

Fall 2009
Issue 6



HORTICULTURE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Photo by Andy Colwell



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Flower arrangements by the Horticulture Department



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WELCOME By: Rich Marini, Department Head



As I begin my sixth year as department head, I am still excited to be a member of the Department of Horticulture and I continue to be amazed at the breadth and strength of the teaching, research and extension programs at Penn State University. This is a great time to be a horticulturist and as you read this issue of the Newsletter, I believe you will agree.

This was the year of the strategic plan. The University, each College, and each department developed a new 5-year strategic plan and ours can be found at http://horticulture.psu.edu/files/Strategic_Plan_for_Hort_2009_2013.pdf. The College strategic plan emphasized five areas where the College will invest resources and these include: *Food, Diet, and Health; Entrepreneurship; Energy; Water Quality and Quantity; and Pest Prediction and Response*. Our department is active in each of these areas, and we are trying to enhance our programs in these five areas. Several faculty members are collaborating with faculty from across the university to expand urban farming in Pennsylvania cities to enhance the health and well-being of urban populations. Entrepreneurship is being incorporated into several courses and we now offer a new course in this area. Fac-

ulty in our department led the development of a proposal for a Landscape Ecologist to study the effects of fuel extraction activities and cultivation of crops for biofuels on the environment. This proposal was selected for funding by the university and, if the budget permits, a new position will be added to the College, and possibly to our department. Water quality issues are being addressed by our green roof program and the university continues to install green roofs on new buildings. Faculty from Entomology and Plant Pathology are seeking funds to involve Master Gardeners in pest prediction because Master Gardeners handle many pest-related questions throughout the Commonwealth.

During the past 20 years, most universities have downsized their Horticulture programs and they converted the positions to other disciplines where more external funding is available to support research. We have also lost three tenure track faculty positions in the last five years. This trend may change as a result of new programs that were included in the 2008 Farm Bill. Funds are authorized for four new programs for which horticulturists can compete. The largest program is the Specialty Crops Research Initiative (SCRI), which allocated \$28 million

in 2008 and will allocate \$50 million per year for the next four years. The other programs include the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Program with \$15 million per year; the Organic Agriculture Program, with \$25 million per year; and the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, where the PDA will be allocated about \$900,000 per year to support research related to specialty crops in Pennsylvania. This year members of our department submitted proposals to all four programs, but funding decisions have not yet been announced. Taken together there is a pool of more than \$90 million dollars per year for which horticultural researchers can apply. This is the most money ever available for horticultural research and should allow some horticulturists to adequately support their research programs.

As you read through this newsletter you will learn more about our programs and how our programs are having an impact on citizens in Pennsylvania and around the world. Finally, we want to hear from you and learn what our alumni are doing, so please fill out the Alumni News section and we will include it in next year's edition. For more information about the department, visit <http://horticulture.psu.edu/>.

Rich Marini

"I continue to be amazed at the breadth and strength of the teaching, research and extension programs at Penn State University. This is a great time to be a horticulturist .."

-Rich Marini, Professor and Department Head of Horticulture

Penn State a major player in specialty crop research initiative

Researchers in the Department of Horticulture were very successful in the first year of the Specialty Crops Research Initiative. In 2008 the USDA made available \$28 million for research related to specialty crops - defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, nursery stock and floriculture crops. Eighteen grants were awarded and Penn State is the lead institution or partner on three projects funded for about \$7 million of the funds that were available. An exciting aspect of the specialty crop research initiative is that expertise from Penn State, as well as other institutions that have not been involved with horticultural crops, is now being focused on horticulture.

A project coordinated by Dr. Kathleen Kelley and several other Penn State faculty members, brought together participants from all aspects of the produce business for a two-day workshop in March to identify the strengths and weaknesses as well as threats and opportunities for the industry. Based on discussions, the participants identified seven areas for future focus: a) Markets, b)

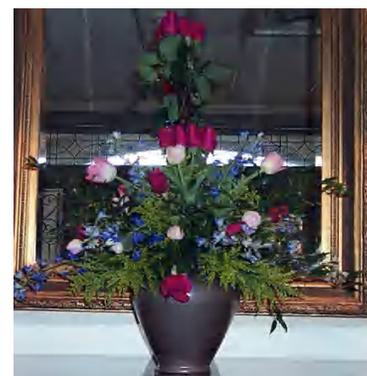
Technology, c) Innovation, d) Health Benefits, e) Environmental, f) Grants/Funding, and g) Government. The first five of these issues were selected to serve as the "Goal Groups" and participants self-selected to join one of the groups where they developed objectives and action steps. After a representative from each "Goal Group" shared their action plans with all of the attendees, participants were asked to answer questions pertaining to extension and research programming needs and to discuss possible next steps for the Mid-Atlantic Specialty Crop Research Initiative. Visit <http://128.118.93.6/Units/Conferences/specialtycrops2009/> to learn more about the project. To be added to the Mid-Atlantic Specialty Crops Research Initiative list serve and receive bi-monthly updates about the workshop and subsequent efforts, contact specialtycrops@psu.edu or (814) 863-5567.

Two projects are collaborative efforts with researchers in the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University along with re-

searchers at several other Land Grant universities. One project is "Integrated Automation for Specialty Crops" and the other is "Comprehensive Automation for Specialty Crops". The goal of these two projects is to develop affordable robotic technology that can improve fruit quality and lower production costs for apples and oranges. Researchers are developing a 4-wheel vehicle with sensors, lasers, cameras, global positioning systems and other technology to be used to monitor tree growth and chlorophyll levels, spot early signs of disease and insect infestation, estimate yields and determine optimum time for harvest. They are also developing technology to mow and selectively spray pesticides in the orchard. To take advantage of these new technologies, orchards must be redesigned for automation. Another aspect of the project involves developing techniques to grow closely-spaced trees on dwarf rootstocks as relatively thin hedges to facilitate sensor technologies.



Cellar Market Swiss Chard grown at Rock Springs Research Farm



Flower Arrangement by Horticulture students

ALUMNI UPDATE: TOM WAMBAUGH

The Penn State Ag Council presented a 2008 Leadership Award to **Tom Wambaugh**, (HORT '81) owner of Waterfall Gardens near Reading, PA. Mr. Wambaugh is recognized for promoting professionalism at the state and international level within the

nursery and landscape industry. He serves in the International Landscape Technician Council, participating in a revision of the landscape technician certification exam in an effort to make it more psychometrically reliable. Tom is the incoming chair of

the organization's Authorization Panel.

The Penn State Master Gardener Program



With the able leadership of Ginger Pryor, the state-wide Master Gardener (MG) coordinator, the MG program is growing and is developing new activities. The program was started in 1982 and there are currently about 2,200 volunteers in 58 Pennsylvania counties. In return for 30 hours of initial training, each participant volunteers 50 hours the first year. In subsequent years volunteers complete 8 hours of update training and volunteer 20 hours. Some volunteers have been involved in the program for more than 20 years. Master Gardeners spend time manning Garden Hotlines and answer garden and landscape questions that are phoned or brought into County Extension offices each day. Volunteers also present workshops, lectures, and demonstrations to garden clubs, school groups, civic organizations and the general public. In 2008, 407 MGs volunteered nearly 14,000 hours to the Garden Hotline at 35 Penn State Cooperative Extension Offices. Last year they processed and identified speci-

In 2008, 407 Master Gardeners volunteered nearly 14,000 hours to the Garden Hotline and 35 Penn State Cooperative Extension Offices

mens of insects, weeds and diseases, and answered various questions related to home gardening, and the value of this volunteer time was about \$264,000. With the renewed interest in home gardening, the MGs were even busier this summer. When all activities are considered, MGs volunteered 127,688 hours and 204,757 people participated in their programs. If the MG program did not exist, the state would have paid \$2.4 million to provide the same services and programs.

One activity that the MGs have developed involves pollinator demonstration gardens. The MG program received a gift from Haagen Dazs to establish a consumer education program on the importance of pollinators and pollinator friendly garden practices. A State-wide committee of MG Volunteers and MG Coordinators decided to establish pollinator friendly gardens throughout the state in high traffic areas that are self educating on the importance of pollinators and pollinator friendly practices. These gardens will be used for hands

on programming for pollinator friendly educational events. Last year 40 pollinator friendly gardens were established across the state and 30 held at least one educational event, with gardens reporting a total of 1,723 attendees at these events.

A MG steering committee was also formed and they developed a strategic plan for the program. They recognized that for the program to continue to grow and improve, a full-time state-wide coordinator is needed. Currently Ginger Pryor is paid by Cooperative Extension as a half-time coordinator. We have been working with development personnel in the College of Agricultural Sciences as well as Penn State Outreach to endow the MG coordinator position to ensure that the program continues to grow into the future. The plan to endow the program was unveiled at the MG coordinators conference in July.

To learn more about the Penn State Master Gardener program, please visit <http://horticulture.psu.edu/extension/mg>.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Dan Stearns, Professor of Landscape Contracting, was inducted into the College of Agricultural Sciences Academy of Teaching Excellence in October 2008. He also received the 2008 Community of Teaching Excellence Award given by the College of Agricultural Science.

Kathy Demchak, Senior Extension Associate, received her 25 years of service award on November 6, 2008.

Dr. Bill Lamont received the Pioneer Award from the American Society for Plastics in recognition of his work broadening the importance of ASP through exem-

plary plasticulture research and development efforts. The award was presented at the 35th National Agricultural Plastics Conference in State College, PA.

Commencement

HORTICULTURE B.S. DEGREE FALL 2008

Shaun Carlson, Jonelle Curruthers, Andrew Chisholm, Dustin Peffer

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING B.S. DEGREE FALL 2008

Jonelle Curruthers, Joseph Curley, Thomas Dickey, Ruth Dunlevy, Elizabeth Egan, Robert Ferstler,
Andrew Grueber, Matthew Hood, Jason Kunkle, Derek Macko, Kristen Mowery, Gabriel Svonavec, John Tarwater

HORTICULTURE MINOR FALL 2008

Ruth Dunlevy, Robert Ferstler, Daniel Frechen, Lauren Shahay

ARBORICULTURE MINOR FALL 2008

Robert Ferstler

HORTICULTURE M.S. DEGREE SPRING 2009

Phanchita Vejchasarn

HORTICULTURE PH.D. DEGREE SPRING 2009

Carter Miller

HORTICULTURE B.S. DEGREE SPRING 2009

Jeremy Barnes, Kristie Basta, Curtis Frederick, Gregory Hobbs, Harold Lutz, Kimberly Oellerich,
Luke Puglia, Leah Ruth, Kelby Taylor

HORTICULTURE MINOR SPRING 2009

Samuel Boyer, Matthew Froncillo, Christopher Husted, Matthew Kadwill, Sara Oyler, Ginger Spangler,
Amy Stauffer, Clare Wagner

ARBORICULTURE MINOR SPRING 2009

Kenneth Savella

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING B.S. DEGREE SPRING 2009

Bret Calderwood, Gabriel Delerme, Matthew Froncillo, Benjamin Gussler, Bradley Klinedinst,
Jocelynn Lathrop, Kenneth Savella, Zachary Teeter

HORTICULTURE B.S. DEGREE SUMMER 2009

Meredith McCormick, Melissa Lewis

LANDSCAPE CONTRACTING B.S. DEGREE SUMMER 2009

Damian De La Vega, Matthew Oberlies, Matthew Vansickel, Justin Weis, Benjamin Wright

HORTICULTURE MINOR SUMMER 2009

Matthew Oberlies, Justin Weis

ARBORICULTURE MINOR SUMMER 2009

Matthew Oberlies



Courtyard at the Nittany Lion Inn revamped by landscape students, OPP By: Reidar Jensen



*The new Gazebo Courtyard at the Nittany Lion Inn on Penn State's University
Photo By: Andy Colwell*

Through the combined efforts of Penn State students enrolled in the Landscape Contracting Program in the College of Agricultural Sciences and employees at the Office of Physical Plant (OPP), the enclosed courtyard at the Nittany Lion Inn on Penn State's University Park campus has seen a major overhaul.

Before work began, the courtyard was a concrete putting green covered in Astroturf; now it is a budding, inviting, meticulously landscaped space, complete with a fountain and a gazebo.

"I think the intent of this project was two-fold: to improve the view from the rooms that look down on the courtyard and to bring more guests outside," said Dan Stearns, professor of landscape contracting.

Serious discussions about the project began in summer 2008, and on April 7, 56 juniors and seniors who were enrolled in Penn State's Landscape Construction course began working in shifts to renovate the courtyard.

Jim Purdum, general manager for hospitality services at Penn State, said the new environment is a plus for the inn and said it adds to enhancements already made to the parking circle and the lobby.

"We hope that (the courtyard)

will become a social gathering place for our guests," he said. "The natural and beautiful environment will make it a great place to host small receptions; it will also be a fabulous backdrop for wedding and graduation photos."

Stearns, who has been leading students through the Landscape Contracting Program since it began in 1992, said doing landscaping work in an enclosed area presented unique problems.

"We had 110 feet of carpeted hallway to protect. We also had to consider guests and the way they would be affected," he said.

The challenges began immediately.

"We were in the courtyard with jackhammers and wet saws (cutting the concrete that sat below the Astroturf on the putting green). Students hauled the broken concrete through the building using wheelbarrows," Stearns said.

Derek Kalp, a landscape designer for OPP's Division of Campus Planning and Design, prepared the plan for the courtyard and presented it to the students involved in the construction course in January 2009. Kalp said he always enjoys working with students in the program.

"It's a great experience. The

students are a really motivated group," said Kalp. "They're committed and they're hungry for real world projects. They get to experience the joy of accomplishment, but also the frustrations that come with making a complex project come to life. They go through all of the setbacks and triumphs. It is really good experience and it's always positive."

The program is a win-win for all involved. The inn has a new, inviting space for its guests to enjoy. Students were involved in many aspects of the project and gained invaluable work experience. Everyone came away with the satisfaction of a job well done.

"This project is something that they can take pride in," Stearns said. "Twenty years from now they can bring their kids back and tell them that they shaped this space."

Purdum said a fall 2009 reception is planned for students who worked on the project.

"They worked their tails off," he said. "We're going to honor them with a small celebration when they come back."

To see photos taken of the courtyard renovation project as it progressed, visit <http://live.psu.edu/stilllife/2092> online.

"This project is something that they can take pride in," Stearns said. "Twenty years from now they can bring their kids back and tell them that they shaped this space." - Dan Stearns, Professor of Landscape Contracting



Landscape Contracting students working at Nittany Lion Inn

The Department of Horticulture Hosts Scientific Meetings



This year the faculty members in the department organized and hosted two scientific meetings.

The 35th National Agricultural Plastics Conference was held in State College on July 14-17, 2009. The congress was hosted by Drs. Bill Lamont and Michael Orzolek and the American Society for Plasticulture. Thirty four papers were presented by horticulturists and agricultural engineers from all over the country and from Italy, and six papers were presented by researchers at Penn State. Participants also spent a day at the Horticultural Research Farm at Rock Springs to learn about high tunnel technology, new techniques for applying

and removing plastic mulch for vegetable and berry crops, and converting plastic waste into Plastofuel so it can be burned as source of fuel.

On August 9, Dr. Majid Foolad hosted the annual meeting of the Regional Research Project NE-09, a USDA project supported by the Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service. Each state in the Northeast Region has a representative on this project and the primary goals of the project are to acquire, maintain/regenerate, characterize, document, and distribute plant genetic resources for the Northeastern U.S. Collections of seeds and clonal material are maintained at germplasm

repositories around the country to make available diverse germplasm to researchers and teachers. Members of NE-09 participate in activities associated with 11 relevant crop germplasm committees. The major crops supported by NE-09 are onion, crucifers (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, etc.), winter squash, tomato, apple, tart cherry and cold-hardy grape. Responsibility for United States national germplasm collections of these crops lies solely at Geneva, NY. The group met on campus for a business meeting before touring the fruit and vegetable research plots at the Horticulture Farm at Rock Springs.

Hort Club Alumni Update



Hort Club was very active during the 2008-2009 school year. Starting in September of 2008, the club started to prepare for the 2008 Hort Show. The theme was *Blue and White Goes Green: Promoting a Sustainable Universe*. In December, Hort Club said goodbye to our graduating members. During the Spring, Hort Club once again had another successful year selling roses on Valentine's Day. When the weather became warmer, members of Hort Club cleaned between the headhouses and greenhouses for community service hours. We also had our Spring Picnic in May.

For the upcoming fall semester, Hort Club is once again preparing for Hort Show. Our theme will be *Landscapes Across America*.



Department Items For Sale

Please Contact Tracey Harpster at 814-865-3190 or tlh8@psu.edu



Dr. Rick Bates Awarded Faculty Travel Grant

Rick Bates (Associate Professor of Horticulture) was recently awarded a Faculty Travel Grant from the University's Office of Global Programs for his proposal to develop the course International Horticulture Trade: Follow the Fruit

This course will expose students to the complex issues

surrounding international trade and will culminate in a study tour of Chile's fruit producing regions. The travel grant will be used to build the course by developing the itinerary, establishing contacts at several agricultural research universities in Chile, visiting and assessing fruit production and marketing facilities, and collecting

resources to develop course content.

Dr. Bates will travel to Chile during fall 2009, and hopes to offer the course spring semester 2010.



Rick Bates, Professor of Ornamental Horticulture

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **HORT SHOW**
Oct. 17-18 2009
Penn State Ag Arena
- **HOMECOMING**
Oct. 17-18 2009



2009-2010 Horticulture Department Scholarships and Awards

Acorn Alcinda Award in Landscape

Peter MCGregor, LSCPE, Sinking Spring, PA

Aden & Merna Francis

Neal Carlin, HORT, State College, PA

Bartlett Tree Foundation

David Silliman, LSCPE, State College, PA

Patrick Bennett Scholarship

Adam Scheletsky, LSCPE, Baden, PA

Brickman Scholarship

Peter McGregor, LSCPE, Sinking Spring, PA
Matthew McCloskey, LSCPE, Wayne, PA
Kyle Pearman, LSCPE, Allentown, PA

Fred Brown Scholarship

Fred Gouker, HORT, Hanover, PA
Theresa Coleman, HORT, Philadelphia, PA
Jillian Hanelly, HORT, State College, PA
Kristin Prommel, HORT, Newton, NJ
Leora Cantolina, HORT, Stoneboro, PA
Karl Quimby, HORT, Bethesda, MD
Joseph Noll, HORT, Bellevue, PA
Kevin Bischooping, HORT/AG, Avon, NY
Amy Hinkle, HORT, Belle Center, OH
Jordan Acri, HORT, Harrisburg, PA

Wilbur & Mary Cherry Scholarship

Benjamin Keim, HORT/LSCPE, Reading, PA

Oliver Christman Scholarship

June Cunningham, LSCPE, State College, PA
Sarah Dickert, LSCPE, Millersville, PA
Katrina Pope, LSCPE, Hollidaysburg, PA
Rhonda Patrick, LSCPE, Duncansville, PA
MiDori Evans, LSCPE, Philadelphia, PA
Michael McCallips, LSCPE, State College, PA
David Silliman, LSCPE, State College, PA
Nicholas Steffan, LSCPE, Erie, PA
Jacob Schrom, LSCPE, Carlisle, PA
Matthew Eckess, LSCPE, Pleasant Gap, PA
Matthew Urian, HORT, Bethel Park, PA

David Curwen Memorial Award

Christopher Brett, LSCPE, Johnstown, PA

Esther J. Darrow Scholarship

Hannah Berisford, HORT, Gaithersburg, MD
Matthew Urian, HORT, Bethel Park, PA

Holcomb Family Scholarship

Benjamin Keim, HORT/LSCPE, Reading, PA

Catherine Imbt Scholarship

Patrick Hegemann, LSCPE, Cresson, PA
Jeffrey Mace, LSCPE, Waynesboro, PA
Matthew Giroud, LSCPE, Vero Beach, FL
Michael Luznar, LSCPE, Pittsburgh, PA
Katie Fagan, LSCPE, Lansdale, PA
Kevin Kindig, LSCPE/TURFGRASS SCIENCE, West Chester, PA

Joseph M. Johnson Scholarship

Amy Hinkle, HORT, Belle Center, OH
Matthew Urian, HORT, Bethel Park, PA

Robert P. Meahl Scholarship

Melissa Berrier, LSCPE, Mifflin, PA

J. Lupton & Eva Scott Mecartney

Cain Hickey, HORT, North East, PA
Shaun Callahan, HORT, Aspers, PA
Jennifer Himes, HORT, Punxsutawney, PA
Jennifer McConnell, HORT, New Castle, PA
Gavin Benfer, HORT, Middleburg, PA
Angel Lyons, HORT, Reynoldsville, PA
Michael Mattis, HORT, Erie, PA
Melissa Miller, HORT, Strasburg, PA
Joseph Rodriguez, HORT, Philadelphia, PA
David Sincavage, HORT, Blakeslee, PA
Fred Gouker, HORT, Hanover, PA
Matthew Urian, HORT, Bethel Park, PA
Kyle Weidner, HORT, Oley, PA

PA Agronomic Society

Neal Carlin, HORT, State College, PA
Amy Hinkle, HORT, Belle Center, OH

2009-2010 Horticulture Department Scholarships

Penn State Hort Club Scholarship

James Wyble, LSCPE, Port Matilda, PA

Penn State Hort Alumni Group

James Wyble, LSCPE, Port Matilda, PA
 Kyle Atkins, LSCPE, Reading, PA

Radley Run Garden Club

Bryan Clauson, LSCPE, Glenside, PA

Max & Esther Sestili Sr. Memorial Award

Lewis Buckley, LSCPE, York Springs, PA

George W. Sherlock Student Award

David Frey, HORT, Greenville, PA
 Emma Childs, LSCPE, Taneytown, MD
 Vincent Pollino, LSCPE, Summit, PA
 Jenna Hicks, LSCPE, York, PA

Robert Lamar Skeath

Kyle Pearman, LSCPE, Allentown, PA
 David Mattern, LSCPE, Dornsife, PA
 Peter McGregor, LSCPE, Sinking Spring, PA
 Kevin Heilman, LSCPE, Lehigh, PA
 Kyle Weidner, HORT, Oley, PA
 Randall Ross, HORT/LSCPE, Sunbury, PA

Harry W. Skinner Scholarship

Danielle Shaffer, LSCPE, Stoystown, PA
 Aaron Householder, LSCPE, Hagerstown, MD
 Colin Watson, LSCPE, Warfordsburg, PA
 Jordan Wayland, LSCPE, DuBois, PA

Joseph & Sharon Strite Scholarship

Kristin Shust, HORT, Greenfield Township, PA

J. Franklin & Agnes T. Styer Scholarship

Tyler Klopp, LSCPE, Lititz, PA
 Jordan Reitz, LSCPE, Waynesboro, PA
 John Ruppert, LSCPE, Gaithersburg, MD
 Evan Stearns, LSCPE, State College, PA
 Owen Bellis, HORT, Salisbury, MD
 Bethany Carlisle, HORT, Cheswick, PA

J. Franklin & Agnes T. Styer Scholarship

(Cont'd)

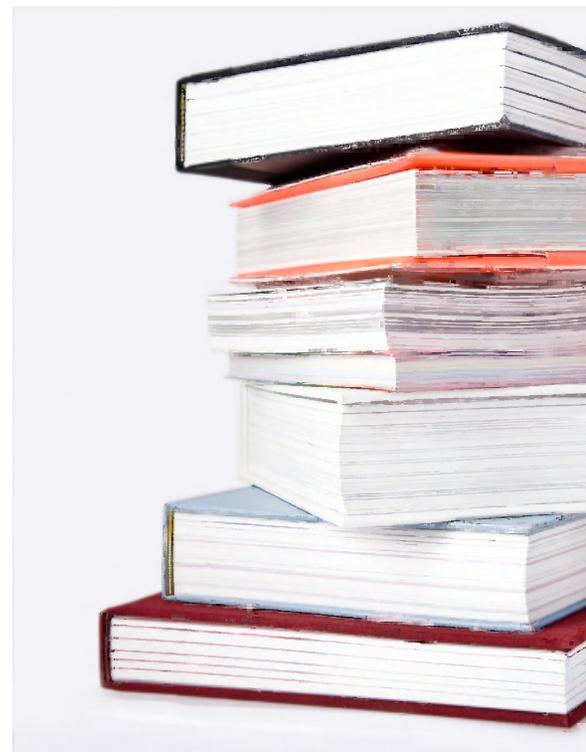
Kyle Atkins, LSCPE, Reading, PA
 Christopher Edmiston, LSCPE, Tyrone, PA
 John Ritter, LSCPE, Hughesville, PA
 Lee Parfitt, LSCPE, Port Matilda, PA
 Chad Wagner, LSCPE/TURFGRASS SCIENCE, Erie, PA
 Justin Sherman, LSCPE, Brookville, PA
 Colin Klutch, LSCPE, Pittsburgh, PA
 Whitney Crater, LSCPE/HORT, Millheim, PA
 Sarah Cruikshank, LSCPE, Belleville, PA
 Joel Derhammer, AG SCI/LSCPE, Luzerne County, PA

Darrell E. Walker Scholarship

Justin Brunot, HORT, Meadville, PA

John H. Weinberger Scholarship

David Leinbach, LSCPE, Mertztown, PA
 Zachary Miller, LSCPE, Huntingdon, PA
 Michael Schneider, LSCPE, Bethel, CT



PLANET Student Career Days 2009

By: Dan Stearns

The Horticulture Department was well-represented at the 2009 Student Career Days sponsored by PLANET, the Professional Land-care Network. In March, 19 students traveled to Cal Poly in Pomona California, competing in 25 events and participating in a career fair attended by 53 landscape contracting companies from across the nation. Approximately 800 students attended the event, representing 58 schools. For the fourth year in a row, the Penn State team finished in the top ten, bringing home a tenth place certificate.

The trip began with a tour of significant Southern California landscapes, including the Hearst Castle, the Getty Museum, Huntington Library and Gardens, and The Descanso Botanical Gardens. ValleyCrest, the world's largest landscape company, hosted our team on a tour of a park construction site and of two Laguna Beach resort communities for which they provide maintenance.

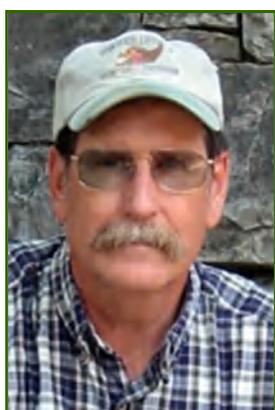
Landscape Contracting and Horticulture students who received top awards include:

Jack Ruppert	First in Leadership
Kyle Atkins	Fourth in Wood Construction
Evan Stearns	Fourth in Wood Construction
Kim Oellerich	Fifth in Interior Plant ID
Kyle Pearman	Fifth in Computer-Aided Design
Margaret Hoffman	Fifth in Annual & Perennial ID
Margaret Hoffman	Fifth in Woody Plant ID
Seth Lewis	Sixth in Skid Steer Operation
Jay Bell	Eighth in Interior Landscape Design

The Penn State contingent was accompanied by Landscape Contracting alumnus Scott Burk '95. Many other alumni were in attendance, representing companies from Maryland to California. LSCPE alumni Jules Bruck ('92) and Mike Reinert ('96) attended with their own teams from The University of Delaware and Iowa State University.

Student Career Days 2010 will be hosted by North Metro Tech, Atlanta, GA.

Bill Lamont becomes President of the American Society for Horticultural Science



Dr. Bill Lamont, Professor of Vegetable Crops

Below is the announcement of the election results for the board of directors for ASHS. This year's election of officers for the ASHS Board of Directors by the ASHS Membership places **William J. Lamont, Jr.**, as President-elect, **David Reed** as Education Division Vice President-elect, **Diane Doud Miller** as International Division Vice President-elect, and **Rebecca L. Darnell** as Research Division Vice President-elect.

ASHS President-elect Bill Lamont joined ASHS in 1976. A Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department

of Horticulture at the Pennsylvania State University, Lamont has served ASHS in many capacities over the years, bringing experience and familiarity with the issues ASHS and horticulture face today and will face in the future.

"I am proud to be a member of what I consider to be the premier professional horticultural society in the world. The Society continues to modernize its operations as we seek ways to better serve the needs of our current membership while continuing to

attract new members," says Lamont.

He adds, "Membership and volunteerism is the heart of not only ASHS, but also any society, and we need to give those already in the profession and those in the pipeline a real reason to be a member of ASHS, come to the conferences, and be active in the Society. I have enjoyed giving back to ASHS and serving in various capacities over the years and am honored to serve you as President.

ALUMNI NEWS

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 Kate Symons, kxs367@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.

If you have any questions, comments, or items that you would like to see in next years newsletter, please email Kate Symons, kxs367@psu.edu

IN MEMORIAM

James Edward Brewer

Dr. James Brewer passed away on July 27, 2009. He was born in Philadelphia, PA, and received a two-year certificate in Ornamental Horticulture from Penn State before entering the Navy in 1941. After World War II he completed a B.S. degree in Horticulture from Penn State and spent four years in production and sales with DeKalb Nurseries, Inc. before obtaining a M.S. at the University of Rhode Island. He spent four years in the department of Horticulture teaching courses in plant propagation and nursery management. Dr. Brewer returned to Penn State in 1958 as an Instructor of Ornamental Horticulture and upon receiving a PhD was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1963. During his career at Penn State, Dr. Brewer taught courses in arboriculture, nursery management, garden center management and special problems in Horticulture. He advised all the students in the Nursery Management option in the 2-year Winter Course program.

Dr. Brewer introduced innovative teaching techniques, such as the auto-tutorial method of teaching plant materials and developed tape recordings along with specimens of live material combined with 35mm color slides to supplement traditional lecture/laboratory teaching methods. He also performed research on the time, frequency and method of pruning ornamental evergreens and studied the relationship of hardiness and nutrition of woody ornamental plants related to shade conditions. He also taught courses at the New View program of the Rockview Correctional Institution. In recognition for his teaching, research, advising and service to the Penn State Hort Club, the 1975 Hort Show was dedicated to Dr. Brewer.

Dr. Brewer was a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, American Institute of Biological Science, International Society for Horticultural Science, International Plant Propagators Society, American Horticultural Society, Botanical Society of America, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Pi Alpha Xi, Phi Epsilon Phi and Gamma Sigma Delta.

After 25 years of service to Penn State University, Dr. Brewer retired in 1983 and remained in State College, PA. He is survived by his wife Florence and three daughters, Lucinda B. McHolme, Ann Brewer, and Eva B. Hunerlach. Memorial contributions may be made to the Horticulture Alumni Group Scholarship, The Pennsylvania State University, One Old Main, University Park, PA 16802. Please write "In memory of James Brewer" in the memo line on your check..