



August 2022 Newsletter, Vol. 1, Issue 1

# PSLA Department Newsletter



This is the first in a new regular newsletter for the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. Our vision with this newsletter is to create a sense of community by sharing information about our faculty, staff, and student colleagues in the department, celebrating successes in teaching, research, and Extension, and keeping you abreast of the latest information related to the department activities and administration. In the beginning, our plan is to release this newsletter once per month and, as our content bank grows, the frequency is likely to increase. This newsletter is a team effort, written and developed in collaboration. We hope this letter is something you will come to look forward to reading.

Sincerely,

Dennis Tsui

Christine Strand

Nicole Gabelman

Sydney Everhart

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

*We welcome submissions of content for the newsletter at any time of the year and we will include it when possible. Send newsletter content to [psla@uconn.edu](mailto:psla@uconn.edu)*





# Postdoc Feature Friday

**Name:** Roy Davis

**Hometown:** Spring Lake, NC

**Favorite Color:** Red

**Favorite Snack:** Sunflower seeds

**What do you like to do in your free time?** I like to watch shows and movies from here in the US and around the world.

**What job/career did you envision when you were younger?** When I was younger, I always envisioned myself as a high school teacher.



Roy Davis is a new postdoc working in the Everhart lab. He joined the department in July of 2022.



**Favorite plant or place:** My favorite plant is the Devil's Walking Stick (*Aralia spinosa*) because of its odd name and unique appearance.

**Favorite project:** One of my favorite projects that I worked on prior to arriving at UConn was a project I did to describe phenotypic variation using images captured by unmanned aircraft system (UAS). This was the first project I worked on and it has proved fruitful, especially with learning how to collect and analyze data.

**Favorite thing about plant science and/or landscape architecture:** The fact that there is so much to be discovered with the various facets of this discipline. Specifically, as a plant pathologist, there are so many avenues to explore related to the interactions between pathogens and their plant hosts.

**Why UConn?** I was excited about a change related to research. I am excited to add what I already know to these new projects. I am also excited to gain new skills and knowledge.



# Recent Events



**CNLA Summer Field Day at Prides Corner Nursery  
July 27, 2022**

Three back-to-back events were held in the last week of July with attendance by faculty, staff, and students from the department. The Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association was held at Pride's Corner Nursery in Lebanon, CT, which included a presentation by **Nick Goltz** on relevant pests and pathogens, and a press conference led by CNLA president and PSLA Alumnus **Dustyn Nelson**. The following day was the biannual Turfgrass Field Day at the Plant Science Research Farm. The event was organized by the Field Day Planning Committee (**Karl Guillard, Jason Henderson, John Inguagiato, Victoria Wallace, Steve Olsen, Travis Clark, and Hayden Amtower**) and had a record of 260 attendees that included turfgrass managers of all levels. Finally, the week ended with the 2021-2022 CAHNR Retirement Celebration event organized by the college and recognizing recent retirees from multiple departments.



**Turfgrass Field Day,  
July 28, 2022**



**CAHNR Retirement Celebration,  
July 29, 2022**



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# Upcoming Events

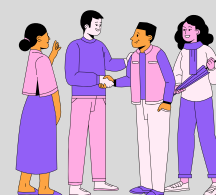
## New PSLA website launch

We're happy to announce that our new PSLA site has moved and is up and running. Please bear with us as we continue to improve the functionality and user interaction. As we continue to let us know if any pages or links are broken, or if any elements are not functioning properly at [psla@uconn.edu](mailto:psla@uconn.edu)



## Fall 2022 PSLA Welcome Orientation – August 24th 9:30 – 4:00

Graduate Student and Postdoc Welcome Orientation will include a tour of our facilities and labs, a meeting with representatives from the graduate student union. All current and existing graduate students and postdocs are invited to attend this event.



## Welcome Day Meet-n-Greet Luncheon – August 24th Noon to 1:00; YNG122

This event will be held on the same day as the orientation and everyone from our department is invited to attend. More details on the time and location will be announced as the date approaches, so please stay tuned.



## PSLA Ice Cream Social – September 14th 2:00 – 4:00

Do you like ice cream? So do we! The PSLA Ice Cream Social In lieu of our annual BBQ. For this event, the UConn Dairy Truck will be stopping by the parking lot for an afternoon of free ice cream, free t-shirts, and festivities for our department and all members of CAHNR to enjoy. Mark your calendars!



# Other Fun Stuff

**Article Recommendation:** This recommendation comes to us from **Dawn Pettinelli**, who found the following short popular press article interesting. The article entitled, “Botanists are disappearing, just when the world needs them most,” quotes U.S. botanists **Elisabeth Schussler** and **James Wandersee** on their use of a term, “plant blindness”, which they described as, “the inability to see or notice the plants in one’s own environment.” and the article goes on to explain that “Unless taught, people don’t tend to see plants.” Perhaps this could lead to a new tag line for the department, “Curing plant blindness, one student at a time.”

## Plant Joke of the Month:

What makes a tree laugh?

... ..

*Acorn-y joke!*

