

## Calendar of Events

### Feb. 6

- **Department Awards, 10:00  
Room 108 Tyson**

### Feb. 11 & 12

- **Christmas Tree Short Course,  
Ramada Inn**

### Feb. 14

- **Valentine's Day**

### Feb. 16-Mar. 8

- **Final Exam Conflict, Filing  
Period Deadline**

### Feb. 23

- **Submit Doctoral Dissertation  
for Format Review**

### Feb. 25

- **Submit Master's Thesis for  
Format Review**

## Department Awards

This year's award ceremony will be held Friday, February 6 at 9:00 in 108 Tyson.

Those to be honored are:

Dennis Decoteau  
Kathy Demchak  
Bruce Dye  
Art Gover  
Jim Sellmer  
Erika Stover

## ADVISING CENTER NEWS

by Paige Thomas

Ag Advocates are a select group of undergraduate students in the College of Agricultural Sciences who assist the College in recruitment activities. Ag Advocates meet with prospective students who visit our campus as well as help with open houses and orientation programs.

Ag Advocates also sometimes travel to Pennsylvania high schools and other Penn State campuses for recruiting purposes.

It is VERY ADVANTAGEOUS to the Department of Horticulture to have at least one Ag Advocate every year. When students interested in Horticulture or Landscape Contracting visit University Park, they usually spend time with an Ag Advocate. When that Ag Advocate is a student in the Department of Horticulture, visiting students usually get very positive impressions of our programs and will choose to attend Penn State and major in Horticulture or Landscape Contracting. It is a winning scenario for our department.

The Department of Horticulture currently does not have a student who is an Ag Advocate. PLEASE encourage your advisees who have outgoing and friendly personalities to apply to be an Ag Advocate. The application form can be picked up in the Advising Center or found on-line at: <http://agadvocates.cas.psu.edu/>. The deadline to turn in the application is Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

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## Community Gardens

In conjunction with the Center for Sustainability the club will be starting a community garden group and opening a community garden on April 18th, 2009. Members of the group will receive a 10X15 ft plots, with access to water, compost, and tools to encourage walking and biking to the site. The site is organic, but we will be offering workshops on organic methods for those not familiar the methods. The site is located by Beaver Stadium off of Porter Road. For an application please visit <http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/sac/communitygarden.html/> Any questions? contact Jackie Yenerall at [jxy180@psu.edu](mailto:jxy180@psu.edu)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February 11  
**Rich Marini**  
**Nan Vejchasarn**



**Horticulture Seminar Series**  
**Wednesday 4:00pm-5:00pm**  
**111 Tyson**

Feb 4 Kirsten Lloyd, Project Associate, Department of Horticulture “Forest Complexity from a Different Perspective: Root anatomy, Morphology, and Chemistry of selected Northeastern Tree Species”

Feb. 11 Jim Schupp, Associate Professor of Pomology-FREC and Paul Heinemann, Professor of Ag & Bio Engineering “Experiences with Specialty Crop Research Initiative”

Feb. 18 David Eissenstat, Professor of Woody Plant Physiology, Department of Horticulture “Taylor Lecture Repeat: An Ecological Perspective on Root Pysiology and Dynamics”

Feb. 25 Jenn Landry, M.S. Candidate-Horticulture, Department of Horticulture “Identifying ‘Pollinator Friendly’ Cultivars for Gardens and Green Roofs”

## C. Marshall Ritter

Dr. Crum Marshall Ritter passed away on January 3, 2009 at the age of 85. He was born in Washington, D.C., attended high school in Anniston, Alabama, and obtained a B.S. in Vocational Agriculture, with a minor in Horticulture, from West Virginia University. He took time off from his undergraduate studies for military service during World War II in Africa, Sicily and Italy and he received the Purple Heart and a Silver Star. He completed a M.S. degree in Horticulture from West Virginia University and received a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. He joined the Department of Horticulture at The Pennsylvania State University as an Assistant Professor in 1952; he was promoted to Associate Professor in 1957 and Professor in 1969. He was active in all three missions in the department. Early in his career Marshall taught graduate and undergraduate courses and advised graduate students. Later in his career he was the sole fruit extension specialist for Pennsylvania. His research interests included all aspects of tree fruit production and post-harvest handling, but he focused on nutrition, orchard soil management, and fruit variety evaluations. He also did applied research and gave lectures in several South American countries. Upon retirement in 1983, he formed an orchard consulting company and later became partner with his wife, Adelaide Morgan, in Morgan Orchard in Sinks Grove, WV.



## 2009 Christmas Tree Management Short Course

February 11-12, 2009

Ramada Conference Center

This 2-day program will highlight many of the cultural and pest management aspects involved with operating a Christmas tree farm. Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture core and category pesticide recertification credits will be available.

For more information contact Rick Bates.

**2009**  
**Christmas Tree Management**  
**Short Course**

February 11-12, 2009  
Ramada Conference Center  
State College, Pennsylvania

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
College of Agricultural Sciences

## Rich's Reflections...

January is always a busy month. The new semester has started, we participated in Farm Show, and there are many commodity meetings. This year we have the additional activities of restructuring our Extension programs and developing a departmental strategic plan for the next five years. During the past three months I have spent a lot of time on the strategic plan and I want to thank everyone for attending meetings and for providing suggestions and revisions to the plan. I think it will be finished by the due date of February 16.

While working on the plan, I realized that we have accomplished quite a bit in the past several years, and a lot of good ideas have emerged in the planning process for the future. The number of students in the Horticulture major has declined, but our student credit hours have increased and more students minor in Horticulture than any other program. The number of students in Hort 101 continues to increase every year, and the addition of Hort 150 exposed 90 additional students to horticulture. The Arboriculture minor was approved and there are tremendous career opportunities for students with training in tree care. We are also working on an option in Organic Horticulture. I spent some time on the internet to learn what other plant science or horticulture departments teach and our course offerings are the most comprehensive in the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions, except for possibly NC State University. About two years ago Dan Stearns and Martin McGann asked a senior marketing class if they would develop a marketing campaign for the department. The students came up with some good ideas and we have used some of them. One fascinating fact they learned was that students don't really know what horticulture is. When they conducted a very nonscientific survey of students on campus and asked them what they thought horticulture is, most said it was gardening or flowers. I think one reason we don't have more students in our majors is because most students don't know what horticulture is. Also they don't get interested in horticulture until they are homeowners and start gardening or caring for a landscape. During the next couple of years we need to identify ways to inform potential students about the diversity of activities in this department. Students interested in any aspect of plant biology or plant ecology should be able to find what they want in our department: from genetics and molecular biology, to physiology and production, to post harvest handling and marketing, as well as many aspects of ecology. So if you have ideas on how to educate the population, especially teenagers, about modern horticulture, please let me know.



## HORT CLUB FLOWER SALES

The Hort Club will be holding their annual Valentine's Day flower sales Thursday and Friday, February 12 & 13 from 10:00-4:00. Sales will be held downstairs in the HUB next to the bookstore. They will be selling various colors of roses, carnations, and mums. Questions can be directed to Amy Hinkle [ajh5329@psu.edu](mailto:ajh5329@psu.edu)



This publication is available in alternative media on request.

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