



STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

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July 18 - Aug. 1, 2008

BRIEFS

International Symposium to be held
August 4 - 8 in Geneva



The Ninth International Symposium on Integrating Canopy, Rootstock and Environmental Physiology in Orchard Systems will be held August 4-8 on the campus of Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

The meeting is a combined effort of three ISHS (International Society of Horticultural Sciences) Fruit Section Working Groups: The Orchard and Plantation Systems Working Group, the Rootstock Breeding and Evaluation Working Group, and the Environmental Physiology Working Group. The groups are working in collaboration with Cornell University, The New York State Horticultural Society, and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

The symposium will bring together scientists who are working on genetics and genomics of rootstock characters, rootstock breeders and evaluators, tree and rootstock physiologists, and canopy management specialists. The past eight meetings of the Orchard Systems working group have

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Cornell Responds to Hail Damage in Western New York

It's that time of year when growers and farmers watch the skies with a wary eye hoping that they will be lucky enough that a predicted chance of severe weather is just that—a chance. On June 16 luck ran out for growers in several Western New York counties when hail caused widespread devastation to fruit, and in some cases fruit trees in area orchards. Many growers reported 60 - 90 and even 100% of their crop destroyed.

Herb Aldwinckle and Kerik Cox traveled to Wagner's Orchard in Wayne County on June 18, the same day that Commissioner of Agriculture Patrick Hooker and NY Apple Association President Jim Allen were there. Cox said that when they arrived around noon the place was already packed with NY Farm Bureau personnel, concerned growers and community members, and private tree fruit consultants.

Aldwinckle and Cox first looked at the young plantings, which are of primary concern in hail-damaged sites because they are at the greatest risk for fire blight, which could easily kill young trees.

"The hail had caused damage to close to 100% of the fruit in the young blocks we saw, and we were very concerned about the potential for fire blight infecting the wounded leaves, fruits, and stems," said Aldwinckle. "Fire blight infection at this stage can kill large branches, and even whole trees by getting into the rootstock. Fortunately there hadn't been much blossom infection in the area due to lack of weather conditions favorable for fire blight, and the trees had finished flowering by the time the hailstorm arrived." Aldwinckle added that the growers had wisely applied streptomycin on their damaged trees—a measure Station pathologists had recommended for this very situation. "It now appears that most growers escaped the additional damage that can be caused by fire blight, and their trees will come through this nasty episode."

Cox pointed out that the processing market to which hail damaged apples would go often doesn't provide enough revenue to cover the cost of production, and that a large influx of fruit with hail damage only depresses the price. "From the grower's standpoint the best situation would be to have a complete crop loss and to have purchased crop insurance," he said. "Crop insurance doesn't go into effect unless the grower has at least a 60% crop loss. Wagner's, like many of the growers we visited later, had in our opinion, much higher than



Hail-damaged apple

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(BRIEFS, continued)

documented and led the dramatic changes in orchard systems, rootstocks and management across the world. This meeting will again provide much new information on practical orchard management as well as reports on significant advances in rootstock genetics and tree physiology.

There will be four days of scientific meetings (oral and poster sessions) and one day of professional tours of research and commercial orchards and a packinghouse. The scientific sessions will be held on the Hobart and William Smith Colleges campus.

There are 235 people from 32 countries registered for the meeting.

Pesticide Reminder

The spray season has begun. Please remember to enter all field plots from the designated On-Site Posting area. Follow all EPA Worker Protection Standard and pesticide label precautions. Additional information on specific pesticide applications is available at the farm's Central Posting site. FRU offers WebPost, a convenient web based source for its pesticide application information at <http://fru.nysaes.cornell.edu/fru/webpost/FMPro?-db=WebPost.fp3&-lay=web&-format=search.htm&-view> with the password "guest".

Please remember applicators cannot always see people in or around the blocks being sprayed. If you are exposed to drift vacate the area immediately and check the proper central posting location for specific information about the application or contact Mart Van Kirk at 781-5307 or mwv1@cornell.edu.

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(HAIL, continued)

60% fruit damage. In the blocks we visited, we could find no undamaged fruit."

Cox also noted another disease concern from hailstorms in fruit is rots. "Black, white, and bitter rot are fungal diseases that rot damaged apples in the heat of summer and unusually warm falls. These diseases have been increasing in prevalence in the state since 2006. Hailstorms provide an excellent entry route for rots

to get into damaged apples and spread to those not stricken by the hailstones," he said. "The growers must then decide to apply summer fungicides to apples for which they can no longer market for the fresh market, or risk building fruit rot disease inoculum in their plots. Apple growers cannot afford to apply fungicides to a crop for which they will get little profit."

On July 7 Cox, Aldwinckle, Tom Burr, Steve Hoying from the Hudson Valley lab, and Debbie Breth from Cornell Cooperative Extension, toured the Wayne County orchards to look at hail damage and meet up with Senator Clinton's tour at Gary Well's orchard in Fairville, NY. "All the growers—we visited five—had complete crop damage in the blocks we saw, and at many of the sites there was considerable shoot and leaf damage in addition to the fruit damage," Cox said. "There was no evidence of fire blight at any of the sites, and fruit rots seemed to have been arrested by the dry weather. The damage wasn't just restricted to apples. Cherries and high-value peaches also suffered the wrath of the hailstorms."

Senator Clinton listened to grower's concerns and made candid honest remarks about disaster relief. Then Burr, Aldwinckle and Cox briefly talked with the Senator about the role of Cornell, the Station, and Cooperative Extension in managing the disaster. "We mentioned the danger of fire blight and rots getting into the fruit and trees, and how we are doing research and supplying recommendations on how to avoid these infections," Aldwinckle said. He thanked the Senator for her support of the special grant on fire blight control, and she acknowledged the need for future support. "It was refreshing to see that she cared enough for the New York fruit industry to devote a day to visiting with the community," he said.

"We also made a plea for increased cooperation from the EPA and NYSDEC to make available safe non-medical use antibiotics that are available for use in fire blight management," Cox added.

Wayne County is the second largest apple-producing county in the U.S.



Debbie Breth, Tom Burr, Steve Hoying and Herb Aldwinckle talk to a grower about his hail-damaged fruit.



J. Ogradnick



New York State Parks Commissioner Visits Parrott Hall

One of the oldest buildings on the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station campus, the grand old Parrott Hall, was recently presented to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Carol Ash as the future Parrott Hall Center for Food and Agricultural Sciences.

On Wednesday, July 9, Commissioner Ash along with Deputy Commissioners Andy Beers and Wint Aldrich, as well as Finger Lakes regional director Tim Joseph joined Station faculty, staff, and Geneva community members in a visit to discuss a vision for the future of Parrott Hall.

Marc Smith, assistant director of the Station, said that he was delighted at the enthusiasm shown by all parties involved in the plan to restore Parrott Hall. The success of the visit was due in no small part to the dedication shown by Joseph Marinelli, superintendent of Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, Robert Young, superintendent of the Geneva City School District, and Geneva City Mayor Stu Einstein. Cornell faculty members Susan Brown, Chris Smart, Olga Padilla-Zakour, Tom Burr, and their community counterparts shared their vision for future activities at the site during a tour of the building. "Everybody was very encouraged by the visit," said Smith.

The Commissioner joined participants for lunch in a tent on the west lawn in view of Parrott Hall itself. Everyone dodged the raindrops and took a tour of the building to get an idea of its assets and the issues that will need addressing.

The afternoon concluded with a candid conversation with Commissioner Ash and her advisors. She stated her commitment to restoring the historic infrastructure of New York



Tom Burr led a tour of the building for Commissioner Ash and others.

(PARROTT HALL, continued)

State, and said that while Parrott Hall is not on the current list of projects, a demonstration of the community's dedication to the rehabilitation and reuse of the historic structure could improve the prospects for New York State investment in bringing the building back.

"We still have a long way to go, but today we made a lot of progress," said Smith. "The nature of the jobs ahead of us and who will be responsible for which tasks is much clearer than it was last week."

The long way to go is paved with a long list of projects. The building will need to be "brought up to code," requiring stabilization of the porch, restoration of the roof and basement as well as asbestos and lead paint removal. Station faculty and staff would work together with the community to further design the programs that could take place in the hall.

All of this will require cost estimates for the rehabilitation project, a budget, funding, and fund raising, as well as staff, utilities, and a plan for maintenance. This joint investment of time, effort and dollars by New York State, regional educational institutions, the City of Geneva, Cornell, and BOCES would put Parrott Hall's rich historical, scientific, agricultural and architectural legacy to productive use for the benefit of teachers, students and the general public across upstate New York.

Programs in Parrott Hall would increase

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Pairings of images (like the ones above) were created by Chris Cooley (CALS communications) and presented on the Parrott Hall tour. The 'before and after' comparison depicts the present condition versus possible future uses of the building.



CALENDAR of EVENTS JULY 18 - AUG. 1, 2008

MEETINGS

CHAIR'S MEETING

Date: Thursday, July 22, 2008
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: Director's Office

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSE FOR SALE: West side, half mile south of Geneva Country Club. Built 1977; new siding, new roof; 4 bedrooms, 2 baths; attached garage; finished walk-out basement. 2800 sq. ft. All rooms have lake view. "Majestic" circulating fireplace. Carpeted throughout. Fruit trees and flowers. Swimming pool 30 miles long, 2 miles wide. Great whale-watching, heron-watching, dawn-watching. Jim & Cindy Cummins, 4233 Glass Factory Bay, (315) 789-7083.

WANTED: House (preferably) or apartment in Geneva area or on lake to rent from 7/30-8/11. For visiting family. Needs at least 2 bedrooms. Please contact Ed Lavin at x2241, 315-789-2106, or ehl2@cornell.edu.

FOR RENT: Small, cozy, unfurnished 2-bedroom house, with washer/dryer, garage. Good neighborhood, close to Hobart & William Smith Colleges and Wegmans supermarket, 1.5 miles from Experiment Station. Ideal for single professional, student or couple. No smoking, no pets. Security deposit required. \$650/month plus utilities. Available immediately. Call Doug (315) 521-3669 or email dck2@cornell.edu.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, suitable for one or two adults, with living, dining, bath, dressing room, kitchen, & laundry room. Off-street parking. \$675 per month plus gas and electric. Landlord pays water, sewer, and trash removal. NO PETS, No smokers. Available now. Contact Donna Loeb at x2325 or drr2.

FOR SALE: Ford Escort TLX '97, 55,000 miles, auto, AC, PW, PL., 4 doors. Two owners, keyless entry, very good condition. Asking \$2500. Contact Mei at my256, x2414, or 315-719-7259.

FOR SALE: 28" cut 8 hp Snapper Hi-Vac mower in good condition for \$250; and the other is an older Troybilt Horse tiller, 6 hp for \$400; in good shape. Contact Holly at hlw7 or x2420.

(PARROTT HALL, continued)

the scope of science education, build enthusiasm and enhance science literacy and expose students to agriculture and related career opportunities to ensure a strong future for New York's agriculture, economy and environment. Some ideas include night classes, lectures, workshops, meetings, summer science camps as well as interactive exhibits and an agricultural library.

In the future, Parrott Hall Center staff, regional educators, Cornell staff and researchers and extension specialists would work together to design curricula, organize events and programs.

In recent months the project has generated enthusiastic buy-in and creative ideas for collaborative programs from the City of Geneva, Geneva City School District, Finger Lakes Visitors Connection, the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce and Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES.

M. Fessenden



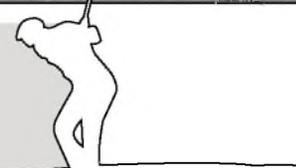
Congratulations to Kerik and Rosemary Cox on the birth of their new baby boy Kalin Cox. He was born at 11:56 AM on Saturday, July 5, 2008. He weighed 8 lbs 15 oz and measured 21 in long and has lots of hair.

The 21st Annual Station Club Golf Tourney was played at Big Oak on July 11th 2008. Here are the results:

First Place went to the Day Ender's (from left to right) :

Aaron Spina
Tony Laquitarra
Steve Cook
Eric Ninestine
Scott Burden

2nd Place Mixed Company
3rd Place GLORP
4th Place Team Doh!
5th Place Harvey's Heros
6th Place Sour Cherry Pitts
7th Place Potters and Tinkers
8th Place Kristen's Last Swing



Other photos can be viewed at
<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/comm/golf/index.htm>