

Department of
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
Oklahoma State University

2011 Newsletter

Teaching • Research • Extension

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Faculty

Dale M. Maronek, *Professor and Head*

Jeffrey Anderson, *Stress Physiology*

Louis Anella, *Ornamental Horticulture*

Gregory Bell, *Turfgrass Science*

Lynn Brandenberger, *Food Crops*

Janet Cole, *Ornamental Horticulture*

Bruce Dunn, *Herbaceous Ornamentals*

David Hillock, *Consumer Horticulture*

Michael Holmes, *Landscape Architecture*

Paul Hsu, *Landscape Architecture*

Brian Kahn, *Vegetable Crops*

Charles Leider, *Landscape Architecture*

Niels Maness, *Postharvest Physiology*

Dennis Martin, *Turfgrass Management*

William McGlynn, *Food Science*

Justin Moss, *Turfgrass Science*

Nicholas Nelson, *Landscape Architecture*

Kim Toscano, *Oklahoma Gardening Host*

Warren Roberts, *Vegetable Crops*

Michael Schnelle, *Ornamental/Floriculture*

Michael W. Smith, *Pomology*

Letter from the Department Head

Dr. Dale M. Maronek

Over the course of 2011, the Horticulture & Landscape Architecture department faculty went through many changes. Professor John Ritter retired before the start of the Fall 2011 semester, which led to the selection of Nick Nelson as his replacement. Nick graduated from UT of Arlington, has a great environmental background and will be very helpful with the new Integrated Environmental Research and Education Site (IERES) initiative taking place in the department.

Our department also was hit with the departure of Eric Stafne leaving in October. Eric was an influential connection between our department and the grape and wine industry.

The new entrance to The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University officially opened to the public June 18. It is located off of State Highway 51 and provides a new gateway to our community. The garden is truly a shining example of the land grant mission of integrating research, Extension and teaching, and it serves as an educational and recreational resource to the community. A grand opening event took place during the 11th Annual GardenFest at the garden located west of Stillwater. This year's keynote speaker was Tres Fromme, a landscape architect with the Dallas-based firm Studio Outside. He brought a vast knowledge of horticulture, garden precedents, aesthetics and design to his projects and is known for choreographing relationships among people, spaces, communities and plants.

Proven Winners Update

Bruce Dunn

Although you could hear me say that this summer was hot with record setting temperatures starting in May, the heat provided a good platform to evaluate some Proven Winners® selections. Every spring Proven Winners® sends about 50 selections for evaluation. Some of the plants are new releases for 2011, some have not been released yet, and others were either "Best Sellers" or "Award Winning" selections. I have conducted a Proven Winners® trial at The Botanic Gardens at Oklahoma State University for three years now. A summary of this year's trial results are listed below, however, for a complete trial report including ratings and pictures please visit <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/resources/provenwinners/index.htm>.

All five Petunia selections ('White Russian', 'Sangria Charm', 'Vista Silverberry', 'Raspberry Blast', and 'Vista Bubblegum') performed well with profuse blooming seen continually throughout the summer. In previous years, the Petunia selection tended not to flower as heavily in July and August, but this year Oscomote was added to the soil beds in May. This was the first year for the Lantana selections ('Berry Blend', 'Grape', 'Citrus Blend', and 'Lemonade'), which also performed well if given ample water. I did hear some complaints from growers that these Lantana selections wilted early and often, but if given ample water after these plants got

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established wilting was not a problem. The Dahlia selections would perform better under partial sun instead of full sun, and I would recommend deadheading the spent flowers. All sweet potato selections ('Midnight Lace', 'Raven', 'Emerald Lace', and 'Garnet Lace') received top marks. It appears deer do not prefer 'Garnet Lace', as all other selections were "pruned" regularly by the local deer population. Plants that flowered from May to September included Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost', Nierembergia 'Blue Skies', Cleome 'Senorita Rosalita', Lobularia 'Snow Princess', and Heliotropium 'Simply Scentsational'.

Every site and year brings out challenges for the plants. So, although some of the selection may not have performed well at my site this summer under minimal inputs, plant evaluations are often done over multiple years and multiple trial sites. I can say with some certainty that if the plants do perform well in my trial, that they would probably do even better in your flower beds. Your local garden center may or may not carry a particular selection, so I suggest that you phone your local garden center to learn if a particular Proven Winners selection is available for purchase or visit the Proven Winners® website at <http://www.provenwinners.com/> to find the nearest retailer.

Visit from Dr. Wang

Bruce Dunn

Dr. Yun-wen Wang, from the China Agricultural University in Beijing, came to Oklahoma State University from November 2010 to April 2011 to investigate the use of GreenSeeker™ Technology in floriculture crops. Use of vegetative indices, calculated from optically-sensed measurements, can provide rapid, non-destructive readings that correlate with plant properties such as chlorophyll and plant nutrition. Use of vegetative indices from GreenSeeker™ technology is widely accepted in large scale agronomic field production, but has not been investigated as a tool to monitor nitrogen needs and plant quality on greenhouse grown plants. Dr. Wang's results demonstrated that NDVI values from a handheld GreenSeeker™ unit could be used to estimate N status in geraniums, and found that plant size, single pot verses multiple grouped pots, as well as sensor position above the plant can all significantly affect findings. Two manuscripts from this research have been accepted for publication in HortScience.

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful

The Keep Oklahoma Beautiful statewide Environmental Excellence Awards recognize the good works of Oklahomans for exceptional environmental improvement efforts completed during the 12-month period ending June 30th each year. This year, faculty from the Horticulture & Landscape Architecture department, along with other individuals from OSU, were fortunate enough to be recognized as finalists for the work completed on the Sensory Garden at The Botanic Garden at OSU. The Environmental Excellence Awards are a highly anticipated event where each finalist is honored with a media presentation telling the story of their achievements. This recognition is very gratifying for our department as well as for OSU and The Botanic Garden at OSU. For more information regarding the Environmental Excellence Awards or Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, please visit: <http://www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com>

Congratulations to our Graduates

The department would like to extend its congratulations to the students who graduated from our department.

Spring 2011

Curtis Reed Booth	Monty Glenn Marcum
Cody Aaron Brandt	Karly Anna McEntire
Jeremy David Brooks	Kathleen Erin McTiernan
Christopher Scott Corbin	Jared Dewayne Merz
Kyle Ryan Cox	Xiaowei Pan
Alexandra Kinsey Crothers	John Matthew Schroeder
Richard Day	Jacqueline Suzanne Kay Smith
Michael David Haas	Lori Jennifer Steffy
Nicole Danielle Henderson	Santanu Bikram Thapa
Kyle Russell Kremers	Randy Wade Thompson
Lance Austin Larios	Dustin Lee White
Robert Chase Lee	

Fall 2011

Peter Christian Anderson	Eric Tyler Gifford
Martin Drake Beckmann	Li Jiang
Clint Austin Bentley	Patrick Mac Maloy
Kelcey Renee Carlberg	Erin M. Moyes
Jane Ann Carter	Wilson Charles Nease
Joshua Willie Chaney	Rachael Elizabeth Pepin
Garrett W. Childress	Arjina Shrestha
Robert Michael Levi Corbett	Yang Tian

Summer 2011

Reid Allen Schindler



Faculty & Staff Recognition

Lou Anella
CASNR Exemplary Faculty Award
AG Alumni Association, Stillwater

Greg Bell
CASNR Exemplary Faculty Award
AG Alumni Association, Stillwater

Jane Carter
Outstanding Departmental Staff Award

Janet Cole
CASNR Exemplary Faculty Award
AG Alumni Association, Stillwater

Brian Kahn
National Certification as Global Career Development Facilitator
Center for Credentialing and Education,
Greensboro, NC

Charles L. Leider
2011 Landscape Architecture Alumnus
School of Planning, Design & Construction
Michigan State University

Eric Stafne, William McGlynn
SR-ASHS Blue Ribbon Communications Award 2011
Corpus Christi, TX

Dennis Martin & Jim Shrefler (Group Members)
2011 Search for Excellence Award
Category: Landscape Horticulture programs in Oklahoma
Oklahoma Agricultural Extension Agent Association (OAEAA)
Awarded to the Southeast Oklahoma Turf & Landscape Workshop
Working Group

Student Recognition

Steve Eilers
2010-2011 Best Collegiate Presentation
“Social Philosophy and Urban Planning: The Influence of Thomas
More and Philip II,”
Environmental Science & Planning
Oklahoma Academy of Science
November 5, 2010, Broken Arrow, Northeastern University

Monty Marcum
2011 Oklahoma ASLA Chapter Design Competition Honor Award
“Quarry Reclamation: Restoring Native Ecology and Establishing
a Biotic Community.”

Monty Marcum and Meredith Matthews
2011 Oklahoma ASLA Chapter Design Competition Merit Award
“Striking a Balance between Nature & Development: Applying
GIS Analysis & Environmentally Sensitive Strategies.”
ASLA Central State Conference
Des Moines, Iowa, May 5-6, 2011

John Schroeder
2011 University Olmsted Scholar
Landscape Architecture Foundation
Washington D.C.

Kristen Willis
CASNR Ambassador, Student Success Leader
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

Kenny White
Finalist of the OSU Student Employee of the Year Award
Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK

Dr. Charles Leider, 2011 Landscape Architecture Distinguished Alumni

In January of 2011, Dr. Charles Leider was recognized as a Landscape Architecture Distinguished Alumni honoree at Michigan State University. Dr. Leider's name will be added to a long and distinguished list of MSU landscape architecture alumni who have made significant contributions to the profession. He was honored at MSU's annual Sigma Lambda Alpha induction ceremony on February 4, 2011 in East Lansing, Michigan.

Distinguished Service & Alumnus Awards

Congratulations to our 2011 Distinguished Service & Alumnus Award winners!

Distinguished Horticulture Alumnus Award.....Dr. David Ramming

Distinguished Landscape Architecture Alumnus Award.....Jim Crosby

Distinguished Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Service Award.....Greg Kirkman

Oklahoma Academy of Science Annual Meeting Presentations

On November 11, 2011, our department's Landscape Architecture students and faculty made presentations in the Environmental Planning Session of the Collegiate Section at the Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, OK. This meeting draws academic, professional, industrial and lay persons with an interest in science. Below are the names of the students and faculty who made presentations.

STUDENTS

James Hazzard - Atelier Dreiseitl Approach to Landscape Architecture in Europe
 Kayla McKinley – Contrasting Current Women Leaders in Landscape Architecture: Mia Leher vs. Martha Schwartz
 Lance Shaw - Andropogon Associates: Creators of Sustainable Landscape Architecture
 Mickella Sjoquist – Contrasting Development of Urban Landscape Design in St. Louis and Boston

FACULTY

Dr. Charles L. Leider - Sense of Place: Comparison of Selected French Lorie Valley Chateaux

Oklahoma State Art Students Turn Attention to Chairs

Ricky O'Bannon, Stillwater NewsPress

Because of countless iterations through history and a requirement for function, it could be intimidating to try to re-imagine the humble chair.

However, Oklahoma State University art students were given their shot to bring their personality and imagination to a medium most take for granted, and the results are on display at the **OSU Botanic Garden** through Dec. 14.

OSU Art Professor Sallie McCorkle teaches one section of the three-dimensional design class responsible for the chair art installation. She said the class is taught to students with a variety of art backgrounds ranging from sculpture and visual art to architecture and interior design.

The project is the final stage of a three-step process. The first step is to find a chair that students enjoy looking at followed by creating a one-quarter-scale model. Students must make that model using the same structural design of the original down to small toothpick-sized joints.

Those models are subjected to a weight test where bricks are used to simulate the weight of a full-sized person, which McCorkle said is nerve-wracking for students. If the model chair fails, the student must start over.

The final step is a full reinterpretation of the chair. Students are limited to a 2-inch-by-4-inch-by-10-foot piece of wood, which forces students to use math to plan their piece. The full size chair also had to function, but McCorkle said students also got the chance to balance that requirement with their own creativity. The project also gave students who didn't have a 3D art background the chance to work with tools.

"It's awfully empowering to know how to use tools and understand how materials work," McCorkle said. "They learn to figure out what are the structural elements, and then how (to) add decorative elements to that."

OSU Professor Preserves 'Historical Landscapes'

David Zizzo, *The Daily Oklahoman*

It was one of the largest ranches in America, and its Wild West shows, along with the beef, dairy products, fruits and leather goods produced there, drew people from across the country. However, the erosion of time and the nearby Salt Fork of the Arkansas River have left little of the headquarters of the 101 Ranch near Ponca City. If Charles Leider has anything to do with it, it won't be forgotten.

The 101 Ranch is one of 47 sites across Oklahoma listed in the Historic American Landscape Survey with the Library of Congress, a project of the National Park Service. Leider, Professor of Landscape Architecture at OSU, spearheaded the listing of Oklahoma landscapes on the survey. "My objective is to let people in Oklahoma know they have this cultural heritage which most aren't aware of," he said. Most people know about historic buildings, Leider said, but he is focused on the landscapes that comprise the entire sites. That includes gardens, parks, fountains, structures and other features of the original planned settings.

Although some states never created an inventory list, Leider decided to take on Oklahoma's landscapes as a career project. Students have conducted numerous in-depth case studies, he said. Steve Eilers, 25, said he studied history before becoming interested in landscape architecture, so this is really up my alley. To map out Woodward Park in Tulsa, the senior from Franklin, Texas, dug through county courthouse records and spent several weekends at the park using a GPS and other measuring devices. To document the Civic Center's landscape, he contacted a University of Missouri archive for original architect's drawing.

Through the years, Leider said, many sites have been altered substantially. One example, he said, is the OSU campus. As administrations changed, you have people who ignored the plan, he said. The Noble Center is built in the Great Lawn north of the library, which should have gone up to Hall of Fame (Avenue), Leider said. Another example is the Marland Mansion, an estate that oilman and congressman and Governor E.W. Marland built in 1928 in Ponca City for his family. It became a monastery, then a girl's school before its present incarnation as a museum. Along the way, its original lakes were filled in, dormitories were constructed and other site alterations were made. When it was to be restored, Leider researched and re-created the original plans to give current owners proposals that offered varying levels of adherence to the original plans. They selected the 70 percent restoration, he said.

True restoration means re-creating a site in a way that is faithful to the original plan, Leider said. A case study by his students on Villa Philbrook, a 23-acre estate built by oilman Waite Phillips in Tulsa that is now an art center, was used to restore the grounds. When they restored Villa Philbrook, they got these drawings and tried to re-create what was originally intended, Leider said. With some sites, determining the original plans and layout is more difficult. That was the case with the 101 Ranch, Leider said.

Few structures remain at the site, Leider said, and it looks like the site is going to be obliterated. Leider and his students approached that project as an archaeological site. Because it was so overgrown with weeds and shrubs, Leider dug up an aerial photograph from the early 1930s, then turned to modern technology. Using infrared photos I was able to locate an outline of all the buildings that were originally on the site, he said. With that, Leider and his students reconstructed a site plan showing the ranch at its maximum buildout. Regardless of the fate of the site, with Leider's documents, future generations will know what was once there.

John Schroeder, 2011 University Olmsted Scholar



John Schroeder attended Oklahoma State University in 2011 in pursuit of a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture. Coming from an agricultural background, John enjoys being outdoors and interacting with the natural environment. His passion for nature and art led him to the career path of landscape architecture. John has traveled to Japan, Thailand and Taiwan to study historic and cultural landscapes as well as sustainable planning and agriculture. These experiences strengthened his appreciation for the importance of sustainability for the future well-being of global society. John's main focuses are sustainable planning and environmental design. He wishes to further his education by achieving a Masters in Environmental Science to expand his knowledge in the scientific realm to better strengthen his design skills and incorporate scientific theory into a creative component. John enjoys traveling, hiking, playing piano, tossing Frisbee, and spending time with his father working on the family farm.

John was nominated to be OSU's University Olmsted Scholar and compete for the national award because he demonstrates leadership and vision, engagement with current issues, critical thinking, communication skills, and personal characteristics and values. He will join a growing community of 130 past and present Olmsted Scholars. The prestige and publicity associated with the award serve to promote the significance of the landscape architecture profession and help attract inspired and motivated leaders.

The Landscape Architecture Foundation's Olmsted Scholars Program recognizes and supports students with exceptional leadership potential who are using ideas, influence, communication, service, and leadership to advance sustainable design and foster human and societal benefits.

Oklahoma Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects 2011 Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony

The American Society of Landscape Architects is the national organization representing over 15,000 members in 48 Chapters throughout the United States and US territories. Founded in 1899 with eleven original members, the ASLA promotes the Landscape Architecture profession and advocates the practice of Landscape Architecture through advocacy, education, communication and fellowship. The mission of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is to lead, to educate and participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environments.

This year our department's students were very successful in the 2011 Oklahoma Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects scholarship competition, design competition and student honor competition. The annual banquet and awards ceremony was held on April 14, 2011 at The Old Santa Fe Train Depot in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Below is the list of awards and the recipients.

OK ASLA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Alexandra Crothers
Oklahoma State University
DoleseBrothers Sand Plant Reclamation
(Professor in charge: Paul Hsu)

Steve Eilers
Oklahoma State University
Modern Residential Design
(Professor in charge: John Ritter)

OK ASLA CHAPTER AWARDS - Design Competition Student Recipients

Monty Marcum
Oklahoma State University
Honor Award
Quarry Reclamation: Restoring
Native Ecology and Establishing a Biotic Community
(Professor in charge: Paul Hsu)

Monty Marcum & Meredith Matthews
Oklahoma State University
Merit Award
Striking a Balance between Nature and Development : Applying GIS Anaylsis& Environmentally Sensitive Strategies
(Professor in charge: Michael Holmes)

ASLA STUDENT AWARDS - National Recognition

Monty Marcum, Honor Award
Quarry Reclamation: Restoring
Native Ecology and Establishing a Biotic Community
(Professor in charge: Paul Hsu)

Chase Lee, Merit Award
The Cheerful ChupacabraResort
(Professor in charge: Paul Hsu)

Steve Eilers, Merit Award
Oklahoma State University
Modern Residential Design
(Professor in charge: John Ritter)

ASLA Olmsted Scholarship
2011 University Olmsted Scholar and finalist for national scholarship selection
John Schroeder

OSU Landscape Architecture Students Recognized in International Competition

Trisha Gedon, Communications Specialist, Oklahoma State University



Four landscape architecture students from Oklahoma State University have proven they can compete on an international level alongside industry professionals, as well as other design students from around the country.

OSU's students were four of the nine who received student honors in an international design competition for the Water Works Park in Des Moines, Iowa. Five professional firms, including two located in England, also were named finalists.

OSU's student winners included Forrest Hunt, Keller, Texas; Brandon Burlingame, Richardson, Texas; Cameron Rouze, Colleyville, Texas; and Clark Bockhahn, Stillwater, Okla.

Nick Nelson, assistant professor of landscape architecture in the department of horticulture and landscape architecture at OSU, said Des Moines Water Works, in partnership with the department of landscape architecture at Iowa State University, launched "Parkitecture."

"This is an international design competition for Water Works Park, a 1,500 acre piece of land in downtown Des Moines," Nelson said. "This park is a tremendous resource for the community of Des Moines. The competition sought proposals from professional designers and students for a vision plan that would look at the park and river not only as a public open space, but will also knit together the ecological function of water and fluvial systems with the metropolitan community and contribute to the social, economic and environmental success of the urban park."

The students worked on the project for a month and were able to make a three-day, two-night visit to the site as they planned their designs. This proved to be extremely helpful.

"I'm very glad we had the opportunity to do a site visit even with the site being so far away," said Rouze, who is in his fourth year of study in the five-year program. "Camping on site was great because we got to really soak in the environment and get to know the site. Just walking around one small part of the site and taking notes and pictures of the existing conditions inspired one of my major design ideas. I never would have known about all of those details if we hadn't visited the site."

Nelson said participating in the competition was a great experience for his students.

"They have the opportunity to see how they measure up both professionally and against other universities," Nelson said. "It's an opportunity for them to get their work out there for people to see. The students' work was selected for forward thinking ideas and innovation of what they were proposing, along with graphic content and presentation of their entries."

Burlingame said it is exciting and rewarding to be recognized.

"Competitions open up doors for internships, jobs and scholarships and helps build the program's reputation on a national level," said Burlingame. "It's also rewarding to see the professional entries and compare them to what we did."

Hunt said being one of the finalists recognized internationally was very exciting.

"It was extremely exciting for me, especially because we went up against students from across the world, some older and more experienced than we were," Hunt said. "It feels great to be able to showcase my work internationally and amongst top professionals in the industry. This helps open the door for networking and getting my name out into an industry on a large scale."

"I'm really proud of all of my students and the effort they put into this assignment and contest," Nelson said. "The competition component inspired them a lot, but it took a lot of their own initiative to invest their time on this project and take ownership of it."

Nelson said he will continue to seek out this type of opportunity for his students

"It can be challenging to find competitions that support the curriculum I'm teaching in the classroom, but the experiences my students gain just adds to their education," Nelson said. "This has definitely been a highlight of my semester and the students have a sense of accomplishment that their hard work has paid off."

Dale Maronek, head of the department of horticulture and landscape architecture at OSU, said the students and Nelson are to be congratulated for their hard work and success.

"This is an outstanding achievement for our students and our program. The students are to be commended for their creativity and achieving design solutions that were recognized by professionals reviewing submissions from throughout the world," Maronek said. "Success in competitions such as this one is a great way to let current and perspective students know that the landscape architecture faculty is working hard to provide students with the skills necessary to compete on an international scale."

Keith McGlamery

On April 18, 2011, Keith McGlamery, a lawyer and LEED AP, visited the OSU campus to hold a seminar titled “Your Participation as Landscape Architects in Green Building Projects: Maximizing the Benefits and Minimizing the Risks”. McGlamery is a frequent speaker and author on legal issues affecting green buildings and sustainable business. He practices business and commercial real estate law in Washington, D.C., and also recently founded a company that will provide online continuing education in the area of sustainable business. Mr. McGlamery is a native Oklahoman, a graduate of Oklahoma State University, and an honors graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus in the OSU College of Arts and Sciences in 2006.

OSU Stream Restoration & Enhancement Workshop

On November 8th-9th, 2011, the Natural Stream Corridor Restoration and Enhancement Workshop took place at The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University. It was a two-day workshop focusing on the techniques used to stabilize eroding streambanks and reestablishing a healthy riparian area using native plants. The first day covered engineering methods utilizing natural material and processes. The second day focused on vegetation selection, installation, and maintenance. For more information regarding this workshop please contact Jeri Fleming at jeri.fleming@okstate.edu, or 405-744-8395; or Jason Vogel at jason.vogel@okstate.edu at 405-744-5653.

Oklahoma Turfgrass Conference

The Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation, the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and Oklahoma State University worked together to host the 66th Annual Oklahoma Turf Conference and Trade Show. This year the conference was held November 15-16 at the Wes Watkins Center in Stillwater. The conference is geared toward three groups of people in the turf industry: golf course managers, community and professional lawn and landscape companies and athletic field managers or coaches with turf responsibilities.

The first day of featured specialized sessions geared specifically toward the three groups of professionals attending the conference. One of the keynote speakers was Robert Randquist, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. He provided an overview of where the golf industry is and where golf course managers fit into that. Dennis Martin, OSU professor and Extension turfgrass specialist, talked about new cold-hardy Bermudagrass options for Oklahoma.

The second day of the conference brought all three groups together to learn more about pesticide applicator issues. A number of other Extension, university and industry specialists were on hand both days of the conference to provide the group with the latest research-based information regarding turfgrass management.

The overall goal was to provide continuing education for turfgrass professionals throughout Oklahoma. For more information about the conference, please visit the OTRF website at www.otrf.net.

OSU Tree Care Workshop

The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture hosted a Tree Care Conference on Nov. 16 at The Botanic Garden at OSU located west of Stillwater. The conference was geared toward arborists, nursery professionals, urban foresters, landscape managers, landscape architects, Master Gardeners, related professionals and advanced hobbyists. The information offered at the conference was the latest, research-based information available. The lectures were taught by OSU faculty as well as industry professionals. Jen Olson, assistant Extension specialist at OSU, shared her expertise about landscape plant health and preventative disease management. Other speakers included Brian Eshleman, certified arborist, who provided information on climbing gear and techniques; Mike Wellner, district manager of Edko, LLC, provided information on tree growth regulators; David Starks of Starks Tree Care in Enid, talked to the group about job site safety; and Maureen Turner, chief horticulturist and operations manager for the City of Tulsa, presented a talk on “Is it Dead Yet?” Dr. Mike Schnelle also spoke to the group about selecting trees for Oklahoma.

Rapid Visualization Sketchup Workshop

On the evening of September 15, 2011, a Rapid Visualization Sketchup Workshop was presented by the Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture’s new Landscape Architecture professor, Nicholas Nelson. This workshop was attended by Landscape Architecture students and faculty from other departments and focused on the tools, tricks and techniques of graphic design.

The Botanic Garden at OSU Grand Opening

Trisha Gedon, Communications Specialist, Oklahoma State University



One of the best kept secrets in Stillwater is now much easier to find. The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University officially opened the new entrance off State Highway 51 west of town June 18. The grand opening was held in conjunction with the 10th Annual GardenFest

“This project has been several years in the making”, said Dale Maronek, head of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Oklahoma State University.

One of the best kept secrets in Stillwater is now much easier to find. The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University officially opened the new entrance off State Highway 51 west of town June 18. The grand opening was held in conjunction with the 10th Annual GardenFest

“This project has been several years in the making”, said Dale Maronek, head of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Oklahoma State University.

“We developed a master plan for the garden in 2004 and we are now seeing that original plan, and much more, come to fruition,” Maronek said. “This new entrance off the main road into Stillwater will provide a new gateway to our community. The garden truly is a shining example of the land grant mission of integrating research, Extension and teaching, and it serves as an educational and recreational resource to the community.”

Established as an arboretum in 1935, The Botanic Garden at OSU is an oasis of thousands of species of herbaceous and woody plants set on about 100 acres. The garden is home to many different research plots that reflect ongoing research projects by OSU professors, as well as housing a world renowned turf program. It also is home to the studio garden of the popular television show Oklahoma Gardening that airs weekly on OETA.

There are many new elements in the garden that have been developed over the past several years. An Integrated Environmental Research and Education Site (IERES, pronounced iris) was developed to support The Botanic Garden’s commitment to sustainability and the environment.

Maronek said the mission of IERES is to be one of the most comprehensive collections of environmentally sensitive and energy efficient practices in Oklahoma. The development for IERES required two years of comprehensive planning involving many different plants, landscape, engineering businesses, state and federal agencies and numerous cities/municipalities. Also, the OK Stream Team played a vital role in the on-going planning process.

“In helping to promote the IERES initiative, the GREEN Cottage employs a variety of alternative energy and resource conservation techniques that are applicable to the home landscape, including passive solar heating, a renewable energy system that provides electrical power to the building, as well as rainwater collection and reuse,” he said. “This facility serves as a prototype for area commercial and residential developers trying to gain a competitive edge in today’s soaring energy market while playing an important role in landscape management, environmental planning and water reuse.”

Another aspect of IERES is a trail system that encircles the garden area. It was built along an enhanced riparian corridor and will eventually connect to Stillwater’s existing trail system, providing Oklahomans an excellent opportunity to enjoy the natural landscape.

A pervious pavement and bioretention system at the entrance of The Botanic Garden allows storm water runoff to permeate through the pavement’s surface, where it reaches an underlying stone reservoir for temporary storage. The stored water can be allowed to infiltrate into the subsoil or it can be released slowly at a lower surface elevation through the use of an underground drain system. The water also can be stored for use in the landscape. This project is a precursor to a comprehensive environmental road system planned for the garden.

“Pervious paving is an effective application for reducing flooding and can even treat storm water for certain pollutants,” Maronek said.

Another wonderful addition to The Botanic Garden is the Sensory Garden. This garden is designed to excite the five senses and prove cathartic to not only visitors who have developmental and/or physical limitations, but to all other individuals ranging the entire human lifespan. There are plant materials to smell, touch, taste, see and hear, and all are planted in accessible beds that can be enjoyed by everyone. Ornamental and edible plants are featured.

The Water Conservation and Irrigation Training Center helps to educate the public about conserving and using water and create a greater understanding of the need to conserve water for future generations.

“Our goal here is to develop an understanding of new irrigation technologies, as well as experience how the latest technologies are utilized to deliver and conserve water provided to plants growing in a variety of landscape applications,” he said. “The Center will play a critical role in providing opportunities for students, industry professionals and the general public to learn more about irrigation practices and proper construction and installation methods.”

The Botanic Garden Grand Opening/GardenFest was a wonderful time for the public to come out and explore the many different garden areas. This year’s keynote speaker was Tres Fromme, a landscape architect with the Dallas-based firm Studio Outside. He brought a vast knowledge of horticulture, garden precedents, aesthetics and design to his projects and is known for choreographing relationships among people, spaces, communities and plants.

Other activities that day included a children’s gardening activity station, cooking/canning demonstrations, information booths and much more.

“We had many of our horticultural specialists on hand to provide information about the Oklahoma Proven Plant Promotion Program, the Cow Creek Restoration project, nursery research, cedar mulch studies, flower and vegetable gardening, plant trials and more,” Maronek said. “We were so excited about this grand opening and encourage everyone to come see all of the new elements of The Botanic Garden at OSU. I guarantee you’ll like what you see.”

OSU Study Abroad

This year a group of 10, including professor Hsu, 7 OSU students and 2 Maejo University Thailand Professors participated in the 12th annual Japan/Thailand Landscape Design Study Program. The group stayed at Fujiwara Guest House in Kameoka for most of the time and visited many gardens, had a garden construction workshop and several culture exchange activities with Kameoka citizens including green trip, garden BBQ, music concert, university visits, and farewell party. The group toured Kyoto, Osaka and Tokyo before they continue the trip to Bangkok and Chiangmai Thailand.

On May 21, they went to Kameoka Exchange Center to have their 10th garden workshop in front of the center's entry way. Kameoka City is the sister city of Stillwater, Oklahoma. This exchange started in 1999 with the students from Oklahoma State University and Kameoka. The students and the Kameoka Gardener's Association youth division have worked together and learn through the hands-on instruction of the professional gardeners. The OSU students arrived in Kyoto on May 13 and left for Tokyo on May 24.

Tomorrow’s Undergraduates Realizing the Future

Camp T.U.R.F., a 2 week residential academy at OSU-Stillwater, was held June 20 through July 2. Students were able to interact with professors and explore a variety of careers in horticulture and landscaping with hands-on activities. Helpful college enrollment advice, along with evening and recreational activities were held as well. The academy is for high school students ages 16 and up to learn more about OSU’s campus and the different opportunities that attending college can give young people.

New Landscape Architecture Faculty Nicholas Nelson

The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture would like to introduce Nick Nelson, Landscape Architecture Assistant Professor. Nick is been a wonderful addition to the program and came highly recommended.

Nelson graduated from Utah State University in 2003 with a Bachelors in Landscape Architecture and received a Masters in Landscape Architecture in 2008 from The University of Texas at Arlington. He was previously the Director of Design at Teague Nall and Perkins, Inc. in Fort Worth TX, a professional civil engineering, surveying, and landscape architecture/planning firm. Additionally, he was an associate with HNTB in Dallas, TX and the Parker - Yanette Design Group in Jupiter, FL.

Nick comes to our department with vast experience in environmental design/planning, transportation enhancement, design guidelines, site design, and community and residential design. He is an Accredited Professional with Leadership in Energy and Environment Design and an active member in the Environmental Design Research Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects.



Professor John Ritter Retires

John Ritter, Landscape Architecture Associate Professor, made the decision to retire from the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture upon the conclusion of the Spring 2011 semester. Ritter obtained a BS in Agriculture from Oklahoma State University then continued his education receiving a BLA and MLA at Kansas State University. Before coming to OSU to teach, John worked in the US and abroad in Greece, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the former Yugoslavia. Over the last 20 years, he taught construction and design courses, was a member of ASLA and mentored students. On April 8, faculty, students, family and friends honored John and celebrated his accomplishments as he looks forward to retirement and the travel it brings.

Departmental Grants

This year the Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture was awarded a total of \$440,500.50 in grant funds. This grant money is beneficial for the department's research

Scholarships and Awards

At our 36th Annual Departmental Awards Program on August 27, 2011, our students were awarded \$78,000 in departmental scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year and several special awards were given by the department. The department would like to extend a thank you to all of the scholarship donors. We appreciate your support of our students.

Departmental Support - A Special Thank You

The Department would like to extend its gratitude to the following individuals and companies for their support during 2011. Your support is essential for continuation of departmental research, teaching and extension functions. Contribution towards such programs as *Oklahoma Gardening*, The Botanic Garden at OSU, departmental conferences, and our many research programs are a few examples of how your contributed funds are used. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

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Although every effort has been made to ensure the completeness and accuracy of our list of supporters, we acknowledge that errors may have occurred. If you wish to report an error please contact the department at 405.744.5414



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