

VOLUME LXXVIII • NO. 46  
NOVEMBER 21-DECEMBER 5, 1997

## BRIEFS

### FDA/USDA SEEKS INPUT AT PUBLIC MEETING

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are inviting interested members of the public to a grassroots meeting at Cornell University to discuss a draft version of a new federal guide on Good Agricultural Practices for fresh fruits and vegetables. The meeting will be held on Dec. 3, 1997, from 9 am to 4 pm, in the auditorium of Jordan Hall.

The FDA and USDA are drafting a Good Agricultural Practices guide as part of President Clinton's recently-announced initiative to ensure the safety of fresh fruits and vegetables. The practices—which would be voluntary—would apply to both the U.S. and its trading partners.

The FDA and USDA are holding the series of grassroots meetings throughout the country as part of the drafting process. Everyone on the farm to fork continuum—from growers to processors, commodity groups, researchers, and producers—are strongly encouraged to attend. Meetings are being held in New York, Michigan, Florida, Texas, California, and Oregon during the first two weeks of December.

"We are strongly committed to an open process that includes a full discussion of the wide range of issues involved in good agricultural practices," said Richard A. Baldwin, Acting Regional Director of the FDA, Northeast Region. "We need public participation and advice to develop the best possible guide."

The Good Agricultural Practices guide will not create new federal requirements or regulations for farmers to meet, but is intended to provide guidance on sound practices that will help minimize microbial contamination of produce. Due to the lowering of trade barriers, the amount of foreign fruits and vegetables coming into the U.S. is increasing, as has the incidence of recent microbial outbreaks that have compromised consumer health. The guide

(BRIEFS continued on page 3)

## MIKE VILLANI RECEIVES AWARD FROM ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Michael G. Villani will receive the Recognition Award in Urban Entomology from the Entomological Society of America (ESA) at their national meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, on December 14. It is the second time he has been recognized by the ESA. In 1996, the Eastern Branch of the ESA honored him with the Distinguished Achievement Award in Urban Entomology. Villani is associate professor of soil insect ecology in the Entomology Department at the Experiment Station.

"Obviously I'm pleased that I was recognized by the Entomological Society for my work in Urban Entomology," said Villani, when he learned about the award. "What pleases me most is the support of colleagues in the form of letters to the awards panel on my behalf. I also hope the award helps to focus the college and the Station on the growing interest and importance in the area of Urban Pest Management."

The Recognition Award is one of several awards provided annually by the ESA to encourage outstanding scientists who have distinguished themselves by significant contributions in Urban Entomology. Criteria for the award include the recipient's academic record and professional experience in extension as well as results achieved through his or her research efforts.

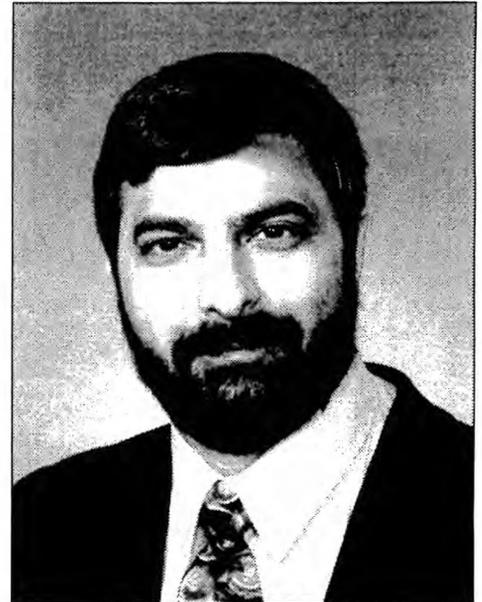
Villani's principal professional interests and contributions are in the area of the interrelationships between turfgrass insects, most notably scarab grubs, mole crickets, their host plants, and the soil environment.

"This is well-deserved recognition for Mike since I consider him to be the best 'turf entomologist' in the country, if not the world," said Wendell Roelofs, chairman of the Entomology Department. Villani's "projects on soil insects have put Geneva in the worldwide limelight as the center of excellence," continued Roelofs.

The letters of support for this award from colleagues around the U.S. attest to this fact by stating that Mike Villani is "the most conscientious individual in the discipline of entomology" and "a superb scientist and a world leader in the area of turfgrass entomology." They also said that "no other scientist in urban entomology has contributed more, worldwide, than Dr. Villani," and that "one is amazed at his level of productivity in the fields of turfgrass entomology and soil ecology."

Villani is highly regarded as a practicing entomologist. Initially, he found a niche developing a unique radiographic technology to study the behavior of soil insects. His research includes the impact of soil heterogeneity on insect behavioral patterns such as the study of predator/prey and pathogen/host interactions within the soil. Additional focuses include use of new IPM strategies for the control of insects, such as the impact of soil physical properties on chemical and microbial insecticides, use of pheromones in scarab monitoring and management programs, use of fungal pathogens, and entomopathogenic nematodes. This award "reinforces the notion that there is an important place for both fundamental and applied research in commodity-focused programs," said Villani.

Villani hopes that this award also focuses attention on his research (Group photo on page 2)



(VILLANI, cont.)

Nancy Consolie, Paul Robbins, Wendy Heusler, Steve Hitchcock (semi-retired), Jennifer Grant, Dan Dalthorp, and Carlos Portillo-Aguilar. "Research programs work best in a collaborative environment and the successes we have enjoyed are the product of the efforts of this group," he said.

Villani is a firm believer in collaboration. "While there is often concern that one can get lost in the crowd when engaged in research collaboration, my past and present projects with Roxanne Broadway, Wendell Roelofs, Charlie Linn, Jan Nyrop, Greg English-Loeb, Maurice and Catherine Tauber, and Chuck Eckenrode, has only helped my overall program and I hope has also helped theirs," he said.

He concludes by saying that "awards are like toupees, they may make you appear better to strangers but your friends still know what you really look like."

Villani maintains a 20 percent extension assignment which focuses on the implementation of a large sampling study and management of turfgrass insect populations. Since these are insects that invade commercial plantings as well as ornamentals and urban landscapes, Villani's research efforts have become invaluable to the billion dollar turf business in New York State comprised of home owners, golf course managers and pest control agencies concerned with turf damage.

The ESA wrote in their newsletter announcing the award that Villani's "unique radiographic techniques and his skills in studying the behavior and ecology of insects living underground has led to collaborations with scientists nationally and internationally on problems associated with the management of soil insect pests in a number of cropping systems including turfgrass, cranberry, onion and maize. Basic research on pest species and the development of new IPM strategies for their control has greatly

contributed to the area of urban entomology and pest management."

Recently, Villani served as co-editor of the highly successful *ESA Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests* with Rick Brandenburg. He is currently working with Pat Vittum and Haruo Tashiro on the second edition of *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada*. In addition to serving the turf industry, Villani works extensively with department chairs and faculty, serves as an advisor for graduate and undergraduate students, and participates in a program to bring science to primary and secondary school classrooms. He is currently active in the Operating Committee to accomplish the mission of the New York State IPM Program. He also serves on several Cornell committees, including the Urban IPM Working Group, the Academic Appeals Board, the Interdepartmental Turfgrass Committee, and Ornamentals IPM Committee where he holds a chair.

Villani has previously served on the editorial board for *Insecticide & Acaricide Tests* and in the Membership Committee of the Eastern Branch Entomological Society of America. He has organized and taught several courses in Pest of Tropical Agriculture, given at Escuela Agricola Panamericana in Zamorano, Honduras.

Villani was born in San Antonio, Texas. He completed a Ph.D. in Entomology at North Carolina State University in 1984, having previously earned a B.A. in Liberal Arts at SUNY of Stony Brook. In 1985, he was appointed assistant professor at Cornell in the Department of Entomology at the Geneva Experiment Station, where he now holds the rank of associate professor.

Mike Villani lives in Geneva with his wife Connie and two daughters; Sara, who is 14, and Kate, who is 11.

by Catharina Fjelkner

(BRIEFS, cont.)

is an effort on the part of the federal government to stem those outbreaks. It will be useful both to U.S. farmers, and foreign farmers who export produce to the U.S.

In 1996, 38% of the fruit and 12% of the vegetables consumed by Americans was imported.

Topics covered in the guide will include control of manure, worker sanitation and health, field and facility sanitation, and transportation and handling. Copies of the guide will be distributed at the meeting. The draft will also be available on the FDA's World Wide Web home page (<http://www.fda.gov>) on December 1, 1997.

The guide reflects the current thinking of food safety experts, but organizers are open to other issues or approaches about the guide itself. Participants are encouraged to "think critically" and bring suggestions to the meeting on Dec. 3, 1997.

## STATION CLUB LUNCHTIME SALE

Station Club will be holding another sale, just in time for last-minute holiday shopping. The sale will be on Wednesday, December 10, from 12:00-1:00 in the Sawdust Cafe. Lunches, including soup, sandwich, chips, and beverage will be available for only \$4.00. Come enjoy a hot lunch and pick up a shirt or two. Station Club will also be selling raffle tickets for a free sweatshirt, tee-shirt, and bookbag. Items with both Station logos as well as Cornell gear will be available.

REMEMBER: Show your Station Club membership card and receive \$2.00 off any new NYSAES shirts or bookbags!



The Staff at  
**Communications Services**  
would like to wish  
**everyone at the Station**  
**a happy, healthy and safe**  
**Thanksgiving Holiday.**

## Gus Curtiss Retirement Party



Baked 1/2 Chicken	\$17
Veal Parmesan	\$20
Broiled White Fish	\$20
Prime Rib	\$25



Thursday December 4, 1997

Club 86

Cocktails 6 pm Dinner 7 pm

Music by: Mid Life Crisis

Al Roth & Bob Weinberg

For reservations, see flyer  
accompanying last week's News  
or call x301.

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING COMPUTER WORKSHOPS

You can still sign up for some of the workshops in the Library Technology Center. The schedule can be viewed here below and register by sending an e-mail to Jane Irwin, at [mji4](mailto:mji4), submitting your name, e-mail address and the course/courses you are interested in.

**November 24, 2-4 pm**

**December 4, 9-11 am.**

John Zakour and Jane Irwin

*Web Resources/Search*

**November 26, 2-4 pm**

**December 11, 9-11 am.**

Cathy Weeden and John Zakour

*HTML Basics*

**December 1 and 3, 8-9:30 am.**

Pat Krauss

*Claris Works*

**December 8, 8-9:30 am**

**December 18, 10-11:30 am.**

John Barnard and Pat Krauss

*MAC Basics*

**December 10, 2-4 pm.**

Jane Irwin

*End Note*

**December 15, 9-11 am.**

Pat Krauss

*CU See-Me*

**December 17, 2-4 pm.**

John Zakour and Cathy Weeden

*HTML Advanced*

**December 19, 9-11 am.**

Cheryl TenEyck

*Excel - Intermediate*

## LIBRARY NOTES



Dear Professor Walter,

This is to congratulate you on the publication of your Academic Press book *Polysaccharide Dispersions*. It is a distinguished achievement.

More importantly for NYSAES, I want to thank you on behalf of the Library and its many users for your generous donation of this same book to the Geneva Collection. We are most pleased to add this title to our growing number of titles in food technology. It will be plated in your name and we will notify the wider community of its addition to our collection.

On behalf of my staff, many thanks.

Warmest regards,

*Peter McDonald*  
Director, Geneva Library



## Annual Station Club Holiday Party

**December 7 • 1:00-4:00 pm Jordan Hall Auditorium**

**Bring an hors d'oeuvre or dessert to pass and join us for food, fun, prizes, and Santa!**

*(Pizza and soda/juice will be provided by Station Club)*

**Santa will be on hand with gifts for Station Club member's children\* 10 years and younger.**

(\*You say you're not a Station Club Member? Become a member now and join the party. Family membership is \$5 —See your Station Club Representative)

**Sign up your child/children using the coloring contest/sign-up form available from your Station Club Representative. Forms must be returned to Sherri Tennes, PGRU, by Monday, December 1.**

## Farewell and Good Luck to Janet Knodel

*There will be a luncheon in honor of Jan Knodel as she leaves Geneva to take a position in North Dakota.*

*Thursday December 4, 1997 at 12:30 pm*

*Emile's Restaurant, Routes 5 & 20 in Geneva*

Menu choices:

Salad bar - includes soup and pizza	\$8.50
French dip sandwich - beef au jus for dipping	\$8.50
Baked turkey on French roll - with cheese	\$8.50

Prices on above meals include coffee, tea, dessert, tip and tax.

Optional donation toward gift \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Sue Dwyer and return your reservation and check no later than December 1.

Sue Dwyer, IPM Program Office, email: [sgd2@nysaes.cornell.edu](mailto:sgd2@nysaes.cornell.edu),  
Tel: 315-787-2419

CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER 21-DECEMBER 5, 1997

EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Tuesday, November 25, 10:30 am**

Jordan Hall Lounge

*Administrative Study/Managers meeting.*

**Wednesday, November 26, 6:30 pm**

A133 Barton Laboratory

*English as a Second Language*

**Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28**

Thanksgiving Holiday

*Station Closed*

**Monday, December 1, 6:30 pm**

A133 Barton Laboratory (note change in location)

*English as a Second Language*

**Wednesday, December 3, 6:30 pm**

A133 Barton Laboratory (note change in location)

*English as a Second Language*



DEADLINES

**Wednesday, December 17**

Beet progress reports and proposals due in Director's Office.

CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** Used men's downhill ski boots. Size 10, rear entry. Like new. \$40.00. Contact Colleen at x318 or cmh6@nysaes.cornell.edu.

**MOVING SALE:** Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, 36 Madison St. Apt. 3. Lots of good stuff, everything must go!

**WANTED:** Foreign stamps and coins. My niece and nephew are beginning collectors and I am hoping to help them build their collections. If you have any extra, please send them to Cathy Heidenreich, Plant Pathology. Thanks!

**CHILD CARE:** NYS Registered Daycare Provider has full-time openings. Call Penny VanKirk at 789-9518.

**FOR RENT:** Clean, fully-furnished studio apartment 1 mile from station, Laundromat, and grocery store. \$350/mo includes utilities, linens, and kitchen equipment. Call Karen at x378 from 9:00 to 1:00 or 789-5240 after 2:30 or email kj7@nysaes.cornell.edu

**FOR SALE:** Dinette set. Round woodmode table with two leaves. Six chairs. All have metal legs. Sturdy. Excellent condition. \$60.00. Contact Colleen at x318 or cmh6@nysaes.cornell.edu.

**FOR SALE:** 1989 Dodge Colt, blue, 126K, 35/40 gas mileage. Perfect winter car or car for a teenager. 5-speed. Well-maintained. Asking \$1,000. Contact Nancy x323 or call 789-5214 after 6:00 p.m.

**MOVING SALE:** Oak and pine sofa beds (futons), student desk, file cabinets, corner table, bar stools, vacuum cleaner, dehumidifier, miscellaneous kitchen items, audio speakers. Everything in excellent condition. Call Marc or Marcela at 781-7020 or e-mail mfl3@cornell.edu

**WANTED:** Airtight wood stove. Small Vermont Casting or Jotul preferred. Call Linda at x417, or llm3@cornell.edu

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

**Date:** Monday, November 24  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Speaker:** Dr. Ian Merwin, Department of Fruit & Vegetable Sciences, Ithaca  
**Topic:** Hard Cider in Europe: A Bitter Sweet Story

For thousands of years, fermented or "hard" ciders have provided sustenance for body and soul in northern Europe. Wherever the climate is too cold to grow vinifera grapes, apples are grown and hard cider is a mainstay in the local diet. In recent decades, European cider production and consumption have increased greatly—especially in the Celtic regions of Galicia and Asturias in northern Spain, Bretagne and Normandie in France, and the West Country of England. Traditional apple varieties rich in tannins and malic acid are grown in pasture orchards throughout these regions to produce full bodied, highly colored and aromatic ciders. These apples known as bittersweets or bittertarts can be produced with minimal agrichemicals or tree management, yet they often command a high price in the market. In this presentation I will illustrate and discuss the cider orchards and industries in Spain, France, England and Switzerland—and outline some intriguing future scenarios for apple growers and cider makers in the Northeast USA.

*Ian Merwin*

**Date:** Monday, December 1  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Speaker:** Dr. Christine Gruhn, Assistant Professor of Biology, Nazareth College  
**Topic:** *Arbuscular Mycorrhizae* in Vegetable Crop Production: Effects of Cultural Practices

SPORTS CORNER

**WALLYBALL, The battle is on...**

**Saturday November 22, at 2:00 pm**  
 Championship finals in Hobart Field House. For more information, visit the web site at <http://aruba.nysaes.cornell.edu/grads/Wallyball.html>

**COME AND PLAY SQUASH!**

Weekly games, contact Mark Schmaedick (mas8@cornell.edu or x453), or Juliet Tang (jdt2@cornell.edu or x343).

ENTOMOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, November 25  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Place:** The Paul J. Chapman Conference Room, Room 310, Barton Lab.  
**Speaker:** Dr. Arthur M. Agnello, Associate Professor, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, NYSAES  
**Topic:** Trade-offs of a Long-Term Integrated Mite Management Program in Commercial Apples

**Date:** Tuesday, December 2  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Place:** The Paul J. Chapman Conference Room, Room 310, Barton Lab.  
**Speaker:** Dr. Charles Linn, Senior Research Associate, Department of Entomology, Cornell University, NYSAES  
**Topic:** Pheromone Races of the European Corn Borer: How Different Are They?

*There will be a period of social interaction with the speakers at 10:00 AM. Coffee & cookies will be available.*

PLANT PATHOLOGY

**Date:** Tuesday, November 25  
**Time:** 3:30 pm  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Laboratory  
**Speaker:** Warren Lamboy, USDA-PGRU, Geneva  
**Topic:** DNA fingerprinting of cool climate grapes using simple seuce repeats: A case study

**Date:** Tuesday, December 2  
**Time:** 3:30 pm  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Laboratory  
**Speaker:** Karin Van Dijk, Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University, Ithaca  
**Topic:** Fatty acid uptake and betaoxidation by *Enterobacter cloacae* is necessary for seed rot suppression of *Pythium ultimum*

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Date:** Wednesday, December 3  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Place:** FS&T Conference Room, Second Floor  
**Speaker:** Dr. Olga Padilla-Zakour, Director, Food Venture Center, Cornell-FS&T, Geneva  
**Topic:** Electrodialysis