

Department of Horticulture

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Late October finds us with a riot of color around campus. It has been a beautiful, yet mild fall and we have yet to have our first killing frost - but who knows what will happen on Halloween night? After losing several faculty positions over the last few years, I am happy to report that we will be interviewing for a Rhizosphere Biologist for the Blacksburg campus, a Nursery Specialist for the Hampton Roads research and extension center, and a Tree Fruits Specialist for the Winchester research and extension center this fall. We hope to have all three positions filled by next summer - stay tuned! As always, we would love to hear updates on our alumni and other friends. Enjoy! With kind regards, *Roger*

Virginia Tech students in HORT 3644 Landscape Establishment and Maintenance put some of the finishing touches on a new landscape they installed at Gilbert Linkous Elementary school in Blacksburg. Dr. Susan Day, the instructor, has partnered with Gilbert Linkous as part of Horticulture's Engaged Department Initiative. This class is a registered service-learning class and students visit Gilbert Linkous several times throughout the semester and conduct a complete site assessment and a site remediation and landscape proposal. The landscape installed this year was designed by VT students and was selected by the school from student proposals in 2009. The partnership with Gilbert Linkous not only allows us to serve a community need, but allows students to work long-term with a site and see the effects of implementing sustainable horticulture practices. Donations of plant material from Riverbend Nursery in Riner, Virginia and Lacie's Garden Center in Ellett Valley (outside of Blacksburg) made this landscape installation possible.



HORT 3644 students work on a service-learning project at Gilbert Linkous Elementary

Floriculture graduate students, **Kevin Harris, Shawn Appling, Mara Grossman** and **J.B. Snelsen**, joined **Maura Wood** and **Joyce Latimer** on the Virginia Flower Grower's Association's Annual Greenhouse Tour on October 20th. In addition to a little fun at Cox Farm's Fall Festival, everyone learned business economics and planning from Wayne Mills at Wayne's Wholesale Nursery in Fairfax. Then Bill Miller at Piedmont Growers in Bealeton shared details of his poinsettia production practices for the wholesale market. The tour finished with a visit to Fresh Tulips USA, LLC in Stevensburg, which specializes in the highly mechanized, hydroponic production of fresh-cut tulip flowers. Although the students headed back to Blacksburg from there, Maura and Joyce report they enjoyed a wonderful dinner (and short VFGA business meeting) at Timbers Restaurant in Glen Allen.



Scenes from the Virginia Flower Grower's Association's Annual Tour

Upcoming events at the Hahn Horticulture Garden

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.

- Wednesday, November 10, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. "Winterizing Your Garden" with Hahn Garden Horticulturists **Dabney Blanton** and **Paul Chumbley**. Free! Meet at the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion

2010 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.

- "Year-Round Landscape Appeal Using Woody Plants" with Dr. Alex Niemiera
Thursday, December 2, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Friends of the Garden \$15, general public \$20. Place TBD.
- "Holiday Centerpiece Workshop" with David Pippin
Monday, December 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required (limited to 25). Friends of the Garden members \$25, general public \$35. Meet at the Peggy Lee Hahn Garden Pavilion.

On October 23 and 24th, **Greg Welbaum** manned a booth for the Crop Science Society of America at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington DC for K through 12 students. The non-profit USA Science & Engineering Festival's mission was to produce the most compelling, exciting, educational and entertaining science gathering in the United States. The Festival was very well attended. Learn more at: www.usasciencefestival.org

Tremain Hatch (MS 2010) former student of **Tony Wolf**, has been hired as viticulture research/extension associate at Virginia Tech's AHS Jr. Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Winchester effective 25 October. Tremain will split time duties between providing educational programs in support of the Virginia grape and wine industry and serving as project logistics coordinator for the USDA/NIFA project awarded to Tony Wolf to research constraints to grape and wine quality in the eastern US (see below).

Grants and Publications

Tony Wolf received a major USDA/NIFA award to lead a multistate effort to further improve grape and wine quality in the eastern United States. The five-year project seeks to create, refine, and encourage industry adoption of grape and wine production practices that integrate research-based recommendations with key market drivers to achieve a robust and sustainable grape and wine industry in the region. The \$3.8 million award is split between 7 institutions and 20 principal investigators.

Roger Harris and Susan Day. 2010. Planting Depth at Onset of Container Production and Subsequent Rootball Remediation at Transplanting Affects Pin Oak and Littleleaf Linden. HortScience 45(11):1-5

