
Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Oklahoma State University

2003 Newsletter ♦ Teaching ♦ Research ♦ Extension

www.hortla.okstate.edu

Faculty

Dale M. Maronek, *Professor and Head*
Jeffrey Anderson, *Stress Physiology*
Louis Anella, *Ornamental Horticulture*
Gregory Bell, *Turfgrass Science*
Lynn Brandenberger, *Food Crops*
Todd J. Cavins, *Floriculture*
Janet Cole, *Ornamental Horticulture*
David Hillock, *Consumer Horticulture*
Paul Hsu, *Landscape Architecture*
Jeffrey B. Johnston, *Landscape Architecture*
Brian Kahn, *Vegetable Crops*
Charles Leider, *Landscape Architecture*
Niels Maness, *Postharvest Physiology*
Dennis Martin, *Turfgrass Management*
William McGlynn, *Food Science*
Doug Needham, *Floriculture*
Steve Owens, *Oklahoma Gardening Host*
John R. Ritter, *Landscape Architecture*
Warren Roberts, *Vegetable Crops*
Michael Schnelle, *Ornamental/Floriculture*
Michael W. Smith, *Pomology*



Department of Horticulture &
Landscape Architecture
Oklahoma State University
360 Agricultural Hall
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078-6027
405.744.5414
www.hortla.okstate.edu

Summer GardenFest

The 2003 Summer GardenFest was a great success with over 500 in attendance for the event. The OSU Botanical Garden Ambassadors and OSU support staff did a great job in preparing for the event. The botanical gardens looked beautiful, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. If you missed the Summer GardenFest, you can go to the *Oklahoma Gardening* webpage, <http://www.oklahomagardening.okstate.edu/>, and view photos taken that day.

The 2004 Summer GardenFest is scheduled for June 12, 2004 at the OSU Botanical Garden. The day will be filled with horticultural presentations, demonstrations, and garden tours will provide an opportunity for *Oklahoma Gardening* viewers across the state to visit the studio set and garner some expert gardening information. For more information visit the *Oklahoma Gardening* website, <http://www.oklahomagardening.okstate.edu/>, or call (405) 744-5404.

Faculty Recognition

Louis Anella was invited to serve on the teaching and learning subcommittee for the self study OSU will present to the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association for re-accreditation.

Greg Bell, 2003 Faculty Phoenix Award, Graduate and Professional Student Government Association, Oklahoma State University, presented annually to the outstanding graduate student teacher/advisor at Oklahoma State University

Lynn Brandenberger, Niels Maness, William McGlynn and Jim Motes were recognized by Southern Region American Society for Horticulture Science, Extension Publication Award for Cucurbit Integrated Crop Management (E-853), 2003.

David Hillock, 2003 Outstanding Professional Staff Award, presented by the Agricultural Ambassadors for his dedication and support of students.

William McGlynn was promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor.

Douglas C Needham, 2003 NACTA Southern Regional Outstanding Teacher, and Honorary State FFA Degree

Retirements

Dean McCraw retired from the Department on July 31, 2003 after 18 years on the faculty. McCraw received his B.S. and M.S. at Oklahoma State University and his Ph.D. from Kansas State University.

Lonnie Cargill retired from the Department on July 31, 2003 after 27 years at OSU. Cargill received his B.S. and M.S. from Oklahoma State University.

Maronek Participates in National Leadership Program

Dale Maronek was selected by the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology to participate in a national leadership training program entitled Cultivating Leadership for a Changing Agriculture. The training program was held

June 19-22, 2003. It is a W.K. Kellogg Foundation supported initiative offered by the Institute for Conservation Leadership designed to strengthen leadership among professionals, scientific societies, sustainable agricultural organizations, and university based institutes. Only a limited number of individuals were selected to participate. The program is designed to promote a more localized healthy, and equitable food system by building the capacity of agricultural organizations through organizational development, by developing individual leadership with new skills and competences that enhance shared and collaborative leadership, and by fostering better understanding and working relationships between nonprofit, scientific and academic organizations working on agricultural issues.

Broadway In Bloom Competition

A Planting Plan was prepared in LA 4034 Planting Design class under the direction of Warren Edwards for the median on Broadway Avenue between 73rd and 74th Streets in New York City for the Broadway In Bloom competition. The following two person team's projects were selected and sent to the competition in March: Kara Mitchell & Katy Morgan; Sean Rohbacker & Adam Laughlin; Katy Hallgren & Corrie Tauer; and Nick Thompson & Darran Scott. In late May Warren Edwards was informed that drawings produced by Katy Hallgren & Corrie Tauer were selected for display as a proto-type treatment for the median. The drawings were displayed at the Municipal Art Society at 457 Madison Avenue in New York City.

Horticulture Judging Team

The Horticulture Judging Team did a great job at Southern Region ASHS Contests in Mobile, AL, February 1, 2003.

Team Ranking:

- 1st Place - Fruit & Nuts
- 3rd Place - Greenhouse Foliage & Floral Crops
- 2nd Place - Outstanding Club

Individual Ranking:

- 2nd Place Fruits & Nuts - Rob Brown
- 3rd Place Fruits & Nuts - Samantha Wagner
- 2nd Place Woody Ornamentals - Katy Friess

New Southern Region ASHS Association of Collegiate Branches Officers:

- Whitney Holsted - President
- Katy Friess - Vice President

2004 Oklahoma Proven Selections

Each year Oklahoma Proven recommends a tree, shrub, perennial, and annual for use in Oklahoma. Below are the selections for 2004, as well as the selections from previous years. Oklahoma Proven is the brain child of the Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture and is supported by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and the Oklahoma Green Industry.

Oklahoma Proven Selections for 2004

Acer truncatum, Shantung Maple
Jasminum nudiflorum, Winter Jasmine
Salvia greggii, Autumn Sage
Hamelia patens, Fire Bush



Oklahoma Proven Selections for 2003

Gymnocladus dioica, Kentucky Coffee Tree
Lagerstroemia indica 'Pink Velour', Crape Myrtle
Athyrium nipponicum, Japanese Painted Fern
Tecoma stans, Yellow Bells

Oklahoma Proven Selections for 2002

Quercus macrocarpa, Bur Oak
Kerria japonica, Japanese Kerria
Echinacea 'Magnus', Purple Coneflower
Ipomoea batatas 'Margarita', Sweet Potato

Oklahoma Proven Selections for 2001

Quercus shumardii, Shumard Oak
Ilex decidua, Deciduous Holly
Gaura lindheimeri 'Siskiyou Pink', Gaura
Zinnia angustifolia, Mexican Zinnia

Congratulations to 2003 Graduates

The department would like to extend its congratulations to the following students who graduated in Spring 2003.

Haley Jo Allen	Jeffrey Alan Morales
Jeremiah Ross Anderson	Robert Edson Myers
Matthew David Baer	Stephanie Ningen
Daniel Warren Boley	Brian Patrick Pittman
Cheryl Renee Boyer	Dusty Gayle Pittman
Jana Lynn Clift	Brad Allen Remke
Laci Renee Couch	Carl Harrison Rodrigue
Jason Scott Dickinson	Paul Wayne Scoggins
Craig C. Evans	Melodie Renee Shaffer
Michael Frank Hippard	Mike Lindsay Sottong
Jaclyn Summer Huntley	Kelli Beth Taylor
Ana Maria Gay Sam	Catherine Jean Thompson
Leann B. Jones	Justin Wade Toews
John Phillip Kelley	Nicole Marie Warns
Kristina Linda Lewis	Benjamin Todd Zollinger



Department Welcomes New Graduate Students

The department would like to extend a welcome to our newest graduate students. Cheryl Boyer began graduate studies in Summer 2003 under the direction of Janet Cole. In Fall 2003 Sofia Kamenidou began graduate studies under the direction of Todd Cavins and Ioannis Oikonomakos began studies under the direction of Niels Maness.

Way to Go Cheryl Boyer!

Cheryl Boyer was elected student ambassador for the ALCA Green Industry Conference in St. Louis, MO November 5-9, 2003. Cheryl was also one of the Top 12 seniors from across the university who have excelled in scholarship, leadership and campus activities.

Greg Bell Teaches in Denmark

Greg Bell spent about one month teaching in Denmark during the summer of 2003 as part of the HORTECUS exchange program. He taught at The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University of Denmark (KVL) in Copenhagen. Students take classes in 10-week segments in either Denmark or Sweden and each segment deals with a particular subject such as chemistry and plant physiology, general horticulture, or math. When the universities combined their programs they accepted the strengths from each location and eliminated the weaknesses.

College in Denmark is different than in the US because most students are older. In Denmark they graduate from high school at age 19-21 and they usually wait a year or two before going to college. The bachelor's degree is a three year program that requires a thesis, and most students go on for a Master's degree. A student who is accepted at a university gets free tuition and a stipend similar to what we pay qualified graduate students. Since the bachelor's program is short and college does not cost anything, most students finish a master's degree and most employers don't hire students with only a bachelor's degree.

The class Bell taught was a combination of the same classes he teaches here at OSU as Turf Management and Turfgrass Physiology and Ecology. There were seven students in Bell's class, five graduate students and two 3rd year undergraduates. Each student was fluent in Danish and English, and some were fluent in other languages as well.

The class lasted three hours per day for three weeks with a major amount of additional time required to complete assignments. The final exam was an oral exam similar to a graduate student defense here in the US.

The class took four field trips with Dr. Bell to Leopold's sod farm (called roller grass in Denmark), The Danish National Football (soccer) Stadium, DLF Trifolium (a turfgrass seed producing company), and Fureso Golf Course.

Danish turfgrass management is quite different than turf management in the US. The Danish do not perceive dark green turf as desirable and some flowering plants that we consider weeds are welcome in Danish lawns. Athletic fields are primarily perennial ryegrass, golf courses are primarily fine fescue, and lawns are almost always a mixture of fine fescue, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass. The mixture and the predominate yellow-green color help to hide the weeds and mowing is performed less frequently. In Denmark, pesticide use is not legal in urban areas and weeds are a consistent problem in these areas. Fortunately, disease and insect problems are minimal. Clover is ubiquitous in these areas and at least one Danish turfgrass breeder is developing varieties of turf-type clover for use in low maintenance lawns.

Douglas Needham Teaches in Holland

HORTECUS Consortium partner Doug Needham spent the month of June 2003 guest lecturing in courses and studying Problem-Based Learning and Project Education at INHOLLAND University Delft, formerly Hogeschool Delft.

Dr. Needham taught poinsettia production in two courses and US horticultural operations entrepreneurship in another course. He also presented statistics about US horticulture to the faculty of the University. All presentations were made available for repeat supplementary instruction via the WWW at <http://www.okstate.edu/ag/asnr/hortla/needham/courses/inholland/>

Dr. Needham additionally interacted with students and faculty in other courses. He discussed the students' food safety posters, giving the students the opportunity to communicate their ideas in English. He also offered critical review of their posters' content and presentation. Additionally, Dr. Needham critiqued websites students had designed for on-line and business-to-business (B-B) sales of fresh fruits and vegetables. His participation in various courses provided students and faculty the opportunity to experience American culture and to communicate their ideas in English.

Dr. Needham not only taught, but also studied, while at INHOLLAND University Delft. The university's faculty utilize Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and Project Education (PE) in nearly all of their courses. Although PBL originated at McMaster University in Canada, it was adopted and developed at the University of Maastricht in The Netherlands. Dr. Needham interacted with many faculty at INHOLLAND University Delft to explore and develop an understanding of PBL's use in the classroom and PE's use in the laboratory and greenhouse. With the critical assistance of the faculty, he re-designed OSU's HORT3113—Greenhouse Management course (<http://www.okstate.edu/ag/asnr/hortla/needham/courses/3113/>), fully incorporating PBL and PE for use be-

ginning in the Fall 2003 semester.

Dr. Needham utilized weekends to strengthen and expand the cultural exchange of the HORTECUS Consortium by visiting with partners, internship cooperators, and students at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University of Copenhagen (KVL), the University of Hannover, Gissfeld Manor, Købelevhaven, Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam, and Herrenhäuser Gärten.

Japan Urban Landscape and Historic Garden Design Study Program

May 15 to June 5, 2003

In May 2003, Prof. Paul Hsu and a group of 10 OSU students traveled to Japan for a Japan historic garden and urban landscape design study. This study program is designed to introduce students to explore the new generation of Japanese landscape and the traditional Japanese garden design. Students were introduced to a series of urban landscape and historic garden designs around Japan's cultural cities, Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka. The study concentrated on the use of stone, water, greenery, colors, light, spaces, sequences, feeling and senses.

This is a three-week study program assisted by our sister city Kameoka Exchange Center, Kyoto. Besides visiting gardens and urban landscape designs, students were also exposed to a host family experience with Kameoka citizens, studio exchange with Kyoto University of Art and Design, and hands on garden construction workshop with local gardeners cooperative. They also participated in annual green festival where everyone enjoyed music, dance, and fun activities. Students are expected to do photo journals, site sketching, design analysis, and report writing as part of the course assignment.

OSU study abroad program made a long lasting positive impression with the local community, university, and professionals. They are not just a study group but also a group of cultural ambassadors. They all safely returned home to continue their summer study and work.

Maronek Speaks at South Florida Agro-ecology Conference

Dr. Dale Maronek was an invited speaker at the South Florida Agro-ecology Conference in September `2003 which was cosponsored by the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions, at Florida Atlantic University of Florida; and the USDA. South Florida is faced with urban sprawl impacting the Agricultural and Everglade communities. Dr. Maronek spoke on environmental systems and the methods, action steps, and policies that can be utilized to establish common ground amongst converging communities. Agriculture's role in servicing a total environmental system which includes the metropolitan, agricultural, and natural resource communities was presented.

Scholarships and Awards

Our students were awarded \$86,700 in scholarships for the 2003-2004 academic year and several special awards were given by the department. Below is a complete list of the department's scholarship and award recipients.

The department would like to extend a thank you to all of the scholarship donors. We appreciate you supporting our students.

Distinguished Horticulture Alumnus Award	Allan Storjohann
Distinguished Horticulture Service Award	Charles Cohlmi
Distinguished Landscape Architecture Service Award	Karl von Bieberstein
Recognition of Past Distinguished Alumnus and Service Award recipients.	
Margaret Romshe Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award (\$500 + plaque)	Tim Endicott (HORT)
Franklin A. Romshe Outstanding Graduate Student Award(\$500 + plaque)	Justin Q. Moss (Turf-PhD)
Outstanding Departmental Staff Award	Tim Hooper
Moesel Award (Top GPA seniors)	
Floriculture Award: <i>FLORA: An Illustrated History of the Garden Flower</i>	Andria Hesnard (HORT)
Landscape Architecture Award: <i>Minimalist Gardens</i>	Darran Scott (LA)
Turf Award: <i>Human Resource Management for Golf Course Superintendents</i>	Jackey Yocham (TURF)

Study Abroad Programs

HORTECUS Stipend Award	Whitney Holsted (HORT) \$3000 Ed Moydell (PHRT) \$3000 Inka Gawenda (HORT) •2000
Little Ripple Design Foundation Award Japan Study Abroad Program	Alisha Grayson (LA) \$700 Sarah Stinchcomb (LA) \$700 Mike Albert (LA) \$500
Floricultural Crop Judging & Design Award	Megan Moody (HORT) \$100 Jeri Beth Strickland (JB) \$100

Landscape Architecture Awards

ASLA Certificate of Honor Award	Kara Mitchell Jeffrey Morales
ASLA Certificate of Merit Award	Jenny Frantz Katy Hallgren

Individual Donor Scholarships

Robert C. & Doris Rae Arens	Traci Burd (LA) \$1000 Leah Dillsaver (LA) \$1000 Michelle Jantz (LA) \$1000 Kara Mitchell (LA) \$1000
Jerry Francis Benton Memorial	Tim Endicott (HORT) \$2000 Charles Rohla (HORT-PhD) \$2500
Walter Clore Memorial	Mary "Katie" Morgan (LA) \$1000
David Hopfer Memorial Academic	Charles Rohla (HORT-PhD) \$1200
David Hopfer Memorial Travel	Charles Rohla (HORT-PhD) \$300
Huffine Memorial Distinguished Graduate Fellowship	Justin Q. Moss (TURF-PhD) \$2200
Huffine Memorial Presidential Distinguished	Colby Brewster (TURF) \$2200 Michael League (TURF) \$2200 Amy McCaslin (HORT) \$2200 Ed Moydell (PHRT) \$1100 Jon Sanford (TURF) \$2200
William Raymond and Charlotte Wheatley Kays	Whitney Holsted (HORT) \$5000
Paul J. Mitchell Memorial	Amy Brooks (LA) \$500 Samantha Wagner (PHRT) \$500
Elbert Pogue Memorial	Luke Willis (LA) \$400
Florence B. Pogue Memorial	Michelle Jantz (LA) \$500
Ed and Lorraine Reynolds	Laura Bible (HORT) \$1000 Whitney Holsted (HORT) \$1000 Megan Moody (HORT) \$1000 Alyssa Ramm (HORT) \$1000

Garden Club/Departmental Scholarships

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa	Julia Brotton (HORT) \$250
Bartlesville Garden Center, Inc.	Julia Brotton (HORT) \$1000
The Council of Ponca City Garden Clubs	Jenny Frantz (LA) \$500
Enid Council of Garden Clubs	Rebecca Bailey (LA) \$1000 Cliff Brunken (TURF) \$1000
Enid Men's Extension Garden Club	Jenny Frantz (LA) \$1000 Chad Newby (LCON) \$1000 Cassi Poor (LA) \$1000
Garfield County Master Gardeners	Jessica Waugh (LA) \$1000

N.E. District of Oklahoma Garden Clubs Elizabeth Gordon Memorial	Derek McCall (LA) \$1500
Oklahoma Garden Clubs, Inc.	Cheryl Boyer (HORT-MS) \$500
Oklahoma Horticulture Society	
in Honor of Dick Payne	Tracey Payton (HORT) \$1000
in Memory of Paul Mitchell	Brooke Cox (LA) \$1000
OSU Horticulture Club	Laura Bible (HORT) \$400
	Eileen Cravello (HORT) \$400
	Whitney Holsted (HORT) \$400
Pi Alpha Xi	Jenny Frantz (LA) \$500
Town & Country Garden Club—in Memory of	
William R. & Charlotte W. Kays	Sarah O’Neal (PHRT) \$50
Tulsa Area Iris Society—in Honor of Alva & Rilla Hickerson,	
C. J. & Kitty Lack, Leonard & Clara Perkins,	
and Dorothy Light	Cheryl Boyer (HORT-MS) \$1000
	Megan Moody (HORT) \$1000
Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs	Traci Burd (LA) \$500
Tulsa Garden Club	Michael Albert (LA) \$1500
	Richard Lavery (LA) \$1500
	Sarah O’Neal (PHRT) \$1500
	Sean Rohrbacker (LA) \$1500
in Memory of Lucy A. Castle	Darran Scott (LA) \$1500
State/National/Industry Scholarships	
Associated Landscape Contractors of America—	
Stihl, Inc.	Cheryl R. Boyer (HORT-MS) \$1000
Associated Landscape Contractors of America	
Educational Foundation	Anjie King (LA) \$500
Bayer Environmental Science	Cliff Brunken (TURF) \$1000
Floriculture Industry Research and Scholarship Trust	Justin Q. Moss (TURF-PhD) \$500
Harrison Walnut Redevelopment Corp.	Anjie King (LA) \$500
National Garden Clubs, Inc.—	
Lorena M. Spillers	Cheryl R. Boyer (HORT-MS) \$3500
Oklahoma Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects	Nick Thompson (LA) \$500
Oklahoma Golf Course Superintendents’ Association	Jeremy Biswell (TURF) \$500
	Casey Cox (TURF) \$500
Oklahoma Nursery & Landscape Assoc	Mary “Katie” Morgan (LA) \$500
	Sean Rohrbacker (LA) \$500
Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation—	
Dr. Wayne Huffine Memorial	Jackey Yocham (TURF) \$1500
Oklahoma Vegetable Association—	
in Honor of Jim Motes	Tim Endicott (HORT) \$500
Perennial Plant Association	Eileen Cravello (HORT) \$1000
Joseph Shinoda Memorial	Andria Hesnard (HORT) \$1000
	Megan Moody (HORT) \$1000
Total Environment, Inc.	David Akrabawi (TURF) \$2500
	Zac Allen (TURF) \$2500
	Matt Wilson (TURF) \$2500
	Blake Emerson (LCON) \$1250
	Chad Hetrick (LCON) \$1250
Trans-Mississippi Golf Association	Michael League (TURF) \$1250
	Justin Q. Moss (TURF-PhD) \$1250

Departmental Support

The Department would like to extend its gratitude to the following individuals and companies for their support during 2003.

Abbott-Ipco, Adam's Landscapes, American Plant Products, Baughman Company P.A., Berger Horticulture, Binding Stevens Garden Center, Carlton Plants, Emmanuel O. Carrena, Crompton-Uniroyal Chemical, Fine Agrochemicals Limited, Fred C. Gloeckner, Greenleaf Nurseries, Hale Landscape Creations, Richard Hawkins, J Frank Schmidt & Son Co, Joseph R. and Virginia Schulte Fund, Landscape Design, Monsanto, OG&E, Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation Inc, Olympic Chemical, Paul Ecke Poinsettias Ranch, Poulsen Roser Pacific Inc, Sayre Rotary Club, Seasonal Colors of Stillwater, Source Tech Bio Inc, Keta Stevens, Valent Chemical, Wilkinson Nursery, Yoder Brothers Inc.

*New Grants***Louis Anella**

\$6,000 from Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

Oklahoma Proven Tree Poster and Brochure. October 30, 2003-October 29, 2004.

Greg Bell

\$21,325 from Toro for Turfgrass Research. July 15, 2003 to completion.

\$4,550 from ISK Biosciences for Turfgrass Research.

Continuing until completion.

Lynn Brandenberger

\$6,000 from University of Florida. Efficacy and Phytotoxicity Studies for Weed Control in Cucurbit Crops Including Watermelon. May 28, 2003-April 14, 2004.

\$9,500 from United Agri Products for Vegetable and Weed Control Research. Continuing until completion.

Todd Cavins

\$5,000 from Crompton Uniroyal Chemical for Floriculture Research. Continuing until completion.

Janet Cole

\$3,420 from Greenleaf Nursery for Research on Effects of Chemicals on Plant Growth. Continuing until completion.

\$3,000 from Source Tech Biologicals for Research on Effects of Chemicals on Plant Growth. Continuing until completion.

Brian Kahn

\$100 from Willhite Seed for Olericulture Research. Continuing until completion.

\$100 from Otis Twilley Seed Company for Olericulture Research. Continuing until completion.

\$100 from Chesmore Seed Company for Olericulture Research. Continuing until completion.

\$100 from Garden Trends for Olericulture Research.

Continuing until completion.

\$100 from Crookham Company for Olericulture Research. Continuing until completion.

\$500 from Syngenta Seeds for Olericulture Research. Continuing until completion.

Niels Maness

\$208,033 from United States Department of Agriculture. Postharvest Handling, Storage and Processing of Horticultural and Alternate Commodities. August 1, 2003-July 31, 2005.

Dennis Martin

\$60,000 from United States Golf Association. A Biocontrol Strategy for Increasing Resistance to Spring Dead Spot in Bermudagrass. February 1, 2003-January 31, 2006.

\$75,000 from United States Golf Association. Breeding and Evaluation of Turf Bermudagrass Varieties. February 1, 2003-January 31, 2006.

\$12,000 from the National Turf Evaluation Program. NTEP 2003 National Bentgrass (Putting Green) Test. June 24, 2003-June 1, 2008.

\$12,000 from the National Turf Evaluation Program. NTEP 2003 National Bentgrass (Fairway/Tee), Test, Base Agreement. July 22, 2003-June 1, 2008.

\$4,000 from the National Turf Evaluation Program. NTEP 2003 National Bentgrass (Fairway/Tee) Test, Divot Cutting Trial. July 22, 2003-June 1, 2006.

\$2,000 from DuPont for Turfgrass Extension. Continuing until Completion.

\$2,000 from Dow AgroSciences for Turfgrass Extension. Continuing until Completion.

\$4,000 from Syngenta for Turfgrass Extension. Continuing until Completion.

Dean McCraw

\$4,000 from Livesay Orchards for Pecan Research. Continuing until Completion.

\$2,700 from Livesay Peach Barn for Pecan Research. Continuing until Completion.

Mike Smith

\$6,625 from Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association for Pecan Research. Continuing until Completion.

\$700 from Texas Pecan Board for Pecan Research. Continuing until Completion.

Steve Owens

\$10,000 from Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Forestry Services. Oklahoma Urban Forestry Program in Oklahoma. March 4, 2003-March 3, 2004

\$3,000 from TLC Florist & Greenhouses, Inc. for *Oklahoma Gardening*. Continuing until Completion.

OSU Drives the Standard

Tiger Woods may be a legend on the greens, but Oklahoma State University was producing the legends behind the greens before Tiger was even a toddler.

For more than 50 years, the turf management program at OSU has been one of the leading programs in the nation. Turfgrass is one of the fastest growing segments of agriculture in the United States and represents a \$30 billion to \$35 billion industry.

“During the past several years the sport of golf has grown from a game for the elite to what some may argue is the new national past time,” said Gregory Bell, associate professor of turf physiology and ecology.

With this tremendous growth in popularity comes a demand for higher quality, more challenging courses. The answer to this dilemma: superior turf management programs like OSU.

“The turf management program at OSU was a small group until a few years ago,” said Bell.

Between 1990 and 1998, the program grew to about 50 students. This number has remained the average enrollment for several years.

Because of the tremendous increase in the number of students in the program, the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture now offers master’s and doctoral programs with an emphasis in turf management.

Students in the undergraduate program take a wide variety of classes, including plant science, soil science, agricultural engineering, botany, entomology and business management.

Their career options range from starting their own lawn care or landscaping business to managing golf courses or sports fields.

Many graduates own or work for lawn care companies, manage athletic fields, or work for state or municipal parks departments.

“Due to the increase in popularity of the sport of golf, the most popular career direction students are taking is golf course management,” said Bell.

Before students can complete their undergraduate turf management degrees, they must complete an internship in the turf industry. To participate in an internship, students must successfully complete at least 24 credit hours with a minimum grade point average of 2.00 and have at least one semester remaining toward the completion of a degree.

Students receive one credit hour for each 160 hours of approved work experience. A maximum of six credit hours may be earned.

One objective of the internship is to give the student practice in seeking out employment opportunities.

The golf course management internship may be completed at the student’s course of choice, but there are several duties required of both the students and the cooperators they choose to be their supervisors.

Students must participate in every aspect of managing a golf course: mowing, irrigation, fertilization, turfgrass establishment and/or renovation, application of pesticides, maintenance of bunkers and course setup.

Management skills are another aspect of the internship. Each student will fill the position of “superintendent for a day.” During this time, they will attend a greens committee meeting, supervise a crew of employees on a course project and be in charge of record keeping, payroll and the budget.

Another objective of this internship is to enhance the students’ educational experience by broadening their horizons beyond familiar surroundings.

Students in the program have worked with golf courses throughout the nation, from Texas to Florida and from Missouri to California.

“The hands-on experience I gained during the course management I did at the Country Club of Little Rock in Arkansas is the best part of the turf program at OSU,” said Ben Zollinger, 2003 turfgrass management alumnus.

Because of OSU’s excellent program on campus and the intense internships students must complete, the program has had a 100 percent job placement rate since 1997. The average starting salary for turf management graduates is \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year.

“The wide variety of horticulture, not just turf management, OSU teaches makes students more marketable,” said Brad Kmita, 2002 turfgrass management alumnus and Southern Hills golf course foreman.

Alumni of the turf management program are working as superintendents or assistant superintendents on golf courses across the nation. Many OSU graduates work at some of Oklahoma’s most well-known courses, including Karsten Creek Country Club in Stillwater, Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, and Oak Tree Golf Club and Gaillardia Country Club in Oklahoma City.

However, their expertise is not limited to Oklahoma. OSU turf management graduates are located across the United States at some of the most prestigious courses in the nation, including Desert Willow Golf Course in Nevada, Desert Mountain Country Club in Arizona and Jupiter Hills Country Club in Florida.

Southern Hills, Oak Tree and Jupiter Hills were recently ranked by *Golf Magazine* in the top 100 US golf courses. Southern Hills Golf Course has also been selected as the site of the 2007 PGA Championship.

“Southern Hills is consistently voted as one of the top courses in the nation,” said Kmita. “It is an honor for not only Southern Hills, but also OSU to be a part of one of the world’s most prestigious tournaments.”

The turf management program has come a long way from the small group it started with more than 50 years ago.

“The program has developed into one of the most successful on campus and in the nation,” said Bell.

The need for quality turf management continues to grow with the popularity of golf. Modern day phenomenons like Tiger Woods sparked the interest of the nation for the sport, and superior turf management programs like OSU have answered its requests for quality golf courses.

OSU continues to lay down the “golden” greens on which legends like Tiger are made.

--Story by Candace Dobson, Newkirk, Oklahoma

2003 Faculty Publications

- Taliaferro, C.M., D.L. Martin, **J.A. Anderson**, M.P. Anderson, G.E. Bell, and A. Guenzi. 2003. Registration of ‘Yukon’ bermudagrass. *Crop Sci.* 43:1131-1132.
- Anderson, J.A.**, C.M. Taliaferro, and D.L. Martin. 2003. Longer exposure durations increase freeze damage to turf bermudagrasses. *Crop Sci.* 43:973-977.
- Koemel, J.E., Jr., A.C. Guenzi, **J.A. Anderson**, and E.L. Smith. Cold hardiness of wheat near-isogenic lines differing in vernalization alleles. *Theor. Appl. Genet.* (accepted for publication).
- Anderson, J.A.** and S.R. Padhye. Protein aggregation, radical scavenging capacity, and stability of hydrogen peroxide defense systems in heat-stressed vinca and sweet pea leaves. *J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci.* (accepted for publication).
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