

VOLUME LXXXIV • NO. 10  
 MARCH 7 - 14, 2003

**BRIEFS**

**Fungus-Resistant Trefoil gives New York Farmers Low-Cost Forage**

New York farmers who have suffered for two decades without affordable, disease-resistant forage to supplement grass for their animals, are getting their fields of dreams: Cornell University agricultural scientists and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) researchers have developed a birdsfoot trefoil that fends off the devastating fungus, fusarium wilt.

Seeds of the new legume variety, Pardee Birdsfoot Trefoil, will be available this growing season on a large scale for cattle, sheep, goats and horses. The seed pods on the Pardee trefoil are shaped like a bird's foot, hence the name. The plant returns season after season and farmers can grow it on poorly draining soil.

Fusarium wilt kills the plant by clogging the vascular system. Research on combating the wilt began three decades ago. The late Carl Lowe, Cornell professor of plant breeding, and Kenneth Zeiders, a former U.S. Department of Agriculture employee at Pennsylvania State University, had collaborated on birdsfoot trefoil research in the 1970s and 1980s, selecting stock that seemed resistant to fusarium wilt. After they retired, research lay dormant for several years.

Bruce Tillapaugh, a program leader with CCE in Wyoming County, was the catalyst for restarting the research. In 1990, when he was a Cornell graduate student in crop and soil sciences, he began conducting studies on the legume under the direction of Robert Lucey, now a Cornell professor emeritus of crop and soil sciences. Tillapaugh also worked with Gary C. Bergstrom, Cornell professor of plant pathology; David Kalb, a former Cornell researcher in plant pathol-

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Lakso Wins W&GF Research Award**

**A**lan Lakso, professor and chairman of the horticultural sciences department at the Station, has been named the 2003 recipient of the New York Wine & Grape Foundation's Research Award.

The award was presented at the "Unity Banquet" during Viticulture 2003, the conference and trade show held at the Buffalo Convention Center on February 20-22. The award was one of eight given out by the Wine & Grape Foundation (W&GF) as a way of acknowledging and thanking individuals who have made substantial contributions to the wine and grape industry.

Lakso was presented the award for his research projects on the relationship of water availability to vineyard performance. Lakso's research team focuses on the physiological bases of vine productivity and responses to drought stress and cultural practices like pruning.

"Alan Lakso's research has greatly benefited the New York grape industry, as well as the quality of the wines made from them," said Jim Trezise, director of the W&GF. "While he has made many contributions, his focus on understanding the role of water and its control in the vineyard has provided practical information to vineyardists in growing quality grapes."

Speaking on winning the award, Lakso said, "It is a real honor for plant physiologists who work on more fundamental aspects of viticulture to have our research recognized as valuable to the industry we assist."

Lakso, who has been with the Station for almost 30 years, stressed the importance of cooperation in winning such an award. "This award is really earned by our entire team of technicians, including Steve Denning and Rick Piccioni, many graduate students and visiting scientists, and especially the great team at the Fredonia Vineyard Lab headed by Rick Dunst. We are very fortunate to have such a quality group to carry out our research," Lakso noted. "With our cooperators at Penn State University, led by Dave Eissenstat, we have more recently made fascinating progress in understanding how grape roots grow and function."

The Research Award recognizes major contributions in the area of grape growing, processing, and wine research, and may be presented to scientists, industry members or others. Past recipients from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and Cornell University include: Nelson Shaulis, Fred Taschenberg, Tim Dennehy, Thomas Henick-Kling, Robert Pool and Bruce Reisch.



*Alan Lakso received the 2003 Research Award from the Wine and Grape Foundation.*

*J. Zakour*

(BRIEFS, continued)

ogy; and with Donald Viands, Cornell professor of plant breeding. Jill Miller-Garvin, previously a Cornell researcher in plant breeding, developed the final stages of the trefoil, giving the plants higher levels of resistance. In the field, Viands and Miller-Garvin selected plants for vigor. Julie Hansen, Cornell researcher in plant breeding, found that Pardee birdsfoot trefoil yields up to twice as much forage compared with other varieties.

The seed will be available through Agway Farm Seed, Syracuse and Seedway Inc.

B. Friedlander

### NY FarmNet Receives Grant

To help New York apple growers with business planning, \$214,500 was awarded to NY FarmNet. The state funds will be used for a business planning workbook to enhance apple growers' decision-making skills and provide technical assistance in the business planning process. The workbook will be designed to help growers examine and plan for their own business by identifying strengths, vulnerabilities and options within the context of the rapidly changing tree fruit industry.

Included in the workbook will be chapters addressing industry trends and benchmarks, the process of and reactions to change, decision-making techniques, dealing with stress, financial analysis, marketing analysis, identification of options, implementation of change, and worksheets for individualized business evaluation. The workbook is currently in draft form and is being tested.

The funds for this project are part of a one-time \$3.1 million grant from the USDA to help develop and promote specialty crops such as fruit and vegetables, in New York State.

NY FarmNet is a free and confidential consulting service based at Cornell University.

Fruit Growers News

### Long-Handled Diamond Hoe Saves Time and Effort

Many of the hoes commonly used for weeding can strain your back, neck, shoulder, and arms because they force you to adopt a stooped position. Consider a long handled diamond hoe instead. It helps you stand up

(Continued on page 3)

## Bowling Tournament A Strike



*Congratulations to the bowling tournament winners: (back row, l-r) Matt Wavrick, Kristen Ondik, Jason Osborne, Ryan and Pat Barry; (front row, l-r) Ed Woodam, Ken Bell, Kathy and Jeff Morabito, and Lorraine Barry.*

**O**n Saturday March 1, the Station held its annual bowling tournament at Sunset Bowl in Geneva. The tournament, which was sponsored in part by Station Club, and hosted by the ever dapper Matt Lewis, had 14 teams. Bowlers who "competed" in teams of 4 or 5, had their choice of participating in traditional bowling on one side of Sunset Bowl, and the less-than-traditional "cosmic" bowling, complete with music and a light show, on the other side. Both sides kept the bowling balls and the pizza rolling throughout the evening, into the early morning hours.

The team of the "Quater Kegglers," captained by Pat Berry, won this year's championship with a total pin count of 2405. In addition to their captain, the team consisted of Lorraine Barry, Ryan Barry, and Kathy and Jeff Morabito. "Green Side Up," a four-man team of Matt Wavrick, Jim Ballerstein, Jason Osborne and Ken Bell, finished second with a very respectable 2309.

As for individual honors, high male series was Matt Wavrick with a 611. Ed Woodam ("Mr. Consistency") was second with a rock steady 597. Kristen Ondik not only had the high woman's series with a 497, but, perhaps more importantly, also won the 50 / 50 pool. The always steady Josie Pollino had the second high series for the women, with a 450.

J. Zakour

**I**t is said an Eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words: "And this, too, shall pass away."

-Abraham Lincoln

## Sear-Brown Hired for New Vineyard Lab Project in Fredonia

Thomas G. Davenport, president of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Program, Inc. (LERGREP), announced the hiring of Sear-Brown, an architectural, engineering, planning and construction firm based in Elmira, NY, to complete Phase I of the 21st Century Vineyard Lab project, on Friday, Feb. 28.

The project includes planning and design to expand and modernize the grape research field testing and laboratory facility and its 30-acre site in Fredonia, NY. The New York Department of Agriculture and Markets is funding the Phase I feasibility study through a Specialty Crops grant of \$75,000 awarded last August. Chautauqua County's department



Outline shows the dimensions of the Vineyard Lab site in Fredonia.

of economic development and Cornell University are providing staff support.

"The hiring of Sear Brown is an important step in the process that will ultimately lead to a new facility," said Davenport. "A long-term goal of the western New York grape industry has been to have a modern, fully functioning facility to house the Cornell- and Penn State-based regional grape extension and viticulture research programs. It is important for all stakeholders to take the upcoming opportunity to provide input into the design and architecture of the proposed new facility."

A meeting was held Monday, March 3, at the lab in Fredonia to solicit input from growers, processors, and university personnel. Additional comments from stakeholders and the public will be solicited in future meetings.

Major components of Phase I include site analysis, needs assessment, and plan conformity to local and state regulations. A concept building and site plan will be created based on input received from area grape growers and processors and university personnel. Grant proposals will be developed and submitted to public and private agencies or foundations to seek funding for Phase II of the project, which is the construction phase. When completed, the new vineyard lab will provide updated facilities for field and laboratory research, grower education, and meetings. Expansion to include additional acreage for buffer zones and field research on heavier soil types is being pursued.

"The 21st Century Lab Project will enhance the ability of Cornell to continue to provide critical research support to our area's grape production and processing industry," stated Chautauqua County Executive Mark W. Thomas. "We look forward to working with the excellent team that's been assembled to help achieve the vision of a new, state-of-the-art grape research lab here in Chautauqua County."

(Continued in next column)

(SEAR-BROWN, continued)

LERGREP, Inc. is a non-profit organization funded by area grape processors through voluntary contributions that are based on grape tonnage grown and processed in the Lake Erie region. LERGREP's mission is to advance the region's grape industry by funding research and extension activities conducted by Cornell and Penn State universities.

(BRIEFS, continued)

straight while you work and keeps your wrists in a more neutral position.

The new long-handled hoes have a 2" x 8" diamond-shaped forged steel blade, sharpened on all four edges. The handle is six feet long and ends in a modified "T" shape. While standing upright, you push the hoe with your hand loosely gripping the "T" and pull it back again in a push-pull motion similar to running a household vacuum.

The hoes cost \$35-\$40. Visit <http://bse.wisc.edu/hfhp> for more info.

*Vegetable Growers News*

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Monday, April 7, 2003**  
**9 AM to 3 PM**  
**Jordan Hall Lounge**

## MARCH OF DIMES WALK AMERICA

### DO YOU KNOW THAT<sup>cccc</sup>

- **457,000 babies are born prematurely in the U.S. each year.**
- **Premature babies can suffer long term consequences such as blindness and mental retardation.**
- **More than 1,280 babies a day in the U.S. arrive too soon.**
- **In an average week in New York State, 31 babies die before their first birthday.**
- **Premature birth is the leading cause of newborn death.**
- **The average lifetime medical expense for a pre-term baby is \$500,000.**

It's not too late to sign up for the March of Dimes WALKAMERICA which will be held on Sunday, May 4! Contact Kathy DeRosa, x2236, e-mail: kad2, for more details!

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

MAR 7 - 14, 2003

**MEETINGS**

**CHAIRS & UNIT LEADERS**

**Date:** Thursday, March 13, 2003  
**Time:** 1:30 PM  
**Place:** Room G-19 Hedrick Hall

**SEMINARS**

**PLANT PATH**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2003  
**Time:** 3:30 PM (Coffee at 3 PM)  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Lab  
**Subject:** Virion Structure and the Vector Transmission of *Cucumber mosaic virus*  
**Speaker:** Dr. Keith Perry, Ithaca

**FOOD SCIENCE**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2003  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Place:** FST Conference Rm., Second Floor  
**Subject:** IR-4—What is it About?  
**Speaker:** Dr. Inga-Mai Larsson-Kovach, Geneva

**ENTOMOLOGY**

**Date:** Thursday, March 13, 2003  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Place:** Room A133, Barton Lab (Coffee at 10:15)  
**Subject:** New Tools for Insecticide Discovery  
**Speaker:** Dr. David Soderlund, Geneva

**HORT SCIENCE**

**Date:** Monday, March 17, 2003  
**Time:** 11 AM  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Subject:** TBA  
**Speaker:** Dr. Leslie Weston, Ithaca

**LTC**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 12, 2003  
**Time:** 2 - 4 PM  
**Place:** LTC  
**Subject:** Basic Power Point  
**Instructor:** Jane Irwin

**FITNESS**

**Aerobics**

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

**Taekwondo**

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

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**FOR SALE:**1988 Chevy Caprice. Many new parts. \$2500 or B/O. Call 789-9594 or Matt at x2251.

**FOR SALE:**1994 Oldsmobile Delta 88 Royale. Excellent condition, low mileage, clean inside and out. Asking \$4,500. Contact Pat Mahoney at pmm19 or 787-2394.

**SKIS FOR SALE:** One pair of Rossignol and one pair of K2 skis with bindings and poles. \$75 each or best offer. Contact Pim at 2338 or email to ill1@cornell.edu

**FOR RENT:** One bedroom apartment with off-street parking, landlady will consider pets. Available May 1, 2003. \$500/mo. including utilities. Please call Patricia (315) 781-2895 or Jodi at x2328



*Think Spring.*  
**Tickets are available for GardenScape 2003**

GardenScape 2003 - The Rochester Flower & Garden Show will be held at The Dome Center, 2695 East Henrietta Road in Henrietta, NY, March 20 - 22, 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM, and March 23, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Tickets: Adults, \$10  
 Children 6-12, \$4; 5 and under, free  
 Show Series, \$15  
 Seniors, \$8 on Thursday, March 20, only

See Amy Andersen at A103 Barton Lab by March 17 to purchase advance sale tickets @ \$8.00 each. Children's tickets must be purchased at the door because there is not a discount. Please make your check payable to Station Club.

**V & B**  
**Gala Dinner & Premier Wine Auction**  
**April 4, 2003**

CASA LARGA VINEYARDS, IN FAIRPORT, NY

More information about the event will be posted at <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/fst/vb> as it becomes available.

For tickets, contact Nancy Long at [npl1@cornell.edu](mailto:npl1@cornell.edu)

**Congratulations**

**to the WINNERS in the two 2003 Station Club Membership Drive Drawings**

- FLEECE JACKET** - Debra Marvin (IPM)
- SWEATSHIRTS** - Bob Nearpass (PGRU) and Elaine Gotham (Comm), John Oughterson (PGRU)
- GOLF SHIRTS** - Roger Cullen (FST) and Gary Harman (HS), Rixana Petzoldt (Hort Sci)
- T-SHIRTS** - Ron Pool (Comp), Pat Wallace (HS) and Sharon Smart (Jordan), Jim Hunter (ADM)
- BOOKBAGS** - Rixana Petzoldt (HS) and Yong Hang (FST)
- HATS** - Bill Srmack (PGRU) and Sherri Tennes (PGRU)
- MUGS** - Art Agnello (ENT), Alan Taylor (HS) and Steve Reiners (HS)
- WINE GLASSES (Set of 2)** - Jane DeCann (FST), Jana Lamboy (IPM) and Patti Manino (B&P/HS)
- FREE MEMBERSHIPS** - Joe Freeland (B&P), Dana Schneider (HS) and Tiffany Fisk (PGRU), John VanderWeide (B&P), Wendell Roelofs (ENT)

Winners should send an email to Kristen Ondik at klo2 to request the appropriate sizes and colors for clothing prizes. Your prizes will be delivered either this week or next.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE STATION CLUB!**