

Department of *Horticulture*

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Dr. Roger Harris, Department Head

April 2016

Greetings, students, alumni, and friends! Spring is in full force in Blacksburg. Our oriental magnolias appear to have made it without the usual late freeze and the air is sweet with the smell of hyacinths. Spring means Hort Club Plant Sale! This much anticipated event is held every spring at the VT Greenhouse Range adjacent to the Hahn Horticulture Garden and is something you don't want to miss (more details below). Local gardens are being plowed and will soon be ready to receive the bounty. A full array of vegetables, flowering annuals and perennials, and the latest cultivars of woody ornamentals and fruit plants will all be there to behold. All proceeds from the sale support student activities. Another great event is the upcoming Garden Gala at the Hahn Horticulture Garden on June 11. It is indeed the best garden party of the year! As promised in our last newsletter, the results are in from the National Collegiate Landscape Competition, held this year at Mississippi State University (see the following page). Congratulations to everyone who participated. Besides the fun competition, students had a great opportunity to network with industry representatives from around the country. It is a great time to be graduating – business is booming! Our plans are still progressing on the formation of the School of Plant and Environmental Sciences. I will give you an update in our newsletter next month. I hope that you enjoy this edition of our monthly e-newsletter. Please pass it on.

— Roger



Get ready for the Horticulture Club Plant Sale, April 21-23rd! The students in ornamental plant production and marketing are doing a great job with their crops up in the greenhouse. Join the [VT Horticulture Club Plant Sale facebook page](#) to see more photos and get updates.



Horticulture Club preparing succulent plantings for the annual plant sale!

National Collegiate Landscape Competition, The Results Are In!

Virginia Tech placed **14th out of 62 schools** at the 2016 National Collegiate Landscape Competition at Mississippi State in Starkville, Mississippi. Twenty one students from Horticulture and Agricultural Technology competed in 24 out of 28 events. We are proud of our Hokies!

The top 15 placements:

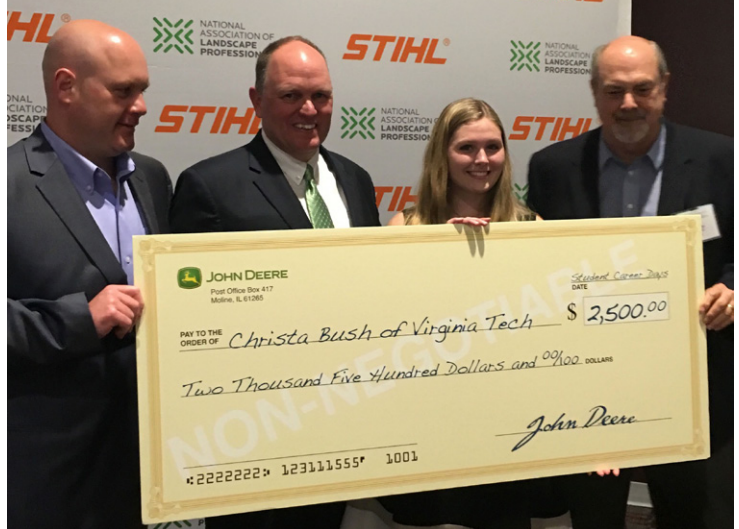
- Justice Schlemmer and Patrick Riley — 1st place, Hardscape Install
- Christa Bush — 2nd place, Turf and Weed ID, and 7th place, SuperStar
- Brandon Goodrich and Steven Lamb — 2nd place, Truck and Trailer Op
- Trevor Rudisill — 3rd place, Small Engine Repair
- Alan Lynch — 5th place, Tractor Loader Backhoe Op, and 14th place, Compact Excavator
- Elizabeth Wilson and Alysha Lawless — 7th place, Employee Development
- Justice Schlemmer — 8th place, Skid Steer Loader Op
- Elizabeth Wilson — 8th place, Plant Problem Diagnosis
- Christa Bush, Patrick Riley, Joseph Mills — 8th place, Landscape Plant Install
- Patrick Riley — 9th place, Exterior Landscape Design
- Christa Bush and Trevor Rudisill — 13th place, Irrigation Assembly
- Alicia Nester — 15th place, Annual Perennial ID
- Marshall Jones — 15th, 3D Exterior Landscape Design

Patrick and Justice won an all expense paid trip for themselves and a faculty member to travel to Louisville, Ky in October to compete in the Hardscape North America -HNA Installer Championship.

Christa was also awarded a \$2500.00 scholarship from John Deere.

The students came back ready and excited to compete in next year's competition which will be held at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Again we would like to thank all our sponsors who made this trip possible.

Barbara, Tom and John



Outreach and Talks

Megan O'Rourke gave a seminar March 24, in Virginia Tech's Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior seminar series sponsored by the biology department. The talk was titled, "Sustainable intensification in agriculture: progress or paradox." She is also the lead organizer of a symposium that was accepted to the Ecological Society of America's national meeting entitled "Re-envisioning agroecosystems for human and environmental health."

The 2016 North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association (NARBA) Conference was held March 1-4, 2016 in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Jayesh Samtani and Allen Straw were part of the conference organizing committee and participated as speakers at the conference. 245 people participated in the conference of which 85 were from Virginia.

At the conference, Charlie O'Dell was awarded the NARBA Distinguished Service Award for his dedicated lifelong service to caneberries. [Read the news story here.](#) Congratulations Charlie! Charlie and family started and ran Crow's Nest Farm a local favorite for u-pick berries!

The 2016 Virginia Beach Strawberry Field Day, Trade Show and School was held February 29-March 1. There were about 60 participants for the field day on 29 February and 65 for the school and trade show. The conference was primarily organized by Roy Flanagan, ANR Extension Agent, City of Virginia Beach. Jayesh Samtani and Allen Straw spoke at the field day and at school.



Charlie O'Dell with his Distinguished Service Award from the North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association.

Hahn Horticulture Garden Events

April 2, Saturday Lavendar Workshops with Ellen Reynolds from Beagle Ridge Herb Farm
Lavender 101, 10:00am - 11:30am at the Hahn Garden Pavilion. \$10 General Public/\$5 Friends of the Garden members.

Cooking with Lavender 11:30am - 1:00pm at the Hahn Garden Pavilion. \$15 General Public/\$10 Friends of the Garden members
(\$5 discount if you attend both Lavender workshops).

April 26, Tuesday The Right-Size Flower Garden with Kerry Ann Mendez of Perennially Yours at the Hahn Garden Pavilion, \$10 General Public/\$5 Friends of the Garden

Learn at Lunch 12-1pm at the Hahn Pavilion-FREE!

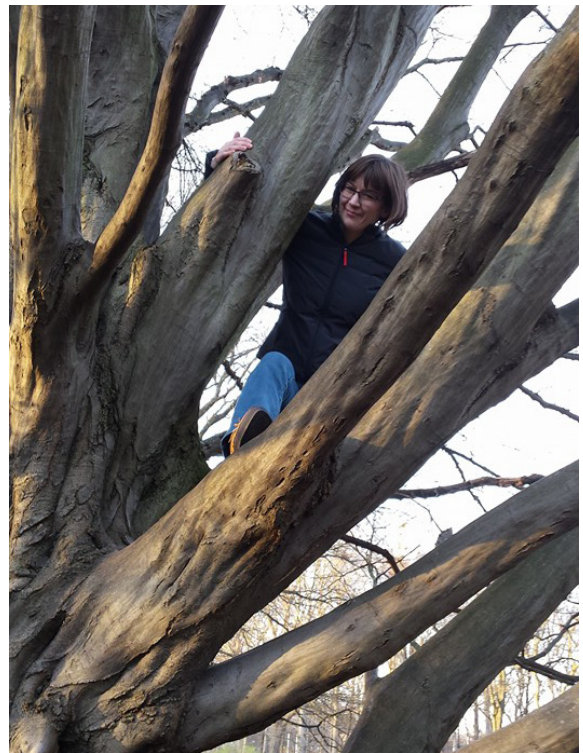
- April 6 Arts and Flowers with Felice Proctor
- April 20 Plant Sale Preview with Lisa Lipsey and Holly Scoggins

Save the Date for the 12th annual Garden Gala at the Hahn! June 11, 2016 5:30 to 9pm!

For more information please visit <http://www.hort.vt.edu/hhg/events.html> or contact the Hahn Garden by phone, 540-231-5970, or by email, vtgarden@vt.edu.



Rosana Pineda and her husband Robert announce the arrival of Matthew, born 3/23 at 02:01 EST. Weight 7 lb 11oz and 20" long. Congratulations Rosana!



Sarah Gugercin says "hallo" from Tiergarten!



Jerzy Nowak and family send spring time greetings with their nicely decorated Easter tree.