



STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

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Jan 20 - Feb 3, 2006

BRIEFS

Chaz Moser on the Mend

Many employees here at the Station are aware that the home of Charles 'Chaz' Moser was heavily damaged by fire recently. Chaz is employed as a technician in Greg English-Loeb's lab in the department of entomology. Chaz is also an accomplished artist with a graduate degree in art and has had numerous exhibitions around the country. His artistic perspective has been a tremendous asset on the various projects that he has worked on here at the Station over the past five years.

On Monday January 9 Chaz returned home from work to find his house filled with smoke. Having discovered that the smoke was coming from a first floor bedroom, he made a few attempts to extinguish the fire before being forced out of the house. His pet cats all managed to get out of the house at the same time and were cared for by Sara Villani. The fire ultimately did significant damage to his house and possessions including his art studio, much of his current artwork and his personal collection.

"I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart for their outpouring of caring and concern and the generous donation that is helping get me back on my feet," Chaz said. "I especially want to acknowledge the extraordinary friendship of Steve Hesler (entomology) and Amy Andersen (plant pathology), and want everyone to know that I am on the road to getting my life back together thanks to the supportive community here at the Station."

ESL Classes to Resume

The spring semester will begin January 24, 2006 at Finger Lakes Community College, and the Adult Basic Education Program is again offering English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

All classes are free and open to adults.

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Fruit and Vegetable Expo 2006

The 2006 Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo will be held February 13-16 at the Oncenter Convention Center in Syracuse and will be jam-packed with practical, hands-on and cutting-edge information for fruit and vegetable growers. Once again, faculty and staff from both Geneva and Ithaca, along with Cornell Cooperative Extension educators, represent a significant percentage of the presenters slated to speak at the Expo.

The Becker Forum will be held on Monday, February 13, at the Holiday Inn Liverpool, off New York State Thruway Exit 37. The title of this year's Forum is "With Customers in the Driver's Seat, What Road Will Your Business Follow?" and will focus on emerging market trends from the customer and retailer perspective. This in-depth all-day workshop will provide attendees with valuable information and insights about the trends that are currently occurring in the marketplace.

"Participating farmers will get valuable information about marketplace interest in products with environmental, food safety and business ethics attributes and will be better able to position their business in the changing marketplace," said Becker Forum planning committee member Abby Seaman, who is an area extension educator with Cooperative Extension's Western New York Vegetable IPM program. Pre-registration is required for this popular workshop and the cost of \$15 includes lunch.

The Becker Forum is named in honor of Bob Becker, who was an associate professor in the department of horticultural sciences at the Station and former extension educator for vegetables. Bob was held in high regard by his friends and colleagues at Cornell, the growers and virtually everyone he came in contact with. He died in 1996.

Three full days of educational commodity sessions will take place February 14-16 at the Oncenter. Session topics cover the latest in research and grower experiences dealing with production and marketing of a variety of fruit and vegetable crops. These include, tree fruit, sweet corn, stone fruit, potatoes, pumpkins, onions, vine crops, cabbage, soil health, greenhouse vegetables and berries, just to name a few. Pesticide credits will be available for many of the educational sessions.

"Our educational sessions will be better than ever as we are incorporating more grower and industry speakers than in the past," says educational chair Stephen Reiners, associate professor of horticultural sciences at the Station. "This will be an Expo you will not want to miss."

A new participant in this year's Expo is the North American Bramble Growers Association. The Association is sponsoring sessions on bramble production, which includes an afternoon session on Wednesday, February 15, that will focus on the ABCs of raspberry production.

The trade show at the Expo features numerous agri-businesses that are eager to do business with growers and help them find the products and services they need. New at the trade show this year are demonstrations for both farm employers and employees. Some of these include: proper refrigeration for fruits and vegetable storage, presented each day by Mike Mager of Arctic Refrigeration, spraying technology information presented by entomology's Andrew



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(BRIEFS, continued)

The following is the schedule for ESL classes, which will be held at the Geneva Extension Center at the former Middle School at 63 Pulteney Street in Geneva:

Tuesdays, 9 AM to noon *or* 6:30–9:30 PM.

Thursdays, 9 AM to noon *or* 6:30–9:30 PM.

If you would like further information, please contact Sharon Nedrow, Adult Basic Education Program Coordinator at (585) 394-3500, x7431 or email her at nedrowsk@flec.edu

Do you know who your Emergency Coordinator is and where your evacuation meeting point is?

The Central Emergency Planing Team (CEPT) would like to remind you that building evacuation is mandatory whenever a fire alarm sounds. All building occupants need to exit the building immediately and report to your Emergency Coordinator at your buildings designated meeting point. After the building has been evacuated, occupants must wait for completion of a safety inspection and “all clear” signal from your Emergency Coordinator before re-entry. The CEPT team would like to send a special thank you to all the Emergency Coordinators and Backup Coordinators for volunteering to help keep all of us safe. See roster below.

(EXPO, continued)

Landers and “Good Ag Practices and Food Safety” by Betsy Bihn from the horticultural sciences department. There will also be a trade show only ticket at the door available for \$15. This ticket provides admission to the trade show and demonstrations.

On Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, plan to join fellow attendees, speakers and exhibitors at the Happy Hour which will be held from 5-6 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. These social events provide an opportunity to interact with participants from all over New York State and the Northeast.

The Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo is sponsored by the New York State Vegetable Growers Association, Empire State Potato Club, New York State Berry Growers Association, New York State Horticultural Society, Cornell University and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

The Expo program, which includes detailed educational session information and a pre-registration form, is available on the Expo website <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/expo/>

Registration for the full show, which includes all of the educational sessions and admission to the trade show and is required for acquiring pesticide credits, will be available at the door for \$40 for a single day or \$65 for all three days. Or, consider pre-registering at the discounted cost of \$30 for a single day or \$55 for all three days.

Free shuttle bus service is available between the Holiday Inn Liverpool and the Oncenter.



Welcome to the World

On January 8, 2006, 5:40 AM Joy Wadhams (wife of Bruce Wadhams) gave birth to a healthy girl. She weighed 6 lbs, 14.5 oz and measured 19.25 inches long. Her name is Madison Charlotte. All are well and happy.

Ian Straight was delivered at 3:24 am January 17 at Via Health of Wayne in Newark. He was an even 8 lbs and 21.25 inches long. Katie, Glenn and the baby are doing well!

Roster	Meeting Point	Emergency Coordinator(s)	Backup Coordinator(s)
Barton Lab ENT	Grass strip northwest of Spray Lab	Nancy Reissig	Gemma Osborne
Barton Lab PP	Grass strip northwest of Spray Lab	Amy Andersen	Gemma Osborne
Barton Trailer Annex	Grass strip northwest of Spray Lab	Amy Andersen	Gemma Osborne
Campus Warehouse	East door of Surge	Matt Lewis	
F&VRF FRU Office	Flag poll	John Keeton	William Brightman
F&VRF Pesticide Facility	Flag poll	John Keeton	William Brightman
Food Research Lab A-H	Upper west parking lot	Patty Gibbs	Debby Ditzell
Food Research Lab I-Z	Upper west parking lot	Debby Ditzell	Patty Gibbs
General Services	West parking lot across road	John VanderWeide	Ann Griner
Heating Plant	Upper east parking lot	Tim Thibault	
Hedrick Hall	West parking lot	Martin Goffinet	Lou Ann Rago
IPM House	Lower south lawn	Cheryl TenEyck	Sandy Antinelli
Jordan Hall	Recreation pavilion	Linda Irland	Holly King
Old Greenhouse Range	Concrete pad NW of intersection on lower drive		
PGRU Administration	Lawn north of Collier Drive	Sherri Tennies	Phil Forsline
PGRU Clonal Office Bldg.	Lawn north of Collier Drive	Angela Baldo	Phil Forsline
PGRU Plant Introduction	Lawn north of Collier Drive	John Oughterson	Phil Forsline
Sturtevant Hall	Lower south parking lot	Sarah Pollicove	Gail Knapton
Surge Laboratory	West lawn	Jodi Creasap	



Makeover Done to Campus Landscape

During the month of December Jim Engel, former employee of the IPM program, was hired to do restorative pruning on Station plantings. During that time nearly every tree and shrub on campus has had a makeover. Jim was a long time member of the NY-SAES Arboretum Association, and has years of experience with growing and maintaining ornamental plants. His knowledge of plant growth habits, along with his familiarity with the various plantings on campus were deemed valuable assets for taking on a project of this scale.



The shrubs on the south side of the upper parking lot behind Barton Lab were among the plantings that benefited from Jim Engel's pruning last month.

You may have noticed back in December some work going on around campus, and seen piles of brush or shrubs that looked a little shorter or thinner or nearly cut to the ground? It wasn't due to horticultural terrorism or reckless snow plowing, but was the result of a deliberate effort to restore the natural form of the plants on campus.

As those who work with grapes, fruit trees, and small fruit already know, proper pruning is absolutely necessary to produce abundant fruit and maintain long term productivity. The same is true for ornamental plants. With landscape plants, proper pruning produces abundant flowers (not fruit) and serves to maintain the best form for each type of plant. Without periodic maintenance of landscape plants, woody parts of the plant mature to a point where flower production decreases, dead wood increases and overall vigor of the plant declines. Years of vegetative growth at the outer limits of the plant canopy begin to shade the lower branches and central portions, which then begin to die back. As older wood accumulates over the years, decay and disease organisms become established, fewer new shoots are produced and overall growth slows dramatically. Gradually the whole plant declines and eventually will fail.

Most of the plants on campus were planted many decades ago as landscapes around newly constructed buildings. Some plants may date back to the earliest years of the Experiment Station. It is very difficult to maintain plants in a youthful, productive appearance over such a long period of time. Many shrubs and trees on campus now show their age and signs of decline. Part of this decline is due to old age, but some of this is due to lack of proper care and maintenance over the years. During the early years of the Station it was acceptable cultural practice to maintain shrubs in a formal sheared state. This practice has continued right up to the present. Yews, in particular, are well adapted to this practice and can be maintained almost indefinitely as a sheared hedge. Other species on campus do not take well to this kind of management, and their ornamental appeal and health has declined accordingly.

Trees and shrubs continue to grow over their entire life span. The Station's landscape was planned using small plants, but plants do not stay the same size indefinitely. The result is that plants that were once small have now grown quite large. Large shrubs are now competing with each other for growing space and light, forcing them to grow tall and narrow. Small shrubs are being shaded by large trees, which locates them in a shaded environment they are not adapted for. Plants competing for space and sunlight are forced to grow up or out toward the light creating distorted forms. Plants will loose branches on a shaded side creating a misshapen canopy. Plants that failed to compete have died or are in the process of dying and need to be replaced.

The rock garden between IPM and Sturtevant is one example where the plantings have grown well beyond their optimum size. These plants have exceeded their functional design size and now create an effect more like a haunted forest than an Oriental garden. Efforts have been

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(MAKEOVER, continued)

made to replace plantings that have died when resources are made available. Each year a few new trees and shrubs are planted to maintain the overall aesthetic appearance of the grounds but more plants are needed to sustain the high quality, diversity and ornamental interest of the plantings on campus. Look for these new plants around campus as they add a lot more ornamental interest than most of the older plantings and generally take less effort to maintain.

But all is not lost. The recent campus-wide pruning effort will go a long way to reversing the decline of the trees and shrubs at the Station. Each type of plant has different growth habits and requires specific pruning techniques to keep it looking its best. Each species was pruned to restore the unique ornamental qualities and growth characteristics of each plant. Some species like Forsythia, and Beauty Bush, which are widely planted around the Station, are large sprawling vigorous growing plants. Their natural growth form is not adapted to shearing and maintaining a compact shape. These plants produce long slender arching stems that produce abundant flowers on new growth. Annually removing one fourth to one third of the older stems helps to keep the plant floriferous and youthful looking. These two species have been pruned back heavily this year with the result that next spring they will be stimulated to produce vigorous new shoots. The following spring should result in the production of abundant flowers. Other trees and shrubs have had their canopies thinned and pruned to allow more light to reach the inner parts of the plant and stimulate more flower production and less vegetative growth.

Even with the best pruning techniques, it is not possible to restore the appearance of every plant in one year or two. Aggressive pruning techniques can renew a few species in one year, but many shrubs and most trees will require a few to several years of patient and knowledgeable care to nurture them back to their natural form. As spring returns and plants begin to flower and produce new growth, take notice of how the plants on campus respond to their new makeover.

J. Engel



CALENDAR of EVENTS
JAN 20 - FEB 3, 2006

MEETINGS

CHAIRS MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2006
Time: 9 AM
Place: Director's office

CALS FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2006
Time: 4 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

SEMINARS

HORT SCIENCE

Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2006
Time: 3:30 - 4:30 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Speaker: Phil Forsline, Geneva
Subject: Exploration for Fruit Germplasm: From Ancient History Up to the Present Day

LTC

Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2006
Time: 9 -10 AM
Subject: Photoshop Part 2-Intro to Photoshop's workspace
Instructor: Rob Way

SAVE THE DATE
February 6, 2006
American Red Cross
STATION
BLOOD DRIVE

TAEKARDIO

Mon/Wed
12:00 - 1:00 PM
Jordan Hall Lounge
6wks/ \$25

The 2006 Station Club Bowling Party
Saturday February 25 at 8 PM

The sign-up sheets are due by February 17



The cost is the same as last year
\$13.00 for members

\$15.00 for non-members

\$3.00 to watch for members

\$5.00 to watch for non-members

Teams of Four • Three games • Food & Drink • Prizes!
Cosmic or Not

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1994 Toyota Tercel 4 speed, economical at 30+ mpg, new radiator and rear brakes. \$750. hlw7@nysaes.cornell.edu, or 2433

FOR RENT: Lower-level, walk-out, 1-bedroom apartment in the Park Place area. Includes laundry facilities and off street parking. \$475/month plus gas & electric. Like brand new - fresh and clean with new paint and carpeting. Very cozy. No pets, no smoking. Available Feb. 1st. If interested, contact Donna Roelofs (drr2 or X2325) or Alicia Bennett (789-3798)

FOR SALE: 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited edition. All options (including heated seats). Less than 19,000 miles (\$21,000). Contact John at e-mail jb18@nysaes.cornell.edu or x2289

DOG SITTER WANTED: Would you like to look after a well-mannered chocolate laborador for occasional nights. Coco is an adorable, quiet lab. During the winter months her owner has to be away occasionally. Please contact Andrew at ajl31@cornell.edu

FREE: Two Laz-E-Boy rocker-recliners. 1 is lady's size and the other is for a man. Very good condition, matching dark green plush upholstery. Contact Judy at 2273 (mornings) or 315-946-4953 or jla2

FOR SALE: Large wooden desk for office or student. Has drawers and is in nice condition. Contact Tony at ams5@cornell



Mark your calendars!

It's cold, it's wet, we haven't seen the sun for weeks it must be time to fire up the slow-cookers and eat some chili.

Friday, February 3, 12:00 PM
Barton Lab Lobby

Bring: either an entry for the chili contest, or \$5 if you just want to eat (we will provide beverages)

Categories:

chili with meat, chili without meat

From within these categories, we will also have an overall "most creative" (but there is no separate "creative" category - make sense?) Please e-mail Amy Andersen at ada10 by 9:00 AM on February 3 with the title of your chili so ID cards can be printed.

Mmmmmmm.....chili!