Greetings from the entire Horticulture and Landscape Architecture team! We welcome this opportunity to share news about some of the great things that are happening in the department. I became interim department head in August following the retirement of Dr. Dale Maronek. We’re very appreciative of Dale’s effective leadership and many years of dedicated service.

These past six months have flown by, and I’ve found everyone in the department to be very welcoming and understanding as I try to move up the learning curve. The more I learn about the department, and see it in action, the more I appreciate the dedication, professionalism, and engagement of our faculty, staff, and students. You’ll see many examples of that in the following pages.

Student recruitment is high on our list of priorities, and YOU can help us grow our enrollments! Please take time to chat with young people in your family, neighborhood, school, church, etc. about the exciting career opportunities in Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, and Landscape Management. Point them to our web site, and if you’ll send us names and contact information, we promise to follow up. This year we are awarding $500 departmental scholarships to all new freshmen and transfer students who major in one of our programs.

Thanks to Rodd Moesel’s leadership, the department is working toward five new endowed scholarships in honor of retired faculty Jim Motes, Richard Payne, and Carl Whitcomb, and longtime supporters Marjorie Moesel and Charles & Linda Shackelford. Each of these will be eligible for the $75,000 Pickens Legacy Scholarship Match if they reach an endowment level of $50,000 by this time next year. What an opportunity! Please consider making a gift yourself, asking others to contribute, and sharing ideas with us on potential donors. For more details on these scholarships, please see: http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/support/scholarship.

We welcome campus visits by our alumni and friends. We’re grateful for your support and encouragement and we hope that you will remain connected to the department. Feel free to contact me at ron.elliott@okstate.edu. Y’all come, and Go Pokes!
OSU turfgrass is fit for the pros.

Story by Leilana McKindra

Professional, college and even casual athletes across the nation keep trampling all over the pride of Oklahoma State University, and scientists in the school’s turfgrass research program couldn’t be happier. The program enhanced its reputation this summer when the NFL’s Washington Redskins installed one of the university’s newest varieties, Latitude 36, on their home playing surface at FedEx Field. The Tennessee Titans followed suit shortly after and installed the turfgrass at LP Field. The Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens and the Philadelphia Eagles have sodded practice fields with the variety.

“The NFL is the ultimate for any football player, so we are delighted that a Bermudagrass created by OSU experts has reached this pinnacle of success,” says OSU President Burns Hargis. “The NFL also is the ultimate test of a turf’s durability, and we’re confident the teams will be pleased with the performance of Latitude 36.”

Sales of Latitude 36 began last year after it was released in 2010. Nine outlets nationwide, including two in Oklahoma, are sublicensed to produce the grass through OSU’s licensing firm Sod Solutions. The grass was named after the research farms instrumental in developing the variety, which lie at about 36 degrees north latitude (36° 7’15.14” N).

Despite being a newcomer to the market of high-end turf Bermudagrasses, the award-winning variety is poised for popularity, particularly in the mid-Atlantic region of the country. “This is just the front end of this. It takes about three to five years to gear up the material and the production once you’ve released it,” says Dennis Martin, OSU Cooperative Extension turfgrass specialist and one of the five OSU Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources researchers credited with developing the new grass.

Other members of the Latitude 36 research team are Jeff Anderson and Justin Moss from the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture and Yanqi Wu and Charles Taliaferro from the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences.

Latitude 36 is ideal for use in the transition zone, parts of the eastern, western and southern United States where traditional Bermudagrasses tolerate summer conditions, but can experience winter-kill during particularly cold winters. The grass is well-suited for sports fields, golf course fairways and tee boxes, commercial grounds and residential lawns because of its tolerance for traffic and recuperation rate. Latitude 36 also has better cold hardiness and excellent color, texture, density and uniformity.

Latitude 36 was intensively tested at OSU for seven years before researchers at other land-grant universities in the southern U.S. and the central transition zone working through the National Turf Evaluation Program examined the grass. At the conclusion of the 2007-2012 NTEP trials, Latitude 36 claimed overall top honors in the national Bermuda grass test. Latitude 36 will be part of the 2013-2018 NTEP trials as a standard for quality and performance.

While FedEx Field and LP Field are the first NFL fields to showcase Latitude 36, the University of Virginia is among the first colleges and universities to install the new Bermuda grass at its athletic facilities. The Cavaliers have sodded their home track, football and baseball facilities with Latitude 36. Virginia’s track was the first large-scale field in the nation to use the variety. With the Charlottesville-based campus being located in the transition zone, Jesse Pritchard, the Cavaliers’ sports turf manager, looks for attractiveness, recoverability and cold hardiness in a Bermuda grass. “Latitude 36 was the first variety to come on the market I felt was very highly ranked in all three of those categories,” he says.

Pritchard says the fields with the grass were in better shape when the grass emerged from its winter transition this spring compared with his previous eight years using other varieties. He says the fields will need less annual sodding and save the university money. “We’re all in with Latitude 36,” Pritchard says. “Any new facility that gets renovated, that’s the direction we’re going.”

Cavaliers’ sports fields aren’t the only venues turning to Latitude 36. Jim McHenry, sales manager for Oakwood Sod Farm in Delmar, Md., and one of the producers of the grass,
says there’s been strong interest from operators of golf courses and athletic facilities. Golf courses like the finer texture and cold tolerance of the variety, he says, while athletic facilities appreciate its aggressiveness and wear tolerance. McHenry says athletic facilities are converting to Latitude 36 because of its traffic tolerance, while golf course operators are discovering the grass is a great fit for driving-range tees. The grass can recover from divots in a week to 10 days. “I think the popularity of Latitude 36 will continue to grow, especially as people become more familiar with it,” McHenry says.

The fact that Latitude 36 is gaining notice nationally is a good indication researchers did their jobs well, Martin says. “It’s very important the intended audience is confident enough to install and use Latitude 36. That means that not only did we do our job and assess the market correctly, but also that the market is accepting the product,” Martin says.

Mike Woods, interim vice president, dean and director of the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, says Latitude 36 is another variety in a long line of high quality products developed by OSU’s turfgrass research program. “The program has a strong history of success as evidenced by the high-profile national and international venues that use its products,” Woods says. “We’re proud of these accomplishments and look forward to continued cutting-edge research.”

Riviera, an OSU-seeded Bermuda grass, was used on two baseball fields at the 2008 Beijing Olympics as well as on the infield at Allie P. Reynolds Stadium. Latitude 36 is yet to be used on campus in Stillwater, in part because none of the variety is ready for harvest from farms within the state. The first sod should be available from Oklahoma-based producers later this year. Other OSU-developed varieties are used on campus.

Another OSU variety, Patriot, and Riviera are in the new Athletic Village practice facility. Patriot eventually replaced Riviera on the Reynolds Stadium infield. Patriot is also on the home field of the Philadelphia Eagles, the practice fields of the Indianapolis Colts, the Purdue University football field and the Chesapeake Energy Green Roof Sports field in Oklahoma City.

The Department celebrated with Dr. Dale Maronek and Margaret Struble as they are beginning another journey of their life. The Maroneks will be moving to Tulsa and Margaret will be assisting with homeschooling her grandchildren and starting a new business adventure. A retirement reception was held in their honor on July 12, 2013 at the Botanic Gardens.
JR. MASTER GARDENER CAMP A SUCCESS!

Camp JMG (Junior Master Gardener) was the week of July 11th, and 18 children (ages 8-12) spent 10 hours a day at the OSU Botanic Garden. The camp included activities both indoors and out, with garden explorations in the mornings and games, arts and crafts, and projects with a garden theme throughout the day. One day was spent at the OSU Insect Adventure, where the children raced termites and painted with maggots. One favorite project was making soap of different colors and scents; another favorite was making Zen rock gardens. Healthy snacks were made daily---sweet potato chips, magical fruit salad, and ice-cream-in-a-bag were a few of them. Most of the activities were from the Junior Master Gardener as well as the Junior Plant Scientist curricula. Judging by the response, Camp JMG will be a regular summer occurrence.

CONGRATULATIONS SHELLEY!
Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Collegiate Effort Award with Camp T.U.R.F.

23rd Annual Statewide Environmental Excellence Competition on November 19, 2013 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma City

Distinguished Service & Alumnus Awards

Congratulations to our 2013 Distinguished Service & Alumnus Award winners!

Distinguished Horticulture Alumnus Award.................................................................Julia Laughlin
Distinguished Landscape Architecture Alumnus Award...............................................Connie Scothorn
Distinguished Landscape Architecture Service Award..................................................Carl Szafranski
NEW WEBSITE OFFERS TIPS FOR CONSERVING WATER IN LANDSCAPES

Oklahomans are more than familiar with the blistering heat during the summer months. The heat, coupled with little rainfall, has caused much of the state to experience drought conditions for the last few years. To help combat water issues and promote water conservation, the Oklahoma City Utilities Department has partnered with Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension and OSU’s Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, to develop a website that promotes water conservation through proper outdoor watering and drought-tolerant landscaping. The website is http://thinkwater.okstate.edu.

Justin Moss, OSU Cooperative Extension turfgrass specialist, said the website is geared toward all Oklahoma homeowners and believes water conservation is something everyone should practice all the time. “Water is a precious, nonrenewable resource we tend to undervalue. We’ve all learned the traditional water cycle that ensures water will always come back around,” Moss said. “However, with increases in urbanization, pollution and drought across the United States, we’ve started rethinking the illusion of water abundance.”

In Oklahoma, about 30 percent to 40 percent of household water is used outdoors. Homeowners, especially during the hot summer months, use a significant amount of water in their landscapes. Malarie Gotcher, OSU Cooperative Extension associate, said there are several things gardening enthusiasts can do to help reduce the amount of water they use. “First of all, selecting heat and drought-tolerant plants is crucial for reducing water consumption,” Gotcher said. “In addition, improve your soil by adding compost and organic matter. This will help increase the water holding capacity and infiltration of your soil.”

Mulch can help maintain soil moisture, as well as prevent weeds and reduce soil erosion. Mulch also helps improve soil quality as it decomposes. It is best to maintain a 2 inch to 3 inch layer around established trees, shrubs and bedding plants. Gotcher said to be careful not to pile too much mulch around the base of trees since it can hold moisture and encourage trunk rot.

When it comes to watering, water your landscape at the right time and only when needed. “The best time to water is early morning, followed by the evening hours when the winds are likely to be calmer and the temperature a bit cooler,” Gotcher said. “This will help reduce water loss from evaporation. Allowing the soil to dry between watering allows plans to develop strong, deep roots.”

Moss encourages homeowners to fix or replace broken sprinkler heads and to realign sprinkler heads to avoid unnecessary watering of sidewalks, roadways and other hardscapes. “Homeowners also may want to consider low volume, micro irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs,” he said. “Drip irrigation and micro irrigation slowly apply water, which in turn minimizes evaporation and runoff. Another water saving tip is to install a rain sensor. These are relatively inexpensive and can be retrofitted to most systems and will turn off your irrigation system during a rain event.”

Moss also suggests conducting an irrigation audit. “Knowing how to schedule the number of minutes and days per week for watering reduces the amount of water wasted,” he said. “The website offers instruction for how to conduct an irrigation audit.” Do not worry if your grass starts turning brown. It simply may be going dormant to survive the hot, dry summer. Another tip Moss offers homeowners is to mow your grass at a higher height. Raise the blade on the lawn mower to at least 1 inch for Bermudagrass lawns and 3 inches for tall fescue lawns. “This will reduce the need for water and also provides natural mulch that protects the soil moisture,” he said.

For additional information about the thinkwater website, please contact Moss at 405-744-5729, or via email at justin.moss@okstate.edu; Gotcher at 405-297-3380, or email at malarie.gotcher@okstate.edu; or John Schroeder at 405-744-5409, or email at john.schroeder@okstate.edu.
Three Oklahomans Honored For Their Positive Effects on OSU and Oklahoma

Oklahoma Farm Report (April 9, 2013)

Oklahoma State University’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources has honored three Oklahomans with one of the organization’s highest honors, the DASNR Champion award.

Dave McLaughlin and Linda Shackelford of Oklahoma City, and Osage County’s Bob Hamilton, have been selected as the 2013 award recipients.

“Our three honorees have exceptional records of providing meaningful and lasting benefits to Oklahoma and the region as part of the state’s production, processing and related agricultural industries, in addition to being outstanding leaders in their communities,” said Mike Woods, DASNR interim vice president, dean and director.

McLaughlin had worked for the George A. Hormel Company for more than a decade when he left to start his own business with fellow Hormel executive Paul Allen in 1973. Together, they launched Advance Food Company out of Enid, with the business focusing on meeting food service client needs and the processing and delivery of center-of-the-plate protein foods for the Oklahoma City marketplace.

Advance Foods expanded greatly over the years, achieving more than $750 million in sales annually with a national and international distribution. In recent years, Advance Foods combined with Pierre Foods, a partnership with sales revenues exceeding $1 billion and possessing an extensive international distribution network.

McLaughlin was named to the first Industry Advisory Committee of the division’s Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center and continues to provide valuable input and insights as a committee member. McLaughlin and Advance Food Company funded the division’s Advance Food Company/S.E. Gilliland Professorship in Microbial Food Safety, in addition to a number of scholarships in the department of animal science.

“Dave has been a visionary leader for us, always asking pointed questions and donating freely of his time and talents; he has greatly assisted the FAPC in providing the best possible service for our clients and stakeholders across the state, with a particular emphasis on programs that provide food safety assistance to Oklahoma’s food industry,” said Roy Escoubas, FAPC director.

Shackelford was the founding co-owner of TLC Florist and Greenhouses Inc., recognized by the gardening industry as one the top 100 garden centers in the United States and the subject of feature stories in several national magazines. Starting in 1980, she grew the business to more than 150,000 square feet of greenhouse and more than 10 acres of trees, shrubs and vines.

“Linda bleeds orange,” said Dale Maronek, head of the division’s department of horticulture and landscape architecture. “She has long offered her time and expertise to OSU’s Stillwater and Oklahoma City campuses, provided financial and in-kind resources, and been active in the Oklahoma FFA Foundation.”

For more than 20 years, Shackelford was an underwriter for the division’s nationally renowned “Oklahoma Gardening” television program, now in its 39th season on the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA). She has been actively involved in an advisory fundraising capacity for many scholarships that benefit deserving OSU agricultural and natural resource students, and - along with Charles Shackelford - funded an endowed horticulture professorship in the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

“Linda Shackelford has provided exemplary leadership in helping to facilitate and champion research, teaching and technology transfer at and through OSU, for the benefit of Oklahomans statewide,” Maronek said.
A native of Wellington, Kan., Hamilton joined The Nature Conservancy in 1982 as manager of the TNC Cross Ranch Preserve, a position he held for six years. In 1988, the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve was initiated in Osage County. Hamilton has served as the prairie preserve’s manager and science director since its inception.

OSU Sarkeys Distinguished Professor in Rangeland Ecology and Management Sam Fuhlendorf said Hamilton views DASNR as his primary collaborating partner, especially when it comes to developing management approaches capable of enhancing production and wildlife habitat simultaneously.

“Many people across the country assume Bob is an OSU faculty member because of his continued support for and close integration with our rangeland research and management programs,” Fuhlendorf said. “He frequently promotes the value of DASNR research and collaboration with the university, helping to bring national recognition to OSU through The Nature Conservancy.”

Hamilton is a leader in Osage County’s ranching community, and has long spearheaded efforts to promote and expand rangeland conservation practices, with particular emphases given to control of the invasive plant species Sericea lespedeza and working with Oklahoma’s oil and gas industries to foster environmental stewardship while also providing for continued energy development.

“All three honorees have been cooperating partners with our faculty, educators and staff, giving of themselves to enhance DASNR programs that are a vital part of the university’s land-grant mission,” Woods said. “We’ve always been blessed with many great supporters across Oklahoma. The annual presentation of the DASNR Champion award is one way by which we honor their commitment.”

DASNR is comprised of the college of the same name and two state agencies: The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, with offices in all 77 counties, and the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station system, with research facilities situated across the state to enable key scientific studies to be performed under local conditions.

### New Pecan and Grape Management Courses

Brochures are now available detailing the 2014 Pecan and Grape Management Courses. Both courses offer an opportunity for potential new or veteran growers to learn or refresh their basic management skills needed to successfully grow each crop. The classes meet one afternoon a month beginning in February and continuing for the growing season. Having the classes through the season gives participants the chance to see what management requirements are necessary at specific times. Students learn in both the classroom and in the vineyard or orchard setting. The classes meet at the Cimarron Valley Research Station near Perkins. Classes also travel to a couple of established orchards or vineyards/wineries to learn from other growers.

The cost for enrollment in either course is $250 per student. Pecan course members are also eligible to use the online pecan management course for no charge. Registration for the pecan course is due by February 28 and the grape course by February 14. For registration information, visit [http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/events/index.htm](http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/events/index.htm).
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

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

Spring 2013
- Allin Clark Bockhahn
- Thomas Michael Buller
- Brandon Douglas Burlingame
- Audrey Ann Clark
- Eric Blaine Humphreys
- Forrest Lee Hunt
- Jason Daniel McLarty
- Daniel Clayton Mesenbrink
- James Robert Riter
- Cameron Riessen Rouze

Summer 2013
- Cody Lee Anderson
- Bradley Ryan Bowling
- Corbin Tyler Francis
- James D. Parnell
- Christopher Garrett Easterling
- Mitchell Logan Matthiesen

Fall 2013
- Kristin Willis
- Yuki Roberts
- Kelley Conaghan
- Yichen Liu
- Chrissie Segars

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Forrest Hunt--2013 University Olmsted Scholar and finalist for national scholarship selection

Audrey Clark, Eric Humphreys, James Ritter, and Cameron Rouze--Wakeup and Dream's Eco-Village Design Competition, The Tom Koft Vision Award: 1st Place ($1000 award). Project “Root to Fruit: Laying the Foundation for a Sustainable Ecovillage, OSU, and You”

Clark Bockhahn, Brandon Burlingame, and Jason McLarty--Wakeup and Dream's Eco-Village Design Competition, The Tom Koft Vision Award, 2nd place ($600 award). Project “Regenerate//OKState.”

Tom Buller, Forrest Hunt, and Dan Mesenbrink--2013 Capstone Project Award of Excellence, Juried by Professional Advancement Committee. Project “The Corridor at Brumley: A Polyculture Community.” Oklahoma State

Cody Landis--Fall 2012 College of Art and Science's Dean's Showcase Selection “Eagle Eye” selected for juried exhibition, acrylic on canvas. Oklahoma State

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Courtney DeKalb -- 3rd place J. B. Edmond Undergraduate Student Paper Competition, 73rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Region, American Society for Horticultural Science, Orlando, FL

Courtney DeKalb -- 2013-2014 President, Southern Region - ASHS Association of Collegiate Branches

Stephen Stanphill -- 1st place oral competition, 2012 OSU 21st Research Symposium

2013 Chair Design Competition--Open design competition held on OSU campus. Chair designs were constructed out of recycled or upcycled materials.

Forrest Hunt - Best Overall Design
Anna Oosting - Best Integration of Recycled Materials
Forrest Hunt - Best Craftsmanship
Anna Oosting - Most Creative Design

Congratulations to Tyler Maly for being selected as a PLANET Student Ambassador for the upcoming Green Industry Conference! He will be headed to Louisville, KY in late October for the conference.

Faculty & Staff Recognition

Lou Anella
2012 Regents Distinguished Teaching Award, Oklahoma State Board of Regents

Janet Cole
2012 Fall OSU Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award of Merit, Oklahoma State University

Bruce Dunn

Michael Holmes
Invited speaker, Southwest Jiaotong University’s School of Architecture, Chengdu, China. “A Garden for Everyone: Designing for Accessibility and Engagement” and “Bridging Borders through Design Education” March 25, 2013.

Michael Holmes
Co-PI (with Interdisciplinary team). Awarded $25,000 for OSU Planning Grants for Establishing Interdisciplinary Programs, “Sustainability Living Learning Community: A demonstration Project” 2012-13

Dennis Martin
Awarded $24,220 for “Development and Commercialization of Ultradward Bermudagrass Hybrid 75-2” proposal, Technology Business Development, Oklahoma State University - Stillwater

Nicholas Nelson
Landscape Architecture Professional Development, American Society of Landscape Architects, Central States Conference, Kansas City, KS


The American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) recognized individuals with 25+ years membership. Five faculty recognized were James E. Motes, emeritus (47 yrs.); Michael Smith (38 yrs.); Brian Kahn (36 yrs.); Janet Cole (29 yrs.) and Michael Schnelle (29 yrs.). The four current faculty have over 116 years of combined service to Oklahoma State University.
Twilight Garden Series kicked off Sept. 5

Oklahoma gardeners who were looking for a fun way to gain insightful gardening tips attended the Twilight Garden Series at The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University. The Twilight Garden Series is educational programming featuring Payne County Master Gardeners, as well as Mark Fishbein, associate professor in botany at OSU. The series began Sept. 5 and continued each Thursday throughout the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Laura Payne, volunteer coordinator at The Botanic Garden at OSU, said the first of the series featured Sarah Kimball, former OSU Cooperative Extension waste management specialist and current Master Gardener, who provided participants with information regarding composting. Fishbein shared information about the relationships between monarch butterflies and milkweed on Sept. 12. On Sept. 19, the group gained research-based information about plant propagation from Master Gardener Dick Ortez. The series ended Sept. 26 with Master Gardener Pat Kerns sharing her knowledge about bulb starting, storing, and planting.

“We did the Twilight Garden Series in the spring and had a great response to it, so we want to continue it this fall,” she said. “We enjoy offering educational opportunities to surrounding gardeners.”

For more information about the Twilight Garden Series, please contact Payne via email at laura.payne@okstate.edu or by calling 405-744-4531.

Autumn Nights Concert Series at Botanic Garden

Stillwater area residents had a new music venue for a few weeks. The Autumn Nights Concert Series kicked off Sept. 27 at The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University, 3300 W. 6th St. This was the first year to offer the concert series for The Botanic Garden at OSU.

Folk artist Monica Taylor kicked off the series Sept. 27. The Fifth Addition played Oct. 4 and feature jazz music. Oct. 11 highlighted the talents of Miss Blues and the BluNotes, followed by the indie rock band The Wurly Birds on Oct. 25.

Each of the concerts took place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and the generous support of Hideaway Pizza, Kicker, Daddy O’s Music and Arvest Bank, provided the concerts free of charge to the Stillwater community. There were floral bouquets and potted plants for sale with the proceeds supporting The Botanic Garden at OSU events, including the concert series. Havenyield Tree Farm and Colonial Florist supported the plant sales. In addition, there were limited snacks and non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase.
This year the Department had a Stillwater Park & Recreational coed softball team and they came home with 2nd place in their league! Congratulations to the Bermudagrass Triangles!

Team members were the following:
Justin Moss, Sharon Williams, Anna Poplin, Shelly Mitchell, Diane Tipling, John Schroeder, Clayton Hurst, Anna Oosting, Monica Concienne, Michael Cox, Corey Nickels, Lou Anella, Michael Holmes, Kim Toscano, Kassidy Kopczynski and Kenzie Lyons.

September 20: PARK(ing) Day was an annual worldwide event where artists, designers and citizens transformed parking spots into temporary public parks. The mission of PARK(ing) Day was to call attention to the need for more urban open space, to generate critical debate around how public space is created and allocated, and to improve the quality of urban human habitat. At OSU, the student chapter of ASLA set up their display in President Hargis’ parking spot!
Randy Davis, CEO of Greenleaf Nursery, received the 2013 Ag Distinguished Alumni award in October, 2013. Davis, Tahlequah, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in horticulture from OSU in 1976. He has since gone on to achieve great industry success and currently serves as president and CEO of Greenleaf Nursery in Park Hill. Greenleaf, the third largest nursery in the world, is known for its innovative production, plant introductions and unique marketing techniques.

Davis’ success and cutting-edge work in capturing all water runoff at the Oklahoma Greenleaf operation was a first of its kind in the late 1990s and received a national environmental EPA award. His example of environmental stewardship has been emulated continuously on a national level. Randy said, “One of the greatest gifts OSU and the professors provided me while at OSU was the ability to think outside the box and obtain my dream, my vision!”

Landscape architecture faculty and alumni were invited to participate in Discover Architecture week. Twenty five of the best and brightest high school students from across the state and country came to Stillwater to spend the week learning about the construction sciences including architecture, construction management, engineering, and landscape architecture. The students got a taste of college life staying in the dorms and attending various workshops to help them learn about the various disciplines. A cook out at the botanic garden along with onsite installation projects were considered a highlight.

**Taos summer course offered July 6-13, 2014.**

Taught by Professor Cheryl Mihalko

An introduction to the history, theory and practice of creating gardens in harmony with the local ecology that express aesthetic and cultural values of individuals and societies.
Visitors from six Chinese Universities enjoyed a tour of The Botanic Garden in June. The group took time from their conference in student affairs to take in the beauty of the gardens and learn about horticulture in Oklahoma. They learned about fruits and herbs grown in the USA as well as Oklahoma native plants. They saw many familiar plants from their own home landscapes and everyone enjoyed this cultural exchange.

Eighteen Boy Scouts earned their Landscape Architecture Merit Badge on Saturday April the 6th. Sigma Lambda Alpha (the Landscape Architecture Honor Society) led the 4 hour educational workshop where scouts learned about the profession, design, plants, and drawing. Participating scouts were from Stillwater, Cushing, Perry, and Enid. The workshop was lead by Hannah Wahlmeier, Haley Dugger, Rita Woodson, Monica Concienne, and Jason McLarty.
OKLAHOMA GARDENING REACHES NEW MILESTONE

By Trisha Gedon, The Division Triangle

What began in 1975 with plants displayed on a tabletop in the Oklahoma Educational Television Studio in Oklahoma City has blossomed into something hundreds of thousands of gardeners across the state have been tuning in to watch for 40 seasons. Featuring sage plant tips, gardening how-tos- and tried-and-true horticulture advice, “Oklahoma Gardening” has withstood the test of time and continues to meet the needs of the gardening public.

“Oklahoma Gardening” celebrated 40 seasons on air in July 2013. Joe Maxson, who served as the show’s inaugural host, remembers “Oklahoma Gardening’s” humble beginning. “I drove down to the OETA studio every week with the plants I was going to use and decorated the set. There’s no way to glorify it. The set was basically a table top,” Maxson said. “When we were done shooting, we’d load it all back up, drive back to Stillwater and unload the plants in the OSU greenhouses.”

Over the past 40 seasons, the show has flourished. Each of the 10 hosts has brought his or her own passion, unique experiences and special touch to the show. In fact, Ray Campbell hosted the show from his own backyard from 1980-1986. Campbell recalls filming a show and planning to demonstrate the proper application of pesticides. However, once filming began he learned the sprayer did not work. “The thought came to my mind that I would just show how to repair a sprayer,” he said. “Sometimes we had to improvise. We couldn’t do a lot of retakes and editing like they do today. Sometimes, we just had to make it work.”

Fortunately, in 1986, “Oklahoma Gardening” was given a parcel of land west of Stillwater and the rest is history. The once-overgrown patch of land now features demonstration gardens, a children’s garden, a Japanese garden, a butterfly garden and more. New features are added every year.

“Oklahoma Gardening” also showcases cooking segments with Extension food specialist Barbara Brown highlighting vegetables and herbs grown in the garden. Extension consumer horticulturist David Hillock provides viewers with sound gardening advice. Kim Toscano, Oklahoma Gardening’s host since 2007, said a healthy living environment and being a good steward of the land are driving forces behind her programming. “Our mission hasn’t changed over the course of 40 seasons,” Toscano said. “And as we move forward, we will continue to inspire our viewers and provide practical information specific to Oklahoma’s unique gardening environments. We strive to address issues viewers bring to our attention and provide programming that will continually meet their needs.”

OKLAHOMA EXTENSION PROGRAM CONNECTS URBAN YOUTH TO AGRICULTURE

By Candace Pollock, Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)

WOODWARD, Oklahoma – “It feels like spaghetti!” yelled one Oklahoma high school student, in reference to the mound of red wigglers in her hand.

That relatable description was enough for other students to drop their hesitation and jump into making a worm compost bin at the Anichini-Moore Ranch & Farm in Woodward on a recent, hot summer afternoon.

The activity for this group of 9th and 10th graders was part of their introduction to sustainable agriculture and the interconnectivity of production techniques, soil management, water conservation, environmental stewardship, and ecological processes that drives the success of this Oklahoma farm located in a region plagued by water shortages, extreme weather events, and various agricultural challenges.

“The farm is a diverse working farm with an equally diverse educational mission related to resiliency that has become more important with our persistent and prolonged extreme weather cycles,” said Kathy Moore, Anichini-Moore Ranch & Farm owner/operator. “I hope that by exposing the students to the benefits of grow-
ing in cooperation with nature they will see agriculture differently, or with a new perspective, and also see how small farms can be economic generators for their communities.”

The educational effort is part of Camp T.U.R.F., a two-week Oklahoma State University Extension summer program that introduces at-risk urban youth to opportunities in agriculture. Camp T.U.R.F. (Tomorrow’s Undergraduates Realizing the Future), in its fourth year, is targeted to high school students who will be the first in their families to attend college. The program is sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the OSU Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.

The agro-ecology tour of Anichini-Moore Ranch & Farm was sponsored by the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program, OSU Extension, Anichini-Moore Ranch & Farm, Woodward Farmers Market Association, and the Woodward Convention and Visitors Bureau.

During the tour, both students and adults learned about heritage livestock breeds, including Large Black pigs and Belted Galloway cattle; rain water harvesting; soil composting; production diversity; environmental management; and recycling – and how the sustainable ag practices play a part in soil building, erosion control, improved water quality, plant health, and a balanced ecosystem. In addition, the students learned how the practices on the farm help support area communities by producing local foods and value-added products.

“My goal is to demonstrate how small farms and ranches may be risk management tools for food production at the local/regional levels and why it is important for land grant universities and small farmers and ranchers to work together,” said Moore, a Southern SARE Administrative Council member. “I think it’s important to share the philosophy of the farm to expose students and the public to the idea that there is actually a menu of alternative ideas and solutions to producing food and solving common agriculture and horticulture issues.”

Anichini-Moore Ranch & Farm was purchased in 1995. At the time it was highly erodible land with one water well and no windmill or electricity. The only observed wildlife was grasshoppers and rattlesnakes, recounts Moore. Today, the farm is an example of a balanced ecosystem of soil and water quality, wildlife habitats, heritage livestock and heirloom fruits and vegetables – all supported by organic methodologies and products.

Register on-line for Plants and Bugs Mini Camps, Feb 17, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., The Botanic Garden Educational Building. Camp is limited to 20 students, ages 9-12. Campers should bring a sack lunch and dress for the weather. The camp will be indoors and outside. Cost is $25 per camp. https://secure.touchnet.com/C20271_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=3&CATID=285

The OSU PLANET club sponsored a Paver Workshop on November 2, 2013 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. The workshop was led by Tim Shoemaker of Midwest Block & Brick. Workshop attendees learned the basics of paving installation including laying/leveling the base, laying the paver surface, properly installing edging and finishing the surface.
Join The Botanic Garden at OSU today and become a TBG member at the same time!

By becoming a friend of The Botanic Garden at OSU you will receive discounts to all TBG workshops, a quarterly newsletter, special updates and plant sale privileges.

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To become a member, complete and return this form along with your membership dues or contribution to:
The Botanic Garden at OSU
358 Agricultural Hall
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078-6027

Any contribution in excess of $40 is tax deductible and should be submitted separately with a check payable to the OSU Foundation. All proceeds go to support TBG programs and activities in Oklahoma.

$20: Student Membership

Any contribution in excess of $40 is tax deductible and should be submitted separately with a check payable to the OSU Foundation. All proceeds go to support TBG programs and activities in Oklahoma.

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