January 2014

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Calendar of Events
Jan. 31: Dept. Seminar: “Remote Sensing of Cropland Use in China” with Lijun Zuo, associate professor at Chinese Academy of Sciences, 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.
Feb. 5: Graduate Fellowship applications due to Graduate Studies by 1 p.m.
Feb. 7: Dept. Seminar: “A visit to Mosaicultures Internationales Montreal: The Giants of the Horticultural Arts” with Ellen Paparozzi, professor, 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.
Feb. 13: Quarterly Staff Meeting, 1–2 p.m., 150 Keim.
Feb. 14: Valentine’s Day Dessert Potluck, 2:30 p.m., Keim student lounge area.
Feb. 14: Dept. Seminar: “A decade of online international impacts and partnerships through the Plant & Soil Sciences eLibrary,” Deana Namuth-Covert, associate professor, 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 264 Keim.

2014 is successful year for Turf conference

By Wendy Morrissey and Zac Reicher
On behalf of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the Nebraska Turf Association (NTA), we’d like to thank everyone who attended and/or helped with the 2014 Turf Conference held at the LaVista Conference Center Jan. 7–9.

Highlights of the Conference included:
• Almost 600 professionals registered for workshops and educational sessions covering all areas of lawn, sports, and golf turf management;
• The trade show included more than 30 exhibitors and was heavily trafficked during the intentionally abbreviated hours;
• The general session was packed to hear Bill Withers of the Wartburg College discussing how to manage client and employee relations, followed by Eric McPherson and Spencer Roberts discussing behind the scenes at the U.S. Senior Open at Omaha Country Club;
• The Extra Mile Award was presented to Jeff Erikson of Agrium, for his unselfish work on the NTA Board of Directors, and almost single-handedly making the golf fund raiser a success over the last few years; and
Calendar of Events


Feb. 20: Faculty Meeting, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 150 Keim.

Feb. 21: Dept. Seminar: “Fire and drought: critical interactions in rangeland management” with Dirac Twidwell, rangeland ecologist, 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.

Feb. 27—March 1: 17th Annual Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Forum and Trade Show, Kearney Holiday Inn, Kearney.

Feb. 28: Dept. Seminar: “Bread, beer, and beef - life is good” Steve Baenziger, professor, 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.

March 6: NAIPSC Webinar Series with Jeremy James, Univ. of Calif., on “Plant traits driving seedling establishment following invasive plant control,” noon.

March 7: Dept. Seminar: “Gene network reconstruction as a tool to discover how plants make vitamins and co-factors” with Anna Block, assistant professor, 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.

March 14: Dept. Seminar with Charles Wortmann, professor, Title TBD, 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.

March 20: NAIPSC Webinar Series with Rod Lynn, NDSU, on “Leafy spurge and Canada thistle control with herbicides and effect on native forbs,” noon.

March 21: Dept. Seminar with Helena Macpherson, researcher and visiting scholar, on “Understanding yield gap across scales in irrigated agriculture in the Senegal Valley”, 3:30 p.m. with pre-reception at 3 p.m., 150 Keim.

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Turf continued from page 1.

- The Presidential Award was given to an individual who has made significant contributions to professional turf industry of Nebraska. This year’s winner was Scott Wilke, superintendent at Firethorn Golf Club, who has constantly hosted research projects, welcomed student trips, hired interns and graduates of UNL, and hosted this year’s fund raiser.

The conference continued some of the changes made last year. These changes included being sponsored solely by the NTA, a new location and focusing primarily on turf. The positive responses to the changes have been overwhelming over the last two years, but we are constantly looking for ways to improve future conferences. Organizers will be conducting a brief e-mail survey or just directly e-mail your suggestions for speakers/topics, compliments or complaints to us at the addresses below.

Conferences like this take a tremendous

Safety Zone:

Active Shooter: What would you do?

Editor’s Note: The Safety Committee is starting a newsletter column called “Safety Zone” and this is the first article for that column.

Would you know what to do if someone with a gun opened fire in your building?

A few years ago there was an emergency alert with rumors swirling that a gunman was roaming the halls of Plant Sciences. Fortunately, no gunman was found, but a lock down was issued and police were called to the scene. There were many who did not know what to do in case of such an emergency.

The UNL Emergency Planning and Preparedness website (http://emergency.unl.edu/) has an excellent series of videos, “Shots Fired on Campus,” describing what should be done in case of an active shooter inside your building (http://emergency.unl.edu/shotsfired).

There are also links to two other videos, “Options for Consideration” from Homeland Security (http://www.dhs.gov/video/options-consideration-active-shooter-training-video) and “Run.Hide.Fight” from Ready Houston (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0). Take the time to watch and learn.

Some quick reminders:

1. If you hear something that sounds like a gunshot, immediately start mentally preparing yourself for action. Denial and disbelief rob you of precious time to form a plan.
2. Don’t worry about your “stuff” and don’t be slowed down by others who refuse to act. Certainly help others escape or hide, but keep moving and planning as you go.
3. Escape, if possible, or hide using both concealment and cover. The videos go into more detail about this.

Safety continued on page 3.
April 3: NAIPSC Webinar Series, Diane Larson, USGS Northern Prairie, “A weed is a weed is a ... placeholder? toward a more nuanced approach to restoration & weed management,” noon.

April 3: AHGSA Annual Appreciation Banquet, Lied Commons, 6 p.m. Social Hour with meal and program at 7 p.m.

April 4: Retirement reception for Charlene Wendt, 3-5 p.m., East Union.

April 11: FFA Floriculture competition, Nebraska East Union, 7:30 a.m. Check-in with competition from 8-10 a.m.

April 17: NAIPSC Webinar Series with Dirac Twidwell, UNL, on “Fire intensity and mortality thresholds - what is needed to achieve restoration objectives?”, noon.

April 22: Faculty meeting, 8:30-9:30 a.m., 150 Keim Hall.

April 26: Spring Affair, Lancaster Event Center, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Offers more than 500 varieties of plants for sale with educational talks and garden vendors under the same roof: http://springaffair.unl.edu/.


May 1: NAIPSC Webinar Series with Joseph Craine, KSU, on “Drought tolerance in grasslands,” noon.

May 2: Cookout Event, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

May 14: Quarterly Staff Meeting, 9-10 a.m., 150 Keim.

July 23: Nebraska Turfgrass Research Field Day, Mead, Neb.

Aug. 22: Quarterly Staff Meeting, 8-9 a.m., 150 Keim. (note revised date).


Nov. 17: Quarterly Staff Meeting, 10-11 a.m., 150 Keim.

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New Hires for Agronomy & Horticulture

Please welcome, Dr. Bill (William) Kreuser who joined the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture on Jan. 6, 2014, as an assistant professor and Extension turfgrass specialist.

Dr. Kreuser received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. He earned his master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Originally from West Allis, Wis., he is engaged to Katie King and they are planning an Aug. 2 wedding in Bristol, Tenn. He has one brother and one sister. His hobbies include sports and flying airplanes.

The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture is happy to welcome back a familiar face to UNL, Alfred Stark. He started working as an Extension Assistant for Lowell Sandell on Jan. 2, 2014.

Stark has worked previously in the Information Services Department on UNL Web and Listserv Services. Prior to that, he served in multiple IANR computer support positions.

He and his wife, Linda, have two married daughters and three grandsons. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his grandsons, as well as video and still photography and editing. Stark participates in vocal and handbell choirs and is active in his church. He also helps family and college friends with row crop harvests and attends aviation events.

Stark said his previous UNL roles have included working with many Agronomy & Horticulture faculty and staff. His first UNL job was an undergraduate working in the soil testing lab. Stark received his master’s and bachelor’s degrees from UNL.

“I want to thank the entire department for the very warm welcome I have received,” said Stark.

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Safety Zone

Safety continued from page 2.

4. Call 911 only after reaching a position of safety.
5. When law enforcement personnel arrive, follow their instructions, even if it means letting them push or handcuff you. Keep hands visible.

Important Point: Always report suspicious people to the UNL Police, even someone who just makes you uncomfortable. Officers are trained to make discreet inquiries to prevent embarrassment to people who are having a bad day. Averting potential danger is far better than dealing with actual danger.

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Emeritus Professor, Dr. Gardner, passes away

Emeritus Professor, Dr. Charles O. Gardner, 94, died Monday, Jan. 27. Dr. Gardner began his career with the department in 1952 as a quantitative geneticist. He was a recipient of numerous honors and awards. He retired in 1989.

His full obituary is at: http://journalstar.com/lifestyles/announcements/obituaries/gardner-charles-o/article_ab6a35a3-b1e7-56eb-abc4-93cf235ecc79.html.
Announcements

In The News
Dr. Ken Cassman and Dr. Patricio Grassini, had their work on future global crop yield projections featured on Jan. 10 in the ThisWeek@IANR. The article may be found at http://newsroom.unl.edu/announce/ianrnews/2960/16441.

Thank you for Award
Thank you to the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, the SAC, Dr. Armit Jhala for nominating me, and all the individuals involved in the selection process. It was a great honor to receive the award and to see many of the people who are part of the department at the luncheon. The University of Nebraska is a great place to work and particularly the people I have been associated with at the South Central Research Laboratory.

Thank you again,
Irvin Schleufer

Social Media Coming Soon!
The department is planning to start Facebook and Twitter accounts. If you would like to participate or help post updates, please contact Fran Benne or Kathy Schindler.

Travel Reminder
Pre-trip Travel Authorization (T.A.) forms are required any time an employee or student travels on behalf of the university outside Nebraska. This includes whether a person flies or drives to his/her destination. For questions, please see Cheryl Bogenrief in the HAPPI Business Center, or one of the Office Pros in 279 PLSH.

The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture newsletter is produced monthly by the University of Nebraska—Lincoln Department of Agronomy & Horticulture.

Contact: Please send news, information, announcements, and photos to Kathy Schindler at kschindler1@unl.edu.

News For and About Graduate Students

Banquet set for April 3
The 2014 Agronomy & Horticulture Annual Appreciation Banquet is Thursday, April 3, 2014, at the Lied Commons on city campus. Social hour begins at 6 p.m. and the meal and program begin at 7 p.m. More information and RSVP information to follow.

Congratulations Graduates!
Congratulations to: Jesse Brown, Sam Larsen and Strahinja Stepanovic on completion of their M.S. degrees and to Malleswari Gelli, Raghuprakash Kastoori Ramamurthy, and Christopher Proctor, on completion of their Ph.D. programs.

Welcome new Students!
The spring of 2014 brings nine new M.S. and Ph.D. students to the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture. They are: M.S. Students - George Biliarski, Nick Garst, Jon King, Darrell Michael, Trevor Houghton, and Rachelle Hanson; and Ph.D. Students - Wassem Hussain, Maxwel Oliveira, and Gerardo Rivera-Collazo.

Apply Walters Travel Fund
The Daniel T. Walters Graduate Student Travel Fund will provide up to a $500 award to a graduate student in the Department of Agronomy & Horticulture who is personally presenting their research results at a professional meeting. Preference will be given to students who have a significant soils component in their research. Expenses may include transportation (not to exceed cost of coach class airfare), registration, lodging and meals. University procedures for travel authorization and expense reimbursements must be followed. Students must be enrolled at UNL at the time they are presenting their research. See the e-mail sent by Marlene Busse on Jan. 28.

Apply for Mohr Fellowships
The due date for the Milton E. Mohr 2014-15 Awards Program is March 7, 2014. The Mohr program offers graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships of $1,000 ($500 per semester). Apply online at http://biotech.unl.edu/scholarships-fellowships-and-awards.

Faculty Attend Strategic Retreat in December
Dr. Barton Wechsler, dean of the Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri, served as the facilitator for an Agronomy & Horticulture faculty retreat on Dec. 18, 2013. Nearly 60 faculty members attended the retreat at the Hillcrest Country Club. Below left, Dr. Wechsler speaks to faculty members. Below at right, Leah Sandall, takes a break from discussions at the retreat.