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AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

## BRIEFS

### 2004 Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo 2004 Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo

"Growing for the Health of New York" is the theme of the Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo to be held February 10-12, 2003 at the Rochester Clarion Hotel and the Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, NY. The event represents a major new cooperative effort on the part of the NYS Horticultural Society, which represents New York's fruit growers, and the NYS Vegetable Growers (NYSVGA).

"This exciting new show in one location will provide a large, exciting and informative conference and trade show covering many aspects of the horticultural industry in New York State," said Lindy Kubecka, of the NYSVGA.

Educational sessions will include a variety of topics for all sizes of vegetable and fruit grower operations. In addition, there will be sessions on bedding plants, greenhouse production, and women in agriculture.

The annual Becker Forum starts off the event on Monday, Feb. 9.

Other sponsors include the Empire State Potato Growers, the NYS Berry Grower Assoc., and Cornell Cooperative Extension. This event replaces the annual New York State Vegetable Growers Conference, formerly held in Syracuse the second week in February.

### Inaugural Century Ride Held

The inaugural Finger Lakes Century was held Thursday August 13 with 5 bicyclists completing the full 108 miles (3 from the Station - Greg English-Loeb, Kevin Conley and Jan Nyrop) and another 3 venturing as far as Ithaca (Holley Lang, Jennifer Grant and Tony Shelton). The route took the riders south along Seneca Lake, across the ridge to Lodi, south again to Trumansburg and Ithaca, north along Cayuga Lake and finally west through Seneca Falls back to Geneva. The trip began at 7:00 and was completed at 3:30 with an average speed of about 17.5 miles per hour. For some of the riders this was a prelude to the Highlander century held in and around Naples that boasts of over 10,000 feet of vertical elevation change. In the future, the Finger Lakes Century will be held on a Saturday or Sunday in August.

Jan Nyrop

## New PGRU Research Leader Arrives (You CAN Come "Home" Again)

Dr. Charles Simon has assumed the position of Research Leader of the Plant Genetic Resources Unit at Geneva, New York. Dr. Simon was most recently the Research Leader and Curator of the ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository on the campus of the University of California, Davis.

In a way this is a homecoming for Simon who did his graduate work in Geneva, studying in the Pomology and Horticultural Sciences departments. Simon received his Master's with Dr. John Sanford and his Ph.D. with Dr. Norm Weeden. His Master's project was to investigate the possible use of gametic selection to expedite plant breeding. His Ph.D. dissertation involved cloning the apple ribosomal gene and using it for population analysis. Simon's familiarity with Geneva is one of the reasons he stated for coming back.

"I obviously didn't grow up here, at least as a young kid, but the climate and pace and people are a lot more familiar to me than California ever felt," Simon said. "It is also a more important position than I held in California, and it was a professional promotion for me to come back here. I have greater influence on the overall USDA germplasm system in Geneva than I did at Davis," Simon added.

Simon is originally from Wisconsin and did his undergraduate work in Madison with a major in Plant Pathology. He had his first experience working with germplasm there during his undergraduate years, from 1977-1982, as a student employee with the ARS potato repository, which just happened to be located in his home town of Sturgeon Bay, WI. He took his first ARS position after he finished at Cornell in 1989 as an ARS Post-doc, working with Dr. Fred Muehlbauer in Pullman, WA, mapping the genomes of chickpeas and lentils. In 1993, he joined the ARS Western Regional Plant Introduction Station as Curator of the cool-season food legume collections. His three largest collections were peas, lentils and chickpeas. In 1998 he moved to Davis, CA to become the Research Leader and Curator of the ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository on the campus of UC Davis. The two largest collections at the Davis repository are grapes and the stone fruits (peach, apricot, cherry, etc.). Simon's principal research interest is using molecular markers to analyze patterns of genetic diversity in germplasm collections. Geneva has grape and cherry collections, as well as a large apple collection, so he is very comfortable working with many of the Geneva collections.

"The PGRU is a solid unit staffed with good people, and my goal is to continue the present success and support the staff however I can. The PGRU has had recent success in growth of its resources, and that appears that this will continue. I hope to nurture that growth in the most beneficial way for the unit," Simon said.

For relaxation, Simon is a hobbyist woodworker and enjoys play guitar - mostly classical. Simon's wife, Vicky, has a Master's degree in biochemistry but currently is devoting her time on their ten-year-old son Charles Jr. Charles Jr. has recently decided that he, like his dad, prefers to be called Chuck. The Simons will be living in Geneva on Washington Street.

"I am very happy to be back in Geneva," Simon said. "I look forward to many happy and productive years here."



Charles Simon

J. Zakour

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

### AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

#### FITNESS

##### Aerobics

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

##### Taekardio

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

#### CLASSIFIED

**FOR RENT:** Studio apartment. Furnished, walking distance to NYS Ag Exp Station. Off street parking, good neighborhood. Security deposit required. Available early September. Rent \$290 plus electric. Please contact Nancy Long X2288 or NPL1

**FOR SALE:** 1991 GLASTRON 19' bow rider, Mercruiser 130 hp, Bimini top and covers, at Myers Pt., Ithaca, \$4,500/obo, rad2; x2297 or 607-277-2383

**AKC English Mastiff puppies.** Champ. Bloodline. 2 males and 3 females left. Apricots and fawns with dark black masks. \$1,000 - \$1,200. Ready to go 9/3/03. Taking deposits now. For more information tferrin@pgru.ars.usda.gov or call x2396

**FOR SALE:** 1985 Chevy C20 pickup. Heavy duty 3/4 ton, 350, Auto, power steering, power brakes, AM radio. 52,500 actual miles. No rust - never driven in winter. All ready to tow goose neck or bumper hitch trailers. Asking \$5000, but make me a good offer and ? Contact Judy at x2273, jla2 or 315-946-4953

**FOR SALE:** 2 FERRET CAGES. Large three level cage of heavy welded wire on mobile base \$45. Smaller three level cage of lightweight welded wire \$20. Prices negotiable. Call Dave at x2469 or 315 585 2248

**FOR SALE:** Yard Machine, 5.5HP chipper/shredder. 3 yrs old, used 5 times. \$300.00 or best offer. Contact ell10@cornell.edu

**FOR SALE:** GE 30 inch double oven/stove combination. Lower oven 30 in. & self cleaning upper oven 27 in. Manual cleaning and 4 burner cooktop. Excellent condition. Almond and black. Approx. 10 yrs. old. Not built in. Asking \$425. Contact Pat @ x2414, pm12@cornell.edu or 781-0218

**FOR SALE:** Brand new, 60" round, tempered glass top patio table, neutral trim/base. \$80.00. Call Judy Birkett, 585-526-5840.

**FOR SALE:** 12' Duranautic (by Marathon) northern style jon boat; all welded aluminum. Has two bench style seats and clamp on plastic seats. 14' 2001 Karavan trailer, excellent condition; 2001 Mercury 5 HP outboard very low hours, 1.3 L internal tank, 3 gal. external tank, F-N-R, pull start, short shaft. \$2000 firm. Please email for pictures. jdp23@nysaes.cornell.edu or call x2607 - work, 539-0025 - home



*Making beautiful music together—(from left) Pete Garrett, Paul Zambino, Albert Culbreath, Megan Kennelly, Karen Garrett, Naoyuki Ochiai, Richard Larsen, and Bill Turechek.*

## Pathologists Play Charlotte

This year's annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (APS), held earlier this month in Charlotte, North Carolina, featured something new on the program: live music, compliments of some of the scientists attending the meeting. Three NYSAES plant pathologists, assistant professor Bill Turechek, graduate student Megan Kennelly, and visiting scholar Caspar Eugster, joined a small group of pathologist-musicians from other institutions to perform at the APS conference.

The group played old-time tunes, Irish music and bluegrass for an audience of close to a thousand people, at the opening reception, and then again at a smaller gathering the following night. Kennelly played violin, while Turechek and Eugster played guitar. Other members of the group played banjo, mandolin, flute, recorder, violin, and guitar. The group was so well received that others were inspired to join in with dancing, including two who performed high-intensity Irish dancing and clogging to the delight of the crowd.

"I was amazed at how well we did with very little practice— everything clicked right away. And the other musicians were a joy to play with. The sound system was not great at the big reception on Sunday, but on Monday we played in a smaller room and it sounded really good," said Kennelly, who has been playing the violin since she was nine. Kennelly originally started out playing classical violin in school orchestras, but over the last few years started to play more of an old-time / bluegrass (fiddle) style. "After the reception was officially over the band stuck around and jammed for another couple of hours. It was so much fun we didn't want to quit," Kennelly added.

"I had a really great time," said Turechek, who has been playing the guitar since second grade (when his mom made him take a year of lessons). Turechek says his role was to support the violins, which he thought were quite exciting to listen to. "Some people actually thought that we were professional musicians brought in for the reception," Turechek added with a smile.

The band was the brain-child of Chris Mundt from Oregon State.

*J. Zakour*

## SAES

STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE GENEVA EXPERIMENT STATION

Sages invites everyone to participate in the

**2003  
Volleyball  
Tournament  
September 20, 2003**

No experience nessecary. If you want to join us and have some fun, e-mail Lorenza, lc@nysaes.cornell.edu by September 6.