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2-28-2012

# Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, February 28, 2012

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University of Nebraska–Lincoln
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Department of Agronomy and Horticulture

# Agronomy and Horticulture Newsletter

Feb. 28, 2012

## Photo Contest Winners Announced

**First place:** "Storm" by Warren Werner

**Second place:** Breaking Free" by Neal Mattox

**Third place:** "Broom Corn" by Leah Sandall

**Fourth place:** "Pine Silhouette" by Pierce Hansen

*By Aaron Franco*

After one of the largest (in terms of number of photo entries and votes submitted) departmental photo contests in the past few years, we are ready to announce the winners! This year, four photos were selected for framing and display in either Keim or Plant Sciences Hall.

Congratulations to this year's winners: Warren Werner, Neal Mattox, Leah Sandall and Pierce Hansen. The photos are shown here, but larger versions are on the web at: http://agronomy.unl.edu/photocontest11

Thanks to everyone who participated, whether it was submitting a photo or voting on the web. Even if your photo didn't win this time, remember that it's never too early to start taking photos for the *Seventh* Annual Agronomy and Horticulture Photo Contest next year!

For more information about the contest, e-mail Aaron Franco at afranco2@unl.edu.

## Volesky is Holling Family Award Winner

Congratulations to Jerry Volesky, West Central Research & Extension Center, who was named a 2012 Holling Family Award Recipient. Volesky won a Senior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Holling Family Program for Teaching Excellence celebration on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, 4 p.m., Nebraska East Union.

## *Mark the Date!*

**March 1–3:** 15th Annual Nebraska Winery & Grape Growers Forum & Trade Show, Kearney Holiday Inn, Kearney. See: http://agronomy.unl.edu/viticulture.

**March 2:** Dept. Seminar "Precision Farming Technologies for the Determination of Soil Water & Nitrogen Interactions across Nebraska Landscapes," Tim Shaver, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, refreshments at 3 p.m.

**March 7:** Holling Family Teaching Award celebration, 4 p.m., Nebraska East Union. Come support Jerry Volesky as he receives his award.

**March 7:** Midwest Section of the American Society for Plant Biologists annual meeting, Lincoln, NE. See: http://my.aspb.org/group/midwestern.

**March 8:** IANR Community Chat, 2-3:30, at the Nebraska East Union.

**March 9:** Dept. Seminar "Trends, Limits and Outlook of Turfgrass Genetic Resources" with Keenan Amundsen, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

**March 9:** Applications for the Milton E. Mohr Scholarship and Fellowship due to Marlene Busse, mbusse@unl.edu.

**March 12:** CASNR Teaching & Learning Improvement Council seminar "Assessing Student Learning in the Classroom" by Dr. Beth Lewis, noon, Nebraska East Union.

**– Continued to page 2**

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## Faculty win Parent Association Award

Three faculty members within the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture were recognized by the UNL Teaching Council and the UNL Parents Association at a ceremony on Feb. 3.

Don Lee was one of only two UNL professors honored for consistently contributing to students for 20 years (the other professor was Ron Hanson from Ag. Economics). Kim Todd was recognized for the eighth time and Steve Rodie was recognized for the third time. Congratulations to all!

## Information Technology News and Updates

*By Warren Werner, Microcomputer Support Associate*

- **New E-mail Program Limits Attachment Size.** A question has been raised about the attachment size issue with the upcoming email migration, specifically whether the size restriction applies to both sent email as well as received email. Yes, the size restriction applies to both sent and received email, so an effort needs to be made to go through all your email and remove attachments larger than 25 MB. If you need to keep the body of the email with the attachment, I suggest creating a folder for the attachment, then copy/paste the body of the email into either a text document or a Word document, so you can keep contextual information with the attachment (notes, installation instructions, etc.). I will try to start departmental email migration within the next three to four weeks, so please try to have your mail files prepped before then.
- **Phishing Season Continues.** Using multiple lures and sender addresses, phishing emails continue to target UNL. Please continue to report and do not respond to these phony emails. Our security and systems personnel continue to close the door on each of these attempts. Have you got one? Forward it to mysupport@unl.edu. Compare it with the list at http://is.unl.edu/phishing.

  For questions about these two topics, please contact Warren at 402-890-5648 or wwerner2@unl.edu.

## 2012 NAIPSC Short Course Set June 26–28

Registration is open for the 2012 North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC). The short course will be held June 26–28 at the West Central Research & Extension Center (WCREC), North Platte. CEUs and graduate student credit are available. Register at: http://ipscourse.unl.edu.

– Continued from page 1

**March 16:** Dept. Seminar "Grazing Strategies and Rangeland Health in the Nebraska Sandhills" with Jerry Volesky, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

**March 18–25:** Spring Break, UNL offices are open but no classes.

**March 20:** Professional Development Field Day at the Agricultural Research & Development Center near Mead. Please register by Mar. 16 at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dElPenQ2NUJPQTJJMTlzbGNzdVdYc0E6MQ.

**March 30:** Dept. Seminar "Seed Enhancement – Principles & Practice," by John Eastin, Kamterter Products LLC, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

**March 30:** Graduate student deadline to submit progress reports to Marlene Busse, mbusse@unl.edu. The progress report and instructions are at http://agronomy.unl.edu/graduate1.

**April 3:** Plant Breeding Symposium, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Neb. East Union.

**April 4:** Graduate Education event as part of the 2012 UNL Research Fair, 9 a.m.–6:30 p.m., Nebraska City Union. To register, visit http://go.unl.edu/April4.

**April 4:** Coyne Graduate Student Distinguished Lectureship, 1 p.m., Nebraska East Union, with Dr. Phillip E. McClean, Dir., Genomics and Bioinformatics Program, North Dakota State University, reception following the lecture.

**April 6:** Dept. Seminar: "Nebraska Crop Improvement Association – Past to Present!" with Steve Knox, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

– Continued to page 3

## Plant Breeding and Genetics Seminar Set

Plant Breeding and genetics graduate students are organizing a UNL Plant Breeding and Genetics Symposium on Tuesday, April 3 in the Nebraska East Union. The symposium will run from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

The symposium will include a speaker from the Agronomy & Horticulture Department, Dr. Stephen Baenziger, and a speaker from Pioneer Hi-Bred, Dr. David Habier. Additional symposium speakers include Dr. Jean-Luc Jannink from the USDA-ARS at Cornell University, Dr. Jode Edwards from the USDA-ARS at Iowa State University, and Dr. Michael Gore from the USDA-ARS in Arizona.

Sponsors of the symposium are Pioneer Hi-Bred and the UNL Agronomy and Horticulture Department. The symposium is free to attend, but registration is required through the symposium website. For more information and to register, visit the UNL Plant Breeding and Genetics Symposium website at http://passel.unl.edu/communities/unlpbsymposium.

## Welcome Aaron Schmitz to Walia Lab

Please welcome Aaron Schmitz as a new post doctoral employee working with Dr. Harkamal Walia's lab. He is investigating abiotic stress tolerance of cereals.

Aaron earned his Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology from Michigan State University and his undergraduate degree in biochemistry/cell and structural biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In his spare time, Aaron enjoys spending time with this wife, Edwina, and also running, basketball and gardening.

## Congratulations to Guretzkys

John Guretzky and Karleen Uher were married Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, at Ferguson House in Lincoln. Congratulations John and Karleen!

## Youngs Welcome New Baby into Household

Congratulations to Steve and Tara Young, North Platte, on the birth of their son, Joshua Michael Young, on Feb. 5, 2012. Joshua weighed 3.2 kg and was 52.1 cm long. He joins an older brother, 3, and sister, 4, at home. Steve reports that mother and baby are doing fine.

– Continued from page 2

**April 9:** CASNR Teaching & Learning Improvement Council seminar, 12:15–1:15 p.m., Nebraska East Union.

**April 10:** Coyne Distinguished Lectureship. 3 p.m., with Dr. Mark Tester, Director of the Australian Plant Phenomics Facility, University of Adelaide (Australia), E103 Beadle Center, reception in Atrium.

**April 13:** Dept. Seminar: "Bush Encroachment in Namibia, Southern Africa" with Dr. Walt Schacht, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

**April 17:** CASNR Week Lunch on the Lawn, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., NEU.

**April 20:** Dept. Seminar: "Food, Farm and Fitness: Agricultural Productivity, Nutrition and Health in Ethiopia" with Dr. Martha Mamo, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim, Refreshments at 3 p.m.

**April 25–27:** Horticulture Club Spring Expo 2012 plant sale, City Campus and East Campus Unions. Times to be announced later.

**April 27:** Dept. Spring BBQ.

**April 27:** Dept. Seminar "Sclerotinia Resistance in Soybean: The Impossible Dream?" George Graef, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

**June 18–22:** 2012 Nebraska Range Short Course, Chadron. For details and registration, see http://agronomy.unl.edu/nebraskarangeshortcourse.

**June 26–28:** 2012 NAIPSC short course, WCREC, North Platte, Neb. To register, visit the website at: http://ipscourse.unl.edu.

## Department Newsletter Details

The Department of Agronomy & Horticulture newsletter is published twice a month. To submit news, events, or announcements, please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 472-1508.

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## News from the HAPPI Business Center

HAPPI was informed that effective March 1 the Travel Addendum will no longer be accepted for domestic travel. Detailed receipts will be required for all expenses $5 or greater. This means if you do not have an itemized receipt for your meal, you will not be reimbursed for those expenses. Following is a link from the UNL accounting website with answers to frequently asked questions regarding allowable travel reimbursements: http://travel.unl.edu/QuickLinks/AllowableExp.shtml. You may continue to use the Travel Addendum for International Travel where no detailed receipts can be acquired.

We understand that this creates extra demands on your time and is unfortunate. As always, the HAPPI Business Center and the Office Professionals are willing to serve you in order to make the Travel reimbursement process as smooth as possible given the State of Nebraska legislative requirements.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Ben Lennander

## Information For and About Graduate Students

### *Wortman wins Mott Graduate Student Award*

Sam Wortman, Ph.D. student working under the supervision of Dr. John Lindquist, was selected for the 2012 Gerald O. Mott Meritorious Graduate Student Award in Crop Science. Sam will become eligible to apply for the Gerald O. Mott Scholarship which consists of a monetary award, a complimentary one year's active membership in the CSSA, and a recognition certificate. The award is based on academic achievements, research and teaching contributions, leadership accomplishments, service activities and personal qualifications.

### *Students Should Submit Annual Progress Reports*

All Ph.D. and M.S. students are asked to turn in their progress reports to Marlene Busse, 279 PLSH, mbusse@unl.edu by March 30, 2012. The progress report and instructions are available at http://agronomy.unl.edu/graduate1.

## In the News

Ismail Dweikat was recently quoted in a story for Midwest Energy News about sweet sorghum as a biofuel crop. See the story at http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2012/02/09/could-sweet-sorghum-dethrone-corn-as-biofuel-king/.

## TLIC Sets Seminars

The CASNR Teaching & Learning Improvement Council (TLIC) invites everyone to attend the following seminars at the Nebraska East Union:

- March 12, 12 p.m. "Assessing Student Learning in the Classroom" by Dr. Beth Lewis.
- April 9, 12:15 p.m. "Using Safe Assign to Foster Student Learning" by Heath Tuttle and "Café Scribe and the Digital Textbook" by Derek Schuckman, UNL Bookstore.

## Field Day is Tuesday, March 20

A professional development field day will be hosted at the Agricultural Research & Development Center (ARDC) near Mead on March 20. This field day will discuss switchgrass establishment for the production of biomass for biofuels. Register at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dElPenQ2NUJPQTJJMTlzbGNzdVdYc0E6MQ.

## Plant Biologists meet in Lincoln

The Midwestern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists will hold an annual meeting March 24–25, 2012, at the Holiday Inn® downtown Lincoln. Register at http://my.aspb.org/group/midwestern.