

In This Issue

- In The News
- Native Delaware Column
- Looking Ahead
- On the Cutting Edge
- Grants

Cooperative Extension

[Cooperative Extension Home](#)

[New Castle County Extension](#)

[Kent County Extension](#)

[Sussex County Extension](#)

[Delaware 4-H](#)

Related Links

[Friends of Agriculture](#)

[CANR Today](#)



Dewey Caron Retires from UD After 27 years

"At the University of Delaware, teaching still matters."

Spend any amount of time around Dewey Caron, a UD professor of entomology and wildlife ecology, and you'll hear these words come out of his mouth. At some universities, it's accepted that research is more important than classroom teaching. Not so at UD, says Caron.

"I came to the University in 1981 because I knew it was a place where teaching is valued, says Caron. "Teaching, counseling and advising isn't subordinate to research."

With a car trunk filled with boxes of teaching materials, a slide projector, and scads of manila folders, Dewey Caron looks a bit like a traveling salesman. And his job – that of Cooperative Extension entomologist as well as UD professor – has made him into a traveling teacher. He regularly crisscrosses the state teaching short courses to commercial beekeepers as well as to hobbyists.

At the end of April, Caron will retire from UD, but not from teaching. He will continue to teach UD online courses and will be an adjunct professor at Oregon State University, in Corvallis, Ore., where he will spend six months of each year.

Ever since he was in grad school, Caron's area of interest has been bees, including native bees, Africanized bees, and most especially, the common honeybee that populates commercial and backyard hives. He has transported queen bees from the lowlands to the mountain peaks in Bolivia, to see how the insects respond at different altitudes. The entomologist has watched as Africanized bees ferociously attacked his gloved hand. And, he has spent countless hours in the UD apiary, studying the ecology and behavior of the honeybee.

He also has carried a full course load every semester of his 27 years at UD, teaching everything from the freshman's first course in insect biology and behavior to "Apiology and Apiculture 214," which gives students practical experience in handling honeybees in the apiary on UD's Newark farm.

Three years ago, with what he says was a smidgen of trepidation, Caron jumped into the world of online teaching. With retirement on the horizon, it would have been easy to say no to the challenge of a different teaching medium. But Caron says he's learning a lot about online teaching.

"It's been great fun teaching online, however, I do have to get my online students better about communicating with each other and not just directing questions to me," says Caron. "Penny [Rodrick Williams] really does that well."

Comparing himself to a young colleague with a fraction of his teaching experience – and evaluating how he can learn from her -- epitomizes Dewey Caron's style. His quest for continual improvement hasn't gone unnoticed. In 1988, he received UD's Excellence in Teaching award. That same year, he was recognized nationally for teaching excellence from the Entomological Society of America (ESA).

Dewey Caron's colleagues also rave about him. "Dewey has been the go-to guy for bee questions across the country," says Doug Tallamy, chair of UD's department of entomology and wildlife ecology. "We, and many others, will miss his knowledge and enthusiasm greatly."

"When I joined UD Extension five years ago, I quickly realized what a giant Dewey is in his field of expertise," notes Jan Seitz, associate dean and director of UD Cooperative Extension. "Given his enormous stature, Dewey has been quoted, interviewed and called upon to give invited addresses on a regular basis. But Dewey also is one of the most humble individuals I have ever known. I wouldn't have learned about most of his honors and recognitions had others not let me know."

As the consummate teacher, what matters most to Caron is that his students appreciate what he does. Some recent postings on the RateMyProfessor.com website attest to this:

"Dr. Caron is the man. I'm sad that he's retiring.... He's really enthusiastic about his subject."

"Dr. Caron is incredible. He knows so much about insects."

"Love this guy. Took this class partly to see the bee dance."

As for the "bee dance," it's just one way that Caron keeps his students laughing while they learn. Once each semester, he dons a bee costume and demonstrates his own version of the dances that honeybees engage in to communicate information.

"My get-up just started as antennas and gradually grew into a full-blown costume," says Caron. "I even include sound effects."

The entomologist switches over to his serious side when talking about his

volunteer work. Retirement will mean more time to devote to international volunteerism, including a planned trip to Haiti this fall to teach beekeeping in small communities.

Throughout the course of his career, Caron has worked on entomology-related development projects with a variety of organizations, including the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"My international work is particularly rewarding," he says. "The needs are so great, and the impact that you make is direct and immediate. You can see the change that you have made."

Closer to home, Caron has seen an undergraduate decide to become an entomologist because of his influence, a group of Boy Scouts change how they think about conservation after hearing him talk, and a local beekeeping business flourish thanks to his advice. These day-to-day occurrences also give Caron great satisfaction by showing him that the job he has loved has made a difference in the lives of others.

Article by Margo McDonough

Cooperative Extension Promotions Announced

Please congratulate the following colleagues who were promoted over the past year.

Doug Crouse –from Extension Educator II, to Extension Educator III
Gordon Johnson –from Extension Agent III to Extension Agent IV
Susan Truehart Garey – from Extension Agent II to Extension Agent III
Bill McGowan – from Extension Agent III to Extension Agent IV
Carol Scott – from Extension Agent I to Extension Agent II
Shawn Tingle –from Extension Associate II to Extension Associate III

Congratulations to all ... we are proud of you!!!!

Cynthia Slater Joins UD Extension Nutrition Program

Cynthia E. Slater has joined the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) at University of Delaware Cooperative Extension as a nutrition assistant. Based at the New Castle County office, Slater serves a range of low-income neighborhoods in Claymont, Wilmington, Newark, Bear and Middletown, along with longtime EFNEP nutrition assistant Carmella Johnson.

Alexis Distler named to Hickory Tree Afterschool

Please welcome **Alexis Distler** to the 4-H Family. Alexis is the new Site Coordinator at the Hickory Tree Afterschool Program. 4-H Afterschool Programs are held Monday through Friday at sites all across the state and involve activities and skill development in areas such as healthy lifestyles, science, engineering and technology, and more.



2007 Extension Scholars Honored at Ice Cream Social

On April 9, the six 2007 Cooperative Extension Scholars were recognized for their year of hard work. **Lindsey Reich, Staci German, Emily Watts, Casey Schickling, Lauren Southard, Georgiana Buck** were featured in a CANR Today article April 15.

Friends of Agriculture Breakfast series

April 18 season finale was a **"Celebration of the Next Generation."** Members of **Delaware FFA** presented the current trends and Opportunities for the Future Farmers of America.

MARK YOU CALENDARS!

The 2008-09 series schedule is:

September 26, Delaware Ag Museum; October 17, November 21, Modern Maturity Center; January 9, Ag Week Harrington Fire Hall; March 20, April 17 Modern Maturity Center.

For more information regarding the Friends of Agriculture Breakfast Series you may visit <http://ag.udel.edu/agfriends> or call Alice Moore at 302-831-2504.

Friends
OF
Agriculture

Sustaining Life *from* Soil to Sky



Ag Day is a community event that brings agriculture and natural resources to life for the approximately 3,000 people who attend each year. Again this year educational exhibits, tours, activities and our exhibitors educated everyone, from schoolchildren to

homeowners, senior citizens to teenagers, about the world of agriculture and natural resources. Adding to the fun were many supplemental vendors, who provided food and entertainment for our guests.

What went on at Ag Day?

- More than 60 different educational and interactive exhibits
- Children's games and activities
- Livestock display with UD farm animals
- Musical entertainment
- Tractor-pulled hayrides around the UD farm complex
- Plant sales (trees, shrubs, perennials, vegetable and bedding plants.)
- Educational lectures
- Lots and lots of food!



In The News

"To Feed the Birds, First Feed the Bugs" New York Times article features **Doug Tallamy** and his book "Bringing Nature Home" stresses the importance of nurturing native plants.

"Saving Electricity During Warm Weather" article by **Gary Van Wicklen** in the DPI Newsletter.

"Vents can help with costs" article by **Gary Van Wicklen** The Mid-Atlantic Poultry Farmer.



"Food Safety Training for on-farm entrepreneurs" article a workshop offered by **Sue Snider** at the Delaware Department of Agriculture in the March 11 Delmarva Farmer.

"Be Food Safe During Spring Holiday Meals" quotes **Sue Snider** in an article by UD Ag Communications in the March 17 The Mid-Atlantic Country Folks Farm Chronicle, Home, Family, Friends & You section.

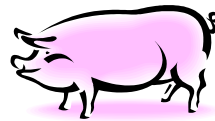
"LEAD class visits port as part of its trade theme" The March 18 Delmarva Farmer article features the LEAD DE class visit to the Port of Wilmington. Pictured in the article is **Tom Ivento** with members of the class.

In the March 25 The Delmarva Farmer appear the following articles:

"**Sussex 4-Hers compete in speaking contest**" pictures the winners of the county contest who will participate in the state competition held during the Delaware State Fair.

"**Summer internship available from UD Cooperative Extension**" article describes the Extension Scholars Summer Internship Program.

"**4-Hers gain pork quality certificates at overnighter**" Over 60 4-H members earned their Pork Quality Assurance certificate at the weekend event. Kent County 4-H winners of the quiz bowl and the Skill-a-thon are listed as well as a photo of the participants in the article.



"**May 1 is deadline for Delaware 4-H scholarship entries**" announces the 4-H Foundation scholarships that will help 4-H members pursue their higher education.

"**Annual Basket auction will be held March 28**" announces the 11th Annual Kent County 4-H Clubs event held at the Felton Fire Hall.

"**Checking Out Chile**" photos of the LEAD DE trip to Chile pictured are **Laurie Wolinski, Colleen Kitzmiller and Robin Talley**.

"DE Spring Dairy Expo held April 5" the 2008 **DE 4-H & FFA** Dairy Expo was held at the DE State Fairgrounds at

10 a.m.



"DE Pygmy Goat Show looking for entries" The second annual **Kent County 4-H** Invitational Pygmy Goat Show will be May 18 at the DE State Fair Grounds.

"**Ag Breakfast to honor DE FFA on April 18**" announcing the Friends of Agriculture Breakfast held 7:15 a.m. at the Modern Maturity Center.

"Credits offered to those attending seminar" DE nutrient management credits to be awarded for those attending "Poultry Production: Dealing with Mortalities" on Wed. April 2, 2-4 p.m. Carvel Center, Georgetown.

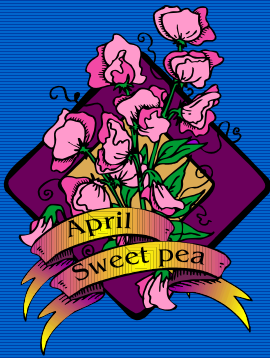
"UD campus will hold Ag Day 2008 in April" April 26 at the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

UD in the News, April 1; **Dewey Caron** was quoted in a March 24 *Press of Atlantic City* story about the revival of New Jersey bee colonies following last year's collapse.

UD in the News, April 11; **William Saylor** and **David Hansen** were quoted in an April 8 *News Journal* story about efforts to ease poultry waste through a feed additive. Associated Press and the FeedInfo News Service also distributed a story on the research.

Dot Abbott was quoted in an April 8 *American Farm* story about a meeting of the Northeast Regional Biomass Program.

"Kent 4-Hers participate in annual foods contest" and "Del. 4-Hers take part in conference" articles appear in the April 22 *The Next Generation* section of the *Delmarva Farmer*.



On the Cutting Edge

Carol Scott, Caroline Romeo, Danielle Baker, Veronica Commodore, Janohn Marria, and Kathleen Splane all presented workshops at the National Afterschool Association Conference held March 14-18 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. The conference was attended by individuals involved in some way with after school programs. Participants came from as far away as New Zealand and Australia. Workshops were for afterschool professionals to further their expertise in developing their programs to help children learn.

UD's Food Science Program Participates in Exhibition & Reception on Capitol Hill

Dr. Kali Kniel, **Dr. Sue Snider**, and Adrienne Shearer of UD's Food Science Program attended the tenth annual exhibition, Nutrition and Health, and reception sponsored by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) on March 5, 2008 in Washington, DC. In December, the Food Science program submitted a proposal to be included in the event. UD and thirty-seven other



universities and colleges from across the US were selected to participate. "From Harvest to Home in Delaware: Food Safety Research Feeds Cooperative Extension Programs" highlighted UD's research in food safety and emerging preservation technologies, and food virology and parasitology, and the link with Cooperative Extension's cutting-edge food safety and nutrition training for industry, consumers and youth. While in DC, the group met with the legislative assistants who work on agriculture issues for Senator Biden, Senator Carper, and Congressman Castle. -Katy O'Connell



Congratulations to Ernie Lopez Gettysburg College Alumni Association's Board of Directors has selected Ernie to receive the 2008 Young Alumni Achievement Award for Career Development. The award will be presented to him on Saturday, May 31 during an awards ceremony.

UD Cooperative Extension to offer food safety training

Dr. Sue Snider, University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, provided food safety training for potential on-farm food entrepreneurs during a scheduled two-session, eight-hour training, 6-10 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, and Thursday April 10, or a one-session, eight-hour training, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, April 5. All training sessions took place at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. Dupont Highway, Dover. Participants must complete eight hours of training and pass a written test on the materials presented in order to receive a certificate.

As a result of training in food safety, participants will be able to:

- Identify potentially and non-potentially hazardous foods.
- Appreciate foodborne pathogens and understand ways to control them,
- Apply the basic principles to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.
- Evaluate a plan for controlling potential microbial problems in an operation, and
- Understand requirements of the new regulations for farm-produced food items.

Training for afterschool professionals begins April 28

UD's Center for Disabilities Studies, Early Learning Center, Cooperative Extension and Family and Workplace Connection are jointly offering "Moving Youth Ahead in School-age Programs," a 64-hour professional development training program for staff who work in afterschool and summer programs. Article in the April 7 UDaily.





Weekly Crop Update

The first regular issue of WCU for the 2008 season has been released and the WCU will be issued weekly until September 19th.

There is now a new online (blog) version of WCU available at <http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/weeklilycropupdate/>. This version replaces the old HTML version. The new blog version of WCU allows you to search archived articles easily and the current issue front page will allow you to navigate directly to the articles you want to read. A PDF version of WCU will also be posted.

Please let Emmalea know what you think of the new format (especially any suggestions) by contacting her at emmalea@udel.edu or 302-856-2585 x 587

Links to Weekly Crop Update

Current Issue in New Blog Format (for web viewing):
<http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/weeklilycropupdate/?p=58>

Current Issue in PDF Format (for printing):
<http://www.rec.udel.edu/Update08/Volume16,Issue2.pdf>

Links to WCU Archives:

Blog: <http://agdev.anr.udel.edu/weeklilycropupdate/>

UD Extension Site: <http://ag.udel.edu/extension/wcu/index.htm>

REC Page: <http://www.rec.udel.edu/TopLevel/Publicat.htm>



New Castle County Cooperative Extension "Notes to the Farm" Spring Newsletter

Anna Stoops announced the release of the new "Notes to the Farm" quarterly newsletter for communicating important events and information to the New Castle County Ag community in a timely manner. If you would like to receive this newsletter or submit information to Anna the deadline for announcements/information/articles for the summer edition of 'Notes to the Farm' is June 30, 2008. Please e-mail stoops@udel.edu

Grants

Nine CANR faculty (Jules Bruck, Chad Nelson, Carl Schmidt, **Susan Whitney King**, Greg Shriver, Jake Bowman, Charles Bartlett, Judy Hough-Goldstein, and Chris Williams) were awarded teaching grants to support CANR efforts to assess the ecological status and develop long-term educational plans for the natural resource areas (forests, riparian corridors, wetlands, etc.) at the CANR Newark and Middletown farms. Information from these projects will contribute to the development of future plans for the use of these valuable resources in a wide variety of teaching and undergraduate research programs.