

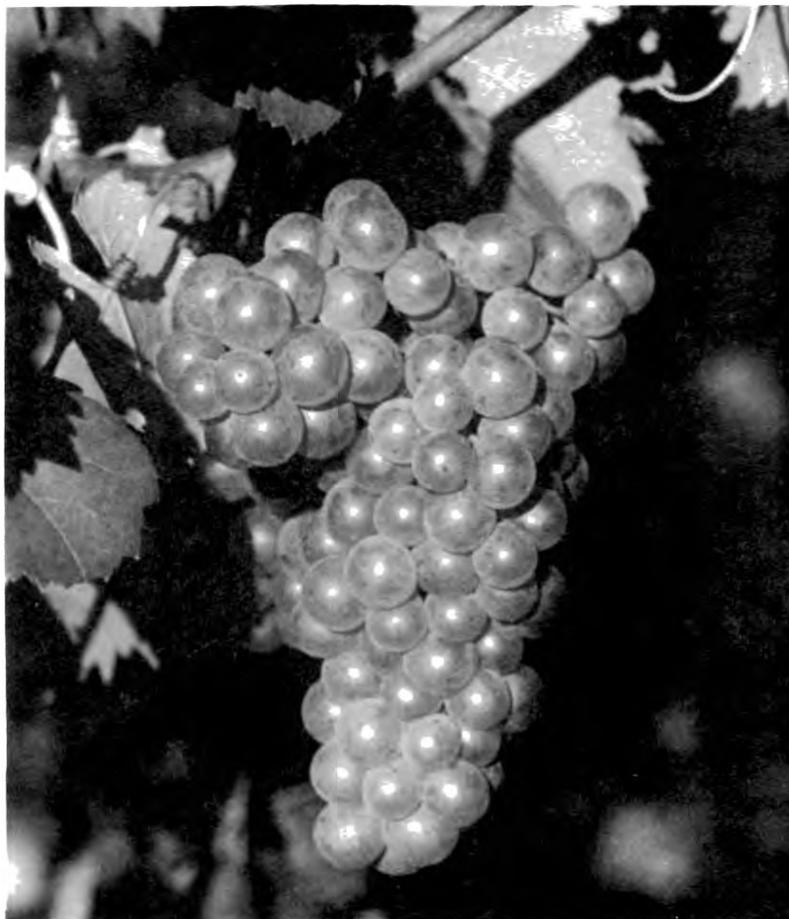


WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23, 1990

STATION NOTES

WINE GRAPE AND APPLE NAMED AT FRUIT TESTING MEETING

A *white wine grape and an apple variety that ripens in early mid-season*



were named at yesterday's New York State Fruit Testing Association meeting held in the Jordan Hall Auditorium.

The new grape is called **Chardonel**. It produces a high quality wine with varietal character. It is very productive and is moderately cold hardy. It is the fourth wine grape variety to be named by the Station. Previous releases were Cayuga White, Horizon, and Melody.

Chardonel resulted from the cross, Seyval x Chardonnay which was made in 1953. The original vine was propagated in 1960 and was known as GW9. At Dresden, NY, Chardonel yields averaged about 5.2 tons per acre over a five-year period. It is more productive in Michigan and Arkansas.

"Considered moderately winter hardy at Geneva, trunk injury can occasionally be a problem," according to Bruce Reisch, horticultural sciences. However, it is hardier than Chardonnay and nearly as winter hardy as its Seyval parent. Trunks of Chardonel are susceptible to damage from low temperatures which may cause trunk splitting or provoke crown gall disease.



Chardonel ripens between October 1 and October 15 in New York and Michigan. "Wines made from the grape are described as pleasant and delicate with light fruitiness, sometimes reminiscent of Chardonnay," stated Bruce. The wine has good body and very little of the flavor characteristics of interspecific hybrid grapes. If harvested at the right time, Chardonel may have potential for sparkling wine production because it retains (Continued on page 2)

(*Wine Grape and Apple, Continued*) a good acid balance during ripening. Wines have been rated good to excellent in taste panels at Geneva.

Chardonnay is moderately susceptible to powdery mildew, downy mildew, and *botrytis* bunch rot. Because the foliage is not susceptible to sulfur injury, powdery mildew can be controlled with sulfur applications.

In New York, Chardonnay is presently recommended only for sites with longer than average growing seasons and where there is moderate cold stress. Under these conditions, it will develop its best fruit quality.

“**Northern Lights** apple is considered to be most useful for home orchards in severely cold regions near the northern limits of apple growing,” said Susan Brown and Roger Way, horticultural sciences. It originated from a Haralson x McIntosh cross made in 1938 at Geneva. Throughout its testing career, it was known as NY17207.

Northern Lights ripens in mid-September. Its flavor is slightly tart, fruity, and considered very good. It is a large apple with 60 to 100 per cent of its skin being a glossy, attractive bright red. The tree is especially resistant to severely cold winter temperatures.

Even though the over-all performance of this selection was good, its performance and fruit quality in New York did not justify its naming. Consequently, it was decided not to name the selection before now. However, it was retained in the Geneva test orchards. Other places in the country were also testing the selection during this period, including North Dakota State University. North Dakota tests showed that the selection was hardy, had good fruit characteristics, and bore annually. Researchers from North Dakota felt NY17207 was a good selection for home use, and they urged the Geneva apple breeders to name it.

Consequently, Northern Lights is being released cooperatively by the Geneva Experiment Station and North Dakota State University.

The variety ripens at the same time as McIntosh, or late September at Geneva. It should be sold soon after harvest since it is not intended for use as a long storage variety.

Trees of Northern Lights bloom in midseason and can serve as a pollen source for other varieties that also bloom at this time. This includes varieties such as Delicious, Cortland, Jonathan, Macoun, Mutsu, and Jonagold.

Although Northern Lights is recommended for home garden orchards in very cold regions, it may prove useful for large commercial pick-your-own orchards.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 25, 10:00 am
Staff Room, Jordan Hall
Inventory Workshop for Administrative Managers and those involved with inventory

Tuesday, September 25, 6:30 pm
Staff Room, Jordan Hall
English as a Second Language

Thursday, September 27, 3:30 pm
Plant Pathology Conference Room, Barton Lab
Geneva Department Chairs' Meeting

Thursday, September 27, 6:30 pm
Staff Room, Jordan Hall
English as a Second Language

SEMINARS

FOOD SCIENCE

Date: Friday, September 28
Time: 10:30 am
Place: Food Science Conference Room
Speaker: Don Splittstoesser
Topic: Fruit and Vegetable Processing Research in India

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE MEETING SET

Mrs. Mary Anne DeMartino, the Cornell Student Health Insurance Representative, will present a seminar to all Geneva graduate students and staff on Monday, October 1, at 8:30 a.m. in the Staff Room, Jordan Hall. She will discuss how a Geneva graduate student should use his/her health insurance while residing in Geneva and unable to get medical assistance from the Gannett Health Center in Ithaca. Mrs. DeMartino will be available after the seminar to answer any questions.

THREE EMPLOYEES RETIRE AT END OF MONTH

Mike Fleming, Buildings and Properties; Richard Melious, Horticultural Sciences; and Gerry Gibbs, Field Research Unit are retiring September 30. The three have a combined service record of 77 years with the Station.



Mike Fleming

Mike Fleming began his 20 years at the Station with Buildings and Properties as a painter working for Joe Pettrone. He next moved to the carpenter shop in B&P, and from there went to Administration as a custodian under Rocco Polimeni. He eventually became Foreman of the Station's custodial crew.

Mike was born in Geneva in 1924, is a graduate of Geneva High School, and served with the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He and his wife, Christine, are the parents of a daughter, Carol Anne.

Mike says that "It has been a real pleasure working here. I have enjoyed my last 20 years at the Station. During this time I met and became friends with a lot of people. These people were interesting, each in their own way. I hope the Station has a long and happy future."

Richard Melious is retiring after 22 years of service. Dick was previously affiliated with the old Pomology and Viticulture department before the reorganization. He first worked with John C. Cain on nutritional analysis, worked for a short



Richard Melious

time with Jim Cummins and Walt Kender, and then went on to work with Bob Musselman on air pollution studies and Phil Forsline on cold hardiness of grapes and apples. His most recent assignment has been with Alan Lakso studying the physiology of apples and grapes.

Dick was born in Gorham in 1925, attended Syracuse University, and was assigned to an Army Mash Unit during the Korean conflict. He and his wife, Mary, have two daughters—Anne and Jean. He is a member of the Geneva American Legion and the Gorham VFW. About his plans for retirement he says, "I want to enjoy myself, and would like to travel."

The thing Dick liked the most about working here was the interesting people he met and worked with.

The third retiree is Gerry Gibbs. Gerry was born in Albion, N.Y. in 1929, and moved to Phelps in 1956 when he began work at the Station. He and his wife, Barbara, have five children: Patty (who works in Computer Services at the Station); and two sets of twins—Roger and Larry, and (Continued on page 4)



Gerry Gibbs

(*Retirees, cont.*) Marc and Marsha. He served with the Army in Korea, has been a member of the Clifton Springs YMCA Board of Directors for 10 years (president for two), and is involved with youth baseball.

Gerry started out at the Station in Vegetable Crops working on The Bitter Carrot Project with John Atkin. He worked on the College Irrigation Committee with M.T. Vittum, and then moved on to the Seed Laboratory where he worked with Leroy Nittler. For the past 25 years he has managed the Vegetable Research Farm and the Weather Station. He worked again with Dr. Vittum for part of that time. (Readers may recall the very nice article about Gerry's work at the Weather Station that appeared in the *Finger Lakes Times* this past February.)

Gerry's plans for retirement are to do some woodworking and to talk to the dog. He added that "when the dog starts talking back, it's time to get out of the house."

He feels the biggest change he has witnessed during his nearly 35 years at the Station is the number of new buildings that have gone up. Also looking back, Gerry says the person whom he most admires is Dr. M.T. Vittum. "He was the best boss a guy could have, a real human being."

Joe Ogradnick

STATION PEOPLE HAVE NOW WORKED

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DAYS WITHOUT A LOST TIME ACCIDENT

STATION SETS DEER HUNTING POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES

Station employees only, selected by a lottery system, will be allowed to hunt deer this year on selected Station farms with bow and arrow from October 15-November 18 and December 12-December 16.

The ground rules are these: Hunting will be allowed only before 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Regular hunting hours will be allowed on Saturdays and Sundays.

If you wish to use a tree stand, it must be portable. Individuals must register their name and a copy of their license number and bow stamp number in Pat Krauss' office. All names will be placed in a hat, and 21 names will be pulled from the hat at 2 p.m. in Pat's office on Thursday, October 11, 1990.

An experienced panel has determined how many individuals can hunt on what Station farms. You will be given the opportunity to select your hunting area in the order that your name is pulled from the hat. Once you select an area, that is where you must stay for the season.

All individuals selected must sign a waiver of disclaimer absolving the Station and Cornell University of any responsibility in case of an injury or accident. Also, employees chosen will be shown farm boundaries by Ray Mallaber if they wish. Finally, each person will be given a Station permit that has recorded your name, bow stamp number, and site selected. You must carry this with you any time you are hunting.

Farms involved and the number of bow hunters that will be allowed on each are: Childs—1, South Crittenden—1, Smith—1, Fruit and Vegetable Research—8, Lucey—2, Robbins—1, Darrow A—2, and Wellington—5.

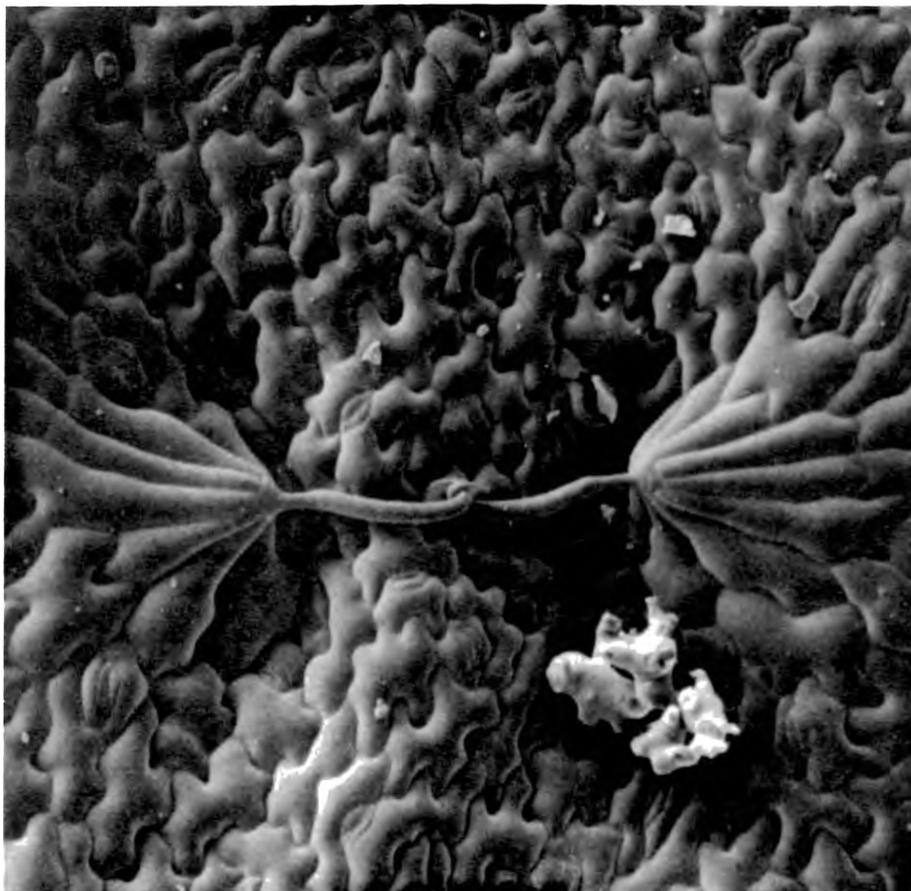
If interested in this organized deer harvest for bow hunters, please send your name and a copy of your license and bow stamp to Pat Krauss, Jordan Hall, not later than 1:59 p.m. on Thursday, October 11, 1990.

PRIZE WINNING PHOTO HAS STATION CONNECTION

A serendipitous observation that occurred during a joint research project involving Station scientists and scientists at the Electron Microscopy Laboratory at Beltsville, Maryland has resulted in a first prize in Polaroid's International Instant Photomicrography Competition.

Eric Erbe, ARS-USDA, was recently informed by Polaroid Corporation that his scanning electron micrograph had won first place for the best electron micrograph in Polaroid's International Instant Photomicrography Competition. It will be included in Polaroid's exhibit at Photokina this year. Photokina is the world's largest photographic trade show, and is held every other year during October, in Cologne, West Germany.

The winning entry illustrates two hooked trichomes (leaf hairs) interlocked at their tips. According to Harvey Hoch, Plant Pathology, the observation was made simultaneously by all four members of the research team while examining bean leaves that had been inoculated with spores of the bean rust fungus *Uromyces appendiculatus*. The team included himself and Eric Allen (a postdoc at the time in



Harvey's lab); Dr. William P. Wergin, Research Leader of the Electron Microscopy Laboratory at Beltsville; and Eric Erbe also of the Beltsville Laboratory.

The plant tissue was maintained in its natural state by a cryo-preservation technique which quickly freezes the specimen, thus avoiding the mechanical manipulations and chemical artifacts associated with conventional preparation procedures.

The photograph shown here in *Station Notes* also appeared in the most recent issue of *Science* Vol. 249.

Joe Ogradnick

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the



STATION CLUB BANQUET



Friday, October 26



OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Once again it's time for the GEC to solicit nominations for the Station's Outstanding Employee. This award is given twice each year to a Station employee, at the Station Club Picnic in July and at the Club's November banquet. Because the fall banquet is early this year (October 26), it's imperative that we get the ball rolling. Keep in mind that the GEC only sponsors this effort to locate and applaud a deserving individual. But it is you, the co-worker, who nominates, supports and selects the fellow employee who receives this special recognition.

Any regular full-time or regular part-time Station employee is eligible to receive this award. But we can't give this award by simply pulling a name out of a hat; we need to have a pool of candidates from which a volunteer panel of co-workers can select the awardee.

1. Friday, September 28: A fellow worker (a nominator) must submit the name of nominator and his/her candidate to the GEC Nominations and Elections Committee. (A note or phone call to Dale Frankish, FRU [x296 or Veg. Res. Farm 789-3689] or Steve Spangler, ENT [x341] is sufficient.)
2. A listing of all nominators and their candidates will be published in *Station Notes* issue for the week of October 7. *Station Notes* will ask you to give written comments supporting a candidate to his/her nominator.
3. On Friday, October 12 each nominator must collate all supporting materials (letters, etc.) for his/her candidate and forward the documentation to the GEC Nominations and Elections Committee.
4. On Wednesday, October 17, the documentation will be evaluated by a volunteer panel of employees not currently on the GEC.
5. On Friday, October 26, the Fall Outstanding Employee will be announced at the Station Club banquet.

Note: The selection panel will automatically consider the documentation packages for the summer 1990 candidates, so that the recent hard work of their nominators is not repeated. Nominators are free to submit any new supporting materials for these *summer 1991* candidates to the panel.

Volunteers: Please consider representing your department in the selection process by volunteering for the Outstanding Employee selection panel.

Book Sale - Craft Show Set for November 10

One of the area's most popular and impressive pre-Christmas craft shows, with a book sale as an added attraction, will be held in the Jordan Hall auditorium Saturday, November 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The main purpose of the show and sale is to raise funds for the Station Library. Those wishing to donate books to the sale will receive one book for every three donated. Contact any member of the library staff to donate. Station craftspeople interested in selling handmade crafts still have time to reserve table space by contacting Mary Lou Dumbleton at x212.

This is a great opportunity to pick up some special gift items, and help the Station Library at the same time. Mark your calendar for November 10.

TENNIS LADDER

Matches played 9/20-9/26: Larsson def. D. Roelofs

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|-----------------|------|-----|
| Ken Bell | B&P | 325 |
| Ed Lavin | FST | 240 |
| Wendell Roelofs | ENT | 361 |
| Pim Larsson | FST | 338 |
| Tony Shelton | ENT | 352 |
| Curt Petzoldt | IPM | 206 |
| Donna Roelofs | ENT | 325 |
| Jiang Lu | HS | 245 |
| Ed Woodams | FST | 265 |
| Alan Lakso | HS | 399 |
| Jim Cummins | HS | 233 |
| Eunwoo Park | PP | 366 |
| Jim McFerson | PGRU | 393 |
| James Favier | FST | 264 |
| Howard Marks | FST | 274 |
| Charlie Linn | ENT | 361 |
| George Abawi | PP | 374 |

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: Station Club hats (\$6.00) and T-shirts (\$7.00) are still available and can be purchased in the Bulletin Room, Jordan Hall.

FOR SALE: 1987 Chevy 1/2 ton pickup. V8, E.F.I., auto., Ziebarted, running boards, AM/FM, 35,000 miles. Excellent condition. Call Bruce at x250 or 789-5368 after 5:00 pm.

WANTED: Used lacrosse helmet in good condition. Call Audrey at x282.

HOME WANTED: Nice one-year-old female short-haired tabby cat needs a new home. Has been spayed and has had shots. Call Cynthia Massey at 789-7739.