

# *Station News* A PROGRESS REPORT for staff and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

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## *Departmental News*

### *Administration*

**DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI** participated in a meeting of the Experiment Station Associates by giving a report on Station research (January 5); was interviewed about ticks and mosquitoes by Linda Marsa of Discover Magazine (January 7); participated in an Invasive Plants Council meeting in Hartford (January 12); and spoke about regulations for Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer at the Annual Meeting of the CT Tree Protective Association in Southington (January 21).

**MS. TESS FOLEY** attended the CT Department of Agriculture's "Farm to Chef Program" (FTC) annual conference, where she spoke about crop research of scientists at the CAES and how their research can benefit CT farmers participating in the FTC program. Further discussion is underway with DoAG, to provide collaborative opportunities for CAES scientists studying edible crops and the FTC program (200 attendance) (January 25).

### *Analytical Chemistry*

**DR. JASON WHITE** attended the Laboratory Preparedness meeting in Hartford at the Department of Public Health also met with Jack Bennett, Section Chief for Environmental Chemistry at DPH. I toured their laboratories and discussed ways to increase collaborative work between DPH and CAES (January 11); Dr. White and staff participated in a Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (CAP) Laboratory conference call (January 14); met with Professor Saion K. Sinha of the Physics Department of the University of New Haven. Prof. Sinha is to meet with the staff of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro regarding a collaborative research proposal with Dr. White on the contamination of agricultural crops with engineered nanoparticles (January 14); spoke with Prof. Stephen Ebbs of Southern Illinois University. Prof. Ebbs is the new Senior

Associate Editor for Inorganic Contaminants of the International Journal of Phytoremediation. Dr. White is the Managing Editor of the journal. We discussed Prof. Ebbs' responsibilities and the use of the journal's on-line review platform (January 22); Dr. White and Dr. Xiaolin Li (also of this department) visited the Physics Department at the University of New Haven to learn how to use the Atomic Force Microscope owned by Prof. Saion K. Sinha (January 27).

**DR. BRIAN EITZER** presented a talk entitled "Pesticide Analysis at the Stationary Apiaries" at the American Bee Research Conference in Orlando, FL (January 12-15). During this conference he was also a participant in the Principal Investigator meetings for the Coordinated Agricultural Program on Sustainable Solutions to the Problems Affecting the Health of Managed Bees and the NC-1173 Multi-State Hatch on Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Bee Health, and while at this meeting, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Association of Professional Apiculturists (January 12-15).

**DR. WALTER KROL** presided as Secretary at the New Haven Section American Chemical Society Executive Board Meeting (January 21).

**DR. CHRISTINA ROBB** participated in an on-line "HPLC Master Class" Webinar Part 1, held by Professor Peter Schoenmakers, UVA, The Netherlands (January 19).

### *Entomology*

**DR. CHRIS T. MAIER** discussed invasive beetles with Dr. Philip Perkins, Curator, while recording data on insect specimens at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA (January 13); displayed a poster on "Invasive Alien Insects in Connecticut" at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plantsville (January 21) and discussed apple pollinators and invasive bees with Dr. John Ascher, while recording data on insect specimens at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, NY (January 26).

**DR. GALE E. RIDGE** was quoted by U.S. News and World Reports and the Associated Press on bed bug detection dogs. It is well understood that some dogs are more able to detect bed bugs than others are, and she was quoted as saying that some dogs are more talented than others in performing their duties. The new bed bug committee, the Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs (CCABB), which is under the leadership of the Agricultural Experiment Station and chaired by Dr. Ridge, was also mentioned (January 11).

**DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH** presented a talk titled "Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB): a Threat to our Forests" at the Regional Water Authority annual Permit Holders Meeting held at RWA Headquarters in New Haven (60 participants) (January 13); participated in the CT Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Meeting, held at MountainRidge in Wallingford, by staffing a table on ALB and other invasives (approximately 200 participants) (January 14); and participated in the winter meeting of the National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee, as the State Plant Regulatory Official representative of the Eastern Plant Board, held at the National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, GA (25 participants) (January 26-29).

**DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III** was interviewed about deer and ticks by Kendra Bobowich of the Newtown Bee (January 20); attended the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plantsville (January 21); spoke on "Pest Management: Ticks and Lyme Disease" at the Organic Land Care Course in Jones Auditorium (45 attendees) (January 25); attended the Legislative Regulations Review Committee hearing for the Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer regulations in Hartford (January 26); and participated, with **DR. LOUIS MAGNARELLI**, in a results based accountability (RBA) training session in Hartford (January 28).

**DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER** participated in a series of meetings held in association with the Annual Meeting of the American Beekeeping Federation in Orlando, Florida, and presented a paper co-authored with **DR. BRIAN EITZER** titled "Pesticide in Pollen Trapped from Honey Bee Hives in Connecticut - Two Years of Results in Relation to Acute Toxicity Data" at the American Bee Research Conference (200 attendees). Also participated in the Annual Meeting of the multi-state Hatch project NC1173, Sustainable

Solutions to Problems Affecting Bee Health (January 12-15); participated in the annual retreat of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA at the Isabella Freedman Center in Falls Village (January 16); taught two segments in the Massachusetts NOFA Organic Land Care Course titled "Pest Management Overview" and "Organic Management of Ticks and Lyme Disease" at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge in Newburyport, MA (80 students) (January 19); taught "Principles and Procedures" as a part of the Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Course in Jones Auditorium (45 students) (January 21); taught "Pest Management Overview" as a part of the Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Course in Jones Auditorium (45 students) (January 25); was interviewed about community farms by Lauresha Xhiani of the Waterbury Republican-American (January 26); presented a display on "Bees at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station" as part of the Connecticut Groundskeepers Association at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville (January 29); and presented a talk titled "Organic Management of Vegetable Insect Pests" and hosted the Getting Started in Organic Farming Conference in Jones Auditorium (38 attendees) (January 30).

### *Environmental Sciences*

#### **MR. GREGORY BUGBEE**

January 9. Spoke to the Fall Mountain Lake Association in Terryville on *Managing Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation* (Approx. 30 attendees) (January 9); spoke at the annual meeting of the Spring Lake Condominium Association in Southington on *Managing Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation* (Approx. 50 attendees) (January 12); and with **MS. MARTHA BALFOUR** ran the multistate aquatic supervisory license recertification program at the 11th annual Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY and received the *2010 Outstanding Member Award* (approximately 150 attendees) (January 18-20).

### *Forestry and Horticulture*

**DR. JEFFREY WARD** provided advice on forest regeneration to CT-DEP foresters and others on a field tour of Cockaponset State Forest (7 attendees) (January 5); spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (49 students) (January 6); participated in the Connecticut Forest Forum Roundtable at Yale University (January 8); met with Steve Paine, Director of McLean Game Refuge in Granby to discuss invasive control and forest health (January 12); attended CNLA Winter Symposium in Wallingford (Jan 14); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (January 20); attended the 88th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plainville (January 21); interviewed about natural forest regeneration by Patrick White of Farming Magazine (January 22); participated in CT-DEP, Division of Forestry LEAN event in Hartford (January 26); spoke on "A short history of the Connecticut forest" for an advanced Master Gardeners class at Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford (28 attendees) (January 27); and spoke on "Non chemical control of Japanese barberry" at the 2010 Connecticut Turf, Landscape, and Irrigation Conference in Montville (38 attendees) (January 28).

**DR. MARTIN GENT** Jonathan Parisa visited to discuss a proposal for hydroponic vegetable production on the site of the closed Middle School on Newhall Street in Hamden (January 6) and met with Barry Piesner and Joel Thompson visited to discuss a proposal for hydroponic lettuce production on an industrial site in Bridgeport (January 19).

**DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD** assisted a Hamden Hall Country Day School biology class with their science projects (14 students, 1 teacher) (January 28).

**DR. WILLIAM NAIL** gave a pruning and training demonstration at Preston Ridge Vineyard in Preston (January 14).

**DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS** participated in committee meeting for Acima Cherian, Ph. D. student in Wildlife Management at the University of Connecticut (January 13); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (January 20); and gave invited lecture "Wildlife Laws and Deer

Damage Avoidance” at the 9th Annual 5-day Course in Organic Land Care, sponsored by the Northeast Organic Farming Association in Jones Auditorium (45 attendees) (January 26).

### *Plant Pathology and Ecology*

**DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS** gave a talk on “Bringing back the timber chestnuts” at the Fairfield Garden Club in Fairfield (80 adult attendees) (January 26).

**DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS** attended the CNLA/CGGA Winter Symposium held at MountainRidge in Wallingford and answered questions from growers about diseases (600 attendees) (January 14); organized and participated in the Annual CTPA Meeting at Aqua Turf in Plantsville as a member of the CTPA Board of Directors and organized the CAES booth for the meeting (806 attendees) (January 21); and was interviewed about the late blight outbreak of 2009 and the outlook for 2010 by Will Rowlands of the Connecticut Gardener (January 22).

**DR. WADE H. ELMER** presented a talk titled “Management of Fusarium corm rot of Gladiolus” at the North American Gladiolus Council meeting in Albuquerque, NM (27 adult attendees) (January 21).

**MS. MARY K. INMAN**, along with **MS. ROSE HISKES**, **DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE**, and **MR. THOMAS RATHIER**, answered questions at the CAES booth at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association held at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (January 21).

**DR. ROBERT E. MARRA** successfully completed the annual USDA-APHIS-PPQ Proficiency Test for molecular diagnostics of *Phytophthora ramorum* and has, therefore, received certification to perform realtime PCR diagnostics for the year 2010.

### *Valley Laboratory*

**DR. JOHN AHRENS** attended the 64<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society held in Cambridge, MA (January 5-7) and presented a paper coauthored by Dr Todd Mervosh entitled Postemergence weed control in actively growing conifers.

**DR. CAROLE CHEAH** submitted a presentation on CT’s biological control program for mile-a-minute invasive weed that was shown at the Mile-A-Minute Biological Control Cooperators Meeting at the University of Delaware (January 26).

**DR. RICHARD COWLES** presented "Managing annual bluegrass weevils" and "Mode of action of insecticides" to the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents' Annual Meeting, Berlin, CT (180 attendees) (January 19); taught "Turf insecticides and their mode of action" to the University of Massachusetts Winter Turf School, Sturbridge, MA (150 attendees) (January 20); presented his research on "Managing root feeding pests of strawberries" and "Prospects for breeding strawberries resistant to root pests," to the Empire State Vegetable and Fruit Growers' Expo, Syracuse, NY (120 attendees) (January 27); spoke about "Organic management of turf insect pests" (January 28) and "Managing white grubs" on (January 29) for the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association meeting, Preston, CT (90 attendees); and joined the Tree Improvement Committee of the CT Christmas Tree Growers as the (non-retired) Agricultural Experiment Station scientist representative, in their first meeting on January 12, was to plan projects to enhance the genetic qualities of Christmas trees grown in CT.

**DR. JAMES LAMONDIA** participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council to prepare for the Outstanding Young Farmer Award and Ag Day at the Capital (January 11); attended the Tobacco Worker’s Conference in Lexington KY (January 18-21) to present an invited symposium paper on ‘Management of the Tobacco cyst nematode on cigar wrapper tobaccos in Connecticut’ (50 attendees) on (January 20) and spoke about the ‘2009 Outbreak of Potato Virus Y, Tobacco Etch Virus, and Tobacco Vein Mottling Poty Viruses of tobacco in Connecticut and Massachusetts’ (25 attendees) (January 21).

**DR. TODD L. MERVOSH** was presented with the Outstanding Researcher Award, gave a talk entitled “Several treatment options for control of Japanese stiltgrass in a woodland” (30 attendees) (January 5), served as moderator of the Ornamentals section at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society in Cambridge, MA (160 attendees) (January 5-7); and participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (January 12).

**DR. HUGH SMITH** participated in a meeting sponsored by UConn and UMass Cooperative Extension at Grower Direct in Somers CT on biological control in greenhouses (January 6); gave a presentation at the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers’ Association meeting in Chicopee MA entitled “Strawberry Sap Beetle Management (80 attendees) (January 8); gave a presentation at the CNLA Winter Symposium at Mountain Ridge entitled “Identificacion de insectos plaga en los viveros de Connecticut,” or “Identification of pest insects in Connecticut’s nurseries” (38 attendees) (January 14); and assisted with the Connecticut Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers’ Conference in Vernon as a member of the steering committee (179 attendees) (January 20-21).

### *Journal Articles Approved January 2010*

**Ahrens, John F.** Weed Management in Christmas Trees in 2010. The Real Tree Line, Vol. 50, No. 1

**Bharadwaj, Anuja and Kirby C. Stafford, III.** Evaluation of *Metorhizium anisopliae* (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) Strain F-52 for Tick (Acari: Ixodidae) Control. Journal of Medical Entomology

**Cowles, Richard S.** Breeding Strawberries for Tolerance to Root Pests. 2010 Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo Proceedings

**Cowles, Richard S.** Managing Root Feeding Insects of Strawberries. 2010 Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo Proceedings

**Douglas, Sharon M.** Update on Select Conifer Diseases in Connecticut – What to Expect in 2010. The Real Tree Line

**Douglas, Sharon M. and Mary K. Inman.** Seed Germination and Purity Analysis 2009. CAES Technical Report

**Eitzer, Brian D., F. Drummond, J. D. Ellis, et al.** Pesticide Analysis at the Stationary Apiaries. American Bee Journal

**Elmer, Wade H.** Chapter 2. Biology and Epidemiology. In: Fusarium Wilts of Greenhouse Vegetable and Ornamental Crops. Eds.: Angelo Garibaldi, Jaacov Katan, and M. Lodovica Gullino. APS Press, St. Paul, MN

**Elmer, Wade H.** Chapter 7. Cultural Practices. Fusarium Wilts of Greenhouse Vegetable and Ornamental Crops, Angelo Garibaldi, Jaacov Katan, and M. Lodovica Gullino (editors).

**Ferrandino, Francis J.** Pruning, Training, and Supporting Tomatoes. CAES Fact Sheet. CAES Website.

**Krol, Walter J., Brian D. Eitzer, MaryJane Incorvia Mattina, and Terri Arsenault.** Pesticide Residues in Produce Sold in Connecticut in 2008. Station Bulletin.

**LaMondia, James A.** The Development of B2, a Broadleaf Tobacco Hybrid with Resistance to Multiple Pathogens. The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report

**LaMondia, James A.** Management of the Tobacco Cyst Nematode on Cigar Wrapper Tobaccos in Connecticut

**Mervosh, Todd L., Jeffrey S. Ward, and Joseph P. Barsky.** Several Treatment Options for Control of Japanese Stiltgrass in a Woodland. Northeastern Weed Science Society, Proceedings, Vol. 64, 2010

**Rathier, Thomas.** Cultural and Pest Management Update. The Real Tree Line, February 2010 issue

**Smith, Hugh.** Leafhopper Pests of Connecticut Nurseries and Landscapes. CAES Factsheet. CAES Website

**Stafford, Kirby C., III** and Sandra A. Allan. Field Applications of Entomopathogenic Fungi *Beauveria bassiana* and *Metarhizium anisopliae* F52 (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) for the Control of *Ixodes scapularis* (Acari: Ixodidae). Journal of Medical Entomology

**Stoner, Kimberly A. and Brian D. Eitzer.** Pesticide in Pollen Trapped from Honey Bee Hives in Connecticut – 2 Years of Results in Relation to Acute Toxicity Data. American Bee Research Conference/American Bee Journal

S. Chhikara, B. Paulose, **Jason C. White**, O.P. Dhankher. Understanding the Physiological and Molecular Mechanism of Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) Uptake and Detoxification in Curcubit Species (Zucchini and Squash). Environmental Science and Technology

### *Articles of Interest January 2010*

Lance Corporal **ALEX THIEL**, USMC, son of PETER THIEL of Plant Pathology and Ecology, has returned early and safely from Iraq, due to troop draw-downs in Iraq. Hooray!

### *Grants Awarded January 2010*

**DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS** and **DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG** have been awarded an Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Disease Grant for West Nile Virus Surveillance for \$125,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health.

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