

*A quarterly letter to friends of the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program*

## BNG hosts workshop series on self-employment

Working with the social service systems that provide employment assistance to people with disabilities can be a daunting task, especially in the area of self-employment. To assist individuals in navigating their way through these uncertain waters, Breaking New Ground will host a series of workshops concerning self-employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

The National AgrAbility Project has commissioned two nationally known experts in this area, Cary Griffin and Dave Hammis, to conduct workshops in three states—Indiana, Tennessee, and New York—in cooperation with

those states' AgrAbility projects. Griffin and Hammis specialize in helping people with disabilities make use of existing federal and state resources/benefits to remain or become self-employed through such means as business plans, PASS plans, Social Security benefits analysis, and work incentives.

The first workshop is scheduled for Thursday, May 29 at the Arthritis Foundation-Indiana Chapter, located at 8660 Guion Road in Indianapolis. It is open to people with disabilities and professionals, including vocational rehabilita-



tion counselors and WorkOne personnel. Some of the specific subject areas for the workshop series include: using work incentives, such as Social Security Subsidy, Ticket to Independence, and Individual Training Accounts; marketing; e-commerce; home businesses; and operations principles. There is no charge to attend the workshops. For more information or to register, contact BNG at 800-825-4264.

## Bill Field named Sagamore of the Wabash; authors mine injury article

Indiana Governor Frank O'Bannon recently named Dr. Bill Field a Sagamore of the Wabash—the highest award the governor bestows.

The term "Sagamore" was used by the American Indian tribes of the northeastern U.S. to describe a great man among the tribe to whom the chief would look for wisdom and advice. The Sagamore of the Wabash award was created during the term of Governor Ralph Gates, who served from 1945-49, and has been presented by governors ever since. Past recipients include astronauts, U.S. presidents, ambassadors, artists, musicians, educators, political and business leaders and other citizens who have contributed to the Hoosier heritage.

Dr. Field was honored for his work with Breaking New Ground, THE CHAPS therapeutic horseback riding program,



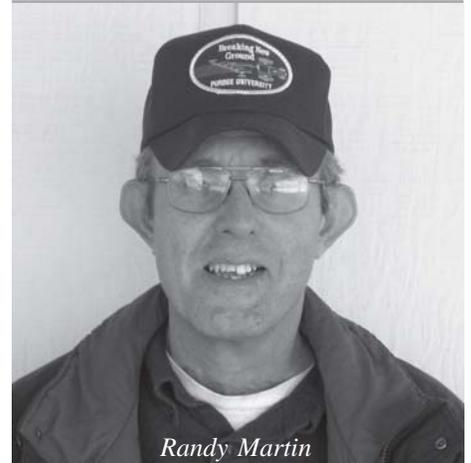
*Bill Field receiving his Sagamore of the Wabash award from Indiana State Representative Sue Scholer of Lafayette*

Purdue Agricultural Safety and Health, and other community service activities.

Dr. Field also recently had an article published in the *Journal of Mine Action* (Issue 6.3). The journal is published by The Mine Action Information Center, a clearinghouse for information on landmine-related issues and topics. This particular issue addressed methods of assistance to landmine victims and survivors, and Dr. Field's article discussed assistive technology solutions for farmers in other countries injured by landmines.

## New consultant joins BNG team

The Indiana AgrAbility project recently welcomed Randy Martin as a consumer consultant. Randy was active for many years in the cattle business—specializing in show cattle—until he was forced to make career changes due to complications from a disabling injury. Randy will work with the Breaking New Ground Outreach Program and one of its nonprofit partners, the Southern Indiana Center for Independent Living. His specialty is farm visits, and his focus is the southern half of the state. Please feel free to call 800-825-4264 if you would like a visit.



*Randy Martin*

Self-employment Training Workshop  
May 29  
Arthritis Foundation—Indianapolis  
Check inside for details

BNG Project Leader: Bill Field

Program Manager: Paul Jones

Rural Rehab Specialist: Steve Swain

## New chair combines manual & motorized operation features

Independence Technology recently unveiled a new concept in wheelchair design—the iGLIDE™ Manual Assist Wheelchair. The iGLIDE™ looks similar to a standard manual chair; however, sensors, microprocessors, and small motors provide power assistance to supplement the user's efforts. This means that less effort is required for navigating typically challenging surfaces, such as ramps, soft carpet, or grass. The chair reportedly travels two to three times farther than normal on a single push and maintains an even speed when descending hills and ramps.

The manufacturers claim that the iGLIDE™ can assist people with dis-

abilities including arthritis, MS, and spinal chord injuries, and can reduce the occurrence of secondary disorders that often result from manual wheelchair use, such as carpal tunnel syndrome

or repetitive stress injuries. They indicate that the new chair also fills the technology gap for those who can no longer use a standard manual chair but do not yet need a full-power chair.

The iGLIDE™ weighs approximately 55 pounds and costs around \$7,900. For more information, go to Internet site



*The new iGLIDE™ wheelchair by Independence Technology*

[www.iglidenow.com](http://www.iglidenow.com) or call toll-free 1-877-794-4583. Independence Technology is subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson.

## Caregiver workshops reach over 250

The Caregiving in the Heartland workshop series, coordinated by BNG in cooperation with the Indiana Office of Rural Health and over 20 other organizations, recently ended for 2003 with a total attendance of 254. This record number of participants gave the workshops an impressive overall rating of

9.03 out of 10 in regard to their overall effectiveness in meeting expectations. With this year's theme of "Caregiving in Uncertain Times," the sessions included a special track on emergency preparedness which featured speakers Randy Beaver from Unity Healthcare of Lafayette, BNG's Bill Field and

Larry Evans, and local emergency management experts from each area where the workshops were held.

Plans are already underway for more caregiving events next year. Check back with the *News Note* for further details about participating in these workshops.

## Scholarships available for Purdue students

BNG and Purdue's Agricultural Safety and Health Program are each coordinating scholarships for Purdue students.

The **Willsey Scholarship** is intended to assist Purdue students who have lost a parent due to a farm-related injury. This scholarship—which has had three recipients so far—was initiated in 2000 by Mrs. F. R. (Helen) Willsey in memory of longtime Purdue safety specialist F.R. "Dick" Willsey. The **Von Holton/BNG Scholarship** assists students with disabilities pursuing a career in agriculture. Started in 2000 to honor the contributions of Hubert Von Holton to the Breaking New Ground (BNG) Resource Center, his scholarship has had two recipients so far.

Anyone interested in finding out more about these scholarships or wanting to apply should contact BNG at 800-825-4264. Contributions to these scholarships are always welcomed and appreciated.



*Ed Bell delivers the keynote address to participants at the Connersville Caregiving in the Heartland Workshop*