

Reported Deaths



Rongcai Yuan

Dr. Rongcai Yuan, 45, of Winchester, VA, died 14 Apr. in the Winchester Medical Center. Dr. Yuan was born 13 Dec. 1964 in Jiangxi Province, China, the son of Yueming Yuan and Jiafeng Huang. In 1984, he received a bachelor of science degree in horticulture from Jiangxi Agricultural University of China and, in 1987, a master of science degree in horticulture from South China Agricultural University. In 1998, he earned his PhD in plant and soil sciences from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dr. Yuan was an assistant professor at Virginia Tech as a pomologist at the Alson H. Smith, Jr., Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Winchester.

An active ASHS member, Dr. Yuan published many papers in both *HortScience* and *JASHS*. In 2004, he was a co-winner of the Cross-Commodity Publication Award. He was a member of the Growth Regulators in Fruit and Nut Production Working Group. In addition to being a member of ASHS, he was a member of the International Society for Horticultural Science, American Pomological Society, and Virginia State Horticultural Society.

He was a member of Winchester Chinese Fellowship of Keystone Baptist Church.

Dr. Yuan married Ying Shen on 10 Oct. 1991 in China. Surviving with his wife are his parents of Jiangxi Province, China; two sons, William Shen Yuan and John Shen Yuan, both of Winchester, VA; and three sisters and three brothers.

Memorial contributions may be made to Keystone Baptist Church, Dr. Yuan Memorial Fund, 15 Keystone Lane, Berryville, VA 22611.

J. ROGER HARRIS
Professor and Interim Head
Department of Horticulture
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University, Blacksburg



Warren S. Barham

Born 15 Feb. 1919 in Prescott, AR, former ASHS President Dr. Warren S. Barham died on 16 Apr. He married Margaret Alice Kyle (deceased 1997) in 1940, and they had four children (Barbara Mes, Juanita Contin, Margaret Ann Barham, and Robert Barham); 11 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren). Dr. Barham married Evelyn Csongradi in 1998; they were married until her death in 2003.

Dr. Barham received his BS degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, in 1941 and his PhD in plant breeding, vegetable crops, and plant physiology at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, in 1949. After serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II from 1942 to 1945, Dr. Barham became assistant professor of horticulture at North Carolina State University, Raleigh. There he taught plant breeding and graduate research until 1958. Later he became director of Raw Products Research for Basic Vegetables in Vacaville, CA, until 1976, and then professor and head of the Horticultural Sciences Department at Texas A&M University, College Station, until 1982.

After retiring from Texas A&M at age 65, Dr. Barham moved to California and formed Barham Seeds, Inc., in 1985. He then went on to become a pioneer in the development of seedless watermelons. Dr. Barham's research included identifying and developing solutions to long-standing issues for plant breeding in various crops including onions, tomatoes, watermelons, melons, and cucumbers.

In the community, Dr. Barham served as a school board member in Vacaville for 10 years, as a Rotarian for more than 50 years, as a member of a parks and recreation commission in Gilroy, CA, and as a volunteer at the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

A long-time ASHS member, Dr. Barham was named a Fellow in 1973. He served the society as vice-president of Industry, and as president of ASHS in 1982. He also served as chair of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, 1993-96, and chair of the Fellows Screening Committee, 2004-05.



J. Benton Storey

James Benton Storey, an ASHS Fellow and past president of ASHS, died Apr. 4 at the age of 81 after a lengthy illness. Born in 1928 in Avery, TX, he married Marie Cox in 1948. He went to Texas A&M University, where he received his bachelor of science and master's degrees in 1949 and 1953, respectively, in horticulture. He went on to study at the University of California in Los Angeles, where he received his PhD in botanical science/plant physiology in 1957. He was an ASHS Certified Professional Horticulturist.

Also in 1957, Dr. Storey joined the faculty of the Department of Horticultural Science at Texas A&M University, working with other researchers to release several cultivars of peach, plum, blackberry, and pecan. In 1965, he began a long career in pecan research and plant nutrition in Texas and Mexico, receiving numerous awards from state and national pecan organizations. In the 1970s, Storey worked with his graduate students to solve a zinc nutrition problem for pecan producers in western Texas and Mexico, greatly expanding the region for profitable production of pecan. During his many years at Texas A&M, he worked with nearly 40 PhD students as well as with many master's degree and undergraduate students. In the late 1980s and into the 1990s, Dr. Storey began investigating the human health benefits of pecans and worked with other food scientists and medical researchers toward using pecans as an important source of antioxidants and mono-unsaturated fatty acids for human nutrition.

A long-time member of ASHS, Storey was named a Fellow in 1978. He served as ASHS President in 1993-94, and Chair of the Board of Directors, 1994-95. In 1992, he was named Outstanding Graduate Educator by the Society, and in 1981 received the L.M. Ware Award for Distinguished Teaching. He also received several awards for membership recruitment.

Storey is survived by his wife, Marie, of College Station; son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Lyn Storey, of Avery, TX; daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and Mark Olivieri, of College Station, TX; and six grandchildren.

Donations in Dr. Storey's name may be made to the A&M United Methodist Church Building Fund (417 University Dr., College Station, TX 77840); or to the J. Benton Storey Endowed Scholarship in Horticulture (Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Dr., College Station, TX 77840-2811; include a note that the gift is in memory of Dr. J. Benton Storey).