



Alumni Newsletter

July 2005

**Department of Horticulture, 134A Plant Science Building, Cornell University,
Ithaca, NY 14853 607-255-4568/ Fax 607-255-9998 www.hort.cornell.edu**

Message From The Chair

By Marvin Pritts

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Greetings from Ithaca. It is a pleasure to bring you up-to-date on happenings in the Department of Horticulture. I have heard from many of you about your current careers and successes, and am delighted that so many have expressed an interest in staying connected with the department.

The big news as I'm sure most of you heard is that Cornell's president suddenly resigned. This has sent shock waves through the campus community because Jeff Lehman was universally liked, really understood the university, and had embraced the land-grant mission. He was a very good spokesperson for the university and he will be missed. No reasons have been given for his departure. We all hope that an excellent candidate will emerge from the search process that is already underway.

There are fences absolutely everywhere on our part of campus, blocking off new building sites. The Mann Library renovation is underway, the restaurant in Kennedy Hall is being enlarged, and construction for the New Life Sciences Building is just beginning. The footprint for this building is two acres. They will be excavating a hole 22 ft. deep in Alumni Fields to accommodate it. The building does not have a name yet, so this could be your big opportunity to be immortalized.

Our department is extremely busy this summer hosting various meetings and field days. Examples include the Turfgrass and Landscape Field Day, the Seeley Conference, Floriculture Field Day, Potato Field Day, Organic Farm Field Day, Weed Days, Long Island Plant Science Day, Post-Harvest Management Workshop, Urban Forestry Conference, Small Fruit Tour, and a High Tunnel Workshop.

A number of our faculty and students received prestigious awards this spring. Marcia Eames-Sheavly received the Jane Taylor Award from the American Horticulture Society for her efforts to promote childrens' interest in gardening. Chris Watkins will be receiving the 2005 ASHS Outstanding Extension Educator Award at the annual meeting in Las Vegas on July 18th. Dr. Marty Petrovic won the 2005 U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Award, the highest recognition presented to the public by this federal agency. Marty was recognized for his hard work and success with the Long Island East End Nitrogen Management Challenge. He took a leadership role in convincing 31 out of 35 Long Island golf course owners and superintendents to participate in the Challenge that focused on improving fertilizer management on their respective courses. Frank Rossi was named the Outstanding Young Alumnus from SUNY Cobleskill at the New York State Turfgrass and Grounds Exposition in Rochester.

Graduate student Doug Soldat won the 2005 J. Fielding Reed Fellowship from the Potash & Phosphate Institute. At the annual Northeastern Weed Science Society meeting in Washington, DC, Jacob Barney won first place in the graduate student paper presentation. Zachary Easton and Micah Woods won 3rd and 1st place, respectively, in the Crop Science Society of America, Turfgrass Research Division Graduate Paper Contest.

Representatives from the Department of Horticulture were invited to a banquet to receive a plaque from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier for being the "2005 Donor of the Year." More than 50 tons of produce was donated as a result of last growing season. Special thanks to Robin Bellinder and Steve McKay for heading up this effort. Our department received lots of good publicity for this work.

Please see *Message from the Chair* on page 2

On a lucky Friday 13th in May, we were fortunate to have the ribbon-cutting for our new meeting room, Plant Science Rm. 22. Some of you may recall that this was once Ray Fox's lab and contained coolers and lab benches. This old room is no longer recognizable as it is now a state-of-the-art meeting room. You can see photos of the new room at:

<http://www.hort.cornell.edu/ribbon/index.html>

In fact, the web site is a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in the department. For example, last month's newsletter contains lots of photos and detailed information on a number of items of interest.

http://www.hort.cornell.edu/department/news_event_s/newsletters/May05.pdf

The college ended its centennial celebration with a fair on the Ag Quad. This was quite an event that attracted more than a thousand people to see the animals, try the department's miniature golf course, dunk your favorite professor, hear music, and eat BBQ. The day ended with a symposium featuring Jeff Lehman (Cornell president), Norman Bourlag (Nobel Prize winner), Per Pinstrup-Andersen (World Food Prize winner), and Maxine Singer (former president of the Carnegie Institution). A photo gallery of all the centennial events is at:

http://www.cals.cornell.edu/Photo_Gallery2.cfm.

In early April I spent a very enjoyable three days with Tom Weiler's floriculture class on a field trip to Canada to see the incredible mechanization of the industry on the Niagara peninsula. Tom has retired, so we are very hopeful that the Dean will grant us permission to fill a floriculture-related position. George Good is planning to retire at the end of the year, and Charlie Mazza has retired. We continue to shuffle around responsibilities with those of us who remain, but it is getting very difficult to do so and still keep quality programs.

We are planning to teach a new course next spring entitled, "Hands-on Horticulture" to attract more students to the field. The course will emphasize hands-on learning and practice of key gardening skills and techniques, such as landscape management, garden design, propagation, pruning, grafting, pest management, and flower arranging. Each session will involve a different faculty person teaching a skill in their area of expertise. Class will be held just once a week, on Friday afternoon. We'll see how this different approach works.

Several faculty in the department may be traveling to Afghanistan this fall to assess how Cornell might be able to help re-establish horticulture in that country. At one point, Afghanistan produced many of the region's fruits and vegetables. Now opium production

dominates the economy. NGOs in the area see horticulture as playing a key role in building the economy and relieving chronic malnutrition.

So, you can tell that our faculty, staff and students have been busy with many projects over the last few months, and are looking forward to an exciting future. Thanks for your continued support and encouragement!

Sincerely,

Marvin Pritts
Professor and Chairman

Hort Announce Mail List

The Department of Horticulture at Cornell University has established a mailing list called "Hort-Announce-L" in order to disseminate some timely information to anyone currently or formerly associated with the Department of Horticulture. We will be using this list to announce events, field days, as well birth and death announcements and other events of note. From time to time, Marvin Pritts will give an update on what has been happening and where we are going.

We invite graduate and undergraduate alumni, former faculty and staff as well as friends of the Department of Horticulture to subscribe.

The list is also private, which means that subscriber e-mail addresses will not be shared with anyone.

If you are interested in joining this list or if you have a message of interest to share with this list, please send your request via email to Sue Thompson (sdt1@cornell.edu) or Marvin Pritts (mpp3@cornell.edu). Only list owners can send a message to Hort-Announce-L.

We will continue to reach you through other sources, such as with the department's newsletters, "Hort Shorts" or our "Alumni Newsletter". Both of these newsletters may be found on our Department website <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/>.

Congratulations Graduates

Plant Science Graduates:

Kristine Averill, Joshua Brown, Paul Cady, Anne Ceccarini, Scott Creary, Robert Domingos, Erin Finan, Kari Getchonis, Kristen Keryk, Lauren Lesch, Douglas Mead, Charlene Mottler, Russell Petrella, Emily Vollmer

Grad Students:

Rose Atieno Ogotu, MS - Tailoring *Lachenalia aloides* as a Pot Plant

Akio Enders MPS - Comparative Evapo-transpiration of Simulated Green Roof Plantings under Controlled Environmental Conditions

Jamie Blackburn MPS - Recommended Deciduous Woody Groundcovers for Municipal Landscapes and Urban Gardens: Site Assessment, Site Preparation, Plant Selection, Installation, and Maintenance

Guillermo Calderon-Zavala Ph.D. - Temperature Effects on Fruit and Vegetative Growth, Carbon Dioxide Exchange and Dry Matter Partitioning in the Apple Tree

Jenny Evans MPS - Interpretive Exhibit Design in Public Gardens: Theory and Practice

Zeynep Demiroz MPS - The Applications of New Urbanist Communities in Istanbul - Turkey a Success or a Failure?

Michael Brown MPS - Design And Implementation of a Subsurface Water Observatory in an Apple Orchard in Upstate New York.

Maren Jennifer Mochizuki MS - The Transition to Conservation Tillage: Overcoming Soil Temperature and Compaction Limitations on Cabbage Growth and Yield

Jill Montgomery MS - Evaluation of Solid Artificial Media For Lettuce Seedling Growth and Anchorage

Gary Legnani MPS - Storage of Asiatic Hybrid Lily Bulbs in Low Oxygen Controlled Atmospheres: Physiological Responses and Implications of Dry-Sale Packaging.

Michelle Marie Leinfelder MS - Management Strategies for Apple Replant Disease

2003. He is 88 years old now and his hobbies are golf, gardening and swimming. (495 Clearview Circle, Earlysville, VA 22936-9627).

Edgar Backlund – POM BS 1950 (4608 Rte. 89, Seneca Falls, NY 13148).

Jamie Blackburn – FOH MPS 2002 - Krista and Jamie were married last May in Point Washington, Florida. They moved from Philadelphia, where Jamie was Curatorial Intern at the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College, to Miami last September (in the middle of all the hurricanes). Jamie is currently the Rainforest and Horticultural Exhibits Manager at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Coral Gables, Florida. He takes care of their (man-made) 3 acre rainforest display, as well as the aquatic plant displays here, and some mixed tropical borders around our new visitor's center. So far, life in South Florida is very interesting and exciting and quite different from gardening in Ithaca or Philadelphia. Coincidentally, Jamie reports there are 3 other Cornellians at Fairchild right now too (Carl Lewis, Jennifer Drozd, and Jack Fischer), so he is in good company.

Russell Bradley – VEG Ph.D. 1951 – (8128 County Road 141, Interlaken, NY 14847-9682).

John Brozdowski – VEG MS 1952 – John has retired and is no longer actively farming. (68 Deer Court, Middletown, NY 10940 845-344-3978).

Debby Chessin – VEG MS 1982 – Debby looks forward to keeping in touch with everyone. By the way, she just received tenure and promotion in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Mississippi where she teaches undergrad and grad classes in elementary science and math education. Debby says she has always enjoyed emphasizing ag/horticulture in the classroom!

Frank Dennis – POM BS 1955; Ph.D. 1961 - Frank attended the Agricultural History Symposium on the Cornell campus in September. He was particularly interested in the two sessions on L.H. Bailey, as Bailey got his start at Michigan Agricultural College, now Michigan State University. He was an undergrad at MAC, spent two years with Asa Gray at Harvard, and returned to MAC as chair of the Horticulture Department. He was then seduced into taking a job at Cornell when offered a trip to Europe as part of the bargain. He labored the next 25 years

Alumni News

Joe Antognini VC Ph.D. 1951 - In January 2005 Jean and Joe will celebrate their 61st Wedding Anniversary. Joe's son Jay, is still working for Northrup on the B2 Bomber for Northrup in Oklahoma City, daughter Teri runs her own business – Custom Canvas in Charleston. (9113 Woodcreek St., N. Charleston, SC 29406).

George Asai BS 1938; Ph.D. 1943 – George retired as a U.S. Army Major after 21 years of service during and after WWII. George served in the army in Europe, Japan and Korea. He attended the 65th anniversary of the Class of 1938 in the Spring of

as Professor of Horticulture and Dean of the College of Agriculture, then "retired" and continued to collect plants, write and edit books, and served on various committees. In the early '50s Bailey was interviewed by Dr. Lawrence, then Director of the Bailey Hortorium. The recordings remained in the Hortorium, without transcription, for 20 years, but then were discovered and transcribed. However, the typist was unfamiliar with botanical terms and personalities, and the recordings were of poor quality. Last summer Frank spent countless hours listening to the tapes and making corrections, and then gave the Cornell Archives a copy of the corrected, but still not perfect, transcript. The Baileyphiles among the alumni may find this of interest. (1600 Ridgewood Dr., E. Lansing, MI 48823-2936. fgdennis@msu.edu)

Donald Dewey VEG BS 1939; Ph.D. 1950 – Donald has permanently relocated in Arizona. He retired from Michigan State University in 1983. (1271 W. Camino Urbano, Green Valley, AZ 85614).

Marcia Durso – FOH PH.D. 1979 – Marcia says she was lucky enough to be able to move to the horticulturally rich area of Rancho Santa Fe, California. The weather there is always perfect. All horticulture student from her classes are welcome to contact her so they can enjoy some of the wonderful outdoor gardens, botanical sites, and exhibits. Marcia is currently serving as the landscape consultant for the community HOA, on the Board of Directors. Being able to diagnose plant or disease problems, propose new installations critique the maintenance performance has been very helpful to the residents. (PO Box 675758, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-758marciadurso@cs.com)

Elizabeth Fichtner FOH BS 1997 - (2702 Pole Line Road #1, Davis, CA 95616).

Roger Harris FOH Ph.D. 1993 – Roger is an Associate Professor of Horticulture at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. Roger and his wife (Susan Day) (“Roger says, “I married my office mate at Cornell!”) came from Cornell to Virginia in October, 1993 and are still there. Susan (MS FOH 2003) and Roger have two children, Gillous, a 5-year-old son and Camilla, an 8-year-old daughter. Susan completed her Ph.D. in Urban Forestry from Virginia Tech in 1999 and is a Research Assistant Professor in Virginia Tech's

Forestry Department. (801 Tom's Creek Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060 - rharris@vt.edu).

Michael Haug FOH MS 1996 – After seven years in residential landscape architecture Michael left to work as a landscape architect for the Lake County Forest Preserves (Chicago). He is enjoying the preservation, restoration, education and recreation. (126 Second Street, Libertyville, IL 60048)

Joseph Hickey – VEG BS 1943 – Joseph reports he talks regularly with Al Drake (BS 1943) of Lake Placid, NY. We plan to get together in May '05 for a mini Reunion. (8 Anderson Drive, Falmouth, ME 04105)

Larry Hiller – VEG Ph.D. 1974 – Larry is serving as President-Elect of the Potato Association of America 2004-2005 and will move up to President in 2005-2006. (740 SE Derby Street, Pullman, WA 99163-2402).

George A. Johannessen - VEG Ph.D. 1950 – (333 Hartford Rd, Danville, CA 94526)

William (Bill) Kroll - FOH BS 1963 – Address Update: (636 Dawson Hill Road, Spencer, NY 14883 – sales@plantasianursery.com)

Gerard Lordahl – FOH BS 1980 – Gerard is Director, Council on the Environment of New York City and President of the American Community Gardening Association.

Benjamin Lakitan – VEG Ph.D. 1989 - It has been very long time since Benjamin went back home in August 1989. He is working as Expert Staff on Food Affairs for Ministry of Research and Technology since 13 April 2005. Prior to his current position, he was: Feb 2005 to Apr 2005: Dean of College of Agriculture, Sriwijaya University; February 2005 to April 2005; Apr 2004 to Feb 2005: Head of Trade and Industry Office at Provincial Government of South Sumatra; Feb 2003 to Apr 2004: Governor's Assistant for Economic and Social Affairs at Provincial Government of South Sumatra ; Oct 1998 to Feb 2003: Head of Development Planning Agency at Provincial Government of South Sumatra; 1996 to 1998: Head of Research Institute at Sriwijaya University ;1992 to 1996: Head of Agricultural Research Unit at Sriwijaya University Jan 1998 to now: Professor at Sriwijaya University. Benadri – Benjamin's son, born in Ithaca is now a freshman at

Bandung Institute of Technology, majoring in chemical engineering.

John Mastalerz- FOH Ph.D. 1953 – John has published a new book “Notes From John’s Garden – a collection of essays about the hows and whys of gardening”. (51 Fairview Ave. South Chatham, MA 02659)

Dick Meister – FOH BS 1940 - Dick was the class of '40 with a major in pomology with Laurence McDaniels and A. J. Heinicke as my major professors. Two well known names in his class were Paul Stark Jr. of Stark Bros. nursery fame and Allan Vaughan of Vaughan Seed Co. Doc Childers was a grad student his freshman year. Dick will be seeing Doc Childers this next week for a cover story they are doing in American Fruit Grower magazine, celebrating his 94 years of age and his great record as a horticulturist. Another grad student at that time was Rip Savage who later was outstanding in research and extension with the Georgia peach industry. Dick is still a little bit active in Meister Publishing Co.(although mostly retired) now known as Meister Media Worldwide. They are expanding into data based publishing and the internet as the publishing business goes through its own revolution.

Ruth Minja – VEG MS 1993 - Ruth is in a new office at the Agricultural Research Institute situated at Mikocheni in Dar es Salaam. She is assigned to work in the agronomy section. Funding for research is at minimum. The institute has been working on coconut under the GTZ sponsorship that is expected to faze out this June. Currently the farming system in the coconut growing areas has changed that farmers are becoming interested in horticulture. A number of fruits and vegetables including passion fruits, watermelon, cucumber, pineapples, citrus, mangoes, tomatoes, spices etc. for both local and export market are increasingly grown. They are either mono cropped or intercropped with coconut. The results of studies on crop rotation and intercropping of different leguminous, root and cereal crops with coconut done by this section are very promising. Ruth has the task now to propose something that will involve horticulture improvement. (Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute, P.O. Box 6226, dar es salaam. Ruminja@yahoo.com

Richard Munson – FOH MS 1973; Ph.D. 1981 – Richard has left administration behind and is now Manager of the Conservatory, Miami University and

teaching in the Botany Department. (230 W. Chestnut St. Apt 1B, Oxford, OH 45056 - beaver1948@juno.com).

Henry (Bud) Nestler – FOH BS 1972 – Henry works for Princeton Nurseries, Allentown, NJ. He covers the Metro N.Y., Long Island area for them. He is also secretary for the Long Island Nursery and Landscape Association. He is married to Emily and has 2 children. Laurie, who is married and is a producer for the National Basketball Association and Tim who is curiously a second year Law student at Cornell Law School. (354 S. Baderston Drive, Exton, PA 19841).

Eduardo Oyanedel VEG – Ph.D. 1999 – Mary Hopkins (POM MS 2001) and Eduardo are working in the same institution (Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso), Mary is a lecturer in technical English, and Eduardo is an Associate Professor in Vegetable Crops. Eduardo teaches Fundamentals of Horticulture, Horticultural Systems (undergraduate), and Plant Stress Physiology (graduate). His research is concentrated on vegetable physiology, especially on assimilate partitioning, hormones, and stress-related enzymes. They built their house 2 miles away from the experiment station, and are growing olives, avocados, lemons, oranges, peaches and apricots, along with a few specialty vegetables such as shallots, chives, medicinal plants and other spice crops. They are doing the landscaping on their own property, with the logical difficulties of trying to have 1.3 acres of garden/orchard space. Their son Nicolas is turning 2 next month, and is growing faster than their fruit trees. (Jefe de Extension Facultad de Agronomia, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso Casilla 4-D, Quillota, Chil - eoyanede@ucv.cl)

Kenneth Pollard – AGR. BS 1958 – Kenneth is enjoying retirement and keeping busy as a writer for Agric. Museum, A. Soc, and other projects. (5173 Plaster Pt., Cayuga, NY 13034).

Sudabathula Raja Rao - VEG MS 1977 – After graduating from Cornell, Sudabathula went to Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA and received his Ph.D. in 1981. He then worked for PPG Industries in Barberton, Ohio and then for Monsanto Co., in St. Louis. He is now retired and lives in St. Louis. (16656 Green Pines Dr., St. Louis, MO 63011)

Heidi Rapp - VEG MS 2003 - Heidi is working for Syngneta Seeds Inc. and a cantaloupe breeder. She says it keeps her very busy. She travels to Peru, Chile, Mexico, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Indiana every year for her job and is based out of Woodland CA. Heidi was married April 2 in Placerville CA, at a winery/ brewery to John Cianchetti. They met at Cornell, she says she talked him into going to California with her. Ann Seigies (POM MS 2004) is living in Davis CA, and we see each other a lot, which is great! (heidirapp57@yahoo.com)

Walter J. Saidak – VEG MS 1955; Ph.D. 1958 – Walter is still active in urban vegetable production, aquafit, walking and coping with grandchildren. (50 Kilmory, Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2E6N1)

Glenn Salva – POM BS 1976 – (257 St. Andrews Dr. Napa, CA 94558).

Greg Sandor - POM MS 1996 – Greg launched his own labeled wine, Bridge Vineyards, specializing in Merlot. (219 Gerritsen Ave., Bayport, NY 11705-2120 – greg@gallucciwineries.com)

Soon Chye Tan Pom MS 1977; Ph.D. 1979 - After graduating from Cornell in 1979, Soon Chye took up an academy position in the University Kebangsaan Malaysia (the National University of Malaysia). I was lecturing in the fields of Plant Biochemistry and Horticultural Postharvest Physiology. In 1989 Soon Chye and his family migrated to Perth, Western Australia. There he took up a position as a Post-harvest Research Officer at the Department of Agriculture Western Australia. Soon Chye became the Principal Post-harvest Research Officer in 2003. He also does some trade and market development work in promoting Western Australian agricultural, fisheries and food products to overseas. Soon Chye's other job title is Market Development Manager - Asia Region. Soon Chye's wife Angie is a bank manager. They have two sons, both were born in Ithaca. The elder son, Chee Wee is a medical doctor, working in Sydney in the area of haematology. Their second son, Chee Bing is an electronic engineer, working in Intel in Penang, Malaysia. **Dr. Harry Swartz (POM Ph.D. 1980), Dr. Chris Walsh (POM MS 1977; Ph.D. 1980), Dr. Fred Davies (POM Ph.D. 1978), Dr. Matt Rogoyski (POM Ph.D. 1980) and Dr. Suman Singha (POM Ph.D. 1977)** were Pomology graduate students about the same time with Soon Chye. He hopes to hear from them. (Principal Research Officer (Post-Harvest) & Market

Development Manager - Asia Region Department of Agriculture Western Australia Baron-Hay Court South Perth, WA 6151 Australia Tel: 618 9368-3647 - stan@agric.wa.gov.au)

Louise Schall Faryna Van Arsdale – FOH BS 1943 – Louise is redoing the 20 year old landscaping on her 2/3 acres and is still gardening (with help). (5640 Maryannis Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95401-3709).

Kenneth Silsby – POM MS 1976 – (8177 Golden Oak Circle, Buffalo, NY 14221).

Tim Vanini – FOH BS 1991 – Tim reports he will be finishing his Ph.D. in Spring of 2005 in Turfgrass Science at Michigan State.

Lewis Weinstock – POM MS 1980 – Lewis just joined the USEPA in Research Triangle Park, NC to work on new air pollution measurement technology. (917 Fairgreen Road, Greensboro, NC 27410).

Matthew Wittek – VEG BS 1985 – (827 Glen Allen Dr. Baltimore, MD 21229 - wittek@hotmail.com)

Adamson Diaz Wong – POM MS 1990 – (395 Scenic Ave., Bloomsburg, PA 17815)

John Wort – FOH MS 1966; Ph.D. 1968 – As of November 2004 John is Director of the Washington Park Arboretum and Acting Director of the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle Washington.

Heinz Wutscher - POM Ph.D. 1967 – Heinz is retired, and still keeps up with what goes on in extension. (7520 Bent Bow Trail, Winter Park, FL 32792)

William Zawieki – POM BS 1957 - Nancy O'Brien – (Home Econ. 1957) and William have 4 daughters, 6 grandsons and 1 granddaughter, living in various parts of the northeast who they see quite often. William took early retirement from Chevron Chemical in 1984 and Nancy and he started their own business distributing chemicals and equipment to mosquito control agencies from the Carolinas to Maine. During that time William was very active in the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) and served as president in 1999-2000. They sold the business in 1999 and William has maintained his interest in mosquito control, serving as president of the New Jersey Mosquito Control

Association in 2003-2004. In his somewhat retired mode William consults for various mosquito control organizations on the practical aspects of mosquito control. The past 3 years he has worked with the New York City Dept. of Health on their West Nile Virus control program. He also works with various counties in New Jersey and with the New Jersey Office of Mosquito Control Coordination to calibrate ground and aerial spray equipment. William also helps in training sessions for pesticide certification classes. For the past 5 years he has assisted the AMCA in our legislative advocacy days in Washington D.C. During his spare time he is an active Master Gardener in Monmouth County, NJ and is a Commissioner on the Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission. (38 Morden Close, Freehold, NJ 07728-3811 Phone 732-431-9573.)

Christopher Zippel FOH BS 1963; MS 1965 –

Christopher has 2 grandsons. He is a member of the Community BBQ committee, volunteers as a gardener at William H. Seward House (Auburn), and is Fire Department Treasurer. (252 Cayuga Street, Union Springs, NY 13160)

Memorial

Sidney Waxman – FOH MS 1954; Ph.D. 1957 –

Sidney passed away on February 10, 2005 at his home in Storrs, Connecticut. He was 81. Sidney's research interests were in plant photoperiodism, the study of the effects of different periods of exposure to light; tissue culture; and the study of a plant abnormality named Witches' Brooms. Waxman selected 34 distinctive cultivars, which he named and introduced to the nursery trade. He also worked with Japanese umbrella pines, larches, the cinnamon bark maple, hemlocks, and azaleas.

Maja C. Stamp FOH BS 1941 – Maja, passed away on April 13, 2005 in Vienna, Virginia, after a long

illness. Maja came to Ithaca in 1930 with her family. She graduated from Ithaca High School in 1937 and from Cornell University in 1941 where she majored in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture. During World War II, Maja spent two years in New York City working for the Swedish - American Foundation. Maja was employed for many years as the secretary for the Premedical Advisory Committee at Cornell. She belonged to the Ladies Auxiliary at Tompkins County Hospital, the American Association of University Women as well as the League of Women Voters.

Stephen R. Breakey FOH BS 1996 – Stephen, 49, died Feb. 2, 2005, at John T. Mather Memorial Hospital in Port Jefferson. He was hospitalized Jan. 24 with a diagnosis of an aggressive, fast-moving form of neuro-endocrine cancer. He was the superintendent of the Rolling Oaks Golf Course in Rocky Point and previously had similar positions in Connecticut and on Sanibel Island in Florida.

George "Doc" Abraham (BS 1939) and Katherine Mehlenbache Abraham (BS 1943) –

For 50 years, George "Doc" Abraham and his wife Katy offered advice to amateur and expert gardeners. The Abrahams debuted on WHAM 1180-AM in Rochester, N.Y., in 1952, "The Green Thumb". Health problems forced the couple to broadcast their final show on Dec. 14, 2002, but they continued to teach gardening classes in the Finger Lakes region. For hosting one of the longest-running shows on American radio, the Abrahams were inducted into the Rochester Radio Hall of Fame. Abraham and Katy both graduated from Cornell University with double degrees in horticulture and journalism. They had a syndicated gardening column in 130 newspapers; the couple also published 16 gardening books. Abraham died on Jan. 27, 2005 of complications from congestive heart failure. He was 89. Katherine died on May 24, 2005. She was 83.

Alumni Data Sheet

Please return to Sue Thompson, Alumni Coordinator, Department of Horticulture, 134A Plant Science Building, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853 or send e-mail sdt1@cornell.edu

NAME: _____

HOME ADDRESS (street, city, state, zipcode) _____

PHONE/FAX NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

PHONE/FAX NUMBER: _____ E-MAIL: _____

GRADUATE FIELD:

____ POMOLOGY ____ VEGETABLE CROPS ____ FLOR. & ORNAMENTAL HORT.

DEGREE: ____ BS ____ MS ____ MPS ____ Ph.D. ____ Non-Degree

DATE of DEGREE _____ MAJOR PROFESSOR: _____

May we share your address information in our next Alumni Newsletter? _____

News To Share:

<p>Department of Horticulture 134A Plant Science Building Cornell University Ithaca, NY 14853 Phone: 607-255-4568/ Fax: 607-255-9998/0599 www.hort.cornell.edu</p>
