



WEEK of FEBRUARY 21, 1993

STATION NOTES

JAMES N. CUMMINS—ROOTSTOCK BREEDER RETIRES

Dr. James N. Cummins, professor of pomology and world authority on fruit tree rootstocks, has retired from the Geneva Station.

Jim has been at the Station for 25 years conducting research on rootstocks for apples, cherries, peaches, plums, and pears; on interaction between viruses and fruit trees; and on nursery and propagation techniques. With Dr. Herb Aldwinckle, department of plant pathology, he has been developing disease-resistant apple rootstocks through breeding, selection, and orchard testing. This program is the largest of its kind in the world. He was granted the rank of professor emeritus upon his retirement and will continue his research program on rootstocks, although at a reduced level, for a period of time until a suitable replacement can be found.

During his career at the Station, Jim developed a program on fruit tree rootstocks that includes introducing multiple disease resistance, tree-size control, tolerance of climatic extremes, ease of propagation, and induction of increased productivity in the variety that will be propagated onto the rootstock. Hundreds of thousands of potentially new rootstocks have been tested by Jim and his colleagues over the years.

Within the past year, the first official introduction of a new rootstock resulting from this program (Geneva 65) was released for commercial use. This rootstock, which results in a very small "dwarf" tree, is resistant to four diseases—bacterial fire blight, crown rot, scab, and mildew. Additional rootstocks are scheduled to be released within the next several years resulting from this program. Until now, virtually all rootstocks used in this country originated in Europe and serious problems have been encountered.

Although research is Jim's major emphasis, he has also contributed to the teaching program on the Ithaca campus of Cornell University by teaching nursery management and serving as a contributing lecturer in courses offered on orchard management and land propagation. He is an associate editor of *HortScience*, a professional journal in horticulture.

Jim served as a Fulbright Guest Lecturer in Italy in 1983, a Fulbright Senior Scientist in Germany during part of 1982-1983, and has participated in numerous symposia and scientific meetings throughout the world during his 25-year career at the Station. He has been actively involved in promoting, developing, and recommending rootstock and fruit breeding programs in South Africa, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, Colombia, and Germany.

He served as a field artillery observer in western Europe from 1943-1946 and in Korea as an army officer from 1950-1952. He obtained his bachelor of science degree from the University of Illinois, master of science degrees from Southern Illinois University in 1960 and from the University of Wisconsin in 1961, and his doctorate degree in botany from Southern Illinois University in 1964.



Jim and Cindy Cummins relax at his retirement celebration in the Jordan Hall lounge.

He came to the Geneva Station in July 1967 as an assistant professor of pomology in what is now the department of horticultural sciences. He was promoted to associate professor of pomology in 1973 and to professor of pomology in 1982.

Jim received the Shepard Award from the American Pomological Society in 1979. He is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, and Phi Eta Sigma. Professional societies to which he belongs include the International Society for Horticultural Science, the American Society for Horticultural Science, the American Pomological Society (of which he was president from 1988-1990), the European Union for Plant Breeding, and the Australian Society for Horticultural Science.

He and his wife, Cindy, have five children and five grandchildren. The couple lives in Geneva.

RECYCLING IN FULL FORCE

Recycling at the Station is now in full force. Containers to hold recyclables and trash have been received from BFI, so it is imperative that all employees practice good recycling procedures. Once again, here are the rules for recycling at the Station:

CAN RECYCLE

Put in recycling basket in office or laboratory

- Office paper [(colored and white office paper, computer paper, ledger, fax paper, envelopes, file folders, Post-its, NCR paper (carbonless forms)], nonmetallic wrapping paper, glossy paper, glossy color inserts, bound text books, magazines, catalogues, and junk mail

Put alongside or under recycling basket in office or laboratory; if large quantities, put near recycling container for building or floor

- Corrugated cardboard (with ridges)—no larger than 4 x 4 feet, brown paper bags

Put beside recycling basket in office or laboratory

- Newspapers/newspaper inserts

Put in container that is in your building or on your floor

- Glass bottles and jars (clear, brown, and green—washed, no tops), metal and bi-metal cans, aluminum pie plates and foil, PET (#1) and HOPE (#2) plastic

CANNOT RECYCLE

- Telephone books
- Food wrappers
- Blue prints
- Paper towels
- Any material from individual households
- Facial tissues
- Wet or soiled paper
- Carbon paper

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Monday, February 22, 6:30 pm

Staff Room, Jordan Hall

English as a Second Language

Wednesday, February 24, Noon

Staff Room, Jordan Hall

GEC computer training session on "Outlines and Indexes"

Wednesday, February 24, 6:30 pm

Staff Room, Jordan Hall

English as a Second Language

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00 pm

Sawdust Cafe

Finger Lakes Stamp Club Meeting

Friday, February 26, 2:30 pm

Room A133, Barton Lab

Chairs' and Unit Leaders' Meeting

SEMINARS

HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES

Date: Monday, February 22

Time: 11:00 am

Place: Staff Room, Jordan Hall

Speaker: Dr. Darlene Wilcox-Lee
Associate Professor, Department of Fruit & Vegetable Science, Ithaca

Topic: Long Island: The Vegetable Industry and Research Programs

PLANT PATHOLOGY

Date: Wednesday, February 24

Time: 3:00 Pm

Place: Room A133, Barton Lab

Speaker: Mr. Ian Horner
Department of Plant Pathology
Geneva

Topic: Creeping Death Down Under:
Armillaria root-rot of kiwifruit
in New Zealand

Below is a new addition to Notes, to be seen regularly. This new section will feature deadlines for issues, both professional and personal, relevant to Station employees.

DEADLINES



• Friday, February 19

Sign up by February 19 for the Station Club Bowling Party to be held Saturday, February 27. Contact Tim Thibault or Matt Lewis if interested.

• Wednesday, March 31

All bills incurred by Empire Health Insurance participants for 1992 must be submitted by March 31, 1993. All claims for 1992 must be made to Medical Reimbursement Accounts and Dependent Care Accounts by March 31, 1993.



NOBEL PRIZE WINNER, ROBERT W. HOLLEY DIES

Dr. Robert W. Holley, a member of the Department of Food Science and Technology at Geneva from 1948 until 1956 and Nobel Prize winner, died Thursday, February 11 at his home in Los Gatos, California. He was 71.

Holley was awarded the Nobel Prize for unraveling the genetic code of ribonucleic acid (RNA). RNA helps determine what form and role each cell takes in a larger organism. Some of his very early work on RNA was done at the Geneva Experiment Station. Bea Stoyla, retired technician in Food Science and Technology, was his assistant while he was at Geneva. Most of his work on RNA was completed at the United States Department of Agriculture's Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory on the Ithaca campus of Cornell University which he joined in 1956. In 1966, he became part of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California where he was a fellow and professor.

Holley received the Nobel Prize in 1968 for medicine and physiology. He shared it with two other scientists, Marshall W. Nirenberg and R. Gobind Khorana. All three scientists were working on related aspects of genetic coding.

His later research at Salk focused on the factors that stimulate or inhibit the growth of cells in mammals. This included factors that produce normal body functions such as the healing of wounds and also in abnormalities such as cancers. His most recent work studied the factors in the timing of cell division, a critical element in the growth process.

Holley received his doctorate in organic chemistry at Cornell in 1947. During World War II he did government research and was part of the five-member team at Cornell that first synthesized penicillin. He taught biochemistry and molecular biology at Cornell beginning in 1962 and was the chairman of the department of biochemistry in 1965-1966.

After joining Salk, Holley also worked with the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in La Jolla.

RONNIE COFFMAN NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN OF RESEARCH

Dr. Ronnie Coffman, a professor of plant breeding and biometry, is the new associate dean for research in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He will be responsible for overseeing the college's research operations. These include basic and applied research in agriculture, food and nutrition, life and environmental sciences, and the social and behavioral sciences.

Ronnie's research career included assisting in providing disease-resistant varieties of wheat and rice to developing countries throughout the world. He also was involved in research in the development of gene maps of major crops. Ronnie most recently has been serving as chair of the department of plant breeding and biometry.

In addition to his duties as associate dean, Ronnie was named director of Cornell's Agricultural Experiment Station in Ithaca.

We congratulate both Brian and Ronnie on being appointed to these critical positions.

BRIAN CHABOT NAMED ASSOCIATE DEAN

Dr. Brian Chabot, former director of research in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has been named associate dean of the College. He replaces Dr. Kenneth Wing who resigned to assume a position as president of Cobleskill Agricultural and Technical College.

Brian became director of research in 1990. He joined the Cornell faculty in 1973, eventually becoming a professor of ecology in

1986. He served as chair of the Section of Ecology and Systematics in the Division of Biological Sciences for three years. He taught courses in plant and introductory ecology and in agricultural ecology.

GEC COMPUTER TRAINING SESSION WEDNESDAY

The GEC will sponsor an informal computer training session on "Outlines and Indexes" at Noon, Wednesday, February 24, in the Staff Room, Jordan Hall. Jeanne Samimy will lead the group and those attending are encouraged to participate in the topic. All Station employees are invited.

**Start your year
off with a
bang...**

JOIN STATION CLUB!



**See your
Department
Representative
today!**

RACQUETBALL LADDER

No matches played 2/11-2/17.

Chris Hayes	HS	x246
Matt Lewis	CS	x251
Bob Evangelista	B&P	x200
Warren Lamboy	PGRU	x359
Curt Petzoldt	IPM	x206
Jim McFerson	PGRU	x393
Tom Burr	PP	x315
Phil Forsline	PGRU	x390
Joe Kovach	IPM	x209
Walter Wolf	ENT	x362
Peter Schroeder	ENT	x342
Matt Roberts	FST	x280

If interested in joining or to report playing results, contact Matt Lewis at x251.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: The following piece of equipment has been declared surplus and is available to any interested party. Please call Judy at x202. Limelight Projector—used for projecting screen images/info directly from Macintosh computer for group viewing. Price: Best Offer.

FOR SALE: 1980 Volvo, four-door—\$1,400. Refrigerator, Never-frost—\$100. Car-top carrier—\$20. Gas Grill with gas bottle—\$30. Dining Room Set, maple—china cabinet: \$300, rectangular, drop-leaf table, deacon bench, and four chairs: \$300. Call Sharon at x394 or 539-8483 after 5:30.