Merlin and Lillian Schantz began farming in 1985, but the Schantz Family Farm began in 1908 and is a centennial farm near Hydro, Oklahoma. As open-minded, forward-thinking producers, they have made modifications over the years and expanded to include horticultural crops such as hot peppers, turnips, carrots and greens in their operation and throughout the farm.

Merlin and Lillian were recently recognized at DASNR Honors night in October as 2017 DASNR Champions, a recognition given to those who are not graduates of the agriculture college, but who have brought distinction to DASNR and demonstrated a continuing interest in agriculture and natural resources.

In 1996, Merlin was accepted as a member of Class VIII of the Oklahoma Agricultural Leadership Program to further his overall understanding of agriculture, not only in Oklahoma, but also across the United States and internationally through an educational trip to China in 1998.

During Merlin’s OALP experience, Lillian was responsible for keeping the farming operation functioning at a high level while caring for their four young children at home. During her time at the helm of Schantz Family Farm, she was able to both maintain the farm and progress its innovative nature.

Avid supporters of OSU and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Schantzes have graciously provided land for demonstration and research plots for several decades.

Merlin is a member of the Oklahoma Vegetable Association, having served as vice president and president. In 2016, he received the Master Agronomist Award from OSU's Department of Plant and Soil Sciences and received the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Distinguished Horticulture Service Award in 2014.
From the Department Head

The old saying goes, “Time passes quickly when you are having fun.” Apparently we are having a lot of fun here in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture! How can it already be December? Did we not just open Christmas presents last week?!

As I look back on this year that passed so rapidly, I see reasons to rejoice! While not everything was positive, we are happy to be recruiting applicants to fill a pecan teaching/research position. Thanks to the pecan industry for keeping in close contact with Dr. Tom Coon and making sure he was aware of the industry’s needs.

We are working closely with architects and construction managers as we design a new Greenhouse Learning Center. We have been using our current Teaching Greenhouse facility for over 30 years, and it is very outdated. Our new learning center will allow us to better educate our horticulture students on technology common in the greenhouse industry. The timeline will put students using the new greenhouse for the first time in the fall of 2019. We are looking for donations to help defray the cost of the new greenhouse. Current construction is possible due to a $6 million loan from the Board of Regents, and the loan must be repaid over time. Donations and increases in student fees across the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources will repay the loan. The opportunity to support this initiative is available on page 16 of this newsletter. Your support would be greatly appreciated!

Our landscape architecture faculty is stable and a lean, mean, teaching machine! They work together to make sure that our program is timely and preparing our students well for careers in landscape architecture.

Assistant professor Qing Luo and I led a group of students on a study abroad trip to China for 12 days this past summer. My part in the trip was minimal. Assistant professor Luo gets all of the credit for a wonderful, educational trip, and five students took advantage of the cultural learning experience.

Our graduate students participated in the 3MT competition last spring and won the participation award for small departments. This provided each participating graduate student with $200 from the Graduate School to be used for travel to a professional conference.

We have recently completed a formal agreement with China Agricultural University for their Forage Science students to do a 2+2 program with our Turfgrass program to receive a Turfgrass Science degree. We hope to see our first students from China Agricultural University in the fall of 2018.

These are just a few highlights of our year. We hope you are having a wonderful and prosperous year as well.

Snapshots from the Departmental Holiday Party
A Glimpse of the China Study Abroad Experience

On Monday afternoon, May 15 China time, the China Study Abroad group arrived at one of the largest airports in the world — Beijing Capital Airport. Passing those “gates” meant they were officially in China! The group photo was taken in front of a giant Chinese painting wall at the airport once they went through passport check. They were extremely tired after the long flight but also excited to start their study abroad experience.

The next day was spent viewing the sites of Beijing. Assistant professor Qing Luo said, “We are standing on the central axis of royal Beijing today. We have been on foot and visited Tiananmen Square, National Museum, the Forbidden City and Wangfujing Pedestrian Street. We walked seven miles today, but it is a true wonder to see how Chinese people constructed the magnificent architecture 600 years ago without modern machinery.”

After a couple days of touring the city, the group joined landscape architecture students from Southwest Jiaotong University in Chengdu, China, and worked jointly creating model projects. In addition to working with fellow landscape architecture students from Southwest Jiaotong University, they visited the Great Wall, Summer Palace, Capital Steel Industrial Park, Zaha Hadid’s Galaxy Soho, Hutong, and Bird’s Nest at the Olympic Park. Students tried the popular shared bicycles with China Renmin University landscape architecture students and had delicious Chinese food.

Justin Q. Moss was appointed the interim director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Center from January through June. “Dr. Moss has had a very productive research and extension record and has been innovative in addressing water conservation needs in landscape and turf management. He has been a close collaborator in the Oklahoma Water Resource Center. His breadth of experience has prepared him well for this important interim leadership role,” stated Dr. Tom Coon, Vice President, Division of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources.

On February 22, Becky Carroll was recognized as a 2016 Distinguished Service Award Finalist! Becky, who has worked as a member of the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department for 29 years, was recognized for her outstanding service to Oklahoma State by the OSU Staff Advisory Council at the Staff Development Day. As a senior agriculturist, Becky works directly with pecan, grape and blackberry research plots, collects variety trials data, provides educational sessions and courses, and is an Oklahoma State representative to Oklahoma commodity associations.
Remembering Professor John Ritter
1938—2017

To many of us John was family as well as a professor, mentor and a friend. John was born January 5, 1938 to Milton and Mona June (Lewis) Ritter. In 1961, John received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture with a Landscape Design option at Oklahoma State University and later received a Master of Landscape Architecture at Kansas State.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree from Oklahoma State University, John was drafted into the United States Army and served his country for two years. During this time John was stationed in Germany, and this sparked his love to explore, travel and experience new places.

John began his professional career in the Boston area at the firm of Sasaki, Dawson, Demay and Associates working on stream reclamation and campus planning projects. John spent six years working for The Architect’s Collaborative where he became involved with international design projects throughout Europe. For the next 10 years, John’s career took him all over the world.

After moving to Athens, Greece, he worked for Frank E. Basil, Inc. on high profile projects including work for the king of Saudi Arabia. As his career continued, he became known for his work in the Middle East. John joined the Kuwait Institute of Technology where he developed the “Strategic Master Plan for the Greening of Kuwait.” In 1990, during the Iraq Invasion, John became a civilian hostage for several months.

Upon his release, John returned to Oklahoma, and in 1991 became a professor of landscape architecture at Oklahoma State University. While at OSU, John had a direct impact on the careers of hundreds of students and had a special connection with his students.

“Professor Ritter created a classroom culture which fostered growth, creativity, and thoughtful exploration.”

“Professor Ritter was always there to help us, even sometimes late at night in the studio! He was a wonderful professor and a good friend, and we appreciate how much he cared about each of us.”

“Professor Ritter taught me, when it comes to design . . . all ideas are welcomed and patience is a virtue.”

“Professor John Ritter has one of the kindest souls I have ever met. In the classroom, he somehow combined his kind soul with a passion for teaching and landscape architecture in a manner that always resonated with his students.”

Even in retirement John’s commitment to students continued as he would visit the studio and classrooms, providing students feedback on their projects. John has left a lasting legacy through his family, hundreds of students, and those who knew him.

Chelsea Flower Show

Blake Kruse was awarded the England/Chelsea Travel and Hands-on Experience for 2017. Kruse stated, “I had an awesome time at the Chelsea Flower Show! A big thank you to the Oklahoma State Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department for making it possible for me to attend this huge event.” The Chelsea Flower Show is the world’s most prestigious flower show that inspires millions through showcasing the best in garden design. The Morgan Stanley Garden was voted as the RHS People’s Choice Award while the World Horse Welfare Garden placed as the number one in the artisan gardens for 2017. “It was wonderful to see all the landscapes that they build practically overnight, and not to mention the acres of beautiful and exotic flowers. I feel I benefited greatly from attending and have many fresh ideas about our industry,” said Kruse after arriving back to the states.
Congratulations, Chrissie Segars—the winner of the 2017 Phoenix Award for Outstanding Doctoral Student! Chrissie recently completed her Ph.D. program at Oklahoma State University. She secured a 75 percent teaching and 25 percent research appointment and began teaching three classes at the University of Tennessee - Martin this past August in the Department of Agriculture, Geosciences and Natural Resources.

The OSU Turf Club hosted its annual Turfgrass Classic at Stillwater Country Club October 2. There was a great turnout of 16 teams, over 15 hole sponsors and monetary donations. Congratulations to the first place team of Doyle Phillips, Curt Hellen, M. Travis, and Paul Boran sponsored by Nabholz Construction. Closest to the pin contest went to Tucker Roderick of Cimarron Trails GC, straightest drive went to Landon Rogers, and longest drive went to Jeff Clagg. Thanks go to the tournament sponsors below. Because of their generous support, the Turf Club is hoping to send teams to the National Golf Industry Show and the Sports Turf Manager’s Association meetings in February 2018. Funds raised will also be used to award a Turf Club scholarship as a match to the Scott A. McGinnis Memorial Scholarship.

Team Sponsors ($300 per team): Mike Halvorson of Simplot Partners, Alan Nietenhoefer of P&K Equipment, Jacob Gordon of Innovative Turf Supply, David Gerken of Johnston Seed Co., Tucker Roderick of Cimarron Trails GC, the Scott A. McGinnis family, Dr. Jim Stiegler and team, Dr. Mike Kenna of USGA, Natalie Elwood and team, Doyle Phillips of Nabholz Construction, Bob Nash and team, Don Boyd and team, and the OSU Faculty Teams.

Hole Sponsors ($100): KC Massey of Jesco Products, Kendall Wiley of Harrell’s, David Gerken of Johnston Seed Co., Tony Atchison of The Andersons Co, Nash and Frizzell, the Scott A McGinnis family, Jimmie Austin Golf Club Turf Management, Mike Kenna of USGA, Precision Tool and Die, Johnson Controls, Fisher Livestock, Dale O’Neil, JD Elwood, and Natalie Elwood.

Prize Sponsors: Shelley Mitchell of Red Dirt Works OK, Eskimo Joe’s, and Cherry Gray. Additional Important People That Made the Event Possible: Jared Wooten, Superintendent at Stillwater Country Club; Chuck Coatney, General Manager and Head Pro at Stillwater Country Club; Sabrina Buxton, OTRF Secretary.
Assistant professor Qing Luo spent two days on the beautiful campus of China Northwest A&F University June 1 and 2. On the first day, she shared her experience of practicing and teaching landscape architecture in China and the U.S. with deans and faculty members of College of Landscape Architecture and Arts. The second day she taught a rain garden design workshop for students.

Becky Carroll, senior agriculturalist, was the recipient of the 2017 Herman Hinrichs Award at the 2017 Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association’s Annual Conference held June 1 through 4 in Ardmore. Becky works directly with pecan, grape and blackberry research plots, collects variety trials data, provides educational sessions and courses, and she is an Oklahoma State representative to Oklahoma commodity associations. Congratulations, Becky!

During the Discover Architecture summer workshop on June 12 to 17, assistant professor Cheryl Mihalko presented information on the landscape architecture program and career opportunities to students. Students created a site analysis on campus, created a design for a pavilion on campus, and found design elements and discovered spacial outdoor rooms at The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University.

Plants and Bugs Day Camp is Junior Master Gardener plus Bug Zoo fun! Spend time with garden activities, crafts, games and snacks in the morning and ‘bug’ activities, games, crafts and snacks in the afternoon. Activities are geared for ages 9 to 12 years old and the cost of $100 includes all supplies and snacks as well as two adult helpers to keep kids safe and busy. Kids love camp because it is fun and entertaining; parents love camp because it gives children a chance to explore and learn during the school break! For dates and information visit: www.hortla.okstate.edu/plants-camp.
The Landscape Architecture Construction II class built a vegetable garden for The Oklahoma Gardening Show at The Botanic Garden. Last spring they had a very productive morning building three elevated barrel beds and painting five beds. Student guided projects provide our students with hands-on experience and provide a different avenue of learning for students.

Graduate student Huanyun Duan is studying different turfgrass species under shade environment and how these turfgrass genotypes vary in their response to shade. Duan monitors the canopy temperature with an infrared thermometer for her study on drought resistance of tall fescue, bermudagrass and zoysiagrass. Dr. Charles Fontanier is her advisor, and Duan is set to graduate August 2018.

The aquaponics system is one of five projects implemented at Santa Fe South through the EPA environmental education grant. Each project was designed to contribute to environmental education and give students learning opportunities related to horticulture. In addition to the infrastructure projects, ongoing training has occurred for students and teachers through water conservation, water quality and other environmental training sessions delivered by assistant extension specialist Shelley Mitchell and extension associate Joshua Campbell.

Our OSU Landscape Architecture (LA) interns were out in the profession gaining valuable experience this summer. We received this photo from a professional who is a part of our OSU LA family. While working with the City of Garland, he ran in to one of our students, Xochilyn Davis. She was working for the city as an intern this past summer. We are grateful to all of the firms that support our students through internships!
Joe Maxson, First Oklahoma Gardening Host

On Thursday, January 12, Joe Mac Maxson, 77, of Durant, Oklahoma, passed from this earth. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; two sons, Stephen of Durant, and Brian and wife Janeva of Woodbridge, Virginia; and three grandchildren, Tacie of Atoka, Brantley of Ardmore, and Brayden of Woodbridge, Virginia; and one great-granddaughter, Addison of Ardmore.

Joe grew up on a farm in Indianola, Oklahoma. After graduation from Harrah High School, Joe attended Oklahoma State University where he received three degrees, including a doctorate in Agricultural Education. He was employed by the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service as a 4-H educator from 1972 until returning back to pursue his doctorate. Upon completing his doctorate, he became the Youth Specialist in the Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department and became the original host of Oklahoma Gardening.

In 1975, the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) joined with Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service horticulturist Joe Maxson to produce a half-hour program called Oklahoma Gardening. Joe carried plants grown at Oklahoma State University to OETA’s Oklahoma City studios where he demonstrated and lectured basic gardening techniques and decorated the set each week. Those beginning segments covered topics such as plant knowledge, entomology, and some cooking with Barbara Brown.

Santa Fe South Charter School

The Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture has been working with Santa Fe South Charter School (SFS) since 2015 to provide horticulture based environmental education opportunities for students in the SFS system. Through funding from our United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Education Grant, an aquaponics growing system was installed at the SFS Old School Farm and outdoor learning center. This aquaponics system was designed to provide students at Santa Fe South with unique horticulture learning experiences and contribute to the larger environmental education vision of the school system. The aquaponic growing system features a 20 square foot growing bed and a 200-gallon fish tank. The system was installed inside an existing high tunnel structure at the Old School Farm through a partnership with Earth-Rebirth, a central Oklahoma environmental education non-profit and a community partner for the ongoing Environmental Education Grant project at SFS.

42nd Annual Awards Program
August 26

| Distinguished Landscape Architecture Service — Mike Sottong |
| Distinguished Horticulture Alumnus— Clydette Alsup-Egbers |
| Margaret Romshe Outstanding Undergraduate Student — Andrew Kirby |
| Franklin A. Romshe Memorial Outstanding Graduate Student — Matthew Barton |
| Outstanding Departmental Staff — Becky Cheary |

2017-2018 Endowed Scholarship Recipients

Robert C. & Doris Rae Arens
Mackenzie Cejka
Jacob Cheatham
Colby Davis
Philip Davis
Alyssa Ely
Brandt Emerson
Andrew Kirby
Jacob Krafft
Benjamin Levy
Emily Smith
Stephanie Stoner
Payton Wynes

F.W. “Dutch” & Rose Bellinghausen Endowed — Payton Wynes

Jerry Francis Benton Memorial
Hardeep Singh, M.S.
Alyssa Ely
Brandt Emerson
Tori Jeffries
Kambri Martinez
Caroline Nelson
Katelyn Stenmark

Bieberdorf Memorial — Robert Bradley
Merle Booton Memorial — Cody Landis

Harrison Walnut Redevelopment Corp.
Mackenzie Cejka

Hopfer Memorial Academic/Travel
Govinda Sapkota, M.S.

Marjorie Horner Andrews Graduate Student in Honor of Mrs. Marjorie Horner Andrews
Bradley Battershell, M.S.

Huffine Memorial Distinguished Graduate Fellowship
Naba Angain, M.S.
Matthew Barton, M.S.
Saeed Beyki, M.S.
Manoj Chhetri, M.S.
Huanyun Duan, M.S.
Ricardo Estrada, M.S.
Clydette Alsup-Egbers received her Ph.D. in Plant Science with an emphasis in Ornamental Horticulture from Oklahoma State University after completing her M.S. in Vegetable Production. She has been a faculty member at Missouri State University since 2001. In addition to her teaching duties, Alsup manages the Karls Hall greenhouses, and serves as an advisor for the Horticulture Club and Campus Garden. She is a member of American Society for Horticultural Science, currently serving a three-year term on the ASHS Cross-Commodity Publication Award committee. While at MSU, she has received both outstanding teaching and outstanding service awards.

Dr. Alsup has been active in several research projects, most recently a Missouri Department of Agriculture-funded grant to help determine optimum planting dates for garlic in Southwest Missouri.

With a background in journalism before attending college at Oklahoma State, peers frequently call upon Dr. Alsup to edit their manuscripts and other papers. This most recently resulted in co-authorship with ag economists of an article about farmer’s markets published in the International Food and Agribusiness Management Review.

Dr. Alsup has passions for vegetable production, herbaceous ornamentals and greenhouse production. She and her husband live on a farm near Springfield where she has numerous gardens.

Mike Sottong is Director of Landscape Architecture for ADG. With over 15 years of landscape architecture experience, Mike brings a wide-ranging skill set and keen eye to any project. He has been a part of large multidisciplinary firms and boutique firms alike, working with private clients, corporate entities and community non-profits in his professional practice.

Mike has been fortunate to work on a multitude of award-winning projects around the world and United States, ranging from intimate sanctuaries, expansive regional parks, large planning projects and everything in between. Local projects include The Station at Moore Central Park, Martin Park Nature Center, and WestTown Campus Master Plan. Mike is currently a part of the Scissortail Park project team with MAPS 3.

Mike is active in the Oklahoma City community and is currently a board member for The Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma; the Professional Advisory Council; and numerous other organizations.

Mike is an Oklahoma City native and received his bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture from Oklahoma State University with an emphasis in studio arts. He lives in Oklahoma City with his wife and two children.
Redman Honored for Career in Horticulture

by Sean Hubbard, Communications Specialist, Agricultural Communication Services

He has served as president and CEO of Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, for the past 11 years. During that time, Redman implemented institutional and strategic reforms that have positioned the Gardens as a premier horticultural, cultural and educational institution of the 21st century.

The result has been impressive, including an overall attendance increase of 75 percent and an incredible climb in membership from 17,000 to 63,000 households. Longwood Gardens welcomes more than 1.4 million visitors per year, making it the most visited public garden in North America and the third-most visited attraction in Philadelphia.

The Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Oklahoma State University recently celebrated Redman as a 2017 Distinguished Alumni of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

“Paul has been an advocate of Oklahoma State University in all of the positions he has held,” said Janet Cole, head of OSU’s Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. “With Paul’s leadership, Longwood Gardens has maintained a graduate program in cooperation with the University of Delaware. Two of our alums have graduated from the Longwood Graduate Program and then subsequently worked in botanical gardens.”

Redman earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in horticulture from OSU in 1990 and 1994, respectively. After graduation, he co-hosted the television show “In the Garden with Mike Davis and Paul Redman” and served as an adjunct faculty member at Columbus State Community College in the Department of Construction Technology. He also was director of horticulture at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden in Columbus, Ohio.

Throughout his professional successes, Redman has remained an advocate of OSU. Most recently, he spent a few days with the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture to visit The Botanic Garden at OSU, speak with classes and present a public lecture.

“Paul has been back to OSU investing time in the department assessing our programs and facilities,” Cole said. “He has provided some great ideas and suggestions that we are currently implementing in the department.”

He received the 2016 American Public Gardens Association Award of Merit and was recognized as the International Garden Tourism Network’s 2015 Person of the Year. In addition, Redman received the 2015 American Horticultural Society’s Professional Award, the 2014 Wyck Strickland Award and was named the 2014 American Society of Horticultural Science’s Dr. William A. “Tex” Frazier Lecturer.

Student Awards

Phillip Davis receives prestigious USGA Green Section Internship!

Logan Fisher has been accepted into the Longwood Gardens TRIAD Fellowship. Each year, two horticulturists are chosen to participate in the Fellowship from Longwood. In April 2018, Fisher will begin the fellowship at the Hidcote Manor Garden in the UK.

Allen Yu joined OK-ASLA Executive Team on a trip to Washington DC to meet with legislators about important issues to the profession of landscape architecture. Allen also serves as a student representative to National ASLA May 2.
**2018 Oklahoma Proven**

Bush Clovers are hardy semi-woody, deciduous shrubs reaching about 4 to 6 feet high and at least as wide with arching stems. In harsh winters, it can die to the ground, but quickly comes back the following spring. Late winter, early spring pruning may be necessary to rejuvenate the plant, but since flowers develop on new wood, flowering will not be affected. Flowers are rosy-purple in late summer to early fall, which completely cover the plant and stands out nicely against the blue-green foliage. Bush Clovers perform well in sandy, infertile soil and are very drought tolerant once established; ideal drainage is essential.

Indian pink, also called woodland pinkroot and pinkroot, is a native species to the Southeastern U.S. It is an excellent plant for shady gardens. Indian pink is an upright, multi-stemmed clump forming perennial 1-2 feet tall and 1 ½ feet wide with bright, glossy green leaves. Numerous flowers appear in late spring/early summer and are tubular, deep red with a contrasting yellow throat that flares at the tip to form five pointed lobes (a yellow star). Indian Pink grows in part shade to full shade in moist soils, but does really well in full sun and is quite drought tolerant once established.

Zelkova serrata is a deciduous tree with a vase-shaped habit that typically grows 20-80 feet tall and most often occurs in rich, moist woods and hillsides and moist stream banks. It is noted for its graceful shape, clean foliage, attractive bark and resistance to Dutch elm disease. Zelkova has in fact been promoted in recent years as a substitute for American elm (*Ulmus americana*) because of its resistance to Dutch elm disease. Quite wind and drought tolerant once it is established. Cultivars from the Chinese cousin are also available. Fall color is variable and may range from yellow, yellow or orange bronze, orange, red and reddish purple depending on cultivar.

Supertunia Vista Bubblegum is a vigorous petunia that requires very little care once established. Unlike some other petunias, Vista Bubblegum is a self-deadheading variety that blooms continuously until the first killing frosts. With its bright bubblegum pink flowers, Vista Bubblegum is a mounding, trailing form to 18-24 inches high and just as wide that looks spectacular spilling over the edge of a container or retaining wall or spreading out in a flower bed. For the most vigorous plants, fertilize them with a slow release fertilizer at planting and then follow up throughout the summer with a water soluble fertilizer applied when watering. Even though no dead-heading is needed, Vista Bubblegum responds well to a light trimming in early July.

**We want to hear from you!**

We would like to include you in our alumni success stories and “News” updates. Please send us your contact information, any professional and personal information you would like to share as well as a current electronic photo. Information can be emailed to donna.dollins@okstate.edu.
Turf Field Day a Success!

by Emily E. Horton, Communications, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department

The Oklahoma Sports Turf Managers Association’s (OKSTMA) field day was a big success! The educational sports turf field day took place on the morning of August 8 at the Bentley Park Sports Complex in Bixby, Oklahoma.

A tasty Panera Bread breakfast provided by Johnston Seed Company kicked off the event. Attendees from across the state visiting over coffee and bagels set the tone for a day full of networking opportunities for sports turf managers.

Following breakfast, Dr. Justin Moss, an associate professor and Huffine Endowed Professor of Turfgrass Science at OSU, welcomed attendees before they moved outside to participate in hands-on demonstrations.

Representatives from several different companies exhibited their products for both synthetic and natural turf maintenance. The LitterKat® was just one of the new products present at the field day by GreensGroomer Worldwide®. The LitterKat® is a piece of equipment used to easily collect debris from synthetic turf. Toro® also provided a collection of their turf mowers for attendees to inspect firsthand.

Beyond equipment demonstrations, specialists presented over other sports turf management practices. These presentations ranged from mound repair after games to grading and resurfacing. Specialists from World Class Athletic Surfaces® presented on and demonstrated how to create field logos using their athletic field paint.

While gaining hands-on experience, attendees were provided the opportunity to visit with industry experts on the latest products in sports turf management.

Larry Lindsey, a pesticides supplier with Winfield® and longtime OKSTMA member, expressed gratitude to the OKSTMA and OSU Extension Services for providing sports turf focused field days.

“The industry needs more sports turf oriented field days like this one. It’s great for suppliers and for the customers,” said Lindsey.

Following the hands-on demonstrations, OSU’s Dr. Charles Fontanier and Dr. Yanqi Wu held an open Question and Answer session before lunch.

Fontanier is an assistant professor in the Turfgrass Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. He is known for his research efforts in turf sustainability and water conservation. Wu is an associate professor in grass breeding and genetics in the Plant and Soil Science Department. Wu’s current research focuses on the development of new cultivars. He also conducts research on important agronomic traits in bermudagrass used for turf and forage as well as switchgrass used for bioenergy.

Attendees were able to ask questions on upcoming changes in EPA regulations, chemicals and pesticides being taken off the market, and the development of new cultivars.

Closing with a lunch social provided by P & K Equipment®, the Bixby field day was a wonderful opportunity for those involved in all areas of sports turf management and showed the need for more field days dedicated specifically to sports turf management.
2017-2018 Scholarship Recipients continued . . .

Cleveland County Master Gardeners Association — Jacob Cheatham
Easton Sod Farms
Robert Frizzell
Edmond Iris and Garden Society
Monica Chavez
Julia Clark
Enid Council of Garden Clubs
Suzanna Parks
Payton Wynes
Garfield County Master Gardener
Suzanna Parks
Horticulture & Landscape Architecture
Kevin Lawrence
Johnston Seed Company
Robert Frizzell
Kay County Master Gardener
Emily Smith
Landscape Management
Julia Clark
Brody Townsend
N.E. District of Oklahoma Garden Clubs
Jacob Krafft
Oklahoma Golf Course Superintendent’s Association
Philip Davis
Oklahoma Horticultural Society
Colby Davis
Kambri Martinez
Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Association
Brandt Emerson
Stephanie Stoner
OSU Horticulture Club Award
Erin Caldwell
Alyssa Ely
Kambri Martinez
Katelyn Stenmark
Tyler Troppman
Pi Alpha Xi
Hardeep Singh, M.S.
Megha Poudel, M.S.
Ponca City Council of Garden Clubs
Payton Wynes
Tulsa Area Iris Society Memorial
Brooke Banfield
Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs
Stephanie Stoner
Tulsa County Master Gardener
Brooke Banfield
Logan Fisher

Saeed Beyki, Graduate Student Highlight

Saeed Beyki is currently researching the development of various research tools for turfgrass irrigation science. The main goal of his research is to investigate the effects of deficit irrigation and traffic on turfgrass performance of multiple genotypes. He has designed a radial gradient irrigation system (RaGIS) using the mini-center pivot concept.

Also, he is using an unmanned aircraft vehicle (UAV) with a thermal camera to detect and analyze plant heat stress. These systems will help create better quality turfgrass fields and conserve the limited resources for the world in the future.

“Considering Oklahoma State University’s exceptional faculty members and also its inspiring and stimulating environment for studying and doing research, I am excited to have an opportunity to continue my education at such a great university,” Beyki said.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Summer 2016—Undergraduates
Aaron M. Johnson
Taylor Z. Roberts
Jordan B. Moss

Fall 2016—Undergraduates
Verity P. Cox
Huston D. Hoelscher
Justin G. Hope
Grant Linstead
Scott A. Mendenhall
Chase Moore
Zachary L. Murphy
Matthew J. Murray
Megan K. Nichols
Lauren C. Ocheltree
Cheyenne S. Roberts
Ryan D. Thomas
Macy N. Wollenberg

Fall 2016—Graduate
Lance W. Swearengin

Spring 2017—Undergraduates
Colton E. Craig
Jeffrey C. Goodwin
Tylor D. Johnson
Cole S. Landers
Katy B. Layman
Alison K. Phillips
Joseph W. Robinson
Laura C. Shand
Tanner C. Smith
Andrea J. Stara
Kyla D. Thompson
Logan J. Welge
Zewen Yu

Warminski - Wichita’s Plant Doctor

Alumni Norman Warminski known as The Plant Doctor to the community of Sedgwick County died on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 75 years old. Warminski began his extension career in 1968 and served as the Sedgwick County horticulture educator from 1970 until his retirement in 1999. While there wasn’t much interest in gardening at the time, he was instrumental and progressive in promoting horticulture and gardening. He was responsible for starting the Master Gardener Program and assisting in sparking the interest in Botanica, The Wichita Gardens and the Wichita Garden Show.
Thank You for your generosity!

Contributions from July 1, 2016—June 30, 2017.

If we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this list, please accept our apology and gently remind us of that fact.

Marsha M. Adams
Merry Alexander
Robin Alexander
John M. Alford
Gladeen B. Allred
Kim Anderson
Lou Anella
Luke Anthony
Jacob Astley
Carole Bays
James Beckstrom
Mary Lou Bennett
Rebecca S. Bennett
James E. Berry
Frank Blum
Clark Bockhahn, TBG Partners
Nancy Bowling
Brandon Boydstrum
Nathan Boyles, Haven Scapes
Gerald Bradshaw,
Buel J. Staton Humanitarian
Susan Brammeier
Dave C. Brown
David Brown, OSU
Gene Burress
Jeneane Campbell
Leah D. Campbell,
Kimley-Horn & Associates
Raymond Campbell
TBG Associates
Kenneth E. Case
Mary Causley
Peter D. Clark
Sandra J. Clemons
K. Walter Coffey
Janet Cole
Blake Coleman, TBG Partners
Terri E. Collier
Tom Coon, CASNR
Kayla M. Copeland
The City of OKC
Donald Crawley
Jim Crosby,
Planning Design Group
Randy Davis, Greenleaf
Jo Alice Dobbs
Steven H. Dobbs
Tabitha Doescher, TBG Partners
Tim Dolezal
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Containers Add a Touch of Whimsy to Your Gardening Efforts
by Trisha Gedon, Communications Specialist, Agricultural Communications Services

Gardens are a wonderful addition to any home. Dressing up the landscape certainly adds to the curb appeal when flower beds are filled with a colorful assortment of perennials, annuals, shrubs and even vegetables. However, if you do not have ample space in your yard, do not feel like you are left out of the gardening circle. For those who have limited space, a great alternative, and one in which you can let your imagination run wild, is container gardening.

David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension consumer horticulture, said the sky is the limit when it comes to container gardening. “The great thing about container gardening is even if you have just a few square feet, gardeners can get creative and dress up what space is available,” Hillock said. “A spot on a concrete patio or a little space on an apartment balcony can help you bring out your inner gardener.

One misconception gardeners may have about planting in containers is they will be limited to flowers or small shrubs. Fortunately, container gardening lends itself to nearly the same type of gardening available in a traditional landscape – only on a smaller scale. There are lots of options for planting edibles. Keep in mind, however, container gardening still requires the same elements as traditional gardening, but it typically is not as time consuming.

When it comes to the container itself, get creative. Anyone can go to the gardening store and pick up the basic terracotta pot. Think about your personality and see if you can find containers that reflect your interests. If antiques are your thing, consider using an old galvanized wash tub or bucket as a planter. A bird bath that is not being used for birds any longer is another great choice. An old wheelbarrow filled with colorful flowers is a great addition to a small yard. A child’s wagon or even an old toy dump truck can hold a variety of plants. Smaller, shallower containers are a great choice for succulents.

Try planting herbs in old coffee cups and placing them on a small metal table for a whimsical look in your yard or patio. Make use of an old log by hollowing it out and filling it with plants. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination. “Whatever container you choose, make sure it has good drainage. If your potting soil becomes waterlogged, your plants can experience root rot and won’t survive,” Hillock said. “If your container doesn’t have drainage holes, just drill a few through the bottom.”

Once you have the container selected, it is time to head to the gardening store to select the potting soil and plants. Just as you need good quality soil for traditional gardening, it is a must for container gardening as well. Hillock suggests starting with a reputable potting soil manufacturer, which will be weed and disease free. Because you will be watering frequently, nutrients can get washed out overtime. Adding a water-soluble fertilizer to the water when irrigating, or using a slow-release fertilizer such as Ozmocote, can be beneficial. Be sure to follow label directions.

“When selecting the plants you want to grow, be sure to choose plants for the sun/shade exposure you have in the space you want to place the containers. Also, if different types of plants are going in the same container, make sure they have similar sun, shade, fertilizer and water requirements,” he said. “It’ll be a disappointing outcome if your plants don’t have similar needs.”

Once the flowers, herbs or vegetables are planted, it is important to keep the containers fertilized and watered. Hillock said the heat of an Oklahoma summer can be intense, therefore, the soil in containers will dry out much quicker than traditional beds. “So, while you’ll save some time because you won’t be weeding, you’ll spend more time watering,” he said. “In fact, depending on the size of the container and the intensity of the heat, you may have to water twice per day.”

To help create visual interest in your containers, consider planting an upright, bold plant in the middle. Fill in the space around the taller plant with filler plants and finish it off with a plant variety that will drape over the edges of the container. Gardeners also can add interest with pebbles, rocks and other nonplant materials.

When deciding which edibles to plant, zucchini, squash, bush beans and patio tomatoes, along with a variety of herbs, are great choices for containers. Because space is limited, you are not likely to be inundated
with more produce than can be consumed. While ease of care is a big advantage to container gardening, Hillock pointed out another factor that can make it even more appealing.

Your containers are portable. If you happen to move to a new location, simply load up your containers and go. If you are staying put, but the sun exposure on the patio is changing throughout the summer, simply move the containers into or out of the shade. And as the weather cools down in the fall, gardeners can move some of the plants indoors. This will allow you to enjoy those fresh herbs all year long.

“Don’t give up on your dream of having a garden simply because you live somewhere in which the outdoor space is limited,” Hillock said. “With container gardening, the only limitation is your imagination.”

Calendar of Events
January 5-6 | Horticulture Industries Show & Conference, Tulsa Community College NE Campus, Tulsa, Oklahoma
March 8 | Horticulture “Spray Day”, Cimarron Valley Research Station, Perkins, Oklahoma
May 29 - June 1 | Plants and Bugs Camp, The Botanic Garden at OSU, Stillwater, Oklahoma
July 17-20 | Plants and Bugs Camp, The Botanic Garden at OSU, Stillwater, Oklahoma

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