

# NEWS



New York State Agricultural Experiment Station  
Cornell University, Geneva, NY 14456-0462

**FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY**

## **DR. PAUL CHAPMAN, ENTOMOLOGIST, DIES**

Geneva, NY—Dr. Paul J. Chapman, 93, 750 Castle Street, Geneva, NY, professor emeritus of entomology at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, died at home early Wednesday morning, October 6.

"He was one of the finest scientists of his time, a mentor to many of Cornell's entomologists at Geneva and Ithaca, and one of the most outstanding human beings you could ever know." Those were the comments of Dr. Wendell Roelofs, chairman of the Geneva Station's department of entomology, upon learning of the death of his colleague and friend.

There will be no calling hours. A memorial service will be held at The Presbyterian Church in Geneva, Park Place, on Friday, October 15 at 11 a.m. Contributions may be made to the Paul J. Chapman Graduate Student Fellowship. Checks should be made payable to Cornell University and sent to the Finance Office, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York 14456-0462. Funeral arrangements are being handled by the De Vaney-Bennett Funeral Home.

Dr. Chapman came to the Geneva Station in 1930 distinguishing himself as one of the most progressive scientists in his field at the time. Additionally, he served as chairman of the department of entomology at Geneva from 1948 until 1967, a year prior to his official retirement in 1968. However, until practically the day he died, Dr. Chapman remained an active member of the entomology family at the Station, working in his office still advising his colleagues on various scientific matters and writing a history of the Experiment Station.

Dr. Chapman was born in Cazadero, California on September 9, 1900. He earned his bachelor of science degree in 1922 at Oregon State University. He then came to New York and was employed as a special field assistant for Genesee and Wyoming counties in the departments of entomology and plant pathology at Cornell University during that summer. In the fall, he enrolled in graduate school at Cornell University in the field of entomology, and earned his doctorate degree in 1928.

After receiving his degree in entomology, Dr. Chapman went to the Virginia Truck Crop Experiment Station as an entomologist until June 1930 when he came to the Geneva Station at the age of 29. He was hired as the equivalent of a full professor, probably the youngest full professor ever to be hired by Cornell University.

Dr. Chapman's research distinguished him as a specialist in providing basic knowledge about insect pests of fruit crops and their interaction with their hosts. He developed innovative control measures for these pests. For example, he determined that storing apples at 32 degrees F kills the apple maggot, a major pest. This enabled apples to be shipped to Europe, opening new markets for the apple industry throughout the United States. His research on horticulture spray oils, done in cooperation with Station chemists,

was started in the late 1930s. It gained world-wide recognition and resulted in the highly refined, safe spray oils so widely used throughout the world ever since.

When he became chairman of the department of entomology in 1948, he still continued his research. He studied the identification of apple feeders that could become serious threats to the industry. This research was sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Following his retirement in 1968, he initiated studies on flight periods of over 600 species of moth. At the age of 91, he published the results of these findings in a special publication issued by the Geneva Station.

“As significant as his research, equally or perhaps even more important have been his contributions as a teacher of young faculty and a molders of the department of entomology into one of the leading departments in the world,” said Dr. Roelofs. He encouraged basic biological studies as essential to development of sound integrated pest management procedures. He established toxicology and biological control positions in the department and hired non-entomologists to help solve insect pest problems that plagued New York’s fruit and vegetable industry.

During his career that spanned more than five decades, Dr. Chapman published in excess of 200 articles for both scientific and lay audiences. He received numerous awards and was active in the Entomological Society of America and its Eastern Branch.

In 1992, he was honored by his colleagues at Cornell University with the establishment of the Paul J. Chapman Graduate Student Fellowship. This permanently endowed a fellowship for graduate students in the department of entomology at Geneva. As Dr. James E. Hunter, Director of the Geneva Station said at the ceremony establishing the fellowship, “This is the most fitting thing that could be done to honor Dr. Chapman. A student is looking to the future, and that so typifies Dr. Chapman. As long as I have known him, he has always talked about the future and the young people who will be the leaders of tomorrow.”

In addition to his career at the Geneva Station, Dr. Chapman was actively involved in the Geneva community. He was a former member of the Board of Trustees of Geneva General Hospital, a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Geneva, a former director and past president of Geneva Concerts, Inc., actively involved with various positions in the former North Presbyterian Church, and program chairman for more than 40 years of the Torch Club, now called the Finger Lakes Forum.

Dr. Chapman is survived by a sister, Anita Parker of Minnesota. He was predeceased by his wife of 62 years, Susan.

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