Departmental News

DR. DOUGLAS RECEIVES AWARD OF MERIT
The Connecticut Tree Protective Association held its Annual Meeting at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on Thursday, January 18th. Dr. Sharon M. Douglas was recognized by receiving their Award of Merit. Congratulations.

STATION HOST EXHIBIT AT THE GARDEN EXPO
Mr. Ira Kettle and the honey bees were a huge hit at the Garden Expo in Fairfield. Onlookers were on all sides of the exhibit to talk about the bees. Ms. Rose Bonito and Mr. Ira Kettle presented The Station exhibit at this event. Image taken by Mrs. Rose Bonito.

STATION PARTICIPATES IN FULL SCALE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) EXERCISE
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine, and Forestry Division of CT DEP held a full-scale exercise of the Incident Command System for a plant pest March 6-8, 2007 at the Sessions Woods WMA in Burlington, CT. The Emerald Ash Borer was selected as the pest detected in a state forest campground for the purpose of the exercise. There were at least 50 participants in the exercise including the evaluators and controllers and state foresters. Dr. Kirby Stafford, State Entomologist, Ms. Patty Douglas USDA/PPQ State Plant Health Director, and Dr. Don Smith, State Forester, served as the unified command. From the Station, Dr. Victoria Smith, Dr. Jeffrey Ward, Mr. Joseph Barsky, Dr. Claire Rutledge, Mr. Pete Trenchard, Mr. Steve Sandrey, Mr. Scott Williams, Mr. Jeffrey Fengler, and Ms. Tia Mastrone assumed various roles within the ICS structure. Their efforts were important to the success of the exercise, which provided valuable training for dealing with a real plant pest incident.
A LOOK BACK  By Ms. Joan L. Bravo

55/56 Years ago
Two Station staff members joined the work force… Dr. Paul E. Waggoner in July of 1951 and Dr. Israel Zelitch in January 1952.

46 Years ago
Governor Dempsey spoke at Plant Science Day August 9, 1961. There were 1,500 people in attendance.

32 Years ago
Governor Grasso spoke at Plant Science Day August 13, 1975. There were 1000 people in attendance.

18 Years ago
On Dec 8, 1989, three 25 year awards were given to Station Staff: John F. Anderson (20 currently at 38 years), Evelyn A. Havir (25), and John E. Rich (26). (Page 13, Record of the Year, 1989)

17 Years ago
In 1990, for the first time at Plant Science Day an air conditioned bus and a wireless microphone system were used.

13 Years ago
In the fall of 1994, renovations started for the Jones Auditorium and were completed in August of 1995.

11 Years ago
On January 31, 1996 the newly renovated Donald F. Jones Auditorium was rededicated. The project encompassed renovations for 7,500 square feet of the 180 seat auditorium, laboratories, and garage space. It brought the facilities up to code for fire, life safety, and handicapped access. The estimated cost was $495,000 made possible by the Jones Trust Fund.

In February 1996, the Governor proposed closing the Station.

On November 21, 1996 the Valley Laboratory had a new digital telephone system in operation.

10 Years ago
On December 30, 1997, the Station went online with the homepage on the internet. (Page 14, Record of the Year, 1997-1998)

8 Years ago
In 1999, a computer network was installed at the Station in New Haven.

Administration
DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI met with Experiment Station Associates in the Board Room and gave a report on research findings (March 1); gave a presentation on Station research progress to a General Assembly Appropriations Sub-Committee (March 2); gave a presentation on Station research progress to a General Assembly Sub-Committee on finance, revenue, and bonding (March 2); attended a forum on agriculture at the Valley Laboratory (Windsor) and gave a report on Station research (March 12); was interviewed about West Nile virus and mosquitoes by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times (March 13); was interviewed about the Jenkins Building by Ken Krayeske of the New Haven Advocate (March 15); was interviewed about honey bees by Joel Thompson of the CT Post (March 19); welcomed the Station Associates in Jones Auditorium and gave a report on Station research activities (16 attendees) (March 22); and welcomed members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut in Jones Auditorium and gave a report on Station research (76 attendees) (March 27).

MS. TESS FOLEY hosted a presentation meeting for executives from Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation. This was a first-time meeting between CAES and Sikorsky. An overview and history of the research work of The Station was presented. Featured CAES research projects presented were: Phytoremediation, Sudden Wetland Die-back, and Biofuels. Station scientists made a very positive impression on the Sikorsky executives, and as an immediate result of this meeting, an invitation was extended by Sikorsky to have the CAES present several environmental programs for their upcoming Earth Day Celebration (March 14).
**Analytical Chemistry**

DR. WALTER KROL presented a talk entitled “The Role of Biodiesel in Connecticut” to the New Haven Section of The American Chemical Society at its March meeting held at Connie’s Family Restaurant, Derby, Connecticut (March 15); presented a talk entitled “The Role of Biodiesel in Connecticut: A Solution to our Energy Shortcomings?” to The Agricultural Experiment Station Associates at their Annual Experiment Station Associates Meeting, Jones Auditorium (March 22); and presented a Biodiesel Poster Display at Ag Day at the Capitol 2007 (March 21).

**Biochemistry and Genetics**

DR. NEIL SCHULTES and DR. NEIL MCHALE presented lectures on plant genetics and conducted laboratory tours for visiting students from Springfield College (Springfield, MA) as a part of their Plant Physiology class under Professor Charles Reddington (April 5).

**Entomology**

MS. ROSE BONITO set up and helped with an exhibit at the annual Garden Expo in Fairfield (3,000 in attendance) (March 17-18).

MS. ROSE HISKES with MR. THOMAS RATHEIR, MR. JOHN WINIARSKI, DR. JAMES LAMONDIA and DEWEI LI gave a talk on “Carefree Landscape Plants” to the Springfield College’s Facilities Management majors in Windsor (60 attendees) (March 6), gave a talk on “Flying Flowers” to the Vernon Garden Club in Vernon (40 attendees) (March 19), and gave a talk produced by MR. KENNETH WELCH on “Bedbugs: A Growing Problem” to Connecticut Association of Housing Code Enforcement Officers in New Haven (80 attendees) (March 30).

MR. IRA KETTLE set up and helped with an exhibit at the annual Garden Expo in Fairfield (3,000 in attendance) (March 17-18).

DR. CHIS MAIER spoke on “Alien Insect Pests Recently Discovered in the Northeast” during a Tree and Landscape Management Seminar of Bartlett Tree Company at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury (approximately 40 attendees) (March 8); spoke on “Alien Insect Pests Recently Discovered in Northeastern North America” at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (approximately 50 attendees) (March 9); spoke about “Alien Insect Pests Recently Discovered in Northeastern North America” at a meeting of the Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby (approximately 25 attendees) (March 20); and displayed fact sheets on exotic insects and other entomological literature at a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (approximately 35 attendees) (March 23).

MS. GALE RIDGE was interviewed by Judy Benson of The Day in New London about plant and animal communities affected by climate change (March 7); was interviewed by Eric Smilie of Vio magazine in San Francisco about ticks and Lyme disease (March 12); and in the last month discovered the Asian tramp snail on palm in Fairfield, new unnamed species of Diapriidae wasp, genus Basalys., found in pit fall traps on the farm, and an exotic thrip at Beardsley Zoo (March 26).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a meeting of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Administrative Council, held at Essex Junction, Vermont; approx. (30 participants) (February 28—March 2); participated in a full-scale Incident Command System Exercise, held at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area, Burlington, CT (approximately 60 participants) (March 6—March 8); presented at talk at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, held at UCONN-Storrs, titled “Ramorum Blight: A Potential New Threat to Connecticut Forests”; (approximately 40 attendees at the talk) (approximately 150 participants at the meeting) (March 9); and participated in Ag Day at the Capitol, held at the Capitol in Hartford, by providing the sound system for the various speeches (March 21).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III participated as part of the Unified Command in an Incident Command System (ICS) test exercise for Emerald Ash Borer by USDA/APHIS/PPQ at Sessions Woods in Burlington,
CT and conducted a mock press conference as part of the exercise (March 6-8); interviewed by James DiGiuseppe, WTIC Radio, about honey bees and colony collapse disorder (March 9); spoke on tick control at the meeting of the New England Chapter of the Wildlife Society in Turner Falls, MA (50 attendees) (March 21); interviewed by Gerrad Newman, Wilton Villager, about colony collapse disorder and bees in Connecticut (March 22); participated in the meeting of the Northeast Regional Experiment Station Directors (NERA) in Baltimore, MD (March 27-28); spoke about tick-borne diseases and tick management to landscapers at the Torrington Area Health District offices in Torrington (12 attendees) (March 31); and spoke on tick management and Lyme disease prevention at the Cornwall Town Hall (100 attendees) (March 31).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented “Insect Management in Organic Land Care” as part of the CT NOFA Organic Land Care Course, New Haven (60 attendees) (February 5); organized and led the Community Farming Conference at the Mercy Center in Madison (50 attendees) (February 10); met with and advised the Bioregional Study Group on developing an organic vegetable garden and educating others about gardening (10 attendees) (February 17); interviewed by Lauresha Xihani of the Waterbury Republican American on starting a community farm (February 17); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA in New Haven (10 attendees) (February 18); interviewed by Willi Evans Galloway of Organic Gardening about Mexican bean beetles and biological control (February 21); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee in Windsor (12 attendees) (February 27); prepared and led farmers through a demonstration of key insect pests of Brassicas (plants in the cabbage family) at the regional Brassica School, funded by a Northeast SARE project, Sturbridge (30 attendees) (March 6); presented a talk, “Biological Control of Insects in Annual Crops,” and also presented a poster, “Organic Care of Lawns and Landscapes: Training and Resources,” at the first Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut. (25 attendees for the talk) (March 9); presented a talk, “Managing Good Bugs and Bad Bugs” at the Cultivating an Organic Connecticut Conference in Windsor (55 attendees) (March 10); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors on CT NOFA at Roby’s Organic Farm in Berlin (10 attendees) (March 18); made a presentation on “Community Farming in Connecticut” as part of an Adult Education course at the Cheshire High School (12 attendees) (March 19); interviewed by Tiffany Aron of the Meriden Record-Journal on starting a community farm (March 20); visited and took samples from hives of a beekeeper in Newtown (March 29); visited and took samples from hives of a beekeeper in Lebanon (March 30); and interviewed by Nancy Crevier of the Newtown Bee on Colony Collapse Disorder in bees (March 30).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY S. WARD spoke on "Influence of Disturbance on Tree Composition in Old-Series Plots" at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources in Storrs (50 attendees) (March 9); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in Southington (March 13); spoke on "Reducing browse damage in suburban landscapes" for the Menunkatuck Audubon in Guilford (28 attendees) (March 14); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (March 14); hosted "Young tree workshop" held at Session Woods in Burlington (67 attendees) (March 15); spoke on "An Overview of Invasive Control Strategies" for DEP staff in Franklin (47 attendees) (March 27); and spoke on "An Overview of Invasive Control Strategies" for DEP staff in Burlington (27 attendees) (March 28).

DR. MARTIN P.N. GENT met with Sheeva Williams, Greg Osborne and Erin Benaquista of Marrakech Inc, a job development and employment service, to visit greenhouses at Lockwood farm, and offices at the Experiment Station to learn about hydroponics and growing plants from seed (March 7, 15, and 21).

DR. ABIGAIL A. MAYNARD reported on the Station’s IPM involvement in the NRCS’s EQIP program at a meeting of the State Technical Committee Meeting in Tolland (21 attendees) (March 7).

DR. WILLIAM R. NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (March 19); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development
Council (March 20); participated in the National Viticulture and Enology Extension Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN (March 27-29); and attended the Wineries Unlimited symposium in Valley Forge, PA (March 6-9).

MR. J.P. BARSKY served as Public Information Officer during Incident Command Training Full Scale Exercise (FY 2007-2 Emerald Ash Borer) in Burlington (March 5-7).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT participated in an Education Committee meeting of the CT Nursery and Landscape Association in Cromwell (March 9) and attended the CT Greenhouse Growers Association “Evening At The Greenhouse” program at Cromwell Growers, Cromwell (March 15).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS served as GIS/GPS Officer during Incident Command Training Full Scale Exercise (FY 2007-2 Emerald Ash Borer) in Burlington (March 5-7); attended the First Annual Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (March 9); along with J.P. BARKSY, met with Steve Patton (The Nature Conservancy), Edward Faison (Highstead Arboretum), and Gary Haines (Aquarion Water Company) in Redding to discuss Japanese barberry removal strategies and white-tailed deer research (March 22); and hosted a booth about Connecticut’s white-tailed deer herd and other wildlife species at Science Night at Melissa Jones Elementary School, North Guilford, CT (60 children and 50 adults in attendance) (March 30).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was an invited speaker at the UCONN Perennial Plant Conference in Storrs and gave a presentation entitled “Managing diseases of perennials in the landscape” (425 adult attendees) (March 8); gave a talk entitled “Pruning: An introduction to why, how, and when” and answered questions about plant health problems for the Guilford Garden Club in Guilford (62 adult attendees) (March 14); participated in a conference call debriefing for an exercise on emerald ash borer conducted by the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network (March 22); gave a presentation on “Poisonous plants” and discussed ways to prevent plant poisonings for children at the Madison Learning Center in Madison (25 adult attendees) (March 27); and participated in a conference call to initiate an exercise on Phytophthora ramorum conducted by the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network (March 29).

DR. WADE H. ELMER gave a talk entitled “Vegetables, nutrition, and disease management” sponsored by Crop Production Services Inc., at the Vegetable Growers Meeting in Middletown (43 adults and 1 child attended) (March 8); gave a presentation entitled “Abiotic and biotic stress that affect sudden wetland dieback” (19 adult attendees) and presented a poster entitled “Possible role of Fusarium species in sudden wetland dieback” at the First Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources in Storrs (28 adults and 2 children attended) (March 9); presented the workshop “Earthworms and soil health” at the NOFA Conference on “Cultivating Connecticut” in Windsor (11 adult attendees) (March 10); met with Mr. Sidney Schein of the Connecticut Gladiolus Society to discuss management strategies for Fusarium corm rot and cucumber mosaic virus on gladiolus (March 13); gave a presentation entitled “Role of plant pathogens in sudden wetland dieback” to executive officers from Sikorsky Aircraft in Johnson-Horsfall (2 adult attendees) (March 14); and was interviewed about salt marshes by 4th and 5th grade students at Cold Spring School in Fair Haven (15 children, 2 adults attended) (March 29).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA chaired the session on Invasives and served on the Steering Committee for the First Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources in Storrs (March 9).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS interviewed about recent research on the overwintering mechanisms of West Nile virus in mosquitoes by Steve Clark, Stamford Advocate (March 1); hosted Dr. Randy Gaugler
and a group of 5 scientists and graduate students from The Center for Vector Biology at Rutgers University and presented an overview of the CAES mosquito/arbovirus surveillance and research programs (March 2); hosted a group 12 public health and mosquito control officials from Massachusetts and presented an overview of the CAES mosquito/arbovirus surveillance and research programs (March 7); interviewed about recent research on the over wintering mechanisms of West Nile virus in mosquitoes by Bob Miller, Danbury News Times (March 13); interviewed about the CAES Electron Microscope facility and associated research activities by the New Haven Advocate (March 15); and discussed current collaborative research activities with mosquitoes and arboviruses with Dr. Kenneth Linthicum and 7 research scientists within the Mosquito and Fly Section at the USDA/ARS Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology Laboratory in Gainesville, FL (March 30)

DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG Gave a tour of the BSL-3 laboratory and described virus isolation and identification techniques to Dr. Randy Gaugler and a group of 5 scientists and graduate students from The Center for Vector Biology at Rutgers University (March 2) and gave a tour of the BSL-3 laboratory and described virus isolation and identification techniques to 12 public health and mosquito control officials from Massachusetts (March 7).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE presented a poster entitled CAES Invasive Aquatic Plant Program at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources at UCONN (approximately 300 attendees) (March 9); presented a seminar on Caring for Athletic Fields to a class of recreation and leisure majors at Southern Connecticut State University (approximately 20 attendees) (March 13); spoke on Controlling Aquatic Vegetation in Ponds at a meeting of the Branford Land Trust (12 attendees) (March 14).

DR. MICHELLE MARKO Presented a talk entitled, Biological Control of Watermilfoils at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, held at UCONN, Storrs, CT (March 9).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI presented an overview of collection and processing techniques for blood meal analysis of mosquitoes to a group of public health and mosquito control officials from Massachusetts (12 attendees) (March 7) and presented an invited talk entitled, Olfaction in Mosquitoes and Its Implication for the Transmission of the West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis Viruses at the annual meeting of the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association, held at Atlantic City, NJ (March 14).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO Presented an invited talk entitled Use of NMR Spectroscopy to Probe Fundamental Questions about Contaminant Sorption to Organic Matter at Northeastern University, Boston, MA (March 21).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY presented a poster entitled, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program” at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, held at UCONN, Storrs, CT (March 9) and met with a representative from FirstLight Power Resources on to discuss future invasive aquatic plant research options on Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar (March 29).

DR. CHARLES VOSSBRINCK Presented an overview of the CAES molecular research investigations on West Nile virus to Dr. Randy Gaugler and a group of 5 scientists and graduate students from The Center for Vector Biology at Rutgers University (March 2) and presented an overview of the CAES molecular research investigations on West Nile virus to public health and mosquito control officials from Massachusetts (12 attendees) (March 7).

DR. JASON WHITE Presented CAES phytoremediation research to Robert Araujo and Susan Hitchcock of Sikorsky Corporation (March 14) and met with Robert Stira of FirstLight Power Resources concerning a research proposal to monitor of invasive aquatic species in Lakes Candlewood, Zoar, and Lillinonah (March 29).

Valley Laboratory

DR. CAROLE CHEAH was interviewed by Ellen Castaldini of Clean Air-Cool Planet & Clean Water Action/CT Climate Coalition for a Global Warming publication statement (March 5 & 12); met with Carol
Youell, Natural Resources Administrator of the Metropolitan District Commission and Lisa Smith, MDC Forester, at the MDC Headquarters, Barkhamsted, to give a report and update on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid biological control research (March 9); met for research analyses and discussions with Krystle Olzewski, student at Paul Smith College, NY as Capstone Project mentor (March 13 & 14); met with Emery Gluck, DEP forester at the Cockaponsett State Forest Headquarters to discuss HWA biological control releases (March 27); and met with George Haag, DEP park manager of Devil’s Hopyard State Park, East Haddam, (March 28).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Update on Christmas Tree Insect Pest Management” at the annual winter meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, Middletown (100 attendees) (March 3) and gave the invited talk for the Sustainable Forest Pest Management Symposium, "Imidacloprid and Management of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Forests: Fine Tuning for Environmental Stewardship," at the American Chemical Society National Meeting, Chicago, IL (20 attendees) (March 28).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA spoke about the CAES overview and plant pathology research to students in the Sports Management graduate program from Springfield College at the Valley Laboratory (60 attendees) (March 6); presented ‘The plant-parasitic nematode Meloidogyne spartinae - a possible contributor to saltmarsh decline at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources (40 attendees) (March 9); interviewed about saltmarsh decline by Judy Benson of the New London Day (March 9); participated in the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council Commissioners Forum held at the CAES Valley Laboratory (March 12); spoke about the Experiment Station and summer research assistant opportunities at a Career Day and Job Fair held at Central Connecticut State University (40 attendees) (March 12) examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (March 14); spoke with Sikorsky representatives Mr. Bob Araujo, and Ms. Susan Hitchcock about Eco-sensitive research projects on wetlands dieback and the development of biofuel feedstocks (March 14); taught a session on tree diseases as a part of Arboriculture 101 in New Haven (40 students) (March 14); participated in Ag Day at the Capital by attending the Station Booth, poster and display on Biodiesel (March 21); and spoke to the Experiment Station Associates about production and integrated pest management aspects of oilseed crops for biodiesel at their annual meeting in New Haven (March 22).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH presented research posters about management of the invasive plants Oriental bittersweet and pale swallowwort at Bluff Point Coastal Reserve at the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources in Storrs (approximately 300 attendees) (March 9) and at the Rhode Island Natural History Survey’s conference on invasive species in Narragansett, RI (180 attendees) (March 22); spoke about weed management at the annual meeting of the Western Massachusetts Gladiolus Society in Chicopee, MA (20 attendees) (March 24); and participated in a scholarship committee meeting for the Conn. Nurserymen’s Foundation in Windsor (March 29).

Journal Articles Approved March 2007

Anagnostakis, Sandra L., S. Clark, and H. McNab.  Preliminary report on the segregation of resistance in chestnuts to infestation by Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp.  Hortscience


Aylor, Donald E. Outcrossing in maize: Measurements and an aerobiological model.  Agricultural and Forest Meteorology


Cowles, Richard S.  Biology and management of Douglas-fir needle gall midge.  The Real Tree Line


Ferrandino, Francis J. The effect of crop growth and canopy filtration on the dynamics of plant disease epidemics spread by aerially dispersed spores. Phytopathology

LaMondia, James A. The tobacco cyst nematode affects photosynthesis of shade-grown cigar wrapper tobacco. Journal of Nematology (abstract)

Li, DeWei and Guihua Zhao. *Goidanichiella cylindrospora* sp. nov. from Connecticut, USA. Canadian Journal of Botany


Maier, Chris T. Emergence, trapping, and seasonal distribution of adult borers (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) associated with cedar in Connecticut. Journal of Economic Entomology


Williams, Scott and Jeffrey S. Ward. Endozoochory by white-tailed deer across a suburban/woodland interface. Ecology

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