US Senior Open held at Omaha Country Club

Fairway's Last Drink. Photo by Zac Reicher.

Last week, about 60 golf course specialists from all over the country volunteered a week of their time to help prepare the course for the US Senior Open that was held at the Omaha Country Club.

Volunteers reported Sunday afternoon on July 6 for orientation and training. Rapidly changing weather conditions throughout the event required long hours of persistent, patient, hard work, yet both the permanent and the volunteer staff kept a happy smile as their diligence paid off in wonderful comments from the players.

Omaha Country Club sponsored a quick educational session on Tuesday morning for local superintendents, volunteers, and staff featuring Tom Lehman, touring pro, and Dana Long, research director of Toro. Both shared insights about their respective fields.

According to Zac Reicher, Professor of Turfgrass Science, although a cooler weather on Wednesday allowed for more golf and more comfortable spectators, the difficult balance between turf health and fast firm playing conditions continued. In the meantime, Zac said, the professionalism, cooperation, enthusiasm, and competency of the full-time and volunteer staff continued to impress, in spite of long hours and difficult maintenance conditions.

The US Senior Open culminated Sunday, July 15, with Kenny Perry’s charge to the front. To read more about this event, and see the wonderful photos taken by Zac Reicher, please visit http://turf.unl.edu.
The Weed Management Field Day was held July 2

The Weed Management Field Day at the UNL's South Central Agricultural Laboratory (SCAL), Clay Center was held on July 2, 2013. Dr. Amit Jhala, Assistant Professor & Extension Weed Management Specialist, was the organizer and tour leader. Fifty people were in attendance including growers, crop consultants, extension educators, and other clients. The registration started at 8.30 am and a demonstration tour for weed control in soybeans and corn started at 9 am.

Amit demonstrated several projects for weed control in corn and soybeans that included efficacy, crop safety and comparison of several new herbicide tank mixtures. Weed control in dicamba plus glyphosate-resistant soybean was also a part of the tour. Several herbicide programs were compared for weed control in corn and soybeans in UNL's unbiased standard comparison trial. Graduate students Debalin Sarangi, Zahoor Ahmed, and Simranpreet Kaur demonstrated their thesis research project on various aspects of weed control in corn and soybean.

The afternoon session was held on grower's field near Aurora that included on-site demonstration of plots for control of glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed, one of the problem weeds in Nebraska. Several projects were discussed for control of glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed in corn at different growth stages of giant ragweed and corn. The Field Day was concluded at 2.30 p.m.

August 6 & 7: Weed Resistance Management Field Days

One of the most daunting challenges to weed management is the continual evolution of weed species with resistance to one or more modes of action. As the summer progress and weed becomes a bigger issue, UNL continues to organize different field days in new locations.

August Field days are organized by Assoc. Prof. Amit Jhala, Assoc. Prof. Stevan Knezevic, Asst. Prof. Greg Kruger, and Asst. Exten. Educator Lowell Sandell; and will be held in David City and Fremont. Programs will be similar at both sites and focus on herbicide resistance, integrated weed management programs, and herbicide-resistant weeds. Location specific challenges such as Glyphosate-resistant giant ragweed at David City, and Glyphosate-resistant waterhemp at Fremont will also be addressed.

The event is free but preregistration is required by Friday, August 2 in order to arrange the complimentary meal, teaching resources, and tour logistics. Please visit http://agronomy.unl.edu/weedresistmgt for the online entry form.
Announcements

Pre-Trip Advisory

Conference Planning: Conference registration is open for the ASA-CSSA-SSSA conference Nov. 3-6, 2013, in Tampa, Fla.

Faculty, staff or graduate students who plan to attend the conference should contact the Office Professionals to start pre-trip arrangements. Our staff can help make airline reservations, hotel reservations, conference registrations, and pre-trip Travel Authorizations (TA). We will need your ASA, CSSA, or SSSA membership number, log in and password to register for the conference.

The theme for this year’s event is: “Water, Food, Energy and Innovation for a Sustainable World.” The website is at https://www.acsmeetings.org.

Winter Wheat Variety Test Plot Tour held June 27

A scenic photo of UNL test plot in southwest of Wilber. Photo by Teshome Regassa.

2013 UNL Wheat Field Days were held at five different locations during the month of June, educating local farmers, and showcasing the performance of new winter wheat varieties, as well as experimental varieties.

The field day series started with the visit at the Furnas County wheat plot on June 11. Later field days were held at the High Plains Ag Lab in Sidney, Box Butte County Irrigated Plots, and Box Butte County Rained Plots around Alliance on June 25, and was concluded at the Saline County Rainfed Plots on June 27. UNL variety performance trials are supported in part by grower check-off funds through a grant from the Nebraska Wheat Board.

Steve Baenziger, Professor and Nebraska Wheat Growers President Chair, Teshome Regassa, Research Assistant Professor, and Randy Pryor, Extension Educator, Saline County lead the educational sessions at the UNL’s test plot in southwest of Wilber, on June 27. Farmers received wheat education on crucial subjects such as Nutrient Management, High Yielding Wheat Tips, and Wheat Disease.

The field days were highlighted in articles by the local press. One of these articles by Lincoln Journal Star, published on June 28, emphasized that hard red winter wheat is an important crop for Nebraska because, in addition to other benefits, it works well in the corn-soybean crop rotations, controls runoff from gully-washers on sloping ground. The article also mentioned that the outlook for winter wheat is weaker in western Nebraska (dry conditions) than it is in eastern and central Nebraska.

T. Regassa and S. Baenziger during an educational session. Photo by Neal Mattox.
Salary Notifications

Salary notifications for 2013-2014 were distributed via regular mail the week of July 8, and be posted online via Firefly.

Please see John Dillingham, jdillingham2@unl.edu, for any questions about the process.

P-Card

Due to the recent audit of the University P-card program, thermal receipts are now required to be copied. The reason for this change is that after a couple of years, the ink fades on a thermal receipt and renders the receipt unreadable.

Accounting requests both the originals and the copies of the receipts to be attached to the P-Card Transaction Voucher.

Please contact Cheryl Bogenrief, cbogenrief1@unl.edu, for any questions.

E-shop Reminders

Rush Items: If you have a rush item please notify accounting in addition to marking it as urgent in E-shop.

Cart Returned: Please monitor your e-mails for returned cart and other action requests in the subject line. The order is on hold and will stay in a suspended status until make the necessary changes or actions.

Please contact Ben Lennander, blennander2@unl.edu, if you have any questions about this process.

Stacy Adams, Assoc. Professor of Practice, conducted two workshops for Vocational Agriculture Teachers from across the state on June 25 in Cairo and June 26 in Lincoln. The 2013 Floriculture Education Workshop was designed to provide more “in-depth” horticultural knowledge through discussion and hands-on activities as a way to assist instructors in their teaching efforts. Specific topics included topics such as “The Plant Production Triangle: Exploring how growing media, fertility and water are involved in overall plant health”, “Insects in the House: Identification of what’s bugging you in the greenhouse and how to control these pesky creatures sustainably and/or with low toxicity methods critical for the educational greenhouse”, and “Floral Design 101: Hands-on designing of the “roundy moundy” arrangement, simple corsage and design bows.”

Vocational Agriculture is an important educational program in Nebraska’s rural secondary schools. Many students in Vo-Ag will participate in Future Farmers of America (FFA) and will be involved in district, state and national career development events. The knowledge gained by students in Vo-Ag will lead to a variety of agricultural careers within our state, as well as, advanced education at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL). This workshop was presented as an effort to improve agricultural education within Nebraska and a way to increase visibility of the many programs offered at UNL.

Student Plants are growing vigorously in our gardens

In early May, many of the staff and faculty members had a chance to adopt a “plant” donated by Plant Propagation (Horticulture 221 / 2210) students. The students were assigned to produce two flats of “saleable bedding plants” as part of their course. Students were provided with the germination tray, seedling cell pack, webbed flats, plastic label, and the seeding media. They were required to take the full responsibility for the care of their bedding plants, including: watering, fertilizing, and transplanting. The overall project, overseen by senior student Jake Tolliver, took approximately six weeks. When they concluded their assignment and reports, Dr. Bill Gustafson decided that it would be a good idea to share their success with the UNL Agronomy & Horticulture family.

These plants, adopted by many of the staff and faculty members, have been doing so well that we wanted to share our students’ success with recent photos and give them an open thank you as a token of our gratitude, and appreciation.
Heat Advisory

When you are working outside, please be careful to keep hydrated, take frequent breaks, and wear appropriate clothing. Please visit the EHS website to learn tips on working in summer conditions, what to do in dealing with heat stroke, and heat exhaustion if it should occur.

In case of an injury or accident that occurs in the lab, on campus, or in the research fields, please do not hesitate or seek permission to call 911 if there is any doubt that it is not a minor injury.

Supervisors, please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to monitor conditions and take the appropriate precautions.

Please feel free to contact TJ McAndrew at 402-450-6360 for any questions or concerns.

Department Vehicles

Please practice common courtesy when using the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture cars. This includes cleaning out your trash, filling the gas tank when it is below ¾ of a tank, and returning the car to the state parking lot at 37th and East Campus Loop after using the car.

The department rents two cars – #86 (Ford) and #106 (Chevy) – for short-term use by faculty, staff, and graduate students. The cars may be reserved on the paper reservation sheet in 279 PLSH.

For any concerns with the cars and to make sure you are authorized to drive a university vehicle, please contact TJ McAndrew directly at 402-450-6360, 2-1486, or e-mail tmcandrew2@unl.edu.

Office Professionals Welcome New Associate

The Agronomy & Horticulture Office Professionals are happy to welcome Christine Weitzel to Agronomy & Horticulture Office Pros work group starting Tuesday, July 23.

Christine is moving from the Pesticide Education office in 377 Plant Science Hall to the Office Suite in 279 PLSH.

Christine has worked in the Pesticide Education office for the last eight years. Prior to that she worked for the State Probation Office.

Christine has experience working with web pages, tracking inventory and entering data. She will help the Office Pros with conferences, data entry, web pages, answering phones, reserving conference rooms and ordering supplies. She works 20 hours a week from Tuesday through Friday.

Christine earned a certificate in office technology from Southeast Community College and a diploma in accounting from the Grand Island School of Business.

Originally from the Grand Island area, Christine is married to Tom Weitzel and has two grown children, Charlene Scharton (married to Curt), and Derek (a doctoral student at UNL). She has two grandchildren: Elizabeth, 7, and Tristan, 5.

“Since having my hip replacement this past winter, I am walking more and am able to do shopping, house work, & yard work again,” Christine said. “Who knows – maybe I’ll get back to gardening! I also read a lot and enjoy spending time with our grandchildren.”

Welcome Christine!

New Addition to Ward Family

Congratulations to Brooke & Nicholas Ward on the birth of their daughter, Maggie. She was born on June 26, 2013, weighed 7lbs 13oz, and was 20 3/4” long. Nick is a graduate student with Dr. Richard Ferguson.
**Department Welcomes Our New Hires**

**Department Welcomes New Distance Education Specialist**

Please welcome Amy Kohmetscher as a new Distance Education Specialist in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture. Amy was hired as a full time staff member to work as an instructional designer and lecturer on May 1, 2013. She is originally from Lincoln, and received her bachelor’s degree in Horticulture and master’s degree in Agronomy from UNL. Amy is happily married to Brian, and the couple has an Alaskan malamute as part of their family. In her spare time she enjoys running, baking, and gardening.

She currently lives in Clay Center, and manages most of her courses online as she enjoys the advantages of being able to work from virtually anywhere that has a hot-spot.

**Aaron Lorenz’s New Research Technician**

Jon Luetchens has recently joined the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture on May 20 as a master’ student and research technician for Dr. Aaron Lorenz. Before starting his recent position, Jon was an undergraduate student at Dordt Collage, where he received a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture Biotechnology.

He is originally from Murdock. His father, Mark, is a farmer, and his mother, Nancy, is an insurance agent. Jon also have 2 other brothers. In his spare time, he enjoys playing sports; especially basketball, golf, and football.

Jon played amateur football at Dordt College, and his future plans include travelling and working abroad.

**New Seed Analyst for NCIA**

Please welcome Michael Mann as the new seed analyst for the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association (NCIA).

Michael started working with NCIA on May 13, 2013. He is originally from Florida but grew up in the northeastern region of Ohio.

Michael graduated from Kent State University in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in Organismal Biology. Before joining the NCIA, he worked with the National Park Service at Mt. Rainier NP as a Biological Science Technician (Plants).

In 2011, he relocated to Nebraska and attended UNL as a non-degree seeking graduate student in Fisheries & Wildlife.

In his spare time Michael enjoys astronomy, hiking, and filmmaking.

He lived in Omaha last year before relocating to Lincoln, and he says he enjoys living in Nebraska and looks forward to continue working with the NCIA.
Visiting Scholars

In early March, the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture welcomed three visitors from College of Agriculture, University of Baghdad, Iraq. Dr. Majid Sh. Hamdalla is supervising Ph.D. student, Dhafir Al-Kaabi, to conduct molecular research. The experiment is expected to last six months, and consists of genotypes of local wheat (15-20 genotypes), using several Primers, and several saline concentrations. Dhafir’s research topic is “Using RAPD, RFLP, SNP and in-vitro culture techniques to identify different local genotypes of wheat under salty stress.” Dhafir is accompanied by his wife, Noora Jebur Jasim Al-Saedi, during this visit. Majid will be staying only a month, but Dhafir will continue his experiments over a 6-months visit working with Professor Ismail Dweikat.

Steve Baenziger to conduct research on wheat using DNA-based marker breeding to estimate the genetic diversity in their local cultivars.

Both Bakytzhan, professor of biology, and Konirsha, associate professor of biology, are currently working at Kazakhstan National Technical University of Ecology / Institute of High Tech. and Sustainable Development, Almaty as lecturers. Bakytzhan, who visited UNL back in 2003, obtained his Ph.D. in 2001 from Moscow University of Agriculture; Konirsha obtained her Ph.D. in 1992 from Kazakhstan National University. They are both looking forward to completion of their experiments.

Dr. Lijun Zuo, associate professor, is a visiting scientist from the Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, Chinese Academy of Sciences. She arrived at UNL on July 1, 2013, and will stay for one year. Lijun (pronounced as li-jun) obtained her Ph.D. in 2009 on cartography and geographic information system. Her hosts at our department are Drs. Haishun Yang and Ken Cassman. During her stay, Lijun will mainly be involved in the Global Yield Gap Atlas (GYGA) project. Her office is in 178 Keim Hall.

Fit at Work Challenge held Friday, July 26

Our wellness ambassadors, Valerie Swartz and Pierce Hansen, are inviting you to join them for a 30-minutes work-out.

Fit at Work Group will be meeting in the hallway in front of 202 KEIM at 11:30 am.

Valerie says that this will be a fun activity and a great way to get the blood flowing for the afternoon.