

## March Birthdays

Ali Zarrabi	March 1
Kate Montgomery	March 3
Sharon von Broembsen	March 4
Zachary Royko	March 5
Hannah Dodd	March 7
Haley Butler	March 10
Kyle Risser	March 10
James Danso	March 13
Robin Cooper	March 15
Zachary Rocha	March 15
Elise Howard	March 18
Andrea Salazar	March 18
Brady Welch	March 19
Emma Claiborne	March 25
Bailee Posey	March 29
Callista Vandegriff	March 29
Carmen Greenwood	March 31

# Sensilla

Editor: Edmond Bonjour

## MARCH NEWS

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# OSU

## Entomology and Plant Pathology



Noble Research Center for Agricultural  
and Renewable Natural Resources

## March Calendar of Events

Seminar – Dr. Tilmon	Mar	3
Wellness Day – No Classes	Mar	4
Seminar – Dr. Balaban-Feld	Mar	10
Seminar – Dr. Weiser-Erlandson	Mar	17
Seminar – Dr. Yoo	Mar	24
Seminar – Dr. Krell	Mar	31

## April Calendar of Events

Seminar – Dr. Masson	Apr	7
Wellness Day – No Classes	Apr	13
Seminar – Dr. Jones	Apr	14
Seminar – Dr. Feng	Apr	21
Pre-finals Week	Apr	26-30

## Departmental Seminars

Seminars are held at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom this semester.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Title</u>
Mar. 3	Dr. Kelley Tilmon	How Ladybeetles Respond to Variation in Aphid Prey Density
Mar. 10	Dr. Jesse Balaban-Feld	How Social Interactions and Prior Experiences Influence Male Reproductive Decision-making in <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>
Mar. 17	Dr. Laura Weiser Erlandson	Working at a Small University – Can you have it all?
Mar. 24	Dr. Heejin Yoo	Multi-Layered Security Systems in Plant Immunity
Mar. 31	Dr. Rayda Krell	From the Home of Lyme Disease: Challenges and Progress in Tickborne Disease Prevention

## Necrology

**Dr. William McCray Johnson**, age 70, a well-known and respected horticulturist, teacher, and county extension agent in Galveston, Texas, died February 12, 2021. He had been the administrator of the county's AgriLife Extension Office since 1997.

William was born March 17, 1950 in Pittsville, Virginia to Matthew McCray and Clara B. Martin Johnson. He gave his life to Christ at an early age at Ridgeway United Methodist Church in Pittsville. He graduated from Northside High School in Gretna, Virginia in 1968. William received his B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and a minor in French from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in 1972, and his B.S. degree in Botany in May 1976 and his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology in July 1976, both from OSU. His dissertation was titled, "Susceptibility, Symptomatology and Formation of Microsclerotia in Selected Crop Cultivars and Weeds Inoculated with a Pathogenic Isolate of *Verticillium dahliae* Kleb. from Cotton" under the direction of **Dr. Lloyd Brinkerhoff**. He then moved to Texas.

In Galveston, he helped guide tremendous growth of the county's extension programs. He was the County Extension Agent for Horticulture (CEA-HORT) from July 1989 to August 1997, CEA-HORT and County Coordinator from September 1997 to August 2001, and CEA-HORT (Level IV) and County Coordinator from September 2001 until his death, all in the Galveston County Office. In 1989, he became the Master Gardener Program Coordinator for Galveston County, with nine participants. In recent years, there have been over 200 active certified master gardeners, who volunteer over 30,000 hours annually. He also led teams of experts diagnosing tree and plant problems on the Gulf Coast after hurricanes, floods, and freezes.

In 2011, Dr. Johnson received the Superior Service Award for Distinguished Career from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, that is given "based upon outstanding professional growth, program effectiveness, leadership ability, loyalty to Extension work, and civic and community involvement." In 2017, he was honored by the Galveston City Council with a proclamation and honorary holiday. Former Mayor Jim Yarbrough said, "Every corner of the county has benefited from his programs, expertise, and dedication to efforts and details." He also said that Johnson's motto was, "Knowledge not shared is knowledge lost." In 2018, he received the Regents Fellow Service Award from Texas A&M University that recognizes system employees who have provided exemplary professional service to society that has created large and lasting benefits to Texas and beyond.

Dr. Johnson was an accomplished horticulturist and authority in entomology and plant pathology. His weekly column, Green Thumb, in The Galveston County Daily News ran the gamut on topics from planting advice to the danger of stinging caterpillars, to differences in plants that make a tree a tree and a shrub a shrub. He was known for his motivational sayings, including insisting everyone in his classes get along with each other and treat their colleagues and classmates with respect. One of his favorite sayings was, "Everybody needs to bring something to the table." He never retired. His final column was published on February 9, 2021.

William was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, an infant sister, and his first wife Kay (Bee). He is survived by his wife Nyoka Hayes-Johnson, two stepsons, one stepdaughter, one step-grandson, one brother, and five sisters. Funeral services were held on February 22, 2021 at Carnes Funeral, Texas City, Texas.