

Dear ASABE California/Nevada Section members,

Here is the 2nd edition of our Section's bimonthly Email Update. The length is slightly longer than planned due primarily to the Robert Fridley item that we wanted to include in its entirety for those of you who receive this update via regular mail.

The Update:

- * Robert Fridley, former ASABE President
- * Cal Poly student Leah Meeks wins P-120 Student Engineer of the Year
- * Section internet address – www.asabecanv.org
- * Professional license issues
- * Modesto Junior College ¼ Square Scale Tractor
- * Tomato Harvester Historic Landmark at Davis

*** Robert Fridley, former ASABE President**

The article below appears at: http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=7687

“Robert Fridley, professor emeritus of biological and agricultural engineering at UC Davis and an expert on mechanized fruit harvesting and fish farming, died March 19, 2006. He was 71.

"Widely appreciated for his problem-solving abilities, productivity, leadership and vision, Bob Fridley made significant contributions to his discipline and to the College of Engineering. He will be sorely missed, but his legacy will live on," said Enrique Lavernia, dean of the college of engineering.

Fridley earned a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in 1956, a master's in agricultural engineering from UC Davis in 1960 and was appointed assistant professor at UC Davis in 1961. He was a visiting professor at Michigan State University from 1970-71 and was awarded a doctorate from Michigan State in 1973. He served as chair of the Department of Agricultural Engineering at UC Davis from 1974 to 1976.

He is widely recognized for his studies of the mechanized harvesting of tree fruit, including developing shaking devices now widely used to harvest almonds and walnuts, said Bruce Hartsough, professor and chair of biological and agricultural engineering.

"It was pretty revolutionary stuff compared to manual harvesting," Hartsough said.

Fridley held several patents on fruit harvesting and handling, and co-authored a book, "Principles and Practices for Harvesting Fruits and Vegetables," (1983) with Mike O'Brien from UC Davis and Burt Cargill from Michigan State University.

From 1977 to 1985, he worked at the Weyerhaeuser Company, Tacoma, Wash., focusing initially on forestry. He became involved in aquaculture operations because the company was experimenting with using hot water from its plants to raise salmon. Fridley returned to UC Davis in 1985 to direct the Aquaculture and Fisheries Program, which he expanded and strengthened.

Dr. Fridley chaired the Project 2000 Strategic Planning Steering Committee for the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis and was appointed executive assistant dean in 1989. He officially retired in 1994 but served as a special assistant through 2000.

Fridley received numerous honors throughout his career and was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1985. In 1989, he chaired a national committee appointed by the National Research Council to assess technology for aquaculture. Their recommendations for more investment in research on ocean farming were published by the National Academies Press in "Marine Aquaculture, Opportunities for Growth." In 2000, he was appointed to serve on the National Research Council's advisory board on agriculture and natural resources.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Fridley; his mother, Gladys Fridley; sister, Betty Runkle; and three sons: James, professor of forest engineering at the University of Washington, Seattle; Kenneth, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; and Michael, who works for the Weyerhaeuser Company, Columbus, Miss.; and eight grandchildren."

*** Cal Poly student Leah Meeks wins P-120 Student Engineer of the Year Scholarship**

The Student Organizations Committee is awarding Cal Poly student Leah Meeks with the 2006 Student Engineer of the Year Scholarship, it was announced just a few days ago. The award is a \$1000 scholarship.

*** Section internet address – www.asabecanv.org**

The internet address www.asabecanv.org has been registered for \$8 per year, a fee that includes auto-forwarding to another site. So, now and hopefully into the future anyone can type in this address and it will automatically forward to wherever the site may actually be located. I think this is a nice way to give us some ownership, and it could be easier to get to than clicking through all of the HQ site pages to get to ours.

*** Professional license issues**

You all should have received a Special Announcement via email (and those without email, via snail mail) discussing in substantial detail the recent developments with licensure. Thanks again to you who sent in letters, and of course to Carolyn who has worked tirelessly on this issue. There is nothing more to report, other than we are looking forward to the May 11 & 12 BPELS Board Meeting scheduled for Sacramento.

*** Modesto Junior College ¼ Square Scale Tractor**

The Mechanized Ag program at MJC is headed by Steve Amador, Cal Poly '86 ag engineer. Some of you may remember a blurb in a Resource Magazine about the establishment of a Mechanization Branch of ASABE at MJC. The group there is doing quite well, with Steve's tremendous leadership at the school and in the community. They did participate in Quarter Scale tractor last year, and have even bigger plans this year. Enjoy the following invited note provided by Steve and his students.

With their first year of competition under their belts, the Modesto Junior College Quarter Scale Tractor Design Team has learned a great deal. The 2005 competition brought many firsts to

Modesto as well as the ASABE. Being the first and only junior college to participate in the quarter scale event was quite an undertaking for this newly formed mechanization branch. Once their first tractor was successfully completed, they drove six of their team members to Moline, Illinois for the competition. Once the competition was under way, Modesto started out strong by finishing seventh in the maneuverability and also had a good showing in the manufacturability, serviceability and safety judging. However, due to mechanical difficulties, their successes stopped there, dropping them to 24th place overall. The entire event was a learning experience for all students involved. Modesto Junior College will be returning for the 2006 contest in Peoria, Illinois with a fifteen member team and two tractors.

All of the knowledge and experience that Modesto has gained has led them to building a new tractor for the 2006 competition, as well as rebuilding their 2005 tractor for the X-Team competition. After diagnosing the mechanical problems that held them back last year, they have successfully fixed the problem and are looking forward to this year's event. In addition to rebuilding the 2005 tractor, they have just about completed construction of their A-Team tractor. The addition of the new rule which allows for multiple engines has allowed them to think outside the box and has added to their creativity. Modesto Junior College is looking forward to the competition this year and they will be working hard to put last year's experiences to use in improving this year's placing.

*** Tomato Harvester Historic Landmark at Davis**

Last October 6 the 43rd ASABE Historic Landmark was dedicated for the UC Blackwelder tomato harvester. For the ceremony, many people who were involved in the original work were able to attend, among these ag engineer Steve Sluka, Burt Blackwelder, who is the son of machine's namesake, Les Heringer, the farmer who commissioned the first machine to be built and then to be tested on his farm, and even Joe Frey, who spent many years doing in-field servicing the original machines. Mellissa Moore and Richard Cavaletto did the honors of unveiling the plaque. A nice element to the event was the presence of one of the first two UC Blackwelder machines built. It was donated to the Agricultural Machinery Collection at UC Davis (Bio & Ag Engineering) in the late 80's, and was towed to the event by members of the Antique Mechanics Club at UC Davis. A series of pictures was taken with various dignitaries sitting in the operator's station: Dean Neal van Alfen, Dean of the UCD College of Ag & Environmental Sciences, Burt Blackwelder, and of course Melissa Moore. ...The Landmark's wording and selected event pictures have been added to the main ASABE web site at these locations, respectively:

<http://www.asabe.org/awards/historic2/45.htm>

http://www.asabe.org/awards/historic2/photos_12-5-05.html

Regards,
Victor Duraj
ASABE Section Chair