

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

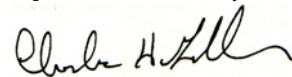
These are exciting days for the Horticulture Department at Auburn University. One of our most significant events has been the generous support of our alumni and friends. The recent commitment by Mrs. Barbara Botts for the establishment of an endowed professorship at the settlement of her estate along with additional monies for student scholarships and fellowships are the types of contributions that provide perpetual support for the Horticulture Department. Mr. Botts, her husband, was a 1950 graduate from our department and operated a very successful garden center in Augusta, GA. for many years. We have another major gift pending that will hopefully be announced in the next newsletter.

The Henry P. Orr Endowment continues to create excitement in the department. Two major activities are occurring with this endowment. First, Dr. David Williams is taking 3 students to England in May to tour several gardens. This is the first payout from the endowment and is a great example of providing opportunities beyond the classroom for our students.

Another major planned function is the Henry P. Orr Horticulture Golf Classic to be held November 6 at the new and beautiful FarmLinks Golf Course on Pursell Farms in Fayetteville, AL. You will not want to miss the opportunity to play on this course & support the Orr Endowment at the same time. We are planning an educational program, Water Wise Landscaping, on Wednesday, November 5 at Auburn University to coincide with the golf tournament. We are also planning to kick off the first training session for a certified landscape program. This will be hands-on information which will translate into business opportunities on the home front. For those staying for the football game with Ole Miss that Saturday, we are trying to line up a day of fishing at the Auburn University fish ponds. Please mark your calendars for this important week.

We have just completed a national review of our department. We had five scientists from across the nation spend a week reviewing our department. While the final report will not be received for another four weeks, the review committee was very complimentary of many of the activities in which our faculty is engaged. Speaking of our faculty, the awards continue to roll in for our outstanding faculty. Dr. Joe Eakes was notified that he will receive the American Nursery and Landscape Association L.C. Chadwick Educator's Award this July in Boston. The award recognizes outstanding landscape horticulture instructors for their effectiveness in developing students' horticultural skills and motivating them to pursue excellence in their careers. Dr. James Brown has received 3 recent awards: Outstanding Faculty Award from the BSU, the Auburn Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award (a plaque and \$1,000), and the Outstanding Professor Award from the Auburn University Panhellenic Council; and Dr. Dave Williams has been selected for participation in a National Leadership Development Program. Our main strength continues to be our outstanding faculty.

Finally, I know many of you are often contacted by Auburn University and given the opportunity to donate money. I would humbly ask that whenever you are contacted and you plan to give that you please ask that the money be designated for the Horticulture Department. Your support is critical for the continued improvement in our programs and the opportunities that we are able to provide for our many constituents.



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botts endowment

Elbert A. "Bert" Botts, a 1950 graduate of Auburn University's Department of Horticulture, never forgot his Auburn experience. Today, current AU horticulture students will have an easier time making ends meet thanks to Botts' fondness for AU. Botts, a native of the Banks community in Pike County, was cofounder of Green Thumb Nursery and Garden Center in Augusta, Georgia, which later became Green Thumb West Nursery and Garden Center.

Botts was a revered and deeply appreciated pillar of his community, serving on a wide range of local, state and national committees, boards, and commissions related to horticulture. He was honored by the Georgia Nursery Association and American Association of Nurserymen for his outstanding achievements and contributions. Botts was instrumental in establishing The Georgia state botanical gardens in Athens and Augusta. When he died in 1995 at the age of 70, Botts was universally mourned and praised by his community as one of the best loved businessmen in the area. Before his death, Botts established a \$10,000 fund as seed money for an endowment in horticulture. Through the years, that fund grew slightly through accrued interest and memorial gifts following Botts' death, but was still short of the \$30,000 needed to fully

endow the account. Recently, his widow Barbara L. Botts, who still runs Green Thumb West, fully endowed the fund by donating more than an additional \$13,000 to establish the Elbert A. and Barbara L. Botts Fund for Excellence in Horticulture which will be used for scholarships, assistantships, and fellowships for AU horticulture majors. In addition, funds from the Botts' estate have been willed to AU and will be used in the future to establish a \$300,000 Elbert A. Botts and Barbara L. Botts Endowed Professorship in Horticulture. Other future monies from the estate will be added to the Fund for Excellence to further enhance student support.

Welcome, Kerry Smith

Kerry Smith is a Home Horticulture Associate in the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Reaching the needs of County Extension personnel as well as the consumer, she will deliver training, programs, and timely, research-based information for Home Horticulture. Kerry is also the state coordinator for the Alabama Master Gardener Association, a volunteer group assisting the mission of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Most recently she was an Interpretive Horticulturist with the Education Department in the Gardens at Callaway. She has been a school teacher, an estate gardener, and many things in between. Kerry combines her love of horticulture with her experience in the classroom to teach gardening and conservation programs. Kerry, a native of north Florida, earned a Master of Science in Ornamental Horticulture from Auburn University with a minor in Urban Forestry. She learned an appreciation of gardening from her mother's daylilies and an appreciation of the earth from her father's vegetable rows. Her family now includes Chris, her husband, and two dogs. Chris also enjoys gardening, but the dogs are still in training.

Henry P. Orr Trip

We are excited to announce the first payout of the Henry P. Orr Endowment Fund! Faculty in the Horticulture Department in cooperation with leadership in the Alabama Nurserymen's Association approved utilization of the money to support a trip to southern England where several public and private gardens were visited. Dr. Dave Williams was the faculty member selected to direct the nine day excursion. All horticulture students that met the requirements were invited to apply for this dynamic learning opportunity. Selected students were Collin Adcock, Amy Lynn Brown, and Melissa Steinhauer. Highlights of the trip included visits to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Great Dixter House and Garden, owned by Christopher Lloyd, the 14 acre Goodnestone Park, the Chelsea Flower Show, and the Wisley Garden Royal Horticultural Society. This was a grand opportunity for new relationships to be developed between Auburn University Horticulture and the public gardening aspect of the horticulture industry. This learning opportunity is sure to strengthen the students' future careers and Dr. Williams' instructional program. We would like to extend a special thanks to all of the financial contributors to the Henry P. Orr Endowment Fund. Your generosity and support of our program is the reason we are able to provide such diverse learning experiences to our students.

Special Grants

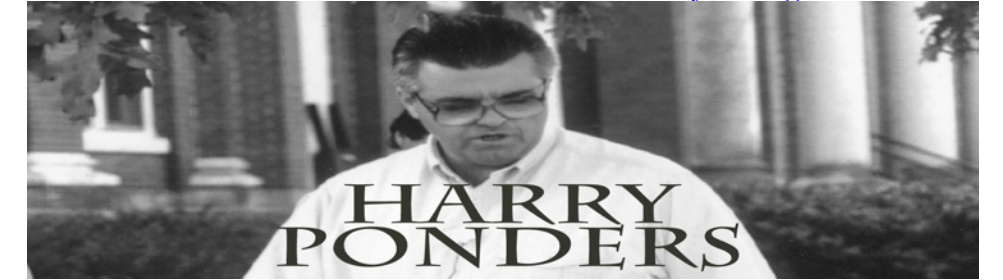
The Horticulture Department has been awarded two major research grants from the USDA CSREES Special Research Program. "Technology and Market Development of the Gulf Coast Satsuma Mandarin Industry" by Drs. Bob Ebel and Billy Dozier was funded at \$750,000. This grant is in conjunction with Louisiana State University and will focus on working with growers to aid market development and the development of methods that reduce damage by freezes, the most limiting factor for expansion of this industry.

Dr. Dave Williams and other Horticulture faculty received a grant for \$290,000 entitled "Nursery, Greenhouse and Turf Plant Evaluation Program". This grant is in conjunction with the Department of Agronomy, and is focused on finding new selections growers and landscape professionals can offer their residential and commercial customers.

Deep South Fruit & Vegetable Growers

The Deep South Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile December 3-5. Last year's meeting marked the first time farmers from Alabama met jointly with farmers from Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Participants will attend programs on fruit crops, blueberries, vegetables, citrus, organic fruit and vegetable production, specialty fruits and vegetables, labor,

marketing, peach production and a pre-conference budding and grafting workshop and tour. Call the Adams Mark Hotel (251) 438-4000, indicating that you are with the Deep South Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference to get the special conference room rate. For more information call Dr. Joe Kemble at 334-844-3050 or jkemble@aces.edu



Preparing for this Hort Forum newsletter has been like taking a trip down memory lane. I have probably spent far too much time on it but I have enjoyed every minute. Regrettably, we have space limitations so I've had to make some deletions. Enjoy walking down memory lane with me!

Dale Elkins '82, regional manager for TruGreen LandCare in Orlando, FL, has been appointed to the Dean's Advisory Council for the AU College of Ag. Dr. Patricia Knight '91 of Mississippi State University has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the AU Ag Alumni Association. Patricia and Dale will represent us in these important positions with class and dignity.

Joe Burns '78 owner of ColorBurst, (Grayson, GA) stops by to see me when he is in town doing the color for Jordan Hare Stadium. He tells me that Wendy Johnson '02 is doing an excellent job for the company in Birmingham.

Some of our former students who made presentations in HORT 6210, Landscape Bidding, Installation, and Management, this semester were Austin Long '00, Jay Hovey '01, Katherine Vest '01, and Brian Etheridge '95. All of them represented Valley Crest & they did very well. Katherine is the business development officer for the Savannah, GA area and is selling up a storm. The students loved her stories. Austin Long has recently become the head dog in irrigation for Valley Crest in Atlanta and we congratulate him. Brian & his wife had a baby in March. Brian complained that they should have planned better to avoid the spring business rush. Jay Hovey is living in Sharpsburg, GA and is a go-to guy under Brian.

Bryan Word '00 and Kim Byram '94 from Blackjack Gardens in Birmingham again conducted a bidding lab for me. We had tons of fun and the students learned a lot. Thanks again guys!

Don Jones '82 owner of PlanScapes, a division of Don Jones Companies, Inc., told the class about his very successful design business in Birmingham. He specializes in water features in the \$100,000 plus range. Don showed some of his work and it is very evident that he is at the top of his game. He also hired one of our spring semester graduates. It was great to see Don again.

Mark Urbanowski '89 with Dow AgriSciences came by with his 2 beautiful daughters & handsome young son. I predict he will run that company before he is through. Thank goodness all his kids look like his wife Liz (just kidding). Mark & family live in Indianapolis, IN.

Eric Brazeel '01 has been named branch manager for Omni Landscaping in Birmingham. What an accomplishment! He is already making waves by hiring two of our spring semester graduates.

The Farrington brothers are doing just great. Steven '89 has just taken a job with Gowan Industries representing their products from Colorado to the Atlantic Ocean. He is based in Orlando. Steven is a 2nd degree black belt in a martial art that I can't pronounce or write. Bottom line is don't mess with Steven. Congratulations to Brent ('92) who has recently been named head of customer service for Imperial Nurseries in Quincy, FL. He also has a new baby boy and proud isn't adequate to describe Brent. Their cousin Chip Williams '03 graduates this semester and will work for Omni Landscaping in Birmingham. I know that you all join me in extending our condolences to Steven, Brent, and Chip in the recent loss of their grandfather who lived in Dadeville, AL.

Roger Chambliss '90 & Ben Barlow '00 called this semester & we are placing an intern with them this summer. They are both in Montgomery where Roger is head Horticulturist for the Retirement Systems of Alabama & Ben is a Horticulturist. They are both doing great.

Andy Colquitt '00 with Carolina Nurseries called to say he is really moving up. He lives on a coastal island and assures me that he will be by for a visit this next football season.

Julie Fransen '01 is doing a great job with Arthur A. Jones & Associates in Grayson, GA. She bought a house & the company raves about her performance. We had a great visit this semester.

Mark Law '96 is an arborist for north Fulton County GA. Mike Barnett '79 is an arborist for south Fulton County. The trees of Fulton County are in great hands.

Thomas Carroll '96 sent me a notice that he has opened a landscape business in Huntsville and

Jason Long '97 has opened a landscape business in Baldwin County.

James Nichols '01 has been named head of grounds for Alabama State University in Montgomery. James is beginning to make things happen on that campus.

Donna (Rogillio) Heaton '01 has been named head of the research center for McCorkle Nurseries in Dearing, GA and I have heard excellent reviews of her performance.

Al Jordan '01 and his wife have a new baby. This is definitely a potential new customer for the BBQ House. Al's tree business is doing great here in Auburn.

Jeremy Gilliam '99, with Valley Crest in Memphis, TN, & his wife have a beautiful baby girl. They have purchased a home & word has it that Jeremy will not let anybody hold the baby but himself. What a proud papa. Gabe McGinty '02, who works with Jeremy in Memphis, & his lovely wife visited me this semester and I got an excellent report. Gabe and his bride are expecting their first child and they are excited.

Jeremy Jones '99 & his wife & young son came by to see me. I am ready to sign that young man up for the football team. Jeremy has his own landscape business in the Newnan, GA area. It is evident Jeremy is on his way. Jason Cooper '97 dropped by while Jeremy was here and we just had a good old time. Jason's business in Birmingham seems to be in good shape.

Kevin Hardee '01 has joined Gradco in Birmingham as a business developer.

Debra Locke '00 and Jay Dick '02 have joined M.B.S. in Birmingham in the flower and installation divisions respectively.

Carrie Paulk '02 has joined TurfTamer in Fort Payne, AL as a landscape designer.

Hugh Toney '98 has joined HighGrove in Charlotte, NC. Hugh came by to see me recently when he was in town for an Auburn University baseball game. Kris Long '99 is also with HighGrove in their enhancement division in Atlanta and was part of the interview team this semester.

Ryan Barnett '02 is with Forever Green in Atlanta in the installation/construction division and seems to be very happy.

Stephanie Brake '01 has joined Pikes Family Nurseries and is still going wide open.

Phil Standifer '01 has joined Forresters Garden Center in Atlanta and really likes this company.

FEATURED ALUM: Tony Gibson '98 is owner of Gibson Landscape Services LLC in Jonesboro, GA. Tony started this company immediately upon graduation. He interned with the old EDG while a student and mowed yards to earn money through high school and had a good deal of experience. He spoke to my class this semester & showed the class a brochure he developed for his company that is as good as any that I have ever seen. He is doing over \$2 million per year in landscaping with 28 people and 7 crews. 70% of his business is installation and 30% is maintenance. He uses GPS units in his trucks to maximize efficiency and says that the units have more than paid for themselves. He uses a rolling budget to monitor the profitability of jobs & to stage work. He does mostly class A work and specializes in using large plant material. Tony recently purchased 9 acres of land near I-75 and built a 9000 square foot warehouse and 1500 square foot office complex. Tony & his wife purchased a house in Jonesboro, GA where they live with their pride and joy 2 month old daughter Emily. The students and I enjoyed the time Tony spent with us and look forward to him doing it again next year. Keep up the good work Tony.

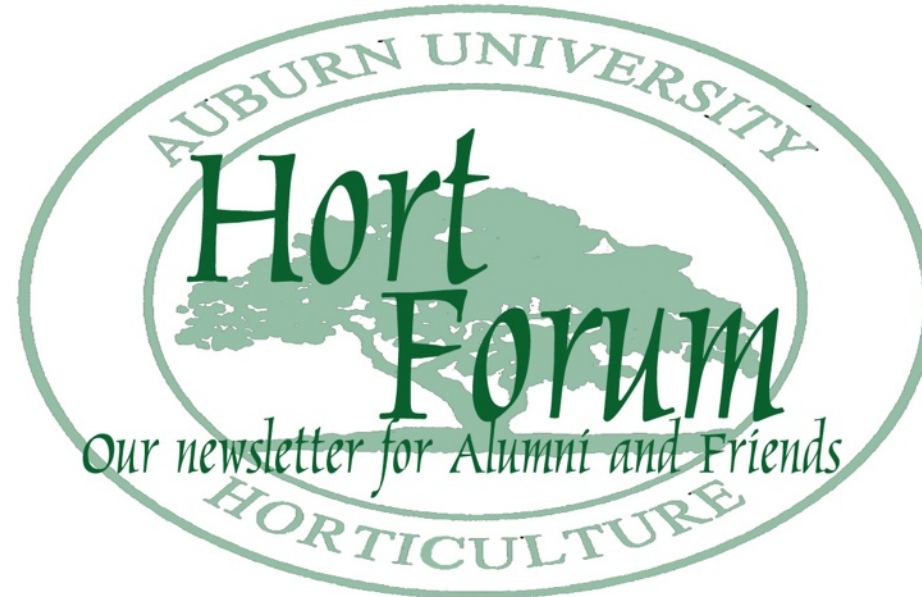
csrees Review

The Horticulture Department underwent a Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) Review in April. CSREES reviews are highly effective in helping universities meet their institutional goals by providing input from a qualified external panel. Our review team consisted of Dr. Tom Bewick, National Program Leader of Horticulture for the USDA, Dr. Denis Decoteau, department head at Penn State University, Dr. James Green from Oregon State University, Dr. Dewayne Ingram, department head at the University of Kentucky, and Dr. Joyce Latimer of Virginia Tech. The review was an intense 4-day process of facility tours, presentations, & meetings. Every aspect of our department was examined. Preparation for the review began months ago and was a true team effort by the department. Our hard work paid off. The review team commented repeatedly that they were impressed with the preparation as well as how well the members of the department worked together. In fact they said it was the most well organized review in which they had participated. One theme that was clear to the review team was the faculty's true passion towards their students' education. The team suggested how we could fortify our secondary areas by utilizing our strengths. We are eager to put their suggestions into practice so that we can continue to build on the success and quality of our program.

kudos

Ping Lang (PhD candidate) and Casey Jenkins (undergrad) were inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta, College of Agriculture Honor Society, in May. Congratulations! Ping also received 1st prize at the Plant Genetic Resources Symposium for her poster, Phylogeny & Biogeography of Castanea based on Nuclear ITS & Chloroplast Noncoding TRNT-F & Sequence Data at the Int'l Horticultural Congress and Exhibition in Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Fenny Dane presented a paper, "Chloroplast DNA investigations in Citrullus using PCR-RFLP analysis at the Cucurbitaceae 2002 Conference in Naples, FL



JUNE 2003

Visit the
horticulture department at
<http://www.ag.auburn.edu/dept/hf/index.htm>

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OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE TO HORTICULTURE

The Horticulture Department is recognized for its education and research programs. While maintaining a very high level of quality and productivity, faculty and staff struggle with resources to maintain this standard of excellence.

There are many ways to contribute financially to your academic programs (and they are your programs). You may direct your contribution to the Department program of your choice. We have established a number of endowment funds with specific objectives. One of these is the Horticulture Endowment Fund. Contributions enable the Department to support activities like our alumni gatherings in Atlanta and Mobile, student-faculty welcome day, hosting advisory groups when they are on campus and many other similar activities. The target goal of this Fund is \$100,000 within the next five years. The current balance is approximately \$54,393.

In addition, the Department has established two endowments to honor individuals who have made tremendous contributions to Horticulture at Auburn University. The Henry P. Orr Endowment was established to provide educational opportunities beyond the classroom and has a target goal of \$250,000. Dr. Orr was a Professor in the landscape area from the 1950's to 1980's. He often had students in his home where he taught and entertained them. Approximately \$118,740 has been contributed or pledged to date.

The Hoyt Adair Endowment was established to honor Mr. Adair who owned Classical Fruits Orchard and Nursery in Moulton, Alabama, and was a generous supporter of the Department. He passed away almost two years ago and this endowment was created to provide a supplement to a departmental graduate student stipend to allow us to compete nationally for outstanding graduate students in fruits and vegetables. The goal of this fund is \$25,000 and we have thus far received \$11,430.

Any amount is greatly appreciated and grows over time enabling the Department to achieve even more significant results. If you are interested, contact the Horticulture Department at 334-844-4862 or the College of Agriculture Development Office at 334-844-1136.

Thank you very much for all you have given in the past and we look forward to working with you to build a more productive Horticulture Department.

Please make your check payable to the
AUBURN UNIVERSITY HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

And kindly designate the fund and the amount of your contribution.

\$ _____ HORTICULTURE ENDOWMENT FUND

\$ _____ HENRY P. ORR ENDOWMENT

\$ _____ HOYT ADAIR ENDOWMENT

Mail this to Charles Gilliam, Professor and Chair
Horticulture Department, College of Agriculture

Thank you so much for your generosity

alumni and friends reception - August 1

This year's Auburn University Horticulture Department Alumni and Friends Reception at SNA will take place Friday, August 1, 2003. The reception will be held in Room C305 at the Georgia World Congress Center from 4:00pm - 5:30pm. This is a new date and time so be sure to mark the event in your calendars. We look forward to seeing you there!