

# DGA Focal Points

The newsletter of the Delaware Geographic Alliance



216 Pearson Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716  
Phone: (302) 831-6783 [www.ngsednet.org/dga](http://www.ngsednet.org/dga) or [www.degeog.org](http://www.degeog.org)  
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## Summer Institute Classes July 2008

Two 3-credit graduate courses designed to meet the needs of K-12 teachers will be offered this summer by DGA. Each of the courses will provide content knowledge, teaching methods and quality materials for classrooms use. Elementary teachers and teachers of social studies, science, language arts, foreign language or related arts areas will benefit. Register for one or both courses this summer through UD Continuing education. Textbooks, references and a wealth of teaching tools will be provided. Courses meets Monday-Friday 8:30 to 4:30. Please note that each year the course locations are rotated for the convenience of Delaware teachers.

**July 7-11, 2008 Pearson Hall, UD Campus, Newark, DE**

**(GEOG 641- Geography Teacher Institute I section 010)**

Focuses on Geography Standard 1 (Mapping) and Geography Standard 2 (Humans Interact with the Environment). The course will introduce basic and more advanced approaches to gathering data, mapping and analysis of maps, and applying geographic principles to solve problems. Natural systems and ways that humans react to and alter the natural environment will be addressed. Some field work will be included.

**July 21-25, 2008 Carter Center, Georgetown, DE (GEOG 642- Geography Teacher Institute II section 910)**

Geography Standard 3 (Place and Culture) and Geography Standard 4 (Regions) will be the themes for this course. Through lecture, field investigation, hand-on learning experiences, and discussions participants will gain content knowledge, teaching skill and valuable resources for teaching geography at any grade level and in a wide variety of contexts. For more information on the 2008 Geography Teacher Institutes, please visit Delaware Geographic Alliance websites at [www.degeog.org](http://www.degeog.org) or [www.ngsednet.org/dga](http://www.ngsednet.org/dga) or contact the DGA office at 302-831-6783.

## Upcoming Events

**June 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>:** Alliance Coordinators Meeting

**June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>:** CDOW Teacher Workshop

**July 7-11:** Geography Summer Institute I- Newark

**July 21-25:** Geography Summer Institute II- Georgetown

## We're sending our best!

Three Alliance teachers will represent DGA at upcoming national gatherings in geography education.

**Kristin Schlegel**, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Milford Middle School, will attend the Summer Geography Institute sponsored by the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC, July 14-18. This summer the institute will focus on a curriculum built around mapping and an intensive study of Western Europe. Schlegel will be sharing her expertise with all of us when she returns. Kristin Schlegel was a 2008 recipient of the DGA Distinguished Teaching Award.

**Mary Matthes**, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher from Rehoboth Elementary School, will attend the NGS Geography Action! Institute in Washington, DC, July 21-24. The focus of the institute is to prepare for the annual observance of Geography Awareness Week in November. The **2008 GAW theme will be "The Americas"**. Matthes will serve as a coordinator for state materials, programs, and activities for Geography Awareness Week. In February, Matthes received the DGA Distinguished Teaching Award.

2008 Geography Teacher of the Year **Cindy Baker** teaches at Sussex Central Middle School in Georgetown. In November she will represent Delaware at the National Council for Geography Education annual meeting in Dearborn, MI. Baker has been nominated by the Alliance for national level recognition of her teaching expertise. Good luck, Cindy!

# Agricultural State Fairs: A Geographical Perspective

By: Dr. Peter Mires, Contributing Editor  
pmires@udel.edu

With summer approaching, many of us look forward to our annual visit to the **Delaware State Fair** (a.k.a. “The Harrington Fair”). This brief article offers a geographical perspective on the modern American agricultural state fair. It is organized into themes frequently used by geographers (such as Fred Kniffen 1949, 1951) when they study the cultural landscape: origin, diffusion, form, and function.

**ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION:** The roots of the American agricultural state fair can be traced to European market fairs (not unlike those celebrated by popular Renaissance festivals) where people congregated after the harvest to buy and sell all manner of produce. Market fairs also attracted a variety of vendors, as well as the ubiquitous traveling shows, acrobats, fortune-tellers, and thieves. Market fairs – “to market, to market, to buy a fat pig” – were common in colonial America, but disappeared after the American Revolution. Increased industrialization and urbanization created the need for greater commercialization of agriculture, and by the early nineteenth century regional agricultural societies were advocating methods of “scientific farming.” The first educational agricultural fair was sponsored by the Berkshire Agricultural Society and held in Pittsfield, Massachusetts in 1811. The idea then spread throughout New England and beyond. Not surprisingly, the Iowa State Fair was portrayed in the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic musical “State Fair” (1945).

## *Fair Facts!*

- *Delaware’s first fair was held in 1920.*
- *The fairgrounds housed German prisoners during WWII.*
- *The original 30 acre track and grandstand site was purchased in 1920 for \$6,000.*
- *In 1920, adult admission was \$.50 whereas it is \$6.00 in 2008.*



**FORM AND FUNCTION:** Form follows function, and, by the mid-nineteenth century, fairs had both educational and entertainment functions. The educational component included showcasing diverse agricultural products and “domestic arts,” livestock judging, organizational booths, lectures and exhibits, and, increasingly, the latest machinery and equipment. The entertainment component most often meant a midway and a racetrack. Fair buildings included few permanent structures, although today most fairgrounds have an architectural core and expand accordingly. This is obviously true of the midway, with its myriad rides, concessions, and other attractions.

**THE DELAWARE STATE FAIR:** The concept of a “Kent and Sussex County Fair” originated with a handful of Harrington citizens in 1919, and the first fair was held July 27-30, 1920. From the beginning, the fair had both educational and entertainment functions, the latter included a racetrack and grandstand constructed on the original 30-acre fairgrounds. Today, the Delaware State Fair attracts over 300,000 visitors every July. Although some would argue that the educational function – the *raison d’être* of the American agricultural fair – exists in the shadow of entertainment, the Delaware State Fair continues a tradition. It celebrates the importance of farming as both a way of life and a vital part of our state and national economy.

## References:

- Kniffen, Fred  
1949      The American Agricultural Fair: The Pattern. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 39:264-281.  
1951      The American Agricultural Fair: Time and Place. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 41:42-57.

The 2008 Summer Olympics will be held in Beijing, China! The Olympic flame will be traveling across the country, starting in Hong Kong and ending in Beijing. Use an atlas and a ruler to track the path of the Olympic flame.

Stop Sequence:

1. Hong Kong

2. Fuzhou

3. Shanghai

4. Changsha

5. Guiyang

6. Chongqing

7. Xi'an

8. Zhengzhou

9. Shijiazhuang

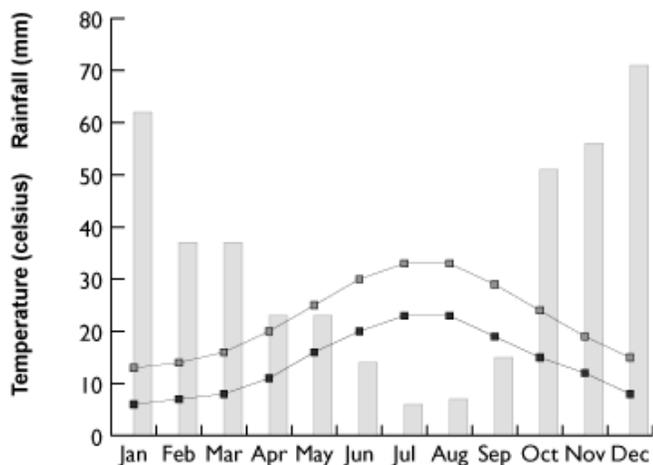
10. Beijing



*China*

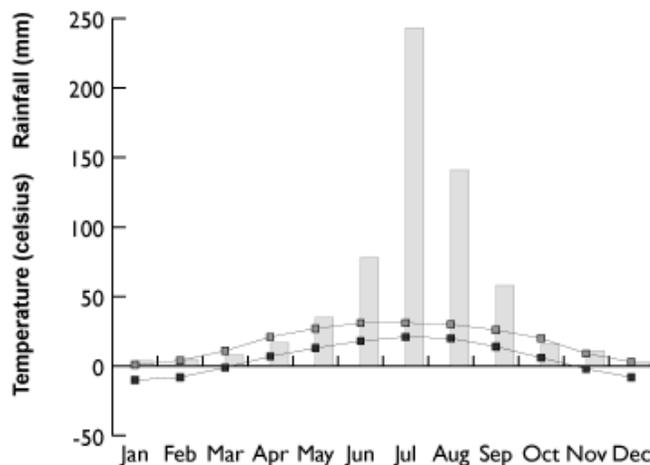
Recent cities which have hosted the Summer Olympics represent various climate types. Holding the summer games in Athens, you would expect there to be little precipitation. Can the same be expected this summer in Beijing? Analyze the graphs on this page to answer some Olympic related questions!

1. Which Olympic city exhibits a southern hemisphere monthly temperature pattern?
2. Which Olympic city, on average, has the most precipitation in August?
3. Which Olympic city, on average, is coldest in the month of December?
4. Which Olympic city receives the most rainfall in a calendar year on average?



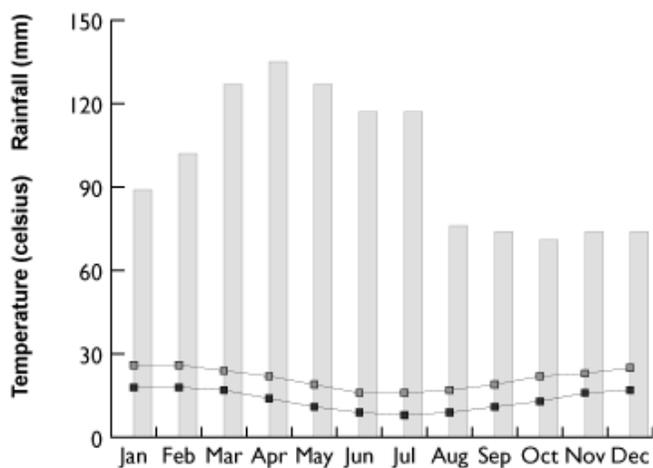
rainfall  
 average daily temperature (max)  
 average daily temperature (min)

*2004 Athens*



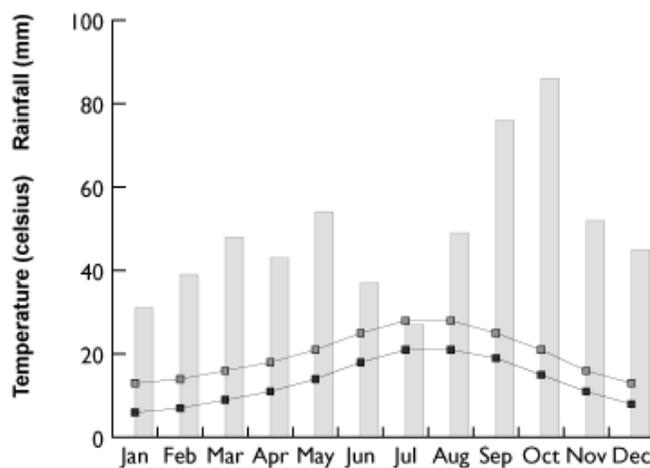
rainfall  
 average daily temperature (max)  
 average daily temperature (min)

*2008 Beijing*



rainfall  
 average daily temperature (max)  
 average daily temperature (min)

*2000 Sydney*



rainfall  
 average daily temperature (max)  
 average daily temperature (min)

*1992 Barcelona*

# Delaware?

By: Dr. Peter Mires, Contributing Editor  
pmires@udel.edu

We're all familiar with stream nomenclature, and we have a good idea that there's generally a hierarchical arrangement in how names like river, creek, and branch appear on a map of Delaware. This is certainly the case in the vicinity of my home in Laurel; *Rogers Branch* is a tributary of *Broad Creek*, which, in turn, is a tributary of the *Nanticoke River*. I like the word branch because it's truly descriptive of Delaware's dendritic, or tree-like, drainage pattern. In New Castle County, the word run, as in *Dragon Run* or *Silver Run*, makes perfect sense insofar as it's applied to a fast-moving stream.

There are some not-so-well-understood terms like prong, gut, and glade that describe fluvial features of the First State. Having read Dudley Lunt's book *Taylor's Gut* (1968) some years ago, I knew about this term that conjures up images of "Planet of the Apes" or something intestinal. (If you enjoy natural history in the tradition of Sigurd Olson and Aldo Leopold, I recommend this book about life in the environs of Woodland Beach.) While putting this column together, I thought I'd turn to a specialist in the field for some clarification.

Jennifer Bowman, Environmental Planner for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), has been working with water-related issues in Delaware for quite a while. One of her interests is stream nomenclature. Ms. Bowman was kind enough to share some of her thoughts on the subject here. She writes, "Sometimes when working with the public or a school group about watershed awareness, I am asked about the origin of a stream or a river's name." Ms. Bowman adds that terms like prong, gut, and glade may strike some as "slightly odd or idiosyncratic," and seem to be open to interpretation. A prong is a stream branch resembling the tine of a fork. A gut is a narrow passage or channel, often man-made. A glade is an open space in a wood or forest that may or may not include a stream.

Delaware's stream nomenclature interests regional geographers because it's part of a larger mosaic of toponyms in this country. New England has its brooks, the Deep South has its bayous, and the Southwest has its arroyos, all of which have been the subject of geographic investigation (e.g., West 1954). For those who teach the geography of Delaware, remember: we may be a small state, but we've got guts!

## References:

Lunt, Dudley C. *Taylor's Gut in the Delaware State*. Wilmington, DE: The Middle Atlantic Press, 1968.

West, Robert C. "The Term 'Bayou' in the United States: A Study in the Geography of Place Names." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 44(1954):63-74.



## *Beijing Olympics Insert Answers*

1. *Sydney, Australia*
2. *Beijing, China*
3. *Beijing, China*
4. *Sydney, Australia*

*Announcing Geography Awareness  
Week Theme for 2008:  
The Americas*

Geography Awareness Week 2008, set for November 17-21, is an annual celebration of the importance of geography education. This year's theme, the Americas, is part of a series of investigations of world regions. National Geographic and the Delaware Geographic Alliance will be distributing resources and materials to support this theme in the fall of 2008. (Last year, the focus was Asia, and Africa was highlighted in 2006). Taking this "World Tour" over a number of years allows us to build a repertoire of useful resources and learning materials for each region. To locate materials from past GAW celebrations, visit DGA's websites at [www.degeog.org](http://www.degeog.org) or [www.ngsednet.org/dga](http://www.ngsednet.org/dga).

Each year schools and classrooms across the nation and all over Delaware plan activities to highlight geography. Look for announcements of DGA GeoFests in locations near to you in September 2008. GeoFests are mini-conferences designed to give you the ideas and the materials you need to celebrate Geography Awareness Week in November, and to teach geography throughout the year.

*Delaware State Geographic Bee  
Results Announced*

Congressman Mike Castle helped to set the tone for a very successful day on Friday, April 4th at the 20th State Geographic Bee. Congressman Castle congratulated all of the 64 participants who were winners at their school levels, and noted that the future of America depends on citizens who have knowledge of the world and the people who live and work in it.

First place winner **Daniel J. Keiser** is an 8th grader at Corpus Christi school in Newark, DE. Daniel will represent Delaware in the National Geographic Bee in Washington, DC in May.

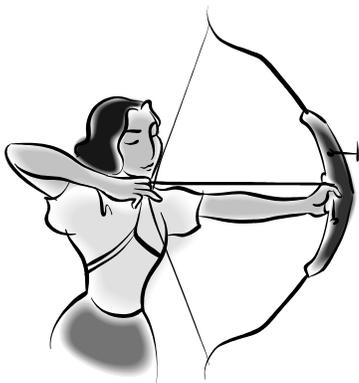
Second place winner was **Nathan Phillips** from Hartly, DE. Nathan is home-schooled.

Third place went to **Bryce Stevenosky**, a 6th grader from Postelthwait Middle School in Camden, DE.

Congratulations to the contestants and to their parents, teachers and schools!

**Summer Olympic Sports**

Aquatics ♦ Archery ♦ Athletics ♦ Badminton ♦ Baseball ♦ Basketball ♦ Boxing ♦ Canoeing ♦ Cycling ♦ Equestrian ♦ Fencing ♦ Football (Soccer) ♦ Gymnastics ♦ Handball ♦ Hockey (Field) ♦ Judo ♦ Modern Pentathlon ♦ Rowing ♦ Sailing ♦ Shooting ♦ Softball ♦ Table Tennis ♦ Taekwondo ♦ Tennis ♦ Triathlon ♦ Volleyball ♦ Weightlifting ♦ Wrestling



*The Delaware  
Geographic Alliance*

*216 Pearson Hall ~ Department of Geography  
University of Delaware  
Newark, DE 19716*

