

RUTGERS – Discover Us

Office of Community Engagement

Learn about the “Discovery Initiative”

Awareness, Understanding and Engagement

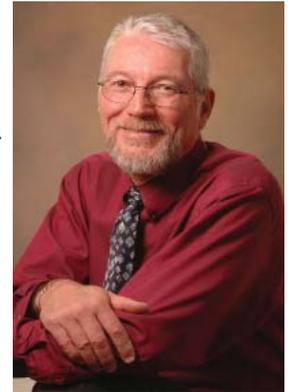
A message from Bob Goodman, Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources

I am proud to announce the launch of the Discovery Initiative, a new program from the Office of the Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The Discovery Initiative, through the new Office of Community Engagement, intends to create an awareness of the accomplishments of the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and Rutgers University. It will foster an understanding and appreciation of the role they play in society and will result in engagement that creates loyalty and a lifetime relationship with the university community.

It is our goal to learn the interests of our students, alumni, retired faculty and staff, and provide them with the ability to discover how they can further connect with Rutgers. Much of the work and research being done by Rutgers, or in collaboration with other partners, will be showcased in various Discovery events throughout the year.

Perhaps you are interested in marine and aquatic life? Our Discovery Tour: Coastal Exploration is designed to take guests to the Rutgers University Marine Field Station in Tuckerton, where they can learn about the research being done by faculty and students. From there we will head to Long Beach Island to learn about the collaboration between Rutgers and the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program. Other Discovery events will include a tour of the Lee Brothers Cranberry Farm in Burlington County and many other visits to research sites throughout the state in the months to come. Other “Discovery” events and programs will take place on campus. Details are posted at www.discovery.rutgers.edu.

Whether your interests lie in energy and the environment, gardening, food and nutrition, health, or some other area, please embrace the opportunity to engage with Rutgers and learn about its role in research, learning and the community.



The Great Tomato Tasting!



The Great Tomato Tasting was held on August 26th at the Clifford E. and Melda C. Snyder Research and Extension Farm in Hunterdon County. Here, guests learned about the history of the farm and its relationship with Rutgers. Dr. John Grande, director of the farm, presented Congressman Leonard Lance with an award for his family's support in arranging the bequest of the Snyders that resulted in Rutgers' acquisition of their outstanding facility 20 years ago.



(L-R: John Grande, Richard McCormick, Leonard Lance, Robert Goodman)

Guests—many of whom were alumni invited by Rutgers University Alumni Association—were able to tour the farm on wagons, taste heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, and bring home a lovely basket full of fresh produce.

For more information, email discovery@aesop.rutgers.edu.

Office of Community Engagement

Discovery Tour - Energy and the Environment

On a beautiful September day, guests of the inaugural Discovery Tour: Energy and the Environment, visited Lee Turkey Farm in East Windsor. Ronny Lee, owner, provided a very enthusiastic look at the past, present, and future of agriculture in New Jersey and guided a tour of his 54-acre farm, which is nestled in the arms of suburbia with hundreds of fruit trees and acres of vegetables. The farm, true to its name, also raises 3,000 turkeys annually. The Lee family has farmed the same land for six generations, since 1868. Ronny Lee was the first New Jersey farmer to install a Sun Farm Network System on his farm in 2004. Ninety-five percent of the farm's energy use is provided by more than 400 solar panels on the southern roof of his turkey barn.



Ronny Lee talks about solar energy

Following the tour, guests had a chance to "pick your own" and shop in the farm store, which offers fresh cut wild flowers, a variety of fruits and vegetables, and peach cider, as well as fresh and frozen turkeys.

The next stop on the tour was the Rutgers EcoComplex-

Rutgers Environmental and Research Extension Center in Columbus. Guests enjoyed lunch while learning about "green purchasing" at Rutgers University from Dr. Kevin Lyons and Magda Comeau from the Rutgers University Purchasing Department. Lyons and Comeau explained how Rutgers is working to minimize negative environmental effects through the use of environmentally friendly products, practices, and policies.



EcoComplex research greenhouse

Guests also learned about the conversion of solid waste to bioenergy from Margaret Brennan, Director of Economic Growth and Development, and resource renewal from A. J. Both, Associate Extension Specialist. A tour of the facility and research greenhouse concluded the tour.

Have you completed our survey?

The Office of Community Engagement would like to learn more about your interests via a brief survey it has created.

You are invited to "discover" the great work that is taking place at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and to take part in activities and events that appeal to you. Our survey is designed to help us get to know your preferences so that we can invite you to events that are of greatest interest to you.

Please feel free to visit our website, www.discover.rutgers.edu to complete our questionnaire to ensure your invitation to upcoming events.

Upcoming Events:

October 3, 2009: Discovery Tour - Coastal Exploration
Take a tour of Rutgers Marine Field Station and visit the Barnegat Bay Shellfish Restoration Program on Long Beach Island.

October 15, 2009: Discovery Tour - Amazing Cranberries
Take a tour of the Lee Brothers Cranberry Farm during the harvest and then visit the Ocean Spray Packing Plant.

October 20, 2009: Distinguished Lecture by Nick Lane
Nick Lane, author, will consider what some of the most celebrated inventions of life can tell us about the workings of evolution.

To register for these and other events, please visit www.discovery.rutgers.edu

For more information, email discovery@aesop.rutgers.edu.