



Short Cutts

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2

National Recognition for Villani

Cornell Turfgrass Team member Mike Villani was recognized by the Entomological Society of America (ESA) for Excellence in Urban Entomology. This award recognizes Mike's significant contributions to Urban Entomology through his sizable research program and extension activities. This award comes to Mike with the support of his colleagues nationally who submit letters on his behalf. These letters include statements such as; "the best turf entomologist in the country, maybe the world", "a superb scientist and world leader in the area of turf entomology", and "no one has contributed more to urban entomology worldwide than Dr. Villani".

In typical Villani fashion, he deflects the attention to his wonderful lab group including, Nancy Consolie, Paul "the juggler" Robbins, Wendy Heusler, Steve Hitchcock, Jennifer Grant, Dan Dalthorp, and Carlos Potillo-Aguilar. In addition, he indicated that his collaborative work with other scientists at the Experiment Station in Geneva have added to the quality of his research.

Never one to bask in the glory of his achievements, Mike is actively working on the revision of Haruo Tashiro's *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada*, with Pat Vittum and "Tash" himself. He recently co-edited the highly successful *ESA Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests* with Rick Brandenburg of North Carolina State University. Interestingly, this is not Villani's only interaction with Brandenburg (see Program Update). The two have received over \$100,000 from the United States Golf Association over the last 4 years to investigate the behavior of mole crickets, a major insect pest in southern turf systems.

Born in San Antonio, TX and raised on Long Island, Villani received degrees from SUNY Stonybrook and his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology at the Geneva Experiment Station. Mike is an active family guy in Geneva with his wife Connie and two daughters Sara and Kate.

A Passing Note; John Cornman

The original member of the Cornell Turfgrass Team, Professor John F. Cornman passed away on January 6, 1998 at the age of 84. Professor Cornman retired in 1973 following 37 years of service to Cornell. Born in Shelby, OH, Professor Cornman graduated locally from Watkins Glen High School and received all his degrees from Cornell.

He was employed as a horticulturist for the United States Golf Association in 1939, only to return to Cornell as an instructor in the next year. In 1943 he entered military service with the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics as an agronomist advising them on dust abatement and erosion control. He returned to Cornell in 1947. Professor Cornman was responsible for teaching the turfgrass management course until 1961 when turf became his primary responsibility.

He worked on problems in the 60's that we still struggle with today, such as crabgrass and veronica filiformis control. His extension publication, *Home Lawns*, was the most requested Cornell publication for many years. In addition, he organized and directed the Cornell Turfgrass Conference for 26 years and served as editor of the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) Bulletin for 20 years. Professor Cornman received the Citation of Merit from NYSTA in 1979.

Professor Cornman is survived by his wife Francis, three sons, David, Peter, and Stephen, and their families.

continued on page 9

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