

Station News

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



Departmental News

NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE RESEARCH TOUR 2010

About 20 nursery and landscape professionals attended the Valley Laboratory's annual Nursery and Landscape Research Tour on September 22, 2010. Attendees were welcomed by Dr. James LaMondia and then toured the farm for the following presentations: 'Foliar nematodes on ornamentals' by Dr. James LaMondia, 'Container media: Water issues' by Mr. Thomas Rathier, 'Hemlocks: Control of adelgids and scale insects' by Dr. Richard Cowles, 'New herbicides for field-grown conifers' by Dr. John Ahrens, and 'Mile-a-minute weed: Management options' by Dr. Todd Mervosh. Indoor presentations included 'CAES arthropod database online' by Dr. Hugh Smith, 'Common cultural and disease problems of plants in 2009-10' by Dr. Sharon Douglas, '*Phytophthora ramorum* and chrysanthemum white rust' by Dr. Victoria Smith, 'Common arthropod problems 2009-10' and 'Asian longhorned beetle update' by Ms. Rose Hiskes, and 'Emerald ash borer update' by Dr. Claire Rutledge.

Thomas Rathier, James Preste and Vickie Christian helped with preparations for the meeting.

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI gave a presentation to 6 staff members of the Legislative Senate Democrats Office on research activities at the Experiment Station (September 8); attended the Invasive Plants Council meeting in Windsor and described regulatory procedures (September 14); was interviewed by Mary Jasch of Dig-IT Magazine about ticks (September 16); and attended an Experiment Station Associates meeting in the Board Room and gave a presentation on research progress (September 20).

MS. TESS FOLEY participated in a conference call with representatives from the Propane Education Resource Council to discuss ongoing support for forestry department research on invasive barberry. Also present: **DR. JEFFREY WARD & DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS** (September 24).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. JASON WHITE was interviewed by the Waterbury Republican American regarding the analysis of organic compounds potentially released from crumb rubber used as artificial turf (September 7); described department programs and gave a tour of the laboratory to representatives from the Senate Democrats office in Hartford (September 8); along with staff, participated in a FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (CAP) Laboratory conference call (September 9); was interviewed by Robert Pollack of the Experiment Station Associates Bulletin regarding the departments testing of seafood from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill (September 9); spoke by phone with Ms. Kimberly Junior from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office in New Haven. **DR. WHITE** provided a summary of the departments FDA FERN testing program from seafood coming from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill. **DR. WHITE** was also asked to provide a detailed written summary of this effort to the Congresswoman (September 9); participated in the monthly Laboratory Preparedness Network meeting at the Department of Public Health in Hartford (September 13); along with staff, hosted Ms. Kimberly Junior from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's New Haven office (September 14); and department staff received seafood samples from Louisiana state waters and demonstrated the new extraction and analysis procedure developed for the screening of seafood from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill (September 14); along with **DR. KROL** and **MS. ARSENAULT**, participated in a conference call with the FDA Forensic Chemistry Center and the MN Department of Agriculture on the implementation of a new analytical reporting technique for seafood samples from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill. This analytical technique had to be applied to all previously analyzed samples (September 22); and attended the 7th International Conference on Phytotechnologies in Parma, Italy. **DR. WHITE** is Executive Vice President of the Society and gave two presentations entitled "Phytoremediation of soils contaminated with persistent organic pollutants" and "Phytotoxicity of engineered nanoparticles to agricultural crops." **DR. WHITE** also chaired the annual Editorial Board meeting of the *International Journal of Phytoremediation*; he is Managing Editor of the journal (September 25-30).

DR. BRIAN D. EITZER was a participant in the grant review panel for the USDA/AFRI Pest and Beneficial Insect program. This panel met in Washington, DC (September 12-17).

Entomology

MS. KATHERINE DUGAS attended an ALB/EAB booth at the Woodstock Fair in Woodstock (September 3 & 6); gave a forest pest presentation to the public at the Putnam Library in Putnam (6 attendees) (September 14); conducted an ALB/EAB train-the-trainer session for the Vernon Conservation Commission in Vernon (11 attendees) (September 16); participated in a conference call for the Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Program (September 23); attended a Master Gardener-sponsored ALB/EAB exhibit at the Durham Fair in Durham (September 24 & 25); attended the CAES booth in the Connecticut Building at the Big E in West Springfield, MA (September 28 & 29); and conducted a small ALB/EAB training session for Yale School of Forestry students (6 students) (September 30).

MS. ROSE HISKES with **DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE**, Chris Donnelly, **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, and **MS. KATELYNN KING**, conducted a forest pest train-the-trainer session for advanced Master

Gardeners in West Hartford (20 attendees) (September 2); was interviewed live by Gary Osbrey of WINY Radio in Putnam about Emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, and the training session planned for the Putnam Library (September 3); assisted **MS. KATELYNN KING** in a forest pest presentation to Girl Scouts at the Anseox camp in Seymour (30 attendees) (September 11); gave a forest pest presentation covering ALB, EAB, and firewood, and an Insect Update at the Nursery and Landscape Research Tour at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (13 attendees) (September 22); gave a forest pest presentation to the environmental science class of Joe Rodrigues, vocational agriculture teacher, Bloomfield, and conducted a survey of trees and entered data into Beetle Detectives.com (13 students) (September 23); participated in a conference call for the Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Program (September 23); and participated in an Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium Planning Committee meeting in Windsor (September 30).

MR. IRA KETTLE had a honey bee display and manned the ALB and EAB table at the Woodstock Fair in Woodstock (September 3-6); participated in a training session on ALB and EAB at the Putnam Library in Putnam (10 attendees) (September 7); had a honey bee display and manned the ALB and EAB table at the Hebron Fair in Hebron (September 9-11); had a honey bee display and manned the ALB and EAB table at Harkness Park Family Day in Waterford (1,042 people visited the table) (September 12); had a honey bee display and manned the ALB and EAB table at Celebrating Agriculture Day at the Woodstock Fair Grounds in Woodstock (September 25); and had a honey bee display and manned the ALB and EAB booth in the Connecticut Building at the Big E in West Springfield, MA. One gentleman from Connecticut stated that our display and information was absolutely brilliant!! We also received many thank yous regarding our display of the Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer (September 28 & 29). Our displays at all the fairs we have done have been well received and thank yous to The Station from citizens at the Woodstock and Hebron Fairs were given.

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE attended the Southern New England Emerald Ash Borer Preparation Meeting in Pittsfield, MA (August 31); presented a lecture “The Emerald ash borer” at a train-the-trainer session in West Hartford (40 attendees) (September 2); presented a lecture “The Emerald ash borer” to Master Gardeners in Bethel (75 attendees) (September 14); presented a lecture “An update on the Emerald ash borer” at the annual Nursery and Landscape Research Tour in Windsor (15 attendees) (September 22); and co-presented the video “Lurking in the trees” and gave a short talk on the Emerald ash borer at the Black Rock Library in Bridgeport (6 attendees) (September 28).

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH along with inspectors **MS. TIA BLEVINS**, **MR. JEFFREY FENGLER**, **MR. STEVE SANDREY**, and **MR. PETER TRENCHARD**, helped Millane’s Nursery apply insecticide to all their ash nursery stock, in anticipation of the arrival of Emerald ash borer in Connecticut (September 1); with inspectors **MS. TIA BLEVINS**, **MR. JEFFREY FENGLER**, **MR. STEVE SANDREY**, and **MR. PETER TRENCHARD**, attended an emergency preparedness summit on Emerald ash borer in Jenkins Conference Room (approx. 45 participants) (September 14); participated in a panel discussion on Chrysanthemum White Rust regulations, held at the CT Greenhouse Growers Meeting at Karabin Farms in Southington (approximately 60 participants) (September 15); participated in a meeting of the Yale Biosafety Committee Meeting in New Haven (20 participants) (September 16); was interviewed for an article about beekeeping by Lois Barker of the Waterbury Republican-American Newspaper (September 21); participated in the annual Nursery and Landscape Research Tour with a presentation on Chrysanthemum White Rust and *Phytophthora ramorum*, held at the Valley Lab in Windsor, CT (approximately 20 participants) (September 22); participated in a panel discussion on Chrysanthemum White Rust regulations, held at Milikowski Corporation Customer Appreciation Day in Stafford Springs (approximately 60 participants) (September 29); and with inspectors **MR. JEFFREY FENGLER**, **MR. STEVE SANDREY**, and **MR. PETER TRENCHARD**, participated in reaccreditation training for Authorized Certifying Official status, conducted by Dennis Martin, Export Certification Specialist of the USDA-APHIS-PPQ; held in the Library Conference room of the Johnson Building (September 30).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III participated on an EPA Lyme Disease Prevention Network conference call (September 9); with Christopher Martin, CT DEP Forestry, organized and supervised a meeting on the Emerald ash borer for CT DEP, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and CAES in the Jenkins Conference Room (32 adult attendees) (September 14); participated in a meeting of the CT Coalition Against Bedbugs in the Board Room (8 adult attendees) (September 16); presented the Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project to a

regular meeting of the Plainville Town Council (50 attendees) (September 20); spoke on ticks, Lyme disease, and deer at a Representative Town Meeting on white-tailed deer in the Westport Town Hall (65 attendees) (September 22); and was interviewed about ticks by Mary Jasch of DIG IT! Magazine (September 27).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER along with **DR. DOUGLAS W. DINGMAN**, went to the apiary of Win Baum in Fairfield to investigate why six of his hives had suddenly died off (September 1); and participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA in West Hartford (12 attendees) (September 26).

MR. PETER TRENCHARD was interviewed about Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer by Kevin Hogan of WFSB-TV Channel 3 at Nye-Holeman State Forest in Tolland (July 30); traveled to Saugerties, New York, to observe the discovery of Emerald ash borer; techniques for detection and identification of the insect in the field were discussed (August 10); cooperated with personnel from the USDA-APHIS-PPQ office in Wallingford to certify cold-storage facilities of apples for export from a local fruit grower to Israel (August 18); traveled to Pittsfield, MA, for an emergency preparedness summit for Emerald ash borer, held at the South Mountain Regional Headquarters of the Massachusetts Department of Camping and Recreation (August 31); attended an emergency preparedness summit on Emerald ash borer in the Jenkins conference room; was appointed to the EAB Survey Working Group (September 14); and participated in reaccreditation training for Authorized Certifying Official status, conducted by Dennis Martin, Export Certification Specialist of the USDA-APHIS-PPQ in the Library Conference room of the Johnson Building (September 30).

Environmental Sciences

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS participated in a state-wide conference call with State and Local Public Health Officials, on an update for the status of West Nile virus activity in Connecticut (September 1); was interviewed about a human case of West Nile virus infection in residents of Greenwich by Fran Schneido CBS Radio (September 2); was interviewed about the abundance of human cases of West Nile virus infection in residents of Fairfield County by Amanda Cuda CT Post (September 3); was interviewed about human cases of West Nile virus infection in residents of Stamford and Bridgeport by Martin Cassidy, Stamford Advocate (September 9); was interviewed about the current status of West Nile virus in Connecticut this summer and what people should be doing to protect themselves by Brad Davis WDRC Radio (September 10); was interviewed about the detection and status of West Nile virus in Meriden and Wallingford by the Meriden Record Journal (September 10); was interviewed about the current status of West Nile virus in Connecticut this summer Marc Sims, Connecticut Public Radio (September 10); was interviewed about the current status of West Nile virus in Connecticut this summer and what people should be doing to protect themselves by Ray Andrews, Quinnipiac College Radio, WQUN AM (September 15); and was interviewed about the current status of West Nile virus in Connecticut this summer and what people should be doing to protect themselves by WICC Radio (September 16).

DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG presented a seminar entitled: “*Emergence of West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus in Connecticut*” for the Biology Department at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT (September 27).

DR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke to the Connecticut Groundskeepers Association on *Repairing Lawns from Drought Damage* in West Hartford, CT (approx. 30 attendees) (September 13); and spoke to a class from the Hooker School on *Soil Testing and Invasive Aquatic Plants* (approximately 25 attendees) (September 24).

DR. MICHAEL THOMAS demonstrated insect collecting techniques to the UConn Entomology and Yale University EEB Terrestrial Arthropods class at the Yale Forestry Camp in Norfolk, CT (approximately 30 student attended) (September 18).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD was interviewed about fall foliage by Steve Grant, freelance writer (September 3); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (September 8); presented invited lecture “Assessing deer impacts on forests” at the 46th Annual Northeast Deer Technical Committee Meeting, Old Saybrook, CT (20 attendees) (September 14); interviewed about fall foliage by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (September 3); interviewed about effect of drought on fall leaf colors by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times (September 21); participated in a Connecticut Forestlands Council - Executive Board meeting in New Haven (September 29); and interviewed about impacts of deer browse on forest regeneration by Dave Mance of Northern Woodlands Magazine (September 30).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD gave a talk on composting and utilization of compost at the Cheshire Library (18 adults) (September 22).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Department of Agriculture in Hartford (September 9).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS presented invited lecture “Aerial Deer Survey Technique using a Digital Sketch Mapper” at the 46th Annual Northeast Deer Technical Committee Meeting, Old Saybrook, CT (20 attendees) (September 14); met with Yale researcher Dr. Nancy Kerk about a collaborative deer repellent research project. (September 22); along with **MR. MICHAEL SHORT** gave lecture and demonstration on small mammal trapping to the Wildlife Techniques class of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (6 students, 1 professor). (September 23); lectured on “Effects of Japanese Barberry Removal and Resulting Microclimatic Changes on Blacklegged Tick Abundances in Connecticut” at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies Forest Forum, New Haven, CT (20 students) (September 30); and interviewed about deer sterilization by Dave Mance of Northern Woodlands Magazine (September 30).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a presentation titled “Eco-friendly approaches to disease management in the landscape” at the September meeting of the Garden Club of Southbury (45 attendees) (September 3); assisted the CT Tree Protection Examining Board with oral exams for individuals seeking arborist licenses in Connecticut (September 8); participated in the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the CT Tree Protective Association (September 14); participated in the monthly conference call of the Board of Directors of the APS Foundation (September 20); participated in the annual Nursery and Landscape Research Tour and gave a talk titled “Highlights of the 2010 season” at the Valley Lab in Windsor (16 attendees) (September 22); was interviewed about this year’s fall foliage and the impact of drought and temperature on color by Ryan Hanrahan of Channel 3 TV (September 29); met with Kelly Stazi, Assistant Director of Development of the College of Agricultural Sciences from Penn State, to discuss developing summer internships for students at CAES (September 30); and was interviewed about how the recent rainy weather will impact crops in Connecticut by Dana Whalen of WTIC Radio (September 30).

DR. WADE H. ELMER and **DR. JOSEPH J. PIGNATELLO** were visited by Norm Balmer of BEST Energies, Inc., to discuss the use of biochar in crop production and soil remediation (September 14); and attended the 40th anniversary of the Fusarium Research Center at Pennsylvania State University in State College, PA (September 30).

DR. FRANCIS FERRANDINO segment on Better Connecticut WFSB.
<http://www.wfsb.com/betterct/25077231/detail.html>

MS. MARY K. INMAN spoke on “Vegetative propagation of woody ornamental plants” to the Branford Garden Club (Evening Group) in Branford (18 adult attendees) (September 13).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave a talk titled “Fungi of the forests: Friends and foes” to the Naugatuck Valley Audubon at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby (30 adults and 5 teenagers attended) (September 21).

Valley Laboratory

DR. JOHN AHRENS attended a meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Association Board of Directors as an official advisor (September 8); served as one of three judges of Christmas Trees at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA (September 16); and presented a talk on new herbicides for field-grown conifers at the Nursery and Landscape Research Tour held at the Valley Laboratory (16 attendees) (September 22).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (September 8); and welcomed participants and spoke about biology and management of foliar nematode pathogens of nursery and landscape plantings as a part of the Valley Lab Nursery and Landscape Research Tour (16 persons) (September 22).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH was interviewed about several invasive plant issues by John Burgeson of the *Connecticut Post* newspaper (September 2); presented a display of CAES activities and answered questions at Hilltop Farm’s annual FarmFest in Suffield (approximately 300 attendees) (September 6); was the meeting coordinator and presented a talk on biological control of mile-a-minute weed at the Nursery & Landscape Research Tour at the Valley Lab (20 attendees) (September 22); and participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Lab (September 30).

Journal Articles Approved September 2010

Ahrens, John F. Update on Westar and Glyphosate in Christmas Tree Plantations. *The Real Tree Line*

Cheah, Carole A., Mark S. McClure. 2010. *Sasajiscymnus* (formerly *Psuedoscymnus*) *tsugae*. Cornell University Biological Control Website (Update)

Cohen, A. C., **Carole A. Cheah**, Hain, Kidd, and Hodgson. 2010. Developing Process Control and Quality Control in Rearing Systems for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Predators. Proceedings of 5th Symposium on HWA, Ashville

Cohen, A. C. and **Carole A. Cheah**. 2010. Packaging and Presentation of Artificial Diets for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Predators. Proceedings of the 5th Symposium on HWA, Ashville

Cowles, Richard S. Do We Really Want Treeless School Grounds? *Connecticut Tree Warden Newsletter*.

Elmer, Wade H. Sudden Vegetation Dieback in Connecticut’s Salt Marshes. *CAES Fact Sheet*

Gent, Martin P. N. and Michael Short. Managing a Simple System to Recycle Nutrient Solution to Greenhouse Tomato Grown in Rockwool. *Acta Horticulturae*

Gent, Martin P. N., Wade Elmer, R. McAvoy. Water Use Efficiency with Rapid Watering of Potted Plants on Flooded Floors. *Acta Horticulturae*

LaMondia, James A., Charles R. Vossbrinck, and Francis J. Ferrandino. Early Season Potyvirus Epiphytotic Affects Cigar Wrapper Tobacco in Massachusetts and Connecticut. *Phytopathology* (Abstract)

Rathier, Thomas M. Cultural and Pest Management Update. *The Real Tree Line, CTTGA Newsletter*

Mourad, Hunt, Bade, Crosby, Mansfield, and **Neil P. Schultes**. Genetic Molecular Characterization Reveals a Unique Purine Related Transporter AtPRT1 in Arabicepsy. Plant Molecular Biology

Ward, Jeffrey S. Our Forests. Stamford Land Conservation Trust Newsletter



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