

# Promotions, Announcements

(Continued from Page 8)

**Apple Breeder**  
Susan K. Brown  
Promoted To

**Full Professor At Cornell**  
Susan K. Brown, associate professor of horticulture at Cornell University in the horticultural sciences department at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, N.Y., for 16 years, has been promoted to professor.

"It is great to see Dr. Brown's accomplishments recognized by her academic peers. She has continued the Station tradition of developing new varieties of apples based on sound science. This work is more important than ever as the apple industry faces global competition," said Station Director James E. Hunter.

"Dr. Brown maintains her focus on developing high quality apple varieties that will, first and foremost, enhance the profitability of the New York apple industry," said horticultural sciences department chair Hugh Price. "Her understanding of apple genetics has facilitated the incorporation of many high quality traits into her advanced selections."

Brown develops superior apple varieties in a breeding

program that utilizes both traditional breeding techniques and biotechnology. The program emphasizes fruit quality such as firmness, crispness and flavor, genetic resistance to diseases, and genetic control of plant forms.

Among diseases, she stresses resistance to apple scab, powdery mildew and fire blight. Using molecular markers she is learning how to genetically control plant architecture. Brown is also researching antioxidants and ascorbic acid in breeding lines to improve the health benefits of apples, working with Cy Lee in the department of food science and technology at Geneva.

Seeing the genetic improvements in attributes develop from crosses that she has made is very rewarding to Brown. "There is so much genetic variation in apple, for many different traits, that you really can use that genetic variation effectively to make improvements that might not have been thought possible," she said.

Brown said collaboration with other departments, visiting scientists, graduate students, and technicians, is one of the strengths of her program. At Geneva, she has

worked on genome mapping and gene tagging with Norman Weeden and Minou Hemmat in horticulture; cooperated with Herb Aldwinckle and Jay Norelli, in plant pathology, on transgenics and the development of disease-resistant advanced selections; and collaborated with Harvey Reissig, in entomology, on resistance to apple maggot.

**Still Named First Louise Roselle Fellow In Public Horticulture**  
Shannon Still, a Longwood Graduate Fellow at the University of Delaware, was named the first recipient of the Louise Roselle Fellowship in Public Horticulture.

Established by trustees of the Unidel Foundation to honor Louise Roselle, wife of the university president David Roselle, the fellowship will be granted each spring, if eligible candidates exist, to a rising second-year fellow with high academic standing, an excellent research program, and demonstrated leadership potential. The latter quality involves being both a strong team member as well as promoting team building within the group.

"The new fellowship came as a complete and pleasant surprise," said Dr. James E.

Swasey, director of the Longwood Fellows Program. "It is a prestigious addition to an already outstanding program, a recognition that really enhances our program, coming as it does with it a stipend for the individual as well as for the individual's research."

According to Swasey, the named fellowship is to honor Louise Roselle's active interest in landscape design and renovation on campus and her personal interest in gardening and horticulture.

"Shannon is an outstanding example of the kind of fellows we seek for our program in public garden leadership. Many candidates apply; only five or six are chosen each year. So, Shannon's competition for this award among our fine student pool was stiff," Swasey said.

Still earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture with a major in horticulture in 1997 from The Ohio State University (OSU), where he specialized in floriculture and minored in agriculture business. His father, a professor of horticulture at OSU, established and still runs a non-profit organization dedicated to perennials — the Perennial Plant Association.

"Although I've been around horticulture my whole life, my father never

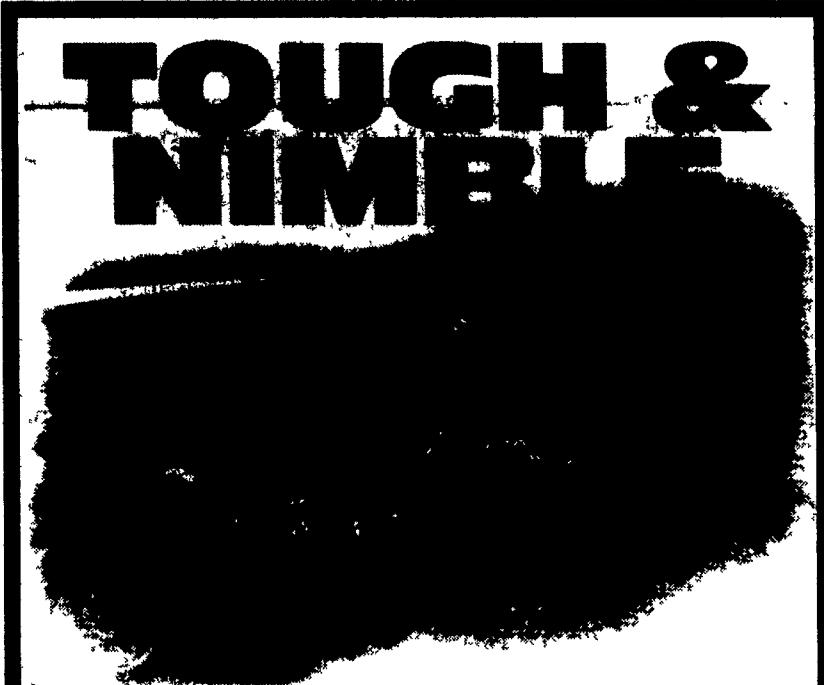
pressured me into the field. I gladly chose the same route," said Still. "I am, however, blazing my own trail to the side of his. I have met so many wonderful people in horticulture. That's when I decided I would like to be one of those friendly people who has fun, works hard, and gets paid for doing what they love."

Still first became interested in the Longwood Graduate Program when, as a greenhouse production intern at Longwood in 1998, he was encouraged to apply by the Longwood staff. From December 1998 until June 2000, Still worked as the herb department manager at Millcreek Gardens, LLC, a wholesale perennial and herb nursery in central Ohio. He often gave talks at Ohio garden centers on new and underused perennials, herb culture and care, and herb usage.

Still's thesis research for his master's degree involves the growth and flowering of the blue poppy *Mecocnopsis* at different temperatures.

"I wanted a physical science research project, one that would ideally benefit Longwood, which wants to grow this plant for their conservatory display," Still said. "The blue poppy cannot withstand the hot summers of this region, so that is a need to determine a production cycle in which to grow the plants inside for display."

After he is graduated from the Longwood Fellows Program, Still plans to earn a doctorate, and then teach horticulture at the university level.



When Gull Waddell isn't using his AGCO ST45 compact tractor to mow grass or haul round bales on his 25-acre horse ranch, he's putting it to work as owner of GTW Landscaping in Rougemont, NC.

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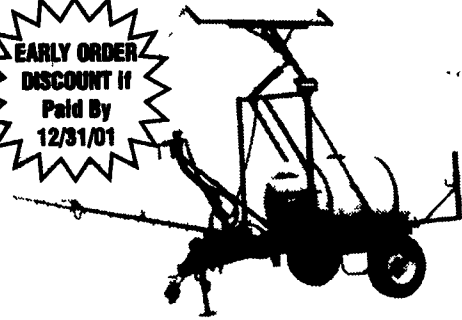
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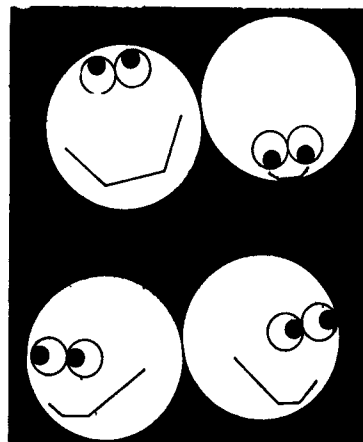
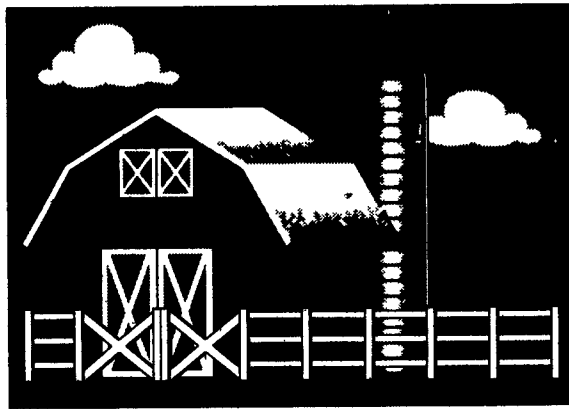
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