



Ohio State HCS News

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Bonsai Educator Honored with Student Services Award



Ben and Jennifer Fredritz celebrate his 2006 Meritorious Service to Students Award for educating students in bonsai techniques.



Leigh DuFresne is one of many Ohio State horticulture students to benefit from the Puderbaugh Bonsai Scholarship Fund.

Ben Fredritz was recognized by the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Student Council with the 2006 Meritorious Service to Students Award at the 52nd Agriculture and Natural Resources Recognition Banquet. An active member of the [Columbus Bonsai Society](#), Fredritz earned the award for educating Max V. and Carolyn Martin Puderbaugh Bonsai Scholarship students in the art of bonsai techniques.

[Bonsai](#) is the ancient eastern art of shaping trees and shrubs in shallow containers by pruning, wiring and controlled fertilization. Established by Ohio State alumni **Max V. Puderbaugh** and **Carolyn Martin Puderbaugh** (BS 1949 Education) in 1986, the Puderbaugh Bonsai Scholarship Fund supports bonsai training and provides scholarships for horticulture students. From 1986 to 1999, Max Puderbaugh met with students at his home, the [Franklin Park Conservatory](#), and [Dawes Arboretum](#), for several weeks of intensive training. Since Puderbaugh's death in 1999, one of Max's pupils and friends, Ben Fredritz has worked extensively with scholarship recipients each year.

"Ben has stepped forward to carry out Max's dedication to helping our students learn to appreciate the principles and techniques associated with bonsai, and to pass on this important knowledge to future generations," explains **Tom Shockey**, student services coordinator for the Horticulture & Crop Science Department.

An Industrial Design graduate of The Ohio State University, Fredritz provides students in-depth instruction for a minimum of 6 weeks, often extending to 10 weeks or more. "He guides them as they gain both an expanded knowledge about and respect for this antique art, including on-site visits to experience professional bonsai collections. Every student with whom he has worked has gone home with two bonsai plants they have grown and nurtured during their training period," says Shockey.

"We estimate that Mr. Fredritz has donated a minimum of 300 hours of volunteer work for our students in the past seven years. He has also donated monetarily, his own personal funds, providing transportation, supplies, and more. He is a truly selfless individual who truly deserves the recognition for his service to the students of the Department of Horticulture and Crop Science."

Currently Fredritz is training Brent Halderman and Tyler Frysinger in bonsai techniques. Other Ohio State students who have benefited from the Puderbaugh Scholarship include: Michael Boeck, David Blocksom, Leigh DuFresne, Liberty Gibson, Virginia Oswald and Joseph Tychonievich.

The 2006 Recognition Banquet was held on May 11 in the Ohio Union Ballroom on the OSU campus. Fredritz was one of many faculty, alumni, students and friends in Agriculture and Natural Resources that were recognized for outstanding accomplishments in scholarship, leadership, and service to our College and The

Ohio State University.

Watch a narrated slideshow of this story with additional photos here: [Bonsai Educator Honored with Student Services Award Slideshow](#). Free [Quicktime](#) software is required to view the slideshow.

Story and photo by Tom Shockey. Editing and web publishing by [Victor van Buchem](#).

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