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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, October 24, 2012

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

Agronomy and Horticulture Newsletter

October 24, 2012



Professors Martha Mamo (left) and Tim Kettler (right) take soil samples for students, in the Soil Resources 153 class, to describe soil in the field.

UNL soil team headed to Nationals

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln will make its third straight appearance at the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest following a runner-up finish at regionals on Sept. 20, 2012.

Based out of the School of Natural Resource's conservation and survey division, UNL's 12-member soil judging team finished the Region 5 competition just 52 points behind winner Iowa State's 2,464. UNL's 2,412 was a comfortable lead over third-place Kansas State's 2,348. Overall scoring is based on a combination of results from the group and individual portions of the contest. UNL also took home the second-place trophy in the group competition with 771 points—edging third-place Missouri State by one point. The University of Minnesota took first place in the nine-team field with 787 points.

Sponsored by the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America, the 2013 national soil judging contest will be held in the spring, near Platteville, Wisconsin, where UNL hopes to unseat defending national champion Virginia Tech.

Agronomy and Horticulture students that participated on the UNL team include Austin Baldwin (Grassland Ecology and Management), Sarah Blecha (Horticulture), Seth Gurley (Agronomy), and Rachel Stevens (Horticulture).

Held annually since 1961, the national soil judging contest helps students learn how to describe soil properties, identify different kinds of soils and associated landscape features, and interpret soil information for agriculture and other land uses.

Mark Your Calendars

- Oct. 25:** Free public lecture—Managing our Scarce Water in a Challenging Climate, Dr. Daniel Hillel, 2012 World Food Prize Laureate, 12 noon, Embassy Suites ballroom, 1040 P Street.
- Oct. 25:** UNL Campus and Landscape Master Plans Open House, 12:30–2:30 p.m., Hardin Hall.
- Oct. 25:** Department Seminar—Crop Water Use and Water Productivity in China, Baoguo Li, China Agricultural University, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.
- Oct. 31:** Halloween/Hail & Farewell Potluck and Costume Contest, 11:30 a.m., 150 Keim.
- Oct. 31:** School of Natural Resources Seminar—GeoComputational Intelligence and High-performance Geospatial Computing, Quigfeng (Gene) Guan, 3:30 p.m., Hardin Hall.
- Nov. 1:** Nebraska Lecture—The Joy of Applied Science While Feeding the World, Steve Baenziger, 3:30 p.m., Nebraska Union Auditorium.
- Nov. 2:** Department Seminar—Function of Proline Metabolism in Drought Resistance and Its Regulation by Phosphatase Signaling, Paul Verslues, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

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Mower chosen as recipient of ARD Award

Jeffrey Mower, Agronomy and Horticulture Department Center for Plant Science Innovation, and Ayse Kilic, School of Natural Resources Department of Engineering, will be recognized on Friday, Oct. 26 as the Agricultural Research Division (ARD) Junior Faculty for Excellence in Research Recipients. The ceremony will take place in the Sunflower Room at the Nebraska East Campus Union at 1:30 p.m.

Awarded once yearly for recognition for up to two junior faculty members for Excellence in Research, the program is open to faculty members with an ARD appointment as a tenure-track Assistant Professor with five years or less of professorial service at UNL. ARD provides \$3,000 to be used by the faculty member for professional development or research-related activities.

Food, Fuel, Water photo contest kicked-off

Anyone with a recent photo taken in Nebraska can enter it to win a free iPad in a new Food, Fuel, Water photo contest. Between Oct. 8 and Nov. 1 entrants can submit digital photos, representing food, fuel or water taken in the state of Nebraska, to innovate.unl.edu/photocontest.

The contest is part of the upcoming groundbreaking event celebrating the start of construction of the core facilities at Nebraska Innovation Campus. Photos must have been taken within the last three years—not prior to Nov. 1, 2009. Contestants are limited to one entry per category. Three winners, one in each of three categories, will be selected. A panel of professional photographers will help determine the winners.

The contest is being sponsored by the Nebraska Corn Board, Nebraska Soybean Board and the Nebraska Wheat Board. Full contest rules are online at innovate.unl.edu/photocontest. More details at: go.unl.edu/rnz.

Safety News from T.J. McAndrew *Machine Shop Safety offered*

A colloquium series on Machine Shop Safety, facilitated by Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) and the Office of Research & Economic Development, will be offered Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 12:30–3:30 p.m. at the East Campus Union. The presenter for this session, Don Gardner, CSP, of Loureiro Consulting, worked with Yale University to devise and implement a shop safety program after the tragic death of a Yale University undergraduate student in a chemistry department machine shop accident.

All faculty, staff, and students working with fabrication equipment for metal, wood, or other medium are invited and encouraged to attend. Learn how to conduct a risk assessment of the work being done in your area. This colloquium will be available through the EHS web site as a live-streamed event. For more information contact Betsy Howe at 2-5488 or ehowe2@unl.edu.

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Nov. 5: Center for Grassland Studies seminar—Cattle, Corn, Ethanol and Residues, Terry Klopfenstein, 3 p.m., East Campus Union (ECU).

Nov. 7: SAC Meeting, 10:30 a.m., 279M PLSH.

Nov. 9: Department Seminar—Surviving Winter Stress: Towards a Systems Approach to Understanding Differences in Upland and Lowland Bioenergy Switchgrass, Aaron Saathoff, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

Nov. 12: Center for Grassland Studies seminar—Grassland Resilience and the Stability of the Nebraska Sandhills, David Wedin, 3 p.m., ECU.

Nov. 16: Department Seminar—Iron and Copper Deficiencies Interact to Increase Uptake of Both Metals, Brian Waters, 3:30 p.m., 150 Keim.

Nov. 22–25: Thanksgiving Break.

Dec. 1: Pi Alpha Xi Wreath-making Workshop, 9 a.m., 274 & 275 PLSH, contact Dave Lambe or Ellen Paporozzi for more information.

Dec. 10: Agronomy & Horticulture holiday luncheon, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., NEU.

Dec. 14–15: UNL Graduation.

Dec. 17: IANR Staff Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., NEU.

Dec. 24, 2012–Jan. 2, 2013: UNL Holiday closedown.

2012 NAIPSC webinar series now available

The North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course (NAIPSC) is now available year round with the all new NAIPSC Webinar Series that will feature speakers discussing every conceivable topic related to invasive plant species.

The NAIPSC Webinar Series is designed to inform participants who are involved in invasive plant management, research, and/or policy, and provide an online venue for sharing resources, ideas, and information.

The schedule of speakers for Oct. through Dec. 2012 has been posted on the NAIPSC website at [//ipscourse.unl.edu](http://ipscourse.unl.edu) and can also be found listed at right. Check it out and find out how to join the NAIPSC Online Community.

News for and about Graduate Students *Make arrangements for exit interviews*

Notice to graduate students graduating this semester—please make arrangements to meet with the department head, Dr. Gaussoin, for an exit interview. Contact Dr. Gaussoin's assistant, Charlene Wendt, at 402-472-1555 to make an appointment. Please complete the graduate student exit interview form and submit it to Charlene one day prior to your appointment.

Dissertation writing group brown-bag scheduled

At this brown-bag session, Dr. Rick Lombardo and Graduate Studies staff will introduce students to the goals of a dissertation writing support group. There will be an opportunity to network with smaller support groups during the meeting. Pre-registration is required. Small groups will be formed from those registered for this session. Cookies and beverages will be provided.

Please go to surveymonkey.com/s/GC5FRT2 to register by Nov. 4, 2012. A distance option is available. If you wish to participate via distance, please email Eva directly at ebachman1@unl.edu to register.

It's Open Access Week

This week is Open Access Week, a global event to promote increased access to scholarly research. UNL GSA's Open Access Committee is hosting an event on Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 12 noon. Paul Royster, Coordinator of Scholarly Communications at UNL Libraries, will lead "Open Access: An Open Discussion," in the Library Instruction Room, 1st floor, Love Library. More information on Open Access can be found at openaccessweek.org.



NAIPSC Webinar Series Schedule

Oct. 30: Building Capacity for EDRR in the Prevention of Invasive Plant Species, Dr. Randy Westbrooks, Invasive Plant Control, Inc. South Carolina.

Nov. 7: Hybridization of Phragmites Australis in North America, Dr. Laura Meyerson, University of Rhode Island.

Nov. 14: Spatial Distribution and Predictability of Invasive Plant Populations in the Northeastern U.S., Dr. Chad Jones, Connecticut College.

Nov 20: Invasive Plants and Biofuels: Intersecting Mandates and the Need for Coordination, Chris Dionigi, U.S. Department of the Interior, Deputy Director NISC.

Nov. 27: Plant Identification Using Software and Computer Programs—How Good are They? Dr. John Kartesz, BONAP, North Carolina.

Dec. 4: Leafy Spurge: A Model Perennial Invasive Weed for Examining the Genomics of Invasiveness, Dr. David Horvath, USDA-ARS, North Dakota.

Dec. 12: Involving Stakeholders in the Art and Science of Invasive Plant Management, Dr. Jane Mangold, Montana State University.

News from the HAPPI Business Center

Try to use prime vendors when purchasing

The Procurement Services department at UNL has been reviewing UNL's purchasing process with an emphasis on attempting to ensure we are getting best prices available for the purchases we make. The university has several Prime Vendor contracts in place for items frequently purchased at UNL. A list of the prime vendors can be seen at procurement.unl.edu/contractsprime/. Please check this list of prime vendors before making a purchase to see if a prime vendor can fulfill your needs.

From today forward, if you choose to not use a prime vendor when there is one that offers the product you are ordering, Procurement Services is requiring that you document an explanation of why you are not using the prime vendor.

Below is a short list of a few example purchases that would require an explanation of why the prime vendor was not used.

- Computers and computer equipment purchased from Amazon.com, newegg.com, BestBuy, Dell Outlet store, etc. (prime vendor is Dell)
- Office supplies purchased from OfficeMax (prime vendor is OfficeDepot)
- Clothing items purchased from Design Wear (prime vendor is ArtFX, PROForma One Source, or ScreenCo)
- Promotional items purchased from Infinity Promos (items may be available from OfficeDepot)
- Tools or equipment purchased from Ace Hardware or Harbor Freight Tools (prime vendor is W.W. Grainger)

Please begin including this information on your p-card documents, eSHOP orders (in the internal notes section), or on any invoices you send to us for payment. Thank you for your cooperation with this effort. If you have any questions please contact Ben, Cheryl, Susan or Valerie in the HAPPI Business Center.

Eat, Drink & Be Scary at the Halloween/Hail & Farewell Potluck



The Halloween/Hail & Farewell Potluck will take place on Oct. 31 from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. in 150 Keim. Please bring a food item to share—last name A–L: desserts and last name M–Z: entrees/side dishes.

Richard Ferguson will present the hail & farewell at 12 noon, followed by the costume contest judging at 12:15 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top three best costumes. If you have questions please contact Erin Bauer at ebauer2@unl.edu or Terri James at tjames2@unl.edu.

Condolences

The department offers sincerest condolences to Les Korte, whose mother Lillian Korte passed away on Oct. 6 at the age of 93. She lived in Columbus, Nebraska since 1984 after retiring from the farm.

Bake-off winners announced

The Agronomy and Horticulture Graduate Student Association (AHGSA) announced the winners of the Bake-off at the recent fall cookout. As judged by AHGSA members, the following winners were: Best Cookie—Diane Nolan Best Bar—Alvin Harding Best Cake—Cheryl Dunn And winner of the Overall Best, as judged by popular vote, was Michael Nolan with the Texas Sheet Cake.

The AHGSA greatly appreciated the support at the cookout—there was a great turnout. They would also like to thank everyone who brought desserts.

Newsletter

Please contact Fran Benne, fbenne2@unl.edu, or Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu to submit announcements, pictures, and articles for the newsletter. The newsletter is distributed twice a month and features news for the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

UNL Combined Campaign for Health and Human Services begins



Here's a chance to be a part of making a BIG, positive impact in the Lincoln community—through this year's Combined Campaign for Health and Human Services. All employees are invited to participate and there are two ways to donate:

- 1.) e-Pledge by visiting epledge.unitedwaylincoln.org/epledge/Begin.jsp or www.unl.edu/ucomm/chancellor/combined_campaign/index.shtml, and
- 2.) Pledge via the paper pledge card that employees received in their mailbox.

A drop box has been created in 279 PLSH for those wishing to pledge using paper pledge cards. Please make your pledges and/or contributions by Oct. 26. For questions please contact Fran Benne at 279 PLSH, fbenne2@unl.edu, or 2-8747.

A horticulture icon passes

A longtime Nebraska nursery owner and plant propagation professional, Harlan Hamernik, died Monday, Oct. 15, 2012, in Lincoln, Nebraska. A memorial service was held on Friday, Oct. 19, 2012, at the Clarkson Opera House in Clarkson, Nebraska.

In 1958, Harlan and his wife, Shirley, founded Bluebird Nursery, originally growing flower and vegetable transplants. Starting in a tiny plastic covered greenhouse at his parents' farm, they expanded into a wholesale operation serving garden centers and landscapers. In 2006 Harlan started HH Wild Plums specializing in native and woody plant material.

Always on the lookout for interesting new or underused plants, Harlan introduced hundreds of new selections to the nursery industry from both native sources and around the world. He shared his enthusiasm by making countless presentations and speeches to students and professional groups. Harlan was a member of numerous horticultural societies and was named an International Plant Propagator's Society Fellow in 1998. He recently received the John C. Fremont Pioneer Award and was very active in his hometown of Clarkson.

A more in-depth obituary may be found at gasshaneyfh.com/obituary.php?obitid=9346.

Honors Program proposals due

The purpose of the Undergraduate Honors Student Research Program is to allow outstanding junior and senior Honors Program students to conduct research under the direction of an Agricultural Research Division faculty mentor. Funding is available to participants proposing to work with a faculty member who has an ARD appointment or ARD-associated adjunct appointment. For successful applicants, ARD will provide up to \$2,500 per student. Proposals must be authored by the student with guidance from the proposed project mentor. Proposals for this spring must be sent to ardgrants@unl.edu and are due by 5 p.m., Nov. 30, 2012. Guidelines for the program are at ard.unl.edu/awards#Honors.

Trick-or-Treat

Wednesday, Oct. 31 between 9 and 11 a.m., approximately 50–60 children from the Ruth Staples Child Development Laboratory will Trick-or-Treat through 202 Keim, 279 and 280 Plant Science. These kids, ranging in age from 18 months to 5 years, love to be in costume. If you desire, please bring a treat to share with them as they stop by.

