

# DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE **2014 Alumni Newsletter**



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY





## Happy New Year, Alumni and Friends!

**A**s I sit here at my computer on this dark, cold, and snowy morning, my heart is warmed by thoughts and wonderful memories of you...the legion of graduates from the Iowa State University Department of Horticulture. All of you have gone on to do great things...in business, in your communities, and with/for your families. We are incredibly proud of your accomplishments and are grateful that you've taken time to stay in touch. This department will always be your home away from home, and you're welcome to come back anytime.

Speaking of coming back to campus, what would you think of an alumni reunion event? Seriously, would you make the trek back to Ames for the chance to meet up with your former classmates? If so, I'd like to hear from you. I've thought about this for several years now, and perhaps the time is right to launch a brand new tradition...the Cyclone Horticulture Alumni Weekend. If we were to plan this party, what time of year would work best? Summer? Maybe during the fall football season? What kind of events should be included in this alumni event/weekend? I look forward to your comments and suggestions.

I am pleased to report that your Department of Horticulture is in excellent condition. Compared to other departments of horticulture around the country, our student numbers (undergraduate and graduate) are robust, our facilities complement and enhance the overall learning experience for our students, and our team of faculty and lecturers embrace their responsibilities as instructors, counselors, and mentors. At the completion of their degree program, our students leave campus with a toolbox full of skills, experiences, and a level of maturity that makes them very attractive to employers from all over the country. In fact, most green industry employers will hire our students on the spot if these three criteria are satisfied; (1) your major was horticulture, (2) from Iowa State University, and (3) you have a pulse. I'm not kidding! Yes, times are good for our students and for our profession.

On a slightly different front, many of you are probably aware of the relatively new (2009) college-wide undergraduate major called Global Resource Systems (GRS) that is headed up by Dr. Gail Nonnecke from the Department of Horticulture. GRS students choose a major (and often a minor) from the menu of options within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, choose a region of the world for a living/working immersion experience, develop competency in a relevant language, and work on a senior project related to their academic specialization within the context of their chosen world region. As you might guess, the major has become wildly popular. In fact, enrollment in 2014 climbed above the 100-student mark. The Department of Horticulture is proud to serve as the academic home and physical location for the GRS major and we warmly welcome these unique students with a global perspective.

Finally, when's the last time you checked out the Department of Horticulture web site? Well, if you haven't visited our site for a while, you might want to take a few minutes and see what we've done because in my humble opinion, it's spectacular. The reason for the upgrade was twofold. First, we wanted to project a more contemporary image of the department to prospective students. And secondly, we wanted to give you, our alumni and friends, a better way to keep tabs on all of the "goings on" back here on campus. When you get a minute, take a look ([www.hort.iastate.edu](http://www.hort.iastate.edu)). I think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Don't forget, I want to know what you think about my idea for an alumni reunion. Your thoughts and opinions matter... after all, this is still your department and a place you called home for some of the best years of your life. Just do me one favor. If you come for a visit, don't bring any laundry for me (or Barb) to do. That would be very much appreciated.

Best wishes for a prosperous 2015!

**Jeff Iles, Professor and Chair**

Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, [iles@iastate.edu](mailto:iles@iastate.edu)

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## Message from Dean Wendy Wintersteen



The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is made up of many extraordinary leaders. They come in all shapes and sizes, and they always show up when they are needed. They are our department chairs, faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and partners. I want to share three leadership stories with you.

Horticulture department chair Jeff Iles currently is serving as the president of the Ames Noon Rotary Club. When you go to the club's webpage, you see the words "Service above self." President Iles lives that motto every day, but especially on Mondays when the club meets. Often President Iles will quiz the club's members about the name of a tree or about recent events, but then it is down to the serious business of how the club is engaged in making Ames a better place to live.

Each year Carla Persaud in the Dean's Office coordinates an online United Way silent auction. And each year our horticulture students participate by offering their time for yard cleanup jobs. This year the Horticulture Club, Turf Club and Landscape Club all offered work packages in the college's silent auction. The student's work generated more than \$650 for United Way of Story County.

Joe Colletti, senior associate dean in the college, used his own private funds to order 1,400 bulbs to be planted in the landscaping borders in front of Curtiss Hall. Lined up to plant the bulbs was a group of horticulture students, Horticulture Farm staff and other faculty and staff volunteers under the careful guidance of Horticulture Farm superintendent Nick Howell. Unfortunately, the bulbs were temporarily lost in the mail. But miracles do happen. The bulbs arrived just as the weather dropped down to 35 degrees and gale force winds were blowing. As you would expect, the conditions did not deter their efforts—the entire team showed up and the bulbs were planted. Plan a trip to Ames next spring to see the new tulips and daffodils outside Curtiss.

Thank you for your continued support of our Department of Horticulture leaders and best wishes for 2015!

**Wendy Wintersteen, Dean**

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences





# Horticulture Faculty

**Ryan Adams**, Lecturer/Turfgrass Extension  
*rsadams@iastate.edu*

**Rajeev Arora**, Professor  
*rarora@iastate.edu*  
Crop physiology – study of plant response to low temperature stress

**Nick E. Christians**, University Professor  
*nchris@iastate.edu*  
Reducing maintenance costs and energy consumption in the turfgrass industry; alternative pest management strategies for turfgrasses

**Christopher Currey**, Assistant Professor  
*ccurrey@iastate.edu*  
Greenhouse and controlled-environment production of ornamental and food crops

**Diana Cochran**, Assistant Professor  
*dianac@iastate.edu*  
Extension specialist for fruit production

**Kathleen Delate**, Professor  
*kdelate@iastate.edu*  
Sustainable/organic horticultural and agronomic crop production and marketing

**Shui-zhang Fei**, Associate Professor  
*sfei@iastate.edu*  
Turfgrass breeding, genetics, and biotechnology

**Mark Gleason**, Professor, Plant Pathology  
*mgleason@iastate.edu*  
Research, extension, and teaching on sustainable disease management of fruit (apple, strawberry), vegetable (muskmelon), and ornamental (hosta) crops; plus turfgrass and shade trees

**William R. Graves**, Professor and Associate Dean of the Graduate College  
*graves@iastate.edu*  
Physiology and ecology of woody landscape plants

**David J. Hannapel**, Professor  
*djh@iastate.edu*  
Molecular biology of growth and development; characterization of potato tuber proteins involved in the process of tuberization; regulation of potato gene expression by hormones and environmental factors

**Cynthia Haynes**, Associate Professor  
*chaynes@iastate.edu*  
Consumer horticulture; human issues in Horticulture; youth and undergraduate education

**Jeffery K. Iles**, Professor and Department Chair  
*iles@iastate.edu*  
Landscape plant establishment and maintenance; landscape plant selection

**Richard P. Jauron**, Extension Program Specialist II  
*rjauron@iastate.edu*  
Consumer/Home Horticulture

**Ted MacDonald**, Adjunct Assistant Professor  
Global Resource Systems  
*jtmacd@iastate.edu*

**Dorothy Masinde**, Lecturer, Global Resource Systems  
*masinde@iastate.edu*

**David D. Minner**, Professor  
*dminner@iastate.edu*  
Sports turf management and construction; turf and landscape irrigation; golf course and landscape management; alternative pest management

**Ajay Nair**, Assistant Professor  
*nairajay@iastate.edu*  
Extension specialist for vegetable production

**Gail R. Nonnecke**, University Professor, Morrill Professor  
*nonnecke@iastate.edu*  
Horticulture: Management and physiology of small fruit crops; Global Resource Systems: Interdisciplinary major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Global Technical, cultural, leadership, and integration competencies

**Lisa Orgler**, Lecturer  
*lorgler@iastate.edu*

**Barb Osborn**, Resource and Career Coordinator, Senior Lecturer  
*baosborn@iastate.edu*

**Denny Schrock**, Lecturer, Coordinator, Master Gardener Program  
*dennys@iastate.edu*

**Elly Sukup**, Lecturer, Global Resource Systems  
*essukup@iastate.edu*

**Ann Marie VanDerZanden**, Professor, Director, ISU Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT)  
*vanderza@iastate.edu*  
Horticulture: Functional landscape design, construction, and management; curriculum development related to landscape issues

**Mark Widrlechner**, Affiliate Associate Professor  
*isumw@iastate.edu*  
Plant Introduction Station Agronomy/Horticulture. Germplasm conservation, evaluation of landscape plants

**Tim Van Loo**, Lecturer, Agricultural Specialist, Athletic Department  
*vanlooti@iastate.edu*

# Faculty and Staff AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



## College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Honored

**Rachel Hymbaugh** is the recipient of the James A. Hopson Volunteer Award. Established in 1999, this award recognizes graduates, age 40 and under, who demonstrate early volunteer leadership in the Iowa State University Alumni Association.

Hymbaugh earned her degree in horticulture in 1996, and was active in several student organizations including the Residence Hall Week committees, Residence Association Government and Marching Band.

Hymbaugh has continued her involvement with Iowa State by volunteering for leadership positions with the Iowa State University Alumni Association Club of Denver. Beginning as the club's gamewatch coordinator, Hymbaugh quickly advanced to the position of club president.

In her leadership role, Hymbaugh has made great strides in improving club involvement and communication and outreach efforts. She has successfully engaged with other members through social media, personal contact and through the Iowa State University Alumni Association Club of Denver events she has coordinated.



**Douglas Nelson** ('71 Horticulture), and his wife **Ellen** ('72 Zoology) owners of Wallace Garden Center in Bettendorf, Iowa, were honored with the Alumni Service Award from the Iowa State University Alumni Association. The Alumni Service Award recognizes alumni whose self-initiated activities and services support the daily work of the alumni association.

The Nelsons have taken responsibility for maintaining the Iowa State University Alumni Center gardens. In addition to personally tending the gardens, the Nelsons have provided gifts and coordinated volunteer participation in an effort to care for the facility's gardens.

The Nelsons also serve as university ambassadors in the Quad Cities area, volunteering at Cyclone Central tailgates and hosting alumni events in eastern Iowa.

## Lectures

**Dr. Rajeev Arora** gave an 'invited talk' at Cornell University (Plant Sciences Department) in Ithaca in April, 2014 on cold hardiness research. Dr. Arora also had the privilege of giving a "sponsored" keynote lecture/seminar at the 10th International Plant Cold Hardiness Symposium which was held in Pozan Poland, August, 2014.

## Two Awards

**Dr. Christopher Currey** received a Big 12 Faculty Fellowship and an Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Innovative Teaching Award.

## 2015 Women Impacting Iowa State University Calendar

**Dr. Dorothy Masinde** was selected to be honored in the 2015 Women Impacting Iowa State University calendar.





# Who's NEW in Horticulture?

## DEB COCHRAN

I have been in the Department of Horticulture for a little over 6 months now. I have enjoyed getting to know the faculty, staff and students. I really enjoy the department and people, it is a family-like atmosphere.

I have been employed at the University for 35 plus years, during that time I have held positions in the ADP Data Processing, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Ames Laboratory, Athletics Department, Alumni Association, Memorial Union Event Office and the Payroll Office. I have had quite a wide variety of responsibilities allowing me to gain lots of experience in the workings of the University, its systems and processes.

In my personal life I enjoy physical fitness activities, really enjoy my jogging when my knees allow and riding my bike on the many trails we have in Iowa.

In the summer I enjoy working in the yard, boating taking trips with the boat to the Mississippi River and the Ozarks.

In the winter I enjoy staying warm and going on vacations where it is warm when my husband can afford it. Never often enough.

I am a long-time Cyclone fan and enjoy all Cyclone sports activities.



## DIANA COCHRAN

Diana Cochran earned her Bachelor's degree in Landscape Design from Auburn University in 2005. She immediately started work on her Master's degree in Nursery Production with an emphasis in alternative weed control techniques. Upon graduation with her Master's she was hired as an instructor at Auburn University before starting work on her Ph.D. at Mississippi State University. In 2012, Diana earned her doctorate in Horticulture with an emphasis in environmental stress physiology. Her doctorate research focused on cold, heat, and drought tolerance of tomatoes, strawberries, satsumas, and impatiens. Upon completion of her doctorate Diana worked as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Tennessee.

At Iowa State Diana will develop an extension-education program dedicated to assisting commercial fruit producers identify and mitigate pest, disease, and other production or management problems. She will also focus on developing a research program focused on reducing production costs and optimizing plant establishment through cultural practices and stress management. In addition, she will evaluate sustainable practices that are affordable and practical for the fruit industry.



## SUSAN DEBLIECK

This past October, Susan DeBlieck joined the staff at the Department of Horticulture. DeBlieck is working with the Extension Master Gardener team as the Master Gardener Program Assistant. Originally from the Twin Cities, Susan DeBlieck earned an undergraduate degree in community and regional planning (CRP) from ISU in 2007. DeBlieck earned a master of science in sustainable agriculture at ISU in 2009. As a graduate student, she organized workshops for farmers and ISU dining staff, starting Farm to ISU and the Midwest chapter of the Real Food Challenge.

Since completing her education, DeBlieck has cultivated her interest in local food. Following graduate school, she coordinated the Downeast Farm to School program on Mount Desert Island in Maine. She returned to Ames and started a teen gardening program and worked on a vegetable farm. Next, DeBlieck moved north to work for the University of Minnesota Extension on community food systems and served as the state lead for the National Farm to School Network. She provided technical assistance to local public health staff working on healthy eating initiatives in 14 counties and facilitated connections among 80 public health and community partners working on policy change to increase access to healthy foods. DeBlieck is glad to be on board to support and grow the Master Gardener program.





## ELLY SUKUP

Greetings fellow Cyclones! My name is Elly Sukup and I am the new lecturer in Global Resource Systems (GRS) where I will be teaching classes as well as serving as faculty co-lead for the Service Learning in Uganda program. I graduated from Iowa State in 2008 with a double major in Public Service and Administration (PSA) and International Agriculture. That being said, had GRS existed back when I was a student I definitely would have been a “Globie” too!

I am passionate about international development and food and nutrition security, and I have spent the past four years overseas. I worked in agricultural development for a small organization in northern Liberia, and then for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for two years in Ghana and Ethiopia. In Ghana, I was one of the people responsible for making sure our food assistance got to the people who needed it most. In Ethiopia, I was responsible for communicating WFP’s work to governments, donors, and the general public. After the crisis in the Horn of Africa ended, I moved to London to pursue my MA in Social Anthropology of Development at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London where my research focused on the use of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes as a food-based approach to eradicating micronutrient deficiencies in Uganda.

I am incredibly honored to be part of the GRS team, the only program of its kind in the United States. I am enjoying getting to know the students better and helping them cultivate their passion- something my ISU professors did for me when I was a student. I am also excited to be returning to Uganda. I myself was a Service Learner back in the day and it set me off on my current career path. It left such an impression on me that I returned seven years later to conduct my Master’s research. Now that I am

returning in a professional capacity I will be working hard to ensure our students continue to have the most fulfilling experience possible.

Please don’t hesitate to stop by my office (259 Horticulture Hall), email ([essukup@iastate.edu](mailto:essukup@iastate.edu)), or call (515-294-6273) me if you have any questions or would like to chat. I look forward to working with everyone in the Department of Horticulture and getting to know its outstanding alumni.

# Horticulture Staff

## TECHNICAL STAFF

Kenny McCabe, Research Associate with Dr. Graves  
James Schrader, Assistant Scientist III with Dr. Graves  
Pooja Sharma, Post-Doctoral Research Associate with Dr. Hannapel

## GREENHOUSE MANAGER

Peter Lawlor

## HORTICULTURE RESEARCH STATION STAFF

Nick Howell, Superintendent  
Jeff Braland  
Jim Kubic  
Lynn Schroeder  
Dan Strey

## EXTENSION AND OUTREACH STAFF

Richard Jauron  
Susan DeBlieck

## GLOBAL RESOURCE SYSTEMS STAFF

Maggie Sprecher

## OFFICE STAFF

Kim Gaul, Administrative Specialist  
Colleen Johnson, Office Support Staff  
Deb Cochran, Office Support Staff  
Amanda Wilson, Hourly Student

## IT STAFF

Dianne Brotherson

## BUILDING STAFF

Josh Cunningham, Custodian

## AREA STAFF

Joe Hannan, Field Specialist, Adel, Iowa  
Vince Lawson, Superintendent, Muscatine Island Research Station, Fruitland, Iowa  
Patrick O’Malley, Field Specialist, Iowa City, Iowa  
Mike White, Viticulture Field Specialist, Indianola, Iowa





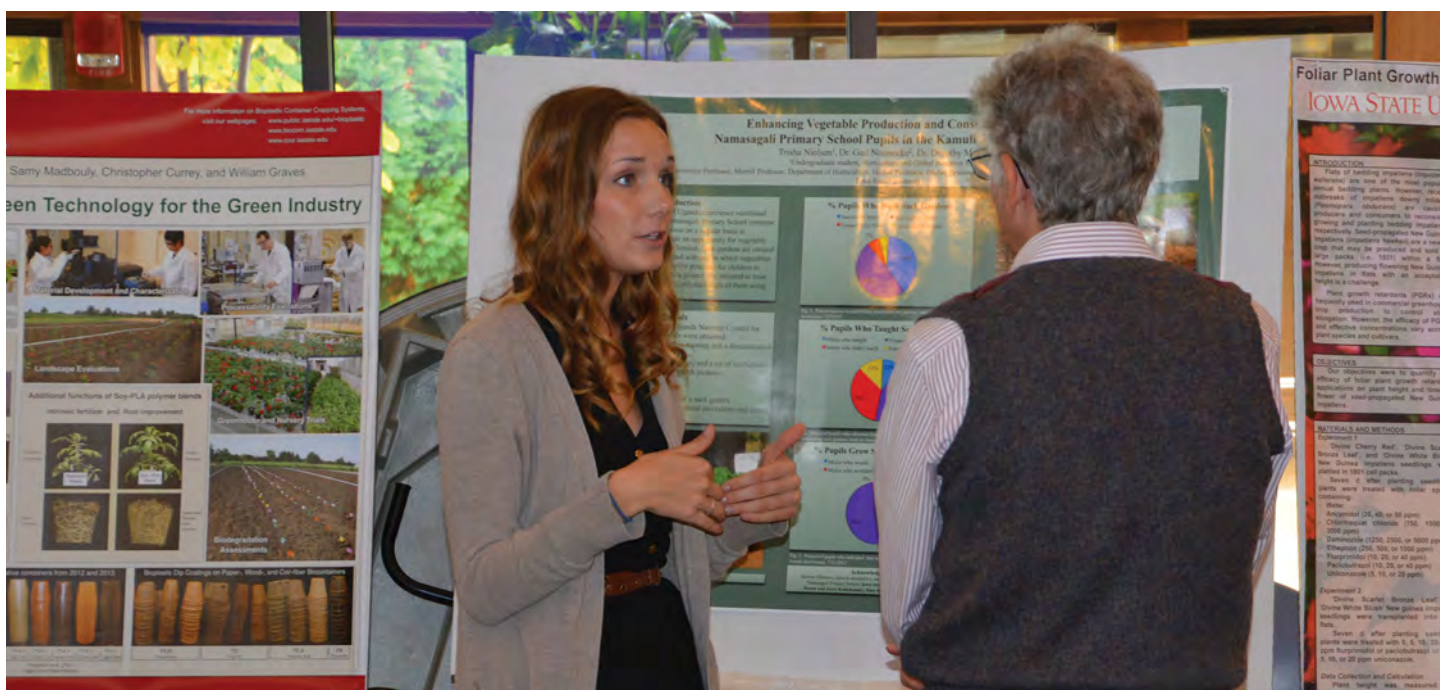
# Research Retreat at Reiman Gardens



The Department of Horticulture witnessed its first Research Retreat on October 17, 2014 at the Reiman Gardens. Dr. Jeff Iles welcomed participants and made introductions. The retreat featured guest speakers – Phil Simon, from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and Stan Hokanson from the University of Minnesota. Presentations (both oral and poster) were given by post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduate students. Awards were presented at the end of the day.



Awards were given to Sharon Tusiime, Dana Jokela, Jennifer Tillman, Ray Kruse, and Kellie Walters (left to right).



# Horticulture Resource and Career Center

by **BARB OSBORN, Program Coordinator**

## Dear Alumni and Friends:

Greetings from 107 Horticulture Hall! For the past 16 years my task each day is to assist students with their academic career at Iowa State. I take great pride in making sure all the boxes are checked so our students can graduate in a timely manner and go out into society and be productive and happy citizens. Well I'm pleased to report on a few of our graduates throughout the years:

■ A feed on my Facebook shared a story that Nick Baker, 2010 graduate, was recently hired as the Head Groundskeeper of the CHS Field for the St. Paul Saints Professional Baseball team.

■ Joshua Lenz and Kevin Hansen, current graduate students in ProAg, tended turfgrass for the NFL at Wembley Stadium in London, England for the NFL International games. As undergraduates, Hansen and Lenz were chosen to intern on the turf crews at Super Bowl XLVII and XLVIII respectively. Both young men just received word that they are on the Super Bowl XLIX staff for the 2015 game held on February 1, 2015 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona and also work on the field for the NFL Pro Bowl on January 25, 2015.

■ Kelly Norris, Tyler Johnson, Josh Schultes and Winston Beck, all employed by the Des Moines Botanical Gardens, were featured in a New York Times article titled, "The Four Plantsmen." The gardens just added another one of our graduates, Michelle Anderson

■ Mike, Rachel, and John Gooder all Department of Horticulture grads, own and operate PlantPeddler in Cresco, Iowa

■ Doug and Ellen Nelson were given the Alumni Service Award in 2014. Doug and his daughter Kate Terrell were both hort grads and own and operate Wallaces Garden Center in Bettendorf and Davenport, Iowa

■ Nicole and Steve Jonas opened up Red Granite Farms, Boone, Iowa.

My entire article could list the successes of our graduates in the Department of Horticulture. I have a "proud parent" moment every time a student calls with a new job title or position of their dreams.

The department is home to 136 undergraduate and 24 graduate Horticulture students. Fall 2014 brought in 14 new freshmen and 12 transfer students into the Department of Horticulture. The 2013 Ag Career Services Data showed the placement rate at 100% of the horticulture students placed within 6 months after graduation. The job and internship market is strong for our students. The Department sponsored a Hort Career Night at Reiman Gardens in conjunction with Ag Career Day in October, where 32 horticulture companies were present to hire our students for jobs and internships.

I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Donald Lewis, Department of Entomology and Dr. Mark Gleason, Department of Plant Pathology on

Hort 496, Travel Course to Serbia and Croatia May 10-24, 2014. We took 12 students on a two week adventure. The Departments of Horticulture, Entomology, and Plant Pathology at Iowa State University hosted 13 students from the University of Costa Rica along with Dr. Amy Wang and Marvin Ramirez July 15-25, 2014. The students visited many of ISU's research station's, Pioneer, IAS Cooperative, and an Iowa Cubs baseball game to name a few stops. March 12-20 the group will take 21 students to Costa Rica on the exchange program with the University of Costa Rica that has been around for over a decade.

The Horticulture academic Learning Community is a program for new freshmen and transfer students that offer like classes for the new students to take as a group. Kellie Walters and Bay Boysen are the peer mentors for the group. The students have taken field trips around the Ames area including: The Berry Patch, Jack Trice Stadium, Center Grove Orchard, Bessey Greenhouse, and the Des Moines Botanical Gardens. The students picked apples in October for their Project GLEAN service learning project. They partnered with the Food Science and Human Nutrition learning community grade and packaged the apples to donate to local charities and food pantries.

The Annual Department of Horticulture Banquet is a highlight of the year. Dean Wendy Wintersteen gave remarks and presented to the

Wembley Stadium  
London, England



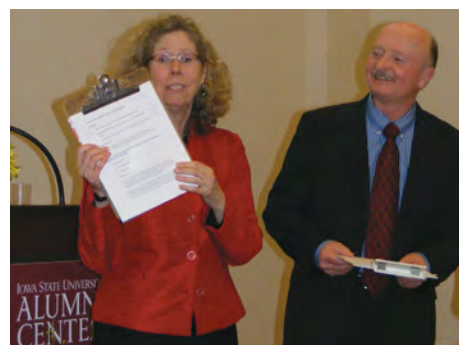




Mike and John Gooder at Hort Career Night.



University of Costa Rica students at Cub game.



Dean Wendy Wintersteen and Dr. Jeff Iles.

group. Beautiful table decorations were done by Dan Brabec, owner of Coe's Floral and Gifts and also alumni of the Department of Horticulture.

Ten Hort Club members participated in 2014 Mid-America Collegiate Horticulture Society (MACHS) conference and student competition in Fargo, North Dakota on October 2, 2014. University Wisconsin River Fall, North Dakota State University, South Dakota University of Minnesota Crookston, Colorado State University, and Iowa State University all participated in the conference and competition. The competition had multiple components consisting of a general knowledge exam, woody identification, herbaceous identification, and judging contest. Brandon Miller received first place in woody ID, third in judging, and first overall individual; Lucas Roberts tied for first place herbaceous ID; and freshman, Marcus Jansen received first place judging.

The STMA student challenge competition was held in San Antonio, Texas. Eight students competed in the event and took sixth and eleventh place. Twelve students attended the GCSAA Conference and Career Show in Orlando, Florida in 2014. ISU sponsored several teams, and one team took sixth place in the Turf Bowl Competition.

The Landscape Club team took 27th place out of 65 teams at the PLANET Student Career Days held at Colorado State University in March, 2014. Cody Rufer placed 40th individually and Khyle Cox placed 55th out of the 743 participants. Highlights from individual events are: Khyle Cox placed 4th out of 46 in tractor loader backhoe operation; Khyle Cox and Cody Rufer placed 6th out of 52 in truck & trailer operation; Erin Bohlin, Taylor Goetzinger, and Nathan Robinson placed 11th out of 60 for landscape plant installation; Christina Riessen placed 12th out of 96 in annual and perennial identification; and Cody Rufer placed 13th out of 76 in construction cost estimating. The ISU group won the Best College Cheer Competition. They were presented with a check for \$1000 sponsored by John Deere.

The Department of Horticulture wishes to welcome Dr. Diana Cochran. Diana hit the ground running, teaching Hort 461, Fruit Crop Production, spring, 2015 and getting around the state visiting with stakeholders in the fruit industry. Welcome Diana!

We want to show you our greenhouses and the exciting things that we are doing in that facility. We also invite you to stop by and take a look at our atrium artwork by Sticks.

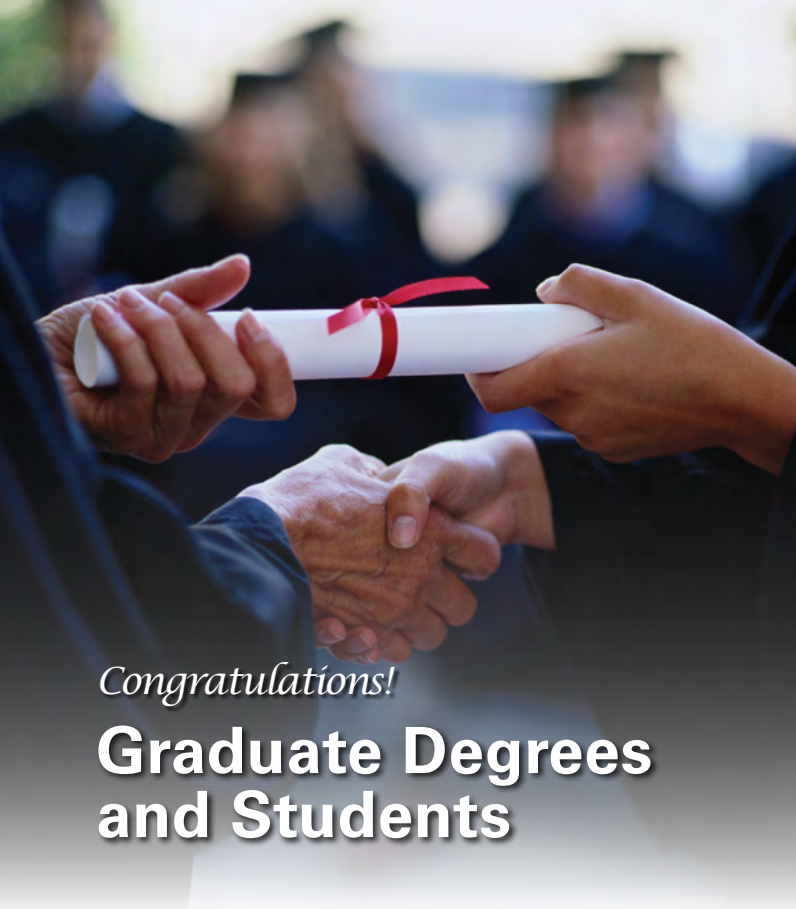


Travel course to Serbia and Croatia.



Hydroponics section of the greenhouse.

In the fall, 2014, Dr. Chris Currey offered a Hydroponics class. There is a section of our teaching greenhouse that has been turned into hydroponic fruit and vegetable production. The students harvest and donate to a local food pantry. I wish to extend an invitation to all of our alumni and friends to visit often and keep in touch. I wish you all a safe and amazing year filled with horticulture.



*Congratulations!*

## Graduate Degrees and Students

### GRADUATE DEGREES SUMMER 2013

Ying Feng

*Major: Genetics*

Jake Isaac Northup

*Major: Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture*

### FALL 2013

Bryan James Peterson

*Major: Horticulture and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*

### SPRING 2014

Randall Vos

*Major: Horticulture*

Kyungwon Min

*Major: Horticulture*

### SUMMER 2014

Brandon Carpenter

*Major: Horticulture*

Dylan Rolfes

*Major: Horticulture*

### FALL 2014

Kevin Duerfeldt

*Major: Horticulture*

### CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENTS

Frank Balestri

Bruce Black

Kalynn Doebel

Alejandra Feliciano

Samantha Green

Jingjie Hao

Zachary Hudson

Dana Jokela

Joshua Lenz

Tian Lin

Yang Liu

Paul Merrick

Isaac Mertz

Leah Riesselman

Daniel Strey

Bryn Takle

Jennifer Tillman

Sharon Tusiime

Kellie Walters

## Graduate Student Horticulture Society



Officers from left to right: Sharon Tusiime, Frank Balestri, Kellie Walters, Jennifer Tillman, Ray Kruse, and Bryn Takle.

The Graduate Student Horticulture Society (GSHS) has been active this year. We ended last spring semester with our first annual vegetable transplant sale. During the spring semester, our group grew a variety of herbs and vegetables in the greenhouse. A sale was held in the beginning of May, which exceeded our expectations. We have since created a committee to begin planning this year's sale and are hoping to collaborate with both the undergraduate Horticulture Club as well as Reiman Gardens for the sale event this spring. Our fundraising efforts from last year have allowed us to plan a day trip to Des Moines to visit the winter farmers market and the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.

This fall we have hosted several social happy hour activities encouraging faculty and staff to join us. We hope to continue this tradition as it allows "off the clock" discussion between each other as well as others from the department. We are also in the planning stages of a philanthropic bowling event slated for the spring semester.

**Co-presidents: Bryn Takle, Kellie Walters**

**Treasurer: Ray Kruse**

**Historian: Jennnifer Tillman**

**Social: Frank Balestri**

**GPSS Senator: Sharon Tusiime**



# Graduate Student FOCUS



## Kalynn Doebel

**Advisor:** Bill Graves

**Degree Seeking:** Masters of Science

**Major:** Horticulture

**Current Research:** I am working on the marketing/economic aspect of a 5-year USDA-funded bioplastic container project. I will be putting together consumer surveys and experimental auctions to gauge interest for the bioplastic containers that were developed through specialty crops research at Iowa State University, Ohio State University, University of Illinois, and University of Nevada.

**Hometown:** Davenport, Iowa

**Career Goals:** After graduating with my master's degree in Horticulture, I hope to get a job either working with a Horticulture extension office or as a research associate with a biotechnology company.



## Bryn Takle

**Advisors:** Cindy Haynes, Denny Schrock

**Degree Seeking:** Masters of Science

**Major:** Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture

**Current Research:** I am working with the Iowa Master Gardener program using survey-based research to identify the demographics of the current program participants. Further, I am seeking background information/data regarding the motivations guiding these volunteers to both become as well as retain their active statuses as Master Gardeners. My goal is to use this information to provide recommendations in order to increase overall retention rate within the program, including new and active volunteers.

**Hometown:** Ames, Iowa

**Career Goals:** Upon successful completion of my M.S., I would like to continue my education by seeking to earn a Ph.D. in Horticulture. My career goal is to remain active in academia in a teaching, extension, and research capacity.



## Graduate Student FOCUS



### Yang Liu

**Advisor:** Shuizhang Fei

**Degree Seeking:** Ph.D.

**Major:** Plant Biology

**Current Research:** Functional Gene research of turf-grass

**Hometown:** Heze, China

**Career Goals:** Researcher in science and biotechnology companies or institutions



## Dr. Chris Currey Holds First Annual Greenhouse Short Course

This past November saw the first annual Iowa State University Greenhouse Short Course held in Ames. Over 100 people including greenhouse growers, researchers, and students from Iowa and neighboring states registered for the day-long educational event even that was held at Reiman Gardens. The goal for the ISU Greenhouse Short Course is to deliver high-quality information on greenhouse management and production, from covering fundamental concepts to the latest results from greenhouse research. This year's speaker roster

included Dr. Carlos Bográn from OHP, Inc., Dr. John Erwin from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Brian Whipker from North Carolina State University and Drs. Mark Shour and Chris Currey from Iowa State University. Additionally, Mrs. Kellie Walters and Mr. Kenneth McCabe, both Master's students in Dr. Currey's lab, presented updates on their research. Overall, attendees commented on how much they enjoyed the program and, as a result, you can look for the second annual ISU Greenhouse Short Course next fall!



# Controlled Environment 2014



by **PETE LAWLOR,**  
**Greenhouse Manager**

**W**e have progressed further on the biologic pest control scale this semester. No pesticides have been used for over two months in our entire range. Only certified organic bio-control pesticides or pest predators have been used for the 'bad' bugs. Previously, we have been using very limited chemicals for spot applications in addition to the biologics.

Things are looking up and the sky is the limit in Bay 83 for Dr. Currey's Hydroponic Food Crop Production course, Horticulture 331X. Fruit is set and other crops include cucumber, pepper, and numerous greens. This inaugural offering was very popular and plans include offering it again next fall.

(continued)







The Horticulture Clubs' annual poinsettia crop has progressed well with the aid of a nearby eggplant catch crop and numerous introduced predators. The eggplant is preferred by whitefly so it attracts them and provides a predator snack bar. Colors are just beginning to appear in this light exclusion zone Bay that provides short days for flowering. Dr. Buck's presence in the greenhouses is still felt with a gift of several of his geranium cultivars from Reiman Gardens and are comfortable next to the eggplant.

Turf classes are very popular and excellent, high quality living materials really enhance the learning process. The caregiver, Isaac Mertz, is both a fantastic turf grad student and fine greenhouse grower. Nearby turf is being grown for butterfly forage for another research project. Pesticide can't be used so the yellow trays are used to attract and trap thrip, another common pest. We use water, a drop of hand soap, and an irresistible fragrance of thrip, vanilla extract.

Growth chambers in Horticulture Hall are vital for both teaching and research. The department has 26 units and the occupancy rate is nearly 100%. Dr. Hannapel continues to produce awesome potato plants with another great grad student grower.



**Controlled Environment, 2014**  
(continued)





# ISU Horticulture Research Station

by **NICK HOWELL, Superintendent**

**T**he ISU Horticulture Research Station enjoyed another successful season. Coordinated by ISU Research and Demonstration Farms, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the station continues to improve its teaching, research, and extension functions.

## STUDENTS

The Horticulture Station continues to be an important part of horticulture students' academic experience at Iowa State. This season two students completed internships while working at the station. Brad Bathey senior horticulture, managed the Horticulture 465 high tunnel and Lindsay Meylor, sophomore horticulture, monitored Varroa Mite populations in the station beehives.

Another student experience at the station involved the Horticulture 465 class. This class, modeled after the student-managed Ag 450 Farm, gives students the opportunity to operate/manage a horticultural enterprise.

In a collaborative effort between the Horticulture Station and the 465 class, a website was developed. With a grant from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, this site markets produce grown by the station and the class to the university community. Students, faculty, and staff can look at weekly offerings, place an order, and pick up their order at a designated location on Fridays. In addition the site offers recipes and information on the products, the Horticulture Station, and the Horticulture 465 class. This project has developed a loyal customer base on the university campus. This marketing concept may become a useful model for local growers.

The Horticulture Station's first graduate assistants, Brandon Carpenter and Leah Riesselman received their master's degrees this spring. They held assistantships funded by the Research and

Demonstration Farms in exchange for full-time work at the station during the summer. Leah worked on raspberry production in high tunnels and is now pursuing her PhD and teaching Horticulture 465. Brandon studied the effects of biochar on vegetable production. He has joined the permanent staff at the Horticulture Station and will manage the fruit and vegetable research projects. This assistantship program was a success for both the students. Recruiting has begun to fill the vacant assistantships.

All students working and contributing to the station activities did an exceptional job. The Horticulture Station staff is proud of them and their accomplishments. We hope they have continued success in their college careers.

## RESEARCH

The Horticulture Station's main function is research. With more than 88 projects and 20 faculty members

(continued)





involved, the range of projects is quite diverse. Apples, strawberries, grapes, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and melons were grown for research. Ornamental crops, such as turfgrass, shade trees, flowering crabapples, and Hydrangea also were studied. In addition to the horticultural crops, projects using prairie plants and soybeans were conducted. Projects involving turtles, bees, tree swallows, and mosquitoes added more research diversity.

Plans are underway for some significant new projects at the station in 2015. New faculty member in horticulture, Dr. Diana Cochran is developing a hops yard to look at varieties and cultural practices in hops production. In addition, she will be looking at water relationships

in grape production under high tunnels. Dr. Ajay Nair, horticulture, is working with the station to certify five acres of land for organic research. This land is critical for organic fruit and vegetable projects and will have irrigation installed in the spring. Also Dr. Jesse Randall, NREM, will be developing gravel production beds as improved rooting systems for woody tree cuttings. He will also begin conifer trials for windbreaks and Christmas tree production.

## LANDSCAPE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Only minor changes were made to the landscape at the Horticulture Station in 2014, however, planning for future improvements are underway. With the impending infestation of Emerald Ash Borer and removal

of dead trees, replanting plans are being made for spring. In addition, in anticipation of the station's 50th anniversary in 2017 a garden featuring plant varieties developed by the ISU Department of Horticulture is planned. This garden will feature plants ranging from apples to roses to strawberries and will be a unique addition to the farm.

Improvements in the farm irrigation system continued in 2014. An addition was made connecting the farm irrigation system to an orchard and the high tunnels. This new system provides misting in the orchard for disease research and a more reliable water supply to the high tunnel for overhead and trickle irrigation.

Drain tile was installed around the "mini" tunnel field. The tile will help reduce flooding after heavy rains in these research tunnels.

Improvements continued to be made to increase energy efficiency at the station. Mechanical systems of two coolers were replaced. By the beginning of 2014, six of the eight coolers have been renovated with new mechanical systems making them more efficient to operate and more useful for research. Lighting in the headquarters building, pesticide and turf buildings, and shop were converted to new high efficiency lighting. With 120 light fixtures either replaced or retrofitted, electricity use for lighting should be reduced by 25%.

## INDUSTRY AND THE PUBLIC

The public had a strong presence at the station again in 2014. The research station hosted 7 field days for people interested in cover crops, vegetable production, turf grass, and general home gardening. For the third season the Horticulture Station also hosted the Ag Leadership Camp. This day was geared toward



high school freshman. Over 250 students from schools in central Iowa had the opportunity to learn about landscape design, tree pruning, turf management, and fruit and vegetable production. Students interested in agronomy learned about crop and weed identification and soil judging. Students interested in biology learned about turtles and bees. In addition to the field days, the farm hosted 23 tours and 9 other events for the public. At the end of the season, over 1,200 people visited the station.

With the student activities, extensive research projects, farm improvements, industry and public functions, the Horticulture Research Station was extremely busy in 2014. The station continues to improve and expand its operations with the goal of moving it to the next level of research and teaching capabilities. The station will continue to be vital to students, faculty, and staff in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Iowa State University as well as the Iowa horticultural industry.



**Hort 465 class cleaning onions.**

## Fruit and Vegetable Field Day 2014

by **AJAY NAIR**

The Department of Horticulture in partnership with Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (IFVGA), Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture organized the 2014 Fruit and Vegetable Field Day at the Horticulture Research Station, Ames IA on 11 August, 2014. The event

was coordinated by Dr. Ajay Nair, Assistant Professor in the Department of Horticulture. Other researchers who assisted include Drs. Jeff Iles (Dept. Chair), Paul Domoto, Diana Cochran, Gail Nonnecke, Mark Gleason and Amy Toth. The field day attracted 75 participants that included growers, extension personnel, county horticulturists, post docs,

and graduate students. The field day provided research-based information on a variety of topics including high tunnel bramble and tomato production, effect of biochar on onion production, honey bee health and behavior, summer cover crops preceding fall vegetable production, and apple root stocks and training systems.

(continued)



**Ray Kruse discussing his research on the effects of cover crops on potato production.**



**Brandon Carpenter explaining setting up of an asparagus planting using 1-year old crowns.**





**Fruit and Vegetable  
Field Day 2014 (continued)**

The event started at 2:00 p.m. with a welcome note from Dr. Jeff Iles and Mr. Nick Howell (Farm Superintendent). He also introduced the new Fruit Specialist Dr. Diana Cochran. Mr. Darrell Geisler (President, IFVGA), Ms. Liz Kolbe (PFI), and Dr. Mark Rasmussen (Director, Leopold Center) also attended the field day and interacted with growers. The Field day gave growers an opportunity for a real time assessment of new, innovative, and sustainable research initiatives in the area of fruit and vegetable production. The first stop was the high tunnel bramble and tomato project which was well received by the audience. Growers discussed several topics such as cost, construction, maintenance, and production methodologies in high tunnel crop production.

Dr. Amy Toth's bee research lab showcased various ongoing research projects on carpenter and honeybees. Dr. Nair's research on summer cover crops for vegetable

production attracted a lot of interest, especially with growers interested in exploring cover crops as a tool for weed suppression and building of soil organic matter. Mr. Ray Kruse, a graduate student in the department, highlighted a relatively new cabbage cultivar called Caraflex that has small heads with good wrapper leaves, sweet and mild cabbage flavor and is in the form of a tear drop. Mr. Brandon Carpenter, from the Research and Demonstration Farms and a former graduate student of the department, shared his experience of starting a new asparagus planting

for future research. Participants also got a taste of new and innovative approach of no-till garlic production integrating cover crops such as sorghum sudangrass, sunn hemp, and cowpea. This was a research project started by Mr. Dana Jokela, a graduate student. Dr. Domoto showcased the apple cultivar and rootstock trial and emphasized the importance of selecting appropriate cultivars that can grow well in Iowa and produce higher yields. Graduate students from the Department of Horticulture (Ms. Leah Riesselman, Ms. Jennifer Tillman, Mr. Dana Jokela, and Mr. Ray Kruse) actively participated in the event by engaging growers in their research projects and answering questions. The afternoon session of the field day was followed by dinner at the farm. After the dinner growers mingled with farm staff, researchers and graduate students and had discussions on needs and challenges for the fruit and vegetable industry in Iowa.



**Discussion at the perimeter trap  
cropping project plot.**





Nick Christians presenting research results.

## TURF Field Day

by **NICK CHRISTIANS**

**T**he annual turfgrass field day was held on July 24, 2014 at the Horticulture Research Station. This year's program included projects on sports turf, golf, lawn care, sod production, and several other areas of turfgrass research. Presentations were made by specialists from horticulture, agronomy, plant pathology, and entomology. We also had visiting scientists from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Ia., as well as representatives from the Iowa Department of Land

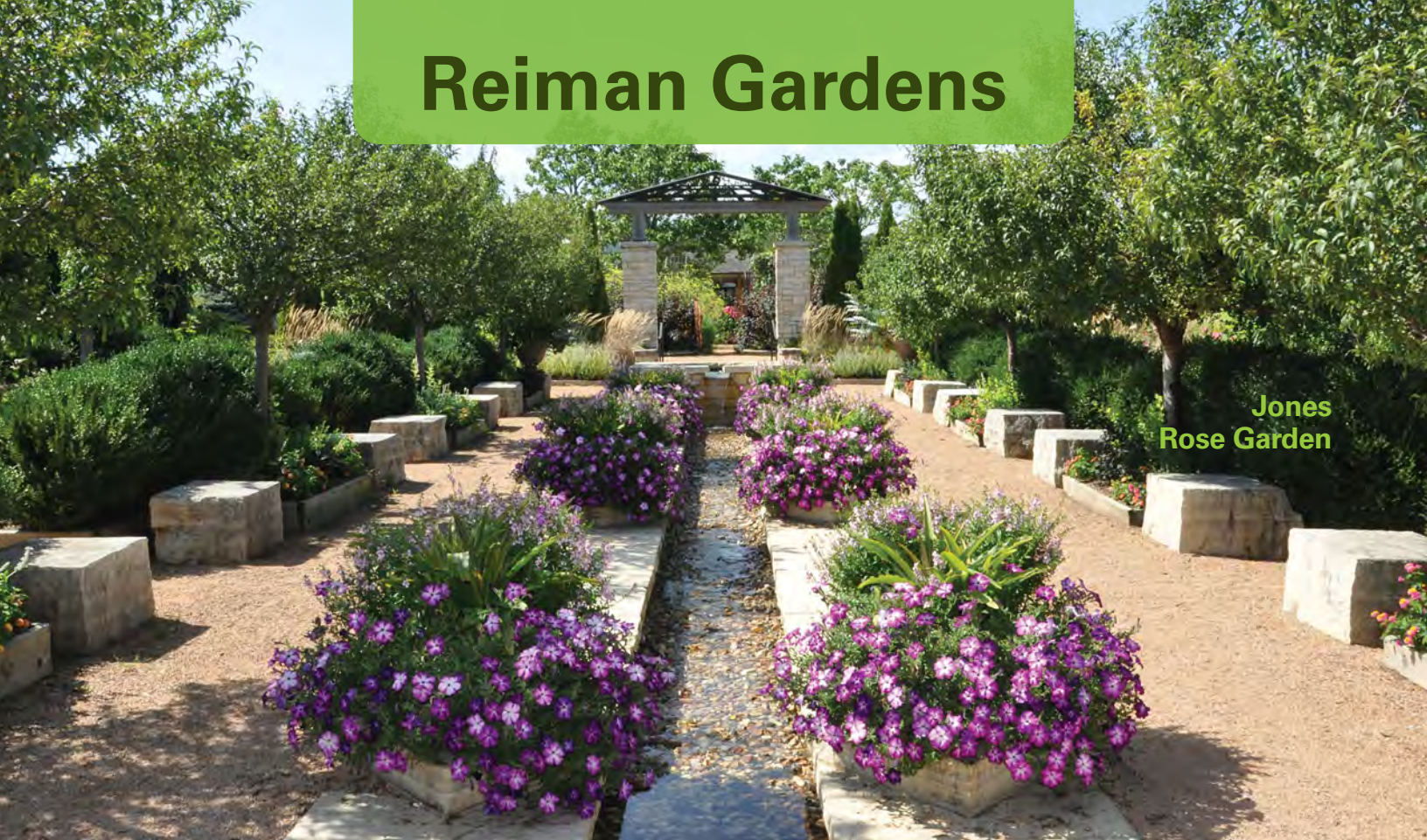
Stewardship. Specific topics included herbicide studies and a study on rhizomatous tall fescues. Variety trials that included creeping bentgrass, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass were also part of the program.

Iowa State University sponsors the field day, in cooperation with the Iowa Turfgrass Institute, the Iowa Lawn Care Association, the Iowa Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Iowa Sports Turf Managers Association. It has been held at the Horticulture Research Station in late summer for the past 36 years.





# Reiman Gardens



**Jones  
Rose Garden**

by **MARIA TEPLY**

In 2014 Reiman Gardens made progress towards our planning goals. The first stage, completed in January 2013, was an assessment of our history and our current status. It highlighted key areas where improvements could be made both physically and organizationally. The second phase, our strategic plan, used those areas for growth to guide the plan. The strategic plan was completed in April 2014 and highlighted four transformative goals. Goal I: To attract and serve a large and broad audience through exceptional experiences. Goal II: To operate and maintain Reiman Gardens' collections, gardens, and butterfly exhibits to the highest standards. Goal III: To become an indispensable part of Iowa State University. Goal IV: To develop the financial, human, and infrastructure resources to support the mission, vision, and goals at the highest level. As part of the strategic

plan, Reiman Gardens also unveiled an updated mission statement: to educate, enchant, and inspire an appreciation of plants, butterflies, and the beauty of the natural world. The third and final phase is currently underway and includes a master site plan of our physical gardens and buildings.

2015 marks Reiman Gardens' 20th anniversary, so this is an excellent opportunity to reevaluate our garden needs and unveil a plan for the next 20 years. In early 2015, we'll also welcome a new Director of Reiman Gardens. Our theme for 2015 will focus entirely on our anniversary, celebrating the past and future of the Gardens. From April 25 to October 25 explore and walk through amazing life-size, interactive, custom-built tree houses. To fit with our celebration theme, each tree house will be inspired by some type of festivity.

**Campanile  
Garden**







**SPRING 2014**

**SHANE BREWER**  
(Culinary Science and  
Hospitality Management)

**JESSICA ADIWIJAYA**  
(Landscape Architecture)

**MACY MEARS**  
(Dietetics)

**MAIA VAN HOLSTEJIN**  
(Landscape Design)



# **EARTH** Education and Resiliency Through Horticulture

**SCHOOL GARDEN and SERVICE-LEARNING on ST. JOHN, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**by CINDY HAYNES and SAMANTHA GREEN**

Since 2010 Iowa State University (ISU) has partnered with Giffit Hill School (GHS) on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands to provide a school gardening/service-learning program known as the EARTH Program (Education and Resiliency Through Horticulture).

Each fall, spring, and summer semester students from ISU spend 8-14 weeks on St. John as service learning students. They have the opportunity to integrate and apply everything they have learned while at ISU to teach horticulture, environmental science, and culinary

arts to K-12 youth. Students also build facilities that will benefit the school for years to come, work with local experts to learn more about tropical horticulture and plant ecology, and assist with community development projects on the island.

(continued)

**EARTH Blog: <http://isuearth.wordpress.com/>**





## FALL 2014

**JON MAHONEY**  
(Horticulture)

**KATHARINA WIGG**  
(Agronomy)

**JACOB LAMKEY**  
(Agronomy)

## EARTH PROGRAM GOALS

- Design, install, and manage attractive landscapes at the school that model sustainable food production and landscape design.
- Establish an integrated, hands-on curriculum that includes horticulture and plant-based environmental science.
- Provide healthy, locally grown food to the GHS community.
- Provide safe and functional outdoor space for students to learn and work.
- Create a positive perception of horticulture with GHS students.
- Integrate ISU and GHS students in classroom, field, service, and networking activities.

## PAST INTERN PROJECTS

**Fall 2013** – Angelica Flores (Spanish, Youth and Adult Development and Horticulture) and Victor Theng (Global Resources Systems and Nutritional Science) worked with Dave to develop a lower garden for increased food production. Angelica also created lesson plans related to square foot gardening while Victor created signs promoting the nutritional value of fresh fruits and vegetables for the newly remodeled cafeteria.

**Spring 2014** – Shane Brewer (Culinary Science & Hospitality Management) and Macy Mears (Dietetics) both worked to establish menus and recipes for the school cafeteria. They created menus that fit nutritional health guidelines and taught students about healthy eating. Jessica Adiwijaya (Landscape Architecture) created vertical gardens by attaching recycled milk jugs to fences in the lower school playground. Maia Van Holstein (Landscape Design) designed an edible garden surrounding the cottage and dorms for future interns to enjoy and use for food production.



**Summer 2014** – Casey Ludwig (Landscape Architecture) and Morgan Bradley (Horticulture) used recycled bottles to replicate a Uganda Key garden based on ideas from the GHS pen pal program with Uganda youth. Erin Bohlin (Landscape Design) designed the lower garden for continual food production and space saving techniques. Anna Snyder (Horticulture) planned and planted the use of summer cover crops (marigolds, mustard, and daikon) for all garden spaces. Jahnelle Rivera (Marian Biology) was our first intern from the University of the Virgin Islands. She tested and evaluated water quality and erosion from the Fish Bay property owned by GHS.

**Fall 2014 (current interns)** – Jon Mahoney (Horticulture) is evaluating cultivars of several vegetables for selection of those best suited to St. John. Jacob Lamkey (Agronomy) has established an algae tea bin to be used as a natural fertilizer for the garden and is designing a crop rotation plan for the 4th-5th grade garden. Katharina Wigg (Agronomy) is in the process of designing and constructing stairs for quick, safe, and reliable access from the terrace garden to the lower field.





# Study Abroad

## TRIP TO SERBIA AND CROATIA HORTICULTURE 496

by **BARB OSBORN**



### MAY 10

Twelve students, and 3 university faculty traveled from Iowa State University to Serbia and Croatia to participate in a study abroad course. Site visits and experiences in-country were arranged by Dr. Aleksa Obradovic and his graduate students from the University of Belgrade, and Dr. Edyta Dermic from the University in Zagreb.

### MAY 11

The group landed in Belgrade and settled at the Hostel Studentski; former dormitories at the University of Belgrade. Hot water was available from 8:00 am until 10:00 pm; WiFi

was present sometimes; there was a lovely coffee machine in the lobby and a community TV. The tour immediately began with a tour of the city and a boat ride down the Danube and Sava Rivers. A walking tour of the Kalemegdan fortress was among the first sites we experienced in Belgrade.



### MAY 12

Spent the day in a seminar with the Faculty of Agriculture. Presentations were given from faculty and graduate students. Dusan Nikolic and Neminja Kuzmanovic presented and were with the group almost every day during our stay. The ISU Students presented on:

- Introduction: Who we are and where we're from. ISU students
- Iowa, USA: Land between two rivers. Alyssa Waldschmidt and Ron Tigner
- Iowa agriculture: A circle of life. Carolyn Ihde and Khyle Cox
- Agricultural diversity in Iowa. Taylor Goetzinger and Kara Orr
- Agricultural technology: precision, efficiency and exports. Angela Rovnyak and Caitlin Buswell
- Iowa is more than corn and soybeans! Culture and traditions. Courtney Clawson and Ashley West
- Iowa State University: choose your adventure. Kathryn Hoemann and Josh Thompson





### MAY 13

A tour of the agricultural fields in northern Serbia at the Institute for Field and Vegetable Crops began our day. Lunch was served at Novi Sad at the University. A wonderful tour of the University's wine cellar, Sremski Karlovici was a treat. The students participated in wine tasting and a discussion on the wine and grapes.

### MAY 14

After a wonderful walking tour of historic and cultural sights in Serbia, the first stop was at the Mausoleum of the Serbian Royal Family in Oplenac, Topola. Next was the Kings winery where the barrels date back to 1909. Down the road was the Alexandrovic Winery that sells 17 wines. They produce 300,000 – 500,000 liters of wine each year. We ate at the Timotijevic Winery in Arandjelovac. A wonderful 5 course meal was served.



### MAY 15

The group traveled to Zagreb, Croatia. There we stayed at Hotel Rebzo, which was a bed and breakfast. The drive was beautiful, even though the country was experiencing an abnormal amount of rain. A walking tour of the Zagreb rounded out the evening.

### MAY 16

ISU Students and University of Zagreb students and faculty gave exchange presentations on the topics that were presented in Belgrade. Lunch was served at the university and a tour of the facilities followed.

### MAY 17

The travel to Porec was absolutely beautiful. We met with the Institute of Agriculture in Porec. Almond, fig, and olive trees were discussed as well as grape varieties of the region. The students from the Poly-Technique College provide the labor for the



farm. A visit to Agro Laguna proved to be one of our favorite stops. Developed in 1960 there are 7km of roads through the vineyards. There are 610 ha of grapevines and they produce 4.5 million liters of wine, with capacity at 7.5 million liters of storage; 65,000 olive trees on 120 ha.; a cheese factory that produces 100 tonnes of cheese, producing 2 million liters of cow's milk and 150 million liters of sheep milk. The students had the opportunity to learn how to taste olive oil, wine, and sheep cheese.

### MAY 18

We visited Plitvick jezera National Park on our return to Zagreb. There we saw amazing waterfalls and had the opportunity to hike through the park. The park was founded in 1949 and is situated in the mountainous karst area of central Croatia, at the border to Bosnia and Herzegovina.





The park extends over 296 square kilometers which is about 73,350 acres. The park is famous for its water falls and 16 lakes.

## MAY 19

This was a travel day back to Belgrade.



## MAY 20

A stop at Plannina Avala tower was a highlight of our day. The tower stands 204m. It is a symbol of Belgrade. Tours of Grow Rasad revealed 1.3 ha under glass. They are the largest producer in service of tomato, pepper, cabbage, and lettuce. They sell lettuce with the roots. It keeps 7 to 10 days. They have 3.5 acres of



hydroponics. It take 3 people, 1 hour to produce 300,000 plugs/hour. They turn over 20 million plants/year. A stop at Fruska Gora monastery in Staro Hopovo was very interesting. There was housed the oldest bones known to Christianity. A walking tour of Belgrade ended at the saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church. Its height is 70 m; a 12 m gold-plated cross on top of it; and 49 computer controlled bells. The church was built entirely by donations.

## MAY 21

The agriculture experiment station was toured by the group. The farm provides leadership in the areas of: fruit growing, viticulture, field crops, vegetable crops, beekeeping, fisheries, and the processing of fruits and grapes. They also let up plant protection experiments.



## MAY 22

Tesla's museum was an interesting and educational stop for the group. Nicola Tesla was a quiet man, intelligent beyond his years. "I'm not mad that people use my ideas-I'm mad that



other people don't have ideas." A tour of Galenika Fitofarmacija was organized. They are a plant protection company. They have a plant protection focus. They have both liquid and granular pesticides.

## MAY 23

We started the day out with a tour at Viminacium Kostolac, an archeological site. We saw orchards in Serbia.



## MAY 24

Leave our home for 2 weeks and travel back to Iowa.



# HORT Club

by **BRANDON MILLER**

The 2014 rose sale was a great success for club fundraising. We sold bouquets, individual roses, and arrangements for Valentine's Day.

For spring break 2014, ISU Horticulture Club funded a trip for members to Colorado. In Colorado we took tours of greenhouses, went out on hiking trips, and cheered on the ISU Landscape Club at the PLANET competition.

This year, the ISU Horticulture Club participated in the first annual Cyclone Market. The club produced 'Cyclone Succulents', as a new fundraising product.

This year we sold locally grown apples and cider to the ISU and Ames communities at the Dinky Day Market and at Horticulture Hall. We all enjoyed participating in bringing the communities together through horticulture.

The ISU Horticulture club participated in the Mid-American Collegiate Horticulture Society (MACHS) competition this fall. The team placed second overall in the competition.

The Horticulture Club hosts an annual sale of poinsettias that the club grows from cuttings. The poinsettia crop is sold around campus prior to winter break.

This year we participated in the Northeast Iowa STEM Fest at the Sullivan Brothers Event Center in Waterloo, Iowa. This year we made a matching seed to plant game, and created a coloring book to hand out to children.



Club members having fun while prepping bouquets.



Club members running the booth at the Dinkey Day Market.



Club members posing in the Rocky Mountain National Park.



Club members participating in MACHS at North Dakota State University.



Club members sell 'Cyclone Succulents' while others explain what the ISU Horticulture Club is all about!



The poinsettia committee posing with their crop.



# Landscape Club

This spring a group of students cleaned up, and replaced plants on the Hort Department's green roof.

by **AMANDA GROLEAU**

This has been quite a year of accomplishments for the ISU Landscape Club.

Every March the ISU Landscape Club participates in PLANET a competition for students involved in the green industry. This year the event was held at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Overall Iowa State was 27th out of 65 teams, with 11 students participating in various events.

We have also done various install projects around the state. The first was in Atlantic, Iowa where two of our members built a retaining wall.

The second project was a complete design and plant install for the Tweidt Family in Huxley, Iowa. We installed a flag pole, plants, and created a hardscape around the flag pole.

Our final project of the year was another design and install in Ames.



## Front Row:

Claire Anderson, Khyle Cox, Christina Riessen, Taylor Goetzinger

## Back Row:

Dr. Iles, Lucas Roberts, Ricardo Leanos, Nathan Robinson, Brandon Miller, Erin Bohlin, Anna Snyder



Iowa State won the Best College Cheer during the opening ceremony at Colorado State University.





# TURF Club

Josh Lenz at the Superbowl in New York.

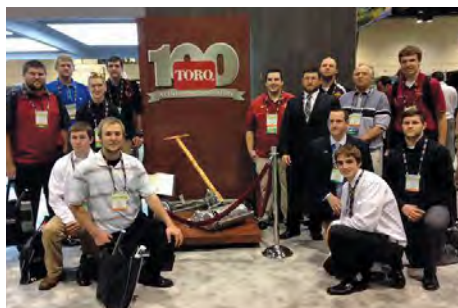
by **BRANDON BOUSEMA**

The Iowa State Turf Club had another busy year full of trips and events. The beginning of the year meant traveling to the Sports Turf Managers Association Conference in San Antonio, and later the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference in Orlando. Students competed in competitions at both conferences and had a great time learning from professionals in the industry. Networking is key while attending the conferences as there are groundskeepers and superintendents from all across the nation.

Students then looked towards the summer and internships. A few notable internships that students had were at Pinehurst Country Club, Medinah Country Club, and the Boston Red Sox. We also had a student attend the Superbowl for an internship and had two students go to London to prepare the fields for the two American football games there this fall. Internship opportunities are one of the great benefits of attending Iowa State and students reap the benefits.



Students pose at the Toro booth at the STMA conference.



At the GCSAA conference, students stop at the Toro booth.

In both the spring and fall semesters students did fertilizer applications at Reiman Gardens. It's an annual fundraiser for the club, while also giving students hands on experience. Another fall activity included a yard cleanup in benefit of the United Way.

Students volunteered a Saturday morning raking leaves, cleaning gutters, and picking up sticks for a resident in Ames.

Overall it was a busy and successful year for the club. Right now everybody is studying hard to prepare for the conferences in hopes of winning a trophy. The club is looking forward to another year and preparing for future careers in the turfgrass industry!



For the United Way Cleanup, students cleaned up the yard for an Ames resident.





# Wembley Stadium

## KEVIN HANSEN, Grounds Crew

This year I got the privilege of going overseas to work at the NFL international series. These are regular season games played at Wembley stadium in England. The opportunity came through a connection to the NFL grounds crew through an internship Josh and I received from Toro. This experience was like none other for the two of us. It was really a dream come true, not only to work with the NFL but to travel overseas to do the work I love.

This year I was able to attend the Cowboys and Jaguars game. We were in charge of getting the practice fields and game field ready for the game. There were seven of us along with the Wembley grounds crew that worked tirelessly to get the field ready. With a game two weeks before and having an England soccer game 5 days after

the game, the preparation was unlike any I had experienced. Having such a quick turnaround is a challenge in itself. Wembley also had some state of the art equipment that I had never used before. They had a piece of equipment called a SeeGrow. This is sort of like a portable greenhouse. They were able to pump Carbon Dioxide into this tent and it also had grow lights in it to make an environment for grass to grow even at night.

When I look back on this experience I am grateful for the amazing opportunity. While I was over there I learned a lot, not only from the Wembley grounds crew but from many of my colleagues that also came over. For me, any time I get a chance to network and meet new people I jump at the chance. In this industry there are many ways of doing the same job.



Wembley grounds crew walking mowing the field before we paint it.

I think that experiencing new and different techniques will better my understanding of the industry and hopefully make me a better turf manager. The opportunities that I have gained through Iowa State have been second to none and I can't wait to start my professional career next year.





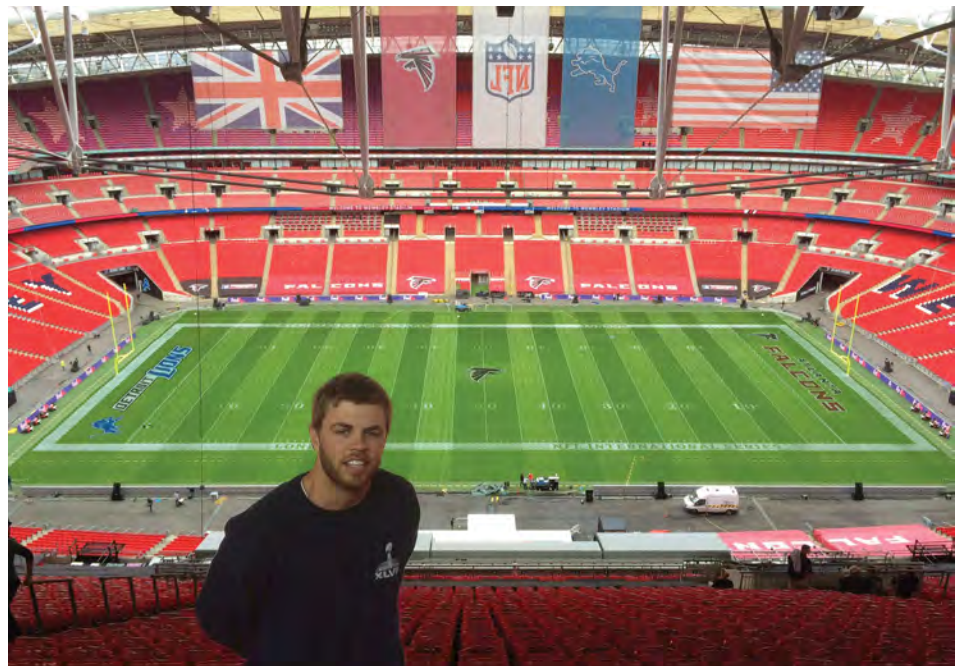


# Opportunity in England

NFL and Wembley Stadium grounds crew at NFL International Series Game 2.

## JOSHUA LENZ, Grounds Crew

It was an unforgettable experience and one I was extremely lucky to get. In London, I had the chance to network with some great individuals from around the United States and also the grounds crew at Wembley Stadium. It was a pleasure working alongside them for an entire week and also getting to know them outside the job. Most of our week consisted of field preparation at 4 different sites. We painted three practice facilities as well as the pitch at Wembley Stadium. I had a few chances to tour London. We made our way around seeing Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and Tower Bridge to name a few. I'm extremely grateful for the wonderful opportunity and hope it's an event I can help with again in the near future.



Wembley Stadium after the field had been painted.



# Melon Mania

By KENZI MONGAR, Iowa State Daily

**S**mashed melons littered central campus on September 11, 2014 after students drop-kicked melons in the name of charity.

Establish & Grow, a philanthropy organized by ISU students and staff, created Melon Mania to raise money for children in Uganda.

An estimated 2,000 melons were used for the event.

“All of these melons were grown at Iowa State by students and staff,” said Cole Staudt, the public relations director for Establish & Grow. “Since research is done to the melons, they can’t be eaten and most will go to waste anyway so we decided to have fun with them and raise money before they go to compost.”

Activities included melon bowling, melon sculpting, lion pinball, strongman toss with a melon, and a hammer versus melon station.

All proceeds went toward Establish & Grow, which helps provide Ugandan children with food and education. The program also educates women on how to feed themselves and their children.

Melon Mania strives to reduce food waste used in research and creates more compost for Iowa State to use aside from supporting Establish & Grow.





# Undergraduate Degrees

*Congratulations!*

## FALL 2013

### Global Resource Systems

Lea Elizabeth Hoefler  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Zachary John Larson  
West Des Moines, Iowa  
Danika Marie Schaaf  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Andrew Keith Stanzyk  
Carroll, Iowa

### Horticulture

Brady Darl Carpenter  
Corydon, Iowa  
Blake Alexander Debont  
Gilbert, Iowa  
Keith William Fandel  
Estherville, Iowa  
Adam Mark Gregersen  
Ames, Iowa  
Heather Lynne Gubbels  
Council Bluffs, Iowa  
Kady Elizabeth Harris  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Peggy Jo Johnson  
Preston, Iowa  
Jason Michael Mangrich  
Gilbertville, Iowa  
Michael James Mladenoff  
Machesney Park, Illinois  
Benjamin J. Palczynski  
Bettendorf, Iowa  
Kevin Michael Sullivan  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Kyle Alden Tester  
Iowa City, Iowa  
Jacob E. Thomas\*\*  
Leavenworth, Kansas  
Kellie Jean Walters\*\*\*  
Guttenberg, Iowa

## SPRING 2014

### Global Resource Systems

Tori Michelle Bryceson  
Pisgah, Iowa  
Samantha Rae Hopkins  
Pella, Iowa  
Sean Thomas Lundy  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
Sofia Cristina Recinos  
Grinnell, Iowa  
Michelle Lee Richardson  
Carson, Iowa  
Jacob Donald Swanson\* †  
Ottumwa, Iowa

### Horticulture

Even James Alderman  
Waterloo, Iowa  
Eric Steven Boetcher  
Glenview, Illinois  
Daniel D. Buckingham  
Monroe, Iowa  
Caleb B. Carter  
Dunlap, Iowa  
Jeremy Douglas Ehlers  
Westside, Iowa  
Eric Steven Golay  
Perry, Iowa

John Michael Gooder  
Cresco, Iowa  
Samantha Kae Green  
Hudson, Iowa  
Christine L. Harmeyer  
Carroll, Iowa  
Kate Nicole Jones  
New Virginia, Iowa  
Woo Rim Ko  
Daegu, South Korea  
Joshua Earl Lenz  
Gilbert, Iowa  
Joseph Michael Parker  
Indianola, Iowa  
Joel Edward Rieker  
Peoria, Illinois  
William Lawrence Ries  
Greenfield, Iowa  
Cody Edwin Rufer  
Monroe, Wisconsin  
Jacob Duane Van Patten  
Indianola, Iowa

\* Cum Laude

\*\* Magna Cum Laude

\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude

† Honors Program





# Scholarships

**Sterling Ainsworth**

**Mary E. Amos**

**Jerry Benning**

**Newell W. and Dorothy E.  
Boughton Scholarship**

**Mildred D. Bradbury**

**Nick and Marla Christians**

**Bob Clark Memorial**

**Robert M. Clark Memorial**

**Erwin Memorial**

**Federated Garden Club**

**Charles Hall**

**Department of  
Horticulture Graduate**

**Global Resource Systems  
General Scholarships**

**Freyermuth Global Resource  
Systems Scholarship**

**Horticulture Club**

**Isabelle M. Isley**

**Kemper A. Kirkpatrick**

**Kolschowsky Global Scholarship**

**Elmer Ludberg**

**Manatt Global Scholarship**

**Naomi Maahs**

**Nau Memorial**

**Pickett-Volz-Nichols**

**Edward R. Robinson**

**J. Frank Schmidt**

**Arvil and Elva Stark**

**Family of Ernie Streicher**

**Florence and Jack Thomas  
Memorial**

**Hattie Meyer Traviss**

**West Pottawattamie**

**William Hughes**

**Ralph Williams**

**Zimmerman Memorial**



# Alumni Spotlight



## Jerald Deal

Jerald graduated in 1973 with a BS in Horticulture. He and his wife, Cindy (El Ed '73) own and operate Deal's Orchard, a 45 acre apple orchard located 3 miles west of Jefferson, Iowa. They have 3 sons (and wives) who all graduated from Iowa State as well. Jerald is 3rd generation at the orchard and has 2 sons coming back to carry on the family tradition.

We open for the season in Mid-July with sweet corn, tomatoes, early apples and summer vegetables. We get very busy starting Labor Day weekend when fall activities begin. In 2009, we added our agri-tainment "family entertainment area", now known as Apple Acres. For decades, we have offered pick-your-own apples and pumpkins, hayrides, tours, a Fall Festival, gift baskets, a Gift Shop, and a Christmas Tree Farm (since 1999). We sell our produce at our retail "barn" on the farm, at Farmer's markets and also wholesale to over 50 grocery stores. We process at least 30,000 gallons of fresh apple cider each year, and now also make

our own hard cider. Other customer favorites include caramel apples and homemade apple pies.

I appreciate all the advice and information that I have received from the ISU Horticulture Department and ISU Extension over the years. They always take time to answer my questions. Since Jefferson is only 40 miles from Ames, we are happy to have ISU research plots in the orchard whenever the need arises. As a side



note, our wholesale cider business got its start as a fund-raiser with sales through the ISU Horticulture Club.



## Michael Dosmann

Michael Dosmann (M.S. 1998) is Curator of Living Collections at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, in Boston, MA. As curator, Michael guides the development, documentation, and research of the Arboretum's celebrated collection of temperate woody plants. Recently, Michael retraced the steps of Ernest H. Wilson during the filming of a

documentary featuring this famous plant explorer's work in China.

On ISU's Department of Horticulture and his time there, Michael reflects: "I cannot think of a better place for me to have received my masters than Iowa State. That rich experience working with Jeff Iles and others set me on my career path as a scientist, and it strengthened my credentials as a true-blue horticulturist."



# Alumni Spotlight



## Mike and Rachel Gooder

Mike ('80) and Rachel (Reicher '80) Gooder are founders and owners of the Plantpeddler. They serve as President and Vice President respectively. John ('14) has recently joined the company as Operations Manager.

Founded in 1980 and located in Cresco, Iowa, Plantpeddler consists of an eight acre greenhouse complex with additional outdoor production. Primary production items include vegetatively propagated young plants, finished products for leading grocery chains, hardware, garden centers and related markets, and production of field liner transplants.

The Gooder family are proud graduates and supporters of Iowa State Horticulture. This commitment involves a variety of projects including the greenhouse renovation, advisory committee, support of programs, and the Hort Club.



## Lisa Wasko

Lisa graduated from Iowa State University with her BS in horticulture and biology in 2007 and obtained her MS in horticulture and soil science in 2010. After graduating with her PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Lisa became an Assistant Professor at Washington State University and leads the state-wide berry research and extension program.

"Iowa State University's Department of Horticulture truly is a world class department that prepares students for success in the professional environment. My time there gave me a wonderful opportunity to gain academic knowledge from experts in the field and the experiential learning that I feel is critical for success after graduation. The department and its people are also wonderful and provide a tremendously supportive environment that creates a great sense of community!"



Daniel McMahon, Jayson Force,  
Lisa Lacy, and Jim Nau

## Jim Nau

In 1982, Jim Nau graduated from Iowa State University. He started working for Ball three weeks later and has been with them for 32 years as manager of the gardens. Jim is

responsible for all the greenhouses, grounds, and gardens covering the 55 acres of the Ball Horticultural Company. Over 4,000 varieties of perennials, shrubs, annuals, tropical, herbs, and vegetables are trialed.



# Alumni Spotlight

## at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden



### Kelly Norris

Kelly Norris (B.S., 2008; M.S., 2011), horticulture manager, directs and manages all aspects of design, curation, programming, and garden maintenance and has a principal leadership role in the \$18 million renovation and expansion currently underway. He is also the editorial director for the organization's award-winning member magazine *Bloom*.

"Spending 11 semesters in and earning two degrees from ISU's horticulture department will always rank as one of the greatest adventures of my life. Looking back, three things stand out to me—the positive relationships between faculty and students, the fellowship among the student body, and the opportunities I had to grow as a learner and a leader."



### Winston Beck

Winston Beck (B.S., 2012), horticulturist, specializes in curating the Garden's indoor and outdoor collections, while also actively directing several plant breeding projects. He's the Garden's resident living wall specialist.

"Iowa State gave me a well-rounded educational experience, complete with travel opportunities and the chance to find my own direction in horticulture. I look back on my involvement with Hort Club as a highlight of my college career."

### Tyler Johnson

Tyler Johnson (B.S., 2010), horticulturist, specializes in propagation and production of plants for displays and permanent collections, while showcasing his talents for floral design in Trellis and for special events. He is also the plant buyer for the Garden Shop.

"I loved the closeness of the horticulture department and the sense of community among students and faculty. Hort Club was a great opportunity to get involved with sales and form connections."



### Josh Schultes

Josh Schultes (B.S., 2010), horticulturist, specializes in landscape plant maintenance in both indoor and outdoor gardens, as well as leading the team's Integrated Pest Management program. Josh is also the props master for the Garden's exhibits and exhibitions.

"Iowa State provided me leadership opportunities that I don't think I would have gotten elsewhere. Putting what I learned into practice as a student helped instill in me a value for lifelong learning."





# Service Learning, School Garden, and School Nutrition Programs, **UGANDA 2014**



by **SHARON TUSIIME, DR. GAIL NONNECKE and DR. DOROTHY MASINDE**

**T**he year 2014 marked the ninth year of the service learning, school garden program, which was started in Uganda in the Kamuli District in 2006 with an aim to improve Ugandan pupils' agricultural knowledge and attitudes towards agriculture. The program is an outcome of a partnership between Iowa State University (ISU) through the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Makerere University (MAK), and a local non-governmental organization, Volunteer Efforts for Development Concerns (VEDCO). The school gardens act as outdoor

learning laboratories for the pupils to learn agricultural skills, and they also supplement the school lunch program by providing fruits, vegetables, grains, and funds from the sale of high value crops. Pupils also acquire planting materials to take home and start up their own gardens. Poultry husbandry is included as part of the agricultural projects. The service learning and school garden program builds capacity of both ISU and MAK students by exposing them to real-world challenges in development, such as access to education, clean water, food insecurity, land and other resources

in Sub-Saharan Africa. The program helps prepare university students to face and solve these challenges, while serving as role models for the children of the Kamuli District.

In 2014, 46 participants were part of the student program, including 33 undergraduates (19 MAK students and 14 ISU students), 4 ISU faculty, 1 MAK faculty, and 8 MAK assistants (MAK service learning students from previous years who returned to assist in the summer programs). All activities were completed in a bi-national team, consisting of both MAK and ISU university students,





worked in four primary schools, one local junior high/high school, and with 10 farmers in the communities near the schools. Program activities included assisting with teaching in the primary schools, working in the school gardens, completing bi-national team projects, and helping and learning from local Ugandan farmers. Students also contributed to the improvement of the schools by assisting with the construction of water catchment and storage systems and a duplex house for teachers at Nakanyonyi Primary School.

## TEACHING

The university students had an opportunity to help teach in four primary schools. The teaching methods included active learning through garden activities, the use of charts and scholastic materials to illustrate content since schools do not have books, and quizzes to assess learning. Fifth and sixth grade pupils were taught subjects that are examined at the national level and part of the national curriculum, including integrated science (agriculture, nutrition, science, sanitation, hygiene), and

mathematics. In the fifth grade, topics taught included crop growing, vegetable seedlings, weed control, raising tree seedlings, and fractions and integers, while the sixth graders were taught topics of soil formation, sanitation, communicable diseases, and the mathematics of money and speed.

## SCHOOL GARDENS

The school gardens were established to serve as outdoor learning laboratories for the pupils and the communities near the schools. The gardens provide ingredients for the school lunch program, such

as collard greens, eggplants, and amaranth leaves. High value crops of tomatoes, other warm season vegetables and grain amaranth are grown and sold to purchase ingredients for the school lunch. In 2014, the ISU and MAK students planted approximately 7.5 acres of crops including grain amaranth, maize (white corn), tomatoes, green beans, bananas (matooke or cooking banana), eggplants, onions, and collard greens (sukuma wiki). The yield from the school gardens was approximately 2,316 kg in the first growing season of the year and these







Planting living fence.



New water cistern.



Concrete tip—tap for handwashing.

crops were consumed by the children in their school lunch or sold to raise funds to buy ingredients for the school lunch. Planting materials were given to the pupils to take home to help establish their personal fruit and vegetable gardens.

## BI- NATIONAL TEAM PROJECTS

The bi-national team projects, completed by university students to improve the school garden programs and activities, included poultry, irrigation, agroforestry, a fruit orchard, hygiene and sanitation, bee keeping, school feeding/nutrition, and grain storage. These projects aid in improving the pupils' agricultural and life skills and contribute to the success of the school gardens and agricultural classes and clubs.

In 2006, a poultry project was initiated to increase the protein intake of school children and improve their

skills for raising poultry. This year the project participants were involved in activities that included improving existing poultry facilities by building a new poultry room, repairing and expanding the fence around the facility, increasing the number of birds (building a temporary brooder for 200 new chicks), and reviving the involvement of pupils in project activities to ensure sustainability.

The beekeeping project constructed six new palm hives and two top-bar hives, planted 18 bottlebrush (*Callistemon*) trees as food for the bees, improved upon the existing hives, and educated the secondary school students how to site and care for both hives made from palm or wooden top-bar hives.

To address the challenges of roaming livestock and potential theft of the produce grown in the school gardens, agroforestry projects included the

planting of living fences of trees and shrubs. Fences were created at two primary schools and the bi-national team also established an orchard of oranges, mangoes and bananas, put up permanent land boundaries at one of the schools, and grafted and pruned subtropical and tropical fruit trees of avocado, orange, and mango.

The health and sanitation project improves hand washing and personal sanitation of the school children. Permanent, concrete "tip-tap" handwashing sites near the latrines and kitchen were constructed and existing ones improved with a drainage area to prevent stagnant water from collecting below the tip taps and becoming a breeding ground for mosquitos. Spaces for keeping soap or ash (to be used for hand cleansing) were also part of the new design for the tip taps.

The irrigation project enables year-long crop production by providing water to crops during dry seasons and also reduces the time and energy required to water plants in the school gardens. This year, a second cistern (5,000 liter capacity) was constructed at Namasagali Primary School, and Nakanyonyi Primary School received a treadle pump to make better use of the water in their cistern and the new roof catchment tank with a capacity of 10,000 liters.

The aim of the grain storage project is to keep harvested maize in the best possible condition after harvest. This year's team created a grain storage







procedure manual for guidance and reference, created step-by-step visual aids that were posted in the grain storerooms, and secured a room for the grain storage in Nakanyoyi and Namasagali primary schools.

In 2014, the school lunch project was extended to another primary school (Naluwoli), in addition to Namasagali and Nakanyoyi primary schools. The 'nyoyo' meal was introduced after a series of

meetings with the schools' parents and teachers association, school management board, and parents. 'Nyoyo' consists of white maize (corn), dried beans, vegetables, iodized salt, and vegetable oil and improves the nutrient density of the lunch, compared to only maize porridge. The program also purchased larger amounts of maize (2228 kg) and beans (2100 kg) to take advantage of the lower prices during the harvest season and is now storing the grain using hermetic storage for future use in school lunches at the three primary schools.

### **FARM VISITS**

The farm visits involved service-learning students working with small-scale Kamuli farmers, who work with VEDCO, to understand and learn about the agricultural systems in the Kamuli District. This year, the students assisted ten farmers with activities such as establishing sweet potato mounds, tomato plots, and collard seedling nurseries, in addition to completing animal husbandry practices and farm planning and management exercises.

### **YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

A new program was established to train youth in agricultural entrepreneurship. A total of 42 in- and out-of-school youth participated in an agricultural entrepreneurship and youth training program, where they learned poultry husbandry, in addition to vegetable production and marketing. Over a period of the past year, the program raised and sold 700 broiler birds and used 3.5 acres of land to grow fresh vegetables





and maize. They also formed a credit group consisting of 12 in- and out-of-school youth who are being trained and will receive microfinance loans to raise laying hens for egg production. The program has been expanded to include in- and out-of-school youth from Naluwoli parish in addition to those in Namasagali subcounty. A special workshop was held in which youth learned about leadership, team work, and community engagement.

## TEACHERS' HOUSE

To enable sustainability of the agricultural projects, a teacher's house was needed at Nakanyonyi Primary School. In 2013, construction of a teacher's house foundation began with the help of the service-learning students. This year, construction was continued, with university students and pupils assisting the workers in activities such as carrying bricks, water and other supplies to the site. The school administration, parents and the Kamuli District local government contributed bricks, pit sand, aggregates (gravel), and provided meals for the workers/builders. Donors to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at ISU provided gifts to help fund the completion of the residence. When teachers are residing in the house, the school garden program at Nakanyonyi Primary School can expand to including poultry, while providing safe and comfortable accommodations for dedicated teachers.



Nakanyonyi Primary School  
Teachers' House.



Dr. Acker visits with the bi-national team to see the plant nursery that includes grafted fruit tree.

PHOTO CREDITS:  
B.J. Nonecke  
and R.C. Schultz,  
ISU Uganda Program





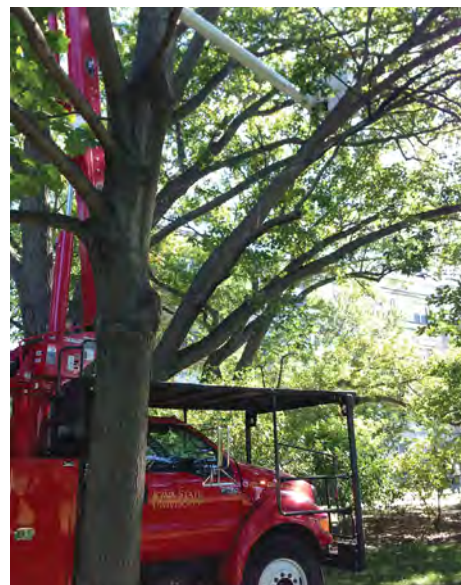
# Historic Campus Trees Perpetuated and Shared



Horticulture students Frank Balestri (left) and Jon Mahoney (right) collected seeds of *Ginkgo biloba* near Catt Hall on November 8, 2013.



A happy customer picked up his two *Platanus occidentalis* on September 26, 2014.



A Campus Services vehicle was used to collect acorns from a *Quercus rubra* near Curtiss Hall on October 6, 2014.

by **BILL GRAVES**

Photographs by Bill Graves

A program launched in 2012 is preserving the legacy of historical trees on campus. Some of our oldest and most beautiful trees are being propagated through the Melendy Heritage Tree Program. Progeny is being established on campus to perpetuate the genetic heritage of the originals, with additional trees sold to alumni and other supporters. Some purchasers are establishing the trees on their property. Others are giving these living links to Iowa State as gifts to family, friends, or civic organizations.

The program is led by Dr. Bill Graves, professor of horticulture and associate dean of Iowa State's Graduate College. Graves, who was an undergraduate and graduate student from 1978 to 1984, conceived of such an effort many years ago. Finally, a confluence of factors made 2012 the right time to get started. July 2 of that year was the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln signing the Morrill Act, which revolutionized higher

education through the establishment of land-grant schools like Iowa State. Some trees indigenous to the land in Ames where the school was established, and some planted during campus establishment had already been lost or were at risk. One such tree was a gnarly old catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*) near Pearson Hall that had been deemed structurally unsafe. As removal of the tree was being planned, the family of Bob and Eileen Martin and the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association donated funds to initiate a tree-conservation program. This enabled horticulture students to grow robust seedlings from seeds of the Pearson catalpa. A seedling from that collection now occupies the site of the original. Excess plants were sold in late 2013 through the Alumni Association to its members and other supporters.

Interest in the program is exceeding expectations and sufficient to justify an annual tree sale. Graves and student helpers prioritize specimens

that should be propagated. Multiple species are targeted, with one selected each year for sales during September and October. In 2014, American sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*) propagated from Iowa State's nationally recognized Sycamore Row were sold. A signed Certificate of Campus Heritage is provided to each purchaser, who may pick up trees on designated days on campus or arrange to have them shipped. Seedlings of a magnificent swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*) near Carver Hall likely will be offered in 2015.

"This is an extremely rewarding project," said Graves. "I've taught students for over 20 years about these grand old specimens. These specimens will be lost someday, so it's important to be proactive and maintain their genetic heritage. And it's exciting to see the interest in the progeny of these historic trees among alumni and others with a connection to Iowa State."





## LETTERS from ALUMNI

Greetings from the Sherbondy Hort Klan of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Following our graduation (41 years ago) my wife Kip and I opened a small Garden Center in an abandoned gas station. We grew a family of ISU green thumbs and are excited about what has been accomplished through God's direction and solid science. My wife, Kip's degree was in elementary education (ISU 1973). Her understanding of a child like approach to people works quite well. Her family and business role is more like an orchestra leader solving problems in the drum section. We grow plants at our home with nursery fields and greenhouses in Underwood. The plants and balled and bur lapped shade trees are transported when mature to the Garden Center for sales. Son JP (John Paul) ISU Hort 1999) handles installations, maintenance crews and bidding work for numerous commercial and residential jobs. John Paul's wife Jeanna (ISU Distributive Studies 1999) is the florist, nursery yard salesman, and head bookkeeper and manages to keep her head on straight. Daughter Alyssum (Northwestern, Orange City 2001) fills in gaps and manages to volunteer in numerous impacting ways.

Son, Jeff (ISU Hort 2004) cares for plants in the Lied Jungle at the Omaha, Henry Dorley Zoo. He enjoys the diversity of animals, plants and people and has great stories. His wife, Jordan Sherbondy (ISU Hort 2009) is in charge of volunteers at the Omaha Lauritzen Gardens where they are all excited about a new Conservatory.

I paid little attention to the Horticultural therapy major at Iowa State. A unique, 70s concept that manifests itself daily in our garden center. We have had at least one woman visit our greenhouse and tell us later that the cup of coffee she received, the music and green plants saved her from a planned suicide. Doctors, lawyers, policeman, fireman, business moguls, and every day workman remind us that their first job was at the garden center. We are active in the Good News Prison Ministry and Serve at the Southwest Iowa Juvenile Detention Center.

Blessings from the Sherbondy Crew and Go Cyclones!

**John Sherbondy**

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*Dear Dr. Iles,*

I have been eagerly looking forward to receiving your request for contributions to the *Annual Alumni Newsletter* for some time now. I am so happy to share that I am so excited about my work! I am employed at Bertog Landscape Company in Wheeling, IL. I like to call myself everyone's assistant but my technical title is "Account manager assistant and seasonal flower specialist." My biggest responsibility is to plant our clients' seasonal containers. This is most definitely the best part of my job. I love bringing seasonal touches to people's outdoor spaces; playing with color, texture and form that will brighten up their front stoop, deck, patio or window boxes. When I'm not playing with flowers I'm doing a wide variety of tasks including updating various contracts, assisting with maintenance estimates and checking on client concerns.

(continued)



## Cailey Hinz (continued)

Bertog is a smaller company and this has provided me with the opportunity to see every aspect that it takes to keep a good company going. I've been able to observe or be a part of everything from drafting contracts to purchasing materials to managing laborers and scheduling, even billing and collecting payments. I've also discovered so many more roles that people can have in the field of landscape horticulture than I knew existed before I graduated.

This reminds me of how I felt when I learned how many facets there are to horticulture itself as a freshman in the ISU Horticulture Department: Excited. This world that I have fallen completely in love with keeps expanding as I explore it.

Bertog has also provided me with the opportunity to use and demonstrate all of the knowledge I have acquired up to this point in my life. I would like to think that I have impressed my coworkers and superiors with the practical knowledge I came to this company with. And I can definitely say that I gained the majority of this knowledge at ISU.

I hope that all members of the ISU Horticulture Department, especially the students, can find something in this industry that excites them and invites them to explore new possibilities. Because, as I have learned, there is so much to do, so much to learn, and so many ways to grow.

*Happy growing!*

## Cailey Hinz - Landscape Design 2013

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Well it's hard to believe, but next year, will be 50 years since my ISU graduation!

We had to make a brief, 3-day trip, to Iowa last winter to take care of my brother's estate. That was the first time we had been back north in 40 years. Next year will also be 20 years since I retired from the Crop & Soil Science Department of Texas A & M University, as a Professor and Turf grass Specialist, Emeritus. While at A & M I put together and promoted a lawn care program called, "Don't Bag It". Its goal is to encourage leaving grass clippings on the lawn, rather than sending them to the landfill. The program earned me the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence, from then Governor George W. Bush.

Last year, we moved to Florida to be closer to the cruise ports. We've completed 31 cruises and have 5 more booked in the next year! Meet us on Lido Deck and we will buy you a cup of coffee.

## Dr. Bill Knoop, '65

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### *Hi Jeff and Fellow Alums,*

June 2, 2013 LaJean and I celebrated 50 years together, and 40 since coming to ISU and Pammel Court. We celebrated in September with a two-week trip to Switzerland. Had a great time.

I continue to stay busy with focus on breeding and selecting a number of species of landscape plants. This is our 29th year as a private researcher, and progress continues. We are slowly creeping closer and closer to having a true red flowered rose-of-sharon. A dwarf, sterile, repeats blooming Vitex negundo, extremely cold hardy and sterile African plume grass that stays under 6 ft. tall. And of course continuing work with Lagerstroemia (crape myrtle). A nurseryman in Israel says out Rhapsody in Pink® crape myrtle is the only cultivar that will flower in Berlin, because it requires much less heat to trigger flowering. On Lacebarkinc.com and RootMaker.com web sites we share a great deal about our work in plant breeding and improving root systems. Interested in crape myrtle but think it gets too cold where you live, — see my paper Northern Crape myrtle. Have drainage problems with some plants, — see Planting by the Law.

Retirement? Why in the world would that even be considered while having so much fun.

*With best wishes to all,*

## Carl Whitcomb, MS, 64 and PhD 69 Go Cyclones!

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[www.rootmaker.com](http://www.rootmaker.com)

Our Motto: "We Pursue the Practical with Enthusiasm"

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## *Hello Dr. Iles!*

I appreciate the note!

Since graduating in May, I have been working for the Brewers Baseball Club in Milwaukee, WI. I am the long season intern in the landscape, and since the other interns/seasonals have returned to school, daily work continues with my boss, myself and one other employee per day. There are still two interns, one part timer, and three other managers on the field inside the stadium, but outside, it is now the three of us, soon to be just my boss and myself (due to budgeting and the team knocked out).

It has been an eventful year for us here at Miller Park. We've planted 20 trees, the largest being two 4 inch caliper, 30 foot tall Norway Maples...the first two of the season back in May. We've also installed over 2000 annuals, perennials and shrubs around the park, cleaning up after the previous landscape manager from last year (yes, the one that Mike Mladenoff worked under). Several areas were an attempt at naturalization or just unkempt in general, so my boss and I have worked together to design/organize them.

I've been fortunate enough to lead crews of 4-5 guys while my boss is busy doing other things throughout the day, which is obviously great leadership and management experience. Coming up this fall, we have somewhere around 1,500 bulbs to plant around the property. I am also designing a few areas around the park. I can send drawings when they are finished if you'd like, but installation will most likely take place next Spring/Summer.

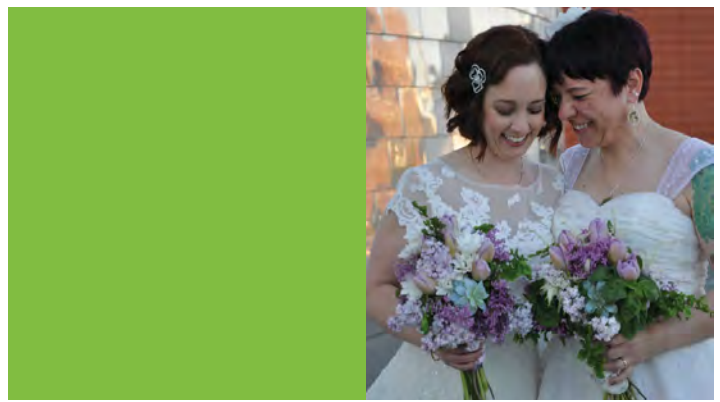
Well that's about all that's going on up here! Hope all is well back in Ames, I was able to make it back for the K-State game, and had a great time.

*Talk to you soon!*

**Eric Boetcher**

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## *Good afternoon, Dr. Iles,*

Hello again, fellow Cyclone Horticulturists!

The past year has finally brought me some stability on the job front and I got married!

I have worked at ACT, Inc. in Iowa City for a little over a year now and am getting used to a very fun and interesting life in Eastern Iowa. My coworkers ask me for advice on how to better care for their office plants; some even bring in samples from their gardens for help in pathogen identification and nutrition information.

It's been very heartwarming to see NASA reinvigorate their Life Sciences area, along with hydroponics being taught at ISU. Hopefully, a current and/or future ISU Horticulture student will benefit from these two energies flourishing at the same time. Maybe we'll see a Cyclone growing produce on Mars in the not-too-distant future! That would be super exCYYYYting!!!

I married a fellow Cyclone, Ms. Allyn Lambertz (1996, BS) on May 17, 2014 in the Science Center of Iowa in Des Moines. Thanks to Iowa allowing for same gender marriages, we relocated back to Iowa in 2013 and are establishing our family quite nicely, (and thankfully, safely) in this great state.

**Angela Lambertz (was Beaman)**  
**1996, BFA; 2008, MS in Horticulture**  
**(Hydroponics)**

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*Dear Jeff,*

I have pen in hand as you suggest. Someone is currently sitting at my computer, and as you know, I prefer not to use it anyway.

Can it be that six years have elapsed since I last visited the campus? Yes, it's true and I will admit that the added years have slowed my pace a bit, but I am still a volunteer tour guide at Bloedel Revered.

Further, this will be the fifth year that my work of more than fifty years will be on display during most of December until January 5, 2015 I am still creating new stems. Some of the work has been shown on the reserve website and fall book each year as well.

I look back with great pleasure to my last visit, meeting all the great staff and students. The newsletters are always great. Obviously a number of those of my era are no longer with us but reading of those who are is always appreciated.

I try to keep my floral arranging skills sharp by doing arrangements for my church with flowers and foliage from my garden.

No travels this year but it has been a beautiful summer to enjoy the garden and the view of the Olympic range from my home and garden.

*Thanks for all the years of your leadership.*

**Dwight Shappell, Hort '53**

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*Hello!*

This summer our son Hans served pickles he had made from cucumbers purchased at the St. Paul Minnesota Farmers Market. The fruit were seedless and good.

A few days later our daughter Sue served fresh seedless cucumbers grown in her garden. The plant was gynoeious (all female) and parthenocarpic (seedless).

I was a pickling cucumber breeder for Northup King & Co. in the 1960s and early 70s. We did not have the success that today's breeders are enjoying with these characters. It's exciting!

*I do enjoy the Hort Alumni Newsletter.*

**Iver Jorgensen '49**

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*Hello friends,*

The last few years have been exciting and challenging. My husband, Scott, and I welcomed our second daughter last October. Violet, 4, and Poppy, 1, keep us on our toes as we forge ahead on the journey of raising children. They both love the outdoors and are very eager to "help" with the gardening tasks that keep us busy. Scott and I enjoy working on house projects to keep our 1918 home in tip-top shape and browsing garden centers and greenhouses for just the right plant to fill "that space" in our landscape. Professionally, I am finishing my 8th year on the Reiman Gardens horticulture staff and I still look forward to each day just like it was my first. I am blessed to work with a talented, creative, supportive staff and I am excited to be a part of the Garden as it continues to grow and become a part of the Iowa State University experience and tradition.

*Best wishes,*

**Sarah Clark Rummary, 2003**

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*Greetings from Monroe, Wisconsin,*

Upon graduating this spring (2014), I returned home and initially returned working at Cedar Creek Landscaping. I worked full time for this company through the month of June and was becoming frustrated in the daily grind and lack of appreciation for my knowledge. Through the month of June, I put my spare time into getting a business set up. On July 1st, I officially began operating Mr. Landscape LLC. I began this business adventure with my father who is a partial partner in the business; Mr. Landscape is a full service company including landscaping, lawn care, snow removal, and management/maintenance. In the months since I have been working seven days a week and still adding more projects to the list. The phone has been ringing for a wider variety of project. Some of my customers are already asking for me to return in the spring for more work. At this point in time I am working 12-15 hours per day trying to maintain vehicles, complete bookwork, meet with customers and most importantly prepare for winter.



Mr. Landscape will be embarking on the hiring process very soon. I love working hands on every day in the field and being my own boss. I will admit running the business and being the “crew” can be a bit stressful. However, the strong feeling of accomplishment and being able to see the work completed every day outweighs the stress. I would have never expected to be in business this quick out of college, but there is only room for more learning.

*Sincerely,*

**Cody Rufer,**  
**Owner of Mr. Landscape LLC**

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*Hello Fellow Alumni,*

I am currently finishing up my fourth year of working in Washington D.C. I am gardening at Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, a 5½-acre museum in the heart of the Georgetown neighborhood. The home was the family home of Thomas and Martha Peter – Martha Peter was Martha Washington’s granddaughter, George Washington’s step-granddaughter.

The family purchased the home in the early 1800’s, and there are a few remaining plants from that time; there is a tulip popular original to the property and boxwood that started as cuttings from Mt. Vernon. It’s a wonderful place to put my horticulture degree to work.

On a personal note, this coming summer I am getting married. My fiancé and I met at Iowa State. We both look back at our time there with fond memories. Unfortunately, we don’t get home as often as we like to, but whenever we are in the area; we can’t pass up a trip to campus and Hickory Park.

*Go Cyclones!*

**Addie Hatch, Class of 2006**

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*Hi,*

Jacqueline Venner Senske started as the Director of Education at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden in Belmont, North Carolina, in May of 2014. With the October 2014 opening of Lost Hollow, a 3-acre children’s garden, it is a very exciting time to be at the Garden in this capacity. Jacqueline lives in nearby Charlotte, North Carolina, with her husband, Nick Senske, Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and their 3-year-old son, Oscar.

**Jacqueline Venner Senske**

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*Hi Jeff,*

I thought maybe the attached article I wrote about Harold might be of interest for the Horticulture Newsletter. You can use all of it, any of it, or none of it as you feel is appropriate. Hope everything is going well in Iowa and Iowa State. Harold’s death was kind of a shock for me since I’m three years older than he was.

We’ve had a fantastic growing season in Vermont this year with sufficient rainfall and reasonable temperature after a rather cold winter.

*Thanks for your consideration.*

**Norman Pellett**

**ARTICLE:**

Dr. Harold Pellett, 76, professor emeritus of the University of Minnesota, passed away on July 22. Pellett received his B.S., M.S. and PhD from the Horticulture Department at Iowa State.

Pellett had a long and successful career in horticulture, including 36 years as a professor at the University of Minnesota, teacher and a leader in research at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Horticulture Research Center. In 1990 he founded the Landscape Plant Development Center with a mission of developing superior cold-hardy landscape plants. He developed the Woody Plant Research State in Oregon.

Pellett was one of the most recognized woody plant experts throughout the U.S. and Canada. His work was known to nurserymen, gardeners, landscape professionals, and botanical gardens, arboreta, and university horticulturists. His research and publication on plant winter hardiness and effect of growing conditions on plant performance are widely appreciated.

Pellett is best known for his introduction of 25 tree and shrub varieties resulting from his breeding program, including the Light Series of hardy azaleas. He spent the last 20 years of his professional life organizing and managing the Landscape Plant Development Center with cooperators in many state and Canada, coordinating plant-breeding programs at the Center and in other states. He won dozens of professional awards from state nursery associations, botanical gardens, arboreta, professional organizations, and gardening associates.

He leaves his family: wife Shelby, six children, 13 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, all of who live in Minnesota.

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*Dear Dr. Iles,*

There is nothing really new in our lives at this point. The really important fact is that we (in our mid-eighties) continue to enjoy excellent health. Good health is something that cannot be bought, so I consider ourselves most fortunate.

Our day-to-day lives are routine as you might expect. Watching the grandchildren grow is probably the most important thing in our lives at this point. We go out to eat on a weekly basis so this is about the only thing we do for variety. We both do regular exercising and that keeps us fit.

Since we no longer live in a home that we own, about the only thing I do horticulturally is to look after my houseplants and that pretty much satisfies me.

A few years ago we enjoyed a wonderful trip to England to meet the family of my wife's pen pal. Aside from that, our lives continue to be basically routine, and that satisfies me.

My over best wishes go to you and everyone else in the Hort Department!

*Sincerely,*

**Donald Muller, 1954 Graduate**

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Can it be that another year has gone by? The Nelson family has been very busy and is looking forward to an equally busy 2015.

**Doug Nelson (Horticulture '71)** and his wife **Ellen (Zoology '72)** spend their time running Wallace's Garden Center and Greenhouse with locations in Bettendorf and Davenport. They spend their free time boating on the Mississippi river, traveling, playing with their two grandchildren (Colin, age 2.5 and Annabelle, Age 1 year). They make frequent trips to Ames to tend the gardens at the Alumni Center and cheer on the Cyclone Football team.

Oldest son, **Eric Nelson (Horticulture '00)** has settled in Boise, ID and manages See Priming Operations for a subsidiary of Bayer Crop Science. He spends his free time, traveling, going to concerts, and skiing the slopes of the mountain west-every chance he gets.

Daughter **Kate (Nelson) Terrell (Horticulture '02)** is the CFO and purchasing manager at Wallace's Garden Center. Professionally, she is also very active in AmeicanHort (formally OFA) as their Retail Community Leader. In her free time, Kate enjoys Broadway Theater, spending time with her family and traveling. She and husband **Alan Terrell (MIS '01)** are avid Cyclone fans when they are not chasing around 2.5 year old Colin — whose favorite place to visit is the greenhouse for golf cart rides and apple picking.

Wallace's is also proud to have recently hired 3 ISU alumni: Miles Thompson (Horticulture), Stacey Millet (Horticulture), and Stacey Brocket (Landscape Architecture).

**Doug Nelson**

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*Greetings From Cedar Rapids,*

I began 2014 with my annual trip to Ames in January with some other Iowa Staters and/or boosters to attend a Cyclone basketball game. The weather was good for travel and the Clones won 81-75 over Kansas State making it a perfect start to the year. In February, my wife, Jan, and I headed off to our home in Palm Springs, CA where we enjoyed picking oranges, lemons, and grapefruit from the trees in our yard — a real treat! As usual, we brought some back to Iowa and they lasted in the crisper drawer through the summer.

The spring break study abroad trip to Costa Rica discussed in the 2013 Horticulture Newsletter brought back memories of the twelve years I spent with Standard Fruit & Steamship Co., which is now Dole Banana Co. We had plantations in the Lemon and San Jose area, which I visited several times. I especially remember some rather close encounters with VERY large snakes as we toured in the jungle. Fortunately, these were brief meetings and I was moving along very quickly at the time.

My great nephew, Isaac Mertz is currently a graduate student at ISU pursuing a career in turf research. I'm hoping he might develop a type of grass, which can be planted on golf greens that consistently bends to direct putts toward the holes. We have eleven ash trees bordering our driveway, so we have had them treated with a systemic injection. We're hoping this still experimental developed by Ohio State and Michigan State will be effective and our country won't experience a repeat of the Dutch Elm disaster.



My daughter, Kory (ISU '85), and I attended the ISU-Baylor football game on September 27. It was a beautiful night and a valiant effort by our team. We were very impressed with Jack Trice Stadium, the courtesy of the Stadium and staff as well as the courtesy and good nature of the Cyclone fans.

Just to keep in touch with my Horticulture "roots", I am currently growing peppers in our greenhouse from seedlings that my daughter, Dr. Kim Kazimour (ISU '80), sent me for Christmas last year. These plants were grown from seeds that Kim's Florida neighbor brought back from a visit to Venezuela. The peppers are bright red, shaped liked tiny pumpkins and have a slightly sweet semi-spicy taste. We have enjoyed sharing them with friends and neighbors and hope to keep the "crop" going for next year.

I always look forward to receiving the Horticulture Newsletter each year. Our family sends best wishes to all those involved in keeping ISU at the forefront of this very important field of study.

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### **Robert Kazimour, Class of 1957**

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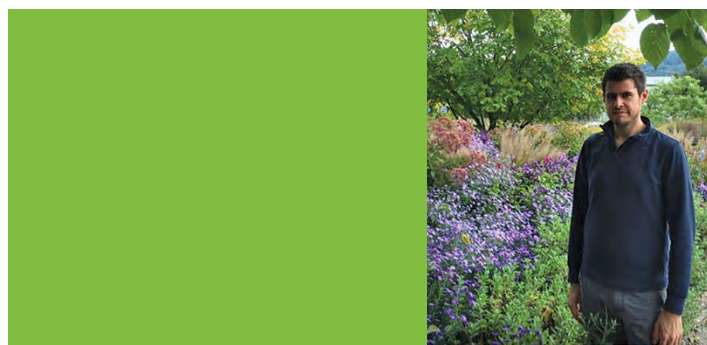
When I began writing this, I realized it will soon be forty years ago that I was ending my student life and beginning a career in the plant protection industry, first as a technical development representative and later as a research representative, project manager, regulatory consultant and development manager. I truly believe that my education at Iowa State provided excellent preparation for the world of today's agriculture.

While my career required a lot of travel, I was fortunate to meet and marry a wonderful young lady named Sandy who has been my soul mate. We have two children, Andrew and Rebecca and all of us live in the Indianapolis area. I retired in the spring of 2013 and Sandy gave me her "honey-do" list which has an accumulation of about 40 years of stuff! I look forward to hearing from anyone. My e-mail address is pwrobin1947@sbcglobal.net.

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### **Philip W. Robinson, B.S.(1969), M.S.(1971), PhD.(1975)**

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### ***Hello fellow Co-Horts,***

Time has flown since graduation in 2011. I never forget about my great experience in the Horticulture department. The past few years have been a bit of a whirlwind. I've always had the idea to work in Europe, since I enjoyed my experience of studying abroad in Wales back in Spring 2010.

The past three summers I've been in England/Germany/Netherlands traveling around finding inspiration and focusing on the New Perennial Movement and Naturalistic design. The people who have influenced/mentored me are: Roy Dibik, Piet Oudolf, Cassian Schmidt, Adam Woodruff (St. Louis) and many more. Roy is a plantsman/designer from Wisconsin, Piet has projects all over the world, but some of his most popular works in the US are the The Highline (New York City) and The Lurie Garden (Chicago.)

This past Summer I was fortunate with an opportunity to have a 3-month internship at Hermannshof in Weinheim, Germany. Hermannshof is a research and trial garden that focuses on putting plant communities together, making more sustainable plant combinations.



(continued)



## Austin Eischeid (continued)

Many gardens have a matrix style, which are densely planted with hardy perennials that suppress weeds. I had the opportunity to work with Cassian Schmidt (Director) and skilled gardeners that taught me about gravel gardening, prairies, plant I.D., plant cultivation, and maintenance techniques for dynamic perennial planting in different garden habitats.

While I was in Germany this past summer I had the opportunity to travel with St. Louis garden designer Adam Woodruff across the Netherlands. We visited Piet and Anya Oudolf's private garden in Hummelo, met and seen the work of Dutch garden designers Piet Oudolf, Carrie Preston and Hans Van Horssen, and meet plantsman Hans Krammer at his nursery De Hessenhof. I also went to the opening of Oudolf's new garden (Oudolf Field) at Hauser and Wirth's new gallery in Somerset, England.

These past few years have made me more aware of horticulture practices in other cultures and I'm looking forward to using my gained experience and inspiration here in the US.

### Austin Eischeid

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*Hi!*

My introduction to cold weather, fall 1947, in Ames, Iowa was an adventure in itself. I shiver when the temperature goes down to 69 degrees in Hilo.

This will be my last contribution. I am now 85 years of age and will be moving to Honolulu within a year to be with family.

You will always be dear to me as I treasure fond memories of ISU's Horticulture Department.

*Aloha nui loa,*  
**Mae Hirai**

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Following graduation in 1964 I worked for McKay's Nursery in Waterloo, Wisconsin. I joined the Air Force in 1965, earned my wings and was an instructor pilot for the next six years in Big Springs, Texas and Columbus, Mississippi. I then transferred to the Air Force Reserves (week-end warrior) and spent 26 years achieving the rank of Colonel before retiring. Bases assigned included Grissom AFB, Indiana; Barksdale AFB Louisiana, and Edwards AFB California. While in the reserves, I also flew for Eastern Airlines and farmed my wife's (Sandy's) parent's farm in Indiana growing corn and soybeans.

Following Eastern's bankruptcy, I took a job in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an Aviation Safety Inspector in Chicago, Illinois. Work included chief Operations Inspector for Midway Airlines and Wisconsin Airlines. During the last five years with the FAA, I certified (licensed) new air carriers. I'm now fully retired, taking several worldly trips to overseas countries, cruising the Caribbean and visiting the southern states in the winter. We have two children, Tara in Chicago working for Pepsi/Quaker as a Financial Analyst and Troy in Fairbanks, Alaska working as an Air Traffic Controller for the FAA. Although Horticulture was not my destiny, it enabled me to fulfill my love for flying.

### Eugene M Hall

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No big news to report, except that my daughter, Katie, graduated from Iowa State in May. She is a 3rd generation ISU grad!

### Mary Stallone

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# Craig Dilley Remembered

It is with great sadness that I report the untimely death of Craig Alan Dilley (Marlington, West Virginia). As many of you will recall, Craig was an ISU Horticulture alum, earning B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from our department while also serving as horticulture technician at the ISU Horticulture Research Station.

I will remember Craig as an excellent horticulturist, gifted instructor, with a kindness and gentleness that made him equally popular with undergraduates and adult learners. He also possessed a dry, self-deprecating sense of humor that only served to further endear him to long-time friends and first-time acquaintances.

Tonight I will lift a glass in honor of this valued colleague and remember him in the vineyard, with that devilish half-grin...making me laugh.

Jeff Iles

## 2015 Garden Calendar



Gardens bring tasty food, delightful color, refreshing fragrance, rustling leaves, and enervating prickles and tickles. Sometimes they even tickle the fancy.

This year's calendar captures the sense of playfulness found in many gardens. Take a whimsical journey through the seasons in photography, verse, and quippy garden quotes.

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RESPECT YOUR ELDERS!

## 2014 Shade Tree Short Course

The 58th annual Iowa State University Shade Tree Short Course and Iowa Nursery & Landscape Association Conference and Trade Show was held February 25-27, 2014 at the Scheman Building at Iowa State University.

The theme was "Respect Your Elders." Donald Lewis, Iowa State University, welcomed the attendees.

The first session was "A Year in the Life of That Tree." Mark Hirsch, photographer and author of "That Tree" spoke of photographing one bur oak with his iPhone for an entire year.

"Tree Rings and the Tales They Tell of Drought, Flood, Fire, and Times Gone By" was presented by Steven Leavitt from the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research. He described and explained the importance of tree ring research in the context of events that affect human and natural systems, including the nature of the signals in tree rings, stories that have emerged, and a view of the past with an eye on the future.

"Horticultural Inspirations" session was presented by Michael Yanny, owner of JN Plant Selections and senior horticulturist at Johnson's Nursery (Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin). He presented personal stories of inspiration as a way of showing people how impactful horticulture/ arboriculture is in their lives.







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*Greetings Alumni*

