



# Milwaukee Area Technical College Landscape Horticulture Club

By Dorothy Nowak

What do MATC Landscape Horticulture students do when they're not putting their educations to work in their industry of choice? They hit the books and strive to further an already effective education at MATC's North Campus. For many students, part of that academic experience is participating in Hort Club, the student organization of the Landscape Horticulture program.

The MATC Horticulture Club (Hort Club), active for over 25 years, has seen many members enter its ranks before moving on to careers in landscape design and sales, arboriculture, landscape management, nursery and garden center employment, and related jobs. Though the roster continually changes, Hort Club continues to program quality events, many of which have become seasonal traditions at MATC's North Campus.

The first Hort Club event of the 2006-07 academic year brought Hort Club members to Olbrich Botanical Gardens to enjoy the late-season beauty. Next, we visited Longenecker Gardens to be personally received by Dr. Laura Jull, Associate Professor of Horticulture at UW-Madison, who spoke to the group about the Arboretum's woody plant collection. Later in the semester, four Hort Club representatives piled into a coach for a long ride to Baltimore for the annual Tree Care Industry Student Career Days where they were engaged in arboricultural talks, competitions, and the famous trade show.

Seasonal fundraising efforts for the Hort Club included a fall mum sale and a Christmas poinsettia sale. Each holiday season, these colorful plants are propagated, nurtured, and prepared for sale by Gary Stanwood's Greenhouse

Production students. Usually, an annual book sale and signing from former horticulture instructor, Melinda Myers, is conducted right here on campus. However, in December of 2006 the sale was held at the Cedarburg Cultural Center in conjunction with the city's Holiday Garden Show. This venue provided the Hort Club with a high-profile opportunity to represent MATC to our community, and it was a treat to have Melinda rejoin hort students for the event.

The spring semester brings with it promises of warmth, growth, and super-busy students as we gear up for a new season in the horticulture industry. (Many of us are already working in our field.) However, there's still time for the Hort Club to feature a few more events before students trade notebooks for mowers, chain saws, and drawing boards. Mike Yanny of Johnson's Nursery will soon speak to hort students about new plant introductions to watch in 2007. At the end of March, a number of Hort Club members will travel along with instructor Delisa White to Michigan to participate in PLANET's 31st Annual Student Career Days, where students from college hort programs across the country join to attend educational sessions, a huge job fair, and to compete against each other in events designed to test their knowledge of current industry standards.

All of the events on the Hort Club calendar serve to draw students into the green industry, learn new skills and facts, and network with each other and with experts in the field. For this we thank MATC, faculty advisor Mike Wendt, and all of the organizations and businesses that support our efforts!

## Welcome to the Force New and Returning WAA Members

Information provided by Eric Muecke

JAMIE CAHALAN  
CONTREE SPRAYER & EQUIPMENT  
ANDREW CRASS  
JEFF EICKELBERG  
JOEL ELDRIDGE  
NEIL FOTI  
CHRIS HEISE  
GARRETT HUGHES  
OMAR JACQUES  
MATTHEW KIMMLER  
MIKE KLEMMER  
ANDREW KOEPEL  
JEREMY MASSART  
NICHOLAS McDONALD  
WILLIAM McMAHON  
KEIRA MILLER  
NCDC IMAGING & MAPPING  
PLANT HEALTH CARE  
RAINBOW TREECARE SCIENTIFIC  
JESSE SNOPEK  
STRATAPOINT  
NEIL VOSS  
JEFFREY WENDT  
SUE WINCH