



# STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

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## BRIEFS

### Berry Pest Management Meeting To Be Held At The Station

Growers, consultants, extension and field research personnel alike will benefit from the information presented in this day-long berry pest management workshop to be held on March 25, 2008. The meeting will run from 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM in Jordan Hall auditorium. DEC re-certification credits (5.75) will be available for categories 1A, 10, and 22.

The workshop will provide an in-depth look at berry pest management from A to Z, from reviews of best management practices for various pest groups to updates on cutting edge berry pest management research and extension work at Cornell. Presenters include an all star-cast of Station faculty and staff including Greg Loeb, Kerik Cox, Andrew Landers, Juliet Carroll, and Beth Gugino. Speakers from the Department of Horticulture Ithaca include Robin Bellinder, Chris Benedict, Marvin Pritts, Cathy Heidenreich, and Laura McDermott.

Registration (\$25) includes coffee breaks, lunch, and proceedings. For more information or to register, contact Nancy Long, npl1@cornell.edu or 787-2288.

### Wine Industry Workshop

The Wine Industry Workshop will be held March 26, 2008 - March 28, 2008 at the Ramada Inn Geneva Lakefront and Remote Location: LI Horticultural Research and Extension Center.

The year 2007 has been a transitional one for the Cornell Enology Program, with new faculty members Ramòn Mira de Orduña, Gavin Sacks, and Justine Vanden Heuvel joining the team. They, along with

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## Remembering Don Downing

Donald L. Downing, Cornell professor emeritus of food processing, passed away suddenly on Friday, February, 29 after a wonderful morning of skiing. He was 76.

“Don Downing was an extraordinary person, faculty member and colleague that left his mark on the food industry and his colleagues at the Station through his infectious energy, his vision and a generosity of spirit,” said Station Director Tom Burr. “His giving and leadership to the community are also examples of a life lived to the fullest that inspires us all as we follow our own paths.”



Don Downing

Born in Willoughby, Ohio, Downing grew up in Fulton, New York. He received his associate degree in dairy science from Morrisville (NY) College. He then spent three years in the Army including two years in Europe. Upon his return, he enrolled in the University of Georgia's food science and technology program. After receiving his Ph.D., he and his family moved to Johnstown, NY, where he worked for Beechnut-Lifesavers for three years before joining the Cornell faculty at the Experiment Station in 1967.

Downing's distinguished career at Cornell spanned more than 40 years. Although his position was 100% extension, he was always available to Food Science graduate students for advice in all aspects of the food industry. He was well known for encouraging them to attend symposia, conferences and meetings to complement their academic training. He established the annual Downing Graduate Student Excellence Award. In addition, he was an invaluable mentor to junior faculty in the Department of Food Science and Technology. He gave freely of his time, and was an exceptional friend and colleague.

Downing's primary responsibilities when he began work at the Station were to assist the state food processing industry and state farm wineries. To this end, he conducted pesticide training and certification for 13 years. He organized, or took part in, over 150 food related workshops and ran 22 annual offerings of the Better Process Control School; attendance is required by the FDA for workers in canning operations. He had 152 publications to his name, including *Processed Apple Products* and the three-volume *A Complete Course in Canning* both of which he edited and are industry standards. In addition, Downing was one of the first Cornell faculty to work extensively with New York wineries. He was instrumental in creating the first Wine Industry Workshop in 1971 and helped start Cornell's enology extension program.

In 1988, Downing created the New York State Food Venture Center in response to a

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*(BRIEFS, continued)*

new Enology Extension Associate Chris Gerling, joined Terry Acree, Ben Gavitt, Tim Martinson and Jim Trezise to organize this year's Workshop. The entire program will be available for the first time by teleconference at the Long Island Horticultural Research and Extension Center in Riverhead, NY.

### March for Babies

WalkAmerica has been renamed "March for Babies," but the goal is still the same—to walk for the health of all babies. Funds raised through the March for Babies support research, education, community programs and advocacy, including the University of Rochester's \$303,373 to study oxygen treatment's contribution to lung injury and disease, and other programs.

This year the March of Dimes March for Babies will be held on Sunday, May 4. Registration at noon, and the Walk begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Seneca Lake State Park.

If you're interested in participating in the walk (at the lake on an especially nice day) or in giving for this cause, please contact me via e-mail kad2, or x2236. I will provide you with a registration card and more information.

Those of you who have participated in previous Walks should have received registration material at home. Please be sure to indicate that you are on the Geneva Experiment Station team. Also, please let me know if you plan to Walk this year so I can include you on the Station list of participants.

In order for the Station Team to reach our \$500 goal, we will be selling Niagara chocolate bars. If you would like a box of candy bars to sell, please let me know.

Thank you.

*K. DeRosa*

### Bowling Party

It is time again for the Annual Station Club Bowling Party! The Harman Lab group, with support from Station Club and SAGES, is organizing the event.

Please join us on Saturday, March 29th, at 8 PM at the Sunset Lanes. The cost includes 3 games, shoe rental, pizza and soda.

The cost is \$13 for Station Club members (the 2008 membership drive is going on RIGHT NOW so please see your rep to sign

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*(DOWNING, continued)*

growing need in the New York State food industry. The program, which began as an extension effort for the Department of Food Science and Technology, has lasted nearly twenty years. For most of that time, Downing was an integral part of the Center's function. He was its first director, running the program until his partial retirement in 1994. After retiring, he continued to work at the Food Venture Center part time as the Process Authority, evaluating the safety of proposed recipes, making changes as necessary, and approving the process. His knowledge of Federal and State food law was inexhaustible, and he excelled in making obtuse regulations easy to understand. He was often found with a phone to his ear, spending time with clients answering questions and offering suggestions.

He earned numerous honors and awards for his work including a Commendation from the NY State Commissioner of Agriculture in 1997 and the USDA-Group Honor Award for Excellence for the NECFE program in 2004. As a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), Downing initiated several divisions and served as chair of several national committees. He was Councilor for Western New York IFT for 21 years, helping to maintain the section's focus and financial health at a time when it was losing industry members due to transfers and plant closings.

In addition to IFT, Downing was a member of the Alumni Association at the University of Georgia, the Geneva Country Club, the Finger Lakes Forum, and the Associated New York State Food Processors.

"Don's sudden death was totally unexpected and a huge shock to everyone," said Chang Y. (CY) Lee, Food Science and Technology chair. "His contributions and dedication to the New York food and beverage industry are immeasurable. Above all, Don was a great person and friend. We will miss him greatly."

"Don Downing was a mentor, a colleague and a friend to many of us but he was very special to me," said Olga Padilla-Zakour, current director of the Food Venture Center. "I was privileged to follow him as the second director of the very center he created out of his commitment and desire to help food entrepreneurs and the NY food industry. He showed me every day, with words and actions, with an unselfish, enthusiastic, joyful and professional disposition, how to be a Cornell extension leader and a caring mentor. He loved working with people, always providing meaningful assistance and encouragement. I am forever grateful for his advice, support and friendship. I will never forget all he taught me and the kindness he showed to everyone. I will miss him very much."

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Rochelle, son, Kurt, daughter, Karla, and granddaughter Jacklyn. He also leaves behind four brothers and several nephews and nieces.

Memorial contributions may be made by check to:

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, noting that it is "A contribution in memory of Dr. Donald L. Downing for the Downing Graduate Student Excellence Award" either on the check or with a letter. Please send to: Cornell University, Attention Debby Ditzell, 630 W. North St., Geneva, NY 14456.

Or to FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICE OF THE FINGER LAKES, INC.

671 South Exchange Street, Geneva, New York 14456.

A celebration of his life will take place at a later date in the Spring.

*E. Keller*

## SAVE THE DATE

**"BRING A CHILD TO WORK DAY" will be held on**

**Thursday, April 24**

**Stay tuned for additional details on how your child (ages 8 - 16) can visit and learn about the world of work here at the Station. Registration forms and a schedule of events will be available in the next issue of Station News!**



## The Seed Lab – A ‘Hidden’ Treasure

For 96 years, the New York State Seed Testing Laboratory (NYS-STL), based in Sturtevant Hall here at the Experiment Station, has been quietly testing commercial seed to ensure truth in labeling and protect both the seed producer and consumer. The laboratory does this work in conjunction with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The lab has been in existence since 1912, yet many people don't know about it.



*Germination test on cucumber seeds.*

The laboratory provides quality assurance for the seed industry through testing for truth in labeling. Testing ensures that seeds for sale in the state are up to both New York standards and those of the Federal Seed Act. The lab also provides seed testing as a service to individuals and companies as well as to Cornell's New York State Seed Improvement Project for the production of state certified seed.

The NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets inspects and samples commercial seed for testing and sends it to the laboratory where it is analyzed to make sure it is labeled correctly. For instance, if it is labeled corn seed for sale, is the seed indeed corn? The purity of the sample is also checked. This is done by randomly dividing the sample down to a predetermined weight and then hand separating subsamples into four components: pure seed, other crop seed, weed seed and inert matter. Pure seed is the labeled seed, the corn in a corn sample for instance. Other crop seed could be, for example, a soybean present in a corn sample. Weed seed is exactly that—weed seed, but there are different classifications of weeds: common weeds, restricted noxious weeds, and prohibited noxious weeds. Common weeds are any non-crop seeds that are not designated restricted or prohibited noxious weeds. Restricted noxious weeds and prohibited noxious weeds are defined by state law; the law either restricts the amount of weed seeds per pound that may be present or prohibits any presence at all of a specific weed species in a seed lot. Inert matter is soil, rocks, vegetative material, or any other non-seed material. These four components are weighed and their respective percentage of the total combined weight is used to check against the label claim. Any label violations are reported to the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets for action.

In addition to the regulatory function, the Seed Lab offers seed quality services to the public. For a fee, the lab performs purity and germination analysis for any New York State resident or company, and offers specialized tests for certain crop kinds. The Seed Lab website: [www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/seedlab/main.htm](http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/seedlab/main.htm) has been on-line since summer 2006 and contains information on tests available and a fee schedule. For the identification of weed and crop seeds the laboratory maintains a seed herbarium containing over 7000 species and cultivars.

The length of time it takes to test a sample depends on the kind of seed in question. An individual purity sample can generally be completed in one day or less, but it depends on the complexity of the sample. In germination tests, the seed is grown; an individual test could be as short as seven days for crops like corn or lettuce or as long as six months for some tree species. Testing protocols are defined by the Association of Official Seed Analysts, which is a national organization that works to establish standards in the seed testing community. For research needs, the lab can operate under the specified parameters requested.

The laboratory has checked seed quality for the USDA Plant Genetics Resource Unit and has also worked collaboratively with Station faculty throughout its history. If your research program could be assisted by our facilities, don't hesitate to ask or come over to historic Sturtevant Hall, first floor, for a tour.

*K. Arvin*

*(BRIEFS, continued)*

up) and \$15 for nonmembers.

SAGES has agreed to donate \$2 towards-graduate student's cost.

Talk to your friends and form teams of four. Email your list of names (ASAP) to Kristen Ondik at klo2 and send the money via campus mail to Kristen in Sturtevant Hall. Specify which area you want to bowl: the "serious" side, the "cosmic" side, or if you have no preference.

Thank you and I hope to see you there on March 29.

### Leap Into Action!

What is one very simple way to help others on our campus and in our community? Join Station Club.

Station club is not just a way to get discount tickets and new T shirts. Your Membership dollars play an integral part in what Station Club is able to offer the Station community. Contributions are made to Earth Day events, Bike and Walk to Work Week, Arbor Day plantings, and Station picnics.

Station Club hosts the American Red Cross Blood Drives in Jordan Hall, as well as Emergency Food Drives, special collections for the Geneva Center of Concern's Food Pantry and Operation Happy Holidays. Recently, Station Club and SAGES joined forces to purchase a new ping pong table for the Sawdust Cafe, and Station Club will be purchasing a VCR/DVD player and exercise tapes for the Sawdust.

Becoming a member is as easy visit your department or unit Station Club representative. Just bring your membership fee.

- Single memberships are \$5
- Family memberships are \$8
- Students and Retirees receive a \$1 off their membership fees.

Station Club makes a difference in our community. See your representative:

Donna Loeb - ASC  
 Ralph D'amato - BP  
 Nancy Long - Comm  
 Patty Gibbs - CS  
 Pam Adams - ENT  
 Steve Gordner - FRU  
 Debby Ditzell - FST  
 MaryJean Welser - HS Hedrick  
 Terry Spittler - HS Sturtevant  
 Debra Marvin - IPM  
 Sherri Tennies - PGRU  
 Amy Andersen - PP



## CALENDAR of EVENTS MAR 15 - 29, 2008

### MEETINGS

**THE CHAIRS MEETING ON  
MARCH 25, 2008 AT 8:30 AM  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

### SEMINARS

#### PLANT PATHOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2008  
**Time:** 3:30 PM  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab  
**Title:** Perspectives on Catastrophic Tree Diseases: Fizzle in the Drizzle?  
**Speaker:** George Hudler, Ithaca

**Date:** Tuesday, April 1, 2008  
**Time:** 3:30 PM  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab  
**Title:** Fruit IPM in New York State: Discover, Implement, and Extend  
**Speaker:** Juliet Carroll, IPM Geneva

#### ENTOMOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2008  
**Time:** 10:30 AM, Coffee at 10:15  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab  
**Title:** Genetic and Genomic Approaches to Understanding Differences Between European Corn Borer Pheromone Strains  
**Speaker:** Rick Harrison, Ithaca

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2008  
**Time:** 10:30 AM, Coffee at 10:15  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab  
**Title:** Funky and Fruity; the Scent of Deception in Fly-mediated "Pollination"  
**Speaker:** Rob Raguso, Ithaca

**Date:** Tuesday, April 1, 2008  
**Time:** 10:30 AM, Coffee at 10:15  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab  
**Title:** Virus-resistant Transgenic Crops: Insights into Their Impact After the First Decade of Release  
**Speaker:** Marc Fuchs, Geneva

*(Continued in next Column)*

### SEMINARS CONTINUED

#### FOOD SCIENCE

**Date:** Wednesday, March 26, 2008  
**Time:** 11 AM  
**Place:** FST Conference Room  
**Title:** FST 251 Video Conferencing and Related Issues  
**Speaker:** John Barnard and Mark Casasanta, Geneva

**Date:** Wednesday, April 2, 2008  
**Time:** 11 AM  
**Place:** FST Conference Room  
**Title:** Extraction and Quantification of 2-methoxy-3-isobutylpyrazine (IBMP) in *Vitis vinifera* L. cv. Cabernet Franc using HS-SPME analysis coupled with labelled isotope and GCxGC-TOF-MS  
**Speaker:** Imelda Ryona, Geneva

#### SPECIAL SEMINARS FOOD SCIENCE

**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2008  
**Time:** 10 AM  
**Place:** Polycom Room 251  
**Title:** Sending Out Roots: Outreach Design for a New Wine Region  
**Speaker:** Anna Katharine Mansfield, Enology Assistant Professor Candidate, University of Minnesota, Excelsior, MN

**Date:** Tuesday, March 18, 2008  
**Time:** 10 AM  
**Place:** Polycom Room 251  
**Title:** Northern Terroir: Defining Identity with New Wine Grape Cultivars  
**Speaker:** Anna Katharine Mansfield, Enology Assistant Professor Candidate, University of Minnesota, Excelsior, MN

### LTC

**Date:** Thursday, March 27, 2008  
**Time:** 9 - 11 AM  
**Place:** LTC  
**Title:** Excel Intermediate II  
**Instructor:** Cheryl Ten Eyck, Geneva

### CLASSIFIEDS

**CHICKEN BARBECUE** to raise money for the Geneva High School Substance Free 2008 Graduation party at the Town & Country Plaza in Geneva on Saturday, March 29. If you are interested, tickets are \$8 and can be purchased from Lou Ann Rago ahead of time. Contact Lou Ann at lar38 or x2394.

### CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED

**FOR SALE:** 1997 Honda Civic Sedan DX 4d 109,500 miles. Excellent condition, automatic, A/C, radio, cd player, sunroof, inspection just passed. \$4,500. Contact Diego at dsi5, x2601 or 585-472-9267

**HOUSE FOR RENT.** Three or four bedroom, two bath, fenced-in back yard. South West Street. \$800/month plus utilities. Available immediately. Contact: Kathy DeRosa, kad2, or 789-7482

### STATION SAFETY COMMITTEE SAFETY TIPS

#### SHIPPING OF DANGEROUS GOODS

Do you ship dangerous goods (i.e. pesticides, samples in dry ice, alcohol or formaldehyde, etc.) to another location within the U.S. or other countries? Are you planning to ship dangerous goods in the near future? If you are not a Cornell University authorized dangerous goods shipper, please go to: <http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/lab/dot/default.cfm> for training opportunities.

#### Goals:

1. To ensure the safety of Cornell employees, visitors, students and the general public from accidental release of hazardous materials during transportation at or between Cornell facilities.
2. To mandate minimal levels of container packaging and load securing and make responsible personnel aware of the United States Department of Transportation regulation.
3. To minimize the risk of Cornell University being involved in a hazardous materials incident or improper shipment.

#### Overview:

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) regulates the transportation of hazardous materials in the United States. The specific regulations written in volume 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations define hazardous materials and specify how to conduct practically every aspect of hazardous materials shipping. The Cornell University Environmental Health and Safety office has determined that these regulations do apply to all shipments of hazardous materials sent from Cornell to other institutions and may apply to transportation of hazardous materials on, around, and between Cornell facilities by Cornell personnel.