

WEEK of MAY 29, 1994

STATION NOTES

CALENDAR of EVENTS



Monday, May 30, All Day

Memorial Day

Station closed—Have a safe day!

Wednesday, June 1, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe

Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

Friday, June 3, 8:30 am

Staff Room, Jordan Hall

Worker Protection Standard Training for Handlers

Friday, June 3, 12:10 pm

Sawdust Cafe

Aerobics/Fitness class for all employees

SEMINAR

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY GROUP

Date: Tuesday, May 31

Time: 10:30 am

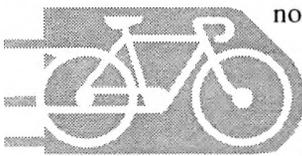
Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall

Speaker: Alvaro Gaitan

Topic: Searching Genbank and Primer Design

STORING OF BICYCLES

It is that time of the year again when a large number of bicycles appear on campus. Just as a reminder, they should not be left inside buildings but should be kept in the special bicycle racks that are located outside each building. Your cooperation on this matter will be greatly appreciated.



HAVE BUGS WILL TRAVEL

Entomologists at the Geneva Experiment Station are taking bugs out of the laboratories and putting them into the hands of elementary school children in the Geneva public schools. So far this spring, live honey bees, tobacco hornworms, nematodes, cabbage loopers, apple maggots, and Japanese beetle grubs have made the trip and most have lived to tell the tale.



Nancy Conolie helps second grade student at North Street School hold a tobacco worm.

Educating the typical “bug swatter” or “insect stomper” about environmental and ecological issues is no small task. And teaching the children an appreciation for the beneficial aspect of insects is only one of the lessons Jan Nyrop, Art Agnello, Mike Villani, and research assistants from Villani’s lab hope to impart. This spring, Villani and his research team are spending one-and-a-quarter hours a week for five weeks with second graders, and two-and-one-half hours a week for nine weeks with fifth graders in the North Street School. In May, Nyrop and Agnello presented a series of half-hour enrichment activities that centered around elementary insect biology, lifestyles, pest/benefit status and revolved around both pinned and live specimens to third and fourth graders and special ed students in North Street and West Street schools. Nyrop ran a special three-week project with third graders at North Street.

“If the kids didn’t enjoy it, we wouldn’t do it,” says Villani. “We get them thinking about insects. We also try to show them that education can be interesting and fun. They see that science is exciting work and that it is something both men and women do equally. The reason our approach works is that it is really a team effort. Everybody in my lab is involved in planning and carrying out the activities with the class.”

The seven members of Villani’s lab team include Nancy Consolie, Luann Preston-Wilsey, Wendy Heusler, Steve Hitchcock, Paul Robbins, Robert Jarecke, and Linda Ferguson-Kolmes.

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Jessica Sharp watches a tobacco hornworm crawling on a tulip she collected.

In the second grade, Villani's team concentrates on wowing the kids with a highly interactive, hands-on approach to "hexapoda." In the fifth grade, the team teaches the children more about the scientific method, hypotheses, data, and how to run an experiment.

The first week, the team took honey bees to class. Breaking up into five groups of five children and one entomologist each, the children observed live bees under the microscope, saw stingers and pollen sacs, and learned about the bees' role in pollination.

The second week, the team took in tobacco hornworms—big, hairy, two-and-one-half inch caterpillars that the children were able to hold. The class took a mini field trip to the school courtyard to collect various plant materials to feed the hornworms. Over the next 24 hours, they were asked to observe which plants the hornworms preferred.

In addition to bringing their enthusiasm for science and being good role models, the entomologists also expose the kids to technologies not readily available in the public school system. With the high-magnification microscope attached to a video camera which they brought with them from the Experiment Station, Paul Robbins magnified the hornworm 60 times to show the class the hornworm's pulsating dorsal aorta. "The hornworm doesn't have one heart like we do," he explained, as the yellow aorta pulsed on the overhead television.

This week, the team helped the class set up Japanese beetle terraria using two-liter Coke bottles and Japanese beetle grubs that had been artificially reared in Villani's lab. In two weeks, the Japanese beetles will pupate, crawl out of the soil, and begin to feed on plant material, affording the kids a fun, hands-on science activity that they have built, observed, and managed themselves.

"Villani and his team enhance our CIMS (Comprehensive Instructional Management Systems) Science Program just phenomenally," said Mrs. Christine Farrington, a second-grade teacher who has been teaching at North Street for three years. "The kids' observation and language skills are improving tremendously. All the activities are very high-interest."

On Friday, May 20, Art Agnello and Jan Nyrop presented the first of four half-hour mini-courses in insect biology to a group of rapt third and fourth graders and special ed students. Props include cases of pinned insects, a wooden fish, a silk tie, a huge hypodermic needle, a picture of a European red mite, a box of compost teeming with microscopic animals, and an alphabet poster whose letters were made from naturally-occurring designs on butterfly wings. The teaching method included pointer-and-flip-chart, question-and-answer, student participation, and a Calvin and Hobbes skit.



Jan Nyrop shows fourth graders at North Street School insects in some of his compost.

Dressed in bug T-shirts and jeans, the two entomologists made a lively effort to raise the students' awareness about a world where three-quarters of all animals are insects. In quick succession, the kids learned that all insects have six legs, four wings, three body parts, and an exoskeleton. That people have only been on the earth 100,000 years whereas cockroaches and beetles have been here millions of year. That there are over one million species of named insects and another five or six million species that are not yet named. That in a world without insects, we wouldn't have fruits, vegetables, chocolate, tea, linen, vanilla, coffee, silk, cotton, colas, or food for higher animals. And—the most important lesson of all—that only one out of 100 insects can possibly harm you. Agnello reassured the kids that it is an insect's exoskeleton which prevents it from getting really big— "like those monster insects you see in TV movies"—because an exoskeleton larger than four inches "can't possibly hold an insect's insides together."

"I'm convinced that environmental attitudes are set early in life," said Nyrop, between sessions. "It's important to create an appreciation for science and insects early."

SPIT SURVEY DATA COMPILED

Members of the SPIT committee thought it might interest Station staff who responded to the information technologies survey, what data we got from your responses and how these might be profitably used.

There were 144 respondents. Of these, 94% use QuickMail, 69% use BearAccess, 59% use the Mann Library Gateway, 54% use the Internet (Gopher, WWW, FTP, Telnet etc.), and 31% use CENET.

The "Future Needs" section garnered 35% who would like to see better video-conferencing capabilities at Geneva, with 18% asking for easier access to satellite down link capabilities; 19% wanted voice mail.

Computer/software skill levels were 18% advanced, 66% basic, 15% novice, and 1% with no skills whatsoever.

We now have clear data on the number of people who feel they need an upgrade to their computer system (34%), and can see hardware patterns which will help us to formulate minimum computer/monitor platform guidelines for the Station. Platforms needing upgrade clustered around the following computers: Macintosh IIsi, Macintosh LC & LCIII, Mac Plus, 386 PCs, Macintosh SE & SE/30. We can also analyze from the data gathered the RAM and storage capabilities, or lack thereof, of systems needing an upgrade. Clear trends stand out.

One of the key issues for institutions like NYSAES concerning information technologies is how to save money on software costs by networking via site licensing agreements. If everyone using popular software at the Station got their "packet" from a single networked source, with no loss of functionality, this would greatly enhance our ability to communicate electronically across platforms since everyone at NYSAES would have the same iteration of software. The time and effort saved in the Computer Center alone would be phenomenal.

The ten most widely used software at Geneva are: WORD, EXCEL, APPLSHARE, AFTER DARK, CRICKET GRAPH, FILEMAKER, POWERPOINT, ENDNOTE PLUS, MACDRAW PRO, NORTON UTILITIES. We have already begun looking into site licensing agreements to these softwares.

The survey also gave us clear data on where the highest needs are for training and instruction. This will be invaluable to the Library, the Computer Center and other NYSAES bodies interested in creating useful information technology workshops. We can even tailor certain workshops (basic/advanced) by contacting respondents directly.

The comments section, to which 67% of the respondents had something to say, has proved very informative. From these responses we will be able to better understand what the Station's needs are as you have described them, and how we might better communicate emerging technology trends to the Station as a whole. At any event, the survey data will be analyzed more fully and other trends and recommendations will undoubtedly be extracted in the coming weeks.

Finally, one idea which we believe has merit, is writing a concise weekly (monthly?) column in *Station Notes* about interesting trends in computers, software and networking infrastructures. We'll keep you posted!

Peter MacDonald

FRUIT TESTING SALE A SUCCESS



Helen VanArsdale helps a customer identify her selection.

The Fruit Testing Nursery wishes to thank everyone at the Station who contributed to a very successful "End of the Season" Sale last Friday, May 20. Special thanks to those who worked with us in the Cellar, as well as to all of you who fielded calls and inquiries about the sale. We deeply appreciate your spirit of cooperation.

NEW JERSEY RECRUITING GRADUATES

Students and graduates from any college or university who plan to work in New Jersey are invited to participate in the New Jersey Collegiate Career Day from 9:30 am-4:00 pm on Friday, June 3. The event, which is the largest college recruitment program in the state, brings together New Jersey companies with college students and graduates wishing to work in New Jersey. Dress for success and bring plenty of resumes. No fee will be charged. The event will be held at Brower Commons and Rutgers Student Center at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. For more information, call Cherie Hibbard at x203.

SOFTBALL SEASON BEGINS

Tuesday, May 31, starts another exciting Station Softball Season. It's not too late to sign up if you would like to play. Everyone at the Station, as well as direct family members, is welcome to participate, and everyone who joins a team and shows up for the games will get a chance to play. Games are played every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Start times are 6:15 pm with a time limit of 6:30 pm before a forfeit takes place. Contact one of the following team captains to participate:

Commissioner	Ed Bailey (x301)
Buildings and Properties	Dave Lasher (x220)
Entomology	Doug Knipple (x363)
Germplasm Resources	Phil Forsline (x390)
Horticultural Sciences	Steve King (x222)
Plant Pathology	Brian Terhune (x332)
Xtras	Ed Woodams (x265)

This week's schedule:

Tuesday, May 31	PP vs. GR
Wednesday, June 1	HS vs. ENT
Thursday, June 2	XT vs. BP



STATION CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

Don't forget to sign up for the Annual Station Club Golf Tournament to be held Friday, June 10 at the Big Oak Country Club. Get your five-person team together and **turn in your form by Friday, June 3**, to Tim Thibault in the Heating Plant. Sign-up forms are available by calling Communications Services at x248.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: 1984 6hp, Troybilt rototiller, good condition. \$700 or best offer. Call Elaine at x253.

FOR RENT: 3-BR house near HWS Colleges. Completely furnished, wooded neighborhood. Nominal house-sitting responsibilities. Available mid-August through February. \$500/mo. plus util. No pets, please. Call Art at x341 or 789-3552.

BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT: June and September openings. Beautiful setting, quiet & peaceful – located on the southwest side of Canandaigua Lake. Interior (1000 sq. ft.) is a light, airy, contemporary design with sky light, wooden beams, vaulted ceiling, and fireplace. Living area features a kitchen/dining area, full bathroom, master bedroom and living room. Living room is fully carpeted and includes, among other furniture, two couches, fold-out futon (sleeps two), telephone, color TV (for VCR). Kitchen equipped with refrigerator, dishwasher, stove/oven, microwave, and cooking/eating utensils. Linens and towels included. Fully heated. Gas grill also included. Very nice beach area, suitable for children. Renting from May through October – consider the option of an autumn rental, when the Finger Lakes foliage is at its height. Fifty minutes from Geneva; 25 minutes from Canandaigua; 15 minutes from Naples. Interested? Call Elaine at x253.