

VOLUME LXXVIII • NO. 47  
 DECEMBER 5-12, 1997

## BRIEFS

### WWW SITE OF THE WEEK

Now that the holiday season is upon us, you may be looking for something to help you relax a bit. Maybe you want to catch a movie, rent a video, buy a new CD, or just kick back at home and watch some good old TV? In any case, the Web can help. Just check out Mr. ShowBiz at [www.mrshowbiz.com](http://www.mrshowbiz.com).

Mr. ShowBiz, which has been a past winner of "Cool Site of the Year," is one of the flashy sites on the Web. It is loaded with "bells and whistles" like ultra-cool graphics and animated scrolling lists. Still, unlike many flash sites, Mr. ShowBiz also delivers substance. True, it is light substance, but we can't be serious all the time now, can we? Mr. ShowBiz contains one of the largest lists of movie reviews on the Web. In-depth critical reviews of every movie of 1997 and most of '96 are available. Not only that, but the site also lets users (regular people like you and me) submit their thoughts and comments on the most current movies. These comments are made available for the world to see. This way you do not have to make your movie (or video) choice based solely on one critic's opinion.

In addition to movie reviews, Mr. ShowBiz also contains reviews of current TV shows and music cds. Plus for those of you who are interested in the latest gossip (you know who you are) Mr. ShowBiz also has the latest "buzz" along with trendy interviews with trendy stars. All in all, if your looking for a little entertainment, Mr. ShowBiz is the place to go.

Just a reminder, this is a site you should browse at home or on your own time.

*John Zakour*

### EXEMPT PAYMENT ALERT

The exempt payday for the pay period ending December 31 will be paid prior to the winter break on Wednesday, December 24. This  
*(BRIEFS continued on page 4)*

## NORMAN WEEDEN RECEIVES PROMOTION

Norman F. Weeden has been promoted to full professor in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.

"Norm is recognized as an excellent co-operator and a leader as we enter the era of bioinformatics," said Hugh C. Price. "He has pioneered the development of genetic mapping for peas and apples, which has broad application in plant science. He has done much to show how molecular biology can be used to expand our understanding of the plant genome. In addition to this research, his laboratory has been a center for numerous colleagues, graduate students and visiting scientists in learning isozyme, RFLP and RAPD techniques."

Weeden is a recognized specialist in the use of plant genetics, particularly in legumes, apples, and grapes. The current focus of his research is the use of molecular markers to tag genes in a number of cultivated species for marker-assisted selection purposes. He also investigates the evolution and systematics of several genera containing cultivated species.

"I am honored to have received this promotion", said Weeden, "and very appreciative toward Cornell and the faculty that they find my work useful and interesting."

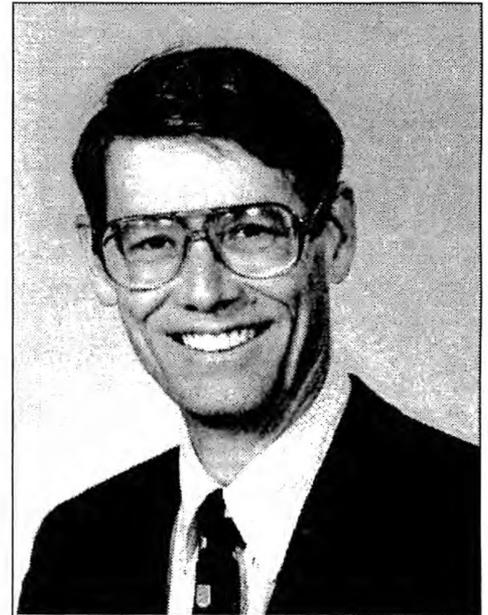
Weeden was an early adopter of molecular techniques to develop genetic maps of horticultural crops. He has continued to build on research initiated with Dr. Marx in 1982 to develop a genetic map for the peas. A highly saturated genetic map for pea has been developed under Dr. Weeden's leadership. Markers have been identified for genes that confer or contribute to the resistance to seven viral or fungal diseases affecting this crop. Weeden is currently chair of the Linkage Map Committee of the Pisum Genetics Association that coordinates mapping efforts in pea worldwide.

Weeden explains that plant genetics is a hot field in biotechnology. Through DNA-analysis one can manipulate simply inherited characters to help understand more complex ones. He has done most of this work studying peas "because they represent a good model system for what I am trying to investigate, plus they are easy to grow and cross." He claims that peas would be the "last thing" he would give up. "I still love peas and could even eat them everyday!" he said.

The work Weeden is performing is of great use to commercial growers in making more efficient breeding possible. One of the most important projects he is working on is to develop pea varieties tolerant to common root rot, caused by a fungus and considered a significant problem in the Northeast. If crops are not properly rotated, the fungus becomes abundant in the soil and will kill the pea plant before it produces seed. It is extremely hard to directly screen for the various genes that influence tolerance and susceptibility, but by 'tagging' these genes with easily scored DNA markers, one can make crosses, select for the markers, and develop new varieties with a high level of tolerance.

Weeden also works with disease resistance of apples. For example, the apple Liberty

*(Continued on page 2)*



(WEEDEN, cont.)

contains the gene Vf which makes it resistant to scab. But, such single-gene based resistance is often overcome by a few changes in the DNA of the fungus. By pyramiding different genes, one can prevent this from happening. Researchers in Weeden's laboratory have now developed markers for five of the six different genes that confer scab resistance in apples. In collaboration with Dr. Susan Brown and Dr. Herb Aldwinckle, Weeden hopes to combine all five of these genes into one apple tree, creating an apple clone particularly useful for the transfer of different combinations of the scab resistance genes into commercially acceptable varieties.

Weeden has co-invented a machine for DNA extraction—a machine that breeders can use on their own to prepare DNA samples. The machine takes 96 samples at a time and crushes them in less than five minutes using electromagnetic force. The resulting extracts, after dilution, are ready for PCR, where specific genes are multiplied so that their presence can be easily detected by chemical screening. Five laboratories around the world are currently testing the machine. A hypothetical example of the use of the machine would be: "A breeder has 1,000 plants but only wants to select those containing four genes which confer the specific characteristics he/she desires in finished varieties. With this method those plants can be easily identified and sorted out from the rest, saving both time and money for the breeder."

Weeden really enjoys working at the Station because of "the collaborations, the cooperation and the friendliness between faculty and staff, rather than the competitive environments he has seen elsewhere".

Weeden graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry from Stanford University in 1969; with an M.A. in Biology from Humboldt State University in 1973; and a Ph.D. in Genetics from University of California at Davis in 1981. He did a post doc at the University of California at Berkeley. He came to Cornell University as an Assistant Professor in 1982 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1988.

Weeden has also served as a Visiting Scientist at the University Herbarium of University of California, Berkeley, in 1988; in the Department of Agronomy and Soils at Washington State University, Pullman in 1988-1989; and also served as a consulting scientist at DSIR, Lincoln, New Zealand in 1990.

Weeden is a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, the American Genetics Association, the Botanical Society of America, and the Society for the Study of Evolution. He serves as associate editor for the Pisum Genetics Association since 1992, and associate editor of *The Journal of Heredity* since 1987.

His numerous publications discuss the development and applications of DNA and molecular markers, among other topics. He has also written a book, *The Flora of the Sierra Nevada*. "My wife and I enjoy hiking in the mountains and became interested in what grows there," Weeden explained. "The book is not strictly academic," he continues, "because it tries to use the easiest ways of identifying plants which may not always be the same as the best or most certain way of identifying a species."

Weeden was born in San Francisco, but grew up in Oakland, CA. He lives in Geneva with his wife, Cathy, who also works at the Station in Communications Services. They have two sons, Matt, who is a sophomore at SUNY Potsdam, and Charlie, who is a senior at Geneva High School.

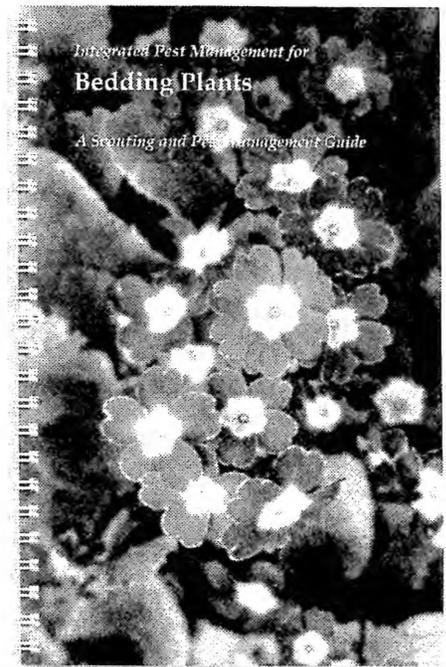
His promotion to full professor was effective November 1, 1997.

## WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY POLICY

Friday, December 19, is the date designated by the director for winter holiday parties. Winter holiday parties may not begin prior to 1:00 pm. Those full-time employees who normally work from 8:00 am to noon are expected to work from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm on the day of the party, if they wish to attend. Winter holiday parties which are held on Station property may not include alcoholic beverages. Parties may be held at off-campus locations but only for groups no smaller than an entire department/unit. Off-campus parties must be supervised during the entire event by the department chairman/unit leader. If the department chairman/unit leader is not available, a substitute must be approved by the Station Director. Approval for winter holiday parties is based on the assumption that they contribute to the morale of Station employees and improve working relationships throughout the year. Therefore, any employee not wishing to attend the party must complete a normal work day or sign out for vacation or other appropriate leave status. Parties must be financed by participants.

(BRIEFS, cont.)

## NEW IPM GUIDE PLANTS IDEAS



Greenhouse managers and plant lovers who want to practice IPM can turn over a new leaf with a pocket guide produced last month by the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program. *Integrated Pest Management for Bedding Plants: A Scouting and Pest Management Guide* gives readers an inside look at starting and maintaining a successful IPM program. The guide provides readers with information about how to scout for insects and diseases and how to diagnose nutrient deficiencies. Its 18 tables span equipment, pest comparisons, and biological control agents. Three scouting forms and an extensive bibliography are included.

If you've ever wondered about the best way to use sticky cards, or how fava beans and petunias indicate the presence of diseases, consult this 112-page guide. Readers can even get a peek at other growers' problems by reading case studies that deal with thrips and whiteflies.

Edited by Christine Casey, former IPM Extension Educator in Ornamental Horticulture at Cornell, this spiral-bound guide includes information from six experts. It measures 5 in. x 8 in. and has a color, UV-coated cover.

To purchase a copy, order #102IPM407 from the Media Services Distribution Center (607-255-2080; <dist\_cent@cce.cornell.edu>). The cover price is \$12.75; the county/departmental price is \$9.50.

Carrie Koplinka-Loehr

## 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 below. 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.

**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 11, 9-11am**

Cathy Weeden and John Zakour

*HTML Basics*

**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*

## CLEARANCE, CLEARANCE, CLEARANCE

This is your last chance to buy Station Club fashions with the famous cupola design and now at rock-bottom prices! Sizes are limited, so hurry! The Bulletin Office hours are Monday-Friday, 1-5 pm.

### SWEATSHIRTS

Adult	XXL	\$13.00
Adult	M,L,XL	\$11.00
Children	M(10-12), L(14-16)	\$8.50

### T-SHIRTS

Adult	S,M,L,XL,XXL	\$6.00
Children	M(12-14), L(14-16)	\$4.50

**HATS** Adjustable Sizing \$4.00

**APRONS** One Size \$6.00

### PLEASE

Update your e-mail address directories and the [nysaes\\_all](mailto:nysaes_all) - lists. Thank you!

## 1998 NYSHIP

All employees currently enrolled in a health insurance plan should have received the Rates & Deadlines for 1998 from New York State Department of Civil Service. We are Schedule I on this sheet. All option changes will be effective on January 1, 1998. The deadline for making any option changes is December 24, 1997. That same deadline also applies to employees wishing to cancel their health insurance and making a change from family to individual. All other transactions are processed as usual and may have a waiting period for coverage or changes.

**Choices**, a booklet outlining all the available New York State Health Insurance Programs, is available in Personnel, Jordan Hall. To request a copy, contact Charlene Dunham: [cmd4@nysaes.cornell.edu](mailto:cmd4@nysaes.cornell.edu)

The 1998 New York State Health Insurance Program schedule of insurance rates, available in the immediate area, is listed below:

This list is not complete and HMOs are only available in specific counties. Therefore, if you need information regarding the above plans or the plans available in specific counties, please refer to Choices and the rate schedule which was sent

Plan Name	Plan Code	26 Pay Ind.	26 Pay Fam.
<b>Empire Plan</b>	<b>001</b>	<b>\$9.12</b>	<b>\$38.48</b>
<b>Prepaid Health Plan</b>	<b>055</b>	<b>\$15.37</b>	<b>\$78.37</b>
<b>Preferred Care</b>	<b>058</b>	<b>\$6.91</b>	<b>\$33.48</b>
<b>Blue Choice</b>	<b>066</b>	<b>\$7.06</b>	<b>\$34.10</b>
<b>HMO-CNY/Central</b>	<b>072</b>	<b>\$8.83</b>	<b>\$50.68</b>
<b>United Healthcare</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>\$15.20</b>	<b>\$72.61</b>
<b>Healthsource HMO</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>\$15.95</b>	<b>\$76.82</b>

to your home. Please contact Charlene (cmd4) or Charie (cah3), Jordan Hall Personnel, if you have questions or concerns.

The new rates will impact the OPI checks of 12/18/97 and the OPE checks of 12/22/97.

## NYSAES 1997 WALLYBALL TOURNAMENT



*Net Surfers '97 display their prizes after winning the Second Annual NYSAES Wallyball Tournament.*

The shotgun fired on November 11 for the Second Annual NYSAES Wallyball Tournament. Five teams were competing in this event. Players included professors, post-docs, staff, visiting fellows, and graduate students from Food Science, Entomology, Hort Sciences, Plant Path, and PGRU departments. The Official Rules from the American Wallyball Association (AWA) were honored in this event.

After two weeks of tough, serious, yet entertaining matches, the new Champion team was born. Net Surfers '97 (Alvaro Gaitan, Melissa Fan, Ray Fu, Joy Bolar, Chang-Ping Hsiao, and Ki-Sung Ko) had the best performance and was awarded Championship. The Second Place went to Team TGIF (Roger Magarey, Andrea Su, Daniel Waldstein, Baozhong Meng, Aijun Zhong, and Gellert Budjoso). Net Surfers '97 shared their winning strategies with all the Wallyball lovers in the world. You can view them by visiting the official NYSAES Wallyball Tournament Website at: <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/grads/Wallyball.html>

Special thanks to SAGES for promoting this event. The generous donation (Station sweatshirts and T shirts as prizes for the champions and runner-ups) from Station Club and the beautifully designed Certificates from Communication Services were highly appreciated. Of course we cannot forget the efforts of Alvaro Gaitan for maintaining the Official Website.

Until next year, Happy Wallyballing!

*Andrea Su*

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

DECEMBER 5-12, 1997

**EVENTS/MEETINGS**

**Sunday, December 7, 1:00-4:00 pm**  
Auditorium, Jordan Hall  
*Annual Station Club Holiday Party*

**Monday, December 8, 6:30 pm**  
A133 Barton Laboratory  
*English as a Second Language*

**Wednesday, December 10, 3:00 pm**  
Room G 19, Hendrick Hall  
*Chairs' and Unit leaders' meeting*

**Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 pm**  
A133 Barton Laboratory  
*English as a Second Language*



**DEADLINES**

**Wednesday, December 17**  
Beet progress reports and proposals due in Director's Office.

**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. We will also be selling raffle tickets for a free sweatshirt, t-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!

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**WANTED TO BUY:** Automatic transmission for 1982 Chevette 1.6L motor. e-mail mcm4 or geh11 @cornell.edu

**FREE:** Assorted sizes of flattened, never used liquor boxes. Good for moving or storing possessions. Will be on loading dock of Barton Lab starting Monday. Will recycle any left on Friday.

**APARTMENT FOR SUBLET:** Clean, fully-furnished one bedroom apartment available for sublet for six months beginning December 16 at Sheridan Park apartment, 15 Reed Road. \$325/mo includes heat. Call Kisung at X433 or email kk31@cornell.edu

**SEMINARS**

**HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES**

**Date:** Monday, December 8  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Speaker:** Remi Ajibade, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria  
Dr. Ajibade is a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Horticultural Sciences  
**Topic:** Cowpea Breeding and Genetics

**Date:** Thursday, December 11  
**Time:** 9:00 am  
**Place:** A-133 Barton Lab  
**Speaker:** Terence R. Bates, candidate for the Research Associate position in the Dept. of Horticultural Sciences/Vineyard Lab, Fredonia  
**Topic:** The Importance of Root Hairs in Phosphorus Acquisition Under Low Phosphorus Availability

**ENTOMOLOGY**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 10  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Place:** The Paul J. Chapman Conference Room, Room 310, Barton Lab.  
**Speaker:** Dr. Rex Cocroft, Department of Entomology, Cornell University  
**Topic:** Communication and Maternal Defense Against Predators in a Subsocial Treehopper

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

**FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 10  
**Time:** 10:30 am  
**Place:** FS&T Conference Room, Second Floor  
**Speaker:** Jane Friedrich, Graduate Student, Cornell FS&T-Geneva  
**Topic:** Fractionation and Identification of Non-Anthocyanin Phenolic Compounds in Sweet and Sour Cherries

(BRIEFS, cont.)

decision was arrived at after due deliberation concerning the effects of the January 1 pay. Paying this period early means having 27 pays in 1997 (normally 26). This 27th check phenomenon occurs approximately every 10 years in our biweekly pay process.

This 27th check for 1997 may have a slightly higher net pay due to certain program limits so there is no deduction for select benefits, FICA (if above the yearly maximum), tax deferred annuity (if at maximum limit) and United Way. The 27th pay will increase your 1997 form W-2 Wage and Tax Statement earnings amount and may impact the tax liability when filing your tax returns. Retirees who also work may need to plan their income limits around this payment.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Payroll Office at 8-5-7814.

Charie Hibbard

**E-MAIL UPDATE**

With the everchanging personnel here at the Station, it's a good idea to occasionally update your Eudora Nicknames file. This will add any new employees and delete those who no longer work here. Do this by going to the Station's home page (<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu>) and click on "Mail addresses and lists." Download these files. Open your Eudora Nicknames file and replace those files with the new updated files. Restart Eudora and your new nicknames will take effect. It's as easy as that! (Retrieving newer nickname files will not delete your personal nicknames.)



**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.**

**A wounding remark can injure  
the spirit greater than a  
sword can harm the body.**