DOE Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory Vol. 24, No. 5 • March 31, 2003

HOTLINE

The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory is a United States Department of Energy Facility

DOE Honors DeLooper for Outreach

John DeLooper, Associate Director for External Affairs at PPPL, recently received the U.S. Department of Energy's Distinguished Associate Award. DeLooper was honored for his "valuable coordination of countless education outreach activities and special events."

In particular, DeLooper was cited for his efforts in coordinating the Snowmass Fusion Summer Study Workshops, which took place in Snowmass, Colorado, in 2002 and 1999. At the most recent, about 300 leading scientists from the U.S. and international fusion community attended the two-week forum that assessed the major next steps in fusion energy science research.

Photo by Dale Meade

N. Anne Davies, DOE's Associate Director of Science for Fusion Energy Sciences (left) presents the DOE Distinguished Associate award to PPPL's John DeLooper.

N. Anne Davies, DOE's Associate Director of Science for Fusion Energy Sciences, presented the award to DeLooper during a DOE meeting earlier this month in Maryland.

"John has been responsible for so much of our success at outreach and science education, both at Princeton and at our annual American Physical Society-Division of Plasma Physics meetings. He also applied his organizational skills and his energy to making our two Snowmass workshops happen. It was the success of those workshops that led to consensus in the fusion community that enabled an Administration decision to join ITER negotiations," said Davies.

ITER is a major international magnetic fusion research project with a mission to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of nuclear fusion as a source of energy. The U.S. recently announced it is joining the negotiations for the construction and operation of ITER.

DeLooper joined the staff at PPPL in 1988, serving in a number of positions. In 1997, he became Associate Director for External Affairs with responsibility for overseeing governmental affairs, science education, and information services for the Laboratory. This work encompasses outreach activities and media relations, as well as special projects. Prior to coming to PPPL, he worked for 14 years for an architectural and engineering firm that specializes in power plant design.

DeLooper received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in business administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a New Jersey licensed professional engineer. ●

PPPL Welcomes New Medical Staff

Home again. That's how Christine Medora, M.D., feels about returning to the Plainsboro area.

Medora is the new Medical Director for the Lab's Occupational Medicine Office (OMO). PPPL recently awarded a two-year contract to operate the OMO to the Medical Center of Princeton's Department of Corporate Health Services (CHS), where Medora is the Medical Director.

"I've known about PPPL for a long time," said Medora, who grew up in the Plainsboro area and graduated from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School.

Medora is Board Certified in Occupational and Internal Medicine and is supported by Maureen Abbot, a registered nurse who is also a certified occupational health nurse, and Lisa Lawrence, an administrative assistant.

The new staff operating PPPL's Occupational Medicine Office are, from left, Christine Medora, Maureen Abbott, and Lisa Lawrence.

PPPL maintains a comprehensive Occupational Medicine Office (OMO) and a worker protection program that is designed to protect and promote the health of individual workers and the work force as a whole. Under the new contract, the Medical Center's CHS is responsible for staffing and administering the day-to-day operations of the OMO.

CHS services at PPPL include conducting pre-placement, fire fighter, and wellness physicals, administering the Random Drug Screening Program, and on-site treatment of occupational injuries or illnesses. The new OMO staff also plans on implementing wellness programs and screenings.

"Some of our goals include working closely with the Lab's safety and Human Resources groups to provide a safe and healthy workplace, as well as personal wellness for the staff. The wellness goal will be geared toward the population at PPPL, based on the average age of workers and the types of work they perform," said the OMO Head.

Medora, who has a master's in public health, received a medical degree in 1996 from Tulane University in New Orleans. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Cambridge Hospital in Boston and occupational medicine training at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson in New Jersey.

As Medora and her staff settle into the OMO, they'll be tapping into PPPL's "personality" to see how they can best serve employees here. "Every company has its own personality. We're interested in finding out PPPL's," said Medora.

The doctor's newly acquired duties at PPPL offer a side benefit as well — practicing medicine in the area where she has roots and next door to West Windsor where her parents still live. "I like practicing medicine in the area where I grew up," said Medora. ●

The clinic hours are 8 A.M. to 2 P.M. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Wednesdays. Medora is at the clinic on Mondays and Thursdays from 8 A.M. to noon and on Wednesdays from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. Please call the OMO at ext. 3200 to make appointments.

Hotline

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The HOTLINE is issued by the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, a research facility supported by the United States Department of Energy. It is primarily an internal publication. Correspondence and requests to reprint material should be directed to the Editor, PPPL HOTLINE, P.O. Box 451, Princeton, NJ 08543; Interoffice correspondence should be addressed to MS-38, LSB Bldg., C-Site; fax 609-243-2751; telephone 609-243-2757; e-mail pwieser@pppl.gov.

Science Bowl Draws Record Number of Teams

Above left, PPPL Deputy Director Rich Hawryluk (standing) serves as a science judge while the East Brunswick High School team (at left) takes on the team from the Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology. To the right of Hawryluk is Science Bowl volunteer Karen Hirst, a grad student at Princeton University. Above right, U.S. Congressman Rush Holt (far left) stands with the first-place winners, the Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology. The top winner of the regional competition receives an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Thirteenth Annual National Science Bowl® in May.

On March 1, PPPL hosted the U.S. Department of Energy's Regional Science Bowl® competition. Twenty-nine teams — the most ever who competed at PPPL — and more than 40 volunteers participated in this event, including U.S. Congressman Rush Holt, who served as the moderator for the final three rounds. The Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology from Hackensack, New Jersey, won the competition. West Windsor-Plainsboro North High School came in second and East Brunswick High School placed third. This is the eleventh year PPPL hosted the Jeopardy-like tournament in which all the categories are disciplines of science. The participants answered multiple-choice or short-answer questions in biology; chemistry; physics; astronomy; mathematics; and general, earth, and computer sciences. Each team included four students, a student alternate, and a teacher who served as an advisor and coach. PPPL's James Morgan coordinated the day. ●

Science on Saturday Celebrates Nineteenth Year

For the nineteenth winter, PPPL hosted the annual Science-on-Saturday lectures. This year's series kicked off in January and concluded March 15. Given by scientists and other professionals who are leaders in their field, the free talks were geared toward high school students, but open to everyone. This year's series was co-organized by PPPL's Ronald Hatcher, Janardhan Manickam, and James Morgan. Above left are members of the audience and above right are Manickam (at left) and Professor Dmitri "Mitya" Chklovskii, of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, who spoke about "How Evolution Engineered a Brain."

Employees Recognize Fellow Employees

PPPL Director Rob Goldston (far right) with the 2002 Employee Recognition Award recipients. From left are (kneeling) Elle Starkman, Patti Wieser, Evelyne Mirville, Scott Gifford, and Goldston; (standing) Jerry Siegel, Ron Davidson, Andrew Post-Zwicker, Ronnie Koon, Nevell Greenough, John DeSandro, and Steve Langish.

2002 Employee Recognition Award recipient Don McBride (middle) displays his award plaque. From left are PPPL Deputy Director Rich Hawryluk, PPPL Director Rob Goldston, McBride, Employee Recognition Committee Chairperson John Luckie, and Employee Recognition Committee member Dolores Lawson. Recipients not pictured above or at left include Steve Baumgartner, Lena Scimeca, and Jim Taylor. Each of the honorees received a plaque and a $25 gift certificate to the Princeton University Store.

In honor of their "professional achievements and personal characteristics," fifteen PPPL'ers received 2002 Employee Recognition Awards during a special ceremony on January 24. The recipients are Steve Baumgartner, Ron Davidson, John DeSandro, Scott Gifford, Nevell Greenough, Ronnie Koon, Steve Langish, Don McBride, Evelyne Mirville, Andrew Post-Zwicker, Lena Scimeca, Jerome Siegel, Elle Starkman, Jim Taylor, and Patti Wieser.

PPPL Director Rob Goldston presented the awards in the Lobby. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon held in honor of the recipients in the overlook area to the NSTX Control Room. "I congratulate the recipients on their overall contributions to the Laboratory and for their efforts toward encouraging a congenial and respectful work environment," said Goldston.

The Employee Recognition Program was established six years ago to recognize those PPPL employees who "significantly contributed to a productive and harmonious work environment." Several employees are recognized each year. Those honored are selected from nominations submitted by other employees. All full-time staff at all levels are eligible for nomination.

The 2002 selection committee included Steve Kemp, Dolores Lawson, Ben LeBlanc, John Luckie (Chair), Ceil O'Brien, and Bob Parsells.

"This program is really a chance for employees to honor other employees."

— John Luckie

Said Committee Chairperson Luckie, "I had a lot of fun being involved in selecting from the nominations we received and in honoring the individuals chosen. This program is really a chance for employees to honor other employees."

Congratulations, honorees! ●

Volunteers Needed for PPPL Exhibit at Founders Day

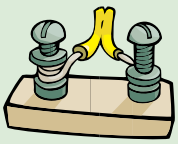
Volunteers are needed to staff the PPPL Exhibit at Founders Day in Plainsboro Sunday, May 4. The event takes place from 1-4:30 P.M. If you could volunteer an hour or so at the exhibit, please send an e-mail to pwieser@pppl.gov. Founders Day is an annual celebration that brings the community together for a day of fun and includes games, athletic events, special attractions and exhibits, and entertainment. ●

PPPL Crew Replaces 138,000-volt Power Switches

Denis Shaltis rewires the control cabinet inside the switch house.

Bill Burchill disconnects an old switch in the switch yard.

In December, a PPPL team replaced three 138,000-volt electrical power switches and changed the operators on two others from manual to motor. The switches are connected to the Lab's main power supply. Each is 10-feet tall, 24-feet long, 13-feet wide, and weighs 18,000 pounds. The $250,000 project entailed assembling the switches and rigging them for lifting, digging trenches for cabling, and replacement. Above, top, are the team members involved in the switch project. From left, (kneeling) are Dave O'Neill and Colin McFarlane; (standing) Ray Camp, Larry Jones, Ray Whitley, Bob Tucker, John Boscoe, Fred Simmonds, Bob Clark, Denis Shaltis, Tom Bogdan, Bill Burchill, Rich Borusovic, and Dick Debonis, who was the Designer and Lead Tech on the project. Not pictured are Gerry Hart and Art Wise. Above, Dick Debonis (left) and Jim Nelson compare the field wiring on the project drawings.



Mama Mia, Motorcycle Mama!

Lisa Carlucci, of the PPPL Theory Department, has been wanting to park in the corner space for a long time. Because of the dual requirements of driving a motorcycle and being pregnant, it has thus far eluded her. She had hoped to acquire this motorcycle before her due date to make her dream a reality, but the baby came before an acquisition was possible. Congratulations to Lisa and her husband, Franco Paoletti, on the birth of their daughter, Livia. Livia was born in March, not long after this photo was taken. ●

PPPL Receives Gold Award from United Way

PPPL received the Gold Award from the United Way for "outstanding service to the people of our community ...the United Way" in honor of the Lab's 2002 campaign. Thirty-eight percent of PPPL's staff contributed to the 2002 campaign, donating a total of $28,326. PPPL Deputy Director Rich Hawryluk (middle) and PPPL United Way Campaign Chairperson Mary Ann Brown (right) accepted the award from Elaine Moorin, Co-chair of the Board of Trustees for the United Way of Greater Mercer County. The award was given during a luncheon on main campus in March.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

For PPPL Conservationist T.J. McGeachen, With Very Little Water

At top, PPPL's T.J. McGeachen and his wife, Barbara, in their xeric garden. Below are marigolds, which are among the plantings in the McGeachen garden, a popular perching place for butterflies.

Another offering in the McGeachen xeriscape is the Indian Blanket-flower (top). Below is the floral display in the front yard of the McGeachens' East Windsor Township home.

For PPPL's Pollution Prevention Coordinator Tom McGeachen, the Land of Enchantment became the land of inspiration — concerning gardens, that is. While attending a session about water conservation at a Pollution Prevention Conference in Albuquerque a few years ago, he learned about "xeriscaping" — dry or water-efficient landscaping. Xeriscaping (the Greek word xeros means dry) is heavily touted in the arid southwest because water is scarce. This type of landscaping was a hot topic at the session and McGeachen — the consummate conservationist — decided to try his hand at producing a xeric garden in the Garden State.

So, two years ago, McGeachen and his wife, Barbara, did an elevated, xeric garden at their East Windsor Township home. They picked plants that like full sun and require medium or low water. "I didn't want to water a lot, but I have a lawn that has lots of sun," said McGeachen.

The McGeachens got started by putting 20 cubic yards of topsoil in the cleared, raised area for the xeric garden. They then moved large and small flat stones for a border around the front-yard garden, co-selected the xeric plants, and planted them.

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Garden

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McGeachen, who would rather play tennis than cut his lawn, made one-third of the front yard into a garden. "I plan to expand this year," said McGeachen, noting that he is adding a lower tier and planting only water-thrifty perennials. The first two years, he planted both xeric perennials and annuals. The major plants installed include Blue Mist Spirea, Moonshine Yarrow, Purple Coneflower, Indian Blanketflower, Russian Sage, and Autumn Joy Sedum. All require medium water, except for the last, which requires low water.

McGeachen estimated it took five weeks of working during the evenings and weekends to complete the garden, including clearing the area, putting down dirt, moving the flat stones, and planting. "It was hard work, especially moving the stones. Many had to be loaded onto a dolly and located," said McGeachen.

For maintenance, his creation requires "dead heading" flowers (no, that doesn't mean playing Jerry Garcia music for them) or pulling off the dead flower heads. Maintenance also requires trimming back plants and watering as needed. Weekly rainfall offers enough moisture, but during dry spells, McGeachen brings out the watering can.

His advice to would-be xeriscapists? "Make sure the garden is not on top of any utilities such as electrical, water, and natural gas." Otherwise, if utility work needs to be done in the future, the garden may be destroyed to make way for the work. Also, choose plants that can take some moisture, since rain in New Jersey is more common than in the desert southwest. The key is to develop a plan for water-efficient landscaping that is appropriate to the natural environment.

Once this year's garden expansion is done, it's off to the courts for a little tennis. Watch that backhand, T.J.! ●

Drive-by garden viewers are welcome at 29 Debbie Lane in East Windsor. No charge for the show.

For more information about this type of gardening, do a web search for xeriscaping.

HAPPY SPRING!

The McGeachen xeric garden.