

VOLUME LXXXI • NO. 16  
APRIL 28-MAY 5, 2000

## BRIEFS



### Arbor Day Ceremony

Arbor Day will be celebrated across New York State on Friday, April 28.

Here at the Experiment Station, Director Jim Hunter has once again granted permission for all interested campus personnel to attend the annual Arbor Day ceremony. Please obtain your supervisor's permission. This year's ceremony, which will be held at its usual time of 3:30 p.m., will take place in the courtyard between the PGRU Building and the Seed Technology Annex at the south end of the Raw Products Building. The east side of the Seed Technology Annex will have a new planting of various species of trees and shrubs to replace those lost through the renovation of the Annex last year. This planting will complement the rest of the landscape now developing nicely in the general courtyard area.

The ceremony will include remarks by Director Hunter and Warren Lamboy, Unit Leader of the USDA-PGRU. The ceremony is sponsored by the Station's Buildings and Grounds Unit and by our campus-based Geneva Arboretum Association. Gary Chicoine of the Grounds staff promises to have about 100 seedlings to give away free on a first-come-first-served basis (one to a customer). Volunteers will be on hand to offer brief tours of the surrounding campus landscape specimens following the ceremony. This is also an excellent opportunity for anyone who would like a woody plant identified to bring in a branch or twig, so that a member of our Arboretum Association can identify it for you.

*M. Goffinet*

## Koeller Promoted to Full Professor

Wolfram Koeller has been promoted to full professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell University. Koeller specializes in the molecular aspects of plant disease control as they relate to fungicide resistance and the design of new and advanced fungicides with little to no environmental side effects.

"Wolfram Koeller is an outstanding colleague and very deserving of this promotion to full professor," said Helene Dillard, chairperson of Plant Pathology in Geneva. "His program is uniquely positioned in the interface between basic and applied research. In this niche, he has made many significant contributions to the field of plant pathology." Dillard said. "Most importantly, Wolfram has a great personality. I can always count on him to liven up the plant path faculty meetings with his humorous comments!"

Wolfram is a native of Germany, where he grew up on a small family farm as the youngest and only post-war child. During his childhood as a farm boy, he discovered that hard farm labor and, in particular, "mechanical weed control" was hardly the destiny of choice. Torn between more or less equal interests in chemistry and biology during his high school years, he eventually decided to focus on chemistry.

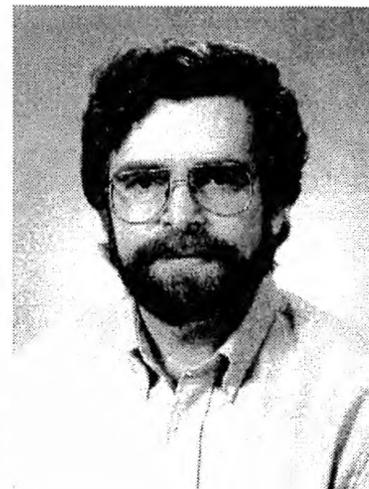
Wolfram received his B.S. and M.S. in chemistry from the Philipps University at Marburg, one of the oldest universities in Germany. The university celebrated its 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary while he was a student. Koeller remembers the three-quarter millennium festivities as a long and lasting party. Because the jobs available for M.S. chemists back in 1976 when he completed his degree paid "lousy" salaries, Koeller decided to "bite the bullet" and pursue his Ph.D. at the same university. By then, he also had re-discovered his interest in biology and, so, settled on a thesis project in biochemistry.

"My choices for my Ph.D. project were killing rats and tearing out their livers while they were fresh and warm, or finding out how cucumber seeds convert fat into whatever they need to germinate and grow new cucumbers," said Koeller. He chose cucumbers.

While Koeller was concentrating on cucumbers, he also re-discovered his farmer genes and decided to do "something" that would impact growers. He was fortunate enough to attract a highly competitive German DFG fellowship to join a U.S. research team at Washington State University in 1980 to help answer the question of how exactly fungal pathogens infect plants.

Koeller remembers his first months of getting accustomed to America as literally "clouded." "After the snow gave way to the spring sun and our travel plans made, the region was showered with ashes from the Mount St. Helen volcanic explosion," he said. The following two years spent in Washington State were "a pure delight though, both scientifically and otherwise," said Koeller.

Convinced that he wanted to go back to Germany, but not overly attracted by the univer-



*(Continued on page 2)*

(BRIEFS, continued from page 1)

## Commencement Volunteers Needed

As many of the wonderful returning volunteer ushers know, Commencement Day, Sunday, May 28, 2000, is the most memorable day of the year for over 6000 students who have earned degrees. To ensure that this is a pleasant day for the graduates and their families, we need about 350 volunteers to perform a variety of roles.

To be a University Commencement Ceremony volunteer usher, please: attend an orientation session on Thursday, May 25 from 3:00 p.m.-4:20 p.m., at the Alice Statler Auditorium and then help for about 5 hours (approximately 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) on Commencement Day.

All Nonexempt and Exempt staff who volunteer to usher during the University's Commencement Ceremony will be granted complimentary time-off equal to their standard work day. The complimentary time-off must be approved by the volunteer's immediate supervisor, must be used by the end of the calendar year, December 31, 2000, and should be scheduled so as not to disrupt normal work activities. Please inform your supervisor of your decision to volunteer. He/she will receive a copy of the guidelines after you have signed up. Please note, these guidelines do not apply to college and/or department commencement related events.

To sign up online, please go to <<http://Commencement.cornell.edu/> the Commencement Usher web site. If you do not have web access, please e-mail [ushers@cornell.edu](mailto:ushers@cornell.edu) and we will send you an e-mail form to complete.

Please contact us by May 19, 2000. You will receive an e-mail or memo letting you know which group you will be in and a copy of the complimentary time-off policy.

President and Mrs. Rawlings will host a thank-you reception for University Commencement Ceremony ushers on Monday, June 5 from 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at their home, in Cayuga Heights. At the reception, you will receive an attractive Cornell mug inscribed to commemorate the occasion. This year's festivities will also include the Second Annual Usher Drawing for several gifts donated by departments on campus and local businesses.

(KOELLER, continued from page 1)

sity system there, Koeller accepted an appointment at Bayer in 1982. His charge was to build and lead a small team working on the molecular aspects of fungicide discovery and fungicide resistance. The job was fun, but "Germany was not America." Because his wife felt the same way, they decided to return to the United States, this time "for good." Knowing this required a job to pay the bills, Koeller was on the look-out for advertised positions.

The first job advertisement Koeller knew he would qualify for was at the Geneva Experiment Station. He formally applied, was invited to interview, was offered the job, accepted, and moved to Geneva.

"Life is sometimes very simple," said Koeller. "The move to Geneva was never regretted."

The accomplishment Koeller is most proud of relates to the full "agricultural circle" his life has taken: from family farm to studying chemistry, focusing on biochemistry, working on the improvement of disease control, and then becoming a faculty member at one of most prestigious colleges of agriculture in the world.

Koeller is also proud of his research program at the Station. His research accomplishments are nationally and internationally recognized. This is one of the few programs that integrates current problems of chemical disease control with the exploration of innovations that can be made in the future.

Koeller is very aware of the fact that any program success is a team effort. He is grateful to the many graduate students, post-doctoral associates and visiting scientists he has worked with and mentored. He is particularly grateful for the long-term support provided in his lab by research associate Diana Parker.

J. Zakour

## ATTENTION GARDENERS

### PERENNIAL PLANT EXCHANGE



This Saturday, April 29, from 10 am to noon, rain or shine, in the Station Pavilion, behind Jordan Hall.

Bring divisions of your favorite perennials to trade. Set-up is at 10 am, and the exchange will begin at 10:30. Don't be late – the plants go fast. Refreshments will be provided. A small donation is requested to help cover costs.

If you have any questions, call Rixana at 2246 or 781-0273, or Franzine at 789-8112.

## Sigma Xi Lecture at Hobart and William Smith Colleges

### “Environmental Hormone Mimics and Human Health”

Dr. Ana Soto, Tufts University School of Medicine  
May 10, 8 pm, Sanford Room in the Library

Increasing evidence suggests that human exposure to chemicals interferes with sensitive processes in the body that are mediated by hormone signals. For example, reduced numbers of viable sperm cells have become more common in human populations of industrialized countries. Malformations of the male genital tract and cancers of the breast and testes are also observed more frequently. The hypothesis that the abnormalities are due to exposure to endocrine disruptors is difficult to test because researchers do not have an available control group that represents an unexposed population. The list of hormone-like chemicals in the environment is not complete because there are about 70,000 chemicals that have not been tested. New tests will supply more information.

Better understanding of the extent of these problems will come from investigations of key issues. How do hormone mimics interact with an organism's natural endogenous hormones? What is the effect of simultaneous exposure to various chemicals such as pesticides, antioxidants, detergents, and plasticizers? Environmental contaminants affect biological systems in many ways, through different entry routes, some being cleared from the body while others accumulate in tissues. Population studies of wildlife and humans rarely take this complexity into consideration.

Dr. Soto's research group developed methods to screen chemicals for hormone-like activity. They set out to identify internal markers to detect environmental exposure to estrogens and other classes of hormone-like chemicals. This research contributes to the understanding of health problems caused by these chemicals and should be of help in setting an effective, preventive environmental policy.

## WALKAMERICA 2000

Please note that non-Station employees can join the Station Team. So, if you have a friend who would like to join you in the Walk, sign'em up!!! Contact me for registration information!!

Station employees who are participating in this year's WalkAmerica, please note: You will receive an incentive coupon if you turn in your donations to me by NOON, Thursday, May 4. This is Bank Day for the Walk. You can pick up your incentive at the Incentive Table at the Walk on May 7! Please mark your calendar now to remind yourself to turn in your money early! Thank you.

Kathy DeRosa



## Noontime Tour through Sunken Garden

Come join the Geneva Arboretum Association for a noontime stroll through the IPM sunken garden on Monday, May 8. We'll look at and talk about the ornamental features of the plants in the garden. If time permits we'll discuss and possibly demonstrate some plant care and pruning techniques. This is an opportunity for you to become more familiar with the station plantings and the individual plants that make up those plantings. It is also an opportunity for the association to get some exposure and promote its mission of preserving and improving the woody plants of the campus.

At the last meeting of the association, several new attendees at the meeting stated that they never knew that the association existed. The association consists of a group of NYSAES employees dedicated to the mission of the association. You can recognize us because we're always getting up close and personal with plants, with heads tipped back looking at tree tops or stuck in some shrub inspecting a piece of plant anatomy. You, too, can become a budding plant aficionado.

Come share the love of plants and the outdoors with fellow coworkers. We'll meet on the lawn behind the IPM house. The rain date will be the next nice day.

### YOU'RE INVITED

Chuck and Ginny Eckenrode invite their friends from the last 30 years to a

### CHICKEN BARBEQUE

May 13, 2000

Any time after 12 P.M.

At The Eckenrode Home

Please call Ginny at 716-526-5290 by May 2, 2000 if you plan to attend.

Bring an appetite!

## FIELD RESEARCH UNIT PESTICIDE REMINDERS

The spray season has begun. Please remember to check the electronic posting board (EPOST), WPS Central Posting, or the on-site posting before entering any research blocks. The EPOST instructions "Read Me First" are in the "sprays" folder on the CC fileserver.

Please remember applicators cannot always see people in or around the blocks being sprayed. If you are exposed to drift, vacate the area immediately and check the proper central posting location for specific information about the application or contact Mart Van Kirk at 781-5307 or mww1@cornell.edu. Thank you for your cooperation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEMINARS

PLANT PATH

**Date:** Tuesday, May 2, 2000  
**Time:** 3:30 p.m.  
**Place:** A133, Barton Lab  
**Title:** "Fruit Tree IPM: Doin' It Canadian Style, Eh?"  
**Speaker:** Professor Wendy McFadden-Smith, University of Guelph-Horticultural Research Institute, Ontario, Vineland, ON

LTC

**Date:** Thursday, May 4, 2000  
**Time:** 10 a.m.-Noon  
**Title:** End Note  
**Place:** Jordan Hall, Staff Room  
**Instructor:** Jay Datema, Mann Library Public Services Librarian, Coordinator of Public Access Computing Instructor

**Title:** Open Lab  
**Place:** Jordan Hall  
**Facilitator:** Jane Irwin  
 The Library Technology Center will be open for the purpose of anyone needing help with specific software solutions or anyone that would like to come in and work on FLEX tutorials.

FITNESS

AEROBICS

**Date:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
**Time:** 12:10 -1 p.m.  
**Place:** Sawdust Cafe

TAEKARDIO

**Date:** May 1, 3, 2000  
**Time:** Noon  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Auditorium



CLASSIFIED

**WANTED:** 2 BR cottage on Seneca Lake for the month of July for my 70-year-old Dad who wants to golf, fish and escape the Florida summer heat. Sunrise or sunset, East or West side. No more than 20 miles from Geneva, please. Any leads will be rewarded! llm3@cornell.edu, or x2417.

**FOR SALE:** Scuba equipment: oceanic ocean sport BC, size M, near mint, black with blue trim, comes with blue carry bag. \$300 or best offer. Contact Mike Fordon at x2214 or mpf8.

**FOR SALE:** Refrigerator and electric range and electric dryer. All in excellent condition. Call Nancy at x2313 or 789-5485.

**WANTED TO RENT:** An apartment or a room in a house (with access to kitchen facilities) for a Postdoc arriving in Geneva in April. Needed for April and May only. Any leads would be very much appreciated. Contact Greg English-Loeb at x2345 or e-mail gme1.

**WANTED TO RENT:** Post-Doc and PhD Student need a house to rent near the Station. Dawn and Torey will be moving here in July and anticipate living in Geneva or the surrounding area for 2 or 3 years. They have 2 large dogs and are looking for a nice, quiet home to rent. If you have any ideas please call 607-539-3293.

**WANTED:** 1 bedroom or studio apartment for a 6 month lease, starting in May. An apartment located in Geneva, that allows cats, is preferable. Please contact Frank (x2406, fpw1@cornell.edu), if you know of any leads.

**FOR RENT:** Unfurnished 3 bedroom/1 bath 1/2 house on Rose Street in Geneva. Large eat-in kitchen, washer and dryer provided. Freshly painted and new carpet installed in living room. \$475 per month plus utilities (gas/electric & water). If interested, please call Pat Mahoney at x2394 or pmm19.

**FOR SALE:** 1988 VW Golf. Excellent condition. \$1,000.00. Call 789-8112.

**FOR SALE:** Lovebirds: breeding pair of lovebirds with cage \$200.00. Hand raised tame baby lovebird \$75.00. Call Kim after 5PM at 607-869-3844.

**FOR SALE:** Fisher Wood Stove (Baby Bear). Excellent condition. Great for hunting camp or cottage. BO-NUS: One, plus face cord of hard wood cut and split. Sorry...you have to pick it up. \$100. Call Donna, x2492 or e-mail dmb62.

**FOR SALE:** Jet Ski, 1997 Yamaha WaverunnerGP760, new in 1998, excellent condition, with trailer and cover. \$4900 or best offer. Days: 315-787-2220 or evenings, 315-781-1217.

CHEMICALS AVAILABLE FOR "GIVE-AWAY"

Contact EH&S Program, X2466 or email Sue Dwyer (sgd2@cornell.edu)

CHEMICAL NAME	AMOUNT AVAILABLE (KG)
3-Amino-9-Ethylcarbazole	0.189
N-(3-Aminopropyl)-Moropholine	0.141
Arsenic Acid	0.279
2,6 Dichlorphenol-Indophenol	0.024
8-Dimethylamino-2,3 Benzophenoxazine	0.041
8-Dimethylamino-2,3 Benzophenoxazine	0.042
N,N-Dimethylformamide	0.428
Fumaric Acid	0.105
B-D(+)-Glucose	0.033
D-Glucose-6 Phosphate	0.026
L-Glutamic Acid	0.535
L-Histidine	0.095
Lithium Hydro	0.839
Maleic Anhydride	0.533
Maleic Anhydride	1.080
Potassium Ferricyanide	0.212