

WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

June 2, 2006

Plant & Insect Diagnostic Laboratory uses the “Teachable Moment” to change minds

The WSU-Puyallup Plant & Insect Diagnostic Laboratory serves both Western Washington residents and commercial industries. Cities, businesses, and growers have all benefited from the hands-on service provided by Art Antonelli, Entomologist, and Jenny Glass, Diagnostic Plant Pathologist. “About half of the insects we identify come from businesses and commercial services,” says Glass. Last week, the City of Auburn needed to know how to safely move and restore a honeybee nest away from a popular walking trail. This week, a local Christmas tree grower wanted to know what and when to use the best product to manage balsam woolly adelgid, an aphid-like insect that causes stem swelling and dieback of firs. “It’s all about Integrated Pest Management,” explains Antonelli. “We try to get them to choose a more bio-rational approach.”



(Jenny Glass and Art Antonelli in a rare tranquil moment at the WSU Puyallup Plant Diagnostic Laboratory)

The Diagnostic Laboratory reaches out to many people and provides a variety of services that range from insect, spider, and plant identifications to plant disease and disorder diagnosis. “One of our goals is to change minds, change attitudes and change practices,” says Antonelli. When people come to the Plant Diagnostic Laboratory, they are more receptive to solutions. “We take advantage of these teachable moments.” For more information and a list of services and general answers, look at <http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/plantclinic/>.

WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region- Programs for Its People.

Weekly Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, terwin@wsu.edu, 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, jnewkirk@wsu.edu, 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee and she will send this Highlight as an attachment.