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BDSS students finish top-3 at landscape challenge



Students Kyle Bennett, left, and Dylan Wieb placed in the top three at the DSBN student landscape challenge, putting together this mix of interlock, plants and assorted stones in only three hours. The two had prior experience, after installing an interlock pathway in the greenhouses behind their high school. They placed in the top three at the competition, and will find out their rank at an awards cer-

BY MARCEL VANDER WIER
STAFF

Teacher Matt Moyer thinks the horticulture program at Beamsville District Secondary School is one of the best-kept secrets in the area.

He finds that to be a problem.

"It's a well-kept secret that we don't really want kept," Moyer said last week. "Not every high school has a program like this."

The BDSS horticulture program teaches students the basics of arboriculture, landscape design and installation, greenhouse crops, nursery production, greenhouse maintenance and job skills.

The program also pushes students to excel in the field, as seen recently at a DSBN landscape challenge held Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Four students from Beamsville went to the tournament, which saw them design a landscape over a 64 square-foot sheet of plywood in just three hours.

Kyle Bennett and Dylan Wieb placed in the top three in Niagara, while Travis Collier and

Taylor Berry also did well, but did not place.

The winners will be announced on April 2 at an awards banquet to be held at Club Italia.

Each student was provided with hard paving stones, a retaining wall, assorted stones, and soil to create their landscape.

The Beamsville students practiced before the competition, installing a brick pathway in the school's greenhouse.

From their performance and interest there, these four students were selected to go to the challenge.

"The challenge represents the diversity of the BDSS horticulture program," said Moyer. "It's much more than just growing plants in our two greenhouses. Although our plant production is a large component, we try to introduce our students to as many aspects of the horticulture field as possible."

The planting side of the program will be on display before the May long weekend, when students hold their annual plant sale from May 14 to 17. On sale will be many varieties of annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables.



BDSS students Taylor Berry, left, and Travis Collier also competed at the DSBN landscape challenge recently, building a 64 square-foot landscape in just three hours.