

Penn State researches canola as energy source

By Alyssa Bender
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Beyond East Halls, beyond Beaver Stadium and even beyond the Snider Agricultural Arena, Doug Schaufler spends time in the basement level of a barn on Farm 10 pressing canola seed into oil.

The pressing is part of a now year-and-a-half long research effort that allows canola grown on 56 acres of Penn State farmland to be converted into cooking oil and bio-diesel, said Schaufler, Farm Operations and Services senior project associate.

The ultimate goal of the project is to create and produce a form of canola oil that can be used in on-campus dining hall fryers.

Director of Residence Dining Lisa Wandel said it's possible that three-fourths of the university's oil needs could be satisfied with on-campus production by next year.

Schaufler said he hopes that, over the course of the fall, enough

oil can be produced to start integrating campus-produced oil in the dining commons. But he said they'll need to collect funds for equipment in order to move forward.

"I would love to say that in a year we'd have something like this ready," Wandel said.

That is no small task: Penn State campuses use 26,500 gallons of fryer oil every year, Wandel said.

Some of the leftover oil used in the dining commons is then collected by the researchers, who add methanol and sodium hydroxide to convert it into bio-diesel fuel, which is used to power two tractors built to run on vegetable oil, Schaufler said.

While Penn State-grown canola oil is not currently used in the dining halls, about 50 gallons of canola oil can be produced each day in the current facility, Schaufler said.

So far the oil has only been tested on small fryers, but the dining halls use much more heavy-duty

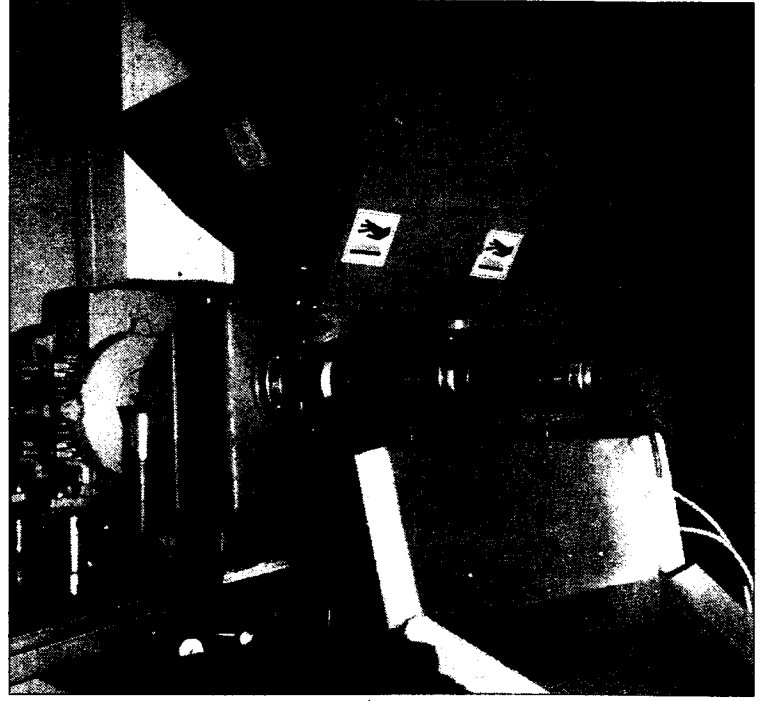
oil fryers at significantly higher temperatures. Higher temperatures could force the oil to break down or catch fire because of the methanol, Wandel said.

The oil seed press needs to be relocated to a facility approved by state officials before the oil can be used on campus.

"They need to find a facility on campus they could do this in. We don't have the money currently to build that facility," Wandel said.

However, after the initial start-up costs, the production and recycling of canola oil on campus could actually save the university money in the long run due to a decrease in the overall cost of transportation, she said. Penn State Eco-Action public relations officer Chris Tutolo (sophomore-journalism) said he thinks the project is valuable to pursue as a source of renewable energy.

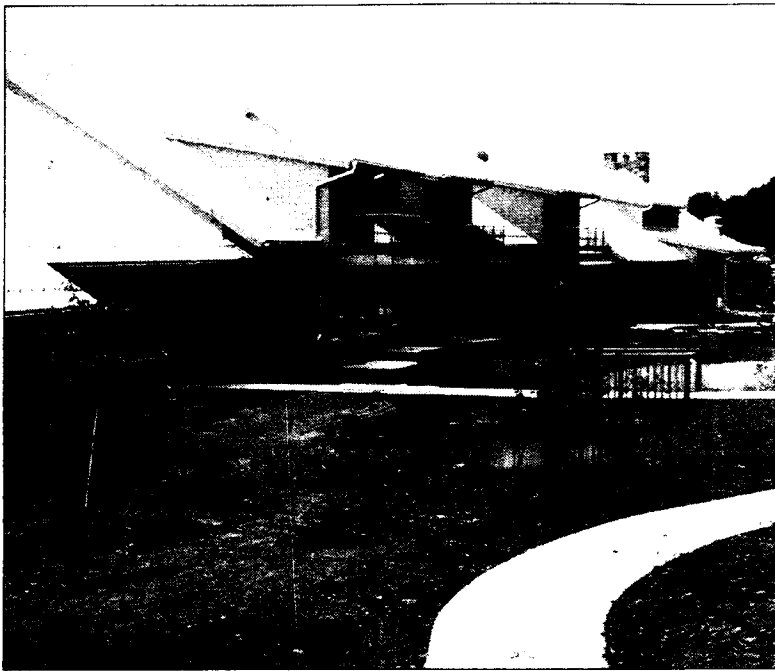
"It's a step forward that will hopefully be an example for other universities," he said.



A machine in Farm 10 presses canola seed into oil that might someday be used in on-campus dining hall fryers.

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Local state park to open \$7.5 million nature lodge



Bald Eagle State Park's \$7.5 million nature lodge will attract guests with its new technology, satellite television and internet access.

By Nathan Pipenberg
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A nearby state park will celebrate the opening of a \$7.5 million nature lodge complete with satellite television and internet access today, marking the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) first foray into high-tech accommodations.

But the local chapter of the Sierra Club views the project as economically unfeasible and too extravagant.

DCNR Press Secretary Christine Novak said the inn will help Bald Eagle State Park (BESP) attract guests who wouldn't normally stay over at the campgrounds and cabins because of limited access to technology.

Room reservations start at \$90 for a single bed and max out at \$205 for most weekends, BESP Manager John Ferrera said. Rates increase during holiday

weekends, he said.

In addition to the \$7.5 million construction costs, DCNR is paying for a full-time innkeeper and four additional staff members, Ferrera said.

The two-story, 16-room inn features lakefront views and amenities like refrigerators, microwaves and Blu-Ray DVD players.

The inn is decorated with an avian theme — each room is named after a different species of bird and features prints by John Audubon on the walls.

Novak said the park provides ideal bird-watching opportunities, and the inn enhances the experience with feeders and rain gardens.

The inn was constructed using the latest in green building standards, including geothermal heating and cooling, low flush toilets and locally-built recycled furniture, Novak said.

But not all environmental advocates view the technology

upgrade favorably, including Gary Thornbloom, president of the Sierra Club Moshannon Group.

"We're afraid that this is [DCNR's] way of opening the door for this type of development in more state parks," Thornbloom said.

Thornbloom conceded that he was sure the inn would be "very nice, since it's built for high-end clientele."

But, he said, the state government shouldn't be involved in such expensive projects — especially not on state park land.

"Why not let the private sector build something like this in an adjacent community?" he said.

But Ferrera said park visitors requested that a natural lodge like the BESP inn be built.

Novak said DCNR has been proposing projects like this for several years, and considered different locations beforehand.

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2010 Game Day Giveaway

1. Each Friday before a football game, cut out the game piece printed in the Friday Sports section of The Daily Collegian.
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\$2 Stella Pints (All Day)	\$9.99 IRISH ENTREES	\$2 Blue Moon Pints (All Day)	\$2 Yuengling Pints (All Day)	BOMB NIGHT	\$2 COORS LIGHT PINTS (All Day)	LIVE BANDS AND DJ'S at 10pm
\$3 Three Olives Drinks (10pm-12am)	\$2 Coors Lt Pints (All Day)	\$3 U Call It's (10pm-12am)	\$3 Victory Hop Devil Pints (10pm-12am)	\$5 Car Bombs (10pm-12am)	\$3 Captain Morgan Drinks (10pm-12am)	\$3 Bud Light Bottles (All Day)
\$3 Import Pints (10pm-12am)	\$3 Pints of Guinness (10pm-11pm)	\$3 Craft Pints (10pm-12am)	\$2 Well Drinks (10pm-12am)	\$3 16 oz. LIT's (10pm-12am)	\$3 Guinness, Smithwick's & Harp Pints (10pm-12am)	\$2 Bud Aluminum Poppers (10pm-12am)
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