

A Look Back: 2014 Horticulture

Anoka Technical College Horticulture has had an exciting year with several highlights...

January saw the Northern Green Expo. Students helped install our Anoka Tech booth. They laid a 10 X 20 foot paver patio, Strauss wall column (thanks, Borgert!) with a granite column cap/ fire rock, and a fire on water fountain that wowed the crowds! Many of the students donated their time for experience of practicing the innovative techniques.

Early spring found the Horticulture Club teaching Horticulture to 5th grade students at Franklin Elementary in Anoka. The weather was cold outside but the students were thrilled to plant herbs to take home! The Horticulture Club also followed up with Twin Rivers Nursing Home in Anoka and planted some annuals into the raised beds they had donated in December.

Internships sent everyone out for the spring and summer. Once again, the turf students were coast to coast (Vermont to California). For the first time in many years, the Horticulture department sold plants that the student's raised. Although it was small, nearly \$500 was raised. Shortly after the plant sale we graduation. The department had 6 AAS in Golf Course Grounds Management and 4 AAS in Landscape Technology graduate in May.

This summer brought the news that the 60/120 waiver was approved. Our program was one of the last to be reviewed. The approval means that we do not have to decrease any content delivered to our students. Other good news over the summer was the approval of the articulation agreement with University of Wisconsin- River Falls. The articulation gives transferring students about a years worth of credit plus electives.

This fall saw a small change in the structure of the program. We started all Golf Course students October 6 (not including the fall internship). Landscape students started the week before Labor Day but did have a late start in both Plant Pest I and Woody Plants I. It was very quiet until the return of the Golf Course students! Currently we have 18/3/1 Golf Course students (AAS/Diploma/Certificate) and 11/12/7 Landscape students plus 2 full time PSEO students.



This fall has generated a crazy amount of energy and excitement.

Parade: Horticulture faculty and students participated in producing the ATC float displaying 2 1376 pound pumpkins (squash).

Horticulture Club participated in the Stillwater Harvest Fest by assisting the St. Croix Growers Association with the weighing of the big pumpkins.

Coursework at ATC:

Marlin and his students have scalped the green outside, top dressed it and cut a cup. Equipment that has not been run in 5 years is working and getting used along with the new greens mower that Toro donated last year. The indoor green is replanted and the new lights are showing promise for sustaining growth.

The second phase to the courtyard is underway. Students have installed two more patios and some seating within the walls. Edging, mulch and plant material will also be installed.

Irrigation class has installed irrigation just outside the department so plants can finally grow through the summer without dying.

All of the students have commented on how beneficial the hands on learning has been!

Horticulture Club installed a landscape for the Conexus Energy Solar Garden in Ramsey as a way to promote good will because they are strong supporters of ATC through the Foundation.

The day after Advisory Board, ATC Hort will host an Industry Day in the Department with seminars, job fair, and lunch by the Hort Club. We are looking forward to this new launch of internship/ SOE.

We are also looking forward to many students volunteering at the Northern Green Expo in paid positions from MNLA.

And that wraps up a year in the life of ATC Hort...

