

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



Departmental News

Analytical Chemistry

DR. JASON WHITE attended the 6th International Phytotechnologies Conference to be held in St. Louis, MO. Dr. White was a conference co-organizer and chaired two sessions; one entitled "Persistent Organic Pollutants" and the other was "Plant Interactions with Nanoparticles." Dr. White also presented two platform presentations; one is entitled "Assay dependent toxicity of nanoparticles to agricultural plants" and the other is "Phytoremediation of Persistent Organic Pollutants: Mechanistic studies and Field Application." Dr. White also chaired a meeting of the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Phytoremediation*; he is the Managing Editor. Last, Dr. White was elected Executive Vice President of the International Phytotechnology Society (December 1-4); attended the Laboratory Preparedness meeting in Hartford at the Department of Public Health (December 7); attended and staff participated in a Northeast Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) conference call (December 8); attended and staff participated in a Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (CAP) Laboratory conference call (December 10); and attended a lecture on product tampering and counterfeit pharmaceuticals given by Dr. Brian Donnelly, former FBI WMD Coordinator, and now head of product tampering for Pfizer for North America. The lecture was held at the Department of Public Health in Hartford (December 17).

DR. BRIAN EITZER attended a lecture on product tampering and counterfeit pharmaceuticals given by Dr. Brian Donnelly, former FBI WMD Coordinator, and now head of product tampering for Pfizer for North America. The lecture was held at the Department of Public Health in Hartford (December 17).

Entomology

DR. ANUJA BHARADWAJ, with **DR. KIRBY STAFFORD**, presented a talk on natural and biological control of *Ixodes scapularis* while attending the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Indianapolis, IN (50 adult attendees) (December 13).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER delivered an invited talk titled “Hungry caterpillars: Wonderful research animals, awful agricultural pests” at EntCent, the 100th anniversary celebration of the Department of Entomology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL (December 11); discussed research and survey work in Connecticut while visiting Dr. Donald Webb and working with the insect collection at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign, IL (December 12); and presented a poster on “Alien invasive insects in Connecticut” while attending the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Indianapolis, IN (December 16).

DR. GALE E. RIDGE visited an apartment complex in Stamford, Connecticut, with a bed bug infestation (December 18) and was interviewed about bed bug management and the use of bed bug detection dogs by the New Haven Register (December 29).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE, with **MS. ROSE HISKES**, presented at an Audubon Workshop on Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borers at the Sharon Audubon Society (20 attendees) (December 5).

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH participated in the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society, held at the Gallery in Glastonbury, with discussions on import regulations for apples and the threat of Asian Longhorned Beetle (approx. 65 participants) (December 2) and participated in the USDA-APHIS *Phytophthora ramorum* Quality Assurance Review meeting, held at APHIS offices in Riverdale, Maryland, with discussions on deregulation of *P. ramorum*, new advances in knowledge of the pathogen, modeling of the epidemics, and an assessment of the threat to eastern forests (approx. 65 participants) (December 15-16).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER was presented with an Environmental Service Award by the NOFA Organic Land Care Program for 10 years of service as the founding chair and active member of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA. The presentation was made at the Annual Update Course of the Organic Land Care Program in Sturbridge, Massachusetts (200 attendees) (December 8).



Dr. Kimberly Stoner accepting Environmental Service Award. Photo by Carole Cheah.



From left to right, Priscilla Williams, **Kimberly Stoner**, Mike Nadeau, and Bill Duesing, with the latter three receiving awards at the Annual Update Course of the Organic Land Care program in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Photo by Carole Cheah.

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a meeting at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection on possible modifications to the school pesticide law (December 1); was visited by Tim Cipriano, Executive Chef of the New Haven Public Schools, to discuss possibilities of establishing both a production farm and an educational farm for the New Haven Public School Food System (December 4); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA (December 6); was interviewed on the air on WPKN by Richard Hill and Guy Beardsley about research on pesticides and bees and new developments in organic farming (December 10); was visited by Dr. Lynn Adler and Dr. Anne Averill of the University of Massachusetts to discuss possibilities for collaboration on a grant proposal (December 14); and participated in a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee (December 15).

Environmental Sciences

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented an invited talk entitled *Evidence for Competitive Reduction of Native mosquitoes in the Northeastern United States by the Invasive Exotic Species, Ochlerotatus japonicus japonicus (Diptera: Culicidae)* at the 55th Annual Meeting, Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Sturbridge, MA (approximately 100 attendees) (December 3).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE presented a talk entitled *Invasive Aquatic Plants in Candlewood Lake* as part of "Science Night" at Western Connecticut University (approximately 75 attendees) (December 10).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI presented an invited talk entitled *Blood Feeding Behavior of Anopheles quadrimaculatus and Anopheles punctipennis from Eastern Encephalitis Virus Foci in Northeastern USA* at the 55th Annual Meeting, Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Sturbridge, MA (approximately 100 attendees) (December 3).

MR. JOHN SHEPARD presented an invited talk entitled *Arbovirus Activity in Connecticut: 2009* at the 55th Annual Meeting, Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Sturbridge, MA (approximately 100 attendees) (December 2).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (December 9); chaired Connecticut Forestlands Council - Research committee meeting in Middlefield (December 10); participated in a Connecticut Forestlands Council - Executive Board meeting in Middlefield (December 10); interviewed about barberry control research by Sue Wolf of the Redding Pilot (December 11); and spoke on "Controlling Japanese barberry: alternative methods and impact on tick populations" Department of Environmental Protection-Wildlife staff in Burlington (45 attendees) (December 16).

DR. MARTIN GENT provided hydroponic spinach and tomato plants to Sound School in New Haven for a demonstration in Pardee Greenhouse (December 2); moderated a session on "Nutrient Value of Plants for Human Health" and presented a talk on "Changes with season of nutrients in salad greens grown in high tunnels" at the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference, Manchester NH (50 attendees) (December 17); moderated a session on "Greenhouse tomato" and presented a talk on "Recirculating used Nutrient Solution for Greenhouse Tomato" at the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference, Manchester NH (70 attendees) (December 17); and visited the Imagine Nation Museum in Bristol to provide advice on an exhibit of hydroponic plants (December 21).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD attended the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (December 2).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Department of Agriculture in Hartford (December 10); gave two presentations, "Winegrape Cultivar Trials in Connecticut" and "Vine Pruning and Training Systems for New England" during the Viticulture session of the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference in Manchester, NH (December 10); and was

appointed to the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference Steering Committee (December 16) (December 10).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS spoke on "Dispersal of exotic species by white-tailed deer in Connecticut" Department of Environmental Protection-Wildlife staff in Burlington (45 attendees) (December 16).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY gave a brief report of forest research at the New England Society of American Foresters Executive Committee Meeting in Concord, NH (December 17).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS organized and participated in the CTPA Workshop titled "Trees: Up by Roots...and Keeping Them There" held at the Gray Conference Center, University of Hartford (75 adult attendees) (December 1) and participated in a meeting of the CTPA Board of Directors at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (14 adult attendees) (December 8).

DR. WADE H. ELMER participated as a Councilor for the Northeastern APS Division in the American Phytopathological Society (APS) Governance Council in St. Paul, MN (December 14).

MS. MARY K. INMAN attended the Second National Meeting of the National Pest Diagnostic Network in Miami, FL, December 6-9, 2009, during which she presented a talk titled "Update from the Plant Disease Office of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station" to members of the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network at the division meeting (24 adult attendees) (December 9).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA presented a talk titled "Bacterial spot of stone fruits: Research update" at the annual winter meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (60 adult attendees) (December 2).

Valley Laboratory

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave a presentation on CT's biological control program for mile-a-minute invasive weed at the NOFA Organic Land Care Update Course, Sturbridge, MA (200 attendees) (December 8); met with Carol Youell, MDC Natural Resources Administrator, at the MDC Headquarters, Barkhamsted, to give an update on hemlock woolly adelgid (December 23); and met with Andy Hubbard and Scott Rogers, foresters for the MDC to check hemlock health on reservoir watershed lands (December 30).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA presented a Plant Pathology lecture on nematode biology, diseases, sampling and management and a laboratory exercise on plant parasitic nematode extraction and identification at the University of Connecticut (9 students) (December 7) and examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (December 9).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH was interviewed by Frank MacEachern of the *Greenwich Time* newspaper regarding the biological control project for mile-a-minute vine in Greenwich (December 1) and participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (December 10).

Journal Articles Approved December 2009

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. Butternut and butternut trees in Connecticut. Fact Sheet. CAES Website.

Gent, Martin P. N. A dynamic model to couple carbon and nitrogen metabolism with water transport in whole plants. Abstract International Horticultural Congress, August 2010, Lisbon.

Gent, Martin P. N. and Michael R. Short. A Simple System to Recycle Nutrient Solution to Greenhouse Tomato Grown in Rockwool. Abstract International Horticultural Congress, August 2010, Lisbon.

Gent, Martin P. N., Wade H. Elmer, and R. J. McAvoy. Rapid Watering to Achieve Partial Saturation of Root Medium on Flooded Floors. Abstract International Horticultural Congress, August 2010, Lisbon.

LaMondia, J.A. Strawberry Black Root Rot. New York Berry News.

LaMondia, J.A. and Francis J. Ferrandino. Outbreak of Poty Viruses of Tobacco in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Plant Disease.

Zasada, I., J. M. Halbrecht, N. Kokalis-Burelle, James A. LaMondia, M. V. McKenry, and J. Noling. Managing Nematodes Without Methyl Bromide Annual Review of Phytopathology.

Smith, Hugh A. and Richard S. Cowles. El Monitoreo de Artropodos Plaga en los Viveros del Noreste de los Estados Unidos.

Smith, Hugh A., translated by Analu MacVean. Minadores plaga en los viveros del estado de Connecticut. Factsheet. CAES Website.

Smith, Hugh A. Leafminer pests of Connecticut nurseries. Factsheet. CAES Website.

Grants Awarded December 2009

Dr. Goudarz Molaei received a McColgan Grant-in-Aid Award from the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association to support research on the *Epizootiology of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in the Northeastern United States* (\$1,000)

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