

# Horticulture Alumni Newsletter

Department of Horticulture  
College of Agricultural Sciences

Issue No. 5, Fall 2008



*Landscape Contracting  
Juniors at IST Building*



*Ag 150 students during a  
greenhouse tour*



*Red Bull Break During  
Landscape Contracting  
Students' Spring Projects*



*Landscape Contracting Seniors at  
Boucke Building*



*Green Roofs*



*Flower  
arrangement  
for Nittany  
Lion Inn*



*Class Field Trip at the  
Strawberry Research Fields*



*Landscape Contracting Students  
Planting at Old Main*



*Class Identification*



*Flower arrangement  
for Nittany Lion Inn*



*Class Identification*

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## Message from the Department Head

**T**he College of Agricultural Sciences is finalizing its new 5-year strategic plan and we have started developing our department plan, so this seems like a good time to reflect on our strengths and opportunities for the future. We are one of only a handful of truly comprehensive Horticulture departments remaining in the country. Because horticultural expertise is declining in most states, our educational programs are drawing horticultural producers from surrounding states and we are becoming recognized as the primary source of research-based horticultural information in the region. Many land-grant universities have responded to budget cuts by reallocating resources from education and extension into basic research where there are opportunities for faculty to obtain large grants. I am proud to be part of a university that continues to invest in production agriculture, but should we be expected to support horticultural industries in states that are ignoring commercial agriculture? One of our challenges will involve obtaining support from producers in surrounding states who benefit from our programs.

Dr. Marcos Fernandez, Associate Dean for Resident Education in our college, recently provided us with data on undergraduate graduation numbers at our peer institutions. According to his data from all land-grant schools, Penn State has the largest enrollment in the plant sciences, and we have the third largest enrollment of horticulture-related majors. The bad news is that plant science enrollment continues to decline nationally. At Penn State, our enrollment has been fairly steady for the past few years, so we are doing better than most schools. All of this is happening at a time when recognition for horticulture is increasing: gardening is the most popular outdoor activity in the country; research is verifying that a healthy diet requires increased consumption of fruits and vegetables; the landscape contracting and maintenance industries continue to grow; and for the first time, the new farm bill includes funding for specialty crops (fruits, vegetables, nuts, and ornamental crops). There are many small horticultural businesses starting up around the state and, with increasing transportation costs and consumer demand for locally produced food, there seems to be increasing opportunities for our graduates. We have made some efforts to recruit students, but we must increase our student recruitment activities. If you know high school students who are interested in horticultural-related careers, please send them our way.

As public funding for higher education has declined, universities have been forced to find other sources of funding to maintain teaching, extension and applied research programs because university costs increase at a rate greater than overall inflation. Applied

departments, such as Horticulture, must find new ways to support our programs. The PennDel Chapter of the International Arboriculture Society provided a great example of an industry investing in its future and in our programs. The Chapter committed funds to support a part-time instructor in arboriculture, the College of Agricultural Sciences matched their contribution, and this allows us to teach three arboriculture courses and we now offer a new minor in Arboriculture. During the year we will be meeting with horticultural industry leaders to develop strategies to endow positions so we can continue to offer quality programs in resident education and extension. We hope you will be able to support our efforts.

Have a great fall!

Rich Marini

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## Hort Alumni Update

**T**his year has not been very active for the Hort Alumni Group. Mary and Tracey did not teach winter continuing education classes due to personal obligations. These classes are the big money maker for the group. The group did make corsages for fall and spring graduations and will receive compensation from the Ag Alumni Society.

Help us! We are looking for ways to rejuvenate the group. In years past, there was a nice sized group of active members that would get together a few times a year for Alumni activities (tailgating, corsage sales, teaching classes, social events). This has dropped to 2 active members. Please send us your thoughts, suggestions and comments. We are all ears!

The two upcoming events where we can gather and make a difference are: Hort Show (October 18-19) and the Ag Tailgate, now called AgLive (November 22).

Tracey Harpster, [tlh8@psu.edu](mailto:tlh8@psu.edu) and Mary Wodecki [mjw174@psu.edu](mailto:mjw174@psu.edu)



## Organic Horticulture at Penn State

Consumer demand is increasing for food that is produced by organic farmers that are certified under the national organic program. Penn State was a little slow to get into organic agriculture, but the College of Agricultural Sciences is making a commitment to Organic Horticulture. We plan to develop a minor in organic horticulture and this spring a course in Organic Agriculture was taught by three faculty members in the college. Next year another new course in organic Horticulture will be offered for the first time. In addition to teaching organic horticulture we are receiving more requests for information on organic farming, so extension bulletins, web-based information and grower talks and field days are being developed.

Until recently there was little good research-based information on organic farming, so research projects have been developed to support our teaching and extension efforts. Dr. Elsa Sánchez has land at the Horticulture Farm at Rock Springs that is certified organic. To be certified organic, a piece of land must be treated for three years with only organic practices. A project involving organic production of Bell peppers was recently completed. Organic fungicides were evaluated on red raspberries and two high tunnels have been certified organic. Some crops may be easier to produce with organic practices in high tunnels because weeds and diseases are less of a problem when the soil and plants remain dry. To learn more about producing berries and vegetables with organic practices visit the site at:

[http://hortweb.cas.psu.edu/dept/faculty/sanchez/sustainable\\_horticulture/index.htm](http://hortweb.cas.psu.edu/dept/faculty/sanchez/sustainable_horticulture/index.htm).

There is also an organic apple research orchard at the Fruit Research & Extension center in Biglerville, where horticulturists, plant pathologists, entomologists, and an agricultural economist are working together to evaluate the feasibility of growing apples for both the fresh and processing markets. The orchard was established with a new disease-resistant variety to eliminate the need to control early-season diseases. Organic methods of controlling insects, summer diseases, and weeds are being evaluated. In addition, methods are being evaluated to thin excess fruit from the trees to ensure fruit quality and annual cropping. After several years, the results are promising and the project has attracted the attention of fruit growers in the mid-Atlantic region, attracting large numbers of organic and conventional fruit growers at field days. As the fruit industry continues to become sustainable, using practices that are environmentally friendly and economically feasible, some of these organic methods will be adopted by the majority of the industry. Learn more about organic apple research at:

<http://www.aginfo.psu.edu/psa/08WinSpr/organicag.html>.

## The Arboretum at Penn State



The first phase of the H. O. Smith Botanic Gardens in The Arboretum at Penn State is under way. The project involves a tract of approximately 35 acres fronting on Park Avenue. Below is a tentative schedule for the development of the Botanic Gardens. Learn more at <http://www.arboretum.psu.edu/>.

- September 2007 through July 2008 – A contractor removed and stockpiled topsoil to install utilities, and did bulk grading to prepare the site for construction. A great deal of fill was moved from the Dickinson Law School site to the Arboretum, at a great savings to both projects. Fine grading and spreading the topsoil will continue through October.
- August and September, 2008 – The foundations will be laid for the walled gardens and the overlook pavilion, and concrete will be formed and poured for the lotus pool.
- October, 2008 – Work will begin on stone and stucco for the garden walls, masonry and steel for the pavilion's portico and two wings, and plumbing for the fountain.
- November, 2008 – The rose arbor, a major structure, will be built and the fountain will be completed. Work will commence on the irrigation system and on the roof of overlook facilities.
- December, 2008 – Garden structures, event lawn irrigation, and aggregate walkways will be finished, and planting beds prepared. The roof and windows of the pavilion will be installed and work will begin on interior walls.
- January, 2009 – Light fixtures for the event lawn walkway will be installed and interior work in the pavilion's two wings will continue.
- February and March, 2009 – Work on the pavilion structures will be finished.
- April, 2009 – The parking lot's final bituminous surface will be laid.
- May, 2009 – Planting will be completed



*Horticulture Club students help with official ground breaking for the Arboretum on November 2, 2007*



# Awards and Recognitions

## Students

The college awarded eight students internship awards for 2007, two of the eight students were from our department. **Kimberly Oellerich**, Horticulture, was awarded for her internship at Walt Disney World and **David Silliman**, Landscape Contracting, was awarded for his internship at Clarke O. Warner Landscape Maintenance.

## Faculty

**David Sanford**, Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture at Penn State Berks, was elected Treasure and a member of the Board of Directors of the Perennial Plant Association at their annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio August 2007. The Perennial Plant Association, incorporated in 1984, is a trade association of more than 2,000 members in the United States, Canada and 10 other countries. The PPA is dedicated to the improvement of the herbaceous perennial plant industry by providing education to enhance the production, promotion and utilization of perennial plants.

**Elsa Sanchez** received the “Outstanding Researcher in Sustainable Agriculture” Award at the annual Pennsylvania Certified Organic conference.

**Charles Heuser**, Professor of Horticulture Physiology, received recognition for his 35 years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Jay Holcomb**, Professor of Floriculture, received recognition for his 30 years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Roger Koide**, Professor of Horticultural Ecology, received recognition for his 15 years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Bill Lamont**, Professor of Vegetable Crops, received recognition for his 10 years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Guo-Yang Lin**, Senior Research Associate, received recognition for his 10 years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Martin McGann**, Associate Professor of Landscape Contracting, received recognition for his 10 years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Elsa Sanchez**, Assistant Professor of Horticultural Systems, received recognition for her 5 years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.

The Environment and Natural Resources Institute, ENRI, Innovation Award recognizes College of Agricultural Sciences faculty, extension educators, and staff who have made outstanding and innovative contributions in the environmental and natural resources field.

**Dennis Decoteau**, Professor of Horticulture and Plant Ecosystem Health, was one of two recipients of the 2007 ENRI Innovation Award. This award recognizes Dennis Decoteau’s innovative work addressing the effects of environmental stressors on plant growth and development, especially the impact of air quality on terrestrial ecosystems, and his leadership in coordinating the Air Quality Learning and Demonstration Center.

**Elsa Sanchez**, promoted to Associate Professor of Horticultural Systems Management with tenure.

**David Sanford**, Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture at Penn State Berks, has been awarded the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA) Exceptional Leadership Award for 2008. The award honors an individual who goes above and beyond to represent the association, and who dedicates time and effort towards the advancement of PLNA and the horticulture industry. Sanford was chosen to be the recipient of the award based on his efforts in hosting the Certified Landscape Technician (CLT) Exam at the Berks Campus since 2003.

**Pete Ferretti**, Professor Emeritus of Vegetable Crops, and **Kathy Kelley**, Associate Professor of Horticulture Marketing and Business Management, earned the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation Gold Award in August of 2007. This award recognizes two years or 4,000 hours and dedication to volunteer service and signifies service to their community and the country with distinction.

**Dave Sanford**, Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture at Penn State Berks, has received the “Outstanding Advising Award” and “Outstanding Service Award” for Berks Campus.

**Bonnie Mc Donald**, Facilities Coordinator, received recognition for her 15 years of service to the College of Agricultural Sciences.

**Kathy Kelley**, Associate Professor Horticulture Marketing and Business Management, was a co-recipient of the \$150,000 Arthur W. Nesbitt Faculty Program Development Award in support of her research on viable outlets for Pennsylvania-grown apples and value-added apple products. Dr. Kelley will use her funding to investigate the market for Pennsylvania-grown organic apples and to learn more about the potential to market horticultural products through various outlets.



**Dr. Louise Comas** joined the research faculty of the Horticulture Department during the fall of 2007 as a Research Associate. Her position is funded by a NSF grant she secured with a collaborator, Dr. Hilary Callahan, at Barnard College of Columbia University.



**William Stoner**, Horticulture Aide/Machine Operator at the Horticulture Research Farm. Bill transferred to our department in September of 2007.



**Guo-Yang Lin**, Senior Research Associate, was issued his US citizenship in November 2007



**Mike Mohny** joined the department in July as an instructor in Landscape Contracting. He will be teaching HORT 120 during the fall semester and HORT 220 during Spring semester.

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## New faces in the Department



Kirsten ‘Kirsty’ Lloyd joined the Department during February 2008 as a Project Associate with the Vegetation Management Team which includes Art Gover and Jon Johnson. Kirsty will be working on the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) project conducting research and providing outreach education to the roadside vegetation management specialists employed by PennDOT.



# COMMENCEMENT

## HORTICULTURE B.S. DEGREE FALL 2007

Matthew Lamberski, Jessica Lenker

## HORTICULTURE MINOR FALL 2007

Brandon Allison, Shana Boyd, Tara Chrzanowski, Sonia Erb, Zachery Hammaker

## LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING B.S. DEGREE FALL 2007

Aaron Berkstresser, Sonia Erb, Stephen Fluck, Marc Franks, Andrew Fuscisick, Lynn Galloway, Shaun Greenland, Zachery Hammaker, Matthew Hood, Devin Kennedy, Werlin Martinez, Mark Mazalewski, Sean Morettini, Kimberlee Oplinger, James Stinley, Gabriel Thomas, Brett Zahniser

## HORTICULTURE M.S. DEGREE FALL 2007

Ben Hoover

## HORTICULTURE PH.D. DEGREE FALL 2007

Janine Conklin

## HORTICULTURE M. AGR. DEGREE SPRING 2008

Michael Mohny

## HORTICULTURE M.S. DEGREE SPRING 2008

Graham Sanders

## HORTICULTURE B.S. DEGREE SPRING 2008

Jordan Fairchild, Crystal Hoffman, Stephanie Lenhart, Melissa Mazurkewicz, Johanna Mirenda, Hope Pflieger, Patricia Stefanick, Stephen Stubna, Kacee Wheeland

## HORTICULTURE MINOR SPRING 2008

Nathan Cooper, Gregory Crews, Karlee Curatola, Steven Johnston, Ryan Kiehl, Susan McConnell, James Moran, George Ruvarac, Rebecca Seigworth

## LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING B.S. DEGREE SPRING 2008

James Broderick, William Cahill, Anthony Capotosto, Nathan Cooper, Melissa Cox, Gregory Crews, Jeffery Deegan, Elizabeth Egan, R. Andrew Gabries, James Gillialand, Thomas Jastrem, Eric Kobb, Jeffrey Krezo, Ross McAllister, Andrew Myers, Michael Nitroy, Joseph Pascucci, Jaison Vanhorn

## HORTICULTURE M.S. DEGREE SUMMER 2008

Bethany Mathie

## HORTICULTURE PH. D. DEGREE SUMMER 2008

Luis Valenzuela

## HORTICULTURE B.S. DEGREE SUMMER 2008

Michael Knox

## LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING B.S. DEGREE SUMMER 2008

Jenna Curley, Robert Kasper, Gregory Komar, Toni McLaughlin, Joseph Peterson, Alejandro Wells



# Solar Decathlon Competition

*-Jonie Caruthers, Senior Horticulture*

During the summer of 2007 Kenny Myers & I along with the assistance of Seth Wilberding from Landscape Architecture grew all of the edible plant material for Penn State's entry in the 2007 Solar Decathlon competition. This international competition was sponsored by the Department of Energy and was held from October 12-20 on the National Mall in Washington D.C. The Solar Decathlon is a competition in which 20 teams of college and university students who are selected from entrants around the world are challenged to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective, and energy-efficient solar-powered house. The Solar Decathlon is also an event to which the public is invited to observe the powerful combination of solar energy, energy efficiency, and the best in home design.

I became involved in the project during spring 07 through Hort 368. A group of Landscape Contracting students teamed up with a group of students from Landscape Architecture to come up with components of the site that would complement the house, be functional and hold educational value as well. Even though the site was not part of the competition we thought it would help make the house more attractive to the public and show what a modular landscape could do. At the end of the semester I suggested that we grow the vegetables for the competition that would be ready for harvest for the competition in October. I enlisted Kenny's help on the project and we began planting at the end of May. We grew everything from tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, corn, cucumbers, spinach, beets and much more.

On October 9, 2007 the plants were loaded into a box truck and taken to D.C. for the competition. I was able to head down on Tuesday of the next week to see all of the entries; they were all interesting and innovative to say the least. It was very rewarding to see all of our vegetables in place rather than just on the benches in the greenhouse. The day after the competition the team was able to pass out the fruits of our labor to children and their parents from the city to enjoy. Many of them had no idea what some things were or how they grew. They thought they came from the grocery store. Seeing pictures of that made it all worthwhile for me.

In the end Penn State finished fourth place overall. The team from Germany was first, the University of Maryland was second and Santa Clara University from California finished 4 points ahead of us to take third place honors. I think everyone involved in this project will take something away from this experience, it was an enormous undertaking overseen by Dr. Dave Riley from Architecture which involved over 900 students ideas, suggestions and hard work over the two year period. I know it is something I will never forget.



I would personally like to thank everyone in the department that contributed to the success of this project. I couldn't have done it without you, especially Kenny your knowledge and wisdom was greatly appreciated.

For a complete list of participating Universities and individual competitions check out the Solar Decathlon website at [www.solardecathlon.org](http://www.solardecathlon.org)

## Lower Hudson Valley Tour Provides Great Experience for LSCPE Students

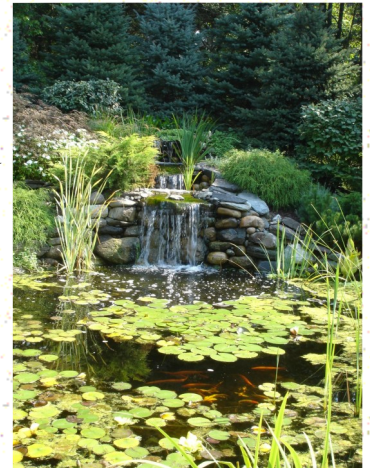
*-Martin McGann, Associate Professor of Landscape Contracting*

The annual Fall Field Trip for landscape contracting students (September 20-22, 2007) provided a great opportunity this year to experience some wonderful landscapes, meet with a variety of professionals in the green industry, and for the junior and senior students to get to know one another. The trip was centered on the lower Hudson Valley and involved visiting theme gardens, design build and interior landscaping firms, a Catskill Mountain resort, and a full service garden center. Fourteen students were able to participate and were well rewarded for their efforts.

Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

John Minnie Landscapes was our first stop. This upscale firm specializes in interior-scaping and holiday decorations for large residential and corporate clients.

One project of note that they are particularly proud was the refurbished Winter Garden at the World Trade Center which was destroyed during the 9/11. Minnie Landscapes participated in completely re-landscaping the restored structure which included thirty foot palm trees and large interior beds for shrubs and seasonal color. In addition, a large portion of their business is creating interior and exterior holi-



*Residential Landscape developed by Scott Neave*

day decorations for their clients. This is no small part of their operation, as the storage and assembly facility is 300 feet long and 100 feet wide and has 20 vertical feet of shelving. These shelves hold boxes and cartons with anything from 25 foot tall artificial Christmas trees, 6 foot wreaths, display gift boxes, menorahs, reindeer and just about any other holiday related decoration you can think of. Starting in October, decoration packages are checked and assembled, then crews will install them in time for Thanksgiving.

The next stop was Neave Landscapes, a landscape firm in Wappingers Falls, NY, run by Scott Neave, a 1998 graduate of the LSCPE program. Scott and his father have built the business into a successful design/build and mainte-



nance company serving both residential and commercial customers. A tour of their facility and a project site gave the students a good idea of the abilities of the firm's designers and installers and the quality work that the firm represents. The group also got to tour the gardens and landscape at Mohonk Mountain House, which is a 2200 acre resort that dates back to 1869 that sits high atop the Shawangunk Ridge with views of 20 miles or more in all directions. The colorful gardens were framed by the lovely scenery and numerous walking paths and rustic Adirondack type wooden shelters, which are found throughout the grounds. Our tour guide, Mr. Andrew Kern, is the staff horticulturist and was extremely welcoming and provided many details on the operation and maintenance of the gardens. Later, the students had an opportunity to walk the grounds and take in the wonderful views.



*Gardens at Mohonk Mountain House*

Saturday, September 22nd

The day started at the Institute for Ecosystem Studies near Millbrook, NY. Formerly the Cary Arboretum, this institute concentrates on studying and disseminating information about ecological systems and has one of the largest ecological research programs in the world. Students were able to speak with Dr. Dave Bulkeley, who manages their greenhouse research facility, and tour the greenhouse complex where IPM is used exclusively for pest control. While on the grounds, the students were also able to tour a natural bog area which has been incorporated into an educational trail for use by school groups and the general public. The next stop was to a perennial display garden located at the Gifford House, also on the institute grounds. This garden has been developed to display different design concepts while grouping plants into beds by



*Discussions with Dr. Bulkeley at the Institute for Ecosystems*

function or use. Some of these included plants that are preferred by pollinators, such as butterflies and hummingbirds, plants known to have poisonous qualities, and hardy plants that

are resistant to deer browse. Many beds featured educational brochures that enable visitors to take information home and apply it in their own yards and gardens. Close to the Institute was Innesfree, a unique American garden with a Chinese landscape influence located on a 150-acre site. The gardens contain interesting streams, water features, terraces, rustic paths, retaining walls, and boulders used as sculpture around a 40 acre glacial lake.

Matterhorn Nursery and Garden Center was a fitting final stop for our group. Matt Horn has developed this operation into an all encompassing stop for the amateur and professional landscaper alike. This operation features a comprehensive garden center that offers plant material, site furnishings, aquatic plant material and water feature components, seasonal displays, product and installation workshops, and now wine tasting. Sarah Hingle, 2003 Horticulture graduate, gave our group a tour of the facility and provided lots of information on the hard work and challenges that employment in this environment provides.

The trip back to University Park gave us all a chance to reflect on the sites we had seen. While many of us had favorite landscapes, the general consensus was that each site had something different to offer and were very informative as to the methods of design, installation and maintenance



*Interesting wall feature at the Innesfree garden*

## Dept Items For Sale



Please contact Tracey Harpster at 814-865-3190 or [tlh8@psu.edu](mailto:tlh8@psu.edu)

## 32nd Annual PLANET Student Career Days a Success for Penn State

-*Martin McGann, Associate Professor of Landscape Contracting*

For the third time in as many years, a student team from Penn State has finished in one of the top ten positions at the Annual Student Career Days competition. This year the event was held at North Metro Technical School near Atlanta and had a record 64 schools in attendance. Penn State placed 6th overall with many individuals placing high in their events.

On the way down to Atlanta, the 40 students on the Penn State team and one student from Pennsylvania College of Technology had an opportunity to visit the Bartlett Tree Company Research Arboretum and the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Charlotte, NC. At the Bartlett Arboretum we were shown around by Dr. Greg Paige who was also generous enough to provide us with a lunch at their headquarters building. The arboretum is used by Bartlett to examine growth habits, utilization, and problems associated with trees in the landscape. The Daniel Stowe Garden was a small but very varied garden with excellent exterior displays and a wonderful orchid collection on display in the conservatory. Both locations were worth the time and gave everyone a chance to stretch their legs before proceeding on to PLANET.

Before starting the competition portion of Student Career Days, students had a chance to attend several workshop sessions hosted by leading individuals and companies in the green industry. This was followed by a faculty/industry reception and a student reception. Judging by the noise level the students had way more fun however, it was nice for the PSU faculty to reconnect with faculty and friends from other institutions over the three day event. There were twenty five events offered this year and although not everyone place high in their event, we always appreciate the effort students put into preparing for this competition.

Following are some of our best finishes:

**2nd Place**-Annuals and Perennials (Margaret Hoffman)

Exterior Landscape Design (Jaison Van Horn)

Interior Landscape Design (Tu Bui)

**3rd Place**- Interior Plant ID (Kim Oellerich)

Landscape Maintenance Operations (Aston David, & Kevin Kindig,)

**4th Place**- Arboriculture Techniques (James Gilliland & Greg Crews)

Leadership Skills (Kristen Mowery)

**5th Place**- Skid Steer (James Broderick)

**7th Place**- Construction Cost Estimation (Joe Pascucci)

Interior Plant ID (Patti Stefanick)

**10th Place**- Sales (Laura Maynard)

Faculty who attended this event: Larry Kuhns, Martin McGann, Mike Reinert, Jim Savage, Dan Stearns.



## 2008 Horticulture Show

The 2008 Horticulture Show is focusing on sustainable landscapes. As the media pushes ideas of going green, we want to give the public a show where they can learn different ways to make their yard sustainable. With many different "green" features, this year's show is sure to please all. A few things to look forward to are:

- Permeable Pavers that are strong enough to take heavy loads, like large vehicles, while at the same time they allow water to filtrate through the surface and reach the underlying soils.
- Rain Gardens are shallow depressions designed to collect rain - typically from impervious surfaces such as roofs - which let plants, bacteria, and soils clean the water as it seeps its way into the ground. Natural pools are designed to look like ponds but are really fully functioning swimming pools without using chemicals to clean it.

Come to the show and learn more about these great environmental features as well as others. Show dates are Saturday, October 18 and Sunday, October 19. Hope to see you there!





**2008-2009**

## **Horticulture Department Scholarships and Awards**

The Horticulture Department awarded \$140,587 to undergraduate students for the 2008-2009 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 notation immediately following a student's name is an abbreviation for the student's major (HORT - Horticulture, LSCPE - Landscape Contracting).

If you wish to make a contribution towards any of these scholarships, or are considering establishing a new scholarship, contact: Denise Connelly, Assistant to the 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**

Kevin Kindig, LSCPE, Chester, PA

### **Aden & Merna Francis Scholarship**

Benjamin Keim, HORT, Reading, PA

### **Bartlett Tree Foundation**

Benjamin Wright, LSCPE, State College, PA

### **Patrick Bennett Scholarship**

Jonelle Carruthers, HORT, Clearfield, PA

### **Brickman Scholarship**

Benjamin Juarez, LSCPE, Reading, PA

### **Fred Brown Scholarship**

Jordan Acri, HORT, Harrisburg, PA  
Kristie Basta, HORT, Chagrin Falls, OH  
Harold Lutz, HORT, Indiana, PA  
Kim Oellerich, Matamoras, PA  
Fred Gouker, HORT, Hanover, PA  
Melissa Miller, HORT, Strasburg, PA  
Lee Proctor, HORT, Southbury, CT  
Joseph Noll, HORT, Bellevue, PA  
Angel Lyons, HORT, Reynoldsville, PA  
Travis Stodter, HORT, Carlisle, PA  
Owen Bellis, HORT, Salisbury, MD  
Karl Quimby, HORT, Bethesda, MD  
Greg Hobbs, HORT, Bellevue, PA

### **Wilbur & Mary Cherry Scholarship**

Kelby Taylor, HORT, Birdsboro, PA

### **Oliver Christman Scholarship**

Bret Calderwood, LSCPE, Hollidaysburg, PA  
June Cunningham, LSCPE, State College, PA  
Sarah Dickert, LSCPE, Millersville, PA  
Matthew Froncillo, LSCPE, West Chester, PA  
Patrick Hegeman, LSCPE, Cresson, PA  
Kevin Heilman, LSCPE, Lehigh, PA  
Bradley Klinedinst, LSCPE, York, PA  
Todd Klopp, LSCPE, Lititz, PA  
Xiu Lin, LSCPE, Philadelphia, PA  
Nicholas Ball, LSCPE, Sayre, PA  
Laura Maynard, LSCPE, Wellsboro, PA  
Melissa Berrier, LSCPE, Mifflin, PA  
Justin Weis, LSCPE, Nazareth, PA  
Zachary Miller, LSCPE, Huntingdon, PA  
Michael McCallips, LSCPE, State College, PA

### **David Curwen Memorial Award**

Jeremy Fitzgerald, HORT, Rockwood, PA

### **Ester J. Darrow Scholarship**

David Frey, HORT, Greenville, PA  
Jillian Hanelly, HORT, State College, PA

### **Holcomb Family Scholarship in Hort**

Thomas Haffly, HORT, State College, PA

**Catherine Imbt Scholarship**

Christopher Brett, LSCPE, Johnston, PA  
 Emma Childs, LSCPE, Taneytown, MD  
 Michael Coccia, LSCPE, Sharon, PA  
 Sarah Cruikshank, LSCPE, Belleville, PA  
 Aaron Householder, LSCPE, Hagerstown, MD  
 Jeffery Mace, LSCPE, Waynesboro, PA  
 Benjamin Keim, HORT, Reading, PA  
 Lewis Buckley, LSCPE, York Springs, PA  
 Andrew Childs, LSCPE, Conway, MA  
 Bryan Clauson, LSCPE, Glenside, PA

**Joseph M. Johnson Scholarship**

Melissa Lewis, HORT, Bridgeprt, PA  
 Luke Puglia, HORT, North Wales, PA  
 Kristin Prommel, HORT, Newton, NJ

**Klopp Award**

Curtis Frederick, HORT, Sugarloaf, PA

**Robert P. Meahl Scholarship**

Rhonda Patrick, LSCPE, State College, PA

**J. Lupton & Eva Scott Mecartney Scholarship**

Jonelle Caruthers, HORT, Clearfield, PA  
 Cain Hickey, HORT, North East, PA  
 Leah Ruth, HORT, Lancaster, PA  
 Matthew Urian, HORT, Bethel Park, PA  
 Justin Brunot, HORT, Meadville, PA  
 Amy Hinkle, HORT, Belle Center, OH  
 Jennifer McConnell, HORT, New Castle, PA  
 Dustin Peffer, HORT, Robertsdale, PA  
 Gavin Benfer, HORT, Middleburg, PA  
 Luke Puglia, HORT, North Wales, PA  
 Bethany Carlisle, HORT, Cheswick, PA  
 Shaun Carlson, HORT, Austin, PA  
 Shaun Callahan, HORT, Aspers, PA  
 Jennifer Himes, HORT, Punxsutawney, PA  
 Kristin Shust, HORT, Greenfield Township, PA

**Penn State Hort Club Scholarship**

Kristin Mowery, LSCPE, Lewistown, PA  
 Ruth Dunlevy, LSCPE, Telford, PA

**Penn State Hort Alumni Group**

Jonelle Carruthers, HORT, Clearfield, PA  
 Randall Ross, HORT, Sunbury, PA

**Radley Run Garden Club Scholarship**

Matthew Froncillo, LSCPE, West Chester, PA

**Max & Esther Sestili St. Memorial Award**

Peter McGregor, LSCPE, Sinking Springs, PA

**George W. Sherlock Student Award**

James Wyble, LSCPE, Port Matilda, PA  
 Adam Scheletsky, LSCPE, Baden, PA  
 Rhonda Patrick, LSCPE, State College, PA  
 Skylar Shope, LSCPE, Hopewell, PA  
 Curtis Frederick, HORT, Sugarloaf, PA

**Robert Lamar Skeath Scholarship**

Kyle Weidner, HORT, Oley, PA  
 Peter McGregor, LSCPE, Sinking Springs, PA  
 Kyle Pearman, LSCPE, Allentown, PA  
 David Mattern, LSCPE, Dornsife, PA  
 Randall Ross, HORT, Sunbury, PA

**Harry W. Skinner Scholarship**

Tyler Klopp, LSCPE, Lititz, PA  
 James Wyble, LSCPE, Port Matilda, PA  
 Adam Scheletsky, LSCPE, Baden, PA  
 Christopher Snyder, LSCPE, New Columbia, PA

**Joseph & Sharon Strite Scholarship**

Shaun Callahan, HORT, Aspers, PA  
 Kelby Taylor, HORT, Birdsboro, PA

**J. Franklin & Agnes T. Styer Scholarship**

Michael Luznar, LSCPE, Pittsburgh, PA  
 Derek Macko, LSCPE, Canonsburg, PA  
 Robert Ferstler, LSCPE, Moragantown, PA  
 Matthew Oberlies, LSCPE, Blue Bell, PA  
 Meredith McCormick, HORT, Danville, PA  
 Justin Sherman, LSCPE, Brookville, PA  
 Gabriel Delerme, LSCPE, Cranberry Township., PA  
 David Sillman, LSCPE, State College, PA  
 Nicholas Steffan, LSCPE, Erie, PA  
 Chad Wagner, LSCPE, Erie, PA  
 Lee Parfitt, LSCPE, Port Matilda, PA  
 Vincent Pollino, LSCPE, Clarks Summit, PA  
 Jordan Reitz, LSCPE, Waynesboro, PA  
 Paul Mansur, LSCPE, Clarendon Hills, IL  
 Matthew McCloskey, LSCPE, Wayne, PA  
 Luke Davis, LSCPE, West Hartford, CT  
 Christopher Edmiston, LSCPE, Tyrone, PA  
 Paul Dixon, LSCPE, Clarksburg, PA

**Darrell E. Walker Scholarship**

Bethany Carlisle, HORT, Cheswick, PA

**John H. Weinberger Scholarship**

Jay Bell, LSCPE, Greensburg, PA

# Retirements

## Kenny Myers

Kenny Myers, greenhouse technician, had been with the department since 1978 and worked as a horticulturist all the way through. When asked where his favorite place is, Kenny's answer was "My garden. There's no other place I'd rather be." He attributes the importance of horticulture in his life to his upbringing, and the influence of his father and grandfather.

Early on, Kenny had his career path narrowed down to 2 areas, taking coursework in both greenhouse management and food services. His first job was at greenhouses outside of Philadelphia, but oddly enough, it was his food service career that eventually brought him to our department. During the 70's, he was head chef for several Arena restaurants, located on Heister Street in State College, at Skimont (now Tussey Mountain), and in Lock Haven. Eventually the long hours and travel wore thin, so he took a position in Food Services at Penn State. While there, he learned about an opening for a technician in the Horticulture Department. He joined the department in 1978, working first with John White until his retirement, then Paul Grun, and then Richard Craig. He was responsible for growing plant material for several department courses (Hort 202, 232, and 297A) and grew research plant material for several faculty members. He also taught some labs and helps with other class work.

Kenny currently resides in a house that he built with his family and friends. He married his high school sweetheart, Bonnie and is the proud father of two daughters and two grandchildren.



## Craig Kreider

Craig started his Penn State career on the janitor crew in 1973. He worked his way to the Farm Center and, ultimately to the Hort Farm in the mid-1990's as a mechanic/equipment operator. His diverse farming experience and his ability to operate all types of equipment and trucks have been an asset at the facility. His efforts toward maintaining the vehicle fleet, in particular body work, were highly valued. During his retirement, Craig will maintain two "full time" jobs, running his own farming operation of hay and grain crops and spending time with his family and his grandson.



## Ron Shuey

Ron started working at Penn State in 1972 at the Farm Center. He was at the Hort Farm in 1987 when farm manager Bob Oberheim was hired, moved to the Agronomy Farm for a year then returned to the Hort Farm where he worked as group leader for almost nineteen years. Ron has overseen all aspects of the daily farm operation: working with researchers and maintaining high quality vegetable production. He has handled various research farm issues, communication with the public, and has represented Penn State, the College of Agricultural Sciences, and the Horticulture Department very well. He plans to keep busy in retirement with his family, a grandson and new granddaughter, his two Ford Mustangs, biking, hunting, and taking walks in the woods.





## Where are they now?



### Class of 1960

Guillermo Hernandez-Bravo, M.S. HORT  
Mexico  
Retired plant breeding consultant (Tobacco Shorgum).  
Ph. D. Genetics, UC Davis. Married to Esperanza, twin  
children Hugo and Benjamin.

### Class of 1976

Bob Colton, B. S. HORT  
Douglas, GA  
Married to Rhonda Rhoades for 31 years, have two chil-  
dren Michelle and Bobby. Currently managing a nursery  
after leaving a 16 acre greenhouse operation as head  
grower for 22 years.

### Class of 1982

Jennifer Werner, B. S. HORT  
Nothampton, MA  
As of fall 2008, Assistant Professor in Landscape Design  
and Management Program at Springfield Technical Com-  
munity College in Springfield, MA

### Class of 1991

David Rupertus, B. S. LSCPE  
Haddon Hts., NJ  
Married Pamela Taylor in 2001. Two children Joseph and  
Matthew

### Class of 1998

Jeff Nagle, B.S. LSCPE  
Arlington, VA  
Was one of ten to received Penn State's Alumni Achieve-  
ment Awards in April 2008 for outstanding professional  
accomplishments. His job is the Smithsonian's supervi-  
sory horticulturalist and requires him to oversee the up-  
keep and maintenance of the gardens and plants on the  
Smithsonian's museum grounds.

### Class of 2002

Chad Kramer, B. S. HORT  
Madison, WI  
Obtained a Ph.D. in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics at  
the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Recently started a  
new job as a research scientist (in plant breeding) at the  
University of Wisconsin, Department of Agronomy. In  
September 2007 married Lara in Stoughton, WI.

### Class of 2003

Melissa (Noble) Harlon, B. S. LSCPE  
Boydton, VA  
Landscape foreman over federal parks at Kerr Lake. Mar-  
ried in 2004, has one child, Daisy. Moved into their  
newly built house on their 92 acre tree farm. Began their

own business in 2007, Dixie Forestry Consulting and  
Landscaping.

### Class of 2005

Jonathan Phillips, M. S. HORT  
He was awarded the 2007 Kenneth Post Award for  
Graduate Research in Floriculture for his paper entitled  
"Interest in Value-Added Planters: Consumer, Prefer-  
ence and Current Gower and Retailer Perceptions" in  
HortTechnology 17(2):238-246. Jonathan was advised  
by Jay Holcomb and Kathy Kelley.

### Class of 2006

Mary (Colson) Coombs, B. S. HORT  
Elmer, NJ  
Married in 2007 to John, resides on his family's farm  
and still enjoy visiting PSU for football games. Work-  
ing for Centerton Nursery as a Propagation Manager.  
Started a floral design business called A Garden Party.

### Class of 2007

Paul Readly, B. S. HORT  
Salinas, CA  
Working for American Takii, Inc. as an assistant flower  
breeder focusing on Petunia, Pansy, and Salvia.

Taryn Bauerle, Ph. D. HORT

Accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Horticul-  
ture at Cornell University

## Upcoming Events

2008 Ag Career Day

October 7, 2008

Bryce Jordan Center

University Park, PA

For more information contact Denise

Connelly, dcc6@psu.edu

<http://students.cas.psu.edu/CareerDay.htm>

2009 Mid Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conference

February 3-5, 2009

Hershey, PA

2009 PLNA Conference

February 10-12, 2009

State College, PA

2009 Philadelphia Flower Show

March 1-8, 2009

Philadelphia, PA

2009 Ag Progress Days

August 18-20, 2009

# In Memoriam

## David J. Beattie



Dave Beattie passed away in March 2008 after a long battle with cancer. He was a native of Rhode Island and studied horticulture at the University of Rhode Island. He obtained a M.S. degree at the University of Vermont and a PhD at Michigan State University before joining the Horticulture Department at Penn State in 1977. Before going to grad school he worked as a research scientist for the Canadian Department of Agriculture in Ottawa and as a curator at Rowe Arboretum in Cincinnati.

Over the years Dave taught several courses and participated in the Winter School. Before retiring he developed one of the first courses in the country in Green Roof Technology. This is a popular course and it is being continued and expanded. He had a sincere interest in students and spent time mentoring students in their careers and personal lives.

In 2000, David Beattie established the "Penn State Center for Green Roof Research" with the collaborative support of Dr. Robert Berghage. As the first dedicated green roof research facility in North America, the Center is physically represented by nine replicated research buildings at the Russell Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, PA. Affectionately known as "Beattieburg," the buildings continue to provide green roof performance data for the east coast climate and have contributed directly to the development of green roof programs in New York City

Dave received many awards during his career, including being selected as a Fellow of the Plant Propagators' Society. In 2006, the year after his retirement, Beattie was awarded the first-ever 'Excellence in Research Award' at the 4th annual Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Conference, Awards and Trade Show.

Upon retirement, Dave moved to Oregon to live with his wife, his daughter and son-in-law and his grand-daughter who was born soon after his retirement. **Memorial contributions can be sent in his name to: Voice of the Martyrs, PO Box 443, Bartlesville OK 74005.**

# 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), birth of children, professional recognition, retirements, marriages, etc.

Email Erika Stover, [ess9@psu.edu](mailto:ess9@psu.edu) or Mail to: Dept. of Horticulture, Attn: Alumni Newsletter, The Pennsylvania State University, 102 Tyson Building, University Park, PA 16802

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s), Major \_\_\_\_\_

City/State of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your news: new positions, promotions, advanced degree (s), birth of children, professional recognition, retirements, marriages, etc.

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If you have questions, comments, or items that you would like to see in next years newsletter, email Erika Stover, [ess9@psu.edu](mailto:ess9@psu.edu).