
OLD YELLER

Gardner to Lead Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resources Education

By Greg Thompson



Dr. Reynold Gardner will take over leadership as the eleventh Specialist for Agriculture and Natural Resources in the Oregon Department of Education. Dr. Gardner began his new position on October 7, 2008.

A Wyoming native and past FFA State Officer, Reynold came to OSU on a wrestling scholarship and earned his B.S. degree in General Agriculture and is Masters of Agriculture at OSU. His first teaching position was in Junction City, Oregon, where he taught from 1996-2004. During his tenure at Junction City, the FFA Chapter earned state and national recognition in several Career Development Events. Under his coaching, Junction City FFA had two individual 1st place teams in National Career Development events and at the state level placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in 55 CDEs.

In 2005, Reynold was hired as an instructor in the Department of Agricultural Education and General Agriculture at Oregon State University. During his four year tenure, Reynold worked on a PhD and earned his degree in Educational Leadership in 2004.

Dr. Gardner is excited to serve as the eleventh Agricultural/Specialist for the State of Oregon. "I see a tremendous opportunity for

Agricultural/Natural Resource Education in the State of Oregon. Even with the tough times that we currently face, there is a ground swell of activities and energy that surround Agricultural Education in the state." Gardner went on to say that he would like to "see the further development and strengthening of Team AgEd as the vehicle to bind the common interests and stake-holders of the agriculture community together and further the expansion of Agricultural Education."

As Advisor for Oregon FFA Association, Dr. Gardner will provide leadership in assisting in forging the connection between Agricultural/Natural Resource Education and the events and happenings within the Oregon Department of Education. Gardner presents the complete package with his experience in production agriculture, personal FFA experience, university training and eight successful years of secondary Agricultural Education classroom experience. Reynold is truly one of us and will represent the needs and demands of the agricultural education community.

Reynold and his wife Jennifer have three children: 8 year old Chandler, 6 year old Evan and the newest member of the family, 15 month old Elise.

Time to Pony up for the Profession

by Don Schmidt Past President OVATA



Raise your hand if your school district is not facing cuts for the remainder of this year and for next year. That's what I thought... We are entering a very scary time in education and especially when we are teaching elective programs. The budget ax is falling though out the state and we need to be on the proactive side rather than the reactive side.

In the past, the Student Leadership Development Center (SLDC) has been completely cut from the state budget. The most recent such cut, ended with some bad feelings and burnt bridges between the OVATA and the Oregon Department of Education. Because we were in a reactive mode and did not move forward with all the stakeholders in the loop, we ended up alienating

those who had been willing to help us in the past.

With our past in mind, and the current budget situation at hand, we feel like we, as a state profession, need to be prepared to lobby for the good of our profession. We will be asking all Oregon Ag Teachers to contribute \$20.00 to a legislative fund making it possible for us to solicit the services of a lobbyist should that need arise.

At the State FFA Convention we will be asking for voluntary contributions to this fund. We can not legally use OVATA funds for lobbying, so these contributions will be kept in a separate bank account and only be used for legislative purposes.

Thank your for your contribution to our future.



TECHIE TIP OF THE MONTH

Email is one of those things we get every day. My inbox gets full from FFA, OVATA, NEA, ACTE, ODE, ODA, USDA, and any other

organizations that have me on their "you won't use this, but we are going to send it list." Sometimes it can be overwhelming. Most things you need to read and then delete, others you can just delete, but then there are the important ones that you should keep. The key is to keep the inbox empty. Consider making file folders in your email to keep the important messages. Headings like FFA, OVATA, School, Steel Orders are just a few that I use in my account. I read an email I take a few seconds to file it, or trash it. Already way behind, most email programs allow bulk moves so you can

get caught up. Now if I can only apply the same to my snail mail box.

From the side lines

Here are some quotes from the sidelines.

"You can describe him like candy, there is a really big sugar high then"

"Here is your ball and chain and your cube."

"You can have a clown and paint some mushrooms on your face"

"What happen to all this highly trained bull...?"

"It was root canal time."

"I have no better picture of what an Ag-Ed model is, but I lost 2 hours of my life."

“Share the Love”

By Tim Ray President Elect

We have great people doing great things in our profession and very few people recognize it outside of our organization. We need to make a change by ensuring that those who are working diligently to make Agricultural Education the model by which others are measured get their recognition.

This year during the Oregon FFA State Convention is your chance to do just that. Instead of asking instructors to nominate themselves for awards, we want you to nominate those people across the state that you see doing incredible things. Encourage, help, and assist them in getting the recognition they deserve. Look around and make a difference for another instructor, like you do for your students. Commend those who you look up to; say thank you for being a role model for our students and colleagues. Over the past few years we have only had a few applicants in each of our award areas and while they are all very worthy applicants there are still more to be commended.

Areas that we need nominations in include: Outstanding New Member, Outstanding Teacher, Mentor Teacher, and Outstanding Program. We also need applications for “Teacher Turn the Key” new teachers with two, three, or four years of teaching experience. One winning applicant will receive a trip to NAAE Convention in Nashville, Tennessee next November. Tom Hall will be taking the “Turn Key” applications at State Convention and all others will be nominated during the OVATA meeting at State Convention. Applications will be due in June at Summer Conference.

Over the next two weeks, while you are busy preparing teams, proficiencies, and all of the other tasks of being an AST Instructor take a moment look around and notice someone who deserves a little recognition for what they do.

Reward!

Ideas Unlimited State Winner will receive a trip to Region 1 Conference Ideas to be judged at Summer Conference 2009 The state Winner will receive a trip to Region 1 Conference April 2010 Prizes for 2nd and 3rd

NAAE Region 1 Conference

This years Conference will be in Tahoe, Nevada. April 22 -25, 2009. Registration is on the OVATA website

LODGING: Reservations can be made at the Horizon Casino Resort by calling 800-648-3322. Use the Group Booking Code of **SHWRAC9**. Room rates are: \$72/night single or double, \$82/night triple, and \$92/night quad, plus 10% tax.

To obtain this rate, reservations **MUST** be made by **April 1, 2009**.

Reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or deposit.

Room rates apply from April 21 through 25, 2009.

