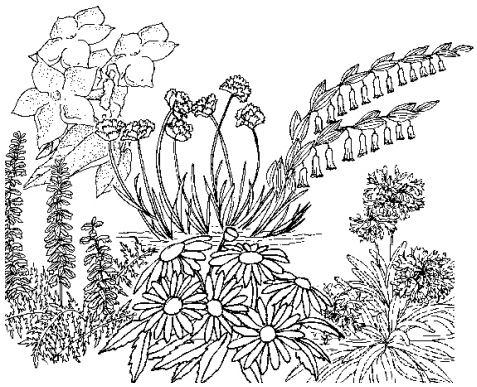
ANNOUNCING
2015 Ornamental Horticulture Research Field Day



at
The University of Georgia Horticulture Farm
Watkinsville, Georgia
Friday, October 2, 2015
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
(Registration starts at 8:30am)

The faculty and staff of the Department of Horticulture at The University of Georgia cordially invite you to attend their biennial Ornamental Horticulture Research Field Day at the UGA Horticulture Farm in Watkinsville, Georgia. Faculty will be stationed throughout the farm to discuss their research projects. This year, we will have 8 researchers presenting projects taking place at the farm. Topics will include ornamental plant breeding, organic and sustainable vegetable production, and weed management. While you're in the area, you won't want to miss seeing the State Botanical Garden of Georgia and the annual/perennial trail garden on campus. Directions to these locations will be provided at the Open House.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and tours start promptly at 9:00 a.m. rain or shine. Dress appropriate for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

A $25 registration fee (cash or check only – Checks Made Payable to "The University of Georgia") includes lunch and parking passes for those who want to visit the campus trial gardens. This year's event is limited to 200 persons, so early registration is encouraged.

To register for the event, please visit:

For more information, phone 706/542-9044 or 706/542-2471

Event location: 1221 Hog Mountain Road Watkinsville, GA 30677

Registration
2015 Ornamental Horticulture Research Field Day

Name(s) of those attending: _____

_____

Mailing Address:_____

City/State/ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____/_____ Email address: _____

Registration fee/person: $25

Check here if you need a vegetarian lunch: _____

Registration Payment ***(Federal Tax ID#586001998)***

Sorry: Credit card or phone registration can not be accepted.

1. By Check: Please make check payable to: *The University of Georgia.*
Mail registration form and check to:

Dr. Matthew Chappell, 324 Hoke Smith Building, Athens, GA 30602

1. Cash: Please RSVP by September 30 by emailing Matthew Chappell at hortprod@uga.edu and indicate in the subject line “Horticulture Farm Open House RSVP”. Please include names of those persons attending. Cash will be collected the day of the event.

2015 Horticulture Farm Open House – Speakers and Topics

Breeding Hardy Ornamental Hibiscus

John Ruter, Professor

The industry is looking for compact forms with purple foliage, early emergence, and showy flowers. Come see what we have available. We are also trying to develop plants with fewer seeds and more flowers. Finally we are using interspecific hybrids to develop insect resistance to feeding from the hibiscus sawflies and Japanese beetles.

Are All Flowers Created Equal?

Bethany Harris, PhD Student & Bodie Pennisi, Professor

Plants use a variety of characteristics such as color, shape, and odor to lure pollinator and beneficial insect flower visitors including bees, butterflies, flies, and beetles. Through research conducted at the UGA Butterfly and Conservation Garden in Griffin, Georgia, certain ornamental floral resources deemed appropriate for southeastern landscapes were found to attract a variety of potential beneficial arthropods to the ornamental beds and plantings.

Breeding Native Species for Adaptation to Managed Landscapes

Matthew Chappell, Associate Professor

Many native species that we find germinating and growing in recently disturbed sites should fit well into managed landscapes, because they have desirable characteristics, such as fast growth rate and adaptability to difficult growing conditions. However, they can also be very "weedy", producing many seed. This project focused on *Baccharis halimifolia*, a native species that is semi-evergreen, salt tolerant, pest-free, fast-growing, has showy floral and seed structures and has a very wide range of adaptability. We used varying levels of the mutagen EMS to treat seed and have grown out over 600 seedlings to select for sterility and improved forms. You'll have the opportunity to help us make selections!!!

New Plants for Southern Landscapes

Carol Robacker, Associate Professor

Dr. Robacker will describe new cultivars of *vitex*, little bluestem, and *abelia* from her breeding program, and update progress on *Spigelia* and *Exochorda*. PhD student Susan Hawkins will talk about her interspecific hybrid work on Vitex.

Organic Weed Control in Watermelon and Developing New Cucurbit Varieties (Pumpkin and Watermelon)

George Boyhan, Professor & Suzanne Stone, PhD Student

Weed control is the most challenging aspect of organic vegetable production. There are very few organic herbicides and their effectiveness is limited. Organic growers must rely primarily on mechanical means of control. We are investigating the best approach for organic weed control in watermelons. In addition, we are developing pumpkin varieties with better disease control and compact watermelon varieties more suited to organic growers.

Boxwood, Pruning, and Soil Amending Research Update

Tim Smalley, Associate Professor

Dr. Smalley will relate the results of his studies on rejuvenation pruning, amending annual planting beds with SuperSod's compost, and the effects of soil pH, mulching, and irrigation on growth and disease incidence of Buxus sempervirens 'Suffruticosa'.

Organic vegetable production under high tunnels

Suzanne O'Connell, Assistant Professor

Two research projects are underway in our new 30 x 96' high tunnels (i.e. unheated greenhouses)! We are investigating the performance of multiple varieties of fall broccoli, cauliflower and baby turnips as well as spring lettuce. All crops are being grown organically.

New Woody Ornamentals for your Garden

Donglin Zhang, Professor

The UGA Woody Plant Research Lab is seeking new woody plant resources and breeding better woody ornamental plants for your gardens. Donglin will share with you some new collections and discuss his approach on breeding and selecting new and better woody plants.

Ornamental Herbicide Evaluation

John Ruter, Professor

Specticle G is a new pre-emergent herbicide from Bayer with the active ingredient indaziflam (group 29 herbicide). It is registered for the control of annual grasses, annual sedges and broadleaf weeds in warm season turfgrass, landscape ornamentals, and hardscapes. In this field trial Specticle G is being compared to a non-treated control and an industry standard, Snapshot 2.5G (Gallery + Treflan). Treatments were applied on July 27, 2015.