

VOLUME LXXVIII • NO. 10

MARCH 14-21, 1997

BRIEFS

NATIVE PLANTS IN THE
LANDSCAPE

The Geneva Arboretum Association will herald the first day of Spring with a noon-time talk on the benefits of planting native shrubs and trees in the residential landscape, their ornamental value and benefit to wildlife. The talk will be held on Thursday, March 20, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Food Science Conference Room 251.

Native plants in general have been overlooked and underutilized for use in the home landscape. Non-native plants and their cultivars have dominated the nursery trade for the past two centuries, probably because, as with many industries in the past, the Europeans dominated the trade, set the standards, and the Americans followed suit. This generated an American demand for the same plants that were used in Europe. Most of these plants were proven superior cultivars and there was little incentive to grow or market domestic species or cultivars. For thousands of years, the Japanese have also been selectively improving the best ornamental species and cultivars available from around the world. Those plants and their cultivars certainly have an advantage in offering more diversity of shape, form, foliage and flower.

Every plant has the potential to be used in the landscape and many native plants have very desirable characteristics that make them good choices for planting around the home. In the last few decades, the American nursery industry has begun to offer and promote native plants from shrubs to shade trees to wildflowers. There has also been a strong interest in natural landscaping and wildlife gardening which emphasizes the use of native plants and those especially beneficial to wildlife. There has been a slight but gradual

(BRIEFS, Continued on page 2)

ALAN TAYLOR
PROMOTED TO
PROFESSOR

Alan Taylor has been promoted to Professor of Seed Science and Technology in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at the Experiment Station.

Taylor's research efforts include a range of projects from applied research in the field of seed science to more fundamental aspects of seed biology and mechanisms associated with seed quality and aging. In addition, he teaches a full semester course in Seed Science and Technology on the Ithaca campus.

"Seed quality is an important facet of crop production and can directly influence crop establishment, plant growth, and yield potential," said Taylor, who owns a national and several international patents on seed coating and sorting technologies. The overall objective of his program is the improvement of seed quality and seedling establishment. Primary emphasis is on vegetable crops seeds with less effort on agronomic and other seed species.

Enhancement of seed performance provides the potential for higher yields and helps insure profitability and competitiveness for New York State agriculture. More fundamental research provides contributions of national and global implications.

"Establishment of uniform stands of either small seeded or large seeded vegetable crops under New York growing conditions is a constant challenge," said Hugh Price, chairman of the Horticultural Sciences Department. "Dr. Taylor's research on seed quality and seed coating have contributed significantly to reducing the risks associated with field seeding of sweet corn, snap beans, onions and cabbage."

The Seed Science and Technology Program at Cornell is the only university-based program with capabilities for seed coating including pelleting, film-coating, and low volume application. Specialized facilities have been developed in Taylor's lab for those purposes and used for the application of chemical and biological seed treatments.

One practical application for the onion industry was developed in a cooperative project with Chuck Eckenrode. An experimental insect growth regulator called Trigard was developed for direct application to seed. "A section 18 has been issued for Trigard applied as a treatment and is available for use by the onion industry for control of onion maggot," said Taylor.

Coating is also a component in a process developed in Taylor's lab to enhance or improve seed germination in crucifers. This method includes first soaking seeds in controlled conditions in the laboratory, then coating, drying, and color sorting to separate the viable from the nonviable seeds. The process takes advantage of the natural occurrence of a fluorescent material called sinapine in seeds of the crucifer family. Dead seeds leak the material, and fluoresce under ultraviolet light. "The practical outcome is that we have been

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(BRIEFS, cont.)

shift away from any plant that looks good, to those plants that are best adapted to the local environmental and regional weather conditions. This is where native plants have a decided advantage.

The noontime talk on March 20 will showcase many of these plants which may be new to you. With the arrival of spring, comes the time for planting. All are welcome to attend.

MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY

Check your office shelves for the following missing from the Plant Pathology Library: Brighton Crop Protection Conference 1994 and 1996 (each is a 3 vol. set) PP/ SB951 .B86 Please return to Jordan Hall Library. Thank you for your cooperation.



ANNUAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR'S UPDATE SET FOR MARCH 25

The 1997 Annual Pesticide Applicator's Update is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, from 8:30-11:30 am, in the Auditorium, Jordan Hall.

The program includes the topics "Herbicides and their Mode of Action," "New Pesticide Record Keeping Requirements and an Update from NYSDEC," "Environmental Fate of Pesticides in the Farm Field—Case Studies," and "Controlling Wildlife Pests—Strategies and Concerns."

Recertification credits for all categories will be available to full session attendees. Be sure to bring your certification number along for credit registration.

RESPIRATORY TRAINING SCHEDULED

Tuesday, March 18, is the final date for Respiratory Protection Training to be presented by Environmental Health and Safety personnel. This program complies with the OSHA Standard for Respiratory Protection and will be held in the Auditorium, Jordan Hall, from 8:30-9:00 am.

JOIN THE STATION'S WALKAMERICA TEAM

Plan to join the Station's team for the 1997 March of Dimes WalkAmerica to be held on Saturday, April 27, at the Seneca Lake State Park. If you are interested in joining the Station's team this year, contact Kathy DeRosa, Director's Office, x211, or by e-mail at kad2@nysaes.cornell.edu. for registration information. Walkers obtain contributions which are donated to the March of Dimes Campaign for Healthier Babies.

All employees and their relatives are eligible and welcome to join us! If you have a baby or children that you would like to include in the walk, bring the stroller and/or the children's bikes! If you cannot join the team for the walk, please consider making a monetary contribution.



NIFTY URL FROM THE LIBRARY

The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) has opened a comprehensive web site which features searchable publications, research databases and other useful items. Farmers and ranchers, researchers, agricultural professionals, students and consumers can access the latest information on sustainable agriculture. The informative web site features on-line books and database of more than 1,000 research projects funded by the USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. It is located at <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/san/>

(TAYLOR, cont.)

able to develop a rapid viability test, as well as seed sorting technology based on our ability to detect sinapine," said Taylor.

Another aspect of Taylor's research program is understanding how water affects seeds in storage and germination. As every gardener knows who stores seeds from one season to the next, seed moisture content has a major influence on shelf life. For good storage, it is important to keep seeds dry.

Taylor has also studied seed moisture content on large-seeded legumes (like beans) versus their susceptibility to mechanical damage and germination problems when the seeds are sown in cold, wet soils. In contrast to the low moisture preferred for storage conditions, higher moisture content helps avoid seed injuries associated with physical abuse and germination under stressful soil environments.

"I attribute a lot of the success of our program to our ability to attract and recruit good graduate students and visiting scientists to the program, and being able to focus their talents on a particular project where we all learn. That's the fun thing," said Taylor. His reputation for hosting these individuals and getting them involved with meaningful research is widespread.

Taylor received a B.S. in Biology from Heidelberg College, in Tiffin, Ohio, in 1975. He received his M.S. in Horticulture in 1977 from Michigan State University, and his Ph.D. in Crop Science in 1981, from Oklahoma State University. He was named assistant professor at the Experiment Station in 1981, and became Associate Professor in 1986. His professional associations include the American Society for Horticultural Science, where he is the Chairman of the Seed Research Working Group, and the Associate Editor for *HortScience in Seed Technology*. He is also a member of the Crop Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy.

In addition to science and seeds, Taylor has always been interested in music. He is a long-standing member of the handbell choir of the Presbyterian Church of Geneva—a 5-octave bell choir, with 10 to 12 members. He also likes to garden and do outdoor work. He and his wife Betty, a registered nurse, live in Geneva with their two sons, Ryan and Andy, who attend Geneva High.

OPPERMAN TO VISIT GENEVA

Mary George Opperman, Assoc. VP of University Human Resource Services, will be touring our campus on Friday, March 21, from 10:00 to 4:00 pm. The purpose of this tour is to meet with our employees and to become familiar with the Geneva campus. Listed below is the schedule we will follow for March 21. All staff and faculty are encouraged to attend one of the meetings. If you are unable to attend the meeting with your specific department or unit, please attend another.

10:00 - 10:30	Welcome in Dr. Hunter's office
10:40 - 11:10	Plant Pathology <i>A-133 Barton Laboratory</i>
11:15 - 11:45	Entomology <i>310 Barton Laboratory</i>
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch in Director's office
12:45 - 1:00	Walk through Library and Communications Services, Jordan Hall
1:00 - 1:30	Administration, Communications Services, Horticultural Sciences including PGRU, Integrated Pest Management, Library <i>Jordan Hall Auditorium</i>
1:40 - 2:10	Food Science and Technology and Computer Services <i>FST Conference Room</i>
2:20 - 2:50	Field Research Unit <i>Farm Services breakroom</i>
3:00 - 3:30	Buildings & Properties <i>General Services breakroom</i>
Return to Jordan Hall for departure	



World Wide Web Seminar Series

A Seminar Series about Web publishing will be offered this spring and again in the fall on Friday from 10:30-11:30 am in the Jordan Hall Staff Room. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend.

- **March 21:** The World Wide Web: Cybertour to Rev Up Your Browser, Find Exactly What You're Looking For and Stop Wasting Time Getting It: by Peter McDonald
- **March 28:** What the Web Can Do For You in Teaching, Research & Extension: Thomas Bjorkman, Terry Acree
- **April 4, 18:** The Basics of HTML Publishing. HTML markup and manipulation of images using Netscape Gold, and getting your newly created pages on the Station Server: Cathy Weeden
- **May 2:** Research & The Web: Pursuing Grants for Publication: Tony Shelton
- **May 9:** Scholarly Considerations: copyright, the question of "reprinting" on the WWW from referred journals, in-progress papers, etc.: The Library

SYSTEM 7.6 IS HERE

Version 7.6 of the Macintosh operating system is available for network installation from the AppleShare server AES.Geneva:Turtle. Note that this is not a 'must do' installation. If your Mac is working fine you will probably want to leave well enough alone.

Mac OS 7.6 is compatible with Mac OS applications currently available, and, with three exceptions, will run on Apple Macintosh and Mac OS-compatible systems with a 68030, 68040, or PowerPC processors.

It will not run on Plus, SE, SE/30, Classic, LC, II, IIX, IICX, PowerBook 100.

Installation will require considerable free disk space due to many new features. Some features will not install on 680xx machines (those other than PowerPC).

To do an installation:

1. Choose AES.Geneva:Turtle:CC
2. Connect as a Guest.
3. Select Mac OS 7.6
4. Double-click "Install Mac OS"
5. After installation, you should remove the following from the System should they be present:
 - System Folder:Extensions:Assistant Toolbox
 - System Folder:Extensions:Caps Lock
 - System Folder:Extensions:QuickTime PowerPlug
 - System Folder:Extensions:SCSI Manager

Communications Services would like to wish another
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Pat Krauss on St. Patrick's Day!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MARCH 14-21, 1997

EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 18, 8:30 am
Auditorium, Jordan Hall
Respiratory Protection Training
(see related story)

Thursday, March 20, Noon
Food Science Conference Room
Geneva Arboretum Association's Noontime Talk on Native Plants in the Landscape
(see related story)

Friday, March 21, 10:30 am
Staff Room, Jordan Hall
The World Wide Web: Cybertour to Rev Up Your Browser, Find Exactly What You're Looking For and Stop Wasting Time Getting It: by Peter McDonald

PEOPLE

• *Station Condolences Extended:*

The Station extends sincere condolences to Linda and Fred Jensen on the death of their father, Ervin Jensen. Ervin worked at the Experiment Station from 1944 until 1978. For many years, he served as farm foreman at the old Canning Crops Research Farm on Pre-emption Road. In recent years, he accepted expanded responsibilities in the tomato and cucurbit breeding programs, helping Dr. R. W. Robinson in the varied work involved in these projects.

CLASSIFIEDS

SEEKING STUDENTS: Geneva Head Start is a pre-school program for three and four year olds who live in the Geneva School District. Children of low-income families and children with disabilities or special needs are given priority. There is no charge for this program. Geneva Head Start is recruiting students for the 1997-98 school year and welcomes inquiries. They will be taking applications until April 1, 1997. For more information, contact Carolann Wilson, Coordinator of Family Services, 315-781-4104, or stop by the facility at 400 West North Street, Geneva

Irish Blessing

*May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm on your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again...
May God hold you in the palm
of His hand.*

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, March 17
Time: 11:00 am
Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Speaker: Tom Clark
Fruit and Vegetable Science
Topic: Thinning effect of BA and GA 4+7 formulations on apples

ENTOMOLOGY

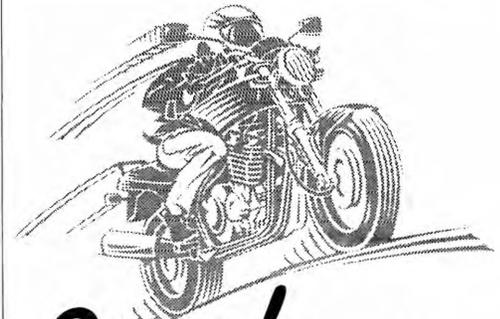
Date: Thursday, March 20
Time: 10:30 am
Place: The Paul J. Chapman Conference Room
Room 310, Barton Lab
Speaker: Paul Robbins & Jennifer Grant
Graduate Students
Department of Entomology, Geneva
Topic: The Great Debate: All Publicly Funded Research on IPM Must Focus on Interdisciplinary, Farm-Level Investigations
A Remake of the Student Debate Held in Louisville, KY
Social interaction time with speakers at 10:00 am
Coffee & donuts will be available.

CCE SATELLITE NETWORK VIDEOCONFERENCE

"Breast Cancer Risk and the Environment: Tools for Understanding"

A tape will be shown of this videoconference that was originally broadcast February 6 but, due to technical difficulties, was not seen in Geneva. All are welcome to attend.

Date: Wednesday, March 19
Time: 10:00 am-Noon
Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Sponsors: The Cornell University Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors in New York State (BCERF)
Topics: Interpreting the Headlines: Understanding Breast Cancer Risks and Rates
Environmental Chemicals and Breast Cancer: What We Know and What We Need to Know
Risk Reduction: The Importance of Early Intervention
Conclusion: What to Expect from BCERF in the Future



*Rush ...
to your
Department Representative
and Save Save Save by
joining today!*

**Station Club
Membership Drive**

By becoming a member you are entitled to **REDUCED** ticket prices for the banquet, holiday party, golf tournament, bowling party, and summer picnic.

Membership Cost is **ONLY**
\$5.00/family-\$2.50/single

Retirees:
\$2.50/family-\$1.25/single

**CONTACT YOUR DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE BY
MARCH 21:**

Administration	Charie Hibbard
Buildings & Properties, Security, Fleet & Heating Plant	Ralph D'Amato
Communications	Sandy Antinelli
Entomology	Donna Roelofs
Field Research Unit	Alan Soper
Food Science & Technology	Nancy Long
Horticultural Sciences	Gemma Osborne
Hedrick Hall	Cathy Roe
Sturtevant Hall	Janet Garlick
Integrated Pest Management	Tiffany Fisk
Plant Genetic Resources Unit	Colleen Van
Plant Pathology	