Yes! I wish to receive the newsletter from Crop Science by E-mail

Please send us the following information.

Mail to: Gary Little, Box 7620, NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27695

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________ Graduation Year: __________ Major: ________________

OR E-mail to: gary_little@ncsu.edu

New Agronomy Teaching Garden to Be Named for Dr. Bill Fike

The Crop Science Teaching garden has a new home. The Lake Wheeler Field Lab has graciously given us a new area where we can expand the garden. Faculty and technicians generously dedicated countless hours to prepare the new garden area and to plant corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, sunflowers, sorghum, tobacco, millet, and other crops. The garden was maintained during the summer by agronomy students Joni Wilhelmson and Jackie James.

Our vision for the garden goes way beyond just having crops to show our students. It includes creating crop stresses to help develop problem solving skills for agronomy students. By shifting planting dates, irrigation schedules, herbicide rates, and crop rotations we can generate plants with various stress and injury symptoms. We also will design an area where students can plant seeds and monitor plant growth throughout the semester. One of Dr. Paterson’s favorite activities is to allow his non-ag students who have never planted a seed in the ground to experience firsthand what it is like to grow a food crop.

This new teaching garden will not only be a valuable teaching and research tool for our students but it will carry the name of a man who has touched countless lives, Dr. Bill Fike. Many of you remember Dr. Fike as an energetic educator, a friend, and a mentor. By the way, when you see him, he still will tell you that you are #1! A dedication ceremony for the garden and special recognition for Dr. Fike will be coupled with an Agronomy reunion which is being planned for fall 2007.

The reunion date will be finalized in a few months. Our target date will be in early fall, before harvest is in full swing. We really need e-mail addresses to cut down on mailing costs, so please send your name, e-mail address, major, and the year you graduated to gary_little@ncsu.edu. We will also establish a web site with all the pertinent reunion information and a semi-annual Harvester newsletter. Information about the web site will be forwarded to you soon. If you do not have e-mail, please drop us a note (Gary Little, NCSU, Box 7620, Raleigh, NC 27695-7620) with your contact information and we will be sure you are kept informed about the reunion and receive copies of the Harvester by mail.

The Lake Wheeler Turfgrass Field Laboratory functions as an important outreach component of the N.C. State turfgrass program. Numerous field days and workshops are held for industry partners and the public. The field day in August 2005 attracted over 500 participants. The Field Laboratory also has hosted professionals from other universities and industry groups in the U.S., Europe, and Australia, who have never planted a seed in the ground to experience firsthand what it is like to grow a food crop.

One of Dr. Patterson’s favorite activities is to allow his non-ag students who have never planted a seed in the ground to experience firsthand what it is like to grow a food crop.
Undergraduate Corner

NEW! TFG Major
Turf management is big business in North Carolina. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture survey reported nearly 2.4 million acres of maintained turf in North Carolina with more than $1.22 billion spent to maintain that acreage. Nearly all of NC State, we have been training turfgrass managers to care for all of these home lawns, athletic fields, golf courses, roadways, and other turf areas since 1989.

Currently, around 75% of our department majors are training turfgrass managers. While training students for careers in the turfgrass industry since 1989, our students have graduated as “Agronomy” majors, with a concentration in Turfgrass Science. Beginning this fall semester, however, our department has discontinued the requirement for most of their major. Turfgrass Science (TFG).

Beginning this fall semester, however, our department has introduced a new major: Turfgrass Science (TGF).

There are several reasons why we have changed from “Agronomy” majors to TGF majors, with a concentration in Turfgrass Science. In the 2004 curriculum the program was revised and streamlined to provide the most for the traditional “agronomic” course in the majors. The new major is a more consistent and longer range major that provides comprehensive training in turfgrass science and business management.

Our turf science majors would like to see students become turf grass managers, have a solid understanding of the turf industry.

Our students at NC State are training for a career in turfgrass science. We currently have more than 200 students majoring in turfgrass science.

NEW! Agroecology Minor
The most Agricultural disciplines programs, Turfgrass Management and Field Crop Technology, will offer a new minor program. The minor will give greater exposure to the major and will more accurately convey the breadth of our program.

The overall goal of the Turfgrass Science major is to prepare graduates for careers in golf course, athletic fields, or turf farm management and turf crop production.

Agronomy Club
The Agronomy Club created three educational displays for the 2006 State Fair. In the spring semester he taught four courses, C145, BIO 105, S232 and M130, and enrolled 100 students in the Fall 2006 semester. This fall he’ll teach those courses again, PLUS C510. In 2007 he’s planning to attract hundreds of students at every level.

Dr. Bob Patterson

Dr. Patterson is one of the newest Agroecology Program faculty. In the spring semester he taught four courses, C145, BIO 105, S232 and M130, and enrolled 100 students in the Fall 2006 semester. This fall he’ll teach those courses again, PLUS C510. In 2007 he’s planning to attract hundreds of students at every level.

Dr. Patterson is a Fulbright Scholar, has led or co-directed numerous research projects, and has published extensively in his field. He has served as advisor to Agri-life students and presently has 125 students under his guidance. In addition, Dr. Patterson has advised 15 Masters candidates and 8 PhD candidates, all of whom have found employment either at universities or in industry. Further, he teaches graduate students for professional development and extension education in the Preparing the Professional program, focusing particularly on influencing undergraduate education in future years.

Departmental and university leadership in agronomy has also been a hallmark of Dr. Patterson’s career at NC State. He has served as the Coordinator of Undergraduate Teaching and Chair of the Merit Awards Program.

Dr. Grady Miller

Dr. Grady Miller is an ecologist and is part of the Agroecology Program. He is a Professor of Crop Science at NC State with a long career in research and teaching, and is part of the team that received the Southern Regional Agricultural Research and Education Program (SRAREP) Award in 1999.

Dr. Chris Reberg-Horton

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Dr. Michelle Schroder-Moreno

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