

BARC e-Update



Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

10300 Baltimore Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705

Phone: 301.504.5193

To subscribe, please email: BA-Office@ba.ars.usda.gov

Access past e-Updates at www.ars.usda.gov/ba/e-Update

February 2006

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!



GEICO PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD WINNER

John Van de Vaarst, recently retired Facilities Director at BARC, was named one of the five 2005 Geico Public Service Award winners. The GEICO Public Service Awards were established in 1980 to emphasize GEICO's belief that the contributions of many hardworking, talented federal employees are deserving of special acclaim. Van de Vaarst is being recognized for his work on the employment of disabled individuals in the Federal government. He will be honored at a Geico ceremony on April 10th in Washington, DC.



GEICO

BARC SCIENTIST RECEIVES HELMINTHOLOGICAL ANNIVERSARY AWARD

David Chitwood, Research Leader of the Nematology Laboratory, received the Anniversary Award of the

Helminthological Society of Washington at a dinner on November 18, 2005. Established in 1960, this award is the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Helminthological Society of Washington to one of its members. The Helminthological Society of Washington is the oldest parasitological society in the United States and includes members in 45 states and 40 foreign countries. Dr. Chitwood is only the fifth plant nematologist to be so honored.

BARC DIRECTOR RECEIVES INNOVATOR AWARD



On January 25, **Phyllis Johnson**, Director, received the "Public Sector Innovator of the Year Award" from the Tech Council of Maryland. The award was in recognition of Johnson's leadership in technology transfer and the creation of a new business incubator/accelerator at BARC.

Community Interest...

STATE FLEET BIODIESEL FUEL USAGE ACT OF 2006

On January 12, **Ron Korcak**, BARC's Associate Director, was asked to provide testimony to the Maryland State Senate with regard to a bill introduced by Senator John Gianetti. The legislation seeks to require 50 percent of Maryland's state diesel fleet to be converted to use the B-5 blend of biodiesel. Since 1999, a blend of B-20 biodiesel fuel is used in all BARC vehicles and equipment.



ANNUAL PATUXENT RIVER CLEAN UP DAY – April 8!

Every April, Patuxent Riverkeeper organizes a Patuxent River Clean Up Day during which tons of trash and recyclables are removed from the river. Site Leaders assist volunteers and the Patuxent Riverkeeper in coordinating the river wide event at specific sites. Individuals and groups are welcomed to volunteer at any clean up location. For more information, please visit www.paxriverkeeper.org or contact Lauren Webster at 301-249-8200.



US NATIONAL ARBORETUM CHINESE GARDEN SITE DEDICATION



Mike Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, and Madam Jiang Zehui, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Leading Member of the State Forestry Administration of China, headed a site dedication ceremony on January 13th at the U.S. National Arboretum for a proposed new 12-acre classical [Chinese Garden](#). Under Secretary of Agriculture Joseph Jen and Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong also spoke at this ceremony. Attending the site dedication was a 12-member team of dignitaries from China, Agricultural Research Service officials, donors to this project, and leaders of the Chinese American community. The Chinese Garden is an original design developed by a joint team of designers from the People's Republic of China and the United States.



LET IT SNOW!

"Science Year - The World Book Annual Science Supplement" features a cover photo of a snow crystal that was taken at the Electron Microscopy Unit (EMU) at BARC. This issue of "Science Year," which is published by World Book, Inc., reviews advances in science and technology that have taken place during the school year 2005. The book contains a special report entitled, "A Chance (Discovery) of Snow" by **William P. Wergin**, retired cooperating BARC scientist. The report depicts the first images of snow that were ever recorded with a scanning electron microscope. Visit the EMU website, and view some amazing images at <http://emu.arsusda.gov/snowsife/>.



NEW DEVICE FOR POULTRY INSPECTION

Scientists in BARC's Instrumentation and Sensing Laboratory are developing binoculars equipped with special filters and a light source to compare the flesh color between wholesome and diseased flesh of processed chickens. The color of the poultry flesh provides clues to the wholesomeness of the meat. These color-mixing binoculars could be used in poultry processing plants that are too small for the complex and relatively expensive spectral-imaging systems that were developed for large processing facilities. This technology has potential to be used for other *in situ* inspection of agricultural products either for safety, security or sanitation. Contact **Dr. Yud-Ren Chen** at cheny@ba.ars.usda.gov for information.



Mark Your Calendar!



DISTRINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

*Next Lecture is Monday, March 20th
Lecture Series is Open to the Public*



Speaker: Dr. Janet King, Professor of Nutrition and Internal Medicine, University of California, Davis; Professor of Nutrition, University of California, Berkeley; and Scientist, Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI)

Title: "Early Development and Long-Term Health"

Time/Location: March 20, 10:30 AM, Bldg. 003 Auditorium

For more information, please call 301.504.6078.

SHEEP GENOMICS SEMINAR – March 6

Speaker: Dr. Robert Forage, Director of the Sheep Genomics Program - an initiative of Meat & Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation Limited

Title: "Sheep Genomics: a major Australian investment in sheep improvement"

Time: Monday, March 6, 10:00 AM

Location: Building 200, Room 220, BARC-East

For more information, please contact Dr. Lou Gasbarre of the Bovine Functional Genomics Laboratory, 301.504.8509 or lgasbarre@anri.barc.usda.gov.

UPCOMING US NATIONAL ARBORETUM UNIT REVIEWS – March 16-17

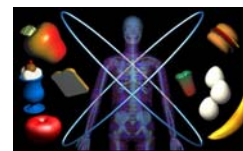
The USNA Education and Visitor Services Unit and the USNA Gardens Unit will be undergoing in-depth reviews on March 16-17, 2006. The reviews are open to the public on the first day from 1 PM to 4:30 PM. For more information, contact **Ms. Nadine Hiers** at 202.245.4539.

FRESH-CUT EXPO TOUR OF BARC – April 27

On Thursday, April 27, Fresh-Cut Expo tour participants will head out for a visit to BARC. Attendees will meet with researchers in the Produce Quality and Safety Laboratory who are responsible for USDA's Handbook 66 and a number of new innovations in fresh-cut produce quality and safety. Attendees will also tour the research center's pilot production and sensory testing facilities, hear updates on the center's current research and learn how to transform USDA's research into tomorrow's fresh-cut products. Look for more information and updates on the tour program at www.freshcutexpo.com.



BHNRC WINTER/SPRING SEMINAR SERIES CONTINUES



Tuesday, March 7, 1:30 pm

Christine Sardo, Ohio State University

"Chemoprevention: Development and Conduct of Clinical Cancer Prevention Trials"

Building 307C, Room 122, BARC-East

For information contact: Keith Harris, 301.504.8721

Tuesday, March 21, 1:30 pm

Molly Kretsch and David Klurfield, USDA-ARS, National Program Leaders

"New Directions: ARS National Human Nutrition Program"

Building 005, Room 021, BARC-West

For information contact: Ellen Harris, 301.504.0610

Tuesday, March 28, 1:30 pm

Experimental Biology Mini-Poster Day

Building 307C, Room 122, BARC-East

For information contact: Wayne Wolf, 301.504.8927 or Thomas Wang, 301.504.8459

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

