

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY

## STATION NEWS

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## BRIEFS

## CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS

The results are in from the second annual chili cook-off. Thanks to everyone who entered the contest and sampled the chili. There was even had more participation than last year!

The winners are:

**HOTTEST**

- 1) Mike Kirby, "Aztec Smoke"
- 2) Frank Wong, "Oral Explosion"
- 3) Ann Cobb, "Not Really Chili"
- 4) Jody Gangloff, "Smokin' Bird"

**BEST WITH MEAT**

- 1) Mike Kirby, "Aztec Smoke"
- 2) John Ludwig, "Bambi and the 7 Beans"
- 3) Jody Gangloff, "Smokin' Bird"

**BEST VEGETARIAN**

- 1) Frank Wong, "Oral Explosion"
- 2) Lisa Emele, "Jesse's Beered Chili"
- 3) Brian Shaw, "Beany, Baby"

First place winners received \$10 Wegman's gift certificates.

*T. Widmer and F. Wong*

APRIL 22, 1999: BRING YOUR  
CHILDREN TO WORK DAY

On April 22, Station employees will have the opportunity to share their careers, their interests, and their experiences with children ages 9 to 15 during "Bring Your Children to Work Day."

If you would like to volunteer on the committee preparing the day's agenda, a meeting will be held at 11:00 on Wednesday, February 24, in the Jordan Hall Staff Room. Representatives from all departments and units are encouraged to attend. We need your ideas to make the day special for the children and employees!

*Charie Hibbard*

*(BRIEFS, Continued on page 4)*

CAROL MACNEIL AND DON SWEET  
HONORED AT VEGETABLE CONFERENCE

*(left to right) Carol MacNeil, Curt Petzoldt, and Don Sweet share a moment at the NYS Vegetable Conference social hour following the IPM award ceremony. Photo by R. Way.*

Carol R. MacNeil, Cornell Cooperative Extension educator, and Don Sweet, private consultant, were named "Excellence in IPM" award winners at the 11th annual NYS Vegetable Growers Conference in Syracuse on February 10. Curt Petzoldt, IPM Program assistant director and vegetable coordinator, presented engraved plaques and gift certificates to MacNeil and Sweet and highlighted their contributions to IPM before a large, jovial audience at the conference social hour.

The vegetable-related awards were the last of six awards to be conferred in 1999 by the IPM Program. Four awards were presented in January, two for efforts in fruit IPM (to the Station's own Jan Nyrop and to grower consultant Jim Eve), and two for efforts in ornamentals IPM (to nurseryman Charlie Scheer and grower consultant Jennifer Jens). This is the fourth successive year the Program has conferred "Excellence in IPM" awards. Nominations for the year 2000 will be sought in the summer of 1999.

MacNeil works on onions, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and tomatoes in Ontario, Wayne, Steuben, and Yates counties. She has been helping to develop and to teach IPM practices for 20 years, working both with growers and the Cornell community. In the words of Cornell plant pathology professors William Fry and Rosemary Loria, who have worked with MacNeil on late blight management in potatoes, "Carol . . . has been an effective voice for IPM in central New York. Additionally Carol has been an effective voice for the production industry to Cornell faculty in extension and research. It has been a wonderfully synergistic interaction."

Sweet is the owner and president of Crop Advantage, a private consulting firm headquartered in Scottsville. His clients include strawberry growers, fresh-market and processing veg-

*(MACNEIL/SWEET, Continued on page 4)*

# NYS VEGETABLE CONFERENCE

Attendance for the annual 1999 NYS Vegetable Conference and Trade Show was right on target, averaging better than 500 people on the first two days and more than 400 on the last. Of course, the weather helped. Organizers say they might have done even better if the weather had been a little cooler and rainier. "When growers see sunny days and 55 degrees, they begin to feel guilty about sitting indoors at a meeting," said Steve Reiners, who is a member of the Conference Planning Committee.

Every year organizers try to include new sessions and topics. This is the third year herbs were included, for instance, and, this year, the focus was on the medicinal. "We had about 50 to 60 in that session and about the same amount in Garlic. Asian Vegetables had about 70 attendees," said Reiners. "Those are pretty good numbers considering these specialty sessions were held in the smallest meeting room, and were competing with sessions for cabbage, sweet corn, onions, tomatoes and peppers, and processing that had 150 to 200 in attendance." Many growers are looking to diversify and these sessions are designed to let them hear what is and isn't working for other growers.

In addition to insect and disease management, and commodity and cultivation how-to, the conference is an excellent way for those in research and extension to share their concerns with industry and members of the legislature. During the Social Hour on Wednesday evening, Dean Daryl Lund, CCE Director Merrill Ewert, and Jim Hunter lobbied Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann (R-48th District), chair of the Senate Ag Committee, and other important industry clientele. They emphasized the importance of continued support for agricultural research and how it will positively affect the health of the industry in the coming century.

Where will the NYS Vegetable Conference be in 2000? The committee will be meeting with representatives from the NYS Horticultural Society about the possibility of a joint meeting at the Rochester Convention Center for next year. If that doesn't work out for 2000, they'll be back at Syracuse again in the second week in February.

If you missed the conference, here are some of the salient take-home messages from

the scientists from Cornell University, Cooperative Extension, and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, in Geneva.

## FRESH-CUT VEGETABLES

• **"Technologies and Regulations," Olga Padilla-Zakour, Food Venture Center, Geneva:** Fresh-cut vegetables represent a growing segment of the food industry because of convenience and nutritional value. Consumers perceive issues of safety and quality that need to be addressed by the manufacturer. Current manufacturing practices and regulations are in place to extend shelf life and ensure microbial safety.

• **"Microbial Risks," Randy W. Worobo, FST-Geneva:** Fresh cut vegetables are at a higher risk for causing foodborne illness because vegetable crops are commonly fertilized using animal manures that may contain numerous foodborne pathogens. Since fresh cut vegetables are minimally processed or not processed at all, they do not receive any heat treatment that would normally reduce or eliminate the foodborne pathogens. Avoiding the use of untreated manure or ensuring a sufficient holding time between manure application and harvesting are good preventive measures.

## ENSURING POST-HARVEST QUALITY

• **"Managing Wash Water: Do's and Don'ts," Randy Worobo, FST, Geneva:** Wash waters are a means of reducing both human and plant pathogens on fresh cut vegetables. The incorporation of appropriate levels of sanitizing agents, such as chlorine, ensures that the pathogens are killed, thus enhancing the life and safety of the produce for consumers.

## SMALL SCALE FOOD PROCESSING

• **"Options and Resources for the Small Scale Processor," Judy Anderson, Food Venture Center (FVC), Geneva:** Small-scale



*Members of the Conference Planning Committee: (front row, l-r) Carol MacNeil, CCE; Jean Warholc, NYS Veg. Growers Assoc.; Chuck Bornt, CCE; Anu Ranarajan, Fruit & Veg. Science, Ithaca; Abby Seaman, IPM; (back row, l-r) Mike Orfanedes, CCE; Ted Blomgren, CCE; Dale Young, Stokes Seed; John Mishanec, IPM; Steve Reiners, Hort. Sci., Geneva; Lee Stivers, CCE; Brian Caldwell, CCE; Laura Pederson, CCE; Jan van der Heide, CCE.*

food manufacturing is in a growth phase, with many options for the safe manufacture of new products and many resources available. The FVC at Geneva receives roughly 350 calls a year from currently operating manufacturers, and, in the last two years, issued 138 letters of approval covering 464 new products.

## SNAP BEANS

Snap bean growers in New York, like most producers, are facing the economic situation that occurs when input and other costs of production rise at a much faster rate than crop prices. In addition, quality standards continue to rise as competition increases. Participants at the snap bean session learned how to make better use of pesticides by improvements in sprayer technology, new safer pesticides, and integrating cultural controls for pest management.

• **"Snap Bean Commodity Profile," Lee Stivers, CCE, Lake Plains Region:** The FQPA will change the way we farm in the future, if it hasn't already. USDA and EPA has provided a vehicle for producers to tell their story—how they really use pesticides and what their pest management needs are—through Crop Profiles. Participation, either by filling out a survey or reviewing a draft, is a proactive response to FQPA.

*(Continued on page 3)*

(VEG. CONFERENCE, cont.)

• **“Root Rot Research: Varieties, cultural practices and seed treatments,” George Abawi, Plant Pathology, Geneva:** Cultural practices that reduce soil compaction, increase drainage, and add fresh organic matter (such as sub-soiling, inclusion of cover and rotational crops, compost application) will promote root growth and reduce damage of root rot pathogens, thus increasing bean yield and profitability. Although, commercial snap bean varieties evaluated were susceptible to root rot pathogens, they did differ in their relative yield under severe root rot pressure suggesting possible variability in their tolerance to root pathogens.

#### SWEET CORN

• **“Effects of Insecticides on European Corn Borer and Its Natural Enemies,” Tony Shelton, Entomology, Geneva:** Shelton presented the results of a 1999 field study on the predation of European corn borer egg masses by naturally occurring predators, primarily ladybird beetles. Predators removed up to 95% of the egg masses. When plots were sprayed with one of four insecticides, predation rates dropped from 90% to 15%, depending on the insecticide. Different insecticides had a differential effect on not only European corn borers, but also on the predators, which prey on them. Shelton is creating an “insecticide index of selectivity” which will document the toxicity of the insecticide to its target pest as well as its natural enemy complex so growers can use softer insecticides in an overall IPM program.

#### TOMATOES AND PEPPERS

Some pointers from the session: With staked tomatoes, highly reflective red plastic mulch can, under certain conditions, increase early season photosynthesis, thereby improving early season yield but not total season yield. With other crops (e.g. pepper, cucumber, melon, squash etc.), early season yields can, under certain circumstances, also be improved, but more likely due to soil warming and not direct stimulation of early season photosynthesis. For these crops, this benefit could probably be realized more economically with IRT (infrared transmitting) plastic mulch rather than red or other colored plastic mulches. (Source: Brent Loy, University of New Hampshire)

• **“New Tomato and Pepper Varieties,” Michael Orfanedes, CCE, Lake Plains:** If you are looking for an attractive, uniformly

medium-large, early tomato, consider Red Rider from Stokes. Based on first year evaluations, the variety appears to thrive even under adverse growing conditions. In the bell pepper arena, two new varieties are noteworthy. PS 334-094 from Petoseed, is an attractive, medium-large, blocky bell with good early yield. Also, check out Brigadier from Rogers. Brigadier is a large, blocky round bell with good early size holding late. Both PS 334-094 and Brigadier are green bells, turning red late. Both varieties are resistant to races 1, 2, and 3 of bacterial leaf spot.

• **“Understanding Physiological Disorders of Tomato and Pepper,” Chris Wien, Fruit & Veg. Science, Ithaca:** Tomatoes and peppers develop problems when they are exposed to the sometimes extreme weather conditions such as cool temperatures, heat spells, or drought at various stages of plant growth. Often, these effects are expressed in the fruits, and are called “physiological disorders,” that can’t be blamed on a specific disease causing agent or insect pest. Solutions to the problems may be by avoiding the situation through irrigation, or protecting the plants with tunnels, or better choice of planting date. Often, too, there are varieties, which are less susceptible to the conditions.

• **“Earlier Yields with Bigger Transplants,” Stephen Reiners, Horticultural Sciences, Geneva:** Transplant size has a big effect on early and total yield. Basically, if you are interested in greater earlier yields of tomatoes and peppers, use transplants with bigger root balls. It will be worth the additional cost of the transplants. It would not be worth the money, however, to use bigger transplants for later planted fields.

#### VINE CROPS

• **“Fruit Set in Vine Crops,” Chris Wien, Fruit & Veg. Science, Ithaca:** The process of setting fruits on cucumbers, melons, squash and pumpkins is affected by the insects that do the pollination, the flowering habits of the vegetable species, and the influence of the weather conditions on the flowering behavior of these crops. On most of these crops, there are separate male and female flowers, so bees or other pollinators are needed to get the pollen from male to female blossoms. Weather conditions can affect the number of male and female flowers that are developed, and the timing of flowering of each type.

• **“Growing the Size Pumpkin You**

**Want,” Stephen Reiners, Horticultural Sciences, Geneva:** After four years of research on pumpkins, we have a nice story to tell growers. Basically, they can increase fruit number and tons per acre by decreasing the spacing between plants and increasing plant populations. There is a cost for this increase in that the fruit size will be reduced at the higher plant populations. This gives growers the option of controlling the size fruit they need for their own marketing purposes.

#### POTATOES

• **“New Potato Varieties and Clones from Cornell,” Robert Plaisted, Plant Pathology, Ithaca:** The potato breeders at Cornell are preparing to release two promising tablestock clones. The first is NY101, a high yielding, pale yellow fleshed clone, similar in color to Yukon Gold. The other is NY103, also high yielding with outstanding appearance, shallow eyes and bright white skin. Official names have not yet been chosen, but will be soon.

• **“Late Blight Update, 1999,” William E. Fry, Plant Pathology, Ithaca:** Potato and tomato late blight is still a very serious disease in New York and nationally. Integrated management is crucial for success in dealing with the disease. While we are working diligently on creating resistant plants, their contribution to solving the problem is still several years away and there is still significant reliance on fungicides if disease is imminent. Fungicides differ in mode of action and efficacy and these need to be used appropriately.

#### ON ONIONS

• **“Management of Nematodes on Muck Vegetables,” George Abawi, Plant Pathology, Geneva:** Survey results confirmed that the root-knot nematode is the most prevalent and damaging plant-parasitic nematode on onions in New York. The lesion nematode was also recovered from onion root and soil samples, but at a much lower frequency. The application of Vydate was found highly effective in reducing the population of the nematode and its damage to onions. A request for a special local need labelling of Vydate use on onions in New York will be made for short-term management of the nematode. Research on antagonistic crops, host resistance and biological control against this nematode will be emphasized.

*L. McCandless*

**NEXT WEEK:** The NYS Seed-Testing Lab.

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**  
**FEBRUARY 19-26, 1999**

**EVENTS/MEETINGS**

**February 24**

Research Department Chairs' meeting  
*Director's Office, 3:00 p.m.*

**March 11-14, 1999**

The Dome Center, Rochester  
*GardenScape '99*

**SEMINARS**

**HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES /  
 PLANT PATHOLOGY**

**Date:** Monday, February 22, 1999  
**Time:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Speaker:** Dr. Ki Sung Ko  
 Post Doctoral Associate  
 Department of Horticultural  
 Sciences  
 Cornell University, Geneva  
**Title:** Transgenic 'Galaxy' Apple Con-  
 taining Multiple Antibacterial  
 Genes and Optimization of Their  
 Expression for Enhanced Fire  
 Blight Resistance

**LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

**Date:** Monday, February 22  
**Time:** 10:00-11:30 am  
**Class:** Microsoft PowerPoint 98  
 During this 1 1/2-hour workshop, students will learn the basics of using PowerPoint, which is a powerful graphic presentation program. Students will learn the basics of using PowerPoint, importing graphics, selecting proper backgrounds and color schemes, learning how to properly prepare a document for sending to the slide generator, and being made aware of the ability to use PowerPoint presentations directly from the computer to the screen. There will be time allotted for hands-on learning. Instructor: Pat Krauss

**SAVE the DATE**

Mary Slaght and Nancy Zinzola, Statutory Finance & Business Services, will be available May 7 to discuss statutory benefits with employees on an individual basis in the Food Science small conference room. Appointments may be made by calling Mary's office at 8-5-4455.

*(MACNEIL/SWEET, cont.)*

etable growers, and dairy farmers. Always the innovator, Sweet starts with Cornell IPM recommendations, but he moves beyond them in the search for new ways to benefit his clients by saving on pesticide inputs. According to Petzoldt, "Don has even initiated IPM-related work on crops for which Cornell has not yet developed IPM techniques. For two or three years before Cornell did it, Don was working with greenhouse tomato growers to devise IPM practices for that crop. He is also leading the way with scouting protocols and thresholds for bell peppers and leaf lettuce."

*M.H. Cowles*

*(BRIEFS, cont.)*

**PESTICIDE APPLICATOR'S  
 UPDATE**

The 1999 Pesticide Applicator's Update will be held on Tuesday, March 16, in Geneva and on Tuesday, March 23, in Ithaca. Registration and refreshments: 9-9:30 am. Program: 9:30-11:30 am.

**Program:**

1. Andrew Landers, Extension Associate in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, will discuss spray drift and spring sprayer tune-ups.
2. The new *Pesticide Applicator Handbook* will be introduced.

This program is applicable to all pesticide applicators in CALS and at the NYSAES, and all applicators are expected to attend this meeting. Please mark your calendars now; more details will follow.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Issue missing from the Geneva Library: **Biochemistry, vol.37, no.49, 1998.**

Please check your office, lab, desk, and home for this issue. It is urgently needed! Return to Library, Jordan Hall.

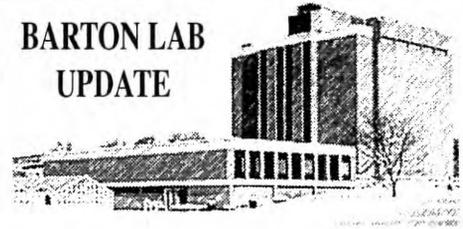
*J. Samimy*

**CLASSIFIED**

**WANTED:** Piano students, ages 7-97. Openings Tues. & Thurs. afternoons, \$15 per 1/2-hour lesson. Margaret Haining Cowles, mh8, x408, or 781-2421 after 2:30.

**SELF-HELP SEWING CLASSES:** Wednesday mornings, for 10 weeks, from March 3-May 12, from 9-noon at The Presbyterian Church, Washington Street & Park Place. No charge. Nursery available. Experienced sewers will be on-hand to help. To register, call 789-1343.

**BARTON LAB  
 UPDATE**



The first "pick-up" day for cleaning out the sixth floor of Barton Lab did not go as well as planned last week. The recyclables were not separated as they are supposed to be. As a result, B&P spent several man hours sorting through the bags and separating trash from recyclables. B&P would like to remind entomologists that office paper and newspaper are to be bagged together; cardboard is to be separated by itself. Binders and hard covers of books cannot be thrown in with office paper; they go into trash. A bag that was found on the sixth floor containing office paper, cardboard, magazines and styrofoam packing will not be picked up until it is properly separated. There are also items in the hallway tagged to go to the warehouse. These items should be boxed prior to leaving the building. Some sort of order has to be maintained in the warehouse, so things should be boxed and packed making the best use of the space in each box. Cris and Len are in Barton every day if you need them to explain how recyclables should be separated. B&P appreciates your help on this.

*Wendell Roelofs*

**LATE NEWS FLASH:** Boxes are in, and located near the loading dock. See Ralph D'Amato for packaging material.

**PEOPLE**

• **Condolences**

Sincere condolences to Joanne Schessl, Entomology, on the death of her grandmother, and to Pat Krauss, Administration, on the loss of his mother-in-law, Lina Milner.

• **A Note of Thanks**

I would like to thank my friends and co-workers for the warm support you have given after the loss of my fiance, Michael. There truly are no words sufficient to express the help it has given at this time in my life. And on behalf of myself, my family, and the Augustine family, for the many calls and cards, the very generous donation to The Ontario-Yates Hospice and your continued support, please accept our sincere and heartfelt thank-you.

*Kathy Poole*