

# ARKANSAS HORTICULTURE *news*

Volume 18, Number 1, 2015

## 2014-2015 Graduates

### M.S.

*Josue Leiva*  
*Megan McGovern*

### B.S.

*Travis Appel*  
*Jeffrey Bentley*  
*Austin Brown*  
*Zachary Clark*  
*Brian Cornett*  
*Danielle Dozier*  
*Kayley Drew*  
*Peyton Fogleman*  
*Charles Fuerst*  
*Katherine Ginsburg*  
*Warren Gullette*  
*Rickie Lee Hicks*  
*Megan Lankford*  
*Timothy Larrabee*  
*Leah Malvar*  
*Jonathan Matthew*  
*Martha McBride-Schick*  
*Christopher Nelson*  
*Joshua Reed*  
*Travis Russell*  
*Kaleigh Smith*  
*Katherine Sozansky*  
*Robert Wiesner*  
*Cody Wilchowski*  
*Blake Willems*  
*Michelle Wisdom*

## Department of Horticulture

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## Arkansas Horticulture is Going Green

Greetings Horticulture students, alumni and friends! We want you to know that this will be our last print edition of our newsletter. We will begin sending an e-newsletter biannually in June and January starting in 2016. If you'd like to

continue receiving our newsletter please be sure that we have your email address by sending an email to shannonm@uark.edu or finding us on Facebook (Department of Horticulture at the University of Arkansas.)

## Department Head Announced



Our new department head, Wayne Mackay, joined us in October. He came to us from the University of Florida where he was the chair of the Environmental Horticulture Department and previously director of the Mid-Florida

Research and Extension Center. He holds a doctoral degree in horticulture from the University of Maryland, a master's degree in plant science from the University of Delaware and a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Virginia Tech University. Mackay is a Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science and a recipient of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Superior Service Award in the team category. He has served on the editorial boards and as a reviewer for several horticulture journals. He was previously president of the Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences and has held several leadership positions in the Plant Growth Regulation Society of America. We are excited to have him here. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Mackay to Arkansas!

## Upcoming Events

- August 24, 2015: First day of Fall classes.
- September 3, 2015: Welcome Back Picnic at The Gardens on Razorback Road at 5pm. Horticulture students are welcome. Come get your new t-shirt, meet new horticulture students and enjoy dinner!
- October 3, 2015: Alumni Awards Ceremony at Sassafras Springs Vineyard in Springdale, AR. We will provide dinner, drinks and good company. Please bring your family and join us. We are accepting nominations at this time and have included the nomination form in this newsletter. If you know someone you'd like to nominate or if you'd like to nominate yourself, complete and return the form. The deadline for nominations is August 15, 2015.

## Turf Bowl Team and Advisor Honored at Awards Ceremony



Pictured from left to right: Keith Ihms (GCSAA President and Golf Maintenance Manager at Bella Vista Village), Doug Karcher, Travis Russell, Chase Fuerst, Tyler Carr, Warren Gullette, and Dave Plaster (North American Sales Manager, John Deere Golf). Photo Credit: Montana Pritchard



Dr. Karcher with his "gold medal" created by the lovely Cindy Kuhns.

The Office of Nationally Competitive Awards recognized the achievements of several UofA students and faculty at a ceremony on campus. Among those honored were four of our turf management students for their award-winning performance at the 21st Annual Collegiate Turf Bowl. Students Travis Russell, Warren Gullette, Tyler Carr, and Chase Fuerst finished in 10th place out of 69 teams, earning them a \$300 cash award. The competition was held last February at the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, Texas and consisted of a 4 hour exam that covered all areas of turfgrass science, business management, communication, environmental management and leadership.

A Penn State team won the competition and Penn State along with Iowa State had multiple teams finish in the top 10. As a result, the University of Arkansas team was actually the 6th placed institution, and the top-finishing institution from the southern United States. Two other students, Kent Fisher and Joe Danton, travelled to take part in the conference and compete in the Turf Bowl. The students were coached by turf science graduate students Nic Brouwer and Dan Sandor, who worked with the team from the beginning of the fall semester up until the competition. In addition, Golf Course Superintendent Justin Sims (the Alotian Club) worked with the students on various case study scenarios that were likely to be included in the exam.

Dr. Doug Karcher was also recognized at the reception and awarded a Faculty Gold Medal. He was one of only 8 professors given this award. And although the title of the award was gold medal, he was actually given a pat on the back. Cindy Kuhns, our Administrative Supervisor, consoled him by creating a masterpiece of a gold medal complete with a John Deere lanyard. Congratulations Dr. Karcher and keep up the excellent work.

## North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association (NARBA) Annual Conference Held in Fayetteville



Licensed propagator Ty Strode of Apopka, Fla., from left, fruit breeder John R. Clark and Nathan McKinney, talk about blackberry breeding. Photo Credit: Fred Miller

In February the UofA Division of Agriculture hosted the annual conference of the North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association (NARBA) in Fayetteville at the Chancellor Hotel. NARBA was attracted to Fayetteville because of the blackberry breeding program which Debby Wechsler of NARBA regards as "one of the top public breeding programs in the world." According to Dr. John Clark, blackberries from the UofA Division of Agriculture are grown on every continent except Antarctica. Dr. Clark has continued the work

that Dr. James N. Moore began at UofA in 1964. Clark's blackberry varieties were described as "revolutionary" by Wechsler. The conference was a great success and would not have been possible if it were not for the help of many of our faculty, students and staff.



Dr. Curt Rom describes the use of a high tunnel for growing primocane-fruiting blackberries and raspberries during a research tour at the Arkansas Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Fayetteville. Photo Credit: Fred Miller



## Horticultural Entrepreneurs Lecture Series

The department kicked off the Horticultural Entrepreneurs Lecture Series in April with Tobey and Lee Ann Wagner from Sod Solutions. Their company is dedicated to meeting the needs of warm and cool season turfgrass producers, nurserymen, landscape professionals and their customers by developing, licensing and marketing improved turfgrass varieties. During the lecture held at Pratt Place, the two shared insightful knowledge of how they have grown their innovative company from the ground up. They were available to meet with students to discuss ideas of their own the following day. Their experience in approaching the business of horticulture from a different angle challenged students to think about alternative ways to enter the business. This series was designed to provide our students with role models that may ignite their own entrepreneurial spirits, develop the Department's collegial culture and promote Horticulture in the state of Arkansas. Our next lecture is scheduled for late-October.



*Tobey and Lee Ann Wagner lecture at Pratt Place. Photo Credit: Mike Richardson*

## Outstanding Senior Award



*Dr. Clark awards Megan Lankford her Outstanding Senior Award at the Honors Banquet.*

The Vail-Watts award recipient this year is Megan Lankford. Megan was an Honors College student and Horticulture major. She graduated in May. This award is named for Drs. Joe Vail and Victor Watts. Vaile was a faculty member in the Department from 1936-1969. His area of teaching was fruit production and his research was in grapes and small fruits. Watts served as a faculty member from 1927 to 1968 and was Department Head from 1949-1968. His teaching and research was vegetable breeding and physiology. A cash award is given for the Vaile-Watts Award which was established in 1972. In addition to the Vail-Watts award Megan received numerous other awards including:

- ASHS (American Society for Horticultural Sciences) Outstanding Senior Award
- Outstanding Senior in Horticulture
- Senior Scholar Award
- ASHS Scholar Award 2015

Clearly Megan was a stellar student and we wish her the best. Good luck Megan!

## Professor to Retire

In spite of opposition from the Horticulture Office staff, Dr. David Hensley has announced his plan to retire 'on or before August 2, 2015'. Dave served as Department Head from July 2000 through December 2014. In January of 2015 he began his current role as professor and Graduate Program Coordinator. Quick-witted-dedicated-mischievous Dr. Dave plans to spend his retirement years in Colorado where a large percentage of his family currently live. We will miss him greatly and thank him profusely for his years of dedicated service. Best of luck to you, Dr. Dave, as you pursue your life of leisure and ducking out of grand parenting duties. Thanks for buying a house large enough for all of us to come visit too!





## Around the Horticulture Display Gardens:



Dutch Crocus  
Crocus vernus



Tulip Greigii  
Tulipa greigii



Frances Wagnon and Courtney Cooper  
Homo sapiens sapiens L.



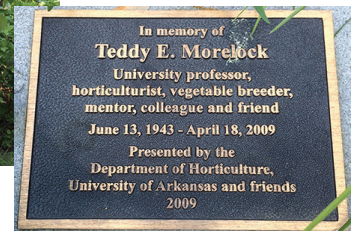
Flowering Dogwood  
Cornus florida



Teddy Morelock's Memorial Fragrant Snowbell  
Styrax japonicus



Jon Lindstrom's Memorial Fragrant Snowbell  
Styrax japonicus





## Around the Department:



Olivia Hines' photo from Arkansas Land & Life (fall/winter 2014) article: Undergraduates lend their hands to fruit research. Photo Credit: Fred Miller  
Companion video available at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/n2zfw3t>



The Horticulture Club working on propagation for their annual plant sale fundraiser.



Students from HORT 1303, An Introduction to Floral Design, show off their creations.



Turf students at graduation in May 2015.



Tyler Carr and Warren Gullette watching a demonstration of the AirG2. The AirG2 is being tested at Baum Stadium.

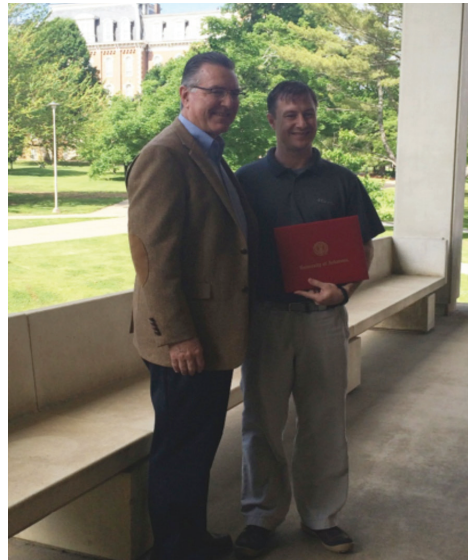


Strawberries growing in a high tunnel.

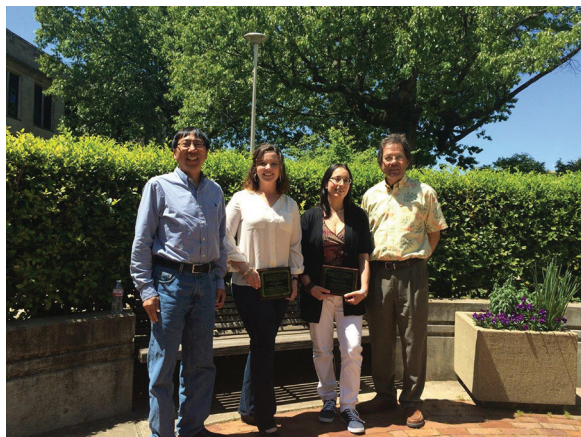


## Jason McAfee awarded 3rd Quarter Employee

When Dr. Curt Rom took on duties in the Honors College last year we needed someone to instruct Principles of Horticulture. The search for an instructor didn't make it very far, just down the hall, in fact. Jason McAfee, Dr. Rom's Program Technician, agreed to take on the task. "He was never asked to put anything else on hold" and "this was not supposed to be part of his job, but he has taken it with grace and gusto", expressed Ananda Moscoso-Schmitt, who nominated him. Jason doubled his duties for the sake of the students without hesitation. We are pleased that he won employee of the quarter. Congratulations Jason on a job well done and thank you!



## Awards Announced at End of Year Celebration



This spring we had an End of the Year Celebration on the last day of classes. Departmental and ASHS awards were announced. The James N. Moore Endowed Fellowship in Plant Breeding award was given to M.S. Student, Jessica Chitwood and Ph.D. Student, Alejandra Salgado. This prestigious award is given to students involved in horticultural plant breeding. Jessica and Alejandra were presented with plaques and received a cash award as well.

Dr. Hensley announced the 2015 Pi Alpha Xi inductees. Those inducted were: Michelle Wisdom, Lesley Smith, Olivia Caillouet, Emily Krol, Matthew Gal, and Rickie Lee Hicks.



Outstanding Horticulture Student Awards were also announced. The recipients were: Megan Lankford (undergraduate), Daniel O'Brien (Master's Student), and Alejandra Salgado (Ph.D. Student.) American Society for Horticultural Sciences Scholars for 2015 included: Emily Krol, Jessica Pendergraft, Michelle Wisdom, Olivia Caillouet, Megan McMahan, Lesley Smith, Blake Willems, Rickie Lee Hicks, Travis Russell, Travis Appel, Alexis Shafer, Matthew Gal, Peyton Fogleman, Jeffrey Bentley, Haleigh Smith, Raymond Jones and Olivia Hines. The Department is proud of this group of students. Way to go!



## 2015 Annual Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Science



*Dr. John Clark and Olivia Hines stand with her presentation at SR-ASHS Meeting.*

Several of our faculty members and students traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the 2015 Annual Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Science (SR-ASHS) /Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (Horticulture Section) meeting January 30 –February 2nd. Collectively they raked in the

awards and recognitions.

- Olivia Hines won 1st place in the undergraduate oral research presentation competition.
  - Matt Gal (president of GroGreen) placed 3rd in the Fruit and Vegetable judging competition.
  - Loren Anthony was elected secretary of the American Collegiate Branch of the SR-ASHS.
  - Luke Freeman won 2nd place in the Master's oral research presentation competition.
  - Alejandra Salgado won 1st place in the Ph.D. student oral research presentation competition.
  - The publication, "Moving the Needle: Accomplishments of the National Strawberry Sustainability Initiative" by Curt R Rom, Heather Friedrich, Luke Freeman, Leah Malvar, and Ron Rainey received the outstanding blue ribbon publication award for outreach publications.
  - Our department head and president of the SR-ASHS, Dr. Wayne Mackay gave the presidential address at the meeting.
  - Alyssa Barnes won The National Cowpea Improvement Association Poster Award for her undergraduate research she completed while interning with Dr. Curt Rom.
  - Other participants at the meeting included Megan McGovern, Julia Stover, Susan Alman, Megan Lankford, Lesley Smith, Rickie Lee Hicks and Jack McCoy.
- Next year the meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas at the beginning of February.

### Dr. Jim Robbins receives "Sturdy Oak Award"



Dr. Jim Robbins received the 2015 Sturdy Oak Award from the Arkansas Green Industry Association (AGIA.) The Sturdy Oak Award was established in 1981 to recognize individuals who have greatly contributed to the improvement and growth of the Arkansas Green Industry. "Jim has continuously gone beyond the norm with his tireless and highly professional approach to solving problems, informing of potential hazards and expediting education concepts and opportunities." Russell Black reports in Plant Arkansas. He continues on, "He has propelled the ACNLP (Arkansas Certified Landscape and Nursery Professional) program as he has consistently given the review and proctored the ACNLP exams." Congratulations Dr. Robbins.

### Other News

- Dr. Jean Meullenet served our department as Interim Head from January 1, 2014 through October 27, 2014.
- Dr. Craig Anderson retired on August 1, 2014.
- Ms. Marilyn McCord retired from her position as Recruitment and Special Project Coordinator on July 7, 2014.
- Shannon Mason joined the department as the Recruitment and Special Projects Coordinator on November 10, 2014.
- Susan Alman joined the department as graduate student in our M.S. program in Fall 2014.
- Joseph Chidiac joined the department as a graduate student in our M.S. program in Fall 2014.
- Andrew Jecmen joined our department as the Program Technician for Dr. John Clark's program in Spring 2014.
- Ananda Moscoso-Schmitt joined the department as the Horticulture Display Garden Manager after Tina Buxton resigned in June 2014.



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## ARKANSAS HORTICULTURE *News*

ARKANSAS HORTICULTURE is a biannual newsletter for alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the Department of Horticulture at the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, and the UA Division of Agriculture.

Dr. Wayne Mackay • *Department Head*  
Shannon Mason • *Editor*

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## Professor's Publication Makes Cover

Dr. Mike Richardson recently had a publication accepted to HortTechnology. The study involved five early-season bulbs that were established in zoysia grass and evaluated over four seasons for flowering and performance and persistence. Richardson et al. found that all bulbs flowered the first year after planting, but 'Ruby Giant' crocus was the only bulb that persisted and continued to flower over 4 years. To read the entire publication visit: <http://horttech.ashspublications.org/content/25/2/228.full>

The study not only made it into the journal but one of the photographs made the cover.

