



STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

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Sept. 15 - Sept. 29, 2006

BRIEFS

SAVE THE DATE:

President David Skorton's First Annual Address to Staff

Monday, September 25, 2006
12:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Alice Statler Auditorium – Ithaca campus

The President will speak to staff from 12:15 to 12:45 and at the end of his speech, a free lunch will be served.

In the President's Inaugural speech, he spoke of the following as one of his five basic commitments to the University:

To optimize the environment for our staff.

"The talented nonfaculty staff of the university are not only supportive of the faculty's endeavors, but represent the university in many critical endeavors. Whether in administration, extension, research, teaching or many other areas of our academic and programmatic lives, the staff is critical to the university's foundation. Are we doing what is needed to become the employer we aspire to be? Do our administrative procedures result in fair treatment of all employees, including recognition and rewards, professional development and work/life balance? Do we respond appropriately to the needs of dual-career couples? Does our campus climate support employee diversity? Are our employees' voices clearly heard in the dialogue creating the future of Cornell?"

Please find time in your busy schedules to make the trip to Ithaca to hear President Skorton speak. It will be a true benefit!

P. Mahoney

New Plant Pathologist Hired

Kerik D. Cox has accepted an appointment as assistant professor of tree fruit and berry crop pathology in the plant pathology department at the Experiment Station. The position addresses two functional areas, extension (50%) research (50%), and includes responsibility for leading the statewide Extension Program on tree fruit and berry crop pathology in cooperation with other Cornell extension faculty and personnel. The extension component will involve an education program using traditional and innovative communication technologies, and will address the cause and control of diseases of those crops in New York State, and be directed toward extension educators, growers, private consultants, and agribusiness personnel.

"We are pleased that Kerik has joined our faculty, and look forward to working with him as he develops a research and extension program that will be important to the stakeholders of New York," said Harvey Hoch, plant pathology department chair. Hoch pointed out that Cox brings to Cornell solid experiences with peach and blueberry disease problems—a background that will help him to easily transition into solving problems on these and other fruit diseases of the region. "With 50% extension responsibilities, we anticipate Kerik's role as the 'point person' for tree fruit and berry diseases to continue the longstanding recognition the Experiment Station and the department have historically held in this area."

"This position was an excellent match for my scientific background and interests," Cox said when asked why he applied for the position. "I've worked primarily with tree and small fruit pathosystems and with fruit extension pathologists throughout my scientific career, and I feel most familiar and comfortable with issues related to fruit disease and fruit production systems." Cox added that another important factor in his decision was that Cornell has one of the foremost plant pathology programs, and is one of the best places to do fruit research in the country. "My colleagues are regarded as leading experts in their areas of expertise and the research facilities are cutting-edge."

Cox's research interests in the past have involved the use of more basic research approaches to answer applied questions about fruit disease problems. In his research on peach and blueberry he used techniques ranging from epidemiological modeling and biochemistry to georadar and transgenes to answer questions about the development and management of disease. Currently, he is in the process of shifting his focus from peaches and blueberries towards apples, cherries, strawberries, and the other small fruit planted in the Northeastern United States. "I still plan to focus my research on questions related to disease development and disease management," he said "I'm interested in investigating



K. Cox

(Continued on page 2)



Memorial Tree Dedication

The Nedrow family has graced the Experiment Station campus with a Star Magnolia tree honoring the memory of Judith Anne Nedrow. The tree is planted on the edge of the west campus lawn next to the crabapple grove and the natives perennial garden.

The NYS IPM Program will place a bench honoring Judy in the natives perennial garden, so people can take a break from the day, sit, and enjoy the magnolia, flowers, and crabapples through the coming years.

We will gather around the Star Magnolia with the Nedrow family to dedicate the memorial tree and bench at 4:30 PM on Thursday, September 21. Please join us and celebrate Judy's life and memory.

J. Carroll

Station Retiree Picnic

Under beautiful skies and warm temperatures, about 52 Station retirees gathered in the pavilion for a picnic on Thursday, September 7. Lunch was provided by Club 86, which, in itself, is always a treat.

As the Station was in the days when many of the retirees were active employees, it was more like a family picnic than former employees gathering together to renew friendships and enjoy an excellent meal. Among those present were two former directors, Don Barton and Jim Hunter; a former department chair, Morrie Vittum, Seed and Vegetable Sciences; several members of the faculty; and an excellent representation from the technical and service staffs.

Following lunch, which also included a marvelous cake baked by Nancy Crosier, Don Crosier's wife (plant pathology), president Peter Deth welcomed the group. He commented that it was wonderful to see so many of the retirees in attendance.

Peter also said that the retirees have been asked to help during the 125th anniversary celebratory year, which will start in March

(Continued on page 3)

Teachers Go to Work at Experiment Station

Area teachers endured a week of work at the Experiment Station last month so students in classrooms across the Finger Lakes can adjust their focus, with or without a microscope.

As part of the Summer Work Experience Program created by Karen Springmeier, executive director of the Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board (FLWIB), teachers from local elementary, middle and high schools were hosted by various departments at the Station to help enhance their ability to motivate students about career opportunities in the region.

"We all have a commitment to creating an awareness in the educational community about career opportunities on the campus and career paths that our students can take," said Springmeier, adding that they chose the Station because of the diverse employment opportunities offered.

(Continued on page 3)

(COX, continued)

biological, safe chemical, and cultural control practices as well as pathogen survival and inoculum dynamics of fruit diseases of critical importance to the region." He added that he plans to find himself a research niche in apples and start work on one or two small fruit critical needs diseases. "At the moment, I'm leaning toward apple powdery mildew. A lot of research focuses on mapping quantitative trait loci for disease resistance, which leaves a lot of other aspects of this disease open for investigation," he said. "My other short-term goals are to identify some critical research needs for key fruit commodities so that I can put together a few research proposals in the fall, and begin looking into the possibilities of a longer term molecular or genomic project. One long-term goal for my program would be the development of a fruit pathology genomics initiative that would be of benefit to the New York fruit industry."

Cox received a B.S. (Biology) in 1998 from Furman University, an M.S. (Plant Pathology) in 2000 from the University of Georgia, Athens, and his Ph.D. (Plant Pathology) in 2004 also from the University of Georgia, Athens. His most recent position was that of a postdoctoral associate in the department of entomology, soils and plant science at Clemson University.

Cox is a recipient of numerous awards and honors. Among them is the Roger C. Pearson Award from the American Phytopathological Society (Roger Pearson was a plant pathologist in the department); The Kenneth E. Papa Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Georgia Association of Plant Pathologists; Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, April, 2002; the E. Broadus Brown Award for the best M.S. Student in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia and First Place in the Georgia Association of Plant Pathologists Student Paper Competition, March 2000. He is a member of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) and the Georgia Association of Plant Pathologists (GAPP).

Cox's wife, Rosemary, is broadly trained in analytical chemistry, plant pathology, and molecular microbiology. "We're hoping that she'll be able to eventually find a job in the area," he said. "We have no children yet, but we'd like to start a family in Geneva in the future."

As far as interests outside of work and career go, Cox says he's a runner who runs mainly for health reasons not for competition. "I'm also heavily interested in computer hardware, computer networking, and audio/video technology," he said. "I think I'll be able to integrate aspects of this hobby into my extension and research programs. My other out-of-work interests include painting and movies, particularly the foreign and horror genres."

Kerik Cox can be reached at kdc33@cornell.edu. His office is in room 221 Barton lab.

J. Ogrodnick



(TEACHERS, continued)

As a result of exceeding all federal performance standards, the FLWIB received \$186,000 in Performance Incentive Funds under the Workforce Investment Act to dedicate to unique projects that enhance the area labor force. This program is one of nine.

During the first week of the program, 20 Finger Lakes educators spent time at various area businesses. The second week, facilitated by John Clow, director of the Leatherstocking Center for Economic Education at the State University of New York College in Oneonta, provided structured shadowing opportunities and planning sessions to prepare participants to integrate this experience into their lesson plans and curricula.

"We found that the program encourages interaction between the education and business community, introduces many teachers to the economic base of their community so that they can pass that knowledge on to their students, provides an understanding of what businesses are looking for in employees and develops a better understanding of why the business and education communities are dependent on one another," said Clow.

All three teachers assigned to the Station plan to work with NYSAES staff again in the future.

Pat Schwab, second grade teacher at Lincoln Primary School in Newark, worked with Angela Baldo and the Plant Genetic Resources Unit (PGRU) doing computational biology. She developed a module for her students about the different varieties of Brassica conserved at PGRU that she will implement next spring with seeds and plants from Baldo's collection. PGRU also donated two old computers to Lincoln Primary that will run the educational computer program Edubuntu.

Teresa Gable, a seventh grade science teacher at Seneca Falls Middle School, worked with Dan Fessenden and Kitty Noble at the Agricultural & Food Technology Park where she was introduced to the CherryPharm beverage packaging site and the Partnerships for Innovation Program. At the Station, she also met Betsy Bihn of horticultural sciences and learned about the National Good Agricultural Practices Program; Chris Smart of plant pathology and the Summer Science Camp; plant pathologists Bob Seem and Dave Gadoury; and toured horticulturist Courtney Weber's berry tissue lab.

"I learned that there are amazing people who are willing to help get students excited about learning science and offer resources to help. I plan on having some of the scientists share their world with my students," said Gable.

Bruce Baker, technology education teacher at Marcus Whitman High School, worked with Gemma Osborne and communications services, learning about offset printing, photography, web design, graphic arts, news writing and event management. He created a PowerPoint presentation to share with his peers.

"The Station is an exciting place with research, entrepreneurship, community outreach, volunteerism, summer work experience for students, committed people at every level, a great employer and so on," said Baker. "I can't say enough about the positive climate I felt on campus."

If funding is available, the program is expected to continue next year.

T. Krakowiak

(BRIEFS, continued)

2007. At this point in time, Peter said that all the details about the celebration haven't been determined. There will be an Open House on Sept. 14 - 15, along with several other events throughout the course of the year. The next major event for the retirees will be to sell food items at the annual Craft Show and Book Sale, which will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2006.

R.E. Krauss

Miracle March

The Miracle March for Hunger will be held on Saturday, September 30. This is a wonderful opportunity to help hungry people in Geneva.

Participants have an opportunity of doing something for a good cause while enjoying a nice walk in the park! Since this is not a race, each person can go at his or her own pace. Walkers ask others to sponsor them by pledging money per mile walked for a total of 5 miles. Walkers bring their walk forms and the money (collected in advance) to the registration table near the Geneva Recreation Center on the morning of the event. You can register and start your walk anytime between 8 and 10 AM.

100% of the proceeds will be given to the Food Pantry, the Community Lunch Program, and other area hunger relief efforts.

Walk forms are available from Diana Parker. Just send an e-mail or leave a voice message and a form will be sent to you in the campus mail.

Success is often the result of taking a misstep in the right direction.

~ Al Bernstein



Employee of the Year Award Call for Nominations

Each year the Station Club solicits nominations for an Outstanding Employee. The Outstanding Employee will be announced and presented with gifts at this November's Station Club Banquet. Nominators should solicit letters of support for a selected individual and submit all supporting materials to Jim Ballerstein, Selection Committee Chair, by Friday, September 22.

These packets will be evaluated by a volunteer panel of department and unit representatives. All nominations are confidential. The panel will convene and select this year's outstanding employee based on criteria such as:

- a high degree of excellence in job performance
- a friendly demeanor along with strong interpersonal skills that promote team work
- a willingness to extend themselves to help others
- a commitment to the goals of the Experiment Station
- quality (content) of letters - not quantity (number)
- who wrote the letters (supervisors, co-workers, administrative staff, department chair)
- the diversity of sources for the letters (department, Geneva campus, Ithaca campus, department visiting scientists)

Community involvement (outside the Station) should not be a strong determining factor.

Please take a few minutes to think about this, and then nominate someone who perhaps has been long overdue for this recognition. Thank you!

Amy Andersen
Station Club President

Request for Applications: IPM Partnership Grants for the Northeast

The Northeastern Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center is pleased to announce the availability of funding through its IPM Partnership Grants Program for 2007 (FY 2006 federal funds). A Request for Applications (RFA) is posted on the Center's website at http://northeastipm.org/about_fund.cfm

Approximately \$465,000 is available to support projects that will address or develop regional IPM priorities and will further the mission of the Northeastern IPM Center (<http://NortheastIPM.org/>). The Center is seeking applications for six project types:

- (1) IPM Working Groups
- (2) IPM Priorities
- (3) Regional IPM Publications
- (4) IPM Planning and Assessment Documents (Tactics Surveys, Crop Profiles, Pest Management Strategic Plans [PMSPs], and IPM Guidelines)
- (5) State Network Projects
- (6) IPM Minigrants

This year the IPM Partnership Grants Program particularly encourages extension proposals and projects involving small states, 1890 institutions, environmental groups, grower groups, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Other changes to the RFA:

- The new IPM Minigrants program allows project directors to request up to \$8,000, submit a short proposal, and focus on just one state, as long as they can show benefit to the region. Minigrant applications will be accepted by December 15, 2006, or from April through October 2007.
- Maximum funding amounts have been increased for two of the project categories: project directors who will spearhead working groups or regional publications may now request up to \$20,000. The Center is interested in proposals for working groups focused on establishing regional priorities, building bridges with NRCS, and researching the economic implications of IPM.
- Development of IPM guidelines is another area of strong interest for the Center. Projects devoted to guideline development can be proposed either as part of a working group or under the category called IPM Planning and Assessment Documents (which also covers IPM tactic surveys, crop profiles, and PMSPs).

For the second year in a row, the IPM Partnership RFA places emphasis on the impacts of proposed projects. Applicants are asked to consider potential real-world outcomes associated with their project objectives and to develop a plan for evaluating whether impacts have occurred.

ELIGIBILITY: Private individuals, public and private institutions or organizations, businesses, and commodity groups are encouraged to apply. The primary project director must be from the northeastern region.

DEADLINE: The original and fourteen (14) double-sided paper copies of each proposal must be received by the Northeastern IPM Center by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2006. See the complete RFA for full submission instructions. If you have questions or need paper copies of the RFA, please contact grants manager John Ayers, Co-director of the Northeastern IPM Center, Pennsylvania State University (phone 814-865-7776; fax: 814-863-8175; email jea@psu.edu).

E. Myers



Monroe County Assemblyman David Koon did some serious fact finding at the Station and the Technology Farm on September 12. Mr. Koon is vice-chair of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, which has joined Cornell to sponsor listening sessions across New York and a major symposium on important rural issues last July. Pictured above (left to right) Assemblyman Koon, Dan Fessenden, Bob Seem and Marc Smith in the Beverage Innovation Center at the Technology Farm where CherryPharm has set up their operation.

Save the date!

Station Banquet Friday, November 3rd



New York Farm Day

New York farm Day has become a Capitol Hill tradition, with a fifth year celebration taking place on Tuesday, September 19 in the Senate Russell Caucus Room, one of the most historic and elegant chambers in Congress. Hosted by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and organized by the New York Wine & Grape Foundation in conjunction with many other groups, Farm Day has become the most popular reception on the Hill, and a tasteful way to showcase New York as a major farm state. Wine, grape juice, a huge diversity of farm fresh products, seafood, cheese, ice cream, maple products and much more are offered to some 600 Senators, members of Congress, and policy makers throughout the government. Last week, a spinoff version (Mini-Farm Day North) took place at the New York Wine & Culinary Cen-

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Rixana Petzoldt (center) puts out a synthetic oil fire while Ralph D'Amato (left) of B&P and Michael Combs (right) of the Geneva Fire Department look on. Combs held a fire extinguisher training session at the Station on September 11. Combs opened the session asking for a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives in the attacks five years ago on this day.



CALENDAR of EVENTS
SEPT. 15 - SEPT. 29, 2006

MEETINGS

CHAIRS MEETING

Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2006
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: Director's Office

WORKSHOPS

PHOTOSHOP SERIES - PART 1

Date: September 19th, 2006
Time: 9-10:30 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Jane Irwin

WORD - WORKING WITH TABLES

Date: September 25th, 2006
Time: 10 AM - 12 Noon
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Andrei Baltakmens

WORD - MAIL MERGE

Date: September 26th, 2006
Time: 10 AM - 12 Noon
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Andrei Baltakmens

WORD - CREATING STYLES AND TEMPLATES

Date: September 26th, 2006
Time: 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Andrei Baltakmens

SEMINARS

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Robert Seem

"Can you spell Entrepreneur? Fostering New Enterprises at the Experiment Station"

Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2006
Time: 3:30 PM (Refreshments at 3:00 PM)
Place: A-134 Barton Lab

ENTOMOLOGY

Dr. Daniel Peck

"Two years post-invasion, the status of exotic Tipula crane flies in the Northeast."

Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2006
Time: 10:30 PM (Refreshments at 10:15 PM)
Place: 310 Barton Lab

(NY FARM DAY, continued)

ter in Canandaigua, with about 200 people savoring the products from several of the same exhibitors. Several speakers thanked Senator Clinton for her strong support of New York agriculture, including Alexa Gifford (New York Wine & Culinary Center), Debra Whiting (co-owner of Red Newt Cellars and Bistro), Mark Nicholson (Red Jacket Orchards), Abe Lackman (Council of Independent Colleges and Universities), and Drew Nieporent, owner of the Myriad Restaurant Group which includes top restaurants around the world such as Montrachet, Tribeca Grill, and Nobu in New York City. Mr. Nieporent recounted how a "Trade Mission" hosted by Senator Clinton in the fall of 2002 had created tremendous new awareness among New York City's top restaurateurs about the diversity and quality of New York wines and other farm products. Farm Day is a great reminder of that, as well as an effective way to educate Washington policy makers about the "other New York."



TAEKARDIO

6 week session/ \$25
Instructor: Tina Felice, Geneva Martial Arts

Mondays & Wednesdays from 12:10 PM - 1:00 PM
September 18 - October 26
Jordan Hall Auditorium

Beginners are welcome to come and enjoy one Free trial week.
Water bottle, floor mat/towel and comfy clothes to exercise in are recommended.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: Cottage, west side of Seneca Lake, 3.5 miles from Geneva, furnished, two bedrooms, large deck, great beach front, private. Weekly rental available in August and September, \$1,500/wk, deposit required. No pets, no smoking, no huge reunions/parties. Perfect for quiet, small family gatherings. Contact rkcamera@gmail.com or dck2@cornell.edu

FOR SALE: Log Home. Approximately 1 acre lot overlooking Seneca Lake, 3-4 bedrooms, large sunporch (12x31) with gas fire place, large established perennial gardens, front, side and back decks, 1 car+garage. 12 miles from NYSAES. Penn Yan Schools. \$159,900. Contact Jane Irwin at mji4@cornell.edu or 315-730-0082

FOR RENT: Comfortable, fully furnished three-bedroom sabbatical home for responsible individual or family. Nice bath, modern kitchen, office, full laundry, off-street parking in quiet neighborhood. Walking distance to Experiment Station (one mile), schools, hospital, and Madia's. Available mid-October 2006 through early May 2007. Attractively priced at \$500/month plus utilities. Email Doug at dck2@cornell.edu or call 315.521.3669.

FOR SALE: Dodge Caravan 2000. \$3,900 Good Condition. Cash only. Available July 15th. Mileage 122,000. Please contact Gabino Reginato at ghr4@cornell.edu or (315) 781-0670 between 6-10 PM

FOR SALE: 1991 West Wright Potter Sailboat. Includes 1991 Shore trailer, original users guide, swim ladder, paddle, gaf hook, porti potti, anchor, extra ropes and ALL sails. Tan Bark main sail, genoa, jib, multi colored spinnaker. \$4,000. ALSO: 2004

2.5 HP Mercury Motor. Less than 4 hours run time. \$600. Contact Donna at dmb62 or call 585-637-6673 or 585-315-9021

FOR RENT: Spacious 2 Bedroom Apartment Available on Milton Street, 5 blocks from Hobart and William Smith Campus, 1 block from the heart of downtown Geneva, and a 20-25 minute walk (5 minute drive) to the Station. Apartment is unfurnished, has all wood floors, 1 bath and on street parking. No pets or smoking. \$450 + utilities. Contact: Dia Mohan at 315-759-5242 or Alex Da Costa at aed4@cornell.edu

THESBIAN'S DREAM: Voucher for theatre tickets at the Stratford Festival of Canada. Must be used before Oct. 5, on this season of plays which ends Nov. 12. www.stratfordfestival.ca \$400 value. Will sell for \$325. It's transferable. Due to family health issues --- we can't go. Linda at llm3@cornell.edu

FOR RENT: 2nd floor apartment at 276 Castle Street. Two bedrooms available on October 1. \$450 plus utilities, and garbage pick-up. Contact Mei Cheung by e-mail or 789-7974 (evenings)

JOB: Genesee County -- Agriculture Program Leader (<http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/admin/careerops/pa418.htm>) Are you considering advancing your future? Have you thought about what can you do next in your career? Making a bigger impact in this professional field? We have great opportunities for you!! Currently, there is a senior level professional position within Cornell Cooperative Extension waiting for people like you!! If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact Connie Kan at 607-255-0789 or ck236@cornell.edu.