



# STATION NEWS

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York

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July 7 - 21, 2006

## BRIEFS

### Summer Science Camp Pays Off

According to the annual New York State science assessment scores just released, 95 percent of the fourth grade students at North Street Elementary School ranked at levels 3 and 4, the highest level being mastery of the subject — a 6 percent improvement from last year — and over 50 percent of the students scored at the mastery level.

“I certainly attribute the students’ excitement and enthusiasm in the skills and concepts of science to the Experiment Station,” said North Street principal, Nina McCarthy — adding that all science camp participants passed.

*T. Krakowiak*

### Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty to Hold Dinner Event at Geneva On The Lake

Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty, an organization dedicated to promoting and developing the distinctive regional cuisine of the Finger Lakes, will hold a Celebration of Local Foods and Wine dinner on August 10 at Geneva on the Lake, Route 14, Geneva, NY.

Held outdoors in the South Lawn Tent Pavilion on the stunningly beautiful grounds of Geneva on the Lake, this dinner will celebrate the distinct culinary richness and diversity of the Finger Lakes. Diners will delight in a menu highlighting foods produced by regional farmers, unique specialty food products from local producers and a wide

*(Continued on page 3)*

## New Seed Lab Director Hired

**K**yle Arvin was appointed director of the New York State Seed Testing Laboratory (NYS-STL) effective July 1. As financial and personnel manager of the unit, his responsibilities are to supervise the day-to-day activities of the lab, provide outreach to the NY seed industry and support Cornell Cooperative Extension activities related to seed quality.

“New to this position is an extension responsibility to New York State agriculture. This is a positive step to provide outreach to the New York State seed and vegetable industries, and others involved with seeds,” said Alan Taylor, department chair of horticultural sciences.

The NYSSTL is the official seed testing laboratory for the state and conducts thousands of tests per year for a wide number of clients, including the Department of Agriculture and Markets, a number of seed companies, individual growers and others. The seed lab director is responsible for accurate and timely results and is accountable to Cornell University as well as state agencies and commercial customers.

“Having worked with organizations who have dealt with seed for anything from prairie restorations to growing plants for landscaping, it is amazing how little knowledge people have about storing seed properly to minimize damage and increase longevity,” said Arvin. “I routinely experienced how seed testing might have minimized time wasted in planting seed of poor quality.”

Arvin got his start in the seed industry in 1989, when he was hired part-time at the Indiana State Seed Laboratory. He took an eight-month leave in 1991 to work as a research assistant for a Ph.D. student who was studying Plain-fronted Thornbirds at the Hato Masaguaral cattle ranch in the heart of the Venezuelan llanos. The ranch was owned by Cornell graduate (class of ‘51) Tomas Blohm. Arvin returned to the Indiana lab where he was hired full-time in 1993. He immediately began training and studying for his certifications in purity and germination, both of which he received in 1995. He spent the majority of his time in germination analysis, and when the supervisor reduced her hours prior to retiring, he was appointed interim germination supervisor in her absence. The purity supervisor left the



*Kyle Arvin*

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

The Geneva Red Wings Management and Players would like to invite you to be our guest on July 14, 2006 7:30PM at McDonough Park. The occasion provides an opportunity to thank Johnny "O" on his



*John Oughterson*

recognition night for keeping baseball in Geneva. John Oughterson is the Executive General Manager for the Geneva Red Wings team and member of The New York Collegiate Baseball League. He is a long time USDA employee here at the Station with PGRU. Just clip out the coupon below and bring it along on the evening of July 14.

**GENERAL ADMISSION**  
[www.genevaredwings.com](http://www.genevaredwings.com)



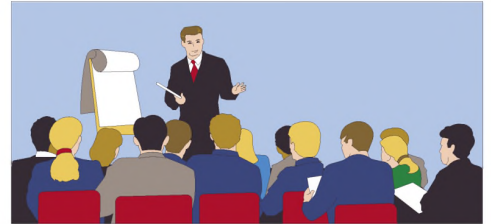
**GENEVA RED WINGS**

cut along dotted line

## State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors to Meet in Geneva

The 2006 Northeast Summer Joint Session of NERA (Northeast Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors) will be held July 9 -11 at The Ramada Inn in Geneva. The meeting is being hosted by the Experiment Station.

NERA is a formal coalition of Directors of State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) for the Northeastern Region of the United States. Three other associations serve the needs of the Southern Region, Western Region, and the North Central Region. NERA's member institutions are mostly, but not exclusively, associated with colleges of agriculture at land grant universities. They are members of NERA by virtue of their stature as participants in the Federal-state partnership in agricultural science, and thus they receive funding to support research under that mandate. Federal and state dollars are matched to carry out the research at the member institutions in broad areas. NERA primarily supports multistate collaborations.



Thirty-three Directors from the Association's 15-member stations participate in the Association's activities, and the three annual meetings of the Association.

The three-day meeting will feature a number of presentations and association section meetings. One important topic to be covered, both as a presentation and panel discussion, is "Marketing the Land Grant Mission."

A visit to the Cornell's Agriculture and Food Technology Park, followed by a wine-tasting and dinner at Anthony Road Winery are planned for the evening of Monday July 10. Speakers for the evening program are Alexa Gifford, Executive Director of the New York Wine and Culinary Center and John Martini, owner of Anthony Road Winery.

Gifford will discuss how the newly opened Center will promote NY products through various educational programs. The Center is located in Canandaigua, NY and is a partnership between Constellation Brands, Wegmans and Rochester Institute of Technology.

Martini will speak briefly on the growth of the NY wine industry and how research and extension have contributed to its success.

Participants from Cornell, in addition to Tom Burr who will serve as meeting host, include: Glenn Applebee, Barbara Cowdery, Elaine DePew, Helene Dillard, Mike Hoffmann, Linda McCandless, Valerie Jordan-Mount, Lee Taglia, Jim Vincent, John Whitcomb and CAFTP Executive Director Dan Feeseden.

*J. Ogrodnick*

"Computers make it easier to do a lot of things, but most of the things they make it easier to do don't need to be done."

**- Andy Rooney**



## Fusion Grant Administrator Begins Work This Month

This month Elizabeth “Kitty” Noble comes to the Station as project administrator for the three-year, \$600,000 Finger Lakes New Knowledge Fusion Project. The program is designed to engage NYSAES, the Center for Infotonics Technology and a variety of educators and private businesses in the collaborative development of new food and agricultural technologies, new businesses based on such technologies, innovative science curricula in regional schools and increased awareness of cutting-edge science and technology around the Finger Lakes. The program is one of a small number of Partnerships for Innovation funded by The National Science Foundation each year.

A 2006 graduate of Cornell University, Kitty majored in interdisciplinary studies in agriculture. She was a Dairy Fellow and led several organizations within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). Kitty served as student liaison to Susan Henry, Dean of the College. She was chair of the CALs Student Advisory Committee, an active member of the CALs Ambassadors, Cornell University Dairy Science Club, and the College’s Centennial Committee.

Kitty has a well-rounded background in agriculture. She grew up in Linwood, New York where she worked on the family dairy farm. She has worked as an agricultural education assistant at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Genesee County and as an intern with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Kitty is extremely excited and eager to tackle the new challenge. She intends to build strong working networks among the various organizations aligned with the project in order to promote new technologies, new businesses, a prepared work force and an informed community. You can welcome Kitty to the Station community at her new office in the Technology Farm.

### (SEED LAB, continued)

laboratory at about the same time the germination supervisor retired and the two positions were combined into a laboratory manager position, which he accepted in 1997.

“We are very pleased that Kyle has accepted the position as director of the NYSSTL,” said Taylor. “Kyle brings great enthusiasm to the seed lab, and will continue its long tradition of quality work.”

Born in Fort Rucker, Alabama, and raised in Lafayette, Indiana, Arvin received a B.S. in wildlife science in 1992 and a B.A. in Spanish in 2000, both from Purdue University. He began his higher education at Indiana University.

The son of an avid birdwatcher, Arvin’s first connection to Cornell was in the 1970s and early 1980s when he participated in the Bird Nest Record Program. Since then he has seen approximately 2,200 species of birds around the world. He’s traveled to 49 states in the US (still needs to visit Hawaii) and many countries abroad.

For the past three-and-a-half years Arvin worked for the Indianapolis Zoological Society as a horticulturist. The primary focus of the job was maintenance and design of landscapes in and around zoo grounds. He also designed and built exhibits for the White River Gardens conservatory show that most recently featured a two-tiered, 20-foot-tall pagoda to compliment the bonsai theme. In addition he helped occasionally in animal procedures and transfers involving tigers, Kodiak bears, walruses, golden lion tamarins, Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphins and Aldabra tortoises, among others. “I can say I have held a tiger by the tail, but fortunately it was tranquilized,” he said.

He just celebrated his 20th anniversary with his wife Susanna, and has a three-and-a-half-year-old son named Ross who, according to Arvin, is expected to receive his bachelor’s degree from Cornell by the year 2024.

T. Krakowiak

### (CULINARY, continued)

array of award winning Finger Lakes wines.

Festivities begin at 6:30 pm with an array of Finger Lakes artisan cheeses, delicious appetizers and wine tasting from the Cayuga Lake, Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake, and Canandaigua Wine Trails. Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty chefs from the Brown Hound Bistro, Fiddlehead Concepts Catering, Geneva on the Lake, Ports Café, Red Newt Cellars Bistro, and Ristorante Banfi’s will treat diners to a gourmet buffet including:

- Mixed salad greens in a blueberry vinaigrette with caramelized chevre
- Field fresh corn, tomato, spinach, and basil salad with raspberry vinaigrette
- Pasture raised chicken stuffed with Lively Run chevre, apricots, and watercress in an apricot white wine sauce
- Braised venison roast on a bed of arugula
- Handmade spinach pasta in a roasted and grilled vegetable sauce
- Delectable desserts from Ristorante Banfi’s

Guests will also be entertained by the Johnny Russo jazz trio throughout the evening and be invited to participate in a silent auction.

All proceeds from the event will benefit Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty as they strive to promote the Finger Lakes as a culinary destination and increase the economic viability of our region by connecting area farms, food producers, wineries and restaurants.

Tickets are \$70 per person and may be purchased by contacting Geneva on the Lake at (315) 789-7190.

**Note:** Seating is limited so it is suggested to purchase tickets early!

For further information contact Lael Gerhart at (607) 272-2292 or lsg8@cornell.edu





**CALENDAR of EVENTS**  
JULY 7 - JULY 21, 2006

**MEETINGS**

**CHAIRS MEETING**

**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2006  
**Time:** 10:30 AM  
**Place:** Director's Office

**CHAIRS' & UNIT LEADERS' MEETING**

**Date:** Thursday, July 20, 2006  
**Time:** 1:30 PM  
**Place:** FRL 251

**SPECIAL SEMINAR**

**FIFTEEN YEARS OF COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH BETWEEN GENEVA AND Ås, NORWAY**

**Who:** Dr. Arne Stesvand, Norwegian Crop Research Institute  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2006  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (Refreshments @ 10 AM)  
**Place:** A134 Barton Lab

**Geneva Red Wings vs. Rochester Royals**

Thursday July 20, 7:30 PM  
at McDonough Park

**Tickets are:**  
\$4.00 Each

or  
4 for \$15.00

**All proceeds go to the Relay for Life.**

Contact Teri at  
tferrin@pgru.ars.usda.gov  
or Ext. 2396 for tickets and more information.

**Finger Lakes Wine Country Events**

**Event:** Moonlight Strolls

**Location:** Finger Lakes Wine Center at Sonnenberg Gardens

**Date/Time:** Friday the 7th @ 8:00 PM - Friday the 28th @ 10:00 PM

**Description:** July 7, 14, 21, 28 8-10pm, Guests can stroll lighted gardens; listen to music, and sample wine at the Wine Center.

**Admission:** Adults \$8, Children under 12 \$4.

**Phone:** 585-394-4922

**Website:** www.sonnenberg.org

**E-Mail:** info@sonnenberg.org

**Event:** Full Moon Event

**Location:** Heron Hill Winery

**Date/Time:** Friday the 14th @ 6:00 PM

**Description:** This event will have a full catered meal prepared by the Village Tavern. At this event we will have a Beach Party theme. The band will be Rochester Brass & Electric, so get your dancing shoes on! They play a wide variety of dance music including funk, soul, swing, rhythm & blues and of course good ole rock and roll.

**Admission:** \$30.00 + tax per person

**Phone:** 1-800-441-4241 Ext. 15

**Website:** www.heronhill.com

**E-Mail:** retail@heronhill.com

**Event:** Friday Night on the Brewdeck at Wagner's with Music Makers Big Band

**Location:** Wagner Vineyards

**Date/Time:** Friday the 14th @ 8:00 PM

**Description:** A great way to spend a summer evening enjoy live music (Rock, Jazz, Disco & Swing) on the outdoor deck overlooking vineyards and Seneca Lake.

**Admission:** Cover Charge

**Phone:** 866-924-6378

**Website:** www.wagnervineyards.com

**E-Mail:** info@wagnervineyards.com

**Event:** "A Worldly Approach to Wine"

**Location:** Casa Larga Vineyards

**Date/Time:** Wednesday the 19th @ 7:00 PM

**Description:** A different aspect of enjoying wines and/or foods from around the Finger Lakes and the world. Reservations are required

**Admission:** Members - \$15, Non-Members - \$20 Limited to 24 people total

**Phone:** (585) 223-4210

**Website:** www.casalarga.com

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**FOR SALE:** Dodge Caravan 2000. \$3,900 Good Condition. Cash only. Available July 15th. Mileage 122,000. Please contact Gabino Reginato at ghr4@cornell.edu or (315) 781-0670 between 6 -10 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** 15 foot Grumman aluminum canoe, comes with back pack pad, motor mount, 2 paddles, oar locks, flotation kit and foam pads for car top. \$300.00 Firm. 315-331-6319

**FOR SALE:** Log Home. Approximately 1 acre lot overlooking Seneca Lake, 3-4 bedrooms, large sun-porch (12x31) with gas fire place, large established perennial gardens, front, side and back decks, 1 car + garage. 12 miles from NYSAES. Penn Yan Schools. \$180,000. Contact Jane Irwin at mji4@cornell.edu or 315-730-0082

**FOR RENT:** Spacious 2 Bedroom Apartment Available on Milton Street, 5 blocks from Hobart and William Smith Campus, 1 block from the heart of downtown Geneva, and a 20-25 minute walk (5 minute drive) to the Station. Apartment is unfurnished, has all wood floors, 1 bath and on street parking. No pets or smoking. \$450 + utilities. Contact: Alex Da Costa via email at aed@cornell.edu or Jen Roche at 315-789-4948.

**FOR SALE:** Four Hankook W404 snow tires, size P185/65R14. Used one season for a total of 4584 miles. Asking \$125 OBO. I also plan to have a lot of furniture for sale in the very near future. Inquire at 315-212-4467 or Lindsay.V.Clark.04@alum.dartmouth.org