

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

STATION NEWS

GENEVA
NEW • YORKVOLUME LXXX • NO. 2
JANUARY 15-22, 1999

BRIEFS

COLLIER DRIVE CLOSED

The west end of Collier Drive is being used as a staging area for the Station construction project and will be closed until the project is complete—approximately 30 months. There are three other entrances to the Station that may be used: one between Sturtevant and Hedrick halls and two on Pre-Emption Road. Please do not use the entrance by the IPM building because it is narrow and slippery.

Dave Lasher

COMPUTER NOTES

Cornell has a site license for Minitab on Macintosh and Windows machines. Minitab can be downloaded at no charge; for details see note cc368 on <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/cc/notes>.

Given the above, the Computer Centre plans to drop Minitab from the Sun (turtle.nysaes.cornell.edu) at the end of the current licensing period (February 1999). We will not do this if there is interest in keeping it. Call x289 if you feel that Minitab should be retained on the Sun.

CORNELL STUDENT HEALTH
INSURANCE

Debbie Perlmutter, from the Cornell Student Health Insurance Office, will be available in the lobby of Caldwell Hall on January 21, 1999 from 8:30 to 4:00. The purpose will be to inform new graduate students about the health insurance plan. Students are invited to enroll or waive the health insurance as well as to ask questions about the plan.

Debbie can be reached by e-mail (dpl16) or by phone (8-5-6363).

(BRIEFS Continued on page 4)

Barton Lab
Project Begins

Ralph D'Amato has been busy coordinating construction schedules to help ensure that station staff and faculty will be able to continue normal operations during the 30-month multi-phase construction project.

Work has officially begun on the \$3.8 million asbestos abatement and air conditioning/heating/water pipe installation in Barton Laboratory. The multi-phase construction project, financed by the State University of New York Construction Fund, will affect virtually everyone on the Geneva campus at some time during its 30-month duration. A construction office has been set up outside Barton Lab, crews are busy on-site, and Collier Drive has been cordoned off.

Site representative for the construction project, Ralph D'Amato (see box on page 2), describes the project as being divided into several phases. Preliminary work was done last summer when B&P constructed a large pole barn at the Vegetable Research Farm to house the Field Research Unit's (FRU) field equipment. In the current phase of the project, construction crews are renovating a building at the Vegetable Research Farm for FRU, and the building is scheduled to be completed and occupied by mid-February.

Renovation of the building vacated by FRU, located next to the Warehouse, is underway. This building will become laboratory and office "Surge Space" for personnel displaced from Barton Lab during construction.

The next phase for Barton Laboratory is scheduled to begin in April. To facilitate the work, people in the building will move into the Surge Space starting with the sixth and fifth floors. The work will proceed down through the building, one floor at a time. After the sixth floor work is completed, work will begin on the fifth floor; the sixth floor people can return to Barton Lab, the fourth floor people will move to the Surge Space, and so forth.

When people are in the Surge Space, it is expected that they will be able to continue their normal routines. "The laboratories will be very good," said Entomology Chair, Wendell Roelofs. Plant Pathology Chair, Helene Dillard, agreed. The labs were designed with input

(BARTON LAB Continued on page 2)

(BARTON LAB, cont.)

from both departments and they should have everything that is needed to continue normal operations.

However, both department Chairs are concerned about the disruption that will occur, especially during the moves. Dillard mentioned that there is no insurance on the expensive instruments that will be moved and Roelofs noted that the jostling—or even just turning them on and off—can sometimes cause older and complex instruments to blow circuit boards, electronic parts, etc. Both Chairs feel that the move itself will likely include more downtime than is anticipated. Roelofs also mentioned his concerns that groups working on different floors will be split up and that room for insect rearing in the Surge Space may not be adequate.

On the positive side, everyone in Barton is eager to have the new ventilation system installed. In past summers, the offices along the perimeter of the building and the basement have been too hot, and in the winter, there is no way to heat some labs. The new system will have centralized heat and air conditioning with zone control. Replacing the pipes is expected to solve the leakage problem that has occurred in the building in the past.

D'Amato encourages Barton Lab occupants to begin office and lab cleaning in anticipation of the coming move to the Surge Space. "This could be the hardest part of the job," he said. "Everything that is not part of the room itself must be moved, either to the Surge Space or to storage." D'Amato estimates it will take about two weeks to move each floor. "B&P will do the actual moving," he added, "but it's up to individuals to do the packing." Actual work on each floor is estimated to take three to four months.

Safety during the project is a matter of utmost consideration. "The asbestos abatement area will be entirely sealed off, and the construction crew will build an outdoor elevator so that there will be no access to the rest of the building from the abatement area," said D'Amato. In addition, negative air machines will be used, which filter the air before venting it outside the building so there is no asbestos contamination. "I definitely believe that this will be a safe project," D'Amato emphasized. "It's well thought out and the general contractor, Welliver-McGuire, Inc., of Elmira, NY, is very knowledgeable and on top of the job. So far, I'm very pleased."

Despite the fact that the project is going smoothly and is presently on schedule, D'Amato, John Franzese, Superintendent for Welliver-McGuire, and B&P have already had to struggle with two unanticipated site emergencies involving water. Pipe case abatement began over the winter break, when people were out of the building. The scheduled work was almost complete when, at about 2:30 pm New Year's eve, a worker broke a distilled water pipe on the first floor. Although little damage was done, approximately 300 gallons of water spilled on the floor, and it took crews five hours to clean up.

Nature caused the second, more serious accident, however. Due to the cold temperatures, the reduced heat in the building over the winter break, and the negative air machine pumping building air outside, a water pipe froze. Charlie Linn discovered water in the stairwell and reported the leak when he arrived at 9:00 am on Sunday, January 3. Since the leak began during the night when no one was around to notice, damage, especially on the fifth floor, occurred before the water was shut off. B&P crews came in and worked diligently until the situation was under control. Damage was extensive in Wolfram Koeller's laboratory, and the Plant Pathology department is replacing supplies and having instruments repaired and serviced. The Entomology department lost materials in the media storage room. D'Amato is circumspect about such accidents: "I know we'll have some problems in a project like this. When we do, we'll just deal with them," he said.

by C. Weeden

THE POINT MAN

Ralph J. D'Amato, Jr. has been promoted to State University Construction Fund Site Representative and will oversee the current Station construction project. D'Amato has been involved in many aspects of Station life in his five-year tenure. Previously a carpenter in Buildings and Properties, he was and will remain Chief Fire Warden for the Station, where he is responsible for the fire extinguishers, fire alarms, fire drills, and safety inspections. As site representative, D'Amato will see that the construction is done thoroughly and correctly. "This is a big responsibility for me, and I'm excited about it," said D'Amato. If the timing is right, he could also be the Site Representative for such upcoming projects as replacing the old range greenhouses. "It's been good for me here at the Station," he said, "and I'm very pleased to have this opportunity."

D'Amato plays softball on the championship B&P team, and was recently elected to the Lyons School Board. He and his wife, Linda, have two children, Jennifer, 13, and Matthew, 9. He can be contacted in his new office (7 Barton Lab) or by phone (x310) or e-mail (rjd15).

15th ANNUAL STATION CLUB BOWLING PARTY

Saturday, January 23, at 9:00 pm • Sunset Bowl, Geneva

Bowlers: \$9.00/Station Club Member and \$11.00/Non-Station Club Member

Non-Bowlers: \$3.00/Station Club Member and \$5.00/Non-Station Club Member. Please return your check and entry form from last week's *News*, to Matt Lewis in Jordan Hall no later than **Friday, January 15**. Hope to see you there.

NYS HORT SHOW HELD IN ROCHESTER THIS WEEK

Neither sleet nor driving snow could keep growers and researchers from attending the 144th Annual Meeting and Trade Show of the New York State Horticultural Society this week. It was the third year in the new location at the Thruway Marriott in Rochester. The show was held in conjunction with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Western New York Tree Fruit School, emphasizing educational programs on tree fruits and grapes as well as the latest in equipment and technology.

"Preregistrations were up 10 percent over last year," said Hort Society Executive Director Dan Donahue. There were 340 people registered, and Donahue reported a substantial number of walk-ins over the three-day period.

Wednesday's attendees came for the seminars on wine grape varieties and clones arranged by Bob Pool. Three seminars were offered by Pool and Thomas Henick-Kling, including NY Certification of Grape Planting Stock, Vineyard Performance and Wine



Quality of NY Clones, and the Regional Cooperative Test Program. Seminars on French, California, and Italian clones were also offered, as was a tasting and consultation.

Steve Hoying, of the Lake Ontario Fruit Team (LOFT), helped organize the Tree Fruit School. Sessions by Cornell faculty and Cooperative Extension experts included plant protection seminars on attacking oblique banded leafroller (Harvey Reissig, Art Agnello, and Dan Waldstein), coping with the FQPA (Harvey Reissig and Art Agnello), new apple varieties (Susan Brown, Ian Merwin and David Rosenberger), APOGEE for growth control (Terence Robinson), managing apple planting systems (Steve Hoying), fungicide chemistry and performance (Wayne Wilcox and David Rosenberger), reports on the biology and control of fireblight (Herb Aldwinckle, Debbie Breth, Timor Momol, and Jay Norelli), stone fruit pest control (Tom Burr, David Kain), and stone fruit handling (Chris Watkins, Bob Anderson and Hugh Price).

New this year was the produce industry seminar offered on Wednesday sponsored by the United Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Association and BASF in conjunction with the Hort Society and the NYS Vegetable Growers. Topics included new developments in NAFTA, and a program on marketing and promotion.

"Preregistrations for this program were especially high," said Donahue. Similar seminars have been held in Washington, California and Florida and the New York State attendance was comparable. "Given the comparable size of our industry, that's impressive," he said.

In 1999, the tree fruit industry in New York is still concerned about the loss of organophosphate and carbamate insecticides without a viable alternative in the near-term because of the Food Quality Protection, the management of risk, and the future of the processing industry. Labor availability is also a hot topic.

New York growers were still discussing the devastating effects of the Labor Day storm when \$41 million in crops were reported. "The actual disaster program is still to be worked out," said Donahue, "and we haven't seen the federal formulas yet." He said the deadline for signing up for 1999 crop insurance had been extended to March 15. "Growers must have crop insurance for 1999 in order to make a disaster claim for 1998," said Donahue.



L. McCandless

CALENDAR of EVENTS

JANUARY 15-22, 1999

MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 19, 10:30 am

Jordan Hall Auditorium
Annual Employee Meeting

DEADLINES

• **January 20, 1999**

Original, hard-copy NYS DEC 1998 Annual Pesticide Reports to Charie Hibbard, Human Resources, Jordan Hall (x210).

SAVE the DATE

Saturday, January 23, 9:00 pm

Sunset Bowl
Station Club Bowling Party

March 11-14, 1999

The Dome Arena, Rochester
GardenScape
Station Club will be offering advanced sale tickets for \$7. Door price is \$8.

PEOPLE

Condolences

Danny Monaco, passed away January 10, 1999. He was a custodian at the Station from 1963 until 1979, when he retired.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: TV table (\$25); stereo table (\$15); office table, computer table, chair (set \$125); vacuum cleaner (\$35); 1989 Chevy Cavalier, 4 doors, 4 cylinders/2L, 93K miles, body and engine in excellent condition (asking \$1,500, but will consider offer). Call Manoel or Vania Souza (781-7647).

FOR SALE: Scenic rural property with camper. 5-1/2 acres overlooking Keuka Lake, 11 miles from Penn Yan, 7 miles from Hammondsport. Camper included, sleeps 8. \$10,000 firm. For information call 716-424-4476.

FOR RENT: Furnished studio apartment in wooded setting, four miles from NYSAES. \$350 per month, including cable television and utilities. Non-smoker(s), no pets. Please call 789-8600 or e-mail geller@hws.edu

FOR RENT: Very cozy, two bedroom house, located in a lovely neighborhood and within walking distance of the Station. For more information call 789-7721.

WANTED: One or two bedroom apartment by February 8, 1999 for a quiet, non-smoking female who will be working at the Station. Preferably an unfurnished or partially furnished place where one clean, older cat would be allowed. Contact Dr. Renee Schloupt, 315-496-2076.



Vice Provosts (from left to right) Kraig Adler, Cutberto Garza and Robert Richardson visited the Experiment Station on Thursday, January 7, for a full day's tour. In addition to meeting with research representatives from each department, like Jan Nyrop in Entomology (pictured here), they met with graduate students, the USDA-ARS PGRU, unit leaders, department chairs, and Jim Hunter. An informal faculty mixer was held in Jordan Hall in the afternoon. Vice Provosts are faculty appointed to oversee various aspects of university life. They report to Provost Don Randel and President Rawlings.

(BRIEFS, cont.)

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE MEETING

On Wednesday, January 20, 1999, Dr. Hunter will present his State-of-the-Station address to Station employees. The meeting will be held between 10:30 am and noon in the Jordan Hall Auditorium. There will be time for a question and answer period. If you have a specific topic you would like to have Dr. Hunter address at this meeting, please send an e-mail to jeh3.

See last week's issue of *News* for more information.

GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

There will be a Greenhouse Management Update offered in Geneva on Thursday January 28, 10:00-12:00 noon & 1:30-3:30 pm, in the Jordan Hall Lounge. Registration is from 9:30 to 10:00 am. The Ron Gardner will moderate. Speakers include Jim Zablocki from the Scott's Company: "Controlling Nutrient Runoff in the Greenhouse"; Dr. John Sanderson: "Insect and Mite Control Update"; Peter Paradise: "Introduction to Greenhouse Best Management Practices at Cornell"; and Dr. Jana Lamboy: "Prevention of Greenhouse Pest Problems." Four DEC recertification credits will be offered for commercial categories 1A, 3A, 10 and private categories 4 and 5.

The program is being set up and administered by Mary-Lynn Cummings, Assistant Director of Occupational and Environmental Health, CALS, at Cornell.

This program is for Greenhouse Management only, and is separate from the annual pesticide update to be offered later in the spring. All Geneva personnel involved with greenhouse research or greenhouse project maintenance are encouraged to attend.

Questions may be directed to Gary Chicoine, x293.