SPRING 2010—OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND, 2010, 1:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS (1:00PM-1:15PM)
SIGN-IN FOR PESTICIDE CREDITS (1:00PM-1:15PM)

WELCOME (1:15PM-1:30PM) Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli, Director

SHORT TALKS (1:30PM-3:00PM)

1:30pm-2:00pm
Biological Control of Hemlock Woolly Adelgids and Mile-a-Minute Weed in Connecticut. Dr. Carole A. Cheah
Hemlock woolly adelgid has been a serious exotic insect pest of forests, nurseries, and landscapes since its first detection in Connecticut in 1985. Mile-a-minute weed is an exotic invasive plant that was initially reported in Connecticut in 1997 and again in 2009. This plant has been detected in 17 Connecticut towns in 2009. This presentation will discuss the history and progress of two biological control programs against these two important invasive species in Connecticut and will provide updates on the current status and distribution of these pests in eastern North America.

2:00pm-2:30pm
Plants for the Landscape: Native or Exotic? Ms. Rose T. Hiskes
Each spring, New Englanders appreciate anew the plants and wildlife in our yards and gardens. However, exotic herbaceous and woody plants used in landscapes can escape into our forests, meadows, and other natural environments where they may displace native plants that are important food sources for animals. Learn how to identify some native and exotic landscape plants and the effects they have on Connecticut’s ecosystems.

2:30pm-3:00pm
Connecticut’s Invasive Aquatic Plants: Searching for Solutions. Mr. Gregory J. Bugbee
Connecticut’s lakes and ponds face an imminent threat from invasive plants. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program is taking a proactive, multifaceted approach in its search for solutions. The results of our vegetation surveys of 162 bodies of water, our research on the impacts of the aquatic invasions, and our tests of novel control methods will be discussed.

GUIDED TOURS (3:00PM-4:06PM)

3:00pm-3:22pm
1. Role of Marsh Crabs and Plant Pathogens in Sudden Vegetation Dieback of Connecticut’s Salt Marshes. Dr. Wade H. Elmer
Sudden Vegetation Dieback is the rapid loss of Spartina grass species in the intertidal creeks of Connecticut salt marshes. The cause is not clear, but herbivory from the blue marsh crab (Sesarma reticulatum) and diseases caused by plant pathogens, like Fusarium spp. and root knot nematodes, may hinder the regrowth and recovery of Spartina grass into these dieback areas. We are conducting studies designed to determine (1) if crabs are more attracted to infected Spartina grass than healthy grass, and (2) if disease stress correlates with plant feeding. Attendees will have the opportunity to see the crabs in action.
Location: Plant Pathology and Ecology greenhouse

2:32pm-3:44pm
2. Controlling Barberry and Ticks. Drs. Jeffrey S. Ward and Scott C. Williams
Areas where Japanese barberry has invaded Connecticut’s forests have three times more ticks infected with Borrelia burgdorferi, the causal agent of Lyme disease in humans and dogs. Our research has developed a two-step process to control Japanese barberry with minimal or no herbicide applications.
Location: Forestry and Horticulture greenhouse

3:44pm-4:06pm
3. Invasive Aquatic Plant Greenhouse. Mr. Gregory J. Bugbee and Ms. Martha E. Balfour
Our invasive aquatic plant greenhouse contains live samples of Connecticut’s most troublesome species. Attendees can view both invasive and native plants growing in large tanks and learn how to identify plant species. We will also discuss our lake survey techniques and demonstrate how we use global position systems to document plant locations and create maps.
Location: Greenhouse near Johnson-Horsfall building