

# STATION NEWS

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

*Celebrating the past, shaping the present, inspiring the future.*  
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# 125



## BRIEFS

### A Message from the President

Dear Cornellian,

The tragic and incomprehensible loss of life that recently took place on the campus of Virginia Tech has stunned everyone throughout the Cornell community. Many of our students, faculty and staff have strong ties with members of the Virginia Tech family and, in our grief and sympathy, we are united in our thoughts, especially for the families and friends of the victims.

While there can be no guarantee against such horrific behavior, there is much we are doing to prevent such an occurrence on our campuses. Thanks to our counselors who support individuals throughout the university community in Ithaca, New York City and wherever Cornellians work and study, we are working with each of the university's departments to help our faculty and staff learn to recognize when a person is in distress and provide her or him the necessary support. Our police department devotes considerable time and effort to emergency preparedness, which regrettably encompasses strategies for handling similar situations. And, our students are doing a lot to support their fellow Cornellians through a variety of student-run programs.

The significance of a helping hand cannot be overemphasized. When we are aware of someone who is in distress, we demonstrate compassion by extending ourselves to that person, rather than ignoring the need. And when we allow others to help us when we are in trouble, we ease our own burdens and defuse potentially devastating circumstances.

To help promote the entire community's safety, there are actions you can undertake that will make a big difference. For

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Cornell Scientists to Investigate Bed Bug Problem

Nearly everyone, at some point or another, hears the tongue-in-cheek warning: don't let the bed bugs bite. Few people ever give it a second thought; as the pests apparently all but disappeared sometime in the 1950s, most people in the 21st century assume bed bugs are a thing of the past; an old problem that no longer exists. For most of us, bed bugs seem to have become little more than a silly character in a sing-song rhyme that every toddler memorizes.

But it would appear the critters are more resilient than we gave them credit for. The creature that many scientists believe followed us from our caves all the way to our current dwellings—fossilized bed bugs have been found in Egypt, and Aristotle, Pliny, and Aristophanes all made reference to them—seems to have made a comeback.



*Common Bed Bug*

Bed bug infestations have recently created substantial problems in major metropolitan areas, particularly New York City. The bedbug complaints have been growing rapidly in the last few years: the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development logged 1839 complaints in 2005. That number jumped to 4638 in 2006, and there are estimates that the agency has already received almost as many complaints so far this year. Newspapers from New Hampshire to Southern California are warning of the resurgence: the San Francisco Chronicle reported this month that outbreaks have been documented in all 50 states. The Finger Lake area hasn't escaped unscathed: in the last few months, Experiment Station scientists have been receiving more and more reports of local bed bug infestations, including right here in Geneva.

In an effort to solve the bedbug problem, Wendell Roelofs, Chair of the Department of Entomology and Paul Robbins, a post-doctoral fellow also in Entomology will be working cooperatively with two other Cornell scientists to determine both how the bed bugs locate their hosts, and how they mate.

The two will be working with Don Rutz, professor of veterinary entomology at Cornell and director of the NYS Integrated Pest Management program, and Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann, an IPM Area Specialist studying the bedbug infestations in New York City. They will be examining the behavior of bed bugs with organic chickens, another favorite target of the pests, and possibly conducting further field tests in New York City.

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(BRIEFS, continued)

you could program your cell phone to be able to speed dial 911 and the university's own police hotline at (607) 255-1111 to reach out for help whenever you believe someone close to you needs assistance. Or, you could update your emergency contact information and add your cell phone number to <http://www.whoiam.cornell.edu> so that you can be contacted more readily in the event of an emergency.

In the days and weeks ahead, we will look for answers to the many questions surrounding the Virginia Tech tragedy. This is a time when by reaching out to one another, we can find the strength to understand and grow as a community.

David J. Skorton  
President

### A "Trapline" for Worms in Sweet Corn

Those crawly critters that farmers find now and then in their sweet corn are up to no good for their bottom line. Knowing when the moths that produce these caterpillars are flying helps farmers devise strategy to prevent them. It also helps them avoid wasting control efforts—and money—when these insects pose no threat to corn.

The Trap Network—officially the Western New York Sweet Corn Pheromone Trap Network—maintains a network of traps for the three major sweet corn "worm" pests: European corn borer (overwinters in New York) and the corn earworm and fall armyworm (both are migratory). Traps are located in about 17 sweet corn fields in a dozen-plus Western New York counties.

Network collaborators—growers, crop consultants, and Cooperative Extension educators—count the moths in the traps each week. They relay the information to Abby Seaman, Western New York vegetable IPM educator, who posts the counts on the web, along with news about sweet corn scouting and spray thresholds. Once farmers know that moths are flying in their area, it's time to start scouting for them. These trap catches also help growers release *Trichogramma ostrinae*, a tiny parasitic wasp that helps control European corn borer, at the right times.

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(BED BUGS, continued)

The team is investigating exactly how bed bugs attract each other to mate and how they are attracted to their hosts (either humans or chickens). First they will be trying to determine whether sex pheromones are released by either the males or females to draw the other gender in, or whether there is an aggregation pheromone to draw the whole group together.

The long-term goal of the project is to isolate the means by which bed bugs locate potential mates and potential hosts, and eventually devise ways to manage the populations. There are currently several IPM strategies for managing bed bug infestations, but as the pests are resistant to many insecticides and can remain in nooks and crannies for up to a year without food, they can be very difficult to eradicate.

The project is still awaiting funding approval, expected to come at the end of May; until then, sleep tight.

N. Abbott

## Noted Wine Journalist Speaks at the Station

The Lee Library, in conjunction with the Station's 125th Anniversary, hosted a seminar on April 17 featuring journalist and photographer, Hudson Cattell. Cattell has been recording the progress of the eastern wine industry since 1976. He has written many articles on the history of wine and grapes in the Eastern United States, is co-author of *Wine East of the Rockies* and has contributed to many other works on this subject. He is currently co-editor of *Wine East* magazine and is writing a book on the history of wine and grapes in the East since prohibition.

Cattell's presentation, attended by more than 50 people. Provided a look back at his more than three decades of covering the eastern wine beat, He recounted in his talk how he became fascinated with wine and offered, among other things, reminiscences of his acquaintances with Philip Wagner, Konstantin Frank and personnel at the Experiment Station. Cattell played a major role in the Lee Library's receipt of an annual gift from ASEV-ES for books and was instrumental, along with Bruce Reisch, in the establishment of the Eastern Wine and Grape Archive within the Rare and Manuscript Collections at Kroch Library.



Hudson Cattell

Cattell learned on the job. On his first visit to a winery in Pennsylvania he drove right by the winery's vineyard. "I knew absolutely nothing about grapes and wine," he said. "In fact I didn't even realize they were grapevines." A portion of his education came from Liberty Hyde Bailey's *Evolution of Our Native Fruits*.

Cattell covered a wide range of wine-related topics during his seminar—a seminar that was peppered with numerous interesting and often humorous anecdotes. Due to space constraints, we limited Cattell's reminiscences to some of those dealing with the Station for this article.

Cattell's first Station-related experience was just over 30 years ago. "In 1976 a chap named Robert Pool was due to speak at the Southeast Grape Industry Association meeting in Lancaster PA," he said. "He came to talk about a number of North American hybrids

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(CATTELL, continued)

and their wine making potential (one of these was GR-7). "It was the first time I had heard of Geneva."

Cattell first visited Geneva in 1977 where he met and spoke with Walter Kender, Willard Robinson and Nelson Shaulis. A year later, in 1978, he talked with Terry Acree about taste orientation, and in 1982 was back for the Station's Centennial.

Among other things during that trip, he met with Paul Chapman who talked with him about the history of the Experiment Station. "At one point during the conversation, Dr. Chapman pulled out a newspaper clipping," Cattell said. "He identified it as being an editorial from a March 1887 *New York Sun*, and read from the clipping: 'From top to bottom this bill, the Station and its operations have been a fraud on our taxpayers. We demand that the legislature abolish the Geneva Experiment Station – it is a humbug'"

Cattell said that Chapman looked at him with a twinkle in his eye and said, "Humbug or not the Station survived, and became world famous for the importance and quality of its research accomplishments – as for the *Sun*, it disappeared from the journalistic scene."

*J. Ogrodnick*

(BRIEFS, continued)

The traps and lures are provided by the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program and maintained throughout the season with the help of local Cornell Cooperative Extension programs, farmers, and crop consultants.

Find trap counts online at <http://nysipm.cornell.edu/scouting/scnetwork/default.asp> and <http://www.pestwatch.psu.edu/> Learn how to integrate the trap counts into an IPM program at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/recommends/>

*M. Woodsen*

## New Tennant for Technology Farm

**T**errenew, LLC, announced today that it has received a grant for \$80,000 from the USDA under the Small Business Innovation Research program (SBIR) for development of spill absorbent pads made from agricultural wastes.

Terrenew has exclusive license to develop, manufacture and market a variety of absorbent products for oil and other liquid spills based upon a patent application filed by Gary Harman and Terry Spittler. The sorbent products will be made from different agricultural wastes including tree bark or processed, dried cow manure. Harman and Spittler, together with President and CEO Thomas Bourne, local businessmen John Hicks, and Dr. Daniel Berler, an environmental scientist located in Atlanta, are founders of the company.

The SBIR grant will allow Terrenew to complete research on sorbent pad development, commence pilot scale production and move toward commercialization of oil-absorbent pads, pillows, socks and booms. These products will be highly effective and offer economic advantages to the users, which will include auto and truck repair shops, manufacturers, and spill response contractors. Effective prototypes already have been produced in cooperation with Southeast Nonwovens, which is a R&D company located in Clover, SC. Oil-absorbent products typically are made from plastic fibers, which are petroleum based. Terrenew's products will move away from the petroleum-based fibers toward natural, renewable materials; up to 70 percent of the pads will be oil-absorbent agricultural waste products. In addition, the use of these wastes will also provide additional markets for farmers and foresters.

The sorbent pad products will be sold through a network of distributors and retailers, along with Terrenew's loose absorbent product, which is trademarked as OilMaster7X. This latter product is also produced from agricultural waste and is lighter, easier to handle, and about seven times more effective than the clay products most commonly used in oil spill applications.

"Receiving this grant is early validation that the idea has real merit," said Bob Seem, President of the board of the Ag Tech Park. "Successes like this are extremely important to small businesses such as Terranew."

Contact Persons for Terrenew: Thomas Bourne President and Chief Executive Officer 500 Technology Farm Drive Geneva, NY 14456, 585-202-3586 [tbourne@terrenew.com](mailto:tbourne@terrenew.com)

Dr. Gary Harman Chief Scientific Officer 500 Technology Farm Drive Geneva, NY 14456, 315-521-2498 [gharman@terrenew.com](mailto:gharman@terrenew.com)

### Wine & Herb Festival

April 28 & 29, 2007

May 5 & May 6, 2007

Celebrate the beginning of spring and receive a fragrant herb plant sponsored by Dickman Farms from each winery. Sample herb prepared delicacies paired with fine wines. Souvenir wineglass and recipes are included. In addition you will receive a package of flower seeds donated by Corning Museum of Glass commemorating their Flower Glass show May 18 till November 25, 2007. Participants are eligible to win one of Three Grand Prizes: a one night stay at the Packwood House, a one night stay at the Hobbit Hollow House Bed & Breakfast, a two night stay in the Biggs Room at McLallen House Bed & Breakfast one "Hot Glass Show Piece" and two adult passes to the Corning Glass Museum plus four \$10.00 gift certificates from the Ithaca Bakery.

Saturday 10am-6pm

Sunday Noon-6:00pm

Ticket valid for both days. Tickets can be purchased at any Wegmans store.

Advance tickets: Single \$ 30.00,  
Couple \$ 45.00.

Tickets at the door: Single \$ 35.00,  
Couple \$ 50.00.

Designated Driver: Single \$ 25.00,  
Couple \$ 40.00.



**CALENDAR of EVENTS**  
APRIL 27 - MAY 11, 2007

**MEETINGS**

**CALS FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2007  
**Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab

**SEMINARS**

**HORT. SCIENCE**

Jason Osborne  
Graduate Student

Dept. of Horticulture Sciences  
Cornell University, Geneva, NY  
"Peach Blossom Thinning: Something Old,  
Something New, Something Borrowed,  
Something Blue"

**Date:** Monday, April 30, 2007  
**Time:** 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab

Seminar will be viewed via  
polycom from Ithaca.

**ENTOMOLOGY**

Dr. Kevin Heinz  
Head, Department of Entomology  
Texas A&M

"Ecological Entomology in the Greenhouse:  
Arm Waving Evolving to Experimentation"

**Date:** Tuesday, May 1, 2007  
**Time:** 10:30 AM (coffee at 10:15 AM)  
**Place:** 310 Barton Lab

**PLANT PATH**

Nicole Russo  
Department of Plant Pathology  
Cornell University, Geneva, NY  
"Rootstock Resistance to Fire Blight:  
The Mystery of Budagovsky 9"

**Date:** Tuesday, May 1, 2007  
**Time:** 3:30 PM (coffee at 3:00 PM)  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab

**RETIREEES NEWS**

If you have changed your address or if you are not receiving mailings about Retiree's activities, and would like to be on the mailing list, please call Sue Dwyer at 315-781-0360.

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

Classes are free and include conversational English, writing skills and real-life communications.

**Instructor:** Mary Spittler  
**When:** Every Tuesday from 5-8 PM, & every Thursday from 3-6 PM.  
**Where:** The Food Science and Technology Building Lunch Room.

New students are welcome to join at any time. Just show up for any session. Classes are flexible so that students may attend either or both sessions each week.

**The 2007 United Way Campaign is underway!**

Please remember that when you donate to the United Way, a full 100% of your donation stays right here in Ontario County, helping those who are most in need in our community!

And Every Dollar Gets Empowered (EDGE) at United Way! United Way of Ontario County was among the first United Ways in America to ensure that every cent of every dollar collected goes to take care of our own in Ontario County. The yearly earnings from United Way's Community Endowment Fund - not a penny of donor dollars - pay United Way's operating expenses. Bottom line - you get your money's worth when you give to the United Way!

Look for more information to follow.

**Perennial Plant Exchange**

Bring divisions of your favorite perennials. Come at 10 AM to set up your plants. The exchange will begin at 10:30.

If you have any questions please contact Rixana Petzoldt (462-7869) or Franzie Smith (789-8112)

**Date:** Saturday May 5th  
**Time:** 10 AM- Noon, rain or shine  
**Place:** Pavilion behind Jordan Hall



**TAEKARDIO**

On Monday, April 23rd a new 6-week session of TaeKardio began.

**Time:** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Auditorium  
**Fee:** \$25.00 for the six week session (cash or check payable to Geneva Martial Arts)

Bring water, a mat/towel for floor work and your sense of humor. Everyone is welcome!

**PEDOMETERS FOR SALE**

Anyone who would like to purchase a pedometer (with the Cornell emblem), please contact Kathy DeRosa at x2236 or kad2. Cost for first-time buyer is \$2; if you're a return customer the cost is \$10.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**FREE:** Sturdy one-piece steel-pipe picnic table/seats. Some wood repair needed. Contact rs@nysaes.cornell.edu or 789-5026

**FOR SALE:** 2001 Yamaha V-Star 1100cc Classic. Very good condition, 14,000 miles, Dealer maintained, Removable windshield, Passenger backrest and floorboards, Engine guards, and New rear tire. This bike is nearly 100% stock with the exception of the grips and passenger footrests. \$4200 includes custom fit cover. Contact Bill Boone, web5 or call 315-521-6803.

**FOR RENT:** Downstairs one bedroom apartment. Newly re-decorated, Off street parking, Walking distance to Geneva General Hospital and NYSAES, No smoking, Coin - operated laundry available. Rent is \$495 per month plus utilities. Water and trash removal included. Lease / security deposit. Contact David Combs, dbc10 or call 315-789-3167.

**FOR SALE:** 1991 NISSAN SENTRA - Red, GXE Sedan 4D, automatic transmission, cruise control, Air conditioning, Single compact disc, Power steering. In very good condition! 114,000 mileage, \$1300 (obo) Kelley blue book price: Excellent condition: \$ 2120, Good condition: \$ 1820, Fair condition: \$ 1430. Please contact Kyung-Mi Yoo at ky92 or X2275.