e-News Updates from the PSIEE listserv!

Upcoming Events

- **Northeast Wood Energy Webinars**
  Tim Volk, SUNY, "Short Rotation Woody Crops in the Northeast"
  June 24, 2011; 11:00 a.m. - noon
- **Chris Hendrickson, Carnegie Mellon University, "Green Design and Environmental Life Cycle Assessment for Sustainable Engineering"**
  June 24, 2011; 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.; 125 Reber Building
- **Penn State Bioenergy Short Course Series: Biomass Life Cycle Analysis**
  July 26-27, 2011; Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center (registration fee)

News Highlights and Announcements

**Photo of the Week - Turkey litter as an alternative fuel**
Alternative energy solutions for poultry farms can include burning litter as a substitute for propane, thereby reducing litter application to fields saturated with phosphate and potash. This strategy can reduce grower expenses, improve brooding conditions, and allow for recycling litter ash nutrients instead of land application in sensitive watersheds. Litter ash minerals including calcium, phosphorus, and potash can be recycled as both plant and animal mineral supplements.

**Salt marsh sediments help gauge climate-change-induced sea level rise**
A newly constructed, 2,000-year history of sea level elevations will help scientists refine the models used to predict climate-change induced sea level rise, according to an international team of climate researchers. The record also shows that the past century had the fastest recorded rate of sea level rise.

**Penn State team wins 4th place at national EcoCAR competition**
Students from Penn State won fourth place and brought home a number of other awards at the EcoCAR: The NeXt Challenge competition, held in Milford, Mich., and Washington, D.C.
High school students in Pennsylvania and Ghana study disease outbreaks
It starts as a small pimple-like bump on the skin. Left untreated, the "Buruli ulcer" will slowly eat away at the skin, leaving behind a massive gaping wound. Through a Penn State program, called reBUild (Research and Education on Buruli Ulcer, Inundations, and Land Disturbance), K-12 students from the Penns Valley Area School District in central Pennsylvania will work with students from three schools in Ghana to study the infectious disease that plagues so many people in subtropical regions of Africa and South America.

Research suggests 'conservation through cultivation' may save ginseng
American ginseng has been collected from Pennsylvania forestlands for more than 250 years, but Penn State researcher Eric Burkhart was astonished by how little was known about the industry focused on the gathering of a wild herb.

Research aimed at slowing spread of forest pests in wood packaging
As invasive forest pests such as emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle decimate forests they never should have seen, scientists are investigating ways to slow the introduction of new insects that may be just as devastating.

Camargo wins poster award at research expo
Gustavo Camargo, a doctoral student in agricultural and biological engineering, won first place in the physical and engineering sciences division at the 2011 Gamma Sigma Delta Research Expo. Advisor is Tom Richard.

Study suggests businesses benefiting from Marcellus Shale development
A survey of businesses in two Pennsylvania counties where natural-gas drilling is occurring suggests that the Marcellus Shale boom is having a positive net effect on business activity.

Penn State leads in Honey Bee Health initiative
A nationwide network to monitor and maintain honeybee health is the aim of the Bee Informed Partnership, a five-year, $5 million program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and led by Penn State.

Geography students claim spring break busiest week of semester
For four geography undergrads, spring break 2011 wasn't about a week off from class work. Arguably, it was the busiest week of their semester as they set up still cameras to photograph
wildlife in Peru’s rain forest, toured the ruins of Machu Picchu and met the Peruvian minister of the environment. Class is led by geography senior scientist Denice Wardrop and research associate Joe Bishop.

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We welcome your input!
In order to make this listserv useful for our subscribers, we appreciate your feedback! Please send your comments/suggestions to Patricia Craig at plc103@psu.edu. Please use “PSIEE listserv” in the subject line. If you have information that you would like us to distribute please send that as well. Thanks!

Thank you for your continued interest in the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment!

Best regards,
Patricia Craig