August 2010

The peaceful sounds of summer have suddenly given way to the hustle and bustle of a new school year. Students are busy getting their class schedules set and of course fall is full of exciting extra curricula activities (many related to Hokie football fever!). I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our students to the new academic year, especially our first-semester Hort majors. We have 90 students majoring in Horticulture this fall, just above our numbers a year ago. Our graduate enrollment is 18 MS and 17 PhD students, also up a bit from last year. In addition Horticulture professors advise 5 Master of Agriculture and Life Sciences students. As always, we would love to hear updates on our alumni and other friends. Alumni - stay connected with VT on YouTube and visit the Horticulture Department web site often for special department features.

Enjoy! With kind regards, Roger

Welcome new Horticulture Graduate Students!

Shawn Appling is an MS student and has Joyce Latimer as major advisor.

Charles Desouza is an MS student and has Greg Welbaum as major advisor.

Mara Grossman is an MS student and has Joyce Latimer as major advisor.

Cain Hickey is an MS student and has Tony Wolf as major advisor.

Jonathan (JB) Snelson is an MS student and has Holly Scoggins as major advisor.

Dongfang (Emily) Zhou is an MS student and has Greg Welbaum as major advisor.

Cain Hickey started his graduate program this summer in fine fashion by winning an American Society for Enology and Viticulture student scholarship ($1,000) at the society's annual meeting in Geneva, NY, July 2010. Cain is investigating the influence of water stress on grapevine development and grape and wine quality. Congratulations Cain!

Richard Veilleux has been named the Julian H. and Margaret S. Gary Professor of Horticulture. The Julian H. Gary and Margaret S. Gary Professorship in Horticulture was established with a gift from Margaret Savage Gary. An avid gardener, Margaret Gary wanted her gift to support an area of lifelong interest she shared with her husband and to honor her nephew, Stuart Johnson, who is an alumnus of Virginia Tech. Congratulations Richard!
6th Annual Garden Gala -- a great success!
“Tropical paradise” was the theme, but “tropical monsoon” was more like it on June 12! Despite the rain, everyone seemed to have a marvelous time. Much appreciation goes out to our 260+ guests, many of them Horticulture alumni, for all the fun (and funds)! Our Gala Sponsors really stepped up this year, and 60 businesses and individuals contributed auction items ranging from rare plants to a vacation in the Outer Banks. The garden was beautiful, rum punch flowed, and the PanJammers steel drum orchestra provided non-stop island sounds.

Photo left: Holly Scoggins, Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden, introduces Dawn Lerch (HORT ’73 B.S., ’75 M.S.) as Honorary Host.

We congratulate two of our long time and much treasured faculty members on their retirement this summer and welcome them as Emeriti Faculty. Alan McDaniel served as advisor to many of our undergraduate students over the years and taught our very popular Floral Design class (We have successfully begged him to teach it for two more years!). Bonnie Appleton served as our Nursery Extension Specialist down at the Hampton Roads Research and Extension Center in Virginia Beach and was instrumental in the founding and management of our graduate program at the Hampton Roads station.

Joyce Latimer received the 2010 Horticulture Initiative Award from the Southeast Color Connection. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made a major contribution to the greenhouse industry. Congratulations Joyce!

Virginia’s Master Gardeners really do rock! Check it out at Rockstar Master Gardeners!
Upcoming Events at the Hahn Horticulture Gardens

**Wednesday Garden Walks (and Talks) - Free!** All run 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. - meet at the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion. No registration required. Parking passes available at Pavilion for Visitors only. F/S must park in designated F/S spaces.

- **Wednesday September 8; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.** "Know Your Late Season Weeds" with weed expert, Angela Post. Free! Meet at the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion.
- **Wednesday, September 22, 12:00-1:00 p.m.** "Sustainability at the Hahn Horticulture Garden" with Dr. Holly Scoggins. Free! Part of "Sustainability Week" presented by Virginia Tech, the Town of Blacksburg, and Sustainable Blacksburg. Join us for this walking tour of what we’re doing at the Hahn to care for our campus garden while reducing our impact on the environment. Meet at the Garden Pavilion.

**Gardening Workshops and Seminars**

Pre-registration is required for workshops and highly recommended for seminars. Call Stephanie at 540-231-5970 to register by phone or email vtgarden@vt.edu. You can also print off and mail in the Fall registration form (Word doc).

- "Fungiphobia" with Skip "Toadstool" Taliaferro, the Mushroom Man! Thursday, September 16, 6:00-7:30 p.m. He'll discuss fungi found in the Central Appalachians including ID, what’s good, toxic, or poisonous, and mycorrhizal and saprophytic properties. Friends of the Garden $15, general public $20. Location TBD.

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Dr. Mike Weaver (Entomology) recently uncovered information that W.B. Alwood (left), a Professor in the old combined Horticulture, Mycology, and Entomology Department planted the drill field Bur Oak around 1900! The picture on the right is from 1902. Dr. Weaver is leading a campaign to name the tree after Professor Alwood.

**Recent Publications**


Horticulture students pose below by the green roof garden constructed in our landscape practicum class lead by Alex Niemiera. The green roof garden can be accessed via the skywalk bridging the Ag Quad with Fralin Hall, near the one constructed two years ago.