



September 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.

Blowing Our Own Horn!

FLC AWARD RECIPIENTS

Two BARC scientists have received 2005 Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) Mid-Atlantic Regional Excellence in Technology Transfer Awards. **Dr. Aref Abdul-Baki**, Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory, and his collaborator, **Mr. Sam Aslan** (USDA/NRCS), are being recognized for their work in the "Enhancing Growth, Yield and Fruit Quality of Date Palm Trees in Coachella Valley, California" research. **Dr. Rob Griesbach**, Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit, is being recognized for his work in the "New Star-of-Bethlehem Plants" research. These prestigious awards recognize laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring a technology developed by a federal laboratory to the commercial marketplace. The awards were presented at a luncheon held on September 15, 2005, as part of the annual FLC Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting. Visit the FLC at www.federal labs.org/.



AMERICAN DAIRY SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (ADSA) AWARDS



Dr. Tony Capuco, Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, is the 2005 recipient of the ADSA's Pfizer Animal Health Physiology Award for his outstanding research in dairy cattle physiology.

Dr. Doug Bannerman, Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, was awarded the 2005 Northeast ADSA-ASAS Young Scientist Award. This award recognizes a young scientist (within 10 years of Ph.D.) in the Northeast Region of the ADSA-ASAS for outstanding research contributions to the broad field of Animal/Dairy Science.

Dr. Rex Powell (retired, now collaborating), Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory, has recently been elected to Fellow of the ADSA. This honor is in recognition of distinguished service to the Dairy Industry and this Society and is awarded to no more than 0.2% of members annually.

Community Interest

October 1st – BARC HOSTS BEAVERDAM CREEK WATERSHED EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Beaverdam Creek Watershed Education Workshop will be held on October 1 at BARC from 9 AM to 12 noon. This workshop is being convened by the Beaverdam Creek "Watershed Watch Group" and the Anacostia Watershed Citizen's Advisory Committee, in partnership with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Summit Fund of Washington. It will provide an opportunity to learn more about the watershed and how you can get involved in the protection and restoration of this unique area. Participants will be those who live, work, and recreate in the Beaverdam Creek Watershed and any other concerned individuals or groups. For more information or to register, contact Kate Levendosky at klevendosky@mwkog.org or 202.962.3374. There is no registration fee for this workshop.



WHAT'S IN THE FOODS WE EAT.... A FREE SEARCHABLE DATABASE TELLS YOU!

BARC scientists recently launched a searchable database on the World Wide Web where users can view the amount of 60 nutrients in any one of 13,000 food-name entries for foods typically eaten in the United States. The new resource is called "What's In the Foods We Eat—Search Tool." The tool was produced by nutritionists at our Food Surveys Research Group. The data are served up in commonly consumed portion sizes and weights, and easy-to-use help screens are readily available. Access the database at www.barc.usda.gov/bhnrc/foodsurvey.

ARBORETUM PHOTOS FEATURED

The September 2005 issue of *Martha Stewart Living* features a three-page article on the genus *Tricyrtis* (also called toad lilies), a fall-blooming perennial used in shade gardening. The photos were taken during October 2004 in the Asian Collections at the U.S. National Arboretum.

PRECISION AGRICULTURE FORUM



Dr. Ron Korcak, Associate Director of BARC, is moderating a Precision Agriculture Forum which is sponsored by The Nutrient Management Program, a cooperative effort between Maryland Cooperative Extension and the Maryland Department of Agriculture, on September 21st at the Patuxent National Wildlife Center in Laurel, Maryland. The objectives are to understand the opportunities for and the obstacles to expansion of the use of precision agriculture in Maryland and the region, to better understand the different technicalities that relate to geo-spatial information, and to evaluate and show the benefits of the technology for farmers, crop production, and the environment.



NEMATODES AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE



The Crop Protection and Plant Quarantine Division of the Malaysian Department of Agriculture has invited **Dr. Zafar Ahmad Handoo** of the Nematology Laboratory at BARC to provide detailed technical support on nematode identification methodologies to scientists from Malaysia and seven other Southeast Asian countries. This is part of an Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) sponsored course which will be presented November 28 to December 3. Dr. Handoo will focus on the systematics of nematodes and their importance to global and regional trade. The course will feature a hands-on workshop at the nematode diagnostic facilities in Malaysia and will improve the scientific basis upon which regulatory decisions are based in this region which contains important U.S. trade partners.



USDA BIOBASED CAFETERIA WARE PROJECT

BARC scientist, **Dr. Patricia Millner**, in coordination with **Dr. Rosalie Green**, US EPA, and Department headquarters staff initiated a one month trial on August 12th to compost biodegradable cafeteria ware and food scraps from the USDA Jamie Whitten Building employee cafeteria. Materials will be collected in biodegradable plastic bags and transported to BARC to be composted at the Compost Research Facility. This trial is part of the Department's effort to foster the use of biobased products. The Project Plan includes utilizing the composted materials as landscaping mulch at the Whitten Building, providing a full cycle approach to the use of biobased materials.



BARC HOSTS MID-ATLANTIC COMPOSTING AND COMPOST USE CONFERENCE AND EXPO

The Mid-Atlantic Composting and Compost Use Conference and Expo will be held at BARC on September 21-23. The biennial event will include paper sessions and a trade show during the first two days and a tour of composting and compost use sites on the last day. This is a collaborative event planned by the Mid-Atlantic Composting Association (MACA) and extension and research faculty from mid-Atlantic region universities. Please visit www.midatlanticcompost.org for more information.



THE GLUE THAT HOLDS THE WORLD TOGETHER!

Ever wonder what holds the clumps of soil in your garden together? A strong glue, called glomalin, is produced by a soil fungus that grows on plant roots. The glue comes off the fungus and is deposited on soil particles. This process leads to build up and stabilization of soil aggregates. Glomalin was discovered by **Dr. Sara Wright** of our Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory. Since glomalin accounts for about one quarter of the total carbon in soils, it could have important implications for soil carbon sequestration and how we manage soils. More information on glomalin can be found at:



Sara Wright examines a soil aggregate coated with glomalin

www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=8814.

Mark Your Calendar!



DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES Begins November 16

~ Lecture Series is Open to the Public ~

Speaker: Dr. Daniel Hillel, Columbia University

Topic: The Use and Abuses of Soil and Water Resources Around the World: An Historical Review and Future Prospect

Time/Location: Nov. 16, 10:30 AM, Building 003 Auditorium

For more information, please call 301.504.6078.



CHESAPEAKE BAY DAY is October 5!

BARC's Chesapeake Bay Day is right around the corner! Click on the following link for access to the information flyer, tentative agenda, posters/presentations listing, registration form, directions, and registration confirmation: <http://ars.usda.gov/Main/docs.htm?docid=8887>.

Information can also be obtained by contacting Dr. Tom Sexton at 301.504.8431 or cbd@anri.barc.usda.gov.

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