



August 2005

BARC is part of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and encompasses programs at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center; the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.; and worksites in Chatsworth, New Jersey; Presque Isle, Maine; and McMinnville, Tennessee. BARC is the largest and most diversified agricultural research complex in the world. BARC's record of accomplishments and its ongoing programs have made it a world leader in agricultural research.

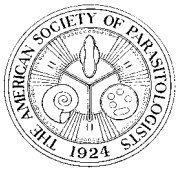
Community Interest

Blowing Our Own Horn!



ASP AWARD RECIPIENT

Dr. **Jitender P. Dubey**, microbiologist in our Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory, was selected for the 2005 Eminent Parasitologists Award given by the American Society of Parasitologists (ASP). Selection criteria include eminence and international visibility for a substantial contribution to parasitology over a substantial period of time. Dr. Dubey is the *first* Federal employee to receive this honor. Visit the ASP at <http://asp.unl.edu>.



NUTRITION, SCIENCE, AND FOOD TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Dr. **David J. Baer**, physiologist with the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, is the recipient of the 1st Annual Bimbo Pan-American Prize for Nutrition, Science and Food Technology for his research on diet and inflammation. The prize is sponsored by Grupo Bimbo, a multinational food company, and Bimbo Bakeries, USA. This prize is based on research which best represents a viable option to improve food technologies and improve nutrition for our community.



HARVEST FOR THE HUNGRY

In 1996, BARC began the Harvest for the Hungry program which allows for fresh produce that was grown for research and was no longer needed to be given to the homeless shelters in the Washington D.C. area. In 1998, ARS issued a policy and procedure on gleaning which was prepared with substantial input from BARC staff. BARC staff coordinates with the not-for-profit organization, Food for Others, which locates volunteers to pick the produce and distribute it throughout the metropolitan area.

For the past 5 years, the Girl Scouts from Northern Virginia spend a Saturday in October at BARC. This program is diverse and ranges from making crafts to learning about careers in science. A large portion of the day is devoted to harvesting. The program is so successful that in 2004, the Washington Redskins gave the Girl Scouts a \$10,000 grant for transportation and tubs to pack the produce.

On average, approximately 100,000 pounds of produce are picked every year. Crops include corn, squash, cucumber, tomato, potatoes, string bean, peppers and even some apples from the orchard.

Volunteer groups are always welcome to assist with harvests. Interested groups can call 301.504.5664 for details or visit <http://www.ba.ars.usda.gov/services/gleaning.html>.

U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP WORK DAY

On Thursday morning, August 8, 2005, over 25 arboretum staff members joined residents of the Langston Craver Terrace community for a major cleanup project along the southern boundary of the U.S. National Arboretum. This effort was part of a joint project involving the Executive Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, the D.C. Department of Public Works, and local residents. This project will help upgrade and improve the neighborhood in the area of M Street in Northeast Washington, D.C. The work involves the removal of tons of numerous weed trees, shrubs, vines and illegally dumped trash and debris. The arboretum, the neighborhood, and the District of Columbia will continue to work together on this and future projects.





STUDENT INTERNS FROM ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

Since 1992, over 550 students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland have participated in a "Science and Technology Internship Program." These students spend a half-day 4 days a week with a BARC mentor for the duration of the academic year to aid in fulfilling their research practicum/science fair projects. Additional details about this and other BARC student programs can be obtained by contacting Ms. Jenny Allen at AllenJ@ba.ars.usda.gov.

HISTORY CHANNEL FEATURES ARS BIODIESEL BUS ON "MODERN MARVELS" PROGRAM



On July 28, the History Channel's "Modern Marvels" program featured refineries, including those that produce biodiesel. The ARS "soybean bus," which has been running on biodiesel since 1999 and is used by the ARS National Visitor Center at Beltsville, MD for tours of BARC was featured in the program.

On the Research Side

COLORADO POTATO BEETLE TRAPS GO TO THE U.K.

Dr. Joseph C. Dickens of our Chemicals Affecting Insect Behavior Laboratory was contacted by the Central Science Laboratory in Sand Hutton, an Executive Agency of the U.K. Government Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs. This Laboratory specializes in the sciences underpinning agriculture for sustainable crop production, environmental management and conservation, and food safety and quality. Colorado potato beetle traps, developed at BARC, will be used when there has been an interception of the beetles indicating that an outbreak may have occurred. It is anticipated that the traps will be a valuable tool in increasing the efficiency of beetle detection.



SINGAPORE STUDENTS AT BARC

Since 2004, our Produce Quality and Safety Laboratory has had a summer intern program with the Ngee Ann Polytechnic in Singapore. Second year students work in the laboratory for between 10 and 15 weeks. Ngee Ann Polytechnic provides support which covers part of the students living and travel expenses, with the students' families providing the remainder. To date, 12 students have participated in the program, and several have co-authored publications in scientific journals.



Mark Your Calendar!



September 9: POULTRY FACILITY GROUNDBREAKING

A Groundbreaking Ceremony will be held on September 9th at 1:30 p.m. at the intersection of Powder Mill Road and Poultry Road for BARC's new 28,100 square foot production and hatchery poultry building. This new facility will replace old buildings which are in poor condition and are obsolete. Slated to speak at the ceremony are The Honorable **Steny H. Hoyer**, Representative, 5th District, Maryland; **Bill Satterfield**, Executive Director, Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.; **Merle Pierson**, Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics; **Caird Rexroad**, Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service; **Phyllis E. Johnson**, Director, BARC; and **Julie A. Long**, Research Physiologist, Biotechnology and Germplasm Laboratory. Pictured is the architect's rendering of the building.



October 5: CHESAPEAKE BAY DAY AT BARC

Details of this event will appear in next month's e-Update. For registration information, please contact **Dr. Tom Sexton** at 301.504.8431 or cbd@anri.barc.usda.gov.

CONGRESSIONAL ORGANIC CAUCUS STAFF MEMBERS TOURED ORGANIC FARM – BARC SCIENTISTS INVITED TO ATTEND

On August 11, 2005 **Dr. John Teasdale**, Research Leader, and **Dr. Michel Cavigelli**, both of the Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory, along with **Dr. Lou Gasbarre**, Research Leader of the Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, discussed on-farm research collaborations at the farm of Mr. Nick Maravell. The Organic Trade Association selected the Maravell Farm as one of two farms to host the Organic Caucus staff members. The Maravell Farm has been operating since 1979, currently with 170 certified organic acres in production on farms located in Montgomery and Frederick Counties. BARC research has concentrated on weed control, inorganic systems, and nutrient management of organically grown alfalfa. Visit the USDA's National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, at www.ams.usda.gov/nop.



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