



## Welcome

I have just finished my second year at Penn State and I continue to be impressed with the strength and diversity of this University, the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Department of Horticulture.

During the year we started implementing our 2005-2008 Strategic Plan. One priority is to increase undergraduate enrollment. During the last several years plant science enrollments at 4-year institutions have declined nation-wide and the USDA predicts that there will be a shortage of graduates with training in the plant sciences. We have taken some steps to increase our visibility on campus to attract PSU students to our department, but during the upcoming year I hope to work more closely with our alumni, county educators, and the horticulture industries to help recruit high school students into our majors. We are also in the process of evaluating our curriculum for our two majors, Landscape Contracting and Horticulture, and we hope to add a minor in Arboriculture.

The next couple of years will be a time of change for the department as we anticipate several faculty retirements within the year. Although we will be sad to see people leave, this provides an opportunity to re-evaluate our programs and modify certain aspects of the department to meet anticipated changes in stakeholder needs and funding priorities. Our smaller but dedicated office staff is doing a great job of learning new skills to support the faculty.

In 2008, the Horticulture Department will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Several events

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## Hort Alumni Update

Dear Fellow Alums

Another year is about to begin with the fall semester at Penn State starting right after Labor Day. The upbeat energy of 40,000 plus students coming to State College will soon be common place again.

With fall just around the corner, so to is the annual Horticulture Show. We anticipate another wonderful Show during the October 14 and 15 event. Please show your support by visiting the show and purchasing some of the exceptional Horticulture products that our sponsors will provide. Also, the annual Ag Alumni tailgate is November 18, contact Jillian Stevenson or [agalumni@psu.edu](mailto:agalumni@psu.edu) for more details.

This is also the season for the Horticulture Alumni officer elections. Tracy Harpster and I have enjoyed serving the Horticulture Alumni Group, but now, its time for new leadership and new energy to come forward. Nominations are being accepted by Dr. Marini for new alumni officers who will lead the Horticulture Alumni group to the next level. Elections will be held during the Horticulture Show.

Here is a quick overview of the past year's events: Tracey and I taught two continuing education courses (perennial gardening and flower arranging) with money going towards our annual scholarship awards, made corsages for graduating students at spring commencement and awarded one scholarship of \$500 for the 2006/2007 year.

Hope to see you at the Hort Show!

Mary Wodecki (HORT '91)

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Welcome *continued from page 1*

are being planned during the next two years to showcase the department and to provide opportunities for alumni to help us celebrate. This summer at Ag Progress Days the department was featured in the main exhibit building. Many aspects of the department that many people don't often think of as "Horticulture" were featured. Examples included root physiology and ecology, plant genetics and breeding, the Master Gardener Program, weed management, and landscape contracting. There were also demonstrations on the role of horticultural crops and human nutrition and the story of chocolate. We will also be inviting some of our alumni back to present departmental seminars. To complete the celebration we are in the early stages of planning an event in October 2008 coinciding with the Hort Show at the Ag Arena. As plans develop we will keep you informed and we hope you will be able to join us in some of these activities.

I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter. It is intended to bring you up to date on the happenings in the department. Have a great fall!



## FLOWER JUDGING TRIP 2006

**Kaitlin Feeney (LSCPE)**, **Stephanie Lenhart (HORT)**, and **Katie Sanford (HORT)** competed in the 65th Annual Intercollegiate Floral Crop Evaluation and design competition April 5-7 in Utah. Kaitlin's Centerpiece flower arrangement placed 4th of 10, Katie's Bridal Bouquet placed 5th and Stephanie's table arrangement placed 6th. In addition to the contest the team visited sites of interest in Salt Lake City including one of the largest green roofs in North America on the Later Day Saints Convention Center. The Penn State team was accompanied by their coach **Dr. Robert Berghage**.

## A New Look for Tyson Building

Alumni returning to campus this fall will discover a noticeable difference in the appearance of Tyson Building. After years of discussion and a pledge of monetary support by the Horticulture Club, phase I of the Tyson landscape project has become a reality. A master plan was designed by **Angela (Lloyd) Barr (LSCPE '04)**, and revised by **Joe Stitt (LSCPE '05)**, **Matt Madia (LSCPE '05)**, and **Annabelle Tunderman (LSCPE'05)**. Final plans were developed by Derek Kalp of the Office of Physical Plant. Students in Hort 464, Landscape Construction I, and Hort 368, Planting Design provided the brains and the brawn for completing the work.



(Participating Students and Faculty)

The project included creation of a paved terrace in front of the main entrance complete with four new benches, construction of a fence to screen the utility boxes on the south end of the site, installation of an underground watering system, and with OPP's help, replacement of some of the stone treads on the stairs and upper landing. The planting included an attractive collection of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and perennials selected to provide species for use in the plant materials courses taught by **Drs. Heuser and Berghage**.

This project was truly a cooperative effort, with donations of plant material provided by Foxborough Nursery, Inc., The Brickman Group, Eichenlaub, Inc., Anewalt's Landscaping, W. D. Wells & Associates, Inc., Manor View Farms, and Klyn

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Nurseries. In addition, benches and brick pavers were donated by Landscape Forms, Inc., and Whitacre Greer, respectively.

The project has gained the attention of all who walk or drive past our building, including many faculty and staff who want us to make their buildings look as attractive as Tyson. Our plans are to tackle the northern end of Tyson Building in Spring 07, and the parking lot and southeast corner the following spring.

Stop by to see us whenever you can. We're in the building with the beautiful landscaping!



(Front of Tyson Building)

## 2006 STUDENT CAREER DAYS

By: **Dan Stearns**, Professor of Landscape Contracting

The Horticulture Department was well-represented at the 2006 Student Career Days sponsored by PLANET, the Professional Landcare Network. In March, three faculty and 34 students traveled to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah competing in 25 events and participating in a career fair attended by 101 landscape contracting companies from across the nation. Approximately 900 students attended the event, representing 52 schools. For the first time, the Penn State team finished in the top ten, bringing home a ninth place plaque.

The trip began with a tour of Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, where students viewed incredible rock formations, hiked to waterfalls, and trekked through eight inches of new snow.

Landscape Contracting and Horticulture students who received top awards include:

Mary Colson	Interior Plant ID and Floral and Foliage ID
John Durkin	Skid Steer Operation
Zach Hammaker	Interior Landscape Design
Dan Kelleher	Truck and Trailer Operation
Dan Klimas	Paver Installation
Jeff Krezo	Truck and Trailer Operation
Nikos Phelps	Leadership Skills
Dianne Schramm	Interior Plant ID and Floral and Foliage ID
Tom Starkey	Paver Installation

The Penn State contingent was accompanied by Landscape Contracting alumni Eddie Anewalt and Scott Burk. Many other alumni were in attendance, representing companies from Maryland to California. Their presence inspired our students and instilled a great amount of pride in our faculty.

Student Career Days 2007 will be hosted by Michigan State University in Lansing, MI.

### **Kelley Visits Ukraine**

**Kathy Kelley**, Assistant Professor of Consumer Horticulture, recently returned from Ukraine where she completed an 18-day assignment for the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs Agribusiness Volunteer Program. During the assignment, she worked with a group of growers, Kiev Fruit and Vegetable Farmers, on issues pertaining to the marketing of fresh fruits and vegetables and value-added products. Growers participated in a two-day training session, as well as individual consulting sessions.

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# 2006-2007 Horticulture Department Scholarships and Awards

The Horticulture Department awarded \$124,700 to 96 undergraduate students in the for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Scholarship and award recipients are chosen by unit scholarship committees as well as a college-wide committee on the basis of their qualifications and donor-established guidelines.

The amount awarded is listed next to the name of the scholarship. The notation immediately following a student's name is an abbreviation for the students major (HORT. - Horticulture, LSCPE - Landscaping).

If you wish to make a contribution towards any of these scholarships, or are considering establishing a new scholarship, contact: Denise Connelly, Asst. to Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State, 140 Ag Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802; phone (814) 865-0113; email - dcc6@psu.edu.

Acorn Alcinda Award in Landscape \$1000  
Nikos Phelps, LSCPE, Hershey, PA

Aden & Merna Francis Scholarship \$1614  
Julie Flinchbaugh, HORT, York, PA

Bartlett Tree Foundation \$1000  
Nicholas Duffy, LSCPE, Cranberry Twp., PA

Patrick Bennett Scholarship \$2740  
Jeffrey Krezo, LSCPE, State College, PA

Brickman Scholarship \$2000  
Erik Josephson, LSCPE, Bangor, PA  
Frank Ravella, LSCPE, Bethel Park, PA

Fred Brown Scholarship \$13,000  
Kathryn Sanford, HORT, Wyomissing, PA  
Catherine Moehle, HORT, Rochester, NY  
Kristin Prommel, HORT, Newton, NJ  
Hope Pflieger, HORT, Oley, PA  
Kacee Wheeland, HORT, Port Matilda, PA

Fred Brown Scholarship \$13,000 cont'd  
Stephanie Lenhart, HORT, Irwin, PA  
David Frey, HORT, Greenville, PA

Wilbur & Mary Cherry Scholarship \$1175  
Jessica Lenker, HORT, Blain, PA

Oliver Christman Scholarship \$15,675  
Alex Peck, LSCPE, Lewisburg, PA  
Sonia Erb, LSCPE, Bethel, PA  
Zachery Hammaker, LSCPE, Duncannon, PA  
Matthew McCloskey, LSCPE, Wayne, PA  
Curtis Runyan, LSCPE, Marion Center, PA  
Adam Davis, LSCPE, Marion Center, PA  
Julie Harr, LSCPE, Queen, PA  
Toni McLaughlin, LSCPE, New Eagle, PA  
Laura Maynard, LSCPE, Wellsboro, PA  
Eric Kobb, LSCPE, Media, PA  
Nathan Cooper, LSCPE, Marinsburg, PA  
Anthony Capotosto, LSCPE, Friendsville, PA  
Sharon Barbour, LSCPE, Great Meadows, PA

David Curwen Memorial Award \$1230  
Jazzme Blackwell, LSCPE, Trenton, NJ  
Catherine Moehle, HORT, Rochester, NY

Ester J. Darrow Scholarship \$3424  
Carolyn Knoop, HORT, State College, PA  
Kimberly Oellerich, HORT, Matamoras, PA

Holcomb Family Scholarship in Hort \$1250  
Johanna Mirando, HORT, Lewisburg, PA

Catherine Imbt Scholarship \$5609  
Erik Carson, HORT, Washington, PA  
John Lyman, LSCPE, Pittsburgh, PA  
Matthew Froncillo, LSCPE, West Chester, PA  
Nicole Shemansky, LSCPE, Derry, PA  
Adam Maslonik, LSCPE, Patton, PA  
Joseph Marker, LSCPE, Springfield, PA  
Kabel Kellogg, LSCPE, Shinglehouse, PA  
Matthew Hood, LSCPE, Ligonier, PA

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Catherine Imbt Scholarship \$5609 cont'd

Jeffrey Deegan, LSCPE, Bethlehem, PA

Joseph M. Johnson Scholarship \$6082

Kristie Basta, HORT, Chagrin Falls, OH  
Karen Fahnstock, HORT, Quarryville, PA  
Dustin Pepper, HORT, Robertsdale, PA  
Patricia Stefanick, HORT, Furlong, PA  
Michael Urban, HORT, Munhall, PA

Klopp Award \$63

Jeffrey Kochem, HORT, Hamilton, NY

Robert P. Meahl Scholarship \$1445

Jeffrey R. Erb, LSCPE, Lancaster, PA

J. Lupton & Eva Scott Mecartney \$26,336

Jeffrey Kochem, HORT, Hamilton, NY  
Jessica Lenker, HORT, Blain, PA  
Joseph B. Gerber, HORT, St. Marys, PA  
Jonelle Carruthers, HORT, Curwensville, PA  
Jennifer Bixler, HORT, Grantville, PA  
Daniel Hackman, HORT, Lebanon, PA  
Luke Hallman, HORT, Pennsburg, PA  
Melissa Mazurkewicz, HORT, Lititz, PA  
Joseph Noll, HORT, Pittsburgh, PA  
Sarah Rhynalds, HORT, Port Matilda, PA  
Randall Ross, HORT, Sunbury, PA  
Hans Tornquist, HORT, Morgantown, PA  
Lindsay Wolfe, HORT, Beach Lake, PA  
Teresa Trego, HORT, Laurelton, PA  
Melissa Lewis, HORT, Bridgeport, PA  
Kelly Martin, HORT, Birdsboro, PA  
Matthew Urian, HORT, Bethel Park, PA  
Fred Gouker, HORT, Hanover, PA

Penn State Hort Club Scholarship \$2082

Kathryn Sanford, HORT, Wyomissing, PA  
Jeffrey Kochem, HORT, Hamilton, NY

Radley Run Garden Club Scholarship \$500

Jocelynn Skarka, LSCPE, Pottstown, PA

Max & Esther Sestili St. Memorial Award \$560

Gregory W. Crews, LSCPE, Watsontown, PA

George W. Sherlock Student Award \$5666

Gregory W. Crews, LSCPE, Watsontown, PA  
Kaitlin Feeney, LSCPE, Bedminster, NJ  
Leah E. Ruth, HORT, Lancaster, PA  
Kelby Taylor, HORT, Birdsboro, PA

Harry W. Skinner Scholarship \$4796

Nicholas Ball, LSCPE, Sayre, PA  
Jaison Van Horn, LSCPE, Gibsonia, PA  
Jamie Love, LSCPE, Saxonburg, PA  
Todd Klopp, LSCPE, Lititz, PA

Joseph & Sharon Strite Scholarship \$1360

Benjamin Keim, HORT, Reading, PA

J. Franklin & Agnes T. Styer Scholarship \$12,866

Julie Flinchbaugh, HORT, York, PA  
Jeffrey Erb, LSCPE, Lancaster, PA  
Johanna Miranda, HORT, Lewisburg, PA  
Owen Bellis, HORT, Salisbury, MD  
Laura Larrick, HORT, Purcellville, VA  
David Frey, HORT, Greenville, PA  
Benjamin Grace, LSCPE, Wernersville, PA  
Lynn Galloway, LSCPE, Boyertown, PA  
Shaun Greenland, LSCPE, Pennsylvania  
Furnace, PA  
Jay Bell, LSCPE, Greensburg, PA  
John Holtzinger, LSCPE, Bellwood, PA  
Thomas Jastrem, LSCPE, Phoenixville, PA  
Benjamin Juarez, LSCPE, Reading, PA  
Nicholas Kish, LSCPE, Jefferson Hills, PA  
Bradley Klinedinst, LSCPE, York, PA  
Salvador Mendez, LSCPE, Biglerville, PA  
Joseph Pascucci, LSCPE, Wilkes-Barre, PA  
Kenneth Rey Savella, LSCPE, Eagleville, PA  
Martin Kinnamen, LSCPE, Bangor, PA

Darrell E. Walker Scholarship \$1586

Joseph B. Gerber, HORT, St. Marys, PA

John H. Weinberger Scholarship \$2294

Matt B. Fleming, LSCPE, Pittsburgh, PA  
Jennifer R. Kelley, LSCPE, Philadelphia, PA

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## Awards and Recognitions

### Students

**Gregory Crews (LSCPE)** was awarded the “2006 President Sparks Award” in the College of Agricultural Sciences .

**Mary Colson (HORT)** was selected as the “2006 Outstanding Senior for the College of Agricultural Sciences”

**Kaitlin Feeney (LSCPE)** and **Jeffrey Erb (LSCPE)**, with the advice of **Jay Holcomb** received an award for the best 4-6 plant exhibit at the annual Central Pennsylvania Orchid Show held at the Ag Area.

### Faculty

**David Beattie**, Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture and Director of the Penn State Center for Green Roof Research, received the Research Award of Excellence at the fourth annual International Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Commodities Conference, Awards and Trade Show in Boston, MA.

**Kathleen Brown**, Professor of Postharvest Physiology, received recognition for 25 years of service to the Pennsylvania State University.

**Dennis Decoteau**, Professor of Horticulture and Plant Ecosystem Health, was selected as a candidate for the office of President of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

**David Eissenstat**, Professor of Woody Plant Physiology, is Associate Director for the Northeast Regional Center, National Institutes for Climate Change Research, DOE. This activity involves developing an RFP for researchers and reviewing grant proposals.

**Peter Ferretti**, Associate Professor of Vegetable Crops, received the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association annual Life Membership Award for his many years of service to the industry.

**Bill Lamont**, Professor of Vegetable Crops, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science. This is the highest honor that ASHS can bestow on its members, in recognition of truly outstanding contributions to horticulture and the Society.

**Dan Stearns**, Professor of Landscape Contracting, was named to the College of Agricultural Sciences Community of Teaching Excellence for a second year in recognition for his pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning in the college.

**Rob Crassweller**, Professor of Tree Fruit, and **Jim Schupp**, Associate Professor of Pomology, were co-recipients of the Shepard Award, presented by the American Pomological Society for the best research paper published in the Journal of the American Pomological Society during the year 2006.

**Rick Bates**, Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Dr. Bates has a split appointment in extension and research and works with the Pennsylvania Christmas tree and nursery industries.

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### DAN STEARNS NAMED STYER PROFESSOR



**Dan Stearns**, Professor of Landscape Contracting, was named the Styer Professor of Horticultural Botany. This professorship was created by J. Franklin Styer, who received a B.S. in Agricultural Chemistry from Penn State University in 1922 and in 1930 he earned a PhD in Botany from the University of Pennsylvania. He was President of J. Franklin Styer Nurseries and also owned a cut flower business, Styer’ Peonies. His interest in education in horticulture led to establishing a scholarship fund, a graduate fellowship and a professorship at Penn State University. **Dr. Dick Craig**, emeritus professor, was the first Styer Professor.

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# COMMENCEMENT



Horticulture B.S. Degree Fall 2005

Bianca Cuie, Shawn Garretson, Phillip Mannarelli

Horticulture Minor Fall 2005

Jeffery Gowen, Kevin Kopay

Landscape Contracting B.S. Degree Fall 2005

Timothy Basista, William Beerman, John Bigatel, Nicholas Chrin, Jeremiah Cooper, Bryan Elliott, Christopher Favret, Adam Gill, Jeffrey Gowen, Kyle Kohler, John Kunkle, John Milliard, Daniel Neuhaus, James Rowse

Horticulture M. S. Degree Fall 2005

Adam Montri, Jonathan Phillips

Horticulture B.S. Degree Spring 2006

Mary Colson, Kevin Donohue, Victor Fluke, Stephanie Gannon, Rachel Itle, Robert Reese, Diane Schramm, Jeremy Simmons, Christopher Speers, Michael Travis

Horticulture Minor Spring 2006

Kimberlee Hassler, Ashley Krznaric, Matthew Nolan, Casey Ridd, Samantha Wiener, Julianne Wilkinson

Landscape Contracting B.S. Degree Spring 2006

Michael De Berardinis, Claudia Devuono, Jason Eyer, Anne Grunenwald, Kimberlee Hassler, Joshua Ickes, Justin Koplun, Ashley Krznaric, Matthew Madia, Justin OConner, Erinn Otterson, Christopher Powers, Casey Ridd, Ryan Rimshaw, Chad Spidell, Jennifer Szymarek, Andrew Thompson, Alison Waltier, Samantha Wiener, Julianne Wilkinson, Lonnie Williams

Horticulture B.S. Degree Summer 2006

Emily Black

Horticulture Minor Summer 2006

Kevin Booth, Shaina Dulberg

Landscape Contracting B.S. Degree Summer 2006

Jessica Bly

Horticulture Ph. D. Degree Summer 2006

Ivan Ochoa

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# International Activities

## McKnight Foundation Collaborative Crop Research Program

### Adaptation of Soybean to Low Phosphorus Soils of Tropical and Subtropical South China: A Radical Approach

Researchers: **Jonathan Lynch**, Professor of Plant Nutrition, **Kathleen Brown**, Professor of Postharvest Physiology, **Raul Jaramillo**, Ph.D. HORT candidate, **Amelia Henry** Ph.D. IBIOS candidate, and **Eric Nord** Ph.D. ECLGY candidate.

Participating institutions: The South China Agricultural University (Grant Recipient), The Pennsylvania State University (Grant Recipient), Jilin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Purdue University, Cornell University

Soybean is an essential source of protein, oil, and micronutrients in the Chinese diet. A primary limitation to soybean production in the weathered soils of South China is low soil phosphorus availability. This project addresses this constraint by developing improved soybean varieties with superior root traits which enable better adaptation to low P conditions and more efficient utilization of applied fertilizers. We are employing a systematic approach which includes:

1. Screening and selection of P-efficient soybean germplasm on low-P soils of South China;
2. Identification of important root traits which are useful for improving soybean's adaptation to low P soils;
3. Establishment of genetic systems for gene mapping, cloning and transformation for superior root traits and P efficiency;
4. Agroecological assessment of P-efficient new varieties and their cropping systems;
5. Evaluation of the agroeconomic and social impacts of the project; and
6. Interdisciplinary training and management programs to ensure efficient execution of the project and enhance the capacity of SCAU to

carry out independent agricultural research well into the future.

Our project builds on existing expertise in plant root biology, molecular biology, agroecology, and agroeconomics and the collaborative efforts of long-standing and newly established partnerships. This project will provide new insights into root biology, and the development of P efficient soybean germplasm would be a feasible and sustainable contribution to the food security of more than 700 million people in South China and billions more who live on weathered soils throughout the humid tropics.

## The Bean/Cowpea Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP)

### Improving Adaptation to Low Fertility Soil

Principal Investigators and Institutions: **Jonathan Lynch**, Professor of Plant Nutrition, Penn State University, Nestor Chavez, University of Costa Rica, Juan Carlos Rosas, Zamorano, Honduras

The Bean/Cowpea Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) is a research and training program that supports international research partnerships to increase the availability of beans and cowpeas. Participants, from the Latin America and Caribbean Region, East/Southern Africa Region, West Africa Region and the U.S., work in collaborative projects concentrating on all aspects of food handling from improved production technologies or strategies through food processing and the development of value-added products especially for urban markets". In 2003 we began a new subproject within the Latin America/Caribbean region to improve bean adaptation to low fertility soil. (Pictured below: Cowpea Seeds)



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## Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

Researchers: **Jonathan Lynch**, Professor of Plant Nutrition, **Raul Jaramillo**, Ph.D. HORT candidate, **Amelia Henry** Ph.D. IBIOS candidate, Collaboration Paul Backman, Professor of Plant Pathology

In 2006 we joined the SANREM (Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management) CRSP project. A description of the full project may be found at <http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanrem-crsp/>. Our component is focused on Ecuador, in collaboration with Professor Paul Backman at Penn State (<http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/p/a/pab24/>), and colleagues at INIAP, the national agricultural research organization of Ecuador. **Amelia Henry** and **Raul Jaramillo** are the two students in the lab who are involved in this project.



(Dr. Jonathan Lynch, Carlos Monar of INIAP discussing native vegetation with Quichua farmers)

The project focuses on high altitude subsistence agroecosystems from 1800 to 3500 masl in the Chimbo watershed in South Central Ecuador. This watershed flows from Mt. Chimborazo, the highest volcano on earth, into the Pacific Ocean near Guayaquil.

The watershed is home unique agroecosystems that are one of the centers of origin for several crops including maize, common bean, and a

variety of Andean crops that are important regionally. In recent decades the region has suffered deforestation and soil degradation that has reduced crop yields, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.



(Amelia Henry, local producer Juan Cesar Rec., and Raul Jaramillo)

Our goals in this project are twofold. To achieve positive impact on soil quality and crop productivity in the region, we are working with scientists at INIAP to promulgate erosion control practices in the regions with highest erosion risk. We are also interested in organic matter dynamics and carbon retention in high altitude Andisols, as a factor that may contribute to global warming.



(Maria Arguella, Amelia Henry, and Yamil Cartagena at a Paramo; natural grassland site)

Visit our website at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/jpl4/research/index.htm>

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## Training the Next Generation of Extension Educators in Guanajuato: Technology Applications for Production Agriculture (TAPA)

By: **Bill Lamont**, Professor of Vegetable Crops

The Pennsylvania State University and the University of Guanajuato, in collaboration with the Centro de Investigacion en Quimica Aplicada, are involved in a three year project to increase the production of locally produced horticultural crops by small growers in Mexico. The project takes a three-pronged approach to this goal by providing formal training, research collaboration and an outreach program to assist the Mexicans in reaching the small farmers with the latest information on the use of plastics in the production of horticultural crops.

Prior to the fall semester 2005, two Mexican graduate students, Sandra Flores-Mejia and Efrain Calderon Reyes from the University of Guanajuato arrived at Penn State for one year. In January 2006, three more students Esteban Rico Jaramillo, Cesar de Leon Guitierrez, and Gustavo Garcia Rodriquez arrived from University of Guanajuato for one year of training. The students have been taking courses in the Department of Horticulture, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Department of



(Cesar de Leon Guitierrez, Dr. Luis Ibarra, Efrain Calderon Reyes, Emily Cook, HORT, M.S. candidate, Esteban Rico Jaramillo, and Sandra Flores-Mejia)

Agricultural Economics, Department of Entomology, Department of Plant Pathology and Department of Agricultural Education and Extension.

In addition to their course work they are learning how to conduct applied research at The Pennsylvania State University's Center for Plasticulture and High Tunnel Research and Education Center. They have also been involved in marketing of horticultural products from the farm at the Department of Horticulture's retail outlet "The Cellar Market". The students have their own research project titled "Influence of Different Color Plastic Mulches on the Growth and Yield of Tomatoes and Peppers" which provides "hands-on" training on how to design an experiment, plant it, maintain it, collect data, analyze data and write up the results from the experiment.

The students have been actively involved in all the research projects at the Horticulture Research Farm, learning about the latest plasticulture technology. Also a Mexican researcher, Dr. Luis Ibarra from the Centro de Investigacion en Quimica Aplicada, Satillo, Mexico, spent three weeks at Penn State learning about what our faculty are doing in the field of plasticulture, and also sharing his research experiences on the use of plasticulture with the students and Penn State researchers.

The students have been actively involved in field days, workshops, on-farm visits, short courses, winter commodity meetings both in Pennsylvania and outside in New Hampshire, and Ohio. In the future, the students assisted by faculty from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Guanajuato will conduct outreach/demonstration programs on the farms of producers in Guanajuato, Mexico training the farmers on how to utilize plasticulture technology.

**Mike Orzolek**, Professor of Vegetable Crops and **Elsa Sanchez**, Assistant Professor of Horticulture Systems in the department will visit the University of Guanajuato in November and work with Sandra Flores-Mejia and Efrain Calderon Reyes in reaching out to the small growers with the latest plasticulture technology.

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## DUTCH HORTICULTURE TOUR: SUCCESSFUL AND FAR REACHING

By: **Jim Sellmer**, Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture

Continuing the tradition, started last spring with the England Garden Tour, 12 students ranging from sophomore to graduating senior (one Turfgrass; two Ag and Extension Education; three Landscape Contracting; and six Horticulture students with two representing Berks Campus and 10 representing University Park), and five faculty (Dennis Buffington, Ag and Bio Engineering; **Rick Bates**, Horticulture; **Dave Sanford**; Horticulture/Berks; **Kathy Kelley**; Horticulture; and **Jim Sellmer**, Horticulture) expanded their cultural and horticultural knowledge by first researching the trip sites during the spring semester followed by touring horticultural oriented businesses, gardens, and Wageningen University during a 10 day visit to the Netherlands.

For the students this trip was made financially affordable through assistance from Deanna Behring, Dir. of the College of Agricultural Sciences (CoAS) International Programs office; Dr. David Bender, Registrar and Dr. Carl Lovitt, Associate Dean at Penn State Berks Campus; Marcos Fernandez, Dean of Undergraduate Education (CoAS), and Warren Goll and the Penn State Southeastern Urban Agriculture Educators Group. In total the class visited 16 companies representing cut flowers, bulbs, pot plant, field



(Students, Faculty, and Guides)

tree nurseries, herbaceous perennials, vegetables, and tree fruit along with the Aalsmeer Flower Auction, Zurel Exporting Company, the Plantarium Nursery Sales Cooperative, Keukenhof Gardens and the Arboretum Trompenburg.

Tour group including one of our Netherlands tour coordinators, Niek Botden, President, HortiLink (second row, far right) and Sebastian Hogervorst, Sales Manager, Anthura B.V., our site tour guide (back row third from left) after touring Stolk Plants, anthurium growers.



(Keukenhof Gardens, Lisse, NL)

In order to visit all of the sites, we pushed hard everyday with few complaints. After landing at Schiphol Airport we spent the first day in Amsterdam trying to work off jetlag followed by a bright and early start at 6:00 AM the next day to catch the Aalsmeer Flower Auction in action. Capping off a busy day visiting businesses we ended the day at Keukenhof Gardens prior to arriving at our next hostel location and base camp in Rotterdam. Three nights in Rotterdam offered us the chance to tour the center of the nursery industry in Boskoop as well as numerous pot plant growers (e.g., Anthura B.V., Stolk Plants, and the Hebe Center), perennial grower Rijnbeek en Zoon, Rijk Zwaan Vegetable Seed Company, Sem Rose growers. Prior to moving eastward toward our next base camp hostel at Arnhem we visited Andre Ebben tree nursery followed by a weekend of free time with visits to Germany and Palais Het Loo, and a well deserved break from the schedule and the vans. Our tour finished with visits to van

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*Continued from Page 7*

Zijl sweet pepper producer, and De Singel Cut Wageningen University to learn about research and educational opportunities, B&P tree nursery, and a tree fruit producer. The tour culminated with a free day in Amsterdam.



(Aalsmeer Flower Auction)

The general consensus among the participants was that it was a great tour with something for nearly everyone.

Most of the participants were impressed by the efficiency of the companies, the amount of agriculture production much for export in such a small country and the friendliness of the people both our hosts and people on the street. The general view is that this is a tour that should be repeated. It appears obvious to me that between this course and tour and last year's garden tour of England that well targeted and organized study abroad programs can improve our knowledge and provide an excellent experience for both students and faculty. The greatest issue will be to make the programs sustainable and to develop other tours that offer a wealth of horticulture and landscape opportunities which would be worth repeating in a regular cycle over the years along with the Dutch Horticulture Tour. So, where do we go next, any suggestions and more importantly any willing organizers and donors?

## Horticulture Featured at Ag Progress Days



The Horticulture Department was featured in the main exhibit building at APD, August 15 – 17, 2006. This was a great opportunity for faculty, staff and graduate students to inform the public about the diverse research activities within the department, our educational programs, and career

opportunities for our students. Visitors learned that the activities in the Horticulture Department go far beyond gardening and crop production. In addition to highlighting our two majors, Horticulture and Landscape Contracting, there were exhibits providing an overview of the root ecology/physiology programs, the plant genetics/breeding programs, high tunnel research, and the vegetation management program. More than 30 Master Gardeners from all over the state manned a booth to answer gardening questions. Several faculty members led tours of the research plots at the Horticulture Research Farm. Five faculty members presented six talks in the theater on subjects such as flower arranging, edible flowers, vegetable varieties, cooking with vegetables, and the story of cocoa. The department also got some free publicity; the College sent out press releases describing the department and some newspapers followed up with more in-depth stories and short stories were also aired on public television and public radio.

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## Retirements

**Dr. David Beattie**, Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture, retired after 29 years of service in the Department of Horticulture at Penn State. Dave is a native of Rhode Island and majored in Horticulture at the University of Rhode Island. He received his M.S. degree at the University of Vermont and his PhD at Michigan State University. He joined the department in 1977 and was involved in teaching the Winter School. He also taught Herbaceous Perennial and Annual Identification, and Plant Propagation. In 2005 he developed the first course in the country in Green Roof Technology. Over the years his research interests involved studying various aspects of perennial crop physiology, but in recent years he has been passionately involved in developing the Center for Green Roof Research and promoting the environmental and social benefits of this emerging technology. Upon retirement, Dave moved to Oregon to live with his wife, his daughter and his new granddaughter.

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## Providing learning opportunities outside the classroom: The Hurricane Katrina service learning experience

During spring break in March, 50 Penn State students traveled to New Orleans, LA to provide assistance to agribusinesses affected by Hurricane Katrina. The goal of the trip was to help small business-owners with demolition, construction, and clean-up. To prepare for the trip, students enrolled in a three-credit course taught by **Kathleen Kelley**, Assistant Professor of Consumer Horticulture, Jennifer James, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Engineering, and David Riley, Associate Professor of Architectural Engineering. The course was titled 'Lagniappe' as this acronym is a Cajun term, used primarily in Southern Louisiana and Mississippi, that means an "unexpected something extra."

Students from throughout the university, half were from the College of Agricultural Sciences, attended class sessions before the trip to learn about:

- Agricultural, food, and horticultural industries in Louisiana.
- Logistical planning, teamwork, and leadership.
- Disaster-response planning, service learning, and to learn from other groups who had experiences with disaster relief in the area.
- Psychological effects of disasters.

In an effort to raise funds for the trip, a Clem's BBQ fundraiser was organized, during which the entire class served up ribs and chicken dinners to Penn Staters and the surrounding community.

After traveling to Louisiana by bus, the group visited the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, met with faculty and students in the College of Agriculture, had a traditional southern meal, and toured the campus. Then it was time to travel to New Orleans and get ready for the week ahead.

During the week, the group helped complete a va-

riety of tasks at Guillot's Nursery, such as: clearing-out debris, straightening-up a hoop-house structure, and installing insulation and wallboard and painting the interior of the retail space. The nursery had sustained severe damage from wind and was flooded with three-feet of water. Weed fabric was replaced, bulbs and seedlings were potted-up, and small fig trees were pruned at three nurseries in Plaquemines Parish. It was evident that finding reliable labor was an issue for these businesses, as one operation saw their work force decrease in size from a crew of 20 to one full-time staff member. Efforts also included salvaging plants that had survived the flood and cleaning out and gutting the Pelican Greenhouse in City Park of New Orleans. Some members of the group also built a lean-to potting shed and restored a bathroom, while others planted shrubs and weeded the grounds at the botanical garden on the property.

A tour of regions in New Orleans affected by the levee breaches demonstrated the extent of the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and the amount of destruction that still remained. Several students expressed that images shown on television and the Internet and published in newspapers and magazines just don't convey the amount of damage the hurricane caused. The following day, the group was able to help a family, whose home had suffered extensive damage, by removing personal belongings and gutting the home, a preliminary step in having the structure demolished. The family hopes to rebuild their house and continue to live in the city where they were born, grew up, and grew to love.

A few days after the group returned from New Orleans, the last class session was held so that everyone could share their personal experiences and feelings. A web site was developed that houses course and trip information, and can be found at: <http://psulagniappe.com>. Articles were also published on-line and in-print, such as Penn State Agriculture, a biyearly publication for alumni, students, and friends of the college. A detailed article documenting the effort can be found at the following web site: <http://www.aginfo.psu.edu/psa/06SumFall/Break.html>.

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## Alumni News

### Where Are They Now?

#### Class of 1950

John W. Early (B.S. HORT)- Hummelstown, PA  
Retired after 21 years, sold my flower shop in 1994 to Royer's Flowers; continued working part time but spend Feb.-Mar. on Sanibel Island, Fl.

#### Class of 1952

Aden H. Francis (B. S. POMOLOGY)  
Retired after 20 years with FMC corp & Rhone-Poolene (new bayer)

#### Class of 1955

Harrison Yocum (HORT)-Tuscon, AZ  
Retired from the university of Arizona in 1976, currently an instructor for Pima College prospecting rocks & minerals. Founded Tuscon Botanical Gardens in 1966. Gives tour of his back yard which includes rock towers, totems, and exotic cati and palms.

#### Class of 1965

Frederick W. Davis (B.S. FLOR)-Wyomissing, PA  
Retired Febuary 2006, PSU Cooperative Extension S. E. Region Director; former owner of Davis Florists, Wernersville, PA

#### Class of 1968

Richard C. Funt - Columbus, OH  
Retired as professor emeritus from Ohio State Univ. Department of Horticulture and Crop Science in January 2005. Owns and operates Carobeth Berry Farms in Frazeyburg, OH.

#### Class of 1978

Eva Monheim (B.S. HORT) - Glenside, PA  
Oak Leaf Productions; Horticultural Consultant, Designer, Garden Writer, and Lecturer; Faculty member at Temple University

#### Class of 1980

Kathy Magnuson Long (B.S. HORT) - Kane, PA  
Stay at home mom; recently completed piano tuning/technician course;self-employed piano tuner (AOK PianoTuning).

#### Class of 1989

Patti (Durick) Petrosko (B.S. HORT)- Latrobe, PA  
1995 M.S. Biology from Duquesne Univ.;  
Laboratory Technician in Biomedical Research at Univ. of Pittsburgh

#### Class of 1997

Jason Ingram (B.S. LSCPE)- Newport News, VA  
7th season as Landscape Supervisor at Busch Gardens & Water County USA, Williamsburg, VA; Married in 2003 to Jodie Lynn.

Tim Kessler (B.S. LSCPE) - Glen Rock, PA  
Started landscape company in spring of '04, Summit Landscape Development, Inc.; Married with one daughter.

#### Class of 1998

Craig Atkins (B.S. LSCPE) - Alexandria, VA  
2000 received masters of Landscape Architecture from North Carolina State Univ.; Associate with Lee and Associates based in Washington DC; Licensed Landscape Architect; LEED accredited Professional; Married with one child.

Trina Shubert Patton (B.S. HORT)- Glenside, PA  
Homemaking mother of three children.

#### Class of 1999

Travis Frey (B.S. HORT) - Huxley, IA  
Married in 2002 to Heidi; 2002 M.S. from Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison in plant Breeding and Plant Genetics; 2005 Ph.D. from Univ. of Delaware in Plant Science and Plant Biology and Biotechnology; Working for Monsanto Co. as a Discovery Corn Breeder.

#### Class of 2001

Joseph Bollinger (B.S. LSCPE) - Orlando, FL  
I work for the christian non-profit org. campus crusade for Christ. I've been promoted to "Production Manager" for nine countries in west africa to record the last 50 languages there onto the film "Jesus". I'm scheduled to move to Ghana for nine monthsto do this work and continuing in this position through 2010.

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Lee Ann (Pramuk) Moccaldi (B.S. HORT) -  
Smithfield, PA  
2003 M.S. Michigan State Univ.; Working  
for Olglevee Ltd. in clean sstock and R & D;  
Married with one son born in November 2005.

#### Class of 2003

Bill McDowell (B.S. LSCPE) - Aliquippa, PA  
Started Nittany Landscape Contracting and  
Lawn Service, Inc.

### **Horticulture Alum Selected for National Award**

Dan Boyer of Ridgetop Orchards in Fishertown, PA was named 2006 Fruit grower of the Year by the American/Western Fruit Grower magazine. The Apple Grower of the Year award honors those growers who demonstrate excellence in production and marketing, and professionalism in representing their industry. Eligible growers must be actively involved in operating or managing a commercial apple orchard, must be skilled horticulturists, and must display a record of service to the apple industry.

“The Apple Grower of the Year program is designed to salute a grower who embodies several qualities that make him or her stand out in the industry, including leadership, innovative production and marketing skills, and operating a successful orchard,” said Brian Sparks, editor of American/Western Fruit Grower magazine. “The program recognizes those growers who can serve as the best example to their peers.”

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### **Koide’s Sabbatical Study Leave**

**Dr. Roger Koide**, Professor of Horticultural Ecology, took a sabbatical study leave during the 2005 fall semester to further his research on mycorrhizae. Mycorrhizae are fungi that form a symbiotic relationship with plant roots, and often enhance the plant’s ability to extract water and nutrients

from the soil. Dr. Koide spent much of the semester in his lab developing and improving methods to identify the taxonomic categories of mycorrhizae in forest trees based on enzyme activity. He also did some traveling to establish collaborative research efforts with plant ecologists at Northern Arizona University and in Santa Barbara California.

### **Rob Crassweller Visits Ukraine**

During the month of June, Rob Crassweller, Professor of Tree Fruit, worked with a group of apple growers in Ukraine. He lived in the small town of Vlasivk about 3 hours south east of Kiev and worked with the Khirovograd Orchard Association. He visited with the fruit growers and helped them with production problems they were experiencing, and learned how they were growing their fruit. The visit was arranged by the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs (CNFA). The area is relatively new to producing apples and pears and the growers were trying to establish new markets for their fruit. Most of the trees were on M.9 or MM.106 rootstocks but they also had some of the new Russian Budagovsky rootstocks. They were growing some of the newer European apple cultivars such as Ligol, Elstar, Jonagold, Pinova and Zampion as well as standards such as Golden Delicious, Gala and Mutsu; plus some local cultivars. The region is known for its rich deep fertile soils. In former times this was known as the ‘bread basket’ for the Soviet Union. Unfortunately, since the break up of the Soviet Union the country has fallen on hard times with little foreign investment and a deteriorating infrastructure. They are further hampered by a lack of good cold storage facilities so they must sell all their fruit immediately in the fall. Most of the orchards he visited were young although there are some that have been established for 15 or more years. At the end of his visit he gave a presentation to the members of the Association on production practices utilized in the United States.

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## Collaboration with China

**Jori Sharda**, Ph.D. candidate in Integrative BioSciences and **David Eissenstat**, Professor of Woody Plant Physiology, spent two weeks in China in June building collaborations with Chinese Scientists. The first week they lectured and interacted with graduate students in the Tree Physiology and Forest Ecology laboratories at Peking University, Beijing, and Northeast Forestry University, Harbin, on various questions associated with root biology and ecology of forest trees. The second week they spent at South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, lecturing and interacting with scientists in the Root Biology Research Center. The researchers have common interests on questions of root costs and root nutrient acquisition, particularly of grape and litchi. Collaborations will continue to be built on projects of mutual interest that will help “bring to light” this poorly understood part of the plant.

## Horticulture Department Items for Sale



Please contact Tracey Harpster at 814-865-3190 or TLH8@psu.edu.

## In Memoriam

### Russell E. Larson

Russell E. Larson, former Head of the Horticulture Department, Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Provost of Penn State University, died November 30, 2005. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Jan. 2, 1917 and grew up on dairy

farms in Wisconsin. He received from the University of Minnesota a BS degree in agriculture (1939) and M.S. (1940) and Ph.D. (1942) degrees in genetics and breeding. His career in teaching, research, and administration began as an Assistant Professor at the University of Rhode Island (1941). He joined the Department of Horticulture at the Pennsylvania State University as Assistant Professor of Plant Breeding (1944) and rapidly moved through the academic ranks, achieving full Professor in 1944. As his leadership skills were soon recognized, he subsequently moved through the administrative ranks at the university. His administrative appointments included Department Head (1952), Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension (1962), Dean College of Agriculture and Director of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Agricultural Experiment Station (1963), and culminated with his appointment as Provost of the University (1972). He retired from the university in 1977 with the rank of Professor Emeritus of Horticulture and Provost Emeritus.

Dr. Larson was the driving force for relocating and developing the plant sciences center away from the congested main campus at University Park. Dr. Larson was authorized by the University President to seek land for a new research farm because the university needed more classrooms and housing to serve the huge influx of students in the decades after World War II and more and more of the field research areas on campus were being used for this purpose. As a result of many years of effort the University was able to purchase 2,000 acres in Rock Springs. Collectively, the University Board of Trustees dedicated the farms in 1990 as the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center. The Larson Research Center is a premiere research center for plant science research and is host to the Horticulture Farm, Agronomy Farm, Plant Pathology Farm, and Entomology Farm at Penn State University where innovative and groundbreaking research continues to be conducted.

Among the many appointments and honors received by Dr. Larson were the Leonard H.

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Vaughan Research Award (1949), University of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement (1961), Chairman, Commission on Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources (NCR-NAS (1966-70), Member Board of Overseers Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University (1968-74), Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS ) (1971), and the John E. Wilkinson Administrative Excellence at the Pennsylvania State University (1976). He was elected and served as President of the American Society for Horticultural Science in 1964 and was named a Fellow in 1965.

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### **Richard Stinson**

Dr. Richard Stinson, 85, of State College, died Friday, May 12, 2006, at The Atrium at The Village at Penn State. Richard graduated from Ohio State University, earning bachelor's and master's degrees and a Ph.D. He was a professor at the State University of New York's School of Agriculture in Alfred, N.Y., 1947 to 1948, the University of Connecticut, 1948 to 1955, Michigan State University, 1955 to 1967, and Penn State University, 1967 to 1991, where he retired as Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Education and Horticulture. He was a member of Alpha Tau Alpha, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Delta Kappa, Sigma Xi, The American Association of Teacher Educators in Agriculture, The American Society for Horticultural Science, American Vocational Association, the National Association of Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, and the Pennsylvania Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association.

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### **Chiko Haramaki**

Dr. Haramaki joined the staff of the College of Agriculture of The Pennsylvania State University September 1, 1957 as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Haramaki was a native of Hawaii, California. He earned a B.S. degree at Oregon State University, a M.S. degree at the University of Illinois and the Ph.D. at the Ohio State University.

Dr. Haramaki was very much involved in the educational program of the department. He

taught courses in plant propagation and arboriculture and maintenance. He also taught special problems courses, advises undergraduate students and supervises graduate students specializing in ornamental horticulture. He was always active in the Hort Show by his own involvement and the participation of his students and classes in the construction of previous shows.

Dr. Haramaki's research was concerned primarily with asexual reproduction in ornamental plants with special emphasis on micropropagation to induce and multiply plantlets in vitro from plant tissue. His research initially focused on tissue culture of ornamental plants, and he took a sabbatic leave to study with Murishigi, one of the founders of the classic tissue culture media. Chiko was also involved in the methods of weed control in ornamental crops, an area in which he worked until his retirement. Chiko had been involved in variety testing of ornamental plants and the utilization of deciduous tree bark as a mulching material. Dr. Haramaki was active in the Flower Field Days and the Nurserymen's Conference both of which are annual events on campus.

Dr. Haramaki was a member of the American Society for Horticulture Science, International Plant Propagators Society, International Shade Tree Conference, Northeastern Weed Science Society, and Weed Science Society of America. He has been an active participant in all societies serving on a number of committees. He is also a member of Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, Phi Epsilon Phi, Pi Alpha Xi and Sigma Xi. After his retirement Chiko moved to Bradenton, Florida, where he was active in several environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club. When he lived in Florida he was active in the Audubon society and took part in seasonal local bird counts. He maintained an extensive collection of wild and cultivated plants native to the Florida area at his Bradenton home. On his trips to California to visit family he tried his hand at fly fishing under the direction of his sister.

## Off-Campus Activities

The Department of Horticulture conducts research and extension projects around the state to determine the performance of new varieties and production practices under various conditions. Many of these projects are actually conducted by or in cooperation with county educators. Below is a brief description of some of these activities.

### Landisville Trial Gardens

The Southeast Agriculture Research & Extension Center (SEAR & EC) is located in Landisville in Lancaster County. The 106 acres at the Center are used by the Departments of Crop and Soil Science, Entomology, Horticulture and Plant Pathology plus the USDA and some county extension educators. The research involves cultivar testing of corn, soybean, small grain, forages, annual and perennial flowers, flowering crabapples, small fruits, tomatoes, pumpkin and other horticultural crops. Several county educators are conducting horticulture variety trials at the Center to obtain information from which to base variety recommendations. Learn more about the Center at: <http://research.cas.psu.edu/Landisville/default.htm>

### Penn State Trial Gardens

Flower varieties are evaluated at University Park for nearly 70 years, but during the past few years the SEAR&EC has become the primary site of



Landisville Field Trials



Visitors During Field Day at Landisville

the flower trials. Alan Michael, county educator in Dauphin County coordinates the large flower trial with more than 800 plants. Alan has an open house each summer. Check out the website (<http://trialgardens.cas.psu.edu/>) and visit the trial gardens during the open house.

Tim Elkner, County Educator in Lancaster County, is evaluating a number of varieties of vegetables and small fruits and he is evaluating some of the vegetables in a high tunnel.



Warren Goll, County Educator in Delaware County, conducts a large Poinsettia variety trial each fall with more than 100 varieties.

In the past this trial has been conducted at Delaware Valley College, but it is moving to Dan Schantz Farm & Greenhouse in Zionsville and may be at the SEAR&EC next year. Learn more about poinsettia trials at: <http://trialgardens.cas.psu.edu/poinsettia.html>



Steve Bogash, County Educator in Franklin

County, is evaluating flower varieties and production methods for the fresh cut flower market.

The Lake Erie Regional Grape & Extension Center is a 40-acre facility 15 miles east of Erie. There are about 10 research projects being conducted by Penn State faculty. Dr. Rob Crassweller has a cherry trial at the Center and plans are being made for a grape variety trial that will be duplicated in Adams County. You can learn more about the Center at: <http://research.cas.psu.edu/Erie/default.htm>.

The Fruit Research & Education Center, located in Biglerville, Adams County, is a 125-acre facility with six faculty members studying all aspects of tree fruit and grape.

The Pennsylvania Roadside Research Project was initiated in 1985 to assist the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Bureau of Maintenance and Operations in the ongoing development of its roadside vegetation management program. The original focus was on the evaluation of materials and methods for selective brush control, Canada thistle management in crownvetch, and growth regulation of roadside tall fescue turf; and to serve as an unbiased information source for the evaluation of emerging vegetation management technologies. The Project focus has expanded to include all aspects of roadside vegetation management, using the Integrated Pest Management, or more specifically, Integrated Vegetation Management approach. The aim is to preserve as much desirable vegetation as possible while minimizing undesirable vegetation and maintaining a desirable aesthetic, within the confines of finite resources. Examples of some of the ongoing research and demonstrations include management of specific weed species, such as tree-of-heaven, Japanese knotweed, and Canada thistle; evaluation of alternative plant materials for roadside conservation plantings, such as native warm-season grasses and forbs; and evaluations of corridor management approaches, equipment, and herbicides. Visit the roadside vegetation management website at <http://rvm.cas.psu.edu/>

## BLUE & WHITE POTATO CHIPS

Now available Blue and White Potato Chips for your tailgating and partying pleasure this fall. This is the first time these chips have been offered and they will be the hit of your party. They are currently being sold in our departments Cellar Market. <http://horticulture.psu.edu/dept/veggie-cellar/index.html>

This is a research/marketing project undertaken by the Department's of Horticulture and Food Science in cooperation with Utz Quality Foods, Inc. and Huntsinger Farms. For more information Contact Bill Lamont, [wlamont@psu.edu](mailto:wlamont@psu.edu)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 30- February 1, 2007	Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conference Hershey, PA
February 14-15, 2007	2007 Christmas Tree Management Short Course State College, PA
February 6-8, 2007	2007 PLNA Conference State College, PA
March 4-11, 2007	Philadelphia Flower Show Philadelphia, PA
August 14-16, 2007	Ag Progress Days Rock Springs, PA

## Alumni News: We Want to Hear from You!

Please take a minute to share what has happened to you recently: new positions, promotions, advanced degree(s), births of children, professional recognitions, retirements, marriages, etc. (Feel free to send photos!)

Mail to: Dept. of Horticulture, Attn: Alumni Newsletter, The Pennsylvania State University, 102 Tyson Building, University Park, PA 16802 or email [hortpsu@psu.edu](mailto:hortpsu@psu.edu)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class of 19\_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s), Major \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your news: new positions, recognitions, retirements, promotions, degree(s), births of children, marriages, etc.

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\*\*\*\* If you wish to receive the newsletter via email please email Erika Stover, [ess9@psu.edu](mailto:ess9@psu.edu), and place Alumni newsletter electronically in the subject area. Thank you. \*\*\*\*

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Department of Horticulture  
The Pennsylvania State University  
102 Tyson Building  
University Park, PA 16802

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