



# New York State Flower Growers

INCORPORATED

BULLETIN 205

Secretary, Charles Wilton, Prattsburg, Steuben Co., N. Y.

DEC., 1962

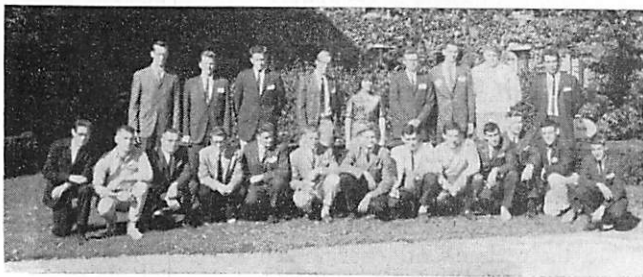
## News About The Floriculture Department

John G. Seeley  
Department of Floriculture  
Cornell University

Another year has rolled around and you will be interested to know of the developments in the Department of Floriculture.

### Undergraduate Students

This fall 25 new students joined our department. This is the largest group of new students we have had for several years. Though most of them are from New York State, we have several from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Connecticut and Canada.



### The Floriculture Class of 1966

(Top row, left to right): Morris Mead, Cortland, N. Y.; Francis Stadelberger, Staten Island, N. Y.; Henry Hall, West Pittston, Pa.; Edward Richards, Carmel, Indiana; Barbara Galbreath, Kenmore, N. Y.; Marvin Minot, Pulaski, N. Y.; Henry Mityga, Buffalo, N. Y.; Jack Mennes, North Tonawanda, N. Y.

Stanley Kochanoff, Ontario, Canada; (Lower row, left to right): Conrad Schweizer, Staten Island, N. Y.; John Bell, West Islip, N. Y.; Richard White, Gouverneur, N. Y.; Robert Gottlieb, Staten Island, N. Y.; Rolf Jesinger, Framingham, Mass.; Joseph Cefalo, Melrose, Mass.; Henry Young, Norwalk, Conn.; Joseph Lalli, Geneva, N. Y.; Lloyd Lateiner, New Rochelle, N. Y.; Peter Sarkus, Syracuse, N. Y.; Frederick Little, Ogdensburg, N. Y.; Sheldon Leeson, Mineola, N. Y.; Paul Stangler, Williamsville, N. Y.; not in picture Ronald Riner, Pittsford, N. Y.; Charles Gunther, New York, N. Y.; and Robert Pfohl, Syracuse, N. Y.

This brings our total enrollment up a little over last year so that we now have 69 students majoring in our department.

If anyone has a son that is interested in the field of floriculture, or knows of someone interested, we will be pleased to send information about requirements for admission.

### Scholarship Awards

The various scholarships and awards presented to students on the basis of scholarship, need and character are of great help to many students. As you know, the cost of a college education seems to increase a little bit each year.

### FLORICULTURE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS—1962-1963

#### Burpee Award—

Christopher Zippel, Uniondale, N. Y. ....\$ 50.00

#### Federated Garden Clubs of N. Y. State

#### Scholarships—

Joseph Lonski, Garden City, N. Y. .... 250.00

John Wagner, Richmond Hill, N. Y. .... 250.00

#### F. T. D. Scholarships—

Paul Blair, Albany, N. Y. .... 250.00

Richard Kowalczyk, Batavia, N. Y. .... 250.00

#### Hottes Scholarships—

#### Graduate—

Derek Smith ..... 250.00

#### Undergraduate—

Eugene Ford, Penns Grove, N. J. .... 250.00

Sandra Kebbe, Port Jervis, N. Y. .... 250.00

### Graduate Students

We are proud of our graduate students and the contribution they make to the department and the Floriculture research. Derek Smith has been with us for a little over three years and after conducting his studies for the Masters Degree, he continued his research with Easter Lilies and will be earning his doctorate degree before leaving for England about December 15. Derek will return to his previous position as a County Advisor in Horticulture in the National Agricultural Advisory Service. This is comparable to the term County Agent as you know it.

William Morton who came here from the University of Arkansas last year is completing his research work on introduction of fertilizer into mist in the propagation of poinsettias. You've read his article in the October issue of the N.Y.S.F.G. Bulletin 203. Bill is hoping to study abroad and do some traveling before returning to the States to study for a doctorate degree in nursery crop production or plant materials.

Paul Nelson, a graduate of the University of Massachusetts who then obtained his Master of Science degree at the Pennsylvania State University, is studying foliar analysis of carnations and the relationship of tissue content of nutrients with various fertilizer levels. Paul is on an assistantship supported by the Fred C. Gloeckner

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Foundation. You'll be hearing more about Paul's work as he continues his study for the doctorate degree.

John Scholes, a graduate of Utah State University, is studying the effect of various chemicals on the keeping quality of cutflowers. Another new student, Ralph N. Freeman from the University of Connecticut, has selected a thesis problem on response of carnations to photoperiod at various temperatures. This research is being supported by the Long Island-New Jersey Carnation Growers Association and also involves the use of equipment previously given by the New York Florist Club. This is one phase of our extensive research project on the relationship of night and day temperatures and day length on the growth of various commercial floriculture crops.

The response of snapdragons to photoperiod and temperature has been the focal point of Ed Maginnes's research and right now he is analyzing and evaluating his data. You will recall that the information from his research was used to produce the 40 varieties of snapdragons representative of the 4 response groups for the snapdragon school last June. Incidentally, the snapdragon school was a great success. Ed is contemplating completing his requirements for a doctorate degree this year.

We welcome another new comer to the group of graduate students of commercial floriculture. He is Ahmed Mohamed Tawagen, a graduate of the College of Agriculture at Alexandria University in Egypt, in 1958. After serving as a teacher assistant in the Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture Department there, he came to Cornell where he is working for the Master of Science Degree. He is interested in plant nutrition and his research is on the effect of slowly available fertilizer on the growth and flowering of poinsettia.

Martin Meyer, a graduate of Kansas State University, who completed research on foliar application and absorption of nutrients by poinsettias and chrysanthemums last year, is continuing with a nutrition project. He is now studying the dormant season uptake and the nutrient content of plant tissue as it affects the early spring growth of woody ornamentals.

Roy Mecklenberg a graduate of Michigan State University who obtained his Master of Science degree here after studying methods of determining the viability of nursery crops, has switched over into another field of research and is now studying the foliar leaching of organic and inorganic metabolites. He is studying, for instance, the leaching of calcium from the foliage of plants and its absorption by roots, thus following the redistribution throughout the plant.

John Cooke is coming down the home stretch in the work for the Masters degree. He has been interested in the hybridizing of plants in the genus Achimene. He is planning to continue graduate work at Ohio State University this winter.

Turfgrass research is an important phase of our department program and Frank Madden, a graduate of Pennsylvania State University last June, has started a project to study arsenic toxicity in soil and its effect on germination

and growth of grass seedlings especially with various levels of phosphorous in the soil. After the preliminary trials in the greenhouse, further tests will be made in our outdoor turf research area.

During this past year, Ted Bruszewski completed his work for the Master of Science degree and is now a graduate student in floriculture at the Pennsylvania State University.

## STAFF

I am pleased to report that there have been few changes in our staff this past year. We are happy that Joe Hanan who was awarded his Doctorate degree this fall joined our staff as Research Associate. He is continuing his very important research on soil mixture, irrigation, and soil type, and the various interrelationships as they affect soil aeration and growth of plants.

Dr. L. H. MacDaniels has returned from Yugoslavia where he assisted in the development of a research program with small fruits. We are pleased to see him participating in various departmental activities.

The research, teaching, and extension program in commercial floriculture has been continuing along the same general lines as developed in the last several years. Those of you who regularly read the Flower Growers Bulletin and attend the florists short course and the various extension meetings throughout the state are up to date on the new research information produced at Ithaca as well as the Research Laboratory on Long Island.

## SABBATIC LEAVE

The purpose of the sabbatic leave program is to enable staff members to have a period of time in which they can devote their time and energies to special projects that will make them better staff members, not only for the benefit of Cornell University but also for the industry throughout the state. While a staff member is on leave, his various responsibilities are handled by the other staff members of the Department.

You will recall that the late Dr. Post traveled throughout this country and throughout Europe studying commercial greenhouse crop production and marketing methods so he could use this knowledge in his subsequent work in New York State.

During this year, Dr. Raymond Fox is on sabbatic leave. You'll be interested to know what he is doing for professional improvement and even greater contributions to Cornell and the floriculture industry. At the start of his sabbatic leave period, he put the finishing touches on his film titled "Arranging Flowers on a Budget." This is a sequel to his earlier very successful film titled "Arranging Flowers in the Home." To supplement previous experience in retail flower shop management, he spent October and November working at the retail shop of Fischer Flowers in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and during November and December he is working at the retail establishment of Irene Hayes, and Wadley and Smythe in New York City. Early next year, he plans to travel to Japan where he will study the principles of Japanese

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flower arrangement, after which he plans to travel to Europe and study the retail floriculture business in various countries. He will visit retail and wholesale flower markets in Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

Harold Wilkins, who graduated from the University of Illinois and had been doing graduate work towards his doctorate degree there, has come to Cornell for the fall and spring semesters where he is teaching the flower arrangement courses and handling other responsibilities while Dr. Fox is on leave.

Dr. Robert W. Langhans is scheduled for sabbatic leave during the spring semester. His first two months will be spent in laboratory research and writing research papers. In subsequent months he will travel throughout the United States reviewing floriculture research at various experiment stations from New York, to Florida, to California. You can be sure that along the way he will be visiting and studying the commercial greenhouse and outdoor crop production in various parts of the country.

During the fall semester of 1963, Dr. John G. Seeley will be on sabbatic leave. Although some time will be spent in travel, the major time he will be writing research papers based on work done over the past 10 years. He also plans to spend considerable time in the library preparing various teaching aids, laboratory and class outlines, and other material for his advanced course in floriculture.

### **International Horticultural Congress**

Harold B. Tukey Jr. and John G. Seeley were privileged to participate in the International Horticultural Congress at Brussels, Belgium last September. They also visited experiment stations, universities, and commercial establishments in western Europe. Dr. Tukey presented a research paper on leaching of materials from above-ground plant parts and Dr. Seeley's research report was on foliar fertilization of chrysanthemums. He also served as a member of the International Commission on Ornamental Plants.

### **Florist Short Course**

The short course in late October was a success. The addition of the split sessions was appreciated by the many growers. We had a good representation from outside of New York State. We could have handled more New York State flower growers. The dates for 1963 are October 29, 30 & 31. Why not mark your calendar now?

The crop school devoted to snapdragons was well attended. The sales of the carnation manual and the snapdragon manual continues and we get good reports from all around the world. The next one crop school is scheduled to be on Chrysanthemums in the Capitol district in 1964. Incidentally, Charles Williams, who had been the assistant agent working with florists in Chemung County, is now located in the Capitol district and developing an extension program with commercial florists and nurserymen there. Bradford Bearce, a graduate of our department, has taken Charles' place as assistant agent in Chemung county with offices located in Elmira.

Our extension program and services for the floriculture and nursery industry continue to develop throughout the state.

### **Research Awards**

Each year the American Society for Horticultural Science presents awards for outstanding papers in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture. We are pleased to announce that the 1962 Alex Laurie Award was presented to Makoto Kawase, a graduate student of our department, for his scientific paper titled "Growth Substances related to Dormancy in Birch Trees." The \$100 award is given each year to the graduate student whose research paper is judged to be the best paper in the proceedings of the Society in the preceding year.

### **New Greenhouse Project**

Drs. James W. Boodley and A. W. Dimock have been very active in putting the finishing touches on the blueprints and plans for the controlled environment rooms and the new greenhouses for the College of Agriculture construction project. These facilities will be for various departments including commercial floriculture. Our greenhouses and the control environment rooms will be added at the end of present greenhouse range. Construction should start next spring.