

# HORTICULTURE Happenings

Department of Horticulture Newsletter

Fall 2005

## From the Department Head



David G. Himelrick

The department has been on the move and our faculty, staff and students continue to make things happen. This newsletter highlights many of our more notable activities, although much of what we do may seem somewhat routine for us.

We continually start new projects and complete others so our lives are indeed dynamic and continually challenged. If you ask the average person on the street what we do at LSU they would probably reply, "You teach students." This is very true but we do so much more. In this column I would like to emphasize some of the activities and accomplishments associated with our students.

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Parker Coliseum on the LSU campus is the home of our Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show.

## Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show Blooms March 19 and 20

After two highly successful years the third annual Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show burst onto the scene on March 19 and 20.

This event has already established itself as the must see springtime gardening event in the area. The show was held indoors in the gigantic John M. Parker Coliseum on Highland Road on the LSU campus, and was open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. both days.

The floor of the coliseum was transformed into a fascinating world of plants and gardens. The show included numerous vendors selling a tremendous variety of plants and garden related merchandise from artwork and furni-

ture to irrigation and unusual planters. Many local nurseries and other vendors offered plants and other garden wares, including tools, pots, ornaments, and landscaping materials.

Local garden societies were also on hand distributing information about their specialties and offering plants for sale. Among the societies participating in this year's show were the Baton Rouge Rose, Camellia and Hibiscus Societies, Herb Society of America and Capital Area Pond and Water Gardening Society. LSU AgCenter representatives sponsored a Plant Health Clinic to help homeowners diagnose pest and health prob-

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# Kuehny Studies at Cornell University

Dr. Jeff Kuehny recently took an opportunity to take sabbatical leave from LSU to work at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

A sabbatical leave can be many things but primarily gives faculty the opportunity to develop new programs or research areas so that they can better themselves, the university and the stakeholders. Kuehny's program has been conducting research on ornamental gingers for almost four years. He worked with Dr. William B. Miller at Cornell, who is the primary researcher of flower bulbs in the United States.

Kuehny's research project at Cornell was working with dormancy and flowering issues of *Hippeastrum*, better known as amaryllis. These are the great big subtropical bulbs that many of you buy in bulb kits prior to Christmas. The primary problem with these kits is that the bulbs sometimes emerge prior to purchase and/or the bulbs never flower.

It was determined that storage time and storage temperature greatly affected the emergence and flowering of these bulbs. Recommendations for growers and retailers on proper storage protocol were established. This work, along with research on other subtropical and tropical bulb species, will be continued at LSU.

Kuehny also had the privilege of attending classes on plant molecular genetics and plant stress physiology so that he may continue to develop his research program on heat stress and its effects on bedding plants at LSU.

## Departures

Linda Bonnette retired as a word processor specialist in the main office. Everyone wishes her Good Luck!



The temperatures at which bulbs are stored have a significant effect on their emergence and flowering. Here is clear evidence of the results of varying temperatures on bulbs. These 'Minerva' bulbs were stored at 41, 48, 55, 70 or 84 degrees F.

## From the Department Head

We have an active teaching program in our department where both undergraduate and graduate students are exposed to a diversity of courses. We have recently revamped our undergraduate curriculum to reflect a strong student interest and promising job market in the area of landscape design, construction, installation, and maintenance. We have begun a new "2 plus 2" program with Baton Rouge Community College where students may take horticulture courses prior to transferring to LSU.

We have been working hard to solicit donations to our undergraduate scholarships so that we can aid deserving students to fund their education. We continue to ask that you consider giving on an annual basis to this very important area of need. It is certainly a valuable and tangible use of your charitable giving to directly touch the life of a student through a scholarship that you support.

We honored many of our undergraduate and graduate scholarship recipients this spring at a very nice banquet at the Faculty Club on the LSU campus. It also was a special evening for parents and spouses as we hon-

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ored many of our most promising students.

Our students remain active on campus and in the Baton Rouge community. Our horticulture club had two very visible and financially successful plant sales on campus this year. Students also had several fun excursions to the beach, away football games, industry tours and meetings and competitions. Our students represented the department well in several regional and national competitions. In addition, our students also competed in undergraduate and graduate oral and poster presentations at the regional and national meetings of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

Our Horticulture Club recently fielded a team and placed third at national ASHS meeting in Las Vegas. They were able to attend because of profits from their hard work and dedication to spring and fall plant sales. Our students also have taken on community service projects this past year including installing a butterfly garden at the Baton Rouge Zoo and a community garden at the Wesley Foundation on campus.

## Dr. David Lee Joins Faculty

Dr. David J. Lee has joined the faculty of the LSU AgCenter Department of Horticulture as an assistant professor. He has both research and teaching responsibilities in the area of turfgrass science and management.

A native of North Carolina, Lee received his bachelor's in agronomy from North Carolina State



University. Upon completion of his undergraduate degree he worked for three years as an assistant superintendent at Hope Valley Country Club in Durham, N.C.

He returned to North Carolina State University in 1999 to pursue a master's degree in crop science and soil science. His research evaluated the effects of nitrogen fertilization on environmental quality. His study focused on

nitrate pollution of surface and groundwater on golf courses and quantifying nitrogen mineralization rates from the organic fraction in bermudagrass fairways.

After completing his master's degree, he earned a doctorate degree in plant pathology and crop science at North Carolina State. The emphasis of his research was developing integrated approaches to manage brown patch in creeping bentgrass putting greens and tall fescue lawns.

## Faculty Profile - Dr. Yan Chen



Dr. Yan Chen, assistant professor of horticulture, has research experience in the area of plant nutrition and its implementation in nutrient runoff management, pest management, and other aspects of an integrated and sustainable system. Her current research interests are the development of biologically-sound and environmentally-friendly nutrient management practices to improve landscape plant quality and reduce potential runoff from urban and suburban landscapes. Current projects include herbaceous perennial and woody plant selection for low maintenance requirement, appropriate fertilizer application methods in landscape settings, and possible interactions between cultural practices and pest/disease management.

## Horticulture Spring Awards Banquet

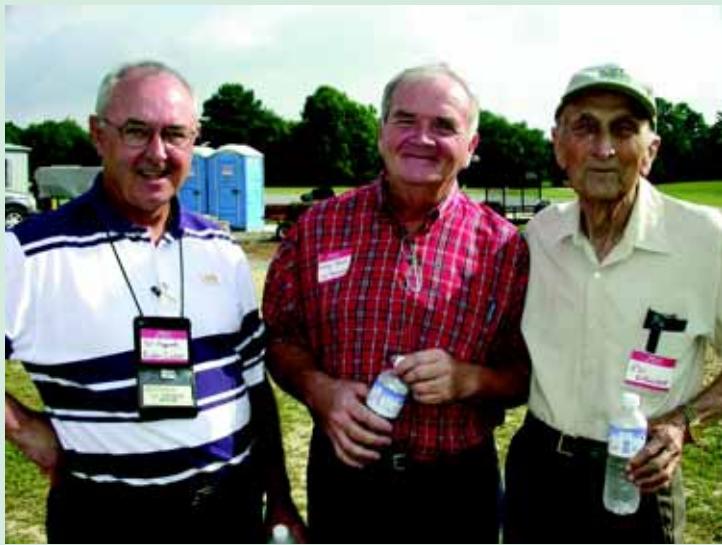
The Department of Horticulture held its Spring Awards Banquet on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Faculty Club on Highland Road. The event was a great success and we plan to make it a new annual event. This banquet is a time for us to recognize the contributions of everyone in the Horticulture Department. It also is meant to specifically honor some of the students, faculty, staff and alumni for their achievements. We had a wonderful attendance of students and their families as we recognized scholarship winners and other achievements for the year. We watched an interesting PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the activities and achievements of the Horticulture Club.

Award winners included the following: Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association Award for 2005- Angelina Lopez and Sergio Sosa, Restored American Estuaries Conference Award- Kiki Karsh, American Society for Horticultural Science Award- Ed Pippin, Third Place, Undergraduate Student Competition. Other award winners were: James F. Fontenot Memo-

rial Scholarship- Jonathan Caldbleugh, Ryan Donadieu and Malkeet Padda; Departmental Scholarship- Ryan Donadieu, Robert A. Leonard, III, Jennifer Mader, Mechell Richard, Sergio Sosa; Travis P. Hernandez Memorial Scholarship- Rachel Boyle-Kelly and Nicole Ward; John E. Love Memorial Scholarship- Nicole Ward. T.K. McKnight Memorial Scholarship- Rachel Kelly-Boyle, Michael Courtney, Sandra Good, Cary Hebert and Michael Richard. John J. Mikell Memorial Scholarship- Ryan Donadieu and Jennifer Mader. Julian C. Miller Memorial Scholarship- Sandra Good and Cary Hebert. Donald Newsome Memorial Scholarship Recipients- Ryan Donadieu and Sergio Sosa. Nicole Melissa Munn Memorial Scholarship Recipients- Nicole Ward and William Youngblood.

Other recognitions included: Dr. Bill Young- Louisiana State Horticulture Society Life Member Award, 2005; Dr. Carl Motsenbocker- Fulbright Scholar Award; Dr. Allen Owings- Gamma Sigma Delta Extension Award of Merit.

## Here N' There



Burden Center director Pat Hegwood, LSU AgCenter horticulture professor Carlos Smith and horticulture professor emeritus Ed O'Rourke visit at the nursery and landscape open house at the new ornamental and turfgrass research facility at Burden Center in Baton Rouge.



Allen Owings, a horticulture professor, provides a presentation on new bedding plants at the Southwest Louisiana Garden Festival held this spring in Lake Charles.



Johnny Naylor of Naylor's Garden Center, Jimmy Boudreaux, a horticulture professor, and Ed O'Rourke, emeritus professor, visit the Tomato Field Day held in June at Burden Center in Baton Rouge.

## Baton Rouge Spring Garden Show

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lems of plants and answer gardening questions. An impressive group of gardening experts and LSU faculty members presented educational programs.

Additionally, there were children's activities such as planting seeds, playing with insects, and learning about interesting animals.

The show was a great opportunity for people to get the information they need to be successful gardeners and to interact with local and LSU AgCenter gardening experts. It was fun for the whole family and a great experience for people who love plants.



Faculty welcome Gulf State Horticulture Exposition participants!

## Wedding Announcements!

Julia Fernandez (2004) was married in June 2004.

Kiki Karsh (M.S. 2005) and Dexter Fontenot (B.S. 2004) were married in June 2005.



Faculty members were so excited at Kiki and Dexter's wedding they danced to YMCA!



*Sergio Sosa receives the LNLA Scholarship from Tom Fennel, co-owner of Cleggs Nursery.*

## Congratulations Graduates

### August 2005

M.S.- Manuel Aldana

Ph.D.- Seenivasan Natarajan

### May 2005

B.S.- Mickey Kleinhenz, Jason Kelly

M.S.- Nina Delaune, Mitch Fontenot, Kathryn "Kiki" Karsh

## Graduate Student Places First in National Student Competition

Kathryn "Kiki" Karsh, a graduate student studying under Dr. Ed Bush, won first place in the Restore Americas Estuaries Conference in Seattle, Wash. The title of her poster was "Integrating Horticulture Science and Environmental Issues Into the Middle School Curriculum. Karsh is a native of Fort Worth, Texas. She graduated in May 2005.

## Undergraduate Student Places Third in the J. B. Edmond Student Competition

Ed Pippin received a plaque and prize for competing in the annual student research paper competition. Ed's planning to graduate next May in turfgrass science. His faculty mentors were Drs. Ed Bush, David Lee and Ron Strahan. His project researched the Efficacy and Phytotoxicity of Post-emergent Herbicides on Weeping Lovegrass on site at the University Club where Ed works as a turfgrass pest specialist. Brandon Johnson was instrumental in assisting Ed with his site location and coordination of the project. Brandon is a superintendent and an alumnus of our department.

## LSU Places Third in ACB Contest at Annual Conference

A team of LSU undergraduates placed third overall in the Association of College Branches (ACB) Commodity Judging Contest at the 2005 American Society for Horticultural Science Annual Conference.

This year's annual meeting was held in Las Vegas. There were many activities directed toward undergraduate horticulture students, including special tours, meetings, and competitions, as well as a career question and answer session.

The Association of College Branches is a forum comprised of undergraduate horticulture clubs. It encourages undergraduate participation in the American Society for Horticultural Science, promotes a greater understanding of regional and national horticulture and acts as an official body representing undergraduate contributions to horticulture.



*Michael Courtney, a Baton Rouge native working on his master's degree, worked on this farm in San Ramon, Peru on the east side of the Andes in the tropics. His research is part of the global project "HarvestPlus," in which researchers concentrate on learning how to improve the nutritional value of food crops. Courtney and Dr. Don LaBonte are increasing sweet potato iron and zinc tissue levels. Bill Gates is a major contributor to this research effort.*



# Horticulture Club News

The 2004-2005 school year proved to be a busy and rewarding year for the LSU Horticulture Club. Besides having the most successful plant sales to date and sponsoring the first annual Department of Horticulture banquet, the club hosted two industry tours, started work on several community service projects and traveled to Las Vegas for the national horticulture meetings. As a new school year begins, the new clubs' new officers look forward to continue growth and building upon last year's success.

## Spring Garden Show



Lindsay Duhon, Sandra Good, Bob Mirabello, Mickey Klienhenz and Ryan Donadieu take a break during the Spring Garden Show.

### New Officers for 2005 -2006

President	Sandra Good, New Iberia
Vice Presidents	Ryan Donadieu, Gramercy Travis Foreman, Kaplan
Secretary	Lindsay Duhon, Metairie
Treasurer	Jennifer Mader, Mandeville
Public Relations	Jane Buck, Alexandria
ASA Rep	David Sexton, Grosse Tete

### Baton Rouge Zoo Butterfly Garden

In the spring of 2005, members of the Horticulture Club renovated the butterfly garden at the Baton Rouge Zoo. New beds were prepared and a wide variety of annual and perennials species that attract butterflies were planted. The garden was just the beginning. The club plans to continue development of the site by installing a water feature, benches and a trellis for vines, as well as continued maintenance and seasonal planting.



Mickey Klienhenz and Sandra Good plant annuals and perennials at the Baton Rouge Zoo Butterfly Garden.

### Viva Las Vegas

Nine members of the Horticulture Club attended the ASHS national meetings held this summer in Las Vegas, N.V. Besides experiencing the Las Vegas strip, the students were also able to visit Zion National Park, Hoover Dam and compete in the undergraduate judging competition. The team of Ryan Donadieu, Travis Foreman, Sandra Good and Jennifer Mader placed third overall. Lindsay Duhon placed third individually in vegetable judging.

### Citrus & Strawberry Sales

During the fall and spring plant sales, the Horticulture Club sold citrus, strawberries and fig trees donated by Drs. Jimmy Boudreux and Regina Bracy. All profits from the sale of the produce, which totaled \$1,000, were donated to the Joe Bradberry Scholarship.



Dr. Jimmy Boudreux leads a group of students through the strawberry fields at the LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station.

Visit our Web site:  
[www.horticulture.lsu.edu](http://www.horticulture.lsu.edu)

## Alumni - Where Are You Now?

Tell us what is going on with your life and career. Classmates like to know what other classmates are doing! Here's your chance to share your news with the LSU Department of Horticulture alumni and friends. This information will appear in an upcoming *Horticulture Happenings*.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TEL: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK TEL: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL : \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

FAMILY MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Alumni News

**Ann Allen** is a horticulturist on the campus of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

**Daniel Farrell** is a propagator for Doug Young Nursery in Forest Hill, La.

**Mitch Goyne** is a horticulturist in Austin, Texas.

**Andrew "Drew" Williams** is the superintendent at Sherwood Forest Country Club in Baton Rouge. He and his wife Lisa, have two children.



Ryan Donadieu and Jennifer Mader arrange plants for the Spring Plant Sale.



## Zion National Park

Members of the Horticulture Club pose for a photo at Zion National Park.

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## Plan To Join Us For Homecoming

All alumni and friends of the Department of Horticulture are invited to join us for Homecoming Weekend.

This year we are playing football powerhouse Appalachian State University on Saturday, Nov. 5. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. We will be tailgating on the brick patio at the north end of J.C. Miller Hall, or inside the building if it rains. Plenty of food and beverages will be available starting at 1 p.m. and continuing until around 6 p.m. when we make the pilgrimage to Tiger Stadium.

We are once again trying to secure a special reserved area in our back parking lot for the exclusive use of the Horticulture Department. We have not received

special permission at this time, but will operate on the assumption that we can once again pull off this coup. In the past we have mailed special invitations for you to display on your dashboard so we can better control entrance into the reserved area. This year we will give you an invitation when you join us and you can then place it on your dash.

Plan to meet up with old friends and make some new ones as we share in this annual tradition. Come and eat some good food as faculty, staff and students meet with alumni and friends of the department to reminisce and find out what's new. If you have any questions please give us a call at (225) 578-2158.



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