

EXECUTIVE DEAN  
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture  
March 2011

*In Memoriam: Farewell to "Doc" Dey*

Dr. Stephen Perrine Dey II, fondly known as "Doc Dey," passed away on February 28. He was a gentleman and a gentle man to all that came in contact with him, and his death deeply jolted the entire New Jersey agricultural community.



At left, the late Stephen Perrine Dey II, with Douglas Fisher at the annual New Jersey Breeders' luncheon in Mount Holly in January 2010. Photo credit: Horse News

At the time of his death, Doc Dey was in a second term of diligent service as president of the Rutgers NJAES Board of Managers (BOM). In 2006, he began serving on the BOM, representing the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture, and was vice president from 2007 to 2009.

According to Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources **Robert M. Goodman**, "Doc Dey brought his trademark charm and collaborative leadership to an energized board, underscoring its central role in planning and assessing the programs of the experiment station. We will deeply miss his leadership and his friendship."

An equine veterinarian for more than forty years, his veterinary practice was based at his Heritage Hill Farm in Allentown, one of the founding farms of the

New Jersey Sire Stakes harness racing program and winner of the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey's Breeder of the Year in 2009. In addition, he was a founding member and, until his passing, served as president of the Horse Park of New Jersey.

New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture Douglas Fisher praised Dey for his commitment to New Jersey agriculture. "Dr. Stephen Dey devoted his life to supporting and advocating for the agriculture industry and his presence was felt in so many areas of New Jersey life. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him."

Dey served on the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture from 2000-2004, leading the board as its president in 2004. For over 35 years, he served on the New Jersey Equine Advisory Board, including the position of chairman from 1988-1989.

His Rutgers service also included the position of Interim Vice Chair of the Rutgers University Board for Equine Advancement, serving with diligence and great enthusiasm the equine industry that he loved.

He leaves a legacy of outstanding public service to Rutgers and the state of New Jersey, and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude. [Read more](#) in the Star Ledger.



## *Spotlight on Community Gardens in New Jersey*

### **Taking Root in the Garden State**

Bringing back the “garden” in the Garden State, residents in New Jersey’s cities have turned vacant, unused plots of land to start community gardens to beautify a neighborhood, or increasingly, to grow food. Taking root in neighborhoods with limited access to fresh produce, the vegetable plots dotting our urban landscape serve to underscore the absence of readily accessible fresh produce for some residents, generating new opportunities for farmers markets to flourish in these underserved areas and extending the growing season for farmers.

While community gardening is far from a new phenomenon, as a growing trend it is probably here to stay. As evidence of its importance, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) played a central role in a recent Community Garden Conference—believed to be the first of its kind in New Jersey.

### **Seeding the Future**

The Morris County Park Commission houses a community garden close to the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown, NJ. Cynthia Triolo of the Haggerty Education Center at the arboretum works with local community gardeners, providing them the information and the resources they need to flourish. Finding it difficult to locate pertinent information for the gardeners led Triolo to the conclusion that the time was right to hold a conference for community gardeners in the Garden State. She sought out **Peter Nitzsche** (agricultural and resource management agent, Morris County), who made available the expertise of the NJAES, including many of the speakers drawn from among the RCE agents. In addition, Rutgers Master Gardeners from Morris County co-hosted the conference and were available to answer gardening questions and distribute extension information at the event. Among the organizations that participated was the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA).



NOFA information booth



Laura Lawson addressing conference participants

Held on March 3 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, the first annual community garden conference was attended by a capacity audience of 150. The majority of attendees were active community gardeners and organizers, but residents planning to start new community gardens were very much in evidence. According to Triolo, there was such overwhelming response to the conference that they had to turn people away.

Topics covered the fundamentals for community gardens: rainwater harvesting and sustainable water use, composting, and connecting with local food pantries. Rutgers speakers included **George Hamilton** (extension specialist in entomology), who discussed attracting beneficial insects, **Jan Zientek** (agricultural and resource management agent, Essex County), who spoke on organizing a community garden, while Nitzsche covered IPM for vegetable gardens. The keynote speaker was professor **Laura Lawson** (chair, department of landscape architecture) at Rutgers' School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

### Looking Back at Community Gardens

Lawson's presentation was titled "Community Gardens: Trend or Fad." Lawson was drawn to the subject through her interest in participatory park design in communities as well as an interest in gardening as a means of empowering residents by growing their own food. She sees urban gardening as a reverse of the trend in cities of ignoring food sources existing alongside an increasing awareness of local food distribution networks, farm markets, and community supported agriculture.



Community garden Photo: Laura Lawson

Lawson's presentation reviewed the historical community garden movements which contrast with today's trend. The earliest efforts, recorded in the late 1800s, were mainly organized by philanthropic groups



Philadelphia Vacant Lot Cultivation Association 1905

such as relief or women's organizations that rallied the cause. Later, during WWI and WWII, government agencies ran national campaigns to raise food in gardens so that commercial farm products could be exported to Europe. The modern trend of community gardening, which started in the 1970s, differs in that it is community driven and often run by grassroots organizations. The benefits, regardless of the era, are the same: local source of food, connection with nature, and community engagement.

While the outlook for community gardens is promising based on increasing numbers and diversity of gardens, the battle is still uphill. Community gardens must contend with the competition for development of the land, an ever present risk in a highly developed state such as New Jersey. The conference was a launching point for the Morris County Park Commission and Rutgers NJAES to help create a better networking system among community gardens throughout the state and to help strengthen efforts to deal with the challenges of sustaining them.

Read more in the Star Ledger article "[Community gardens taking root.](#)"



## Spotlight

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rutgers Center of Turfgrass Center

On January 13 and 14, The **Rutgers Turfgrass Program** celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Center for Turfgrass Science as well as its Annual Turfgrass Symposium. The two-day celebration was attended by more than 90 faculty, students, and turf industry professionals from throughout the country and featured research presentations from former graduates of the Rutgers Turfgrass Program. Executive Dean **Robert M. Goodman** and Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension **Larry Katz** welcomed attendees at the symposium and recognized the many accomplishments of the turf faculty, including the pioneering efforts of C. Reed Funk, Ralph Engel, and Henry Indyk who laid the foundation for the present-day turfgrass center.

Distinguished speakers at the anniversary gala included Joseph Bischoff (USDA-APHIS), Michelle DaCosta (University of Massachusetts), Yuanhong Han (Noble Foundation), Gerald Henry (Texas Tech University), Josh Honig (Rutgers University), Patrick McCullough (University of Georgia), Lane Tredway (North Carolina State University), Eric Watkins (University of Minnesota), and **Matt Koch** (Plant Biology and Pathology). **Stacy Bonos** (Plant Biology and Pathology), Karen Plumley (Mitchell Products, Inc), and John Inguagiato (University of Connecticut) served as session moderators.

The annual Turfgrass Symposium was established in 1991 to provide Rutgers faculty, students, and staff with an annual forum for the exchange of ideas on a wide range of topics in turfgrass science. Over the years, this format was expanded to include presentations by colleagues at other institutions. This year's symposium marked a significant milestone for the Rutgers Turfgrass Program as it continues to be recognized as one of the premier research, teaching, and outreach programs in the world.



20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Turf Symposium speakers from L-R: **Bruce Clarke** (Plant Biology and Pathology; director, Center for Turfgrass Science), Gerald Henry, Karen Plumley, Joseph Bischoff, Michelle DaCosta, Lane Tredway, **Matt Koch**, Eric Watkins, John Inguagiato, **Stacy Bonos**, **Josh Honig** (research associate, Plant Biology and Pathology), Yuanhong Han, and Patrick McCullough

## *Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments*

**Bruce Clarke** (specialist in turfgrass pathology; Plant Biology and Pathology; and Center for Turfgrass Science) and **James Murphy** (specialist in turf management; Plant Biology and Pathology; Center for Turfgrass Science), along with graduate students **Chas Schmid** and **James Hempfling** (Plant Biology and Pathology) received a three year, \$60,000 award from the U.S. Golf Association in support of their project, "Development of best management practices for anthracnose disease on annual bluegrass putting green turf."

**Cesar Rodriguez-Saona** PI (specialist in blueberry/cranberry entomology) and **Faruque Zaman** (Entomology) received \$53,000 from the EPA Region 2, Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program for "Implementing IPM-based tools to increase adoption of reduced-risk insecticides in cranberries."

**Dean Polk** (fruit IPM coordinator), **Cesar Rodriguez-Saona** (specialist in blueberry/cranberry entomology), **Peter Oudemans** (blueberry and cranberry pathology), et al presented "The impact of spatial IPM on pesticide inputs in New Jersey blueberry production" at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in San Diego, CA.

**Nurgul Fitzgerald** PI (Nutritional Sciences) and co-PIs **Lisanne Finston** (NJAES Board of Managers' Statewide Advisory Committee, Community Resources) and **William Hallman** (director, Food Policy Institute; Human Ecology) were awarded \$99,753 by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service for "Community Connections: Building partnerships and strategies against hunger," which aims to establish a Food Policy Council to help improve the food system and decrease food insecurity.

**Albrecht Koppenhöfer** (Entomology; Center for Turfgrass Science) received a 2010 patent for "Isolated species of the Steinernema nematode and methods of white grub control therewith." Patent No. US7,641,913 B2.

**Norman Lalancette Jr.** (Plant Biology and Pathology) presented "Approaches for bacterial spot management in stone fruits" at the National Peach Council Program, Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention, from February 1-3, in Hershey, PA.

## *Mark Your Calendars!*

### **Training for Pesticide Handlers**

Rutgers Cooperative Extension offers training of pesticide handlers as required by the Worker Protection Standard. The training, divided into two sessions, will be held on March 30, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Cumberland County, 291 Morton Avenue, Millville, NJ. Participants will learn how to interpret pesticide fact sheets, maintain pesticide records in keeping with Department of Environmental Protection regulations, and how to minimize pesticide contamination through the proper use of personal protective equipment. Instructors include **Pat Hastings** (Rutgers Cooperative Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator) and **Wes Kline** (agricultural resource management agent, Cumberland County). For more information and to register, call 856-451-2800.



### **Workshop to Promote Aquaculture Industry**

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County is collaborating with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey School of Business to sponsor a workshop to increase the prominence of the aquaculture industry in the Garden State. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Seaview, A Dolce Hotel and Resort, 401 S. New York Rd., Galloway, NJ. For more information, contact Joseph Myers (NJDA) at 609-984-2502 or by email at [joseph.myers@ag.state.nj.us](mailto:joseph.myers@ag.state.nj.us); or **Gef Flimlin** (agricultural and resource management agent, Ocean County), Rutgers Cooperative Extension, at 732-349-1152, or by email at [flimlin@aesop.rutgers.edu](mailto:flimlin@aesop.rutgers.edu).

### **Basic Horticulture School and Pesticide Recertification**

**WHEN:** April 6, 2011, 9 a.m. to noon.

**WHERE:** Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Gloucester County, Building 1200, North Delsea Drive, Clayton, NJ.

**WHAT:** The sessions will provide participants with basic principles and recent advances relevant to the topics.

**MORE INFO:** Contact Mary Cummings, [cummings@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:cummings@njaes.rutgers.edu), 856-307-6450.  
<http://gloucester.njaes.rutgers.edu/pdfs/2011-hort-school.pdf>

### **New Jersey State 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology**

**WHEN:** April 9-10, 2011, 8 a.m. start on both days.

**WHERE:** Gloucester County 4-H office, Clayton, NJ.

**WHAT:** Two-day event for 4-Hers, grades 4-13, including the Horse Bowl, horse judging projects, and competency in practical horse management.

**MORE INFO:** Contact Carol Ward, [ward@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:ward@njaes.rutgers.edu), 908-526-6644.  
<http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/horses/hippology/>

### **Rain Barrel Workshop**

**WHEN:** April 13, 2011, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** RCE of Cumberland County, Education Center, 291 Morton Avenue, Millville, NJ.

**MORE INFO:** Contact Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 856-451-2800, ext. 4.  
[http://saalem.rutgers.edu/nre\\_events/2011-04-13-rain-barrel-cumberland.pdf](http://saalem.rutgers.edu/nre_events/2011-04-13-rain-barrel-cumberland.pdf)

### **Ag Field Day at Rutgers Day**

**WHEN:** April 30, 2011, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Gorge H. Cook Campus, New Brunswick, NJ.

**WHAT:** The annual event started by the State Board of Agriculture in 1906 for New Jersey farmers to better acquaint them with the experiments being conducted at the experiment station.

**MORE INFO:** <http://agfieldday.rutgers.edu/>

This report is produced by the Office of Communications and is available online at <http://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/boa/>.

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