

Over the Garden Wall

The e-newsletter from the U Maine Environmental Horticulture Program

Awards and Recognition

Meghan McPhee, a senior in the design concentration and the president of the Hort Club, was chosen as a PLANET Student Ambassador at the Green Industry Conference in Louisville Kentucky. She was one of eight students from all over the country to be selected for this honor. Meghan was also featured in an article in [UMaine Today Magazine](#). Congratulations, Meghan!

A professor in the Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Department was also recently honored. **Congratulations to Dr. Ivan Fernandez** for being named the 2008 Maine Professor of the year!

This year's Al Dwight Black Lifetime Achievement Award went to **Mr. Jesse O'Brien**, our invited instructor for turf management, for his outstanding contribution to our horticultural field. The award was established in memory of Mr. Al Dwight Black for his service to the Maine Horticultural Community. Congratulations to Mr. Jesse O'Brien and his family!

Ms. Jennifer Bailey, a senior from Holden, was awarded MeLNA scholarship during the MeLNA annual Trade Show in Lewiston on January 20, 2009. The Maine Landscape and Nursery Association established this annual scholarship for horticultural students from both Southern Maine Community College and the University of Maine and encouraged the young generation to better contribute their knowledge to the field of Horticulture. Congratulations, Jennifer!

The award winners Mr. Jesse O'Brien and Ms. Jennifer Bailey



Changes in the Horticulture Program

The horticulture program is changing names – Beginning in the fall, the program will be called 'Environmental Horticulture'. Thanks to the industry leaders from the Ornamental Horticulture Council for proposing this exciting change that represents the growing importance of protecting the environment while practicing horticulture.

Along with this change, we are developing a new concentration, 'Sustainable Horticulture'. Students in this concentration will take a core of horticulture, biology, and soils classes, but will also add several courses related to sustainable production to their curriculum. In the future, we hope to offer classes that will train students in sustainable landscape management and possibly native plant identification.

Our popular design concentration will be re-named, 'Landscape Design' and the Business concentration will be re-named, 'Horticultural Business'.

Students to Attend PLANET Competition

This spring, we will be sending nine students to represent the horticulture program at the PLANET Competition in Pomona, California. This will be the third year UMaine sends a team. The group is excited to represent the program, and, of course, to spend a bit of March in California avoiding mud season.

We are currently raising funds to support student travel to this event. The cost for each student will be approximately \$2,000. If you'd like to donate funds to help the students, please contact Stephanie Burnett (207-581-2937). Donors who provide more than \$100 will have their business name printed on t-shirts the group will wear during competition and will be recognized on the horticulture program website.



The PLANET group will also welcome Paul Tukey at a special fundraising event at UMaine on February 12th at 6:30 pm. Paul will speak about Organic Lawn Care. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door and include the lecture and light appetizers. Please contact Stephanie Burnett or Meghan McPhee ([Meghan_McPhee@umit.maine.edu](mailto: Meghan_McPhee@umit.maine.edu)) for more information or to purchase tickets.

Welcome to the incoming freshman class

Our new students, Emily Corey, Jeffrey Dutil, Thomas Hill, Ethan McHatten, Noah Paytas, Jessica Sleeper, Taylor Stevens, Martha Thomas, Jovannah Vendryes, and Nathaniel Weeks are scheduled to graduate in 2012. Welcome to the Green Industry and the UMaine horticulture program!

Asian Horticulturists Gathered in Korea

The first Asian Horticultural Congress was held from December 11-23, 2008 in Jeju, Korea. The congress was organized by the Korean Society for Horticultural Science in collaboration with the Chinese Society for Horticultural Science and the Japanese Society for Horticultural Science. The International Society for Horticultural Science endorsed the congress.

A total of 807 horticulturists from more than a dozen of countries participated in the congress. Dr. Donglin Zhang chaired “the Symposium of Breeding and Biotechnology”, which included three keynote speakers, nine oral presentations, and 180 posters. He, together with Dr. Jung-Myung Lee and Dr. Ki Sun Kim (both from Korea), also presented “Impact of Asian Native Plants on US Horticultural Market.”

Why Asia? In today’s US ornamental market, more than 60% of plant materials originated in Asian countries or were derived from plants native to Asia. Other areas in the field of horticulture have a similar trend. With diverse plant materials and rich horticultural traditions, Asia has much more to offer in terms of research and development of our horticultural industries.

Congratulations to Dr. Seung Koo Lee (Chair of AHC2008) and his organizational committee on this successful horticultural collaboration and information exchange. The 2nd Asian Horticultural Congress will be held in Japan in 2012 and we are look forward to bringing Asian Horticulture to the worldwide attention.

Dr. Donglin Zhang chaired the Symposium of Breeding and Biotechnology



Dr. Donglin Zhang Takes the office of NE-ASHS

University of Maine was well represented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Northeast Region (16 states) of the American Society for Horticultural Science, held at the University of Delaware from January 9-10, 2009. Dr. Donglin Zhang was elected as the president. Also, five professors and two graduate students presented their research findings during the meeting. The authors and titles were:

Handley, David T., Mark G. Hutton, and Renae Moran: Vegetative growth of 'Chandler' strawberry plants treated with prohexadione-calcium root dips and foliage sprays.

Handley, David T., Mark G. Hutton, and James F. Dill: Performance of short-day strawberry cultivars grown in perennial matted row system in Maine.

Moran, Renae and Sue Erich: Preplant compost and mycorrhizal inoculation improved longterm growth and yield of 'Honeycrisp' apple trees.

Smagula, John and Kristen McGovern: Effect of diammonium phosphate and vigor-cal-phos on growth and yield of lowbush blueberry.

Sun, Youping, Donglin Zhang, and Lijuan Han: Cross-hybrid compatibility of inkberry with meserve holly and common winterberry.

Sun, Youping, Donglin Zhang, and Lijuan Han: *In vitro* regeneration of *Rudbeckia hirta* L. 'Plainview Farm' from leaf tissue.

Yarborough, David and Yadong Li: The current status and issues on blueberry production in China.

Zhang, Donglin, Bin Zhang, Zhihui Li, and Fang Geng: Rooting of *Camellia oleifera* Abel cuttings under low plastic tunnels.

Dr. Wesley Kline, past president, transfers the gavel to President Donglin Zhang. Courtesy of Mr. Michael Neff, Executive Director of ASHS



News from the Hort Club

The horticulture club sponsored their annual barbeque in September. As always, it was a great opportunity to welcome the incoming freshmen, and for horticulture students and faculty to enjoy the beautiful fall weather in the Littlefield Garden.

Meghan McPhee and Arielle Derice welcome a couple of new students at the hort club barbeque:



Camp Sunshine – Laura Cooper, Meghan McPhee, Arielle Derice, and Michelle Jordon volunteered at Camp Sunshine graciously sharing their horticulture therapy skills over fall break.

Daffodil Days – This spring, the horticulture club will be hosting their first annual daffodil days fundraiser. They planted hundreds of bulbs next to the Roger Clapp Greenhouse Complex in anticipation of helping the UMaine community celebrate spring early with lovely daffodils.



Alumni News:

Alums Justin DiFrederico and Jeff Beswick have joined us as instructors for Landscape Design/Construction I and Professional Practices. We greatly appreciate them sharing their expertise with our students.

Congratulations to the December graduates: Brionna Barton, Troy Conary, Sam McCarthy, David Thibeault, Matthew Thibodeau, Eric Whitmore, and Joseph Young. We wish you the best of luck!

Alumni and Friends, would you like to receive the e-newsletter directly via e-mail? If so, please subscribe to by contacting Stephanie Burnett (sburnett@maine.edu or 207-581-2937) to let her know you'd like your name added to the e-subscription list. The newsletter will still be posted on the website each semester for those of you who'd rather not receive it via e-mail.

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

Upcoming Events:

[New England Grows](#) – February 4-6, 2009. If you are attending **New England Grows** this year, stop by and visit the horticulture program at booth 402.

[OFA \(An Association of Floriculture Professionals\) Short Course](#) – July 11th-14th

[GreenSys 2009](#) – June 14th-19th