

# CORNELL UNIVERSITY STATION NEWS GENEVA NEW YORK

VOLUME LXXXI • NO. 44  
NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 1, 2000

## BRIEFS



### Holiday Printing Schedule

The next issue of *Station News* will be Dec. 8. Communications Services wishes you all a warm Thanksgiving.

## SAVE THE DATE

~Friday, March 9, 2001~

CORNELL'S  
*Vinification and Brewing  
Technology Laboratory*

*4th Annual*  
**GALA DINNER  
&  
PREMIERE**  
*Wine Country Auction*



~NEW LOCATION~

Casa Larga Vineyards, Fairport, NY  
\$100 per person (\$50 tax deductible contribution) A formal invitation will be sent out in January. Contact Nancy Long to order your tickets early:  
315-787-2288 • [npl1@cornell.edu](mailto:npl1@cornell.edu)  
[www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/vb](http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/vb)  
A block of rooms at Woodcliff Lodge has been reserved for this event.  
Please call for reservations:  
800-365-3065

## Award-Winning Project Evaluates the Best Apple Varieties to Plant for U.S. Apple Industry



The viability of the \$1.6 billion U.S. apple industry depends on the ability of U.S. producers in 36 states to meet changing consumer demands domestically and internationally. A collaborative project called NE-183 is the apple industry's crystal ball into the future. Since its inception in 1995, researchers at experiment stations across the U.S. and Canada have been working to provide growers with an objective and rapid analysis of the apple varieties best suited to the various apple producing states.

NE-183, otherwise known as "Multidisciplinary Evaluation of New Apple Cultivars," received the NERA 2000 Award of Excellence from the Experiment Station Directors of the Northeast, at their annual meeting at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster, Ohio. NERA is the professional association of research directors from the land grant universities in the Northeast.

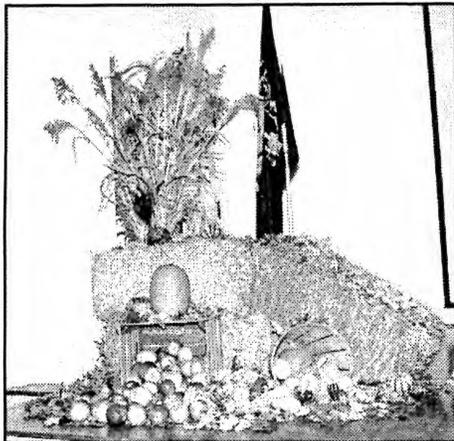
"Since its inception in 1995, the project has evaluated 50 new apple varieties that are most likely to impact the U.S. apple industry in the future," said Robert C. Seem, administrative advisor for the project, and associate director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. "The purpose of the project is to determine which cultivars are most precocious, have superior quality attributes such as taste, texture, firmness, and storage potential, and which cultivars are 'grower friendly' to harvest and manage." Researchers identify which cultivars are least susceptible to insect, fungal and bacterial injury—information that can help growers select more sustainable production systems. "The project also compares the cost of production and profitability of new apple cultivars," said Seem.

Apple varieties originating from North America, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and Japan are tested. The collaborative project involves 21 states and three Canadian provinces.

The list of 23 cultivars in the 1995 plantings included Braeburn, Fuji, Ginger Gold,

(Continued on page 2)

## CALS Advisory Council Meets in Geneva



The CALS Advisory Council held their annual fall meeting at the Experiment Station on Nov. 9 and 10. Over 50 people attended. Thursday afternoon, Dean Susan Henry addressed the group on the priorities, challenges and opportunities facing CALS, which was followed by discussion sessions by all Advisory Council members. At a dinner at the Lakefront Ramada Margaret E. Smith, Professor of Plant Breeding and Associate Director of CCE, made a presentation on "Genetically Engineered Organisms." On Friday, the group toured various Geneva facilities and heard presentations by some of the faculty. Herb Aldwinckle talked about the use of biotechnology to develop apples with disease resistance; Dave Soderlund summarized research in entomology leading to the discovery of new tools for insect control; Terence Robinson told the Council members about horticultural research to help New York apple growers remain competitive and profitable; and Olga Padilla-Zakour talked about helping food entrepreneurs develop new products for market. The tour and faculty presentations were followed by small group and college reports and lunch.

"This is one of those events where the details are endless," said Director Jim Hunter. From the tours and presentations, to the harvest displays on the stage, the bud vases with flowers in the windows, room set-up, the new audio system and projection screen, to crews who came in after hours to set up following the vegetable commodity meetings the day before, everything was done to perfection. And, to add to the workload, after the Council meeting ended on Friday, the second floor of Jordan Hall had to be set up for the Craft

(Continued on page 3)

(APPLES, continued)

Honeycrisp, Fortune, Cameo, GoldRush and several advanced breeding selections from British Columbia, New Jersey and New York. In 1999, project participants planted 22 additional selections and cultivars like Ambrosia, Autumn Gold, Chinook, Delblush, Hampshire, Jubilee Fuji, Pink Lady, Pinova, Runkel, Scarlet O'Hara Silken, and Zesta. The intention is to collect uniform data sets from each planting for at least six years, but researchers may maintain plots for individual study thereafter. Thus, even after the collective work is completed, the plantings remain as a resource.

There are three NE-183 evaluation sites located at Cornell related facilities in New York. Plantings at the NYS Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva are managed by Susan K. Brown, director of Cornell University's apple breeding program, and Cy Lee, postharvest physiologist. Horticulturalist Ian Merwin oversees the Ithaca plantings. At the Hudson Valley Laboratory, in Highland, NY, the plantings are managed by plant pathologist David A. Rosenberger, superintendent of the Lab, horticulturalist James R. Schupp, and entomologist Richard Straub.

"Unprecedented care has been taken to insure uniformity of the plantings and the data collection protocols," said Rosenberger. "Test cultivars are carefully selected from a single nursery, while planting, fertilization, pest control and other production procedures are defined by committee and modified only under careful scrutiny by the project participants."

"Establishing a new orchard costs more than \$10,000/acre, and most orchards require at least six years to reach full production," said Rosenberger. "Selecting cultivars for new plantings is one of the riskiest decisions that an apple grower must make. The NE-183 project provides growers with information that is essential for selecting cultivars best suited for their own planting locations and marketing strategies."

Research orchards in all 21 states provide a focal point for growers and industry representatives to actually see and evaluate these new cultivars first hand. State twilight and extension tours provide an excellent means to communicate the group's findings in a practical, efficient and timely manner.

The information developed by NE-183 is highly sought after by apple growers because it represents the most authoritative source of information that a grower can use prior to planting a new orchard. NE-183 has been recognized in the *American Fruit Grower* as a highly useful program of Agricultural Experiment Stations.

Apple cultivar evaluations from at least 25 experiment stations throughout the U.S. and Canada were on-going before the NE-183 project was initiated, but evaluations were often conducted informally, and results rarely published in scientific journals. Trials were rarely coordinated across broad geographic regions, and the data could not be directly compared because of differences in planting dates, rootstocks used, combinations of cultivars chosen for evaluations, and data collection methods.

"Considerable efficiency in total effort and improvement in the quality of information generated has been achieved with the coordinated cultivar evaluation program initiated under NE-183," said Rosenberger.

The latest information on new apple cultivars can be accessed on the web at <http://www.VIRTUALORCHARD.net/ne183/>

L. McCandless

**The 2001 Station Calendar is coming ...**

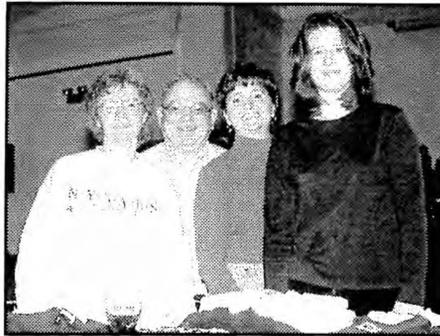
**Check out the 1954 Apple "Bunny" in the 2001 Baby Boomer Calendar. Available at the Benefair, Dec. 5.**

**.... what more could you ask for in 2001?**



(CALS, continued)

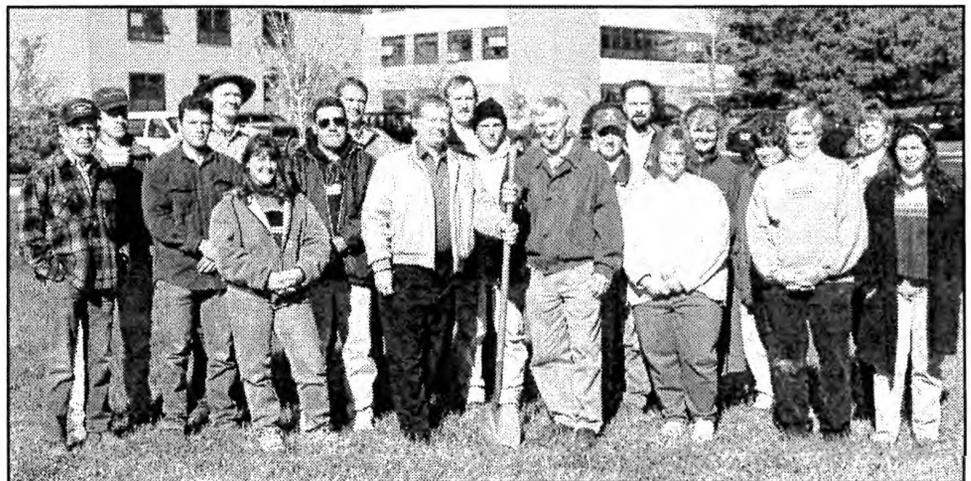
Fair, which took place on Saturday, and then again for the meetings that took place first thing on Monday . . . it all looked seamless, but it wasn't. Dr. Hunter particularly credited Gary Chicoine and his crew for harvest displays and flowers; Carol Brown, Bob Clise, Jim Abbott, and other members of the B&P staff for tearing down and setting up for the meetings; Linda Irland and Kathy DeRosa for administrative details and for arranging for lunch; and Gemma Osborne and other staff in Communications Services for preparing exhibits and equipment. Many members of the college from Ithaca and the Advisory Council commented on the great job the staff at Geneva did to ensure that everything worked perfectly. "It did, thanks to so many members of the Experiment Station doing a terrific job," Hunter said.



(Left) Patti Gibbs, Pat Krauss, Gemma Osborne and Kristen Ondik at the Station Club booth, one of the many holiday shopping stops at this year's Craft Fair. (Right) Amanda Birkett and Maria Borejsza-Wysocka help a customer at the book sale.

## New Offices for PGRU

The USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit (PGRU) gathered on Monday, October 30, 2000, for a ground-breaking ceremony to initiate the construction of their new office facility on the campus of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Cornell University, Geneva, NY. Phil Forsline (representing PGRU) and Alan Taylor (representing the Department of Horticultural Sciences) held the ceremonial shovel while PGRU staff gathered around. Construction has already begun and during the next six months construction crews will be erecting a building on the east side of the PGRU main building. The new facility will be attached directly to the north end of the existing headhouse/greenhouse complex and will house the clonal germplasm group and the grape geneticist/breeding program—a total of four scientists and eight technicians. This addition was required in order to accommodate Congressionally appropriated PGRU staff increases including a Grape Rootstock Breeder (Peter Cousins), a new Seed Geneticist, a new Grape Geneticist/Scion Breeder, and an anticipated Clonal Crops Geneticist.



**AMERICAN RED CROSS  
BLOOD DRIVE**  
Monday, November 27  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
Sawdust Cafe

Did you know 95% of us will need blood during our lifetime. Only 5-7% of the population donates blood. The Rochester Region American Red Cross supplies blood and blood products to 40 hospitals in 15 counties. A minimum collection of 350 pints of blood is needed EVERY DAY to supply these hospitals! It takes only 1 hour to go through the process of donating blood. One pint of blood can help as many as 4 different people! Someone needs blood every 20 seconds! You can donate blood every 56 days or 6 times per year. There is NO CHANCE of contracting Aids or any other disease from donating blood. Each needle is used only once! There is no substitute for blood.

The need for blood never takes a holiday. Please schedule your life saving donation with Donna Roelofs, Ext. 2325 or drr2. Walk-ins are also welcome. If you donated on or before October 2nd, you are eligible to donate again.

## DON'T BE A TURKEY! GET YOUR WORKOUT IN ON THANKSGIVING DAY

with THANKSGIVING AEROBICS at the GENEVA FAMILY YMCA  
399 William Street, Geneva

9:00-10:00 AM - KICKBOXING with Margaret Newland & Donna Roelofs  
10:00-11:00 AM - STEP AEROBICS with Donna Roelofs & Rita Bailey

\$5.00 per person per class. Proceeds to benefit the Geneva Community Lunch Program

Babysitting will be available  
(Call YMCA (789-1616) to sign up for this service)

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 1, 2000

**MEETINGS**

Chairs' Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, November 21  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Director's Office

**SEMINARS**

**HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES**

**Date:** Monday, November 20  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Subject:** "Microbial Food Safety of Produce: Extension and Research Needs"  
**Speaker:** Dr. Anusuya Rangarajan, Assistant Professor, Horticultural Department, Ithaca

**Date:** Monday, November 27  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Subject:** "Optimizing Carbon and Nitrogen Cycling in Annual Cropping Systems"  
**Speaker:** Dr. Laurie Drinkwater, Associate Professor, Horticultural Department, Ithaca

**PLANT PATHOLOGY**

**Date:** Tuesday November 28  
**Time:** 11:00 am  
**Place:** Rm. A133, Barton Lab  
**Subject:** "Homology-dependent (trans)-gene silencing: analysis of quality and quantity changes in sequence identity on transgene-derived resistance through the use of synthetic genes"  
**Speaker:** Gustavo Fermin, Graduate Student, Cornell University

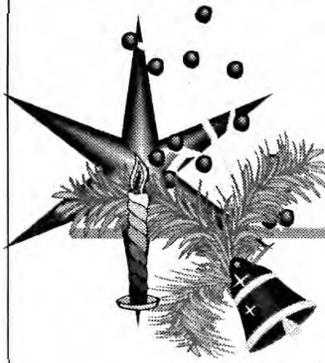
**FITNESS**

**Taekardio**

**Date:** Mon., Nov. 20, Tue., Nov. 21, Mon., Nov. 27 and Tue., Nov. 28  
**Time:** 12:00 pm  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Auditorium

**Aerobics**

**Date:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
**Time:** 12:10-1:00 pm  
**Place:** Sawdust Cafe



# Annual Station Club Holiday Party

1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 2  
 Jordan Hall Auditorium

We will have crafts for the children  
 And of course . . . . A visit from Santa!

There will be an "ornament exchange" activity in place of the coloring contest.

Bring in any tree ornament new or used and trade it with a fellow member! What a wonderful way to add an ornament to your collection. Pizza & punch will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass as well as any utensils needed for serving.

Members, please email us at [slt3@cornell.edu](mailto:slt3@cornell.edu) or [tjf4@cornell.edu](mailto:tjf4@cornell.edu) by Wednesday, November 22 with the name, age (10 and under only), and gender of your child (or children) attending.



**CLASSIFIED**

**FOR SALE:** Five Adorable Pug Puppies. Ready for Christmas. \$200 each. Call Gemma at 2248 or gro2.

**FOR SALE:** 1996 XR100R Honda Dirt Bike. 4 stroke. Runs great. \$1300. Call Gemma at 2248 or gro2

**FOR SALE:** Empire Natural Gas space heater, model RH-25-1 (25,000 BTU) like new, used only a few times. Includes metal platform, flexible hose and piping. Cost \$389 new, asking \$150. Also, full size pool table, needs leveling \$50. Upright piano, very good condition, \$200. x2496 ask for Dave, 585-2248.

**WANTED:** Someone to give me violin/fiddle lessons. Preferably over lunch hour- 1,2 or 3 days/week. John Ludwig x2317, JW12, or 539-3155.

**MOVING SALE:** Pecan DR table, hutch, glass breakfront. Six upholstered, cane back chairs (2 cap-

tain), 2 leaves. Like new: \$1,000. Two piece bedroom dresser and mirror: \$100. Call 781-2347 anytime.

**FOR SALE:** Supplies for home beer-making, (and some wine-making stuff too). No carboys or sugar, or dried malt left. Mostly 'kits' containing hopped malt extract. Some cans of plain malt extract, hops and malt. Going out of business by year's end. John Ludwig jw12 539-3155.

**TRUCK FOR SALE:** 1997 Ford Ranger XLT. flareside, 2 door, 4 cyl., 5 sp., 60,000 miles. Bedliner, AM/FM/CD, sliding rear window, aluminum alloy wheels, snow tires included. call x2322 or e-mail cls47.

**FOR SALE:** iMac G3, 350MHZ, 6GB-HD, 64MB CD 56K, set up for more memory if needed, blueberry, with mouse and keyboard. New, excellent condition. Asking \$700. Phone 787-2221 on Fridays or email [d1m53@localnet.com](mailto:d1m53@localnet.com) or phone 781-0367. Ask for Dee.

A great big *Thank You* to all who helped make the 23rd Annual Book Sale/Craft Show another success - Jim Abbott and his custodial crew for before-the-Show set-up and after-the-Show clean up; Sue Dwyer, Janice and Tom Allen, and Sharon Smart for distributing posters; Communication Services for printing the posters; Paul Robbins for placing and removing the big Show signs; Jeannie Samimy for organizing the Book Sale, and to her work crew; and especially to Muriel Stobie and her many volunteers for organizing and manning the Station Retirees' food booth during the entire day.  
 MaryLou

**Start Your Holiday Shopping at the Station Club Noon-hour Lunch & Merchandise Sale Thursday, December 7, in the Sawdust Cafe**  
 Lunch will include two slices of pizza, tossed salad and soda for \$3.50. We have added new coffee mugs and wine glasses to our inventory. Be sure to bring your Station Club membership card to receive your discount. Station Club is offering an additional 10% off your purchase if you bring in canned goods for the Center of Concern. **See you there!**