

CORNELL
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FEBRUARY 14-21, 1997

BRIEFS

CAMPUS ARBORETUM
ASSOCIATION TO HOST
WORKSHOP

The Geneva Arboretum Association will host a brown-bag lunch-time workshop on the identification of our campus trees and shrubs in the wintertime. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 19, beginning at noon in the Jordan Hall Staff Room. Martin Goffinet will have specimens available for discussion. If time and weather allows, a short foray to nearby plantings may be taken, as trunk and branch characters are often helpful in identification. Attendees are encouraged to bring branchlets, fruits and leaves (if available) of their own specimens that they would like to identify.

RESPIRATORY FIT TESTING AND
TRAINING SCHEDULED

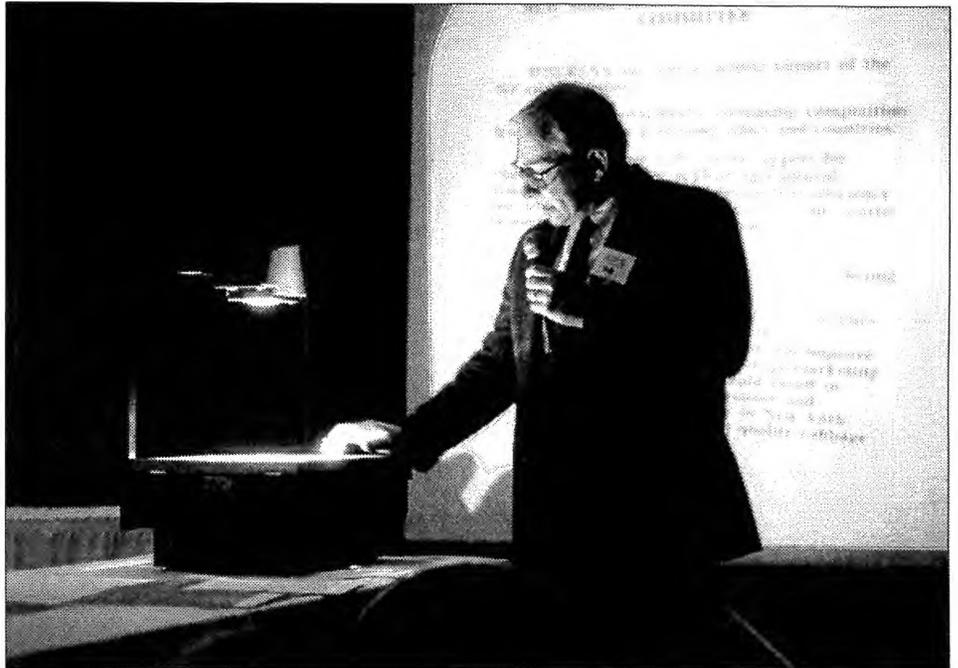
Environmental Health and Safety personnel will be conducting fit tests in the Jordan Hall Auditorium for users of respirators on March 13, 18, 24, April 4 and 15. Training will occur ONLY on March 13 and March 18 from 8:30-9:00 am in the Jordan Hall Auditorium. This program complies with the OSHA Standard for Respiratory Protection. More information will follow.

LIBRARY WORKSHOP
REMINDER

The Library would like to remind faculty, staff and students that they will be holding a workshop on EndNote on Friday, February 21. The workshop will be held in the Staff Lounge in Jordan Hall from 9 am until 11 am. No advanced registration is necessary. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Irwin at mji4@cornell.edu or x294.

(BRIEFS, Continued on page 3)

Vegetable Conference is Well-Attended



Hugh price explains the fresh market cabbage marketing order to a group of growers at the conference.

The Four Points Sheraton in Syracuse was solidly booked this week as growers, processors, researchers, manufacturing representatives and consultants flocked to Salt City to attend the 1997 NYS Vegetable Conference. Although 1996 was a difficult year because of a growing season generally considered to have been short and wet, prospects for the upcoming year are quite good.

"New York is fourth in the nation in overall vegetable production," said Larry Eckhardt, President of the NYS Vegetable Growers Association, Inc., which organized the conference. "The USDA's 'Five a Day' program has increased consumer consumption of fruit and vegetables, and New York growers are well positioned to take advantage of major markets in the Northeast."

The vegetable industry in New York contributes over \$272 million to the economy of New York State, including \$173 million from fresh market vegetables, \$37 million from processing vegetables, and \$61 million from potatoes. The 10 most valued commodities in New York are potatoes, cabbage onions, fresh sweet corn, processed sweet corn, processed snap beans, processed green peas, fresh snap beans, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

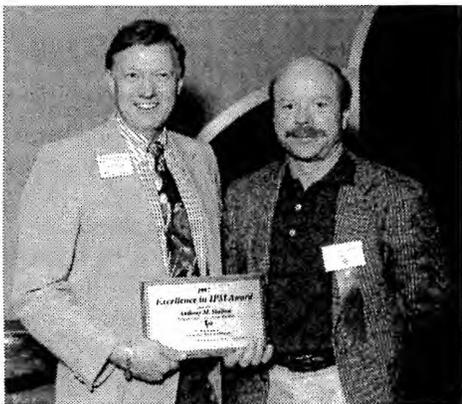
Eckhardt was quick to point out the major issues facing New York State growers. "Producers will be faced with increased costs directly attributable to pesticide registry legislation that was passed in 1996," he said, "and the Canadians are killing us." It is not as easy for New York growers to access Canadian markets as it is for Canadians—who are more heavily subsidized by the government—to access US markets. Producers are also anxious about how new developments between the two major buyers of NYS vegetables, Seneca Foods and Comstock Michigan Fruit, might affect demand, prices, and varieties grown.

(Continued on page 2)

(CONFERENCE cont.)

The downsizing of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets that has occurred in the last five years has negatively affected the availability of timely price and data information.

On the positive side, Eckhardt pointed out the NYS Vegetable Growers Association has initiated a voluntary Fresh Market Research Fund for which \$8,000 has been committed for the 1997 season. Another \$3,000 in pledges is outstanding and will probably be applied to research during the 1998 season. Potato producers and fresh market cabbage producers are considering enactment of respective state-based market



Tony Shelton received an "Excellence in IPM" award, presented by Dean Daryl Lund.

orders that could increase much-needed support for research on those commodities.

Another bright spot is the recent marketing of IPM-grown vegetables by Wegmans, which represents a cooperative effort between the large supermarket chain and Cornell's IPM Program. Public identification of and demand for IPM grown vegetables is being closely watched by the industry, as it could mean changes in production practices for more and more NYS vegetable producers.

At the conference, there were educational sessions on each major NYS commodity, as well as sessions on labor regulations, crop recordkeeping and enterprise analysis, soil quality, pesticides and health issues, leafy greens, and electronic online services. A trade show at which more than 80 manufacturers and services were represented was extremely well attended.

Experiment Station researchers figured prominently in the proceedings.

In the cabbage session, Tony Shelton

presented 12 years worth of data on controlling thrips on cabbage through the use of insecticides and host plant resistance. Results indicate that choosing cabbage varieties which are tolerant to thrips injury should be the first defense. "Even weekly sprays with an insecticide could not reduce the amount of injury on susceptible varieties below that which would occur on unsprayed tolerant varieties," said Shelton. He also discussed the use of a new fungus which kills caterpillars and the use of fiber barriers which can be sprayed on plants to prevent attack by insects.

Steve Reiners presented a session on cultural practices for sweet corn, in which he reviewed all the variables a grower needs to address when growing sweet corn: variety, fertilizer, soil conditions and soil temperatures, as well as a simple test for nitrogen.

In a session on tomatoes, Reiners was part of a panel that addressed the challenges of growing quality tomatoes. "Growers need to grow on raised beds, covered with plastic mulch and supplied with trickle irrigation, with tomatoes grown on a trellis," summarized Reiners. "It is more work and more expensive, but the competition is doing it in most other places, and could affect your market."

Reiners also addressed the issue of manure management. The recent E.coli scare in apple juice has increased awareness that contamination by the bacteria is caused by improper handling of manures. He handed out a fact sheet describing the proper ways to use manure in vegetable operations.

Reiners also pointed out that two crops seem to be making a comeback in New York: processing beets and kraut cabbage. "Acreage for both has been rising over the past couple of years and beet acreage is likely to continue rising," said Reiners.

In Thomas Bjorkman's session on beans, he told attendees that the use of the friendly *Trichoderma* "T-22" fungus improves root function and increases snap bean and dry bean yields by 10% to 20% in field trials.

Bjorkman also presented a session on soil quality, pointing out that good soil structure helps vegetables tolerate stress. To improve soil structure and nutrition availability, he advocated the use of buckwheat as a cover crop.

In his session on onions, Chuck



Director Jim Hunter discusses The Geneva Plan with members of the NYS Vegetable Growers Association.

Eckenrode discussed the ugly business of the onion bulb mite and other onion pests. One early hypothesis is that the producers' use of grasses as windbreaks may be providing the mites with a niche until they move into the onion fields. There are about 12,000 acres of onion grown in New York, valued at between \$50 and \$75 million. The average onion grower invests nearly \$3,000 an acre before any crop is harvested.

In four sessions, Helene Dillard offered strategies for management of bacterial and fungal diseases in snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn, tomatoes and peppers. The strategies include early identification, the use of resistant and/or tolerant varieties, judicious and timely application of fungicides, crop rotation, and alert attention to the possible sources of infestation and its spread.

Hugh Price exhorted cabbage producers to sign a petition that would encourage Ag & Markets to start the process for a referendum for a marketing order on cabbage. "There are over 300 cabbage growers in the state, and Ag & Markets needs to see that 25% of those growers ask for a vote," he said. The marketing order would establish a research fund based on an assessment of not more than \$4 per acre of cabbage. This could generate \$64,000 for research, which would represent a five-fold increase in that which is currently available. Fresh market and kraut cabbage is a \$60 million industry in New York.

Daryl Lund, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, was the featured speaker at the conference social on Tuesday evening. He stressed the importance of enhancing the partnership between the public and private sector, and encour-

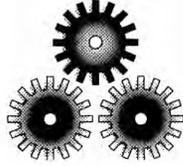
(CONFERENCE cont.)

aged industry support for research. "This is the third consecutive year of reduced funding from Albany," said Lund. "We have gone to the governor with the Geneva Plan to increase funding for the Experiment Station, and we need to be able to prove to Albany that industry supports research at Geneva."

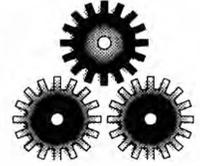
Dean Lund and Jim Tette made the second annual "Excellence in IPM" awards, given to individuals and organizations that have strongly supported the statewide IPM effort either through adoption or promotion of IPM techniques and principles. The first award was a team award for an agricultural industry project between Wegmans Food Markets and four vegetable farm operators who cooperated on bringing IPM-grown vegetables to the marketplace. The awardees were Bill Pool, Manager, Food Safety and Regulation, from Wegmans Food Markets, Inc. in Rochester, NY; Lynn Fish, representing Fish Farm Market in Shortsville, NY; Kris and Jim Gray from Fresh-Ayr Farm Market in Shortsville, NY; Doug Mason of Mason/Old Ridge Farms in Williamson; and Alan and Jeffrey Werner of Werner Farms in Rush, NY.

Tony Shelton received an individual "Excellence in IPM" award for the important influence he has had in shaping the vegetable IPM Program in New York and nationwide. As an entomologist, Shelton developed and implemented scouting procedures and thresholds for important insect pests of crucifers, onions, and sweet corn for a total of nine insects. He has worked on the development of insect-resistant varieties, utilizing insect pathogens, developing strategies for monitoring and managing insecticide resistance, conserving and enhancing natural enemies in the ecosystem, using genetically engineered plants and pathogens for control, developing cultural practices to reduce pest pressure, and investigating strategies to enhance the adoption of IPM. He has also helped coordinate a biocontrol program at Cornell and organized a conference to discuss ways to improve and implement the techniques.

Each award-winner was given a plaque, an IPM hat, and a gift certificate to Gempler's Inc. The awards are determined by state legislature, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Cornell University.



ClarisWorks WORKSHOP TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 18



Many individuals have been looking for a suitable and relatively inexpensive alternative to Microsoft Office. An application, called ClarisWorks, is becoming increasingly accepted as a friendly and fairly complete program that can be used in place of Microsoft Office. ClarisWorks includes the following programs: word processing, draw, paint, spreadsheet, and database.

A workshop on ClarisWorks will be held on Tuesday, February 18, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Auditorium, Jordan Hall. Refreshments will be served and features of all the various programs in ClarisWorks will be explained and demonstrated, including how to combine drawings easily within word processing documents, the ease with which mail merge documents can be created using a combination of the word processing and database programs, the ease with which slides can be made using either the word processing or draw programs, and a general discussion of advantages and disadvantages of ClarisWorks compared to Microsoft Office.

Instructor for the workshop will be Pat Krauss, assistant to the director, who has been using ClarisWorks as his principal program for word processing, drawing, spreadsheets, and database work for more than six months. Ample opportunity will be given participants in the workshop to ask questions.

If you already have specific questions that you would like addressed, it would be helpful for you to send them to Pat Krauss at rek3@nysaes.cornell.edu in advance of the workshop.

(BRIEFS, cont.)

THE WWW AND YOU

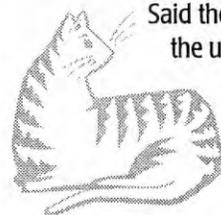
If you wonder what use the World Wide Web (WWW) might be to you, think no longer! AgNIC is here! AgNIC (Agriculture Network Information Center) information was compiled by the National Agricultural Library's Electronic Research Database Committee and identifies, describes, and links to (when possible) agriculture-related databases, datasets, and information systems.

AgNIC is searchable in several ways for the topic(s), among hundreds, of interest to you. The URL is <http://www.agnic.nal.usda.gov/agdb/>

The variety of information available is impressive—from 1977 Soviet Union Agricultural Statistics to Alfalfa Genetics databases.

Station News will feature a regular listing of interesting WWW sites. If you would like to share a site you find useful with Station colleagues, send the URL to Cathy Weeden at crw7@cornell.edu

"A big cat saw a little cat chasing its tail and asked, "Why are you chasing your tail so?"
Said the kitten, "I have learned that the best thing for a cat is happiness, and that happiness is in my tail. Therefore I am chasing it: and when I catch it,
I shall have happiness."



Said the old cat, "My son, I too, have paid attention to the problems of the universe. I, too, have judged that happiness is in my tail.
But, I have noticed that whenever I chase after it,
it keeps running away from me, and when
I go about my business,
it just seems to come after me wherever I go."



To SEE THE WORLD IN A GRAIN OF SAND—C.L. JAMES

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 7-14, 1997

EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 18, 10:00 am
Auditorium, Jordan Hall
ClarisWorks Workshop (see related story)

Wednesday, February 19, Noon
Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Arboretum Association Workshop (see related story)

Friday, February 21, 9:00 am
Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Library Workshop:
EndNote: How to Minimize Hassles, Maximize Your Time and Configure Usable Filters.



DEADLINES

Monday, March 3
Apple Research and Development Program proposals due in Director's Office by Monday, March 3

SURPLUS SOLD

Listed below is the result of the recent Buildings and Properties surplus sale:

1981 Chev Pickup w/cap was purchased by Dave Gill, Horticultural Sciences, for \$166.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: 1983 Chevy S-10 4x2 extended-bed cinnamon-red 2D 6-2.8L 155K, toolbox, snap-vinyl cover, cap - good condition \$2000. Call x263 or 607-277-7928.

MOVING SALE: White love seat; like new—orig.\$350 asking \$150. Antique, drop-leaf cherry table—\$200. Jane Fonda treadmill (not used much!) Orig.\$300—asking \$75. TV stand—\$20. Please call 331-6332.

FOR RENT: 2-3 bedroom second floor apartment. Located on Sherrill St. (near Geneva Hospital). Available March 1. \$550 includes utilities. Phone 315-585-9515.

FOR SALE: 1992 Toyota Camry V6, automatic, power windows and door locks, air conditioning, cruise control, AM/FM/Cassette stereo. 100K miles. Perfect condition. \$9000. Phone x363 (Ask for Pat) or 315-585-9515.

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

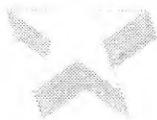
Date: Monday, February 17
Time: 11:00 am
Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Speaker: Harold Van Es
Soil Crop & Atm. Sci.
Topic: Nitrogen fate as affected by soil type: implications for crop management

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, February 18
Time: 3:30 pm
Place: Room A133, Barton Lab
Speaker: Jana Lamboy
Department of Plant Pathology, Geneva
Topic: Greenhouse tomato diseases: Botrytis gray mold and Cladosporium leaf spot

SAVE THE DATE

1997
MARCH
OF
DIMES
WALKAMERICA



will be
held
APRIL 27

Going...
Going...
Gone!



Food Science
Stockroom
Give-A-Way!!

Who:
To All Station Depts/Units

What:
Free" Inventory Stock

When:
February 3rd-28th

Time:
8:00am-Noon and
1:00-4:00 pm daily

Where:
FST Stockroom (G-17)

Terms:
For Station Use Only