Notes from the MCC Horticulture Department

This newsletter, with a new look, highlights the fall 2017 Horticulture course schedule here at McHenry County College. Make plans now and please register ASAP as the semester starts very soon!

We have another new course this fall: HRT 112 Horticultural Mechanics debuts Wednesday nights and will be available both for credit or non-credit, details on page 3. This provides an option for students wanting to learn the subject matter but not desiring a grade and credits. This fall the non-credit option also applies to HRT 150 Plant Problem Diagnosis and HRT 160 Trees & Shrubs in the Landscape (which returns to fall schedule this fall).

The popular 3rd annual National Indoor Plant Week Celebration with Mark Martin is once again set for Thursday evening September 14 here at MCC; see page 4 for details.

If you have questions related to the MCC Horticulture Program, contact Horticulture Department Chair & Instructor Bruce Spangenberg; call 815-479-7522 or email bspangenberg@mchenry.edu. Hope to see you in a Horticulture class here at MCC!

Horticulture Courses for Fall Semester 2017

*HRT 103 Introduction to Plant Science  
10:00 am– 12:50 pm Tuesday & Thursday  
(Spangenberg) or Online (Dow)

*HRT 112 Horticultural Mechanics**  
6:00 – 9:50 pm Wednesday (Tobiasz)

*HRT 120 Basic Floral Design  
8:30 am to 12:20 pm Wednesday (Archambeau)

*HRT 130 Fall Greenhouse Production  
6:15 – 10:05 pm Thursday (Martin)

*HRT 150 Plant Problem Diagnosis & Management**  
6:00 -9:50 pm Monday (Spangenberg)

*HRT 160 Trees & Shrubs in the Landscape**  
1:00 – 4:50 pm Wednesday (Spangenberg)

*HRT 161 Landscape Design  
6:00 – 9:50 pm Monday (Zaffina)

HRT 203 Introduction to Hydroponics  
6:00 – 9:50 pm Tuesday (Nabong)

HRT 222 Flower Shop Management  
6:00-8:50 pm Monday (Hunt)

HRT 229 Silk & Dried Floral Design  
6:00-9:50 pm Thursday (Blitek)

HRT 290 Floral Trends  
8:30 am- 12:20 pm Thursday (Archambeau)

* = no prerequisite  
** = credit or non-credit option

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*HRT 103 Introduction to Plant Science
All areas of botany are covered in this popular class for all students at MCC; including plant internal & external structure, function, and growth, with in-depth discussion on the how's and why's of the plant world! There is a classroom section taught by Bruce Spangenberg on Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 am -12:50 pm and an online section taught by Dr. Beverly Dow. As of this writing both sections are full but this class is offered very semester.

*HRT 112 Horticultural Mechanics
Horticultural Mechanics provides students with an overview of design, function, and simple repair of mechanical systems and equipment involved with growing plants through lecture and lab instruction. Topics of discussion include essentials of how to operate, maintain, and troubleshoot plumbing, HVAC, and electrical systems. Small engine, power equipment, and tool maintenance and repair is also discussed. Rich Tobiasz introduces this new course on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 9:50 p.m.

**HRT 120 Basic Floral Design
HRT 120 is the first course in a sequence covering all aspects of floral design. Topics of discussion include the principles of design, an introduction to work materials, and design techniques for both floral arrangements & corsages. In addition to being the start of floral certificate coursework, HRT 120 is also a very useful elective course for students in other areas of the horticulture field. Gena Archambeau is the instructor on Wednesdays, 8:30 am to 12:20 pm.

If you prefer HRT 120 as a night class, each spring semester HRT 120 will now be offered at night and each fall HRT 120 will be offered as a day section.

The floral design sequence continues with HRT 125 Intermediate Floral Design, building on skills learned in the introductory class (HRT 120), in spring.

*HRT 130 Fall Greenhouse Production
Students learn while growing fall crops and vegetables in the greenhouse in this popular fall course. A main crop of study is poinsettias and students will also choose their own semester growing project in the greenhouse - we always have some very interesting ones! Topics of discussion include an introduction to the greenhouse environment, structures, growing techniques, and industry issues. Mark Martin teaches this popular course on Thursday evenings 6:15 to 10:05.

*HRT 150 Plant Problem Diagnosis & Management
Focus is on diagnosis & management of major insect, disease, & noninfectious problems facing trees & shrubs, turfgrass, fruit and vegetable crops, and herbaceous ornamental plants in northern Illinois. Each student will compile a plant problem portfolio semester project and also prepare for Illinois Pesticide Certification in green industry categories. This fall HRT 150 is taught Monday nights from 6:00 to 9:50 by Bruce Spangenberg.

* HRT 160 Trees & Shrubs in the Landscape
HRT 160 returns to the fall schedule this year. Focus of this course is on two main areas; identifying trees and shrubs, and then appropriate uses for various sites and applications in northern Illinois. Native species are highlighted. Classroom and in-the-field samples of both conifers and deciduous broadleaf species are identified using keys and related resources. Taught by Bruce Spangenberg on Wednesday afternoons, 1:00 to 4:50.

*HRT 161 Landscape Design
Landscape design is much more than just adding a flower bed or trees a home landscape or commercial site. Students learn all the principles of landscape design and use of drafting tools. Start by learning to draw simple lines & letters and end by making a complete home landscape plan! Landscape Architect Giovanna Zaffina teaches all about design on Monday nights from 6:00 to 9:50.

HRT 265 Landscape CAD covers computer assisted design & drafting application to landscape horticulture and is offered as a spring semester class, with HRT 161 as a prerequisite.
**HRT 203 Introduction to Hydroponics**

*Introduction to Hydroponics* is an in-depth hands-on study of hydroponic and aquaponic systems for growing horticultural crops and plants in indoor environments. This is one core course of our new Urban Agriculture Curriculum. Both lecture and lab include the essentials of building various systems, equipment considerations, starting and maintaining crop plants and fish, and troubleshooting problems. Students learn hands-on in a greenhouse setting. Taught by David Nabong on Tuesday nights this fall. 

*Note:* Prerequisite: *HRT 103 and previous credit in HRT 130 and HRT 231 (or equivalent) recommended*

Questions sometimes arise concerning prerequisites, which are established to assure students have the proper preparation for courses. If you feel you have equivalent experience or training in the subject but have not actually taken the prerequisites listed, contact the instructor or Bruce Spangenberg to discuss possibly waiving prerequisites.

**HRT 222 Flower Shop Management**

Learn all about managing a flower shop, including equipment, supplies, living and non-living materials, floral shop design and construction, and day-to-day operations. Jennifer Hunt will be teaching HRT 222 on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:50 pm, with a prerequisite of HRT 120. *This course may be used as a business requirement for any horticulture student.*

**HRT 229 Silk & Dried Floral Design**

Rather than using fresh floral materials, students learn how to develop principles of silk and dried floral designing, salability, and display in this fall semester course. Designs are done using both commercial and collected dried materials. Renee Blitek will be the instructor on Thursday evenings. 

*Prerequisite HRT 120*

**HRT 290 Floral Trends**

Gena Archambeau again offering this topic course for students to enhance and strengthen their design skills by learning current floral design trends and new techniques. Emphasis is on creative hands-on practice. *Prerequisites: In addition to Department Chair permission required for 290, HRT 125 Intermediate Floral Design is also required.*

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**Non Credit Course Options**

This past academic year we started offering some courses as a non-credit option, in addition to as the usual credit format, for students interested in the subject matter but not obtaining credit. This option is found in MCC Non Credit Schedule ([click on Community on the MCC website or look for printed copies at the college](#)).

This fall HRT 112, HRT 150, and HRT 160 are offered as both credit and non-credit. For HRT 122 and HRT 160, the entire course is included in both options. For HRT 150, non-credit students may enroll in the entire class or select modules of subject matter portions. These modules include Insect Pests, Plant Diseases, and Pesticide Applicator Training.

For registration details, refer to the Fall 2017 Non Credit Schedule. Subject matter questions may be directed to Bruce Spangenberg. There is no required textbook (except for HRT 160) or grading requirements with the non-credit option. Non-credit students may also request a certificate of completion for these classes.

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**McHenry County College Website**

As just mentioned, schedules are found on the MCC website. If you are looking for anything related to college events, programs, credit courses, non-credit classes, and events here at McHenry County College, visit the McHenry County College Website; [www.mchenry.edu](http://www.mchenry.edu).

The entire latest version of MCC Catalog is available on the website. This includes courses descriptions and complete curriculum requirements. The website also has the complete fall course schedules for all departments, not just horticulture found here. You can also look at courses descriptions and determine when courses are typically scheduled, designated by F (fall), S (spring), and Su (summer) semesters. Online and blended courses are also identified and the MCC calendar is also included.

Bookmark the address and visit the site often!
3rd Annual
Celebrate National Indoor Plant Week
Thursday, September 14, 2017

For the third consecutive year, Horticulture Instructor Mark Martin will be offering an informational program on indoor plants to celebrate National Indoor Plant Week. This event is open to anyone interested in plants and is FREE to attend! Thursday evening, September 14, 2017, is the date. The program runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the MCC Leucht Conference Center. Celebrate National Indoor Plant week! Come and get your free indoor plant! Learn the value of indoor plants; how they remove toxic chemicals from the air, reduce stress, lower sick days and make you happy! Learn how to select the correct plant for the correct location as well as how to care for your new air cleaning friend! For more information go to the website www.nationalindoorplantweek.com

Horticulture Bulletin Board

Looking for a job or potential internship in Horticulture? Interested in meetings or educational programs related to horticulture? Check the Horticulture Information Board in Building D on a regular basis when you are on campus at MCC.

Employers or parties interested in posting a notice, contact Bruce Spangenberg at 815-479-7522. Information may be sent via mail: 8900 U.S. Highway14, Crystal Lake 60012; fax (815/479-7855); or email bspangenberg@mchenry.edu

Fresh Produce & Floral Arrangements

Check the coolers in Building D throughout the fall semester for fresh hydroponic produce from the MCC greenhouse and floral arrangements from our floral program. Watch for annual the poinsettia sale later this fall semester.

MCC Night November 15

Come see what MCC has to offer at the annual MCC Night set for Wednesday, November 15, 2017 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This Open House at MCC offers a chance to meet MCC instructors at over 40 different program booths, along with free workshops relating to various college education topics.

McHenry County College Horticulture Curriculum

Associate in Applied Science Degree
- Floral Design Specialty
- Greenhouse Specialty
- Landscape Specialty
- Urban Agriculture Specialty

Greenhouse Certificate

Gardening Certificate

Turf & Golf Course Management Certificate

Landscape Management Certificate

Floral Design Certificate