn, State College  
 February 11-15... Career & Technology Week, PA State Capital Rotunda, Harrisburg  
 February 16-17 ... ACES, Marriot, Harrisburg  
 February 18-24 ... National FFA Week  
 February 22..... FFA Association Board Meeting, PSU, 6:30 PM  
 March 10-12 ..... SLLC, Holiday Inn, Grantville  
 March 19..... PAAE Western Regionl Mtg., Hoss's in Allison Park, 6:00 PM

**TEACHER DEADLINES.....**

- November 20 ..... Keystone Star Applications due at CTSO Office (Regional Coordinators only)  
 December 1..... Program of Work & Budget for National Chapter Award Program due to CTSO Office  
 December 15..... Reconfirm Entries for Farm Show market swine, market steers, market lambs - Farm Show Office  
 February 2..... Project Books due to Regional Coordinators  
 February 15..... National FFA Scholarship Applications due to National FFA Center  
 February 26..... Membership Roster & Dues due to Penny Brammer, Adult Treasurer  
 March 12..... American FFA Degree Applications due at CTSO office

**Risk Management in American Agriculture Lesson Plans**

by Lowell Hedges

No longer does the government tell you what to grow, how many acres to plant, and how much low yield and price protection you need. Today, you make these decisions independently. Therefore,



you must become acquainted with today's risk management tools and practice their application.

These lesson plans can help you ...

Briefs to Ag Educators is a publication of the Center for Professional Personnel Development, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, The Pennsylvania State University, 323 Agricultural Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802. Editors: Tiffany Roberson, Carol Hodes and Thomas Bruening. Phone: 814-863-7876; Fax: 814-863-4753; email Tiffany at tmr175@psu.edu

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