

THE BUZZ...!



SPRING 2012

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY, PLANT PATHOLOGY AND WEED SCIENCE

The EPPWS Department is delighted in welcoming our two new professors, Dr. Alvaro Romero, and Dr. Brian Schutte! Dr. Romero specializes in Urban Entomology, and Dr. Schutte's discipline is in Weed Physiology. If you haven't done so already, please stop by their offices on the 2nd floor of Skeen Hall and make them feel welcome!



DR. ALVARO ROMERO

Dr. Alvaro Romero has recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Urban Entomology in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science. Dr. Romero is a Veterinarian and graduated in his native country of Colombia. He then went on to pursue his Master of Urban Entomology from the University of Kentucky. During his PhD studies he conducted research on bed bugs, a resurgent urban pest in the US and Worldwide. He continued with his bed bug research at North Carolina State University as National Science Foundation (NSF) Post-Doctoral Fellow. Dr. Romero's research program will focus on basic and applied aspects of urban arthropod pests that will lead to better management and reduction of the impact of these pests in society. His activities also include developing and teaching Urban Entomology courses.

DR. BRIAN SCHUTTE

Dr. Brian Schutte is our new weed physiologist with the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology and Weed Science. In this article, he would like to provide information about himself and what he hopes to accomplish in the coming months and years. Dr. Schutte was raised and educated in Ohio, earning B.A. degrees in both Botany and Political Science from Miami University (Oxford OH), M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Horticulture and Crop Science from Ohio State University. His dissertation involved management and ecology of agricultural weeds, a line of research that he continued as a Post-doctoral Research Ecologist with the USDA-ARS Invasive Weeds Management Unit (now named "Global Change and Photosynthesis research Unit") in Urbana, IL.

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MORE EPPWS NEWS!

DR. SCHUTTE (continued from previous page)

The goal of Dr. Schutte's research program is to make systems for weed management more reliable and more cost effective. To this end, he will investigate ways to suppress weed populations at multiple points in their lifecycle, rather than exclusively focusing on control of weed seedlings. For many weed species, seeds are a critical lifestyle phase. Accordingly, a component of research aims to develop novel management tactics that directly target weed seedbanks. Previous projects in this area of research have clarified physical and chemical defenses in seeds, shed light on seed-predator interactions, and elucidated the effects of soil and climate factors on weed seed fate. Currently, his research group is establishing field and laboratory experiments on seed mortality and seedbank dynamics of agricultural weeds of southern New Mexico. In addition to discovering new mechanisms of seed survival, we hope to provide local farmers the information needed to deplete weed seedbanks through manipulation of natural ecological processes including seed decay, seed predation and fatal germination.

Dr. Schutte also enjoys addressing technical challenges in weed management by collaborating with extension faculty, agricultural professionals and farmers. Previous projects in this area of research have included: a landscape epidemiological study on factors influencing the spread of herbicide-resistance, studies on improved control of problematic weed species, and studies on mulch and cover crop tactics for organic cropping systems. As he learns more about issues impacting weed management in New Mexico, he looks forward to productive

DR. SCHUTTE (continued)

collaborations leading to more sustainable solutions.

Currently, Dr. Schutte teaches EPWS 314/514 Plant Physiology and hopes to soon teach a complimentary laboratory class in whole plant physiology. He would also like to teach a course on the physiological and ecological factors influencing reproduction and spread of weeds. Such a course would include aspects of herbicide and plant physiology, community and population ecology, agronomy and range science.

If you would like to learn more, or, if Dr. Schutte can be of service to you, please contact him at (575) 646-7082, bschutte@nmsu.edu.

Dr. Schutte is grateful for the warm welcome he has received, and is very excited to start this new position. He looks forward to serving the NMSU community for years to come!

Best regards, Brian Schutte

STUDENTS....

Be sure to check your e-mails for job information: (Donna 646-5283), and for scholarship information: (Cindy 646-1145), also be updated with current departmental events!



CLUB NEWS

EARTH AS ART!

Come to the West Wing of Skeen Hall and check out the amazing images of "Earth as Art"!

The images are courtesy of Max P. Bleiweiss, Agricultural Research Scientist with the EPPWS Department. The data from the images comes from the unique spatial resolution of the Landsat series of satellites, opposed to images from regular weather satellites. The images were chosen for their visual beauty. Each image includes a placard pinpointing where on the Earth the image was taken, and a little background on the area.

The Skeen Hall display was created by the U.S. Geological Survey's National Mapping Division. Earth Resources Observation Systems Data Center.

The images are truly beautiful and a treat to behold. Many thanks to Max for his visions to create something that is both beautiful and educational.

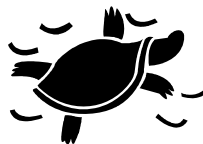
It is definitely well worth your time to go to the West/Lab wing in Skeen Hall and enjoy our amazing "Art Gallery"!

Article is courtesy of Las Cruces Sun News. The images free and clear of copyright.



LINNAEAN / ENTOMOLOGY CLUB NEWS

The Linnaean Team / Entomology Club is a group that meets once a week to prepare for competition with students from other Universities on a regional level (Southwestern Branch). Branch winners go on to compete against each other at the National ESA (Entomological Society of America) meeting at the end of the year. It is a fun way to gain knowledge of entomology. So, if you have an interest in insects please contact Melise Taylor (schmim@nmsu.edu) or Dr. Scott Bundy (cbundv@nmsu.edu) for details.



WORD SEARCH

SPRING BREAK!

G	T	G	Z	P	M	T	X	F	B	L	G	T	E	S
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S	D	S	X	I	E	C	M	S	T	K	P	R	A	A
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Z	Z	E	M	B	C	S	G	C	D	W	R	W	F	B
F	Y	S	Q	J	A	N	A	M	D	P	G	I	M	M
H	U	E	Z	O	I	L	X	R	D	I	O	M	E	B
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BASEBALL
CAMPING
DIVING

BEACHES
CONCERTS
FISHING

BOATS
CYCLING
MUSEUMS