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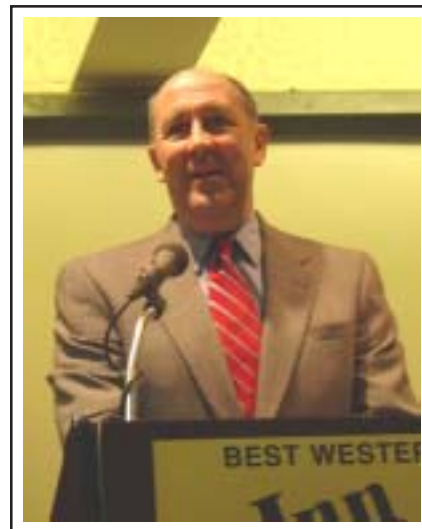
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GOVERNOR DOYLE and other distinguished guests speak at Legislative Seminar

by JoAnne Smith, ConTechs editor

Governor Jim Doyle, leading state legislators, and educational leaders spoke very positively of technical education and its role in preserving Wisconsin's economic strength at the WACTE Legislative Seminar in Madison on April 2nd.

"The technical college system is so important because it is a place where people can re-enter the system – a dislocated worker, a mother coming into the workforce, or a student who had some difficulties during their high school years," said Governor Doyle. The Governor pointed out that his commitment to education is shown in his preservation of the state's funding commitment to the WTCS system in the 2003-2005 biennial budget and in the increased funding proposed for K-12 education.



GOVERNOR DOYLE

While state leaders debate many of the Governor's suggested fiscal solutions, those at the Legislative Seminar agreed that technical education is vital to jumpstarting the state's stagnating economy. Senator Jon Erpenbach and Representatives Luther Olsen, Scott Jensen, and Dan Schooff participated on a panel with Dr. William Ihlenfeldt of CVTC and Dr. Ken Brittingham of the McFarland School District. The panelists praised the technical educators in attendance, discussed challenges that face the state's secondary and postsecondary technical education systems, and shared ideas on what improvements might be considered. "The members of the panel were supportive of our work – they really seem to understand that, especially in challenging economic times, technical education is the 'seed corn' that is critical to economic growth and renewal," said Mark Johnson, WACTE Legislative Chair.continued on page 5

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WACTE-MATC MADISON, LOCAL 27 DONATES \$1,000

Mary Merkes, WACTE-MATC Madison, Local 27 President, recently forwarded a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to WACTE to be used for professional activities of the Association. WACTE President John Frank noted that "the generous donation of Local 27 underscores the importance of our Local Associations not only to the financial well-being of WACTE, but also to its future existence and viability." Our salute and a hardy thank you to Local 27!



**Governor's 2003-05 Budget Recommendations (Senate Bill 44)
Affecting the Technical College System**

By Dan Clancy, WTCS Assistant State Director

On February 18, 2003, Governor Doyle submitted his 2003-05 biennial budget bill (Senate Bill 44) to the Legislature. The bill has been referred to the Joint Committee on Finance. The Committee will first hold public hearings over the next several weeks and then take action on individual budget items beginning in April. Once the Committee completes its work, the bill will be sent to each house of the Legislature for their consideration.

The following is a description of the budget bill provisions affecting the Technical College System:

1. General State Aids

The Governor recommends no change to the base funding level for general state aids; therefore, it would remain at \$118,415,000 GPR in each year of the 2003-05 biennium.

2. Health Care Education Grant Program

The Governor recommends the creation of a new categorical aid program through which the WTCS Board would award grants to technical college districts to expand health care education programs. This program would be funded at \$4,340,000 GPR in 2003-04 and \$5,450,000 GPR in 2004-05.

In order to fund this initiative, the Governor proposes a reduction in the Incentive Grants appropriation of \$1,000,000 annually and the elimination of two existing WTCS grant programs: Capacity Building Grants (\$2,000,000 GPR in base funding) and Additional Course Section Grants (\$2,450,000 GPR in base funding). While the bulk of the eliminated dollars (\$4,340,000 GPR) will be used to fund the new Health Care Education Grants in 2003-04, \$1,110,000 will revert to the general fund. In 2004-05, all of the eliminated dollars will fund the Health Care Education Grants appropriation. Therefore, while this proposal targets funds for health care initiatives, it reduces total grant dollars available to the WTCS districts by \$1,110,000 over the biennium.

The Governor's proposed statutory language sets no parameters for the administration of the grant program (such as eligibility criteria, matching requirements, and allowable activities); thus, the WTCS Board would presumably make these decisions through grant guidelines issued to the districts. However, according to the Governor's Executive Budget Book, the intent of the new program is to "expand course capacity, increase minority and male enrollment in health care occupations, and accelerate online programming." These purposes are consistent with what was outlined in the WTCS Board's 2003-05 budget request for health care program expansion; the Board's request was for \$4,340,000 GPR in 2003-04 and \$13,300,000 GPR in 2004-05 and would have been funded with new GPR dollars (not reallocated funds).

3. Fire Service Training

The Governor recommends increased funding of \$200,000 PR in each year of the biennium for firefighter training services. Revenue for this increase comes from fees assessed on premiums on property insurance. The WTCS Board had requested this increase as part of its 2003-05 budget request.

The increased funding would be equally divided between the two fire service appropriations: local assistance and state operations. Local assistance funds are used to reimburse WTCS districts for the tuition and material costs of providing training courses to state firefighters. State operations funds are used to support three System Office positions, curriculum development, testing materials, grading written exams, and oversight of practical skills tests. The additional funds would enable the WTCS to fulfill its statutory responsibility to provide high quality, accessible training and certification services to the state's volunteer and paid fire departments.

4. Other Categorical Aid Programs

The Governor recommends no changes to the base funding levels of all other WTCS categorical aid programs.

.....continued on page 10



A Farewell Address for the “Troops”

by John Frank, WACTE President

It has been a distinct honor and privilege to have served as your President this year. As an association, we are indeed fortunate to have so many active and committed members, an outstanding Board of Directors, and a hard-working staff. As such, we should not be surprised that, while other professional associations are suffering financially and operationally, WACTE is strong, solvent, and active.

At the same time, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to remind each and every one of you that our State Association is only as strong as our Local associations ... and our Locals will remain strong only so long as we continue to add new members as our older members retire.

A recent memo from ACTE noted that, nationally, three out of four members were over the age of 50. While our state membership is not skewed so dramatically, over half of our WACTE members are 50 or older. From the perspective of the continued viability of our Association, that is an organizational disaster waiting to happen.

While the Board of Directors can run membership contests and the Association staff can process membership applications and renewals, they cannot recruit new members for the Locals. Indeed, the future of each Local association – and the State association as a whole – is in the hands of the membership of the Locals.

Now, it's easy to say “That's not my problem – the Local president or membership chair will handle recruiting new members.” With due respect, I beg to differ. When it comes to a volunteer professional association, the key question is, “If not me, who will?”

If WACTE doesn't meet the professional development, legislative, and networking needs of career and technical educators, who will? Unfortunately, the answer is “no one.” If I don't recruit new members for my Local, who will? Unfortunately, again, if we are all willing to wait for someone else to “pick up the ball and run with it,” the answer could also be “no one.” Accordingly, we must all take personal responsibility for the future well-being of WACTE and its Locals. That means that membership recruitment is a responsibility that we all share equally. If you and I don't do it, no one else will.

Again, let me thank you for a wonderful year and I look forward to seeing all of you at next year's state conference in Madison on February 18th, 19th, and 20th. Bring a new member with you!!! **END**

2004 WACTE Awards Program

by Pat Holt, Awards Chair

The 2003-2004 Awards Handbook will be sent electronically to all Local Presidents and Award Chairpersons by the end of April. The Awards Committee has added a new category for next year. The Loyalty Member Award will be given to a WACTE Loyalty member who has retired, but continues to make significant contributions to career and technical education. This is a noncompetitive award, similar to the C. L. Greiber Award of Merit. This award will give each Local the opportunity to honor a retiree who remains active in both their Local and State associations.

Our committee would also like to express our appreciation to our Locals that submitted awards for the past year. Our 59% increase in participation was a direct result of YOUR efforts! **END**

WACTE Conference Wrap-up

The 2003 Conference Committee

If you were there, you know what a great conference it was. If you weren't, YOU MISSED IT! The 2003 state conference, "Building Wisconsin's Future," was outstanding. With a host of over 40 sectionals to pick from, everyone went away with new ideas to stimulate their programs. The Health Fair provided a new experience for many conference goers, and the Technology Fair is always a room full of innovation. With presenters from Michigan, Utah, Minnesota, Virginia, and Georgia, the conference had a breadth of experience that stretched beyond Wisconsin. Pre-conference workshops were rated "off the charts!" Closing speaker Rob Bell was a hit and was just what we needed at the end.

We hope you enjoyed this year's event, and we look forward to seeing you again at next year's events.

Thank You.....

A very special thank you to everyone involved in organizing, presenting, coordinating, and attending this year's state conference. I am grateful for all your assistance and appreciative of your dedication to our profession. The conference was a success because of you. The WACTE Board of Directors recognizes the dedication and quality service the WACTE staff exhibited during this year's state conference as well as all the hard work provided by NEW-ACTE, Local 13. WACTE is an exceptional organization because of the exceptional service provided by our state staff. **END**

-Bryan Albrecht, Conference Chair



Upper Left: John Frank, WACTE President, addresses the Assembly of Delegates;
Upper Right: Linda Wilke, WACTE Membership Chair, hosts the New Professionals Breakfast;
Left: Tech Expo

Southwest Tech and Viterbo University Sign 2+2+2 Program Agreement

Dr. Karen R. Knox, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College President, and Dr. Jack Havertape, Academic Vice President of Viterbo University, LaCrosse, Wisconsin (**pictured at right**), recently formalized an articulation agreement to facilitate cooperative educational programming between the two schools. The signing occurred in the College's Lenz Conference Center before Southwest Tech and Viterbo University administrators, the Governor's Work-Based Learning Board, local businesspeople, CESA #3 staff, and Southwest Tech faculty and youth apprenticeship students.



Dr. Knox lauded the event as the beginning of a great partnership: "We are extremely pleased and proud to be collaborating with Viterbo University. This agreement allows Southwest Tech graduates with associate degrees in business-related disciplines to transition seamlessly into Viterbo's highly respected baccalaureate program in business administration/leadership."

Dr. Havertape concurred, emphasizing that the new articulation agreement promotes advanced learning and more informed career decisions, and increases scheduling flexibility while eliminating instructional overlap. Stated Havertape, "Viterbo University is constantly working hard to find ways to help students complete degree programs more quickly and cost effectively. In this instance, we recognized the quality of the educational experience at Southwest Tech and wanted its students to reap the greatest return on the work they put into their associate degree programs."

Another dimension of the articulation agreement is its formal recognition of a 2+2+2 program that blends together Southwest Tech's and CESA #3's Youth Apprenticeship Program; SWTC's associate degree program in business administration/finance; and Viterbo University's business administration/leadership baccalaureate degree program. Local youth apprenticeship students earn college credits while in high school and can apply these toward a business administration/finance associate degree at Southwest Tech. Upon completing that program at the College, these students can then transfer to Viterbo University with advanced standing. A bachelor's degree from Viterbo in business administration/leadership, is then only 47-56 additional credits away.

Southwest Tech's Financial Services Youth Apprenticeship Program, now nearly 30 high school students strong, is part of Wisconsin's statewide youth apprenticeship program comprised of collaborative partnerships of high schools, technical colleges, and business and industry. Now celebrating its tenth anniversary, the statewide program has surpassed original expectations, according to Education Consultant Joyce Christee of the Governor's Work-Based Learning Board. "It truly has become a seamless system of education and training," she remarked.

Adding to its continuing success, the youth apprenticeship collaboration now profits from involvement of universities like Viterbo through 2+2+2 programs that combine prior learning experiences and transfer credits with new educational opportunities. Stated Southwest Tech Business Administrations/Finance Instructor Karyl Nicholson, "I am pleased that [youth apprenticeship] students are gaining further recognition for their demonstrated maturity, professionalism, and leadership potential."

Students who want to pursue higher learning at Viterbo University have numerous enrollment options. These include regular daytime or evening classes, accelerated evening or weekend courses, courses taught off campus as well as on campus, and online offerings.

For more information about the new articulation agreement between Southwest Tech and Viterbo University, please contact Julie Pluemer, Southwest Tech School to Work Curriculum Specialist, 608.822.3262 or 800.362.3322, ext. 2369, jpluemer@swtc.edu **END**

Continued from page 1 - **LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR**

In addition to the distinguished speakers from the state of Wisconsin, the audience also heard an update on federal legislative issues by Stacy Casimiro, ACTE Advocacy Specialist. Ms. Casimiro later joined Paul Gabriel of the WTCS District Boards Association to discuss “do’s” and “don’ts” regarding effective grass roots advocacy in the State.

At the conclusion of the Legislative Seminar, WACTE President John Frank noted that “while we are pleased that so many members took time to attend the Seminar and visit their legislators, we cannot afford to be complacent. As the Governor and our distinguished panel of legislators reminded us, we are only at the beginning of the budget process. Each and every WACTE member needs to maintain contact with his/her state and federal legislators throughout the spring and summer in order to assure the continued availability of the financial resources necessary for career and technical education.” **END**



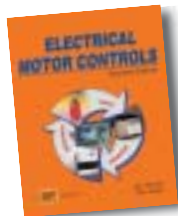
Stacy Casimiro, ACTE



Panelists (L/R) Dr. Ken Brittingham of the McFarland School District, Dr. William Ihlenfeldt of CVTC, Representatives Dan Schooff, Scott Jensen, Luther Olsen, and Senator Jon Erpenbach.



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newly elected wacte board members



James Murray



Rosanne Glick



Steven Huth



Pat Holt, President-Elect

NEW BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED FOR 2003-05

Three new faces will be “on board” effective July 1, 2003! Our congratulations to them on being elected at the recent WACTE Annual Conference held in February. We welcome each of these individuals and thank them for stepping forward to help “make a difference” in our Association.

Pat Holt (Gateway ACTE, Local 20) has been elected as President-Elect of our Association. She has served as the WACTE Awards Chair for the past two years and has several years of leadership experience within her Local. Pat hopes to, “continue the work of building and maintaining partnerships with business, industry, and other professional organizations.” She continues by stating that, “Career and technical education is the solution to the economic and social challenges facing us today. Our grass roots connections are what make us unique. Our Association is at the heart of what is going to drive the success of Wisconsin and the Nation.” We welcome Pat to our WACTE executive leadership team!

Rosanne Glick (WACTE-MATC Madison, Local 27) has served as Past President of their Local, promoting professional development to members and non-members. Many of you may recognize Rosanne as a past conference presenter as well. She says that “Serving on the WACTE Board will provide me with an opportunity to further develop my own career while allowing me to continue to promote technical education to others.”

Steven Huth (Blackhawk Tech Association, Local 1) Someone once asked him why he, as secondary person, would be interested in an organization which is comprised of mostly technical college members? His response was that “Career and technical education doesn’t begin or end at the technical college, but should be a lifelong endeavor beginning with elementary students and never ending.” Steve plans to work collaboratively to strengthen the relationships already established and attempt to build stronger connections between secondary and post secondary organizations.”

James Murray (Western Wisconsin Vocational Association, Local #9) has served as an interim board member for the past year as Bylaws and Resolutions Chair. Jim states, “Many challenges continue to face both WACTE and career and technical education—especially in the political and economic arenas. As a continuing member on the Board, I will use my experience to continue addressing these issues.” **END**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the complete WACTE Calendar of Events, visit www.wacteonline.org

May 6-8, 2003

June 18-20, 2003

August 5-6, 2003

October 29, 2003

November 4-5, 2003

December 11-14, 2003

February 18-20, 2004

FOCUS 2003 CONFERENCE, Sheraton, Madison

ACTE REGION III CONFERENCE, Dubuque, Iowa

SUPPORT STAFF CONFERENCE, Hotel Mead, WI Rapids

STUDENT SERVICES/COUNSELORS, MATC - Madison

WORK-BASED LEARNING CONFERENCE, Sheraton, Madison

ACTE CONVENTION, Orlando, Florida

WACTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Marriott Madison West

2003 Award Recipients Announced at Annual Conference

Several awards were bestowed at the February 20th Awards Luncheon held at the Regency Suites in Green Bay. Our special thanks to Glencoe-McGraw Hill Publishing for sponsoring this event. Blackhawk Tech Association (Local #01) was selected as the Local of the Year. Seventeen businesses and individuals were given the C. L. Greiber Award of Merit for outstanding contributions to career and technical education. Twenty-five members were also honored with the Hambrecht Award for 25 years of service to career and technical education. (See below)



ADMINISTRATOR
Howard Lee
Local #25
Stout Community ACTE



FULL-TIME TEACHER
Virginia Larson
Local #02
Chippewa Valley ACTE



SPECIALTY SERVICES MEMBER
Rosanne Glick
Local #27
WACTE-MATC Madison



ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Karen Clarke
Local #14
Fox Valley ACTE



NEW TEACHER
Steven Whitmoyer
Local #20
Gateway ACTE



PART-TIME TEACHER
Diane Witt-Rose
Local #02
Chippewa Valley ACTE

C.L. GREIBER RECIPIENTS

Dan Schooff - Local #01 (Individual)
Michael Sexauer - Local #09 (Individual)
Marty Gholston - Local #10 (Individual)
Douglas Pearson - Local #14 (Individual)
Dr. Richard Rogers - Local #21 (Individual)
Dave Obey - Local #22 (Individual)
Larry Barnhart - Local #25 (Individual)
Carl Ruedebusch - Local #27 (Individual)
Royal Credit Union - Local #02
CenturyTel - Local #09
Quad/Graphics - Locals #10, #17
Affinity Health System - Local #14
Ministry Health Care - Local #15
Cooper Power Systems - Local #20
Milprint Inc./Bemis - Local #21
3M Minnesota Mining/Mfg. - Local #22
Bremer Bank - Local #25

HAMBRECHT RECIPIENTS

Robert Borremans - Local #01
Gregg Bosak - Local #01
Ronald Doering - Local #02
Dianne Harris - Local #02
Ann Kassing - Local #02
David Rowe - Local #02
Jane Wagner - Local #02
Elaine Welin - Local #02
Jane Rada - Local #09
Darlene Starch - Local #09
Carolyn Steele - Local #09
Dave Weiland - Local #14
Dale H. Hayden - Local #15
Robert S. Lindaas - Local #15
David Blum - Local #17
Donna Van Groll - Local #17
Mary Alice Jazdzewski - Local #17
Julie Whyte - Local #20
Michael Vernezze - Local #20



Chyme Stimart - Local #21
Mark Kearns - Local #22
Mark Vornholt - Local #24
Rodney Kohlhepp - Local #27
Donald Olson - Local #27
Katherine Wiggins - Local #27

21st Century Urban Technical Education Symposium

Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee Public Schools, UW-Stout, and the National Science Foundation recently hosted the 21st Century Urban Technical Education Symposium at the Clarion Hotel in Milwaukee. The event drew participants from Washington to California. With a focus on technology education reform efforts, the conference speakers were national experts and challenged participants to expand the breadth of programming and to embrace technological literacy.

A highlight was the student portfolio exhibits and a student tour of the new Bradley Tech High School. Kendall Starkweather, Executive Director of the International Technology Education Association, commented that Wisconsin and Milwaukee is leading the way in technology education.

For more information on the 21st Century Urban Technology Project, check out the website at www.matc.edu/21cutep. **END**

The Future of Career and Technical Education

by Bryan Albrecht

Wisconsin has a strong, proud history in vocational education, and now career and technical education. As we move into the 21st Century, it is critical that preparation for careers in its greatest capacity be a part of our education system.

Today's economy and tomorrow's jobs will be highly complex and dependent upon technology. Career and technical education at both the secondary and postsecondary levels is vital to developing our future workforce and technologically literate citizens. The strength of our systems will depend upon how closely we can align program opportunities for students. Programs like Tech Prep program alignment, curriculum articulation, and youth options build relationships between our systems that help to create PK-16 transition opportunities.

At the secondary level, our New Wisconsin Promise identifies career and technical education as foundational to a comprehensive education system.

Even with limited budget opportunities, career and technical education has a great advantage. Developing our economic future will depend upon new-economy jobs with new-employee skills. Many of those skills will be developed through technical education and training. New models of delivering technical education will have to be embraced to be successful. The DPI is positioned to respond to the changing economic conditions, and works with schools to continue to seek new ways to provide career guidance and technical education. **END**

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Governor's 2003-05 Budget Recommendations (Senate Bill 44) Affecting the Technical College System

5. Higher Educational Aids Board

The Governor recommends the elimination of the Higher Educational Aids Board and the transfer of all student financial aid programs to the University of Wisconsin System. This change would take effect beginning in 2004-05. Under this proposal, the UW Board of Regents will be charged with the responsibility of administering all state student grant and loan programs on behalf of the UW System, the WTCS, private colleges and universities, and tribal institutions.

6. Governor's Work-Based Learning Board

The Governor recommends elimination of the Governor's Work-Based Learning Board, the transfer of the Board's duties and responsibilities to the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), and the creation of a new advisory council with an expanded role in the state's delivery of work-based education and training programs to oversee DWD's administrative activities. The new council (Governor's Work-Based Learning Council) would retain the same membership as the Work-Based Learning Board. An executive director, outside the classified service and appointed by the Governor, would assist the Council in performing its duties and assist DWD in administering the programs.

The 17-member Work-Based Learning Board was created in the 1999-2001 biennial budget bill. Under current law, the Board is required to plan, coordinate, administer, and implement certain youth apprenticeship, school-to-work, work-based learning programs and other employment and education programs that the Governor may, by executive order, assign to the Work-Based Learning Board. Specifically, the Board was given responsibility for youth apprenticeship and school-to-work programs previously administered by DWD, and for the federal Tech Prep program previously administered by the WTCS Board.

The membership of the Work-Based Learning Board closely parallels the membership of the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment and the WTCS Board. Among its members are the WTCS Board President, the WTCS President, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Secretary of DWD and the Administrator for the Division of Workforce Solutions. The Board has 12 staff positions and 9 appropriations for a total of \$6.65 million base year 2002-03 funding, including \$2.4 million for Tech Prep programs.

7. TEACH Board

The Governor recommends eliminating the TEACH Board and transferring its functions to the Department of Public Instruction. The TEACH Board is a nine-member board that includes a representative of the WTCS Board. The proposal would eliminate several TEACH grant programs affecting the K-12 system. However, the Telecommunications Access grants, the only TEACH funding provided to WTCS districts, would be continued.

8. System Office Reductions

The Governor recommends a reduction in the System Office's GPR operating budget of \$350,000 in each year of the 2003-05 biennium (which is about an 11% base reduction). In addition, the Office's position authority would be reduced by 5.0 FTE (2.0 GPR positions and 3.0 FED positions). In addition, as part of the budget initiative to consolidate legal services under the Secretary of DOA, the System Office's general counsel position would be eliminated (this GPR-funded position is currently vacant). **END**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE FOR
BRINGING YOU THREE QUALITY CONTECHS ISSUES THIS YEAR!**

Rick Dehring, BTC; Ron Edwards, CVTC; Casey Fryda, NWTC; Aleta Murray, GWBLB;
Bert Richard, WITC; Jodie Schneider, MPTC; JoAnne Smith, Chair, MPTC.

Rules of Mowing

- Cut no more than 1/3 the height of the grass.
- Never scalp the lawn or cut below plant crowns.
- Mow only when the grass is dry.
- Change mowing patterns frequently to prevent compaction.
- Leave clippings on the lawn unless they are very long or wet.
- Mow with a sharp blade. Resharpen after every 10 hours of use. Bring the blade to a professional sharpening service once a year. Replace the blade as necessary.
- Rinse clippings off your mower after it has cooled to reduce the chance of spreading lawn disease.
- Cut grass at the high end of the recommended height range during hot weather.
- Cut at the low end of the recommended height range during cool weather or in shade.
- Make your last cut of season at the low end of the recommended height range.



SPRING PATIO/DECK CLEANUP TIME



Care of Patio Furniture: If you left your plastic furniture out all winter, you have some clean up ahead! Step 1: Rinse furniture with clean water so it's nice and wet. Step 2: Add a squirt or two of dish soap and a half a cup of ammonia to a bucket of warm water. Then scrub furniture with the ammonia mixture. Step 3: Rinse well. Step 4: Ammonia may strip away the shiny finish on the furniture. Use some automotive paste wax to buff it back to a shine. As an added bonus, if your furniture is colored the paste wax will help protect it from fading in the sun.

Remove Mildew from Outdoor Cushions: If your patio furniture cushions have developed some mildew, these tips will kill the mildew and help keep it away longer. Step 1: Brush any dirt and debris off of the cushions. Step 2: Add a tablespoon of borax to a quart of warm water. Use the mixture to wash the cushions. Then rinse well. Step 3: Spray the cushions with full strength white vinegar to keep the mildew from growing back.



Maintain Decking: Routine cleaning and maintenance will help keep your deck looking great. Step 1: Sweep often, when you walk on dirt and debris on your deck it will grind into the surface and damage the wood. Step 2: Use the high-pressure attachment on your hose to clean dirt and debris from your deck and rails. Step 3: A 5-in-1 painter's tool is a great tool to pry leaves and gunk from in between boards. Step 4: Test the sealant on your deck to see if it needs to be reapplied. Pour some water over the deck and watch for it to bead up. If there is no beading you need to reapply a sealer to keep your deck looking great for years to come.