

Department of Horticulture

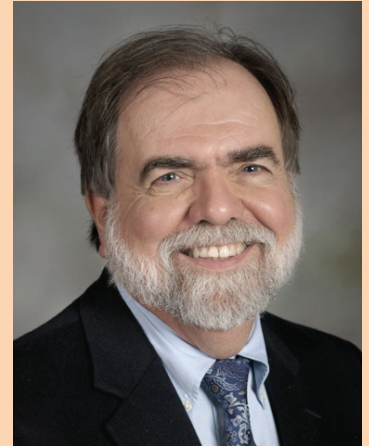
Saunders Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061
www.hort.vt.edu (540) 231- 5451

Dr. Roger Harris, Department Head

November 2015

Greetings Students, Alumni, and Friends! The abundant rain, clear days, and cold nights have given us a real taste of fall, including our first killing frost. The seasonal foliage display around Blacksburg has been absolutely stunning this year. This is surely the best time to visit campus, whether you are taking in a football game or not. The recent Fall 2015 Connection Job Fair in Squires Student Center was a big success. Jobs abound! Eighteen companies targeted Horticulture students for jobs and internships, making that group the largest contingent of all of the vendors.

Many of our past graduates were the company representatives so it was great to see them all doing so well and to catch up. Many thanks to all of you for supporting our programs! Our undergraduate programs continue to evolve in a positive way. We are working to increase flexibility in both of our majors, which will not only better enable students to minor in other subjects but make life easier for transfer students. We are expecting to get good synergism for our academic programs when we join with our partner departments (PPWS and CSES) to form the new School of Plant and Environmental Sciences. I feel that this will offer a great opportunity to create some exciting options for students. Stay tuned. I hope that you enjoy this edition of our monthly e-newsletter. Please pass it on! — *Roger*



Undergraduate News

Jerry Williams took the Small Fruit Production (HORT 4644) class on a field trip to Beliveau Estates Winery on October 23rd. Their tour guide was Derek Gassler, a VT graduate, who is working as both the viticulturist and enologist there. He gave them a walk-through of the vineyard and an instructive session in winemaking in the winery. He also allowed students to do a sensory evaluation of 4 of their wines.

Wedding Bells!

A warm congratulations to Aaron Baxter (BS '01, MS '05) and Sarah Holt (PhD '11) who got married September 25th. Sarah is currently a Research Specialist in the Department.



Group photo of the Small Fruit Production class at Beliveau Estates.

Outreach

Master Gardener Leadership Development Trainings

The Extension Master Gardener program just wrapped up our District level Leadership Development Trainings in October. These trainings are specifically designed for Extension Agents, local Extension Master Gardener Coordinators, local Master Gardener Association leaders and potential association leaders. The theme this year was theory and practice. This allowed attendees to learn about the specific theory and then we utilized real world examples to help apply the newly learned material. Topics covered included Managing Conflict, Program Evaluation, Strength's Based Leadership, and Collaboration: Recipe for Partnership, Volunteer Screening Resources and State Office Updates. We had over 115 attendees statewide!

New Extension Publication

A new E-book and pdf version of *Selecting Plants for Virginia Landscapes: Showy Flowering Shrubs* by Alex X. Niemiera has just been released on the Virginia Cooperative Extension website! <http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/HORT/HORT-84/HORT-84.html>



Participants at the Leadership Development Training.

Visitor

Bingyu Zhao has a visiting professor in his lab, Haiyan Shu from Haikou Experimental Station, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, China. She will stay until the middle of December.

Funding

Jayesh Samtani received funding in the amount of \$31,586 from USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program for the proposal titled 'Evaluating Foliar Nutrients Effects on Fruit Quality and Yield of Two New Blackberry Cultivars'.

Publications

Peck, G. 2015. Assessing the production scale and research and extension needs of U.S. hard cider producers. *Journal of Extension*. October 2015. 53:5.

Rodrigues RR, Pineda RP, Barney JN, Nilsen ET, Barrett JE, Williams MA (2015) Plant Invasions Associated with Change in Root-Zone Microbial Community Structure and Diversity. *PLoS ONE* 10(10): e0141424. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141424 [full text article](#)

Wilson, H.T., Khan, O., and Welbaum, G.E. 2015. Chlorophyll fluorescence in developing 'Top Mark' cantaloupe (*Cucumis melo* L.) seeds as an indicator of quality. *Seed Technology* 39: 103-113.

Yang, A., Liu, N., Tian, Q., Bai, W., Williams, M.A., Wang, Q, Li, L, Zhang, W-H. 2015. Rhizosphere bacterial communities of dominant steppe plants shift in response to a gradient of simulated nitrogen deposition. *Frontiers in Microbiology*. doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2015.00789.



Ph.D. candidate, Parker Laimbeer, and his advisor, Richard Veilleux, share a toast at the banquet for the Solanaceae 2015 Conference held in Bordeaux, France, October 25-29, 2015. Parker made an oral presentation to an international audience of the results of research conducted by several members of the Veilleux lab and collaborators at Michigan State University: Laimbeer P, Holt S, Coombs J, Hamilton J, Hirsch C, Buell R, Douches D and Veilleux R, "Residual heterozygosity through cycles of inbreeding in a diploid potato population."

Hahn Horticulture Garden News

We moved our Kousa dowwoods from their location on Washington St. to near the stream garden. Read more about it and watch the video here: <https://blogs.lt.vt.edu/garden/2015/10/22/kousa-dogwoods-moved/>



Hahn Horticulture Garden Events

Oil Landscapes by Marie Collier

November 1 - December 31, 2015 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free. This installation for Art in the Garden will be works by Marie Collier. Collier focuses her landscape oil pieces on color manipulation to make them bold and intense. She invites her viewers to see the landscapes through unpredictable pathways of color, rather than purely how nature or man present it.

Yoga at the Hahn Garden Pavilion

Rejuvenation Flow, 75 minutes every Tuesday @ 5:30 PM, Hahn Horticulture Pavilion (Lots of Available FREE PARKING!! The practice will be held INSIDE with a beautiful view of the gardens.)

A more basic yoga offering, with longer holds and more grounding postures. A nice place for new practitioners, or the average human being who needs to slow down. This offering will concentrate on a more basic postures, hip openers, forward folds as well as restorative stretching to release any unnecessary stress.

Please Invite friends, students and colleagues. For more information, check out the [Facebook Event Page](#) or contact bburgyoga@gmail.com.

Cornucopia Floral Design Class

November 19, 2015 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$40, payable by cash or check night of class. Come learn how to make your own cornucopia centerpiece. If you are new to the class we will teach you a couple floral designs to choose from. If you are a returning flower artist, come enjoy the evening and choose between the designs being taught or explore your own design. We will have a few designs for you to look at and get ideas. Bring a friend and enjoy a relaxing evening of wine, cheese, and fall flower arranging! Cost includes cornucopia materials, and instruction. Payable the night of event by check or cash. To sign up contact Barbara Leshyn at barbaraleshyn@vt.edu.

Holiday Wreath Workshop with Richmond Floral Designer, David Pippin

December 12, 2015 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. \$55 general public, \$45 Friends of the Garden members. Make your own holiday wreath with the instruction of David Pippin, talented floral designer from Richmond. David will guide us through our creations using evergreen foliage cut from the garden as well as materials he will provide. The workshop is limited to 20 participants (minimum 10). Prepayment is required. Fee includes instruction and supplies to make one wreath. To register, contact Stephanie at vtgarden@vt.edu or (540) 231-5970. Must pre-register by November 24.



Photos from Pumpkin Mania at the HHG! Photos by Kathy Duncan.



Photos from the Horticulture Fall Trip to DC, Philly and NYC!

See more photos [here](#). Photos taken by Robert McDuffie.



Velva and Gordon say *ciao!* from Venice, Italy.

Happy Halloween from the Monster Mash crowd!