



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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FFA and the Canoe Garden at the Flower Show

JENNA MOSER
State FFA Reporter

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia International Flower Show has been in existence for 182 years and has had visitors and exhibitors from around the globe.

This event continues to amaze people year after year, with stunning exhibits from people who have been active in the horticulture industry for many years. One display organized by high school students was a part of this international horticultural display. For multiple years, W.B. Saul High School's Philadelphia FFA Chapter has been able to design, make and order materials, and assemble them to make a display. This year has been no different.

"Hawaii" was the theme for the 2012 Flower Show and Saul's theme was "The Canoe Garden." The students and agri-

culture teachers, Garth Schuler, Barbara Brown and Lisa Blum, began planning and designing the exhibit right after Halloween.

After Thanksgiving break students began to hand carve a canoe from the log of an Oak Tree that was provided by Fairmount Park. This one canoe took a little over three months to carve out perfectly.

In addition to carving out the log, students also carved three tiki gods.

Other students spent time selecting and ordering flowers from Florida for the exhibit.

Both the students and the teachers were very excited to finally see The Canoe Garden exhibit assembled for the first time at the Flower Show in the Philadelphia Convention Center on March 2.

Thousands of people viewed the exhibit during the week of March 4 and noticed the hard work that students have put in to create a masterpiece.



Submitted photo
W.B. Saul students April Clark, left, and Nay Bellinger stand in front of "The Canoe Garden" exhibit that they helped to create.

FFA Celebrates Ag Day

WASHINGTON — State Officers, Matthew Dodson, Sarabeth Royer, and Jenna Moser, along with Penn State student Courtney Moskios, were privileged to attend a National Ag Day Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. representing Pennsylvania, March 6-8. As part of the event, they had a night tour of Washington, learned leadership skills, and met with Dwight Armstrong and Kent Schescke from the National FFA Organization. On the final day of the conference they went to Capitol Hill and met with Pennsylvania Congressman Glenn Thompson and discussed current agricultural issues.



Photo by Pa. FFA
From left, Sarabeth Royer, Matthew Dodson, Congressman Glenn Thompson, Courtney Moskios, and Jenna Moser participated in the National Ag Day Leadership Conference.

An Epic Year

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

What a year it has been with the Pennsylvania FFA. If I had to describe our members with one word, it would definitely have to be "inspiring." At national convention I saw our members receive second place in creed speaking, ninth place in agriculture mechanics and third place in food science and technology. I saw 282 members walk across the stage at the Farm Show and obtain the Keystone Degree. I even met a member who has his own auctioneering service. Every single day I have the chance to hear the amazing achievements of our FFA members; every single day I am amazed at just how professional and knowledgeable these members are. They continue to spread the message of how to "Desire...Acquire...and Inspire."

As I continue to see these young adults the rest of this year I am excited to see them accomplish so much more. So far in March I have attended several events. On March 3, I had the chance to attend and help out at the Delaware Valley College Leadership Conference where stu-



MATTHEW DODSON

dents were taught and put into practice skills in various career development events. Then the travels continued on to include visiting Washington, D.C. for National Ag Day where myself, Sarabeth Royer, and Jenna Moser had the honor of attending workshops, meeting with legislators and having coffee with the USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. Next we had the pleasure of meeting with Pfizer Animal Health.

Coming up on March 18-20 is our 25th State Legislative Leadership Conference. Here students will learn about the legislative process, parliamentary procedure and professionalism. They will actually participate in mock Congress sessions where they will debate and vote on various bills that are currently in legislation. On the final morning of the conference they will have to chance to eat breakfast with many legislators and industry representatives. Let's keep up the good work Pennsylvania FFA.

Editor's Note: Matthew Dodson is the Pa. State FFA chaplain.

Pa., NJ and NY State Officers Visit Pfizer



On March 9th, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania state FFA officers were able to spend the day together in Madison, N.J. at Pfizer. During the day, officers were able to learn more about Pfizer and the role that they play with the FFA Organization. Rob Kelly, center, vice president of U.S. cattle operations and other Pfizer employees visited with the teams to talk about their business.

Photo by Pa. FFA

Leading, Competing, Succeeding — The FFA Way

JENNA MOSER
State FFA Reporter

On Saturday March 3, FFA members from across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware spent their day at a Leadership Conference hosted annually by members of Delaware Valley College's collegiate FFA. While there students were able to develop their skills in various Career Development Events, such as: parliamentary

procedure, speaking, floriculture, wildlife, horse evaluation, livestock evaluation, dairy evaluation, dairy foods, and agricultural sales. In addition, to participating in these workshops, students also were able to listen to the dean of the college, Russell Redding. The state officers from Pennsylvania and New Jersey shared their meaning of the word "leader." The conference was very beneficial for students from all three states.