

CORNELL UNIVERSITY STATION NEWS GENEVA NEW • YORK

VOLUME LXXXIV • NO. 18
MAY 2 - 9, 2003

BRIEFS

Changes in Station Mail Delivery

Jim Hunter has made the decision to have one mail pick-up and delivery per day at the Station.

Background about why this decision was made.

Budget concerns prompted this decision. The retirement of Bruce Moore, the Station's print shop operator, on March 31, precipitated it. Matt Lewis, the Station mail carrier, has always been Bruce's backup in the Print Shop. Bruce has agreed to come back from retirement to work 10 hrs/week in the print shop mid-April through mid-Oct, and 20 hrs/wk in the print shop from mid-Oct through mid-April, which is the Print Shop's busiest season.

These changes in staffing the mail and print shop operations will result in significant savings for the Experiment Station, and is one way the Communication Services Unit is contributing to reducing expenses.

Communications Services' goal is to cause as little disruption as possible in Station mail business, and **NOT** have administrative assistants and managers running all over campus delivering their own mail.

Afternoon mail run only

Here are the new mail strategies that Communications Services has come up, after extensive meetings with Matt, a man with 21 years of experience delivering Station mail.

Starting Monday, April 28, the Station gave up the morning mail run and is now relying on an afternoon mail run only. Matt picks up and delivers the mail from 2-3 p.m. in the same building order as now.

For those who do not know, the building order is: Jordan Hall, Sturtevant, Hedrick, FS&T, PGRU, B&P, Warehouse, Barton Lab, IPM, FRU, Heating Plant, Greenhouse Range. [**The consequences of the building order are: if Hort Science puts out mail for Entomology before 2
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New Company Promises to Detoxify Pollutants with Plant Biologicals

A company formed as a spin-off from research conducted at the Experiment Station, the University of Surrey and the University of Naples, Italy, promises to provide biological systems that detoxify heavily contaminated soil and water.

"Our goal is to develop biological products with broad capabilities for the detoxification of polluted soils or sediments and waters," said horticultural scientist Gary Harman, one of the founding partners of the new company. "These products will

provide low-cost alternatives to commonly used chemical or physical cleanup methods. Biological methods for the remediation of soils or sediments or waters contaminated with heavy metals or arsenic or toxic compounds such as cyanide or coal tars, have been implemented by other companies on a very limited scale."

The new company, Phytobials, LLC, combines the best attributes of phytoremediation (i.e., using plants), and microbial control methods—hence, the name. Other founders include Dan Berler, PhD, MBA, president and CEO; Professor James Lynch, Head of the School of Biomedical and Life Sciences of the University of Surrey; Matteo Lorito of the University of Naples (Italy); and senior research associate Terry Spittler, of Cornell University.

The systems incorporate microbes that form robust and stable associations with plant roots, the most useful of which is *Trichoderma harzianum* strain T22. T22 increases plant root depth and density and fosters the formation of fine roots, thus enhancing uptake of nutrients and minerals required for plant growth. T22 and similar organisms, in synergy with plants that hyperaccumulate heavy metals and arsenic, are expected to remove these toxicants from soils or water.

The company has agreements with major companies that possess cutting edge phytoremediation technology and intellectual property. The same microbes also produce enzymes that degrade cyanide when associated with plant roots. Other systems proprietary to the company are expected to use T22 or other microbes to degrade toxic and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in old coal gas production sites or petroleum spills. In addition, tests demonstrate that Phytobial systems degrade and remove phenolic contaminants from waste water streams, such as highly polluted waters produced during olive oil processing.

T22 has been used in the past decade in agriculture (see www.bioworksbiocontrol.com), where it has been shown to be a plant symbiont. Extensive testing required by the US



Gary Harman (far right) with colleagues at International Clean up exhibit and symposium held in Birmingham, UK, last month.

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(BRIEFS, continued)

pm on Monday, Matt will deliver it to Entomology later that afternoon on Monday. If Entomology puts out mail for HS before 2 pm on Monday, HS will not get it until 2 pm on Tuesday. Many admin managers already know how the building order works and some plan their mail accordingly.]

More details

Matt Lewis will work in the print shop in the mornings. In the afternoons, he will sort and deliver Ithaca campus mail, US mail, any Geneva campus mail from the previous afternoon that he hasn't already delivered (see ** above), and any UPS/FED EX deliveries that have come into Jordan Hall between 8-2 pm, which is when the majority of the packages get delivered.

This strategy gives people on campus all morning to work on the mailings that need to get out that day.

Matt (or his substitute) will do the campus afternoon mail run between 2-3 pm. Currently, he does it between 3-4 pm. This gives him time to get back to the mail room to meter the day's US Postal Service mail, fill out forms and set out any UPS or other mail carrier mail for late afternoon pickup, and take the US mail down to the Geneva post office.

If anyone has mail they want to drop off after the afternoon run, they can bring it to the mail room, just as they do now.

Communications Services will continue Matt's every-other-week run to the Ithaca Campus to pick up computers and other supplies with the mail van, but will do so on Wednesday mornings, instead of Wednesday afternoons. We will call Ithaca first to see if a pick-up is necessary. If you have something in particular for Matt to pick up, let Matt or Gemma Osborne know in advance whenever possible.

Whenever possible, please use your local US Post Office for personal mail.

We will reevaluate the 1x / day delivery in six months and get input from Admin Managers and Matt Lewis at that time to see how it is going.

In the interest of helping the Station use its limited resources most effectively, we thank you for accepting and encouraging change!

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

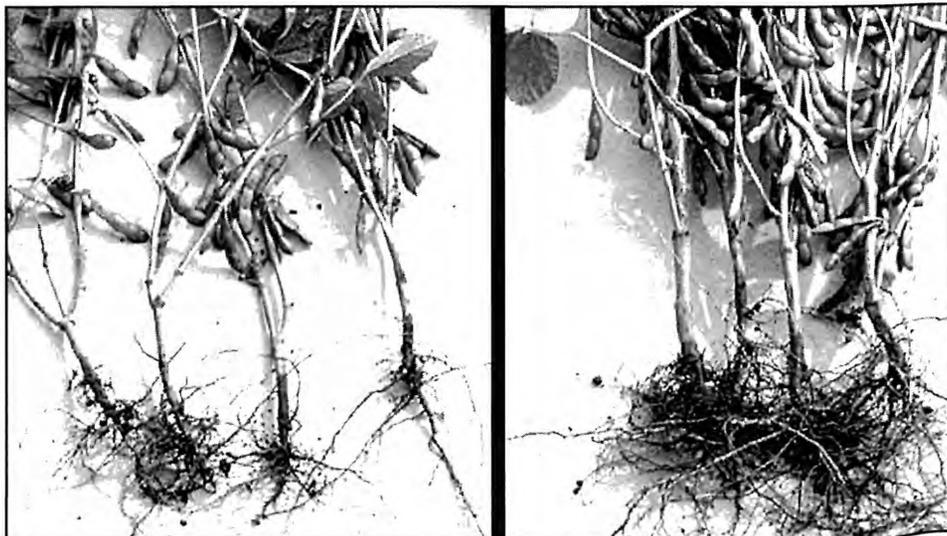
Linda McCandless

(NEW COMPANY, continued)

Environmental Protection Agency has revealed no toxicity or pathogenicity to plants or vertebrates and it is listed for use in organic agriculture. Both extensive use and formal testing indicate that T22 is safe and nontoxic.

Phytobial licenses intellectual property from Cornell and Surrey and includes proprietary materials from its Naples participant.

Phytobial technologies were introduced and displayed at International Clean Up, an international exhibit and symposium held April 8-10 in Birmingham, UK.



SOYBEANS: Without T22 (left) and with T22 (right)

Retirement Party for Hugh Price
Friday, June 6
5:00 PM Social Hour
6:00 PM Dinner
 NYSAES Pavillon, Jordan Hall

Arbor Day/Earth Day, 2003

Arbor Day was celebrated at the Station this year on a gorgeous Friday afternoon (April 25) with the planting of a 'Canada Red' chokecherry tree on the east side of the Food Science and Technology building near where a white birch was lost to the ice storm earlier in the month. The tree has red leaves and will attain a height of 25 feet. Another tree, a European hornbeam, was planted nearby. This tree grows to about 40 feet and will have a symmetrical ovoid shape at maturity. New this year to the day's activities was a seminar entitled 'Landscaping for Birds; Native Plants and Designs That Attract and Encourage Wildlife' presented by Jim Engel during the noon hour in Jordan Hall. One in four households in New York State feed birds during the winter—Jim's seminar pointed out some ways to encourage birds to visit your home and yard all year round.

Martin Goffinet, chair of the Station's Arboretum Association, feels that this ceremony is more than just a tree planting event. "It also provides a positive experience to those in attendance," he said "and we need all the positive experiences this campus has to offer, especially after the long winter we had this year."

Martin extends his thanks to the Administration, in particular Jim Hunter who makes it possible for these ceremonies to take place each year, and those who financed and sponsored the trees that were planted. "I also want to thank Station Club who financed the seedling give-away and Pat Wallace for the free bedding plants," Martin said "and I especially want to express my gratitude to the grounds staff, who planted and will maintain the trees, and to all the campus volunteers who work on and keep watch over our campus landscape."

As in past years, Earth Day was commemorated in conjunction with Arbor Day. Previous Earth Day activities were highlighted by picking up trash on the campus and the roads adjacent to the farms, but it was felt that there wasn't enough trash this year to make a pick-up worthwhile.

So in lieu of a formal physical activity, Pat Wallace and her Earth Day committee decided to focus on sending e-mails to educate and remind people about Earth Day issues. The messages included Earth Day related websites. There was also a quiz consisting of various Earth Day questions with prizes donated by (who else but) Station Club. Winners were announced earlier this week and they are: Sherri Tannies, Teri Ferrin, Cathy Heidenreich, Lorraine Barry, Holly Lange, Juliet Carroll, Cindy Smith, Jason Plate, Yizhi Meng, Cheryl TenEyck, Catherine Roe, Julie Kikkert, Donna Roelofs, and Betsy Bihn.

"I really do appreciate and want to thank all to those who helped with all the Earth Day planning, plants, and prizes: Gemma Osborne, Mary Jean Welser, Martin Goffinet, Soon Kong, Gary Chicoine and Lou Ann Rago," Pat said. She also pointed out that "although Earth Day and Earth Week are commemorated only once a year, the work is never finished."



Jim Hunter adds a shovel-full of soil to one of the new plantings.

NYSAES EARTH WEEK QUIZ/ CONTEST RESULTS

The winners are everyone who got into the spirit of Earth Day last week, and everyone who participates in earth-friendly living every day. Some of the ideas generated by entrants are

- * Use pedal power (ride a bike)
- * Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- * Let your child use dry erase boards or "magna-doodles" or chalk boards instead of paper to draw on.
- * Compost, Compost, Compost!!!
- * Read the news on the internet instead of buying the paper.
- * Use live ground covers such as vinca, ivy, pachysandra to suppress weeds and keep flower beds trim and attractive. They need to be applied only once and last for years!
- * Turn off water while brushing teeth, shaving and in between rinsing dishes.
- * Replace showerhead with one that uses less water by incorporating air. Some have a temporary shut-off button to maintain temperature.
- * If the toilets in your house are the older type that use larger volumes of water to flush (5 gallons), you can buy kits for less than \$20 to allow less water to be used or else displace some of the volume with an inert object (such as a closed plastic bottle filled with water &/or rocks).
- * Shut things off when not using them (lights, television, stereo, computer, etc.).
- * Close doors to rooms not being used during those times in the year when energy is being used to heat or cool other parts of the house.
- * Keep the refrigerator door closed as often as possible.
- * Replaced higher wattage bulbs with lower wattage ones in light fixtures.
- * Wash full loads of clothes, using cold water whenever possible.
- * Build a compost pile and use it when planting a garden.
- * Collect rain water and use it to wa-

(Continued on p. 4)

CALENDAR of EVENTS

MAY 2-9, 2003

MEETINGS

**CHAIRS' & UNIT
LEADERS' MEETING**

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2003
Time: 1:30 PM
Place: G19 Hedrick Hall

LTC

Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2003
Time: 2-4 PM
Place: LTC
Subject: Introduction to Photoshop 5.5
Instructor: Fred Hickey

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

*Ah, summer, what
power you have to
make us suffer and
like it.*

Russell Baker

WalkAmerica

is Right Around the Corner!!

A recap of the day's events for the March of Dimes Walk on Sunday, May 4 include: meet Tri-Lakes ambassador family; pre-walk aerobics and warm-up; pick up incentives; prizes; checkpoints along the route with yummy snacks and beverages; Daniel's "Victory Van" to pick up tired walkers; clowns, face painting; mascots and characters; balloons; music by DJ Ken paradise. Finnish line picnic; pizza, hots, juice and water, chips and soda!!!

If you would like to join the Station Team, please contact Kathy DeRosa at x2236 or kad2.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Entertainment Center. Oak finish 53" long x 46" high x 17" deep. Holds TV with 4 shelves and storage compartment \$125. **Storage Box,** for pick-up truck 35" long x 16" high x 19" deep, w/ Locking Lid \$25. **Truck Rims,** 5 bolt, 15" rims for Chevy 4x4, pair \$25. **Sleeping Bag.** Adult size, nylon shell, flannel lining & Self-inflating pad, never used \$30 for both. Call Mark at (315) 539-8761 after 5 PM or Holly at x2228.

FOR SALE: Porter-Cable 7529 plunge router, 2 hp, variable speed, includes 1/4 and 1/2 inch collets. \$175. Contact Hugh Price at hcp1.

FOR SALE: Motorcycle. 1998 Buell SW1, Full factory race kit, ceramic coated exhaust, new battery, tires, and a lot of carbon fiber. Includes 2 sets of wheels, front and rear stands. 95HP, 7700 miles, \$5000 FIRM. (W) 787-2396, (H) 462-2384.

FREE: Two pretty parakeets (boy and girl) with bird cage and toys. Would like to give them to someone who likes birds and will care for them properly. Call Debby at x2255 if you are seriously interested.

BEACH HOUSE vacation getaway on beautiful, southwest shore of Canandaigua Lake, is only a 45 minute drive from Geneva, 10 minutes from Naples. Swim, sun, fish, romance, relax, loaf, wine country, Reservoir Creek and Bristol Harbour golf courses, Bristol Valley Theater, Grape Festival, etc. Situated right on the water, suitable 1-2 couples or small family. Very nice beach area. Rowboat and canoe included. A few summer openings remain in July and August. Reduced rates by week or weekend in May-June and September-October. Interested? Contact Elaine at elg2

GENEVA SUMMER HOUSE RENTAL: Beautiful house is fully furnished and equipped: three-bedrooms, 1.5 baths; study room with P/C and high-speed (Roadrunner) internet access; livingroom (with Cable TV and Stereo); dining room; full kitchen (with microwave, dishwasher, gas range, grill, griddle, oven, fridge, full table, plates and cutlery, etc.); porch: washer/dryer; full basement (unfinished) with pantry, workbench, storage, etc.; two-car garage; 3/4 acre tended lawn. Located on Castle Street 1/4 mile walking distance from the Station Available: May 25 - August 10, 2003. Replies/inquiries to Mike at faux@math.columbia.edu or 781-3636 (day) and 789-1161 (evening).

FOR RENT: Studio apartment attached to my house that will be available for rent starting May 1. The apartment is within walking distance of the station (1 mile), is fully furnished with full kitchen. Garage parking available and it has its own entrance. Rent is \$360, which includes utilities. The apartment is particularly well suited for visiting scientists and postdocs. No smoking or pets. If interested, send an email to set up a visit or call at 787-2345 or 789-5240.

FOR RENT: Now booking for summer vacation! Cottage on west side of Seneca Lake, 14 miles south of Geneva in Dresden. \$500 per week, Sat to Sat. Very clean and neat, 2 bedroom, full kitchen, gas and charcoal grill, garbage pick-up. Full deck, boat lift and dock, great fishing. Play ground, tennis court, ice-cream stand, hiking trail, gas station and diner in or close to Dresden. Right on the Seneca and Keuka Lake Wine Trail. For more information contact Mary Lou Hessney at 2423 or mlh5.

*Earth is here so kind,
that just tickle her with
a hoe and she laughs
with a harvest.*

Douglas Jerrrold (1803-1927)

(CONTEST, continued)

- ter the garden.
- * Feed the birds leftover bread crumbs.
- * Pack your lunch in a reusable container instead of a paper bag.
- * Use a reusable container for you sand wich, instead of plastic or foil.
- * If using a dishwasher, wait until it's full to run and run at night.
- * Turn computer monitor off instead of using standby feature.
- * Use a cloth or sponge instead of paper towels for cleanup spills.
- * Try filtering your tap water instead of buying bottled water.
- * Shred paper, then give to a dairy farmer to mix with straw for cow bedding.
- * Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables since they save on packaging and you can buy directly from local growers to support local economies such as ours in upstate that could use a little boost. The other option is to grow them in your own garden using compost from your own composter where you recycle your organic waste from your kitchen.
- * Walk or bicycle when possible, or carpool to work.
- * Donate a phone to The Charitable Recycling Program.

SAVE THE DATE

**Bike Week
June 2-6, 2003**

