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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFA Communications

OFA Alex Laurie Award Winners Announced

Brian Krug, University of New Hampshire; Brian Whipker, North Carolina State University; Jonathan Franz, USDA ARS; and Ingram McCall, North Carolina State University were named recipients of the OFA Alex Laurie Award on July 11, 2010 during the OFA Short Course.

The Alex Laurie Award is presented by OFA to the author(s) of the most significant applied floriculture research paper published in any of the three refereed American Society for Horticultural Science publications during a calendar year.

The award was presented for “Characterization of Calcium and Boron Deficiency and the Effects of Temporal Disruption of Calcium and Boron Supply on Pansy, Petunia, and Gerbera Plugs.” Brian A. Krug, Brian E. Whipker, Jonathan Frantz, and Ingram McCall. October 2009. *HortScience*. Volume 44, pgs 1566-1572.

The research characterized calcium and boron deficiency symptoms when induced at various points during pansy, petunia, and gerbera plug production. One of the observations that the authors made was that boron deficiency, rather than calcium deficiency, most closely mimicked the distorted terminal growth of pansy, petunia, and gerbera plants that has become more prevalent, specifically in plugs grown in the high heat and humidity conditions of summer.

Each researcher receives an honorarium, a plaque, and an opportunity to participate in the 2011 OFA Short Course program.

This award was established in honor of the late Alex Laurie (1892-1982), renowned floriculture teacher and researcher at The Ohio State University and founder of the Ohio Florists' Association (now OFA – an Association of Horticulture Professionals).

Brian Krug is a Greenhouse and Floriculture Extension Specialist with the University of New Hampshire, in Durham, New Hampshire.

Brian Whipker is a Professor at North Carolina State University, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Jonathan Franz is a research scientist at USDA-ARS, in Toledo, Ohio.

Ingram McCall is a Research Specialist at North Carolina State University, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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