

BARC e-Update



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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!

CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW

Dr. Murray R. Bakst, Biotechnology and Germplasm Laboratory, was selected as one of two recipients of the FASS (Federation of Animal Science Societies) Congressional Science Fellowship 2007-2008. Dr. Bakst will spend one year working as a special legislative assistant on the staff of either a member of Congress or a Congressional committee, advising on a wide range of scientific issues as they pertain to public policy. The program includes an orientation on congressional and executive branch operations and a year-long seminar program on issues involving science and public policy sponsored by AAAS.

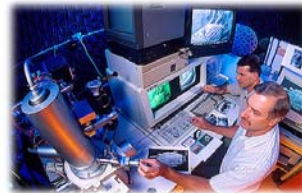
AAAS FELLOW INDUCTION



Dr. Donald T. Krizek, Plant Physiologist, in BARC's Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) at the Society's Annual Meeting in San Francisco on February 17, 2007. Dr.

Krizek retired from USDA on January 3 after 45 years of Federal Service and plans to continue as a collaborator with ARS.

TEN SECONDS OF FAME!



The documentary film, "An Inconvenient Truth", recently won an Oscar. About one hour and five minutes into the movie, BARC scientists **Dr. Ron Ochoa** (Research Entomologist) and **Mr. Eric Erbe**

(Botanist) can be seen sitting at an electron microscope working on images of mites (see photograph at right). Why this photograph was selected by the producers is unknown. However, the film does discuss the movement of new and invasive pests and diseases around the planet (then the photograph appears) and is following a discussion that we have the technology to help solve these problems.



Community Interest...

RIVER HERRING FISH TRANSPLANTATION EVENT



On Saturday April 14th, 2007 at 10:00 am, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in partnership with the BARC, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group and friends, are co-sponsoring an Anacostia Watershed River herring fish transplantation event. The purpose is to reintroduce anadromous fish species, such as alewife Herring, back into Beaverdam Creek sub-watershed. Once formerly abundant in Coastal Plain streams in the Anacostia, these fishes have experienced major

population declines related to water pollution, over harvesting and the presence of anthropogenic-related fish blockages. In 2002, a major Indian Creek fish blockage, located at Greenbelt Road, was removed as a part of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Replacement Mitigation Project. Removal of this blockage has resulted in the opening of approximately 5 miles of potential anadromous fish spawning habitat in both the Indian Creek and Beaverdam Creek stream systems. As part of a larger Anacostia restoration effort, the goal of this event is to move approximately 100 mature river herring into Beaverdam Creek. This stocking approach is designed to promote the return of spawning adult herring by chemically imprinting their larva to "signatures" specific to Beaverdam Creek. If successful, adult river herring should return, in the next four to five years, to their natural stream. The event is open to the public. For additional information about the event, please contact **Mr. Phong Trieu** at 202-962-3291 or at ptrieu@mwkog.org.



TWO NEW LILACS FROM THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

The U.S. National Arboretum released two new lilac cultivars in 2006 to follow the 2000 release of 'Betsy Ross'. The lilacs, 'Old Glory' and 'Declaration', are the results of long-term ornamental breeding efforts by the Arboretum's Research Unit. 'Old Glory' (photo on right) was selected for its abundant fragrant bluish-purple flowers, rounded growth habit, and disease tolerant foliage. In the Washington, DC area, it reaches a mature size of approximately 12 feet tall by 13 feet wide, and shows good disease field tolerance. 'Declaration' (photo on left) was selected for its large fragrant striking dark reddish-purple inflorescences and open upright growth habit. In Washington, DC, its mature size is 8.5 feet tall and 7 feet wide. It performs best in traditional cooler lilac-growing regions. Both cultivars have been tested by cooperators throughout the U.S. and are currently being propagated by growers for expected retail availability in 2008. For more information, contact **Dr. Margaret Pooler** at 202-245-4568 or margaret.pooler@ars.usda.gov.



Mark Your Calendar!



BELTSVILLE AREA DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

This seminar is open to the public



Dr. David L. Evans, Under Secretary for Science, Smithsonian Institution

Date: Monday, April 9, 2007

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Place: Building 003 Auditorium, BARC-West

Title: "Science Collections: Why Do We Keep All This Stuff Anyway?"

BARC FIELD DAY



June 2, 2007, On Saturday, June 2, BARC will once again host a Field Day for the general public. The research laboratories at BARC will exhibit and explain current research projects. Field day is free and parking is available on-site. For more information, please call Sandra Martin at 301-504-8253 during business hours.

RENEWABLE FUELS CONFERENCE: A MARYLAND-BRAZIL EXCHANGE

May 20-21, this conference will address the question, "What can American energy professionals learn from the Brazilian model?" Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman have both been invited to speak. Breakout sessions include Research and Development, Business, Trade and Investment, and Environment and externalities. The conference is being organized by the Maryland Sister States Program. For more information, contact Dr. Ron Korcak at 301-504-5193 or ron.korcak@ars.usda.gov.



ANNUAL BARC POSTER DAY

This event is open to the public

April 25, the Annual BARC Poster Day will be held all day at the National Visitors Center. Over 50 posters from newly hired and post doctoral scientists will be on exhibit. Additionally, students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School will also present posters on research being performed with BARC mentors. The student presentations are supported by FAR-B (Friends of Agricultural Research-Beltsville). FAR-B is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote research, educational and outreach programs. For more information, contact Ron Korcak, Associate Area Director, at Ron.Korcak@ars.usda.gov.

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