

# CORNELL UNIVERSITY STATION NEWS GENEVA NEW YORK

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## BRIEFS

### State of Extension

On Tuesday, May 9, 2000, from 9-10 a.m., Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Merrill Ewert, will present his second annual "State of Extension" address. It will be broadcast by satellite, and will be downlinked in the Staff Room of Jordan Hall. You are cordially invited to attend this downlink.

### 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 fileservier.

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 mwv1@cornell.edu. Thank you for your cooperation.

SAVE THE  
DATE!  
July 14,  
2000



## Station Cleans Up Its Act

"I believe they think we're prisoners on some kind of work release," was Andrea Day's reaction to the curious glances of motorists driving along a stretch of Pre-emption Road on Friday afternoon. "You know, I went to school around here," she continued, "what if one of my teachers goes by?"

Andrea, who works in Plant Pathology in Bob Seem's lab, was one of 15 earth-conscious volunteers from around the Station who celebrated Earth Day a day early. And it was a curious sight indeed - small bands of individuals clad in orange vests and blue surgical gloves shuffling along the highway dragging large plastic bags of trash behind them.

Bob Seem recalls that the whole thing started back on April 12 when he discussed a trash problem on one of the Station farms at a Chairs and Unit Leaders meeting. "A neighbor had complained about litter along the road bordering one of the Station properties," he



Some of the Earth Day clean-up volunteers take a breather along Castle Road. (Left to right, kneeling) Andrea Ficke, Pat Wallace; (standing) Mark Scott, Andrea Day, Martin Goffinet, Elaine Gotham, Soon Kong and David Gadoury.

(Continued on page 2)

(BRIEFS, continued from page 1)



## Congratulations

To Min and  
Daeil Kim on  
the birth of  
baby girl,  
Priscilla Kim,  
born Saturday, April 29, 2000.

Mother and baby are doing well.

### 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

(CLEAN-UP, continued from page 1)

said, "so I made the suggestion that it might be nice if we could pick up the trash not only at that location, but along all the Station's road frontage; and that maybe it was something that we could get employees involved in since I did not want to burden B&P or FRU with yet another task."

Bob went on to say that he did not suggest a solution since he did not have the time to organize such an effort himself. Others, he added, suggested that it might be a project for the Station Club. "Again, no action," he said. "Then Soon [Kong] piped up and volunteered his efforts to enlist Station Club and organize the event in conjunction with his office. Actually, I thought it would be too late to organize an event this year, but Soon and Gemma [Osborne] didn't know that and did it anyway."

Pizza, wings and cold drinks along with door prizes were supplied by both Station Club and Environmental Safety. Mark Scott and FRU supplied three vehicles with drivers to help in the effort. After lunch and the awarding of door prizes it was, to paraphrase the lyrics of a golden oldie song, "Hit The Roadside Jack....." So off they went—on what turned out to be a beautiful sunny day—in vans and pick-up trucks to the various farms and did their bit for Earth Day and the Station and its neighbors.

"We had predicted that the job would take about 3 1/2 hours," Soon and Gemma said, "but with a lot of teamwork and just a great effort overall, the group finished in a little over two hours." After all was said and done, the back of a pick-up had been filled with papers, garbage can covers, car parts, signs, bottles, cans, styrofoam packing material and even the remnants of what was once a wedding bouquet. Soon commented afterwards that "it was nice to see that there are people who do care about our community and are thinking about pollution related issues." Gemma added, "It was a wonderful idea, and I hope that it will become an annual event."

Bob Seem summarized the day's activities by saying: "The event is an excellent way to bring together a diverse mix of people from the Station and to work at a common level. Plus, after just a few hours of work, we all had a real sense of accomplishment. I really appreciate FRU's assistance to make the whole thing work. But the bulk of the credit must go to Soon and Gemma for jumping on the idea, associating it with Earth Day, and making it a reality. I hope we can continue the work next year and, as Gemma mentioned, make it an annual event."

J. Ogronick



Elaine Gotham, Communications Services (and who dubbed herself "The Trashiest Girl Around") drags her bag of "goodies" along a ditch on Sutton Road.

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.



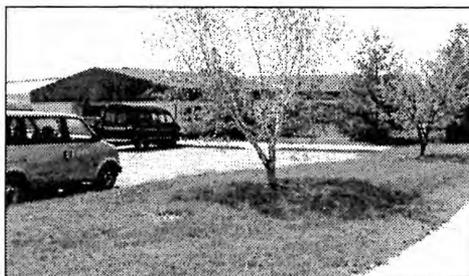
I've  
learned....  
that to ignore the facts  
does not change the facts.

Andy Rooney

## Arbor Day 2000 Celebrated at Experiment Station

*"Each generation takes the Earth as trustees. We ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed."*

*J. Sterling Morton - 1887*



*What a difference landscaping makes: PGRU building as photographed by Phil Forsline in 1985 (left) and the PGRU building as it appears today (right).*

Although we celebrate it every year, few of us know about the origins and the history of Arbor Day. The idea for Arbor Day originally came from Nebraska. A visit to Nebraska today wouldn't disclose that the state was once a treeless plain. Yet it was the lack of trees there that led to the founding of Arbor Day in the 1800s.

Among pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory in 1854 was J. Sterling Morton from Detroit. He and his wife were lovers of nature, and the home they established in Nebraska was quickly planted with trees, shrubs and flowers.

On January 4, 1872, Morton first proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture. The date was set for April 10, 1872. Prizes were offered to counties and individuals for planting properly the largest number of trees on that day. It was estimated that more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day.

Arbor Day was officially proclaimed by the young state's Governor Robert W. Furnas on March 12, 1874, and the day itself was observed April 8, 1874. In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska and April 22, Morton's birthday, was selected as the date for its permanent observance. According to accounts from the *Nebraska City News*, April, 1885, the City celebrated Arbor Day with a grand parade and a speech by J. Sterling Morton. Students of different grades met at their respective school rooms in the morning for the purpose of planting at least one tree. Each tree that was planted was labeled with the grade, the time planted, and was to be specially cared for by that grade.

When the plantings were completed, 1000 students formed a line to begin the parade from the various schools to Nebraska City's opera house. In the parade, each class carried colorful banners made of satin with silk lining and trimmed with gold fringe. The letters on the banners were painted in oil colors. By the time the parade reached the opera house the throng numbered well over the 1000 as townspeople joined the march. Every available foot of space in the opera house was occupied, the students having the front seats and gallery while the older persons stood. At 11:00, the throng of celebrants was addressed by the founder of Arbor Day, J. Sterling Morton.

Mr. Morton was listened to with much attention, and loudly applauded at the close of his address. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the students sang "America," and the large audience was dismissed.

*(Continued in next column)*

*(ARBOR DAY, continued)*

This ended the first celebration of Arbor Day as a legal holiday, and, as reported by the newspaper, "to say that it was a complete success but faintly expresses it. Celebrations of this kind result in good to all, and is worthy of imitation by every school in the state."

Arbor Day 2000 was observed at the Station on Friday, April 28, in the courtyard between the PGRU building and the Seed Technology Annex. As pointed out by Martin Goffinet in last week's *Station News*, this location will be the site of a new planting of trees and shrubs to replace those lost through the renovation of the annex last year. This planting will compliment the rest of the landscape now developing in the general courtyard area.

The weather could not have been more perfect for the event—mild, a gentle breeze, and a rich blue sky. Martin Goffinet welcomed the group and made some introductory remarks pointing out and identifying some of the existing trees and shrubs as well as newer plantings in the courtyard area. He also mentioned that back in 1985, Phil Forsline and Bill Srmack had taken it upon themselves to see that the area around the building got landscaped. "You don't know what people are capable of till you let them go at it," Martin said.

When asked later about this, Phil Forsline recalled, "We took occupancy of the PGRU building in November, 1985. At the time, there was no landscaping, so Bill Srmack and I (the first employees of the Clonal Repository portion of PGRU) met with Marvin Adleman, Professor of Landscape Architecture at Cornell, on January 6, 1986, to devise a landscaping plan. We brought along a schematic drawing of the building and grounds and he recommended plantings. We met with him again on March 29, 1986, to finalize our plans. A total of 72 trees and shrubs were ultimately purchased and planted by Tom DeYulio and his crew."

Martin introduced Jim Hunter who looked over toward Warren Lamboy and said "You know, Warren, you ought to put a couple park benches in here so when we get stressed out we can come over and relax and enjoy these beautiful surroundings. We need to take more

*(Continued on page 4)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MEETINGS

## CAL'S Chairs' Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, May 9, 2000  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Place:** 348 Morrison Hall

## SPECIAL SEMINAR

CORNELL GENOMICS  
COLLOQUIUM

**Date:** May 9, 2000  
**Time:** 12:20 p.m. Coffee and light refreshments will be available at 12:00 noon  
**Place:** 101 Bradfield Hall  
**Speaker:** Dr. Nina V. Fedoroff, Professor of Life Sciences. Director, Biotechnology Institute and the Life Sciences Consortium Pennsylvania State University.  
**Title:** "Plant Defense Responses: A Global Approach Using DNA Microchip Expression Profiling and Insertional Mutagenesis"

Plants display complex and overlapping responses to different environmental stresses. We are taking a global approach to the study of genetic signalling and response networks that characterize plant defense and stress responses. We have identified many new genes activated by the abiotic stress ozone, as well as pathogens, in Arabidopsis, and constructed microarrays, both for expression profiling and for the identification of insertion mutants.

Sponsored by the Department of Plant Breeding and the Cornell Genomics Initiative.

## LTC

**Date:** Wednesday, May 10, 2000  
**Time:** 2-4 p.m.  
**Place:** LTC  
**Title:** Filemaker Pro 4.0 part I  
**Instructor:** Jane Irwin  
 Check our web page for course descriptions and the complete LTC schedule.

## FITNESS

**Time:** 12:10 -1 p.m.  
**Place:** Sawdust Cafe

## TAEKARDIO

**Date:** May 8, 10, 2000  
**Time:** Noon  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Auditorium

## CLASSIFIED

**FOR SALE:** 1990 Plymouth Acclaim, good condition, 3.0L V6, new trans & radiator. \$1500/BO. E-mail Pat at pgw2 or call x2221 before 2:30, 331-3941 evenings.

**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.

**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 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. BONUS: 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.

**HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER:** 211 Jay Street (Corner of Jay and Slosson) 3 bedrooms, small room used as computer room, livingroom, diningroom, kitchen. Fully renovated including new paint inside and

(Continued in next column)

(CLASSIFIED, continued)

out. Move-in condition, City of Geneva. If interested, please call for appointment 315-789-6625, or e-mail Debby at: dld2@cornell.edu.

**FOR SALE:** Broyhill sofa and chair, tan tweed with oak trim. Good condition. Asking \$200 for both. Call Pat Mahoney at x2394 or pmm19.

(ARBOR DAY, continued from page 3)

time to stop and smell the roses, so it's important that we have a well landscaped campus, and that we continue to improve upon it; it's all part of having a good spirit and feeling about the place you work." Director Hunter closed his remarks by thanking the Greenhouse and Grounds crew and the Arboretum Association for their respective roles in the day's activities. "I'd also like to recognize the volunteers who picked up trash along the roadsides earlier today to help the Station do their part for Earth Day," he added.

Warren Lamboy, the final speaker, said "It's appropriate on this day that we show our gratitude and give thanks for this beautiful environment of ours that helps feed our souls in a significant way. It is also important to remember the people who came before us who contributed to the way things look today and to remember that the plantings we make today are for future generations." Warren also thanked everyone and invited the group to tour the new PGRU conference room (which you can read about in a future issue of *Station News*).

Bringing the ceremony to a close, Gary Chicone of the Grounds Staff offered a selection of seedlings for those who attended.

J. Ogradnick



Don't  
forget  
Mother's  
Day,  
May 14,  
2000