



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

BNG & FFA impact lives through Bridging Horizons

BNG received a record-number of entrants this year for its Bridging Horizons FFA Contest. The goal of the contest is to challenge FFA chapters to complete projects that improve the quality of life for people with physical limitations in their communities. Four of the entering chapters received recognition at the 2002 FFA State Convention at Purdue.

Columbia City FFA took the grand prize of \$500 for their construction of an accessible bridge that spans a ravine on a nature trail. The chapter was able to utilize a donated steel frame and other donated materials, in addition to items they purchased for the project.



Toby Days presents Bridging Horizons awards

This year's second place winner (\$250) was West Washington FFA of

Campbellsburg, last year's grand prize winner. The West Washington students modified a riding lawn mower for someone with paraplegia to use, and also built a wheelchair-accessible picnic table for the employees of Blue River Services.

Tri-County FFA completed renovations of their 4-H show arena which provided

wheelchair-accessible viewing, and their efforts earned the \$100 third prize. Brownstown Central FFA received honorable mention for repainting accessible parking spaces at their school and planting flowers at a local nursing home.

Plans are already in the works for the 2002-03 Bridging Horizons Contest.



Columbia City FFA begins construction



The Grand Prize project after completion

Contact BNG if your chapter would like more information or if you know of a project in your community that an FFA chapter might be able to tackle.

BNG honored with national award

Breaking New Ground was recently honored with the Leadership Award by RESNA at their 25th annual conference in Minneapolis. RESNA is the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America, and their purpose is to improve the potential of people with disabilities to

achieve their goals through the use of technology.

The RESNA Leadership Award is given annually to an organization that has contributed to the advancement of assistive technology, and whose contribution has made an impact on a major segment of

the population. BNG was recognized for its sustained commitment to the development and implementation of assistive technology appropriate for residents of agricultural and rural communities who have been impacted by disability. The Society acknowledged BNG's unique role in disseminating information on technology that enables farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers who have been disabled due to injury or disease to remain productive.

BNG recently joined many other programs from Purdue for the first **Discover Purdue Day** at Navy Pier in Chicago. Below, Gail Deboy demonstrates the Life Essentials tractor lift.



Accessibility guide for temporary events is now available

The Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University recently completed a new publication entitled, *Accessible Temporary Events: A Planning Guide*. This illustrated, 103-page book was developed to assist planners in making temporary events—like county fairs, street festivals, parades, political rallies, dances, and music events—accessible to people with disabilities.

For a copy of the guide, contact the Great Lakes ADA & IT Center at (800)949-4232 (Voice/TTY). The guides cost \$7.50, shipping included. BNG and ADA Indiana—the Indiana ADA Steering Committee—are also sending a copy of the guide to every county Extension office in the state.

Look for BNG at:

Indiana State Fair
 August 7-18
 at the
 Indiana FFA Pavilion
 &
 Farm Bureau Building

BNG Project Leader: Bill Field

Program Manager: Paul Jones

Rural Rehab Specialist: Steve Swain

Students build extended tractor step for under \$35

Each year, seniors in Purdue's Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering complete senior design projects. Frequently, some of the students tackle projects that could benefit farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

This year, Dr. Bill Field challenged three students to design an extending/retracting tractor step that would be simple and cost-effective to produce commercially. The three students, Andy Coomes, Mark Childress, and Kurt Lanzone, utilized commonly available materials, such as square steel tubing, springs, and step treads, to construct a functional step for a total cost of \$33.92.



Andy Coomes, Mark Childress, and Kurt Lanzone with their extended tractor step senior design project

Discussions have been held with Life Essentials of West Lafayette concerning the commercial production of this device. If you have questions about the design or materials used for this project, feel free to contact BNG.



Tractor step in the retracted position



Tractor step in the extended position

Polio survivors plan 4th annual fall conference

The Indiana Polio Survivors Association (IPSA) will host its fourth annual conference September 14 & 15 at Clarian Health Partners—Methodist Hospital of Indiana in Indianapolis. 2002 marks the 50th anniversary of Indiana's largest polio epidemic, and this year's conference theme is *Polio in Indiana—the Legacy Continues*. The featured speaker will be Richard L. Bruno, Ph.D., a clinical psychophysiological specializing in studying and treating post-polio sequelae (PPS). For more information about this conference, contact IPSA at 765-759-9363 or ipsaone@prodigy.net.



Partners in Policymaking is accepting 2003 Academy applicants

Individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities are invited to apply for the Partners in Policymaking Training Academy, funded by the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities and administered by the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana (UCP). The Partners Academy equips its graduates with the necessary skills and information to play a leadership role in policy development and advocacy within their communities and at the state level in order to improve the quality of disability-related services in Indiana.

The Partners program includes eight weekends of intensive training over a nine-month period of time, and applicants must be willing to commit to attendance and homework requirements.

There are currently more than 500 graduates of Indiana's Partners in Policymaking program.

The application deadline is August 17 for the Partners Academy Class of 2003. For more information about applying, contact Rose Black at UCP: (800) 821-6708 or pip@ucpaindy.org.