

HIGHLIGHT

Susan Smith becomes 2006 Employee of the Year



(Above: Susan Smith outside the Administration building.)

When it comes to knowing what goes on at the Puyallup Research and Extension Center, Susan Smith can speak from experience. While in high school, she used to come out to the Center and dig bulbs in the summer. Susan's mother retired from WSU Puyallup and after Susan got out of school, she started her own work here in earnest. In 1986, Susan joined Rita Hummel's Ornamental Horticulture program (now called Environmental Horticulture). For the past few years, she has also worked with Pat Moore's Fruit Horticulture program. Over the years Susan has been a member of Dick Gabrielson's plant pathology team and also worked for Gary Chastagner's Ornamental programs. Susan is a Plant Technologist who still admits to love working with plants. She wants to continue her work with ornamentals and alternative mulches.

Every year, the Employee of the Year Award is announced at the annual holiday party. This year's party had the highest attendance of any year. New additions, like a silent auction and a white elephant sale, raised money for the Book Scholarship while providing a sensible way to recycle those extra items at home. Mickey Bean was the Chief Organizing Officer, greatly assisted by Dick Johnson, Andrea Butler and Jeri Ayala. Gary Chastagner donated the Christmas tree. Vernene Scheurer, Kathy Poole, Mickey, and Andrea decorated the tree. The ornament contest was close this year but the most votes went to CSANR/Small Farms for their glass ornament.

WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region; Programs for Its People

Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup from February through December. For story ideas for upcoming Highlights, 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.