

# Agronomist receives national award

Servi-Tech agronomist, Clark Poppert, son of Norm and Betty Behring of Colby, has been recognized as the 2006 National Consultant of the Year by the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants.

A graduate of Kearney State College in 1987 with a B.S. in Geography and a minor in Biology, Poppert started his career with Servi-Tech shortly after graduation.

Along with his parents living in Colby, Poppert and his wife, Valerie, have three children, Megan, 10, Aaron, 8, and Ryan, 6.



Poppert

# Small Kansas town excels to a T

By Ron Wilson

director Huck Boyd National Institute

Would you like to attend a Victorian high tea? You don't have to go across the ocean or back in time to experience such elegance. You can revisit this Victorian elegance right here in Kansas.

LueAnn Roepke lives in Waterville, Kansas. She told me about the special events this community holds to showcase its charming homes and heritage.

Waterville is located in Marshall County, about 40 miles north of Manhattan. The history of the community is quite interesting.

Waterville began as a railroad town - literally. The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad was wanting to extend west from Atchison exactly 100 miles. When the railroad engineers marked 100 miles on the map, that spot became the location of the new town site.

It was named by a railroad superintendent who gave the new community the name of his old hometown back east: Waterville, New York. And so, Waterville, Kansas was born.

Waterville became a major shipping center and trade center, thanks to the railroad. It was a rowdy cow town for a time, but settled down as homes and churches came to the community. A saloon across the street from the railroad depot was replaced by an opera house in 1904. A grand hotel was built west of the opera house in 1905.

Beautiful Victorian homes were built along the tree-lined streets of Waterville as well. One is on the National Register of Historic Places. Another very nice series of homes is affectionately called "Banker's Row."

The women of Waterville found a way to build on this heritage in a way to benefit the community.

LueAnn Roepke says, "It was a bunch of ladies around a dining room table." They were talking about how they could do something fun and raise funds for the local museum and other needed projects around the community. They had the idea of having an English high tea and showcasing the Victorian homes in Waterville. It was such a success that it became an annual event. LueAnn says with a smile, "It's still a bunch of ladies around a dining room table."

Victorian Days is what they call this gathering, held the last weekend in April. It includes the Victorian Tea, with a menu of homemade locally baked foods such as lemon tea cake, dainty sandwiches, a trifle, shortbread cookies, fruit tart, and scones, hosted in one of the historic Victorian homes.

It sounds like something my wife would enjoy. As for me, I'll go for one of the buffalo burgers which the Lions Club is serving in City Park that day.

Entertainment is another part of the festivities. Molly Ryan will be singing at the Waterville Opera House and a group of schoolchildren in period costumes will be performing at the Grand Fork School, a genuine one-room schoolhouse located in the City Park.

There is a hat display and tours of several turn-of-the-century homes plus driving and walking tours of the community. Several women will be wearing period dress.

The proceeds of the Victorian tea are donated to needy causes.

LueAnn says, "Our goal has always been to give the money

# Frost, freeze damage horticultural plants

MANHATTAN - Kansans will need weeks to assess the damage from Easter weekend's many record-breaking low temperatures. "This was an exceptional event. We'll be gaining new insights into the cold damage that plants can suffer after they've experienced unusually early growth - this year due to our abnormally warm temperatures in March," said Ward Upham, who coordinates Kansas State University's Master Gardener program.

Orchard and vineyard owners and other Kansas fruit growers are likely to suffer the biggest economic losses, Upham said. For awhile, however, the plants in landscapes may actually look the worst.

The cold weather burned back (scorched) or wilted the brand-new leaves on many trees and shrubs. It killed the emerging top growth of many unprotected spring bulb and perennial plants.

"Nearly half the plants in my home landscape look boiled, rather than blanched - sort of like spinach. They froze so thoroughly that their cells burst and collapsed," said Chip Miller, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist for the Central Kansas District.

The cold also killed the new, green terminal growth on some branch tips.

"Even with that, our well-established ornamentals aren't likely to die," Upham said. "If all the growth on a vigorous tree or shrub freezes, the plant's dormant buds become active when the weather warms up again, and they eventually put out new growth."

For ornamentals that already are under stress, however, any sudden, deep cold snap can be life-threatening.

"The general causes for existing stress usually come down to transplant shock, drought, herbicide drift or some other kind of damage," Miller said.

The only other plants that may have suffered killing injury are the marginally hardy ones, such as most Japanese maple, all mimosa and many magnolia varieties, Upham

said. Semi-hardy garden staples that require winter mulching (e.g., mums) may have died, too, if they'd already been uncovered.

"...all of which means landscapes may look hopeless now. But they're not," Miller said. "Besides, all we can do is wait patiently and see what happens."

In contrast, the outlook for the state's 2007 fruit crop is "dire," he said.

Upham explained: "If fruit tree buds have just started to swell, most can still produce fruit after going through temperatures in the teens."

"As you might expect, though, the more a bud develops, the more warmth it needs to survive. And, by Easter, most of our fruit plants were either blooming or so close to blooming that very little of their wintertime cold hardiness remained."

With the tree fruits commonly grown in Kansas, at least 90 percent of fully-open blossoms will die whenever temperatures drop into the 22- to 25-degree F. range, Upham said.

By this year's Easter Sunday evening, 11 of the Kansas Weather Data Library's statewide network of automated stations had recorded a weekly low in the 19- to 21-degree range. Tribune had registered the highest low with 23 degrees, and Scandia the lowest with 15.

"Our apricots often freeze out, but this year I'm anticipating few to no peaches, pears, plums, cherries or apples," Upham said. "We'll be lucky if some exceptions emerge, due to growers' efforts at protecting their trees, to microclimate differences or varieties that tend to bloom late."

Whether greenhouse and nursery vegetable, perennial and annual flower seedlings survived will depend on how much protection each grower could provide, he said.

....Besides, all we can do is wait patiently and see what happens."

Chip Miller, Kansas State research

Out in the garden, though, some hardy vegetables - asparagus, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, turnips and kale - can withstand temperatures in the mid 20s without harm.

"The above-ground growth on asparagus may well be water-soaked looking - basically dead now," Upham said. "As usual, though, continual growth will still be coming up from underground until the end of asparagus season."

Early vegetables that are frost-tolerant include Chinese cabbage, collards, Bibb lettuce, leaf lettuce, mustard, Irish potatoes, radishes,

spinach and Swiss chard. In most areas, they probably needed some protective mulch to get through the cold snap unscathed, he said.

"I covered lots of plants in my own garden with several inches of straw. But, I had enough onion plants that I left some uncovered, just to see what would happen. On the uncovered plants some leaves ended up damaged, but other leaves were fine," Upham said. "I also left the potato plants uncovered, so all their new growth got killed back. But, they'll be sending up new growth from dormant 'eyes.'"



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## Welcome! Alex F. DeCarvalho, MD Orthopaedic Surgeon

Dr. Alex F. DeCarvalho has joined Hays Orthopaedic Clinic's orthopaedic and sports medicine practice.

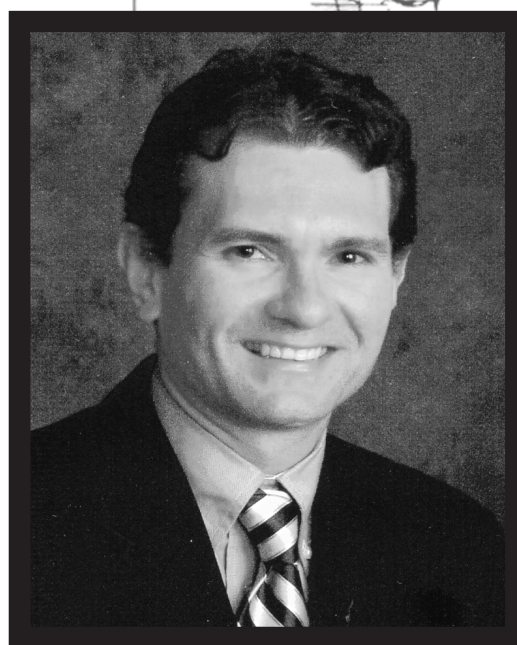
Dr. DeCarvalho recently completed sports medicine fellowship training at The Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, where he served as a team physician for Cleveland area professional sports teams including the Cavaliers, Browns and Indians.

In addition to his sports medicine fellowship, he completed a hand surgery fellowship at the University of New Mexico which included microvascular surgery - surgery using a microscope and very small instruments to repair arteries, nerves and tendons.

Originally from Brazil, Dr. DeCarvalho attended medical school at the Federal University of Medicine in Sergipe, Brazil before completing orthopaedic residency at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

He has conducted research in orthopaedics in Brazil and the United States, and has published extensively in medical and orthopaedic journals.

Dr. DeCarvalho is accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, contact Hays Orthopaedic Clinic, 785-628-8221, or ask your primary care physician for a referral.



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