

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY

## STATION News

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FEBRUARY 7 - 14, 2003

## BRIEFS

## A Special Thank You

With all of the strict regulations on what allows individuals to become potential donors in this day and age, it amazes me that we are able to do so, but once again we were able to meet our goal at Monday's Blood Drive. In fact, we exceeded our goal—we actually donated 37 units (goal was 35)! We had 42 possible donors, 5 of which had to be deferred for one reason or another. And



Over the top: A smiling Donna Roelofs holds the results of Monday's blood drive.

there was one first-time donor. You should all be commended for your efforts. We have once again done our part in contributing to community efforts and continue to make the Red Cross very happy. Lastly, but definitely not least, I would like to extend a very special thank you to Terry Acree for your very motivating e-mail yesterday afternoon. It

(Continued on page 2)

## New York Farmers Brace for an Invasion of the Swede Midge, a Little Fly That Could Cause Extensive Crop Damage

A tiny, voracious fly called the swede midge, which already has eaten its way across eastern Canada's cabbage and broccoli fields, now is threatening to descend on crops in states along the northern U.S. border.

On Feb. 11, an educational session on the swede midge will be held for registered growers at the 2003 New York State Vegetable Conference in Liverpool, N.Y. It will be presented by Julie Kikkert, senior extension educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), Christy Hoepting, an educator with CCE, and Kristen Callow, of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Canada.

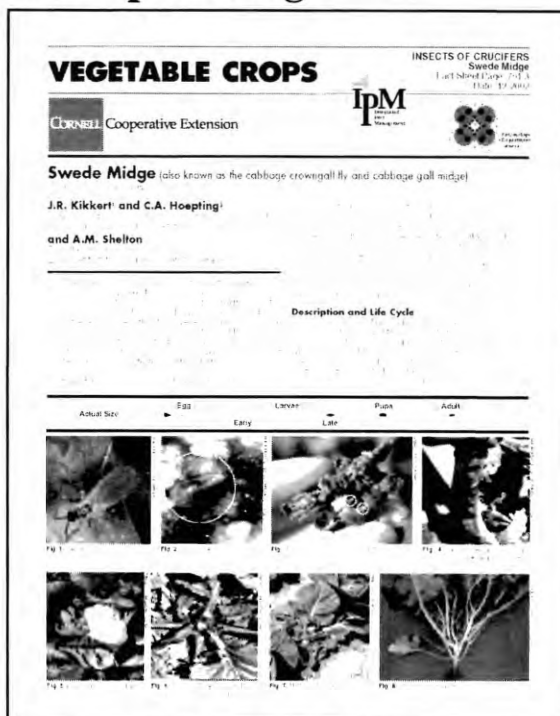
Cornell University agricultural scientists and extension educators are working to keep New York state brassica vegetable crops, including cabbages, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower, free from the midge. They are trying to fend off an invasion by scouting for the insect and educating farmers to recognize damage.

Although the fly is hardly detectable to the naked eye, it could decimate vegetable fields in New York state, which leads the country in cabbage production with an \$87 million crop annually. The state also has a \$6 million annual production of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage and related crops.

"Because of the growth in international commerce, insects and diseases move around more freely than ever before. The midge has been a major pest in Europe, it has been found in Canada, and most likely over time we'll find it in the United States, if it is not already present," says Tony Shelton, professor of entomology at the Experiment Station.

Larvae of the swede midge (*Contarinia nasturtii*) feed on and destroy the growing tips of cruciferous plants, which include brassica vegetables. The fly had not been detected in North America before 2001, although Ontario farmers began noticing heavy losses—as much as 85 percent of their broccoli crop—as far back as 1994. Mistakenly, the losses were blamed on deficiencies in soil nutrients. In 2001, University of Guelph researchers surveyed a large number of crucifer fields in Ontario and Quebec by mailing yellow sticky

(Continued on page 2)



The new fact sheet on "Swede Midge."

(BRIEFS, continued)

made a huge difference. Thanks also must be extended to Jeff Rios, who was our EMT yesterday and Lenny Graves, who has been EMT at prior drives. We couldn't do this without either of you. Thanks to all of you!

Donna Roelofs

### WOW! What a nice party!

If you couldn't make it, you missed a good one.

Thank you to all who participated. The notes, the jokes, the cards, the gifts.....it was all great. Thanks again.

Barry Smith

### A BIG Thank You

It was a wonderful retirement party! Thanks to everyone for making it such fun.

Jay Pollino

### PBS Tape Available

A videotape of the PBS show, "Secrets of the Sequence," including the 10-minute segment "Apple a Day," featuring Phil Forsline and Gennaro Fazio [as reported in the Jan. 3-10 issue of *Station News*] is now available at the Frank A. Lee Library. The television news show about genetics was broadcast the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at PBS affiliates in Watertown, and elsewhere.

### Upcoming Cornell University Fruit Schools

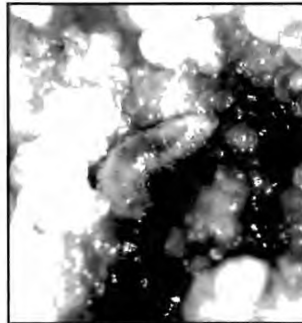
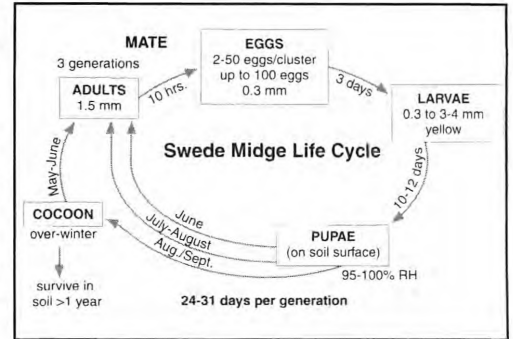
Cornell University will be hosting a one day in-depth fruit school on apple mineral nutrition on March 25 in Ballston Spa, NY, and again on March 27 in Albion, NY. The workshops are intended to provide growers and consultants with the latest research information on mineral nutrition and fertilization practices on apples. Dr. Bill Bramlage from the University of Massachusetts will deliver a keynote address on the relationship between postharvest fruit quality and apple tree nutrition. Other speakers on the program from Cornell include Lailiang Cheng, Terence Robinson, Jim Schupp, Chris Watkins, Ian Merwin, Alan Lakso, Dave Rosenberger and Steve Hoying.

For more information, contact Cheng at 607-255-1779, or email her at lc89@cornell.edu

(SNOW, continued)

cards to growers. When growers returned the cards, university scientists were able to confirm the presence of the midge.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says the presence of swede midge in Canada could have a significant impact on exports of brassica vegetables. In Canada brassica vegetable exports were worth \$22.7 million Canadian (\$14.98 million U.S.) in 2001, and the commercial value was estimated at \$118.2 million Canadian (\$78.02 million U.S.).



Larva of swede midge.



Swede midge adult.

Hoepting, Kikkert and Shelton have presented nine informational sessions in New York State to more than 200 growers, research faculty, industry representatives and inspectors from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. In addition, the educators' articles have been published in trade newsletters, and they are sending a fact sheet to all crucifer growers in New York.

Swede midge adult flies are about 1.5 to 2 millimeters long. In the spring, flies emerge from the pupae, mate and typically lay their eggs in clusters on the growing point of the plant. After a few days, the larvae hatch from the eggs and begin to feed near the growing point. Full-grown larvae fall to the ground and burrow into the soil to pupate. Kikkert says that some over-wintering pupae can survive in the soil for more than a year. Canadian scientists have found that there are three or four overlapping generations throughout the summer months.

Kikkert is gearing up for an entomological war. "We want to protect the \$93 million worth of state crops from the swede midge. We're lucky to have had a heads-up on this pest from our Canadian colleagues," she says. "Our survey and farmer-education program will help ensure that it won't go undetected or unknowingly spread throughout the state. At the same time, it is critical that we develop strategies through research to manage this pest when it does arrive."

A fact sheet about the swede midge written by Kikkert, Hoepting and Shelton will be available from IPM by early next week.

The web version of this release may be found at <http://www.news.cornell.edu/releases/Feb03/SwedeMidge.bpf.html>

B. Friedlander



Broccoli tip infested by larvae.

Adult and larva photos by K. Schrameyer. Broccoli tip photo by H. Fraser.



## Chinese New Year Celebrated at the Station

On January 31, Chinese employees at the Station, the local Chinese community and other multi-cultural families celebrated the Chinese New Year's Eve in the Sawdust Café. Other people interested in Chinese food and culture also joined the celebration, including two students from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. More than 50 people attended.

The group had a potluck dinner from 6-8:30 pm. In addition to all the wonderful food people had brought from home, the group enjoyed Beijing duck, spring rolls, deep-fried tofu balls, stir fried bokchoy hearts, and bean sprout salad, which were all from Yongtai Chinese restaurant. Boiled and steamed dumplings made with different fillings were provided from a pre-party get-together from 4:30-6 pm. Some dumplings were filled with candy. Children in the party who received the candy dumplings were also given a yellow seed package with \$1 as a new year's gift. It is a Chinese tradition to give envelopes with money in them, especially to children or newlyweds.

During the gathering, people introduced themselves and made their New Year's wish. After the gathering, some people stayed to watch the Chinese New Year Celebration Program tapes, which were nationally broadcast live in China (Beijing time). Another group went bowling, and, the next day, some people went skiing at Bristol Mountain.

Chinese New Year is determined by the lunar calendar, so festivities begin with the new cycle of the moon that falls between January 21 and February 19. Each year is named for one of 12 symbolic animals in sequence, and this year's symbolic animal is the Goat (sheep, ram).

*Yanxin Gao*

## 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)



## Station Club BOWLING PARTY March 1, 2003

*MURDER  
at the  
MARDI GRAS  
2003*

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS OF THE  
FINGER LAKES PRESENTS

## MURDER AT THE MARDI GRAS DINNER THEATRE

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2003

RAMADA INN, GENEVA  
6:30 PM-HORS D'OEUVRES  
7:00 PM-DINNER

\$50/PERSON PRE SALE  
\$55/PERSON AT THE DOOR

Don't miss the costume awards, silent auction, live music and dancing.

**QUESTIONS?**

315-789-1522 or 315-568-9436

This event is sponsored by Sessler Wrecking, Inc.

For tickets, contact Betsy Bihn at x2625 or eab38



## CALENDAR of EVENTS

FEB. 7 - 14, 2003

## SEMINARS

## FOOD SCIENCE

**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2003  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Place:** FST Conference Rm., Second Floor  
**Subject:** Development of Bioassays Using Ganglioside-Liposomes for Detection of Biological Toxins  
**Speaker:** Soohyoun Ahn, Ph.D candidate, Geneva

## ENTOMOLOGY

**Date:** Thursday, February 13 2003  
**Time:** 10:30 AM (coffee at 10:15)  
**Place:** Rm.310, Barton Laboratory  
**Subject:** Managing the Colorado Potato Beetle: Integrating Insecticide Resistance Management and IPM  
**Speaker:** Dr. Edward Grafius, Michigan State University

## HORT SCIENCE

**Date:** Monday, February 17, 2003  
**Time:** 11 AM  
**Place:** Jordan Hall Staff Room  
**Subject:** Cooperatives—many uses and limitations  
**Speaker:** Dr. Christopher Gunn, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva

## LTC

Welcome back, Jane!

## 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

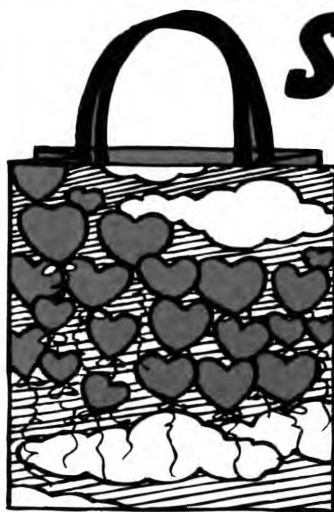
## CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE:** Golf clubs. Tommy Armour 845s. Silver Scots, 2 thru Sand Wedge. Steel shafts, regular flex. Winn grips. Good condition. \$100. Contact Donna at x2492 or dbm62.

**FOR SALE:** 1971 Snowmobile. Arctic Cat Puma, 440cc, excellent shape, runs well, stored inside. Contact George at x2618.

**FOR RENT:** Two bedroom apartment on North Main Street is available. Partially furnished. Preferably non-smokers and no pets. Call 315-789-7239 after 7:00 PM or e-mail kw22@cornell.edu

**FOR RENT:** Large 1 bedroom apartment, walking distance from Station. \$500/month plus electric. Security deposit required. Contact dbc10 or 781-1808.



## SWEETHEART OF A DEAL

The 2003 Station Club Membership Drive has begun! This year we are featuring two chances to win coveted Station Club merchandise. The Early Bird Raffle will be held on Valentine's Day and will feature our RED clothing. We will raffle off one sweatshirt, one t-shirt and one golf shirt. You must purchase your membership by noon on Friday, February 14, to be eligible for this drawing. Another drawing will be held on Monday, March 3, for all who signed up during the membership drive. Winners from the first raffle will still be eligible for the second raffle.

The cost to join is \$8 for a family membership and \$5 for a single membership. Retirees and grad students receive a \$1 discount. Members receive discounts on Station Club events such as the banquet, golf tournament, summer picnic, bowling party. T-shirts, sweatshirts, fleece jackets, golf shirts, hats, book bags and aprons are also discounted when you are a member. Profits received from merchandise sales go back to the employees by sponsoring the above events and making purchases for employees.

Your membership fees also support the bike/walk to work week, the outstanding employee-of-the-year award, blood drives, earth day clean-up, children's holiday party, the fine art exhibit, and station softball.

Contact your Station Club representative today to obtain your membership.

*garden*scape  
 2003  
*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.

**Highlights:** 'Through the Garden Gate' is the theme this year. More than 20 landscaped gardens, 80 vendors and displays. Children can learn and enjoy in the interactive children's garden, designed and constructed by certified nursery professionals.

**Seminars:** Daily, 5 shows, hourly, beginning at 11 AM, and on Sunday only, beginning at 10:30 AM.

**Headliners:** Thursday: Dr. Steven Still, Professor of Landscape Horticulture, Executive Director of Perennial Plant Association, photographer and author.

Friday: Colston Burrell, garden designer, photographer, naturalist, and award winning author.

Saturday: Rosalind Creasy, garden and food writer, photographer, and landscape designer.

Sunday: Kurt Bloemel, founder of the "ornamental grass movement," nursery owner and landscape designer.

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.