

VOLUME LXXIX • NO. 34
AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 4, 1998

BRIEFS

LANGUAGE CLASSES

English as a Second Language classes will begin Wednesday, September 9 and will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. through December 23. The class will meet in A-133 Barton Laboratory, with Linda Wertz as the instructor. There is no charge for attending.

DIAL-UP NETWORKING FOR
WINDOWS 95 AND NT

The Computer Center has instructions and software available that allow Windows 95 and Windows NT machines to connect to the NYSAES network over the phone. The instructions may be found in note CC Note 366, which is available as an Adobe Acrobat document at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/cc/notes/366.pdf>. Contact the Computer Center at x289 to obtain copies of the software.

Please note that the NYSAES dial-up modems are provided to facilitate your work from off-campus locations. We have a limited number of phone lines into the network and cannot let capacity be consumed by personal use.

POSSIBLE WORKSHOPS
IN GENEVA

There is a possibility for two Cornell workshops to be held on the Geneva campus so that people won't have to travel to the Ithaca campus. There are a minimum number of attendees required and guaranteed before a program will be arranged in Geneva. Therefore, please let me know if you would attend one or both of the following workshops:

- #1 - Basic Principles for a Collaborative Workplace
One-session program - 4 hrs.
\$45 (approx.)
- #2 - Proactive Listening
One-session program - 4 hrs.
\$45 (approx.)

Charie Hibbard

SPORTS

Every Wednesday, starting Sept. 2 at 5:30 pm, there will be a pickup softball game behind Jordan Hall. Rain date would be on Thursday, same time. If interested contact Nestor Ortiz, x303 or nho1.

NORTHEAST BUCKWHEAT FIELD DAY
GAINS MOMENTUM IN FOURTH YEAR

Twenty-five buckwheat breeding lines are being tested in field trials.

Under a cloudy but dry sky, more than 40 people, mostly experienced buckwheat growers, attended the Fourth Annual Buckwheat Field Day organized by Thomas Björkman, of the Horticultural Sciences department, on August 25. Attendees came from all over the Northeast buckwheat-growing area from as far as Hamilton, Ontario, and Johnstown, PA. Since one of the program's goals is to bring growers into contact with other growers, Björkman considers the strong participation a great success. "Discussion was very productive and the growers appreciated meeting each other and establishing new contacts," Björkman said. "About one-third to one-half were repeat visitors."

The main display at the field day was the breeding program to develop a variety for the Northeast. Lisa Blanchard, of Björkman's lab, has responsibility for the trials and for collecting the data. This year, 25 breeding lines were tested at three locations that represent characteristic buckwheat-growing conditions in the Northeast. Good traits for Northeast buckwheat are early leaf production, which enables the plant to complete the vegetative growth phase quickly and compete well with weeds; a high proportion of total energy spent on seed production; and uniform seed development and good milling quality.

This year marked the release of the first variety developed specifically for the Northeast to come out of the cooperative breeding program between Cornell and Kade Research in Manitoba. 'Keukett' is characterized by early plant growth with a marked change to seed production, which results in high yield and uniform seed maturity. New York varieties need to express this determinate growth habit because of the short growing season. In Manitoba, which has a longer growing season, buckwheat varieties have previously been selected so seeds are produced progressively, as they do on old-fashioned pole beans.

Included in the day's events was a talk by Bill Pardee, of Cornell's Plant Breeding department, describing how a new variety goes through the seed certifying process to ensure genetic purity and excellent seed quality. 'Keukett' is put through this rigorous process by the NYS Seed Improvement Project, which is run by Plant Breeding department.



Thomas Björkman speaks to the participants at the Fourth Annual Buckwheat Field Day.

Another highlight was a delicious custard-like dessert made with kasha and orange juice and topped with berries prepared by food developer Marcie VerPloeg on behalf of the National Buckwheat Institute.

Buckwheat is used as a short-season cash crop. It fits a unique time slot in late summer growing: its 73-day season is from early July to mid-September, when fields might otherwise be idle; it grows on marginal soils; it requires no pesticides and

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 4, 1998

SEMINARS

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Date: Monday, August 31, 1998
Time: 10:00 am
Place: FST Conference Room
Speaker: Jenni Briggs
 Purdue University
 Candidate for Food Engineer position
Title: An Integrated Approach to Value Added Processing Research

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 1998
Time: 10:00 am
Place: FST Conference Room
Speaker: Jeffrey Rattray
 Purdue University
 Candidate for Food Engineer position
Title: Applications of Artificial Intelligence to Food Processing

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Tuesday, September 1, 1998
Time: 3:00 pm
Place: Room A133, Barton Laboratory
Speaker: George Levitt
 Farm Advisor, Madera County, California, and University of California, Davis
Title: Will the Real Dead Arm Please Stand Up?

There will be a reception for the speaker at 4:00 pm.

CARD OF THANKS

Thanks to Buildings & Properties personnel for the wonderful retirement party and the thoughtful gifts.

Bill Hanvey

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Portable basketball hoop—\$50. DP weight bench and weights—\$40. Invisible Fence transmitter and 2 collars (large and medium)—\$70. Two children's bikes—\$30 and \$50. Contact Norm, x245.

FREE: Tires: two P95/75 R14 XT radials, worn on edges; one P185/70 R14 Goodyear all winter radial (decent shape). Cedar filled dog bed, about 2'x3', with washable cover. Toilet (working). One-speed man's bike. Call x253.

GARAGE SALE: Saturday, August 29, 9-4 pm, 1756 Whiskey Hill Rd, Waterloo, between Rtes 96 & 318. Furniture—baby (excellent condition) & household; toys; bikes & misc. items.

FOR SALE: 16 MB RAM (two 8 MB SIMMS) for a Macintosh for sale, \$10. Contact Tom Herlache, x312 or th22.

HUGE YARD SALE: 22 Cherry Street, Geneva. 8-3 Saturday, August 29. Crib, car seat, strollers, toys, girls' and boys' clothes, shoes, and winter coats (infant to size 8), futon mattress, loveseat, dresser, IBM computer, printer, and more. Call x408 or 781-2421 for more information.

FOR SALE: '94 Nissan Sentra. Power steering, power mirrors, cruise control, auto-transmission, air conditioning, and AM/FM stereo tape. Asking \$7000 (negotiable). Contact Mark, 781-0596.

FOR RENT: One bedroom apartment, \$350/mo (includes utilities). Available immediately. Call Mark, 781-0596.

(Whale Watch, cont.)

little fertilizer; and it needs little attention in the growing season.

Historically, New York and Pennsylvania were the traditional centers for buckwheat production in North America, but Northern Plains of the U.S. and Canada have become the major growing regions since the '30s. Buckwheat was first brought to North America in the 1600s by Dutch settlers. Researchers have recently determined that buckwheat was first domesticated in the upper Yangtze River Valley. Locally-grown buckwheat seed is made into kasha, whereas most western-grown buckwheat is sent to Japan for soba, a traditional Japanese noodle. Despite the fondness with which many recall a hearty breakfast of buckwheat pancakes, the amount of buckwheat milled for pancake flour is relatively small.

Because of increasing cooperation among researchers, growers, and processors, the buckwheat industry is becoming more knowledgeable with good prospects for future economic stability. The Buckwheat Field Day is an important part of this increasing communication.

JOY BOLAR WINS AWARDS

Joy Bolar, who is working on his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology with Herb Aldwinckle, Jay Norelli and Gary Harman, recently received two awards to attend the Seventh International Congress of Plant Pathology in Edinburgh, Scotland, earlier this month.

A £600 (\$1,000) bursary was awarded by the Congress on the basis of the paper, "Production of Transgenic Apple Lines for Scab Resistance with Genes Coding for One or Two Chitinolytic Enzymes," which Bolar co-authored with Norelli, Aldwinckle, Harman and Susan Brown. Besides the ICPP bursary, Joy also received a travel grant for \$600 from the Cornell Graduate School to cover some of the costs of his travel to the Congress.



Joy Bolar presenting his poster in Edinburgh, Scotland.

To top off an excellent year, Bolar recently was notified that he has been awarded an American Phytopathological Society Foundation Student Travel Grant for \$350 to attend the annual meeting of the APS in Las Vegas this November to present another paper about his work.

"Joy's awards are richly deserved," Aldwinckle stated. "To receive three such awards in one year is unusual, if not unprecedented, and reflects the excellence of Joy's research and his dedicated hard work."

