

The Daily

Bringing the Joy of Gardening to People with Disabilities



Delphiniums in bloom. Linda Buchanan and her terrier, Ginger, in her award-winning home garden.

Linda Buchanan, Vaccine Automation Svces., is a Master Gardener. She earned the title through Penn State's Cooperative Extension where she received horticultural training to conduct workshops on environmentally sound gardening. Ms. Buchanan is also a Merck Champion of the Environment. She received a \$6,000 grant from Merck to create an "accessible garden" with the Penn State nonprofit where people with disabilities or the less agile elderly can learn how to garden by using adaptive strategies.

The Accessible Garden, to be located at the Montgomery County 4-H in Skippack, will be the first of its kind in the area. The grounds will accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, and have guardrails to aid working gardeners and visitors. Pathways with a smooth level surface will make navigation easier for the unsteady.

Gardening is rewarding and therapeutic for mind and body, says the Merck employee and award-winning gardener. "If I were suddenly unable to enjoy my garden due to confinement to a wheelchair or inability to kneel or dig, I know there would be a void in my life that would be very difficult to fill."

Project planning began in 2001 and 13 Master Gardeners are now on board. Researching accessibility strategies has been a challenge because there are few similar undertakings locally to tap for ideas. In addition to purchasing adaptive gardening tools, modifications for disabled persons will include raised garden beds, vertical gardening with fences and trellises, and hanging container gardens. There will be a "grid bed" for blind persons as well as informational signage about plants in Braille.

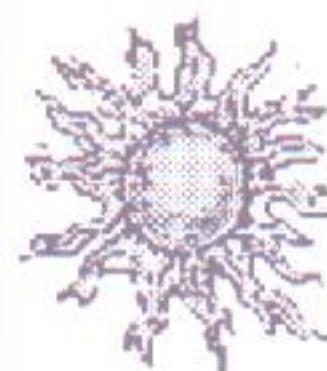
Planting and training are set to begin next spring. The installation of water lines and construction of garden beds are being completed this year. A gazebo in the center of the garden will be used as a teaching area.

As an educator and environmentalist, Ms. Buchanan promotes gardening techniques that respect natural resources and don't harm the environment. She discourages the indiscriminate use of pesticides, is versed on water conservation strategies and advocates composting over commercial fertilizers.

Public demonstrations and workshops on environmentally-friendly gardening practices will be offered at the site and featured during the annual 4-H fair.

Friday
August 1, 2003

Merck Ozone Alert Provides Important 'Heads-Up'



Good news in the atmosphere. So far, only two days have exceeded safe ozone levels in the Delaware Valley, which is much better than the usual five-day average during June and July.

Ozone is an odorless gas that filters harmful UV rays when layered in the upper atmosphere. Hot, sunny weather combined with emissions from cars, industry and other sources, though, can cause ozone to form at ground level. The resulting smoggy air can cause respiratory problems and damage to crops and ocean life.

When ground-level ozone concentrations are expected to exceed federal air quality standards the next day, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection declares an Ozone Action Day. Merck and 250 other organizations are notified through the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Ozone Action Partnership. At Merck, the call is fielded by Liz Fernandez, Site Environmental Engineering, along with Sue Donahue and Andrea Barr of Public Affairs, who inform employees on myMerck.

Take Ozone Action

When an ozone alert is called, those at highest risk from pollution are advised to stay indoors. This includes young children, the elderly and people with respiratory ailments. Healthy adults are discouraged as well from overexertion outdoors.

To help keep ozone levels down in hot weather, individuals can:

- Walk, bike, carpool or take public transportation instead of driving.
- Refuel cars in the evening; don't top off gas.
- Postpone use of gas-powered lawnmowers.
- Limit driving to after dusk or off-peak hours.

Go to the Head of the Class

Test your knowledge of Merck history with these questions about the West Point site.

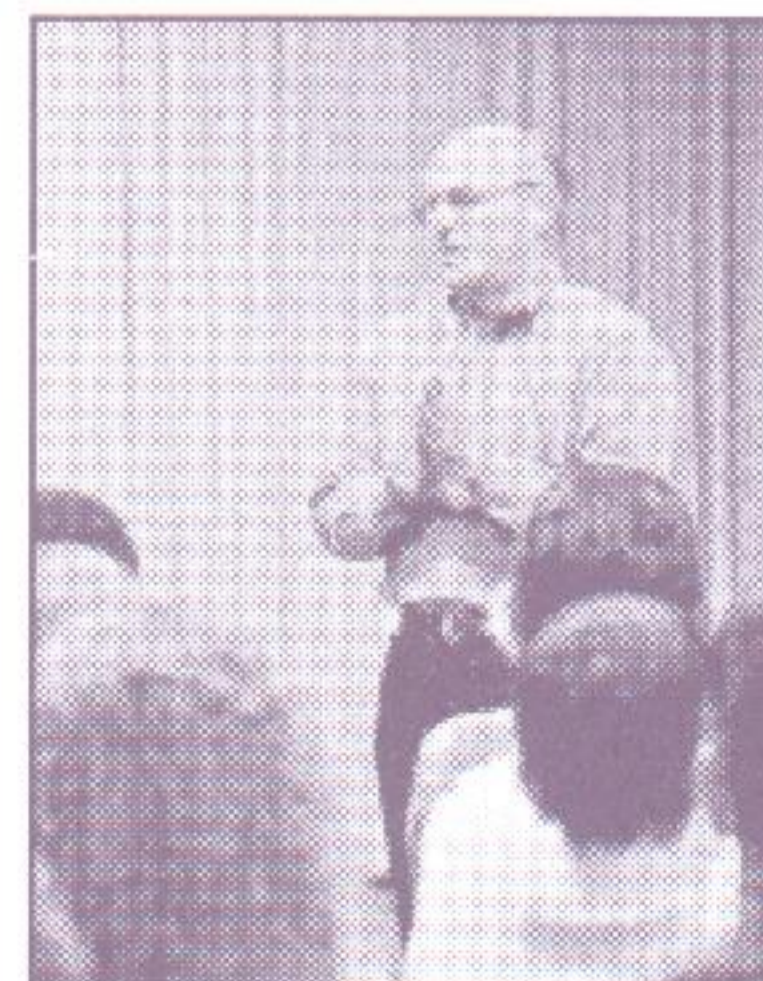
- 1) When did Sharp & Dohme purchase the West Point site?
- 2) Which building was the first research facility?
- 3) Who was known as the "Father of West Point?"
- 4) What scientist led Merck researchers to the development of vaccines for rubella, measles and mumps?
- 5) Who is Merck's longest working employee?

1) 1947 2) Building 26, constructed in 1951 3) Jack Zinsser, president of Sharp & Dohme when that company purchased the site 4) Maurice Hilleman, Ph.D. 5) Millwright Tom Peoples, Maintenance, celebrated his 60th year at Merck last May.

Market Performance 08/01/03

	close	change	%change
Merck	\$55.28	-0.18	-0.3
Dow Jones	9234*	+33.7	+0.4
Health Care	1722*	-10.3	-0.6

*Numbers do not represent dollars



Dick Clark at WP

Dick Clark, president, MMD, visited West Point on June 26 as part of his re-orientation tour in his new position. Mr. Clark talked to manufacturing employees in the building 38 Assembly Room about his vision for MMD.