

CORNELL  
UNIVERSITY

## STATION NEWS

GENEVA  
NEW • YORKVOLUME LXXXIV • NO. 1  
JANUARY 3 - 10, 2003

## BRIEFS

## Introducing New York Vodka

It's not only the state's wine and microbrews that make New Yorkers smile, now it's the vodka! Peconika Vodka is what you should ask for if you're in the vodka mood. Aficionados say you won't be disappointed in the quality of this Long Island product derived mostly from local potatoes.

Known as "The Classic Vodka from The Hamptons," it is the official vodka at the Governor's Mansion and was served at several holiday dinners there. Like most New York wineries, Peconika is tiny compared with the most famous brands, and its main problem is distribution because there are no direct sales of vodka to consumers under any circumstances. So, the next time you're having some vodka, make sure you ask for New York's own: Peconika.

For more info, contact Steve Abramson, President, Peconika, Water Mill Brands, 71 Hill St., Southampton, NY 11968, 631-287-3700, email [stevea@peconika.com](mailto:stevea@peconika.com)

Inclement Weather  
Policy at the  
Experiment  
Station

Whenever possible, announcement of decisions on inclement weather conditions will be made by 6:30 a.m.

of the day affected through the Director's Office. There are three quick ways to check if the Station is open or closed during this winter.

- 1) Check the Station's home page web site at [www.nysaes.cornell.edu](http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu)
- 2) Call the Station's information telephone line at 315-787-2011
- 3) Listen to the radio (see list below).

The Experiment Station has one emergency "mode" of operation during inclement weather. This is a cancellation of all functions except those essential to safety and basic physical plant operation. The latter functions, covering seven days and three shifts, have special guidelines.

The Director or his designee has the responsibility to make the decision to declare the emergency mode. The decision at Geneva is made independent of any emergency mode decisions affecting the Cornell Campus at Ithaca.

If the city or county announces that motorists are prohibited from driving on all or some of the roads, we do not expect employees to violate those rules. However, some essential personnel will be needed on

(Continued on page 2)

SECRETS OF THE  
SEQUENCE

## Station Scientist to be Featured on PBS

Philip Forsline, curator of the apple, grape, and tart cherry collections at the Plant Genetics Resources Unit (PGRU), and courtesy associate professor of horticultural science, will be featured in a segment on the PBS show, "Secrets of the Sequence," a 30-minute television news show about genetics. The 10-minute segment, called "Apple a Day," is produced by Ward TV, with Paul Gasek as the interviewer. The show will run on PBS stations the week of January 3rd.

The interest from Ward TV came as a result of their reading the chapter on apples in the recent best-seller, *The Botany of Desire*, by Michael Pollan. The producers read about the collection trips to Central Asia undertaken by scientists at PGRU and the department of plant pathology to collect apples. Station plant pathologist Herb Aldwinckle led the first expedition to Central Asia in 1989. Forsline organized follow-up trips in 1993, 1995 and 1996. The Ward TV producers had also seen the story on apples at PGRU that first aired October 29, 2001, on the National Geographic cable channel "National Geographic Today."

The producers and their team came to Geneva to film and interview Forsline and others. They showed the diversity of the PGRU apple collection by filming the core collection planted at the Darrow farm. They also filmed a display of apple fruits that reflects a wide range of colors, shapes and sizes that Bill Srmack set up at the PGRU facility on the Geneva campus. According to Forsline, the crew was most interested in the wild Kazakhstan apples seedlings planted from the 1995/1996 collection trips that were fruiting at the McCarthy farm at the time.

During the interview, Forsline discusses why PGRU acquires, maintains and evaluates the apple collection as part of the USDA-ARS National Plant Germplasm System; explains the origin of apples; and the need to collect apples from the main center of origin, Kazakhstan.

Gennaro Fazio, apple geneticist at PGRU, was also interviewed. In addition, Ward TV developed some footage with Joe Nicholson at Red Jacket Orchards. The show also features slides taken by Forsline while he was on his trips, and a map of the Kazakhstan area created by Station graphic artist Elaine Gotham.

To preserve the diversity of the plant gene pool, botanists have trekked into sparsely inhabited interiors on every continent in search of the wild relatives of the world's important agricultural crops. Prospecting for crop germplasm is like prospecting for a kind of green gold. Germplasm contains important genetic traits that have the potential to boost insect and disease resistance, increase yield, and improve quality. Germplasm, the product of millions of years of evolution and scarcely 100 years of scientific plant breeding, helps fight epidemics of pests and pathogens that threaten the security of the global food supply.

As of this writing, the PBS stations closest to Geneva that are planning to air the show are WNPI and WPBS in Watertown, NY. For other affiliates airing the program, check out <http://www.wardtv.com/stations.htm>. Forsline has also requested a tape of the show and will share it with any interested viewers. Neither Syracuse nor Rochester PBS stations (WXXI and WCNY) currently have the show scheduled. Interested viewers may want to query the stations and ask why this is so.

J. Zakour

**CALENDAR  
of EVENTS  
JANUARY 3 - 10, 2003**

**MEETINGS**

**CHAIRS/UNIT LEADERS**

**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2003  
**Time:** 1:30 PM  
**Place:** G-19 Hedrick hall

**SEMINARS**

**ENTOMOLOGY**

**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2003  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Place:** Rm.310 Barton Laboratory  
**Subject:** Importance of Predators in Biological Control of European Corn Borer in Sweet Corn  
**Speaker:** Dr. Fred Musser, Geneva

**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

**LTC**

Due to Jane Irwin's absence, the Open Labs that had been scheduled for the next month have been cancelled. Please contact library staff if you have questions.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**FOR SALE:** 1996 Red Toyota Corolla. Automatic transmission, air conditioning. Excellent condition, clean inside and out and a smooth runner. 100 K miles. \$3,750 or B/O. Call x2420, e-mail sm90@cornell.edu or 315-789-9540.

**FOR SALE:** Ferret cage, 3 levels, includes hammock and litter pan. \$45. Call Dave x2496 or Bradley 585-2248.

**FOR SALE:** snow blower for Murray lawn tractor, 2 stage 36" wide. \$150. Call x2250 or 789-5368 after 5:00 PM.

**FOR SALE:** 1995 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4, 6-cyl, auto, AC, cruise control, power steering, windows, lock, and mirrors. Stereo + 6xCD-changer, moonroof. 103k miles. The car is grey metallic and in good condition. Asking \$6,200 or BO. Contact Ulf and Dace at 315-789-6169 or ulf.erlandsson@intentionia.se

**WANTED:** sewing/mending jobs. Can shorten, patch, replace zippers and buttons etc. hlw7@nysaes.cornell.edu or call 2433.

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

**FOR SALE:** professional drafting table, Hamilton VR20, 3'x5', power lift, excellent condition, \$300. Call Dave x2496.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday,  
January 25, 2003**

**COME CELEBRATE THE RETIREMENTS OF Jerry Johnston, John Pollino & Barry Smith**

**Abigail's Restaurant  
1978 Rts. 5 & 20, Waterloo  
Contact John VanderWeide for  
details and tickets.  
x2380 or jjv1@cornell.edu**

(BRIEFS, continued)

the job. Essential personnel are designated by their supervisors based on certain criteria and are issued cards identifying their essential service function.

The following radio stations have agreed to cooperate with us in announcements of the inclement weather emergency:

WCGR (AM) 1550 - CANANDAIGUA  
WGVA (AM) 1240 - GENEVA  
WNYR (FM) 98.5 - GENEVA  
WACK (AM) 1420 - NEWARK  
WFLR (AM) 1570 - PENN YAN  
WHAM (AM) 1180 - ROCHESTER  
WSFW (AM) 1110 - SENECA FALLS  
WHCU (AM) 870 - ITHACA  
WSKG (FM) 90.9 - ITHACA

If there is a question as to whether the Station is closed due to inclement weather, you can also call the Station's information telephone line, 315-787-2011. The message on the information line will be changed to report a closing or delay if there is a change in working hours. The information line can receive 15 calls simultaneously so if you get a busy signal, try again soon.

In the event that a weather emergency is called during the day, notification will be made through departmental offices.

As in the past, the compensatory time policy is that on any day in which the Station is operating in the emergency mode due to inclement weather, those employees normally scheduled to work will be compensated as if they had worked. Employees on vacation and sick leave, or on a regularly scheduled day off, will not be additionally compensated for an inclement weather day.

Those regular full-time or part-time overtime pay eligible essential employees who are required to work will receive pay at time and one-half their normal rate for hours actually worked during the closing (delayed, partial, full) plus compensatory time off, equal to the employee's hours worked during the closing (delayed, partial, full). As an alternative, upon mutual agreement between the employee and supervisor, the overtime pay eligible employee may receive straight pay for the day plus compensatory time off equal to one and one half times the number of hours actually worked during the closing (delayed, partial, full). All compensatory time must be taken within the fiscal year (July 1-June 30) in which it is earned. These days should be recorded as leave with pay. Departments are responsible for maintaining compensatory time records for overtime pay eligible employees who work under these inclement weather conditions.

# **LEARN HOW TO CONDUCT YOUR OWN LAB INSPECTIONS!**

**January 17, 2003**

**10:00-12:00**

**Jordan Hall Auditorium**

**EH&S is offering a 2-hour training presentation designed to assist you in conducting your own lab inspections. You will be provided with information on what issues to look for, what corrective actions to take and identify the best management practices to prevent future problems. The program covers inspection areas related to EPA, OSHA, Fire Safety and NYS building code regulations and is also designed to assist laboratories prepare for the voluntary workplace consultations being offered through EH&S.**

**Don't miss out on this informative and useful training!!**

**Sign up now by calling ext. 2466 or  
email lar38**