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BRIEFS

Heard It Through the (electronic) Grapevine: Computer Course for Grape Growers Will Be Confidence-booster

ITHACA, NY: Three years ago, grape grower Paul Bencal of Ransonville, NY, got his first computer, and needed his grandson's help to turn it on. But each year since, he's saved an average of \$12,000 because of the pest alerts he gets online. Bencal gets these alerts twice a week from the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program, a partner in the Lake Erie Regional Grape Extension Program.

Up-to-the-minute pest forecasting isn't the only boon that the internet offers to New York and Pennsylvania's grape growers. Processors in the Northeast, notably Canandaigua Wine Company, National Grape Cooperative (owner of Welch's) and the Cliffstar Corporation, have a common goal that their growers do their recordkeeping online by 2005.

Now a series of free computer "confidence-training" workshops are being offered to grape growers from New York and Pennsylvania. Professional computer trainers from Finger Lakes Community College and Jamestown Community College will lead the sessions.

Tim Moore, manager of grower relations at Canandaigua Wine Company, looks forward to all his growers being online so he can make quick changes in scheduling delivery dates. "We spend 8 to 10 hours making phone calls every day of harvest," says Moore. "Some years, because of the weather, the schedule changes weekly. It's our biggest headache. But when all the growers are online, we'll be able to cover everyone immediately with one keystroke."

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Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and the New Year



This is my last holiday message for *Station News*. As I reflect on the past 13 years as Director, my mind and heart are filled with warm memories of the great people I have worked with here at the Station, in Ithaca, the stakeholders who care deeply about the Station, and many others. While it is true that there have been some difficult challenges, I

leave feeling that most days - regardless of what it looked like out the window - have been not cloudy but sunny.

As I recall my years at the Station, I think of current and previous employees who experienced happy events both at work and in their personal lives. I feel fortunate to have been able to share with them these wonderful moments. And, I remember with equally strong emotions, the stressful times experienced by some members of the Station when difficulties occurred in their lives. What is unique about the Station is that we share these events and circumstances with each other, often like members of a family. I know how rare this is in a work environment, so I appreciate what we have here even more.

I could not write this, my final holiday message, without thinking about the future of the Station. The Station is widely recognized for the excellence of its research programs and the services provided to stakeholders. But we cannot rest only on our reputation and what we've accomplished in the past. The Station's future lies in our ability and willingness to produce and deliver new knowledge that will benefit people's lives, contribute to the well-being of New York State, and advance science. Each of you must strive to make this happen; it's essential for your own future, and that of the Station.

I know that life will continue to bring you many rewards and challenges. Challenges are part of life, and experience has taught me that employees at the Station have a positive outlook, as well as the talent and dedication necessary to overcome these challenges.

I leave you with my best wishes for the holidays and the new year, and continued success and happiness in your personal life and at work for years to come. I urge each of you to resolve to return after the holidays committed to continue doing your usual high-quality productive work, and to make the sun shine brightly on the lives of everyone with whom you work and share your life.

Grape Genetics Research Center at Geneva in Line for \$2.7 Million in Funding



Congressman Boehlert addresses press conference.

GENEVA, NY: Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-New Hartford) announced \$2.7 million in funding for the USDA-ARS Grape Genetics Research Center at a press conference at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station today. The funding would be used to design and build a new federal research facility for USDA scientists to work with Cornell University researchers in establishing and coordinating a national, concentrated grape program that maximizes the impact of grape research.

"These funds will establish the USDA-ARS Grape Genetics Center as the anchor tenant in the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park at Geneva," said James E. Hunter, director of the Experiment Station. "Having this facility located at the park will result in the construction of the park's second building and pave the way for further development."

Hunter praised Congressmen Sherwood Boehlert, James Walsh,

Maurice Hinchey, and State Senator Mike Nozzolio as key members of the New York delegation who were instrumental in making this award possible. "I congratulate them for their vision that investments in science and technology are important drivers of the upstate New York economy," said Hunter.

"The tremendous opportunity I've been given to serve this district for the last 21 years also provides New York State the seniority in Washington needed to bring this funding home," Boehlert said. "I'm proud of the efforts Cornell has put forward to improve the agriculture industry. This funding will go a long way toward energizing the grape industry here in New York which will reap immeasurable benefits for our local grape growers."

The funding was part of a Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Appropriations spending bill passed by the House of Representatives on Monday, Dec. 8. In addition to the \$2.7 million in funding for the Cornell Grape Genetics Research Center, the bill included

\$3.55 million in funding for other area projects. The Senate is expected to pass the bill early next year.

The Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park is a research park for innovation and enterprise in the Finger Lakes devoted to food, agriculture and bio-based technologies. It is located on a 74-acre orchard adjacent to the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. Groundbreaking for the first building, a 20,000 sq. ft. incubator building, is slated for spring 2004. Expected in the future are additional build-to-suit facilities like the Grape Genetics Research Center, a multi-tenant research facility, and greenhouse. The completed project could take 15 years for full build-out and could result in as many as 1000 new high-tech jobs.

Prospective tenants in the park, from government research labs to private businesses, will benefit from the research and development expertise at Cornell University and the Experiment Station.

The Grape Genetics Research Center will expand the activities of scientists at the USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit (PGRU) currently located at the Experiment Station, who collaborate with the more than 20 researchers at Cornell conducting research in grape breeding, cultivation, crop protection and enology (wine science).

The PGRU was formed in 1986, and has national responsibility for certain vegetable crops, as well as apple, tart cherry, and cold-hardy grape. The PGRU is mandated to acquire, maintain, characterize, evaluate, document, and distribute the genetic resources of crops. <<http://www.ars-grin.gov/gen/>>

The Experiment Station was founded in 1882. Its mission is to advance a sustainable plant agriculture and food system through state-of-the art research and extension programs that address local and worldwide needs. Geneva supports New York's agriculture and food industries with research, extension and education programs. <<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu>>

Linda McCandless

Operation Merry Christmas



Dick Guinan, President of the Geneva Center of Concern, visited the Station on Friday, December 12th to pick up donations employees made for "Operation Merry Christmas." Among the items collected were hats, gloves (boxes-full of each), sweaters, socks, toys, groceries, a bin of apples and more. Cash donations totaled \$550.00. Station Club sponsored the drive and some of the department representatives were on hand for the presentation, along with Tom Burr, who is on the Board of the Center of Concern.

Pictured left to right are: Tom Burr, Dick Guinan, Amy Andersen, Kristen Ondik, Gemma Osborne, and Debbie Marvin. Dick expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Geneva Center of Concern saying that all donations will be put to good use. "The first family coming in is a family of seven but there are also families of one," he said "and at least once a week someone comes in that is in such dire need that I want to give them the Whole Store." Amy Andersen, who coordinated the effort, said "Christmas will be a lot brighter for many families, and I want to thank everyone for their caring and giving spirit."

(BRIEFS, continued)

Timely payments will be among the most tangible benefits of online recordkeeping for growers. Processors will be able to send payment right to a grower's bank account where it can begin earning interest from the moment it's deposited.

Time is money in more ways than one, and TracGrape, which the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program plans to release in 2004, will be another savings for the computer-savvy. TracGrape simplifies how growers report sprays to processors. Gone will be the hours spent re-entering the same information on each processor's forms.

The New York State Integrated Pest Management Program's insect and disease fact sheets and pest management guidelines have been online for several years. But in the future, online is the only place growers will be able to get them.

"We'll be able to update them more frequently," explains the program's grape specialist, Tim Weigle. "We won't have to worry about recouping the cost of printing all the hard copies that go out of date so quickly."

Growers who take the workshops, offered during January and February 2004, will learn how to manage their files, navigate in Windows and on the internet, and use email. They'll also learn to understand spreadsheets, word processing, and book-keeping, and create calendars and to-do lists. More advanced courses will be offered as the season progresses.

"When everyone is computer literate, we'll all be able to focus more on higher quality," says Moore. "This will keep us all competitive in the global marketplace."

To register in the Lake Erie region, contact Stephanie Bellian of Jamestown Community College at 716-665-5220 ext. 2227. In the Finger Lakes region, call Carol Ann Joki of Finger Lakes Community College at 585-394-3500 ext.7662. Or call Tim Weigle at 716-672-6830.

by Mary Woodsens



Peace
On
Earth

Best wishes for
peace and joy
during the
Holiday Season
and throughout
the New Year.

From the Staff in
Communications Services

CALENDAR of EVENTS

DEC. 19, 2003 - JAN. 9, 2004

LTC

Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2004
Time: 9 - 11AM
Place: Library Technology Center
Subject: Dreamweaver Basics

Learn to create your own web page using Dreamweaver. Some of the topics that will be covered are:

- Creating and editing web pages
- Object, properties and launcher
- Tables, links, images and anchors
- Preferences

Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2004
Time: 9 - 11AM
Place: Library Technology Center
Subject: Dreamweaver Beyond the Basics

Instructor: Karen English

Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2004
Time: 1 - 4PM
Place: Library Technology Center
Subject: Open Lab: the Library Technology Center will be open for the purpose of anyone needing help with specific software solutions.

Facilitator: Jane Irwin

FITNESS
 Aerobics

Date: Mon. & Fri.
Time: 12:10 - 1 PM
Place: Sawdust Cafe

Taekardio

Date: Mon. & Wed.
Time: 12:10 - 1 PM
Place: Jordan Hall Auditorium

Lee Library Laptop Loans

Frank A. Lee Library is offering a laptop checkout service to anyone with a valid Cornell ID. These laptops can be checked out, *and used in Jordan Hall*. These laptops come equipped with CD RW/DVD drives, floppy drives, head phones, power cords and mice.

- Laptops are available at the Frank A. Lee Library Circulation Desk and may be borrowed by anyone with a valid Cornell ID.
- Laptop loan period is four hours.
- Renewal - Laptops must be presented at the Circulation Desk for renewal. Laptops can only be renewed if other patrons are not waiting for them.
- Laptop check out begins at 8 am Monday through Friday and they *must* be returned by 4:45 pm Monday through Thursday and 3:45 pm on Friday. They are not available at anytime the Library is closed.
- *No overnight loans are permitted.*
- There is a limit of one laptop per patron with valid ID.
- Laptops may be used in *Jordan Hall only*.
- Laptops are equipped with wireless technology and are configured to connect to the NYSAES network.
- *PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE LAPTOPS UNATTENDED.*
- *You, the laptop borrower, are responsible for any equipment lost or damaged.*
- Upon return, computers will be checked to ensure all equipment is intact.
- Borrower must return all peripherals included with laptop.

You, the laptop borrower, are responsible for returning all materials to the Circulation Desk. Replacement costs for computers are up to \$2500, replacement costs for peripherals range from \$50 to \$300.

Late Fees will be enforced:

- \$.04 per minute
- \$35.00 maximum late fee per item, per day
- Fines will be collected as cash

Applications vary on the different laptops. Available software include:

- Microsoft Office 2000 Professional/ or XP Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Access
- Windows 98
- Windows 2000
- Windows XP
- Mac OSX
- Acrobat
- Filemaker
- EndNote
- Netscape
- Internet Explorer
- Bear Access
- Photo shop
- SciFinder Scholar

CLASSIFIEDS

FREEZER: United Heavy Duty Commercial Freezer, frost free, 115V, 60H: \$100 or B/O. Contact Holly at hak3@nysaes.cornell.edu or (315) 539-5216

For Sale: Dishwasher Whirlpool Full Size Portable (Model DP840DW). Key Features: 3-Level Wash, 5 Automatic Cycles, 4 Button Control, Pots and Pans Cycle, Plate Warmer, Custom Silverware Basket, Custom Upper and Lower Racks, Rinse-Aid Dispenser, Custom Sound Pack. It served us well during grad school - excellent condition, \$ 250.00, Contact gf35@cornell.edu for more info.

FOR RENT: Two-bedroom, furnished apartment on North Main Street. Available December 1st. Quiet surroundings. No pets. Call 789-7239 after 6:00 PM or e-mail kw22@cornell.edu.

FOR SALE: 1996 Chevrolet Fleetside Pickup with 7 foot bed, Automatic, air, excellent condition, \$4,000. tferrin@pgru.ars.usda.gov (X2396) or 315-946-4987 for information.

H P Y O I A S