



STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

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Sept. 12 - 26, 2008

BRIEFS

2008 Outstanding Employee 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 the November Station Club Banquet. Nominators should solicit letters of support for a selected individual and submit all supporting materials to Gemma Osborne, Selection Committee Chair, by Friday, October 3rd.

These packets will be evaluated by a volunteer panel of department/unit representatives. All nominations will be 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 teamwork
- a willingness to extend themselves to help others
- a commitment to the goals of the Experiment Station

Other considerations will include:

- 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.

Nomination packets will be accepted
(Continued on page 4)

Ninth International Symposium on Integrating Canopy, Rootstock and Environmental Physiology in Orchard Systems Held in Geneva

Tree fruit scientists from around the world met in Geneva August 4-8, 2008, for the Ninth Quadrennial International Symposium on Integrating Canopy, Rootstock and Environmental Physiology in Orchard Systems. The meeting was conducted under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Sciences. Symposium venues were the campuses of Hobart and William Smith and the Experiment Station. In what has become a tradition, the



Gennaro Fazio (left) led one of the orchard tours.

participants of three working groups of the Pome and Stone Fruit section of the International Society for Horticultural Sciences, (the Rootstock Breeding and Evaluation working group, the Orchard and Plantation Systems working group, and the Environmental Physiology working group) got together for a common symposium which focused on the complex interaction of rootstock, canopy architecture, training and pruning, and environmental physiology—all integrated into that great puzzle we call the orchard system.

This is the first time this symposium has been held in Eastern North America. The selection of Geneva as the site for the ninth symposium proved to be a good choice, as the meeting attracted a large group of participants (230 from 35 countries). During the symposium 210 papers (79 oral and 131 posters) were presented. Collectively, these research reports provided substantial information on recent advances in fruit science and culture that will ultimately benefit fruit growers and fruit consumers worldwide. Thus, this meeting, as did the previous eight meetings of the Orchard Systems working group, will lead to dramatic changes in orchard systems, rootstocks and management.

The symposium was organized by a team of Cornell scientists, with the able assistance of Nancy Long of Communications Services. Terence Robinson was the meeting convener while Herb Aldwinckle and Gennaro Fazio chaired the rootstock portion of the program, Alan Lakso and Lailiang Cheng (Ithaca) chaired the environmental physiology section, and Terence Robinson and Gabino Reginato chaired the orchard systems section. The orchard tours were led by Steve Hoying, and Herb Aldwinckle chaired the social events. The meeting was supported by: Cornell University, The New York State Horticultural Society, The New York Apple Association and the USDA-ARS. The organizing committee is very grateful to the entire Communications Services staff, who all contributed greatly to the success of the symposium and to the Field Research Unit, who did an excellent job preparing the farms for the tour.

(Continued on page 2)



(SYMPOSIUM, continued)



Most of the 230 symposium participants were on hand for a group photo.

Following the welcome address by Terence Robinson, Experiment Station Director Tom Burr welcomed the group to Geneva and Cornell University. The papers and posters, presented in successive sessions over the course of four days, focused on Rootstocks, Environmental Physiology, and Orchard Systems. The keynote lecture for the rootstock sessions was delivered by Dr. Gennaro Fazio of the USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit at Geneva and was titled "Implementation of Molecular-Marker Technologies in the Apple Rootstock Breeding Program in Geneva—Challenges and Successes." The keynote lectures for the environmental physiology session were delivered by Dr. Alan Lakso and Dr. Fritz Lenz of the University of Bonn, Germany. Alan's lecture was titled "Early Fruit Growth and Drop: The Role of Carbon Balance in the Apple Tree." The keynote lecture for the orchard systems session was delivered by Dr. John Palmer of HortResearch, New Zealand and was titled "Changing Concepts of Efficiency in Orchard Systems."

The symposium participants enjoyed technical tours of the Station during one afternoon, touring several field plots including cherry systems, cherry rootstocks, apple rootstocks, apple orchard systems, the apple germplasm

repository, and physiology research plots. On the next day they toured the fruit industry in Wayne County. The fruit growers in this part of the US are among the best in the world, and several participants commented on how much the fruit industry has progressed in its modernization efforts over the last 20 years.

During the pre-symposium tour led by Steve Hoying, 45 participants visited fruit farms in the Hudson Valley and then toured the Ithaca campus and fruit research plots at Ithaca and Lansing. After the meeting a two-day post-symposium tour with 80 participants looked at fruit orchards in Monroe, Orleans, and Niagara Counties with an overnight stay in Niagara Falls and tours of the Falls.

The symposium participants also enjoyed several social events including a dinner at Ventosa Winery and the symposium banquet at the Seneca Yacht Club. At the banquet the three working groups awarded lifetime achievement awards to Dr. Jim Cummins and Dr. Herb Aldwinckle from the Rootstock working group (see related article in this issue), to Dr. John Palmer from the Orchard System Working Group, and to Dr. Fritz Lenz from the Environmental Physiology Working Group.

At the business meeting of the working groups, Terence Robinson stepped down as chair of the orchard systems working group after 12 years; Stuart Tustin was elected chair. Karoly Hyrotko of Hungary stepped down as chair of the rootstock-working group and Gennaro Fazio was elected chair. The next meeting of this group will take place in South Africa in 2012.

For the past 20 years it has been the dream of the local organizing committee to host our many colleagues and friends from around the world at a symposium at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in picturesque Geneva. We were especially proud to showcase the Station and the fruit growers of New York State. Many participants agreed that Cornell's Experiment Station is among the top fruit stations in the world.

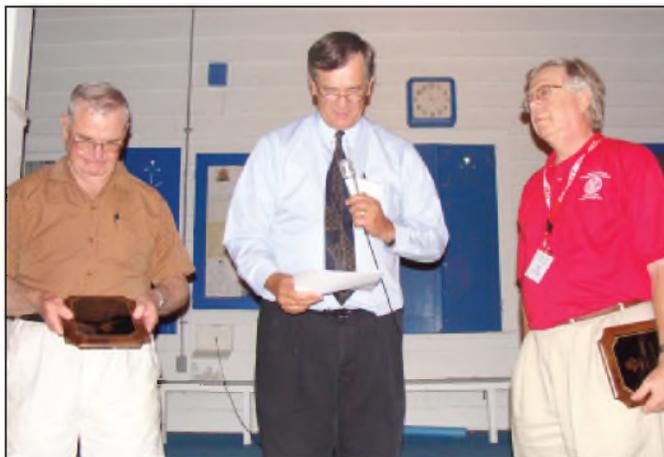
The meeting by all accounts was a resounding success, and the camaraderie and friendship between the various participants from the 35 countries was clearly evident. We hope that what transpired at this symposium leads to new collaborations and a greater appreciation and understanding among individuals from different parts of the world.

Terence Robinson



Herb Aldwinckle and Jim Cummins Honored by International Society

Herb Aldwinckle, Professor of Plant Pathology and Jim Cummins, Professor Emeritus of Horticultural Sciences, were awarded the 2008 Lifetime Achievement award from the Rootstock Breeding and Evaluation working group of the International Society of Horticultural Sciences (ISHS). The awards were presented during the Ninth Quadrennial International Symposium on Integrating Canopy, Rootstock and Environmental Physiology in Orchard Systems, which was held August 4-8 in Geneva.



Terence Robinson presented Jim Cummins (left) and Herb Aldwinckle (right) with Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Rootstock Breeding and Evaluation group.

The text of the citation, which was read at the symposium banquet by Terence Robinson follows:

“It is a great honor to award this year’s lifetime achievement award from the Rootstock Breeding and Evaluation working group of ISHS to two distinguished scientists from Cornell University, Dr. James N. Cummins and Dr. Herbert S. Aldwinckle.

Jim and Herb have been leaders in rootstock breeding and evaluation since 1970, and the names Cummins and Aldwinckle will forever be linked as the fathers of the Geneva apple rootstocks.

Jim grew up in Southern Illinois and saw first hand the devastating effects of fire blight. After serving in World War II in the battle of the bulge, Jim came back to the US to get on with his life only to be called up to serve again in the Korean War. When he returned, he teamed up with his wife Cindy and they have been an effective team in life and in rootstock work, since she often traveled with him to see plots and help take data.

Because of his service during the wars, Jim began his career as a fruit scientist a little later than most and came to the wonderful research station at Geneva in 1969 to work on rootstock evaluation. Over the years, he evaluated numerous rootstocks and helped the NY fruit industry considerably, but he had bigger goals than just rootstock evaluation and had the vision of creating new rootstocks to help the US apple industry. A few years later, in 1970, Dr. Herb Aldwinckle came to Geneva from Britain and Jim and Herb teamed up to begin developing rootstocks that were resistant to fire blight—a devastating disease of apple trees.

Ever since Herb came to the Station he has become a world leader in fire blight control and resistance breeding. He not only teamed with Jim in the rootstock breeding program, but has also been a partner in the apple variety breeding program to generate fire blight-resistant and scab-resistant varieties. He has become the world’s expert on fire blight. In the early 90’s he began a career in molecular biology and genetic engineering and is now one of the leading scientists on fruit-crop genetic engineering. Herb is married to Bernadine and they too have been an effective team. Bernadine has traveled extensively with Herb and is known around the world.

(ALDWINCKLE, continued)

Jim and Herb toiled away in the 70’s, 80’s and early 90’s before the fruits of their labors became apparent. But in 1991 they released their first dwarfing fire blight-resistant rootstock ‘Geneva 65’ or little beauty as Jim’s wife Cindy called it. The program has gone on to release seven rootstocks that Jim and Herb created, and will likely release five more in the next few years.

The Geneva rootstocks have generated worldwide interest and may become the standard apple rootstocks of the future. Fruit growers and nurserymen worldwide know of these stocks and are anxiously awaiting their commercial availability. As with children, none of these stocks is perfect but the imagination and creativity that has gone into their development has produced for the benefit of mankind new rootstocks that will help keep fruit growers profitable and will help feed the world for decades to come.

Jim has given significant service to the rootstock working group of ISHS. He organized the first rootstock symposium at the Warsaw Hort Congress in 1976 before the working group was created; there were five papers presented. He attended many international symposia and while traveling the world he made friends with many rootstock breeders and evaluators in most apple producing countries. Almost everywhere I have gone people ask me ‘do you know Jim?’ ‘How is he doing?’ He also wrote the landmark review on apple rootstock breeding, which has influenced rootstock breeding since.

Herb has given significant service to ISHS and has been a mainstay in the fire blight symposia of ISHS. He was on the organizing committee for this symposium.

Jim and Cindy have six children and Herb and Bernadine one. I am sure these children know of the reputations of their fathers in the fields of Horticulture and Plant Pathology. We are very pleased that Cindy and Bernadine are here to see Jim and Herb receive this award and to see them receive the acclaim of their colleagues in fruit science. Congratulations Jim and Herb.”

Terence Robinson

(Continued in next column)



CALENDAR of EVENTS SEPT. 12 - 26, 2008

SEMINARS

FOOD SCIENCE

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008
Time: 11 AM
Place: FST Conference Room
Title: Hospitality in the New York State Wine Industry - The Present and The Future
Speaker: Lorraine Hems, RIT, Rochester

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2008
Time: 11 AM
Place: FST Conference Room
Title: Multifunctional Nanomaterials: Design, Synthesis, Properties, and Potential Applications to the Food Industry
Speaker: Tewodros Asefa, Assistant Professor, Chemistry, Syracuse University

ENTOMOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: *A134 Barton Lab
Title: Epidemiology and Management of Thrips-borne Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus
Speaker: George Kennedy, North Carolina State

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2008
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: *A134 Barton Lab
Title: Sweet Problems and Symbiotic Solutions: How Aphids Utilize Plant Phloem Sap
Speaker: Angela Douglas, Ithaca

LTC

MICROSOFT OFFICE 2007 (PC)

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008
Time: 9 - 11 AM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Jane Irwin

MICROSOFT OFFICE 2008 (MAC)

Date: Thursday, September 25, 2008
Time: 1 - 3 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Staff Room
Instructor: Jane Irwin

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE TO A GOOD HOME Weber charcoal grill. Well used but still in good shape and has life left. Contact Donna Loeb at x2325 or drr2 if interested.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: My son's pet gerbil. The gerbil's name is Demon but you can call him anything you like. Demon is brown, white and black (I think). He? comes complete with a nice colorful cage with all the amenities: food, dust bowl (looks like a little ceramic round shower,) dusting powder, bedding, and rolling ball for when he feels like going for a roll! All this fits perfectly on a table top or dresser. If you are interested, please contact Amy at ada10 or x2331.

FOR RENT: Available October 4. 198 Lewis Street, 1 mile from the Station. 2 bedroom, 1/2 house. Washer / Dryer hook-up in basement, off-street parking, no pets, non smoking. \$525 plus utilities. Contact Michele Kaufman at 781-2489 (evenings).

FOR SALE: 2002, 8 passenger Ford E 150 van. 4.6 L V-8. One owner, 54, 500 miles. \$ 6,300. Can bring in to show. Call or e-mail John Ludwig. JWL2 or 539-3155.

FOR SALE: 1994 Saturn SL1, red, 211 K miles. AC, CC, single compact disc, AM/FM stereo, PW, PDL, MTrans, 4D. Good condition, asking \$500. Contact Weiwei Li, wl297 or call 787-2453.

FOR SALE: Bowflex Blaze home gym. Like new. Used little in 1 year. Half price at \$450. JWL2 or 539-3155.

HOUSE FOR SALE: West side, half mile south of Geneva Country Club. Built 1977; new siding, new roof; 4 bdrms, 2 ba; attached garage; finished W/O basement. 2800 sq. ft. All rooms have lake view. Circulating fireplace. Carpeted. Fruit trees and flowers. Jim & Cindy Cummins, 4233 Glass Factory Bay, (315) 789-7083.

SAVE THE DATE!

On December 1, 2008 Geneva will be holding its annual Benefair in Jordan Hall Auditorium, Staff Room and Lounge. The times are 8:30 AM to 1 PM.

(BRIEFS, continued)

through Friday, October 3rd. Please send complete nomination materials to Gemma Osborne, Communication Services, Barton Laboratory.

Please take a few moments to think about this and then nominate someone who perhaps has been long overdue for this recognition.

The Station Club

Child Care Subsidy Grant Program Information

On September 15, Cassandre Joseph from the Work/Life Operations unit of the Office of Workforce Diversity, Equity and Life Quality Program will be in Geneva to present information on the Child Care Subsidy Grant Program. She'll be in Hedrick Hall Room G19 from Noon to 1 PM. Bring your lunch. Please email Pat Mahoney at pmm19@cornell.edu if you plan to attend.

Literacy Volunteers of Ontario County Tutor Training Workshop

(Combined Basic Literacy and English as a Second Language)

**FLCC Geneva Campus, Geneva
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6-9 PM
September 9 - October 2
Follow-up Session: November 13**

Call Literacy Volunteers of Ontario County at 585-396-1686 to register or for more information.

TAEKARDIO AND BOKKENKICK

Classes begin the week of September 8

Days: Monday, TaeKardio
Wednesday, Bokkenkick
Thursday, TaeKardio
Time: 11:30 AM-12:30 PM
Place: Saw Dust Cafe
Cost: \$25 for 2 classes/week or
\$30 for 3 classes/week
Instructor: Tina Felice, Geneva Martial Arts

Floor mat, water bottle and exercise clothes suggested