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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, June 20, 2012

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

Agronomy and Horticulture Newsletter

June 20, 2012

Uncommon Parasitic Plant Found

On a plant-collecting excursion in late April, research technician Cheryl Dunn and graduate student Barbara Kagima discovered the parasitic plant *Orobanche uniflora*, or naked cancer-root, growing at Mitchell Prairie (nine miles south of Lincoln).

Cheryl said that a parasitic plant steals nutrients from other plants and in this case *Orobanche uniflora* primarily parasitizes *Asteraceaes* (Sunflower family), in particular *Solidago missouriensis* (Missouri goldenrod). According to The Flora of Nebraska, this particular species of *Orobanche* has become more difficult to find because of the loss of native prairies and in some years it never flowers (per conversation with Dr. Bob Kaul).

"While most of the specimens we collected in April are now housed with the more than 11,500 specimens in the UNL Research Herbarium (located in 309 Keim Hall), a few were given to the C.E. Bessey Herbarium (located in W531 Nebraska Hall)," Cheryl said. Curator Bob Kaul told Cheryl that the Bessey Herbarium has not had any submissions of this species since 1988.

Weed Field Day set on July 11–12

Two Herbicide-Resistant Weed Management Field Days will be held on Wed., July 11 near Big Springs and Thurs., July 12 near David City. The field days will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 1:30 p.m.

University and industry specialists will discuss herbicide resistance and the need for integrated weed management programs to delay the evolution of herbicide-resistant weeds. Special speaker will be Jason Norsworth, an associate professor at the University of Arkansas in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences. Both programs will be similar except where local challenges are addressed.

The event is free but pre-registration is requested by July 6 so lunch, materials and logistics can be planned. To register online, please go to: http://agronomy.unl.edu/weedresistmgt. The field days are sponsored by UNL Extension in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Nebraska Soybean Board.

Mark Your Calendars!

June 22: Retirement celebration for Elbert Dickey and Beth Birnstihl, 2–4 p.m., Hardin Hall. A program begins at 3:00 p.m. Send letters to Carla Werner, 211 Ag. Hall, 0703.

June 25: CASNR's 140th Birthday, Ice cream and cake will be served at the Nebraska East Union from 3–4:30 p.m.

June 25: Guest Seminar Speaker, Dr. Tony Vyn, Cropping Systems Ext. Specialist, Dept. of Agronomy, Purdue Univ., 150 Keim, 9–10 a.m., "Scientific Adventures in Democratic Corn Systems." Meet and Greet follows from 10–11 a.m.

June 26–28: 2012 NAIPSC short course, WCREC, North Platte, Neb. Please register at: http://ipscourse.unl.edu.

June 30: Lotus Notes support stops – All UNL employees should be migrated to Outlook.

July 4: Independence Day, Offices closed and no classes.

July 9: UNL Second Five Weeks Summer Session begins.

July 11: Herbicide-Resistant Weed Management Field Day at Big Springs, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. See: http://agronomy.unl.edu/weedresistmgt.

July 12: Herbicide-Resistant Weed Management Field Day at David City, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. To register, see: http://agronomy.unl.edu/weedresistmgt.

July 16: IANR Research Travel Fund applications due to Deb Lawrence, ARD office, for the timeframe Oct. 1–Dec. 31, 2012.

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Employees complete Life Health Challenge

Greetings from your Wellness Ambassadors, Aaron and Erin! We want to thank everyone in the Agronomy and Horticulture Department (24 participants on 3 teams) who was involved in the Live Healthy 100-Day Challenge! Some of our team members posed for a photo in our Live Healthy T-shirts, followed by a "healthy" lunch at Valentino's! Great job!

Participants in the Live Healthy 100–Day Challenge are pictured above (l–r): front row: Cheryl Bogenrief, Jan Hygnstrom, Vicki Schroeder, and Erin Bauer; second row: Marlene Busse, Aaron Franco, and Brenda Gibson; third row: Susan Thomas and Kat Cockrill; fourth row: Christine Weitzel, Paul Read, and Pierce Hansen; top row: Chuck Francis.

Aaron and Erin are exploring ideas for more exercise and wellness programs this summer and for next year. We are also thinking of beginning monthly "themes," such as volunteering, walking, biking, etc. to keep us focused on staying healthy as well as helping others! Below is a starting list for the summer. Stay tuned for a more comprehensive event list in a future newsletter.

Tour De Lincoln (begins in May)

Bike around Lincoln at several different locations! The Tour began at the end of May, but you can still learn more about it at: http://www.ci.lincoln.ca.us/pagedownloads/bike_bro_proof_v15.pdf

Cornhusker State Games, July 20-29, 2012

The Nebraska Sports Council puts this event on every summer, with competitions in team sports and individual events. To follow a favorite sport get more fit by joining a Mall Walk, see: http://www.cornhuskerstategames.com/!

Zombie Fest, Aug 25, 2012

The Walking Dead are among us!! Join us for this great, fun event that benefits CEDARS. Cost is $5 and festivities begin at 11 a.m. with vendors and makeup artists who can "zombify" you for a small cost ($5 for main makeup, $2 more for a wound!). In the evening, there is a Thriller Dance and the zombie walk downtown! Please email Erin (ebauer2@unl. edu) or Aaron (afranco2@unl.edu) if you'd like to join us for this event. Likely we'll plan a meeting spot for a time right before the Thriller Dance and downtown walk so that the Agronomy/Hort zombies can walk together! For information, visit: http://www.lincolnzombiefest.com/index.html

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July 16: Guest Seminar Speaker, Dr. Tom Gerik, director, Blackland Research & Extension Center, Texas A&M University, 150 Keim, 8:30–9:30 a.m., followed by a Meet & Greet.

July 18: UNL Turf Research Field Day, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., John Seaton Anderson Turf Center just outside Mead. Visit the website to register at: http://turf.unl.edu/.

July 31-Aug. 3: Registration is now open for the American Society for Horticultural Science Conference at the InterContinental Hotel in Miami, Fla. Details are at: http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1030015.

Aug. 20: UNL Fall Semester begins.

Sept. 3: Labor Day, Office closed and no classes scheduled.

Oct. 4: CASNR Career Fair, Nebraska East Union, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. This is part of a 3-day Career Fair Oct. 2–4, 2012.

Oct. 15–16: UNL Fall Break. No classes but offices are open.

Oct. 21–25: ASA, CSSA, SSSA Annual Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration runs June 19–Sept. 12. Details are at: https://www.acsmeetings.org/.

Nov. 22–25: Thanksgiving Break.

Dec. 16: Graduation.

Dec. 24, 2012–Jan. 2, 2013: UNL Holiday Closedown, Offices closed.

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Guretzkys Welcome New Baby Boy!

Karleen and John Guretzky are proud parents of a new baby boy. Rylan John Guretzky was born on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at 7:48 p.m. at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln. Rylan weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 19.75 inches long.

Rylan John Guretzky

Sympathy Extended to Employees

Our sympathy goes out to **Ruth Miller** following the death of her mother. Mary Klein, 88, of Douglas, NE, died May 30, 2012. Memorials may be sent to the Douglas Fire & Rescue Unit or to Hope Lutheran Church, Burr, Neb.

Sympathy is also extended to **Tomie Galusha** whose mother, Nancy, passed away Sunday, June 10, 2012, at the age of 73. Funeral services were Thursday, June 14 at 10:30 am at the Fairmont Community Church in Fairmont, Neb. Memorials are directed to the family for designation at a later time.

News from the HAPPI Business Center

Service Center Offers Alternative for Equipment Replacement

Do you have new major equipment in your lab that you will need to replace one day? Do you have ongoing repairs for your major equipment that can't be paid by grants? Consider setting up a service center!

A service center is what the university allows to set up in order to charge for services provided internally within the university. The rates are set on a break-even formula taking into account all of the expenses related to the service center. It is a way to recapture the purchase price of the equipment for eventual replacement and pay for repairs and consumables involving the equipment.

If anyone is interested in this possibility, please contact Sue or me.

– Ben Lennander, 472-6238, blennander2@unl.edu

Information from the Office Pros

Please welcome Sloane Cornelius as the new temporary Office Associate working with Agronomy and Horticulture. She is helping the Office Professionals until permanent replacements for Karen and Tiffany are found.

Sloane is a Business Administration student at Southeast Community College and lives in Lincoln with her partner, John. She is hoping to graduate next year with her associate's degree and then move on to study for her Bachelor's in Business Administration and Native American Studies.

In her spare time, she likes to watch cartoons, take walks, dream of taking expensive vacations, try to cook, talk about Native American and Social Rights, and spend time with her significant other.

See: http://agronomy.unl.edu/officepros for details about the Office Pros.

In the News

The new online plant breeding and genetics certificate program was recently featured in university news.

Agronomy & Horticulture Distance Education Director Deana Namuth-Covert said the program provides valuable continuing education units (CEUs) for anyone working in agribusiness, seed production, plant biology or related fields.

The program provides practical knowledge in:

- Basic genetic principles;
- Advanced plant breeding topics;
- Plant resistance to abiotic and biotic Stressors;
- Production of specialty grain crops; and
- Crop Genetic Engineering.

Developed by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) at UNL, the program is taught by world-renown plant breeders and the best teaching faculty.

More information is at: http://agronomy.unl.edu/web/agronomy/plantgenetics.

Newsletter Details

The Agronomy and Horticulture newsletter is published twice a month. To submit announcements, please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 402-472-1508.

Happy (belated) Flag Day June 14!

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