

# Over the Garden Wall

*The e-newsletter from the U Maine Landscape Horticulture Program*

**Bill Mitchell** is retiring from the University after 33 years of service. He retires as Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Coordinator of the Landscape Horticulture (LHC) undergraduate program within the Department of Plant, Soil & Environmental Sciences. Bill's appointment has been 100% instruction / Program Coordinator. He is a well-respected teacher covering a diverse range of topics including: orientation for first-year students, graphic design, landscape design, landscape management, professional practices, capstone courses, and numerous undergraduate /graduate special topics courses. He has advised 15-20 undergraduate students per year including all first-year students and student athletes in the LHC program. Bill has been an enthusiastic force for the LHC undergraduate program. Under his leadership the program has been modernized to include concentrations in Design, Science, Business, and Horticulture Therapy. He worked with a private company to develop a web site that effectively presents the LHC program to prospective students and the broader public. Bill has worked effectively with industry and alumni to assure that the program provides training that is relevant to employers. As a result, the LHC program boasts 100% employment of its graduates. His relationships with alumni and friends have gained considerable financial support for the Program and resulted in major endowments for LHC student scholarships as well as students from the program competing very well at national competitions (PLANET) for the past two years. In addition to being a skilled landscape architect, Bill has a profound interest in plant materials and is an avid outdoorsman. Bill and his wife Linda raised their family in Old Town and are now moving to Amherst, Massachusetts to take on new and exciting challenges. We thank Bill for his many years of dedication to the program.

Bill's dedication to the LHC program will be well remembered by a tribute garden planted by the LHC students who graduated this spring. This garden is planted on the north side of Deering Hall and includes an engraved bench and some lovely stonework. Justin Difrederico (Class of '06) from Granville Stone helped the students install the garden.



### **Landscape Horticulture at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens:**

This spring, landscape horticulture students in the design concentration and in greenhouse management created a beautiful kitchen garden at [Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens](#) in Boothbay Harbor, ME. Professor Mitchell's students in the design concentration designed the kitchen garden. Several teams competed to be chosen as the winning design which was planted in the garden.

Congratulations to the team with the winning design: Brionna Barton, Hogan Haskell, Patrick Gallagher, Meghan McPhee, and Matthew Thibodeau. The plants in their design were propagated and grown by students in Dr. Stephanie Burnett's greenhouse management class. Over thirty species of vegetables and herbs in the garden are planted in a pizza garden, a salsa garden, a salad garden, and a beautiful herb spiral. This garden is a summer focal point at the botanical gardens where local chefs and landscape designers teach garden visitors how to grow and use vegetables and herbs. We look forward to future successful collaborations with the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens!

Dr. Stephanie Burnett and graduate student Gwendolyn Hawkins enjoy the kitchen garden after it was planted on a rainy spring day.



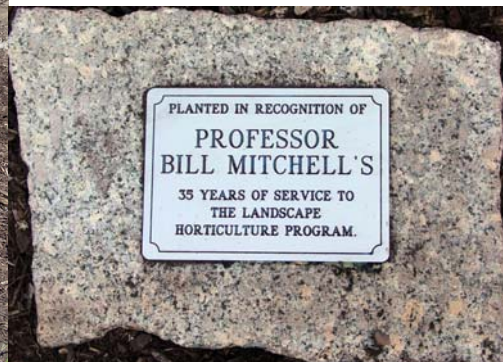
The herb spiral:



### News from the Lyle E. Littlefield Garden:

In honor of Professor Mitchell's devotion and service to the Landscape Horticulture Program at the University of Maine, we planted a *Magnolia stellata* 'Lyle's Legacy' in the garden. This magnolia originated from a hybrid selected by Lyle Littlefield and was introduced by Drs. Paul Capiello and Jack Smagula. This is the first 'Lyle's Legacy' magnolia planted in the garden, and we look forward to watching it grow and bloom.

Professor Mitchell reclines in the garden under the shade of his new tree:



### *Native Plants Added to the Garden*

Thanks to a recent donation from Ms. Mariya Navazio and the New England Wildflower Society, we have recently planted more than 30 native herbaceous and woody plants in the garden. Undergraduate students Laura Cooper and Meghan McPhee designed and installed two landscapes featuring some of these native plants. Some of the more recent additions include:

#### *Geranium maculatum* 'Espresso'



#### *Anemonella thalictroides* 'Cameo'



## **Alumni News:**

1981:

We are happy to welcome alum Jesse O'Brian back to teach LHC 325, Turfgrass Management, this fall. Last fall, Jesse graciously shared many years of turf experience with our students who enjoyed his practical teaching style and the hands-on experiences they receive in class.

1999:

Hildy Ellis has returned to the University of Maine. For the past several years, she has been working as the Education Coordinator at [Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve](#), in New Hope, Pennsylvania. She will be working on a M.S. degree with Dr. Donglin Zhang this fall. Welcome back to Maine, Hildy!

2007:

Recent graduate and adventurer Natalie Kitchel has moved to Montana. She originally moved west to participate in a Mosmiller Intern Scholarship with [Gainan's](#) and loved living and working in Montana so much she has decided to make the move permanent!

Colette Imbeau has accepted a position with [Claussen's Florist & Greenhouse](#) in Colchester, Vermont.

Peter Leonard has received not one, but two assistantships to work with Dr. Mark Brand at the University of Connecticut. Peter will begin working towards an MS degree in horticulture this fall.

2008:

Congratulations to our newest alums: Meghan Bradley, Hogan Haskell, Lauren Saraiva, Abram Allard, Echo Patenaude, Devin Shepard, Amy Silliman, and Ben Starrett.

*If you have any news, please send it to Stephanie Burnett ([sburnett@maine.edu](mailto:sburnett@maine.edu) or 207-581-2937) and we'll include it in the next newsletter.*

## **Upcoming Events:**

[MeLNA](#) Fall Twilight Meeting – September 16, 2008

[New England Greenhouse Conference](#) – November 5-7, 2008

[MeLNA](#) Trade Show & Conference – January 20, 2009

[New England Grows](#) – February 4-6, 2009