

# *Station News* A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

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## **CHRISTMAS TREE TWILIGHT MEETING**

Over 60 Christmas tree growers and professionals attended the Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting at the Valley Laboratory on July 20, 2004. The meeting is sponsored annually by the Experiment Station and the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association and is organized by Thomas Rathier. Attendees heard presentations at the following plots: Conifer transplant survival and conifer nutrition, Tom Rathier; Managing insects and mites in conifers, Dr. Richard Cowles; Managing weeds in Christmas tree plantations, Dr. Todd Mervosh; Connecticut Weed Display, Dr. Todd Mervosh and Jeremy Leifert.

Richard Horvath, Mike McHill, Matt Deltenre and Jeremy Leifert provided assistance with planning and preparation.

## **NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE RESEARCH TOUR**

Over 40 nursery and landscape professionals attended the Nursery and Landscape Research Tour at the Valley Laboratory on July 20, 2004. The tour is sponsored annually by The Experiment Station and organized by Thomas Rathier. The Director Dr. John F. Anderson gave a welcome. Attendees toured the following plots: Conifer transplant survival and nutrition, Tom Rathier; Managing horsetail in landscapes, Dr. Todd Mervosh; Managing root knot nematodes in landscapes, Dr. James LaMondia and Steven Lamoureux; CAES/CNLA education gardens, Ms. Rose Hiskes; Connecticut weed display, Dr. Todd Mervosh and Jeremy Leifert; Connecticut insect display, Ms. Rose Hiskes; Invasive pest display, Dr. Victoria Smith; Tolerance of herbaceous perennials to herbicides, Dr. John Ahrens and Dr. Todd Mervosh; Comparison of granular herbicides for residual weed management in containers, Dr. Todd Mervosh.

The meeting concluded with the following short talks: Managing hemlock woolly adelgid, Dr. Richard Cowles; Sudden oak death, Dr. Sharon Douglas; Disease and plant problem update, Dr. Sharon Douglas; Transplant survival of landscape plants, Timothy Abbey; Arthropod and pesticide update, Timothy Abbey.

A Liberty Elm tree was presented in recognition of the excellent works of Dr. Mark McClure. The presentation was made by Ron Vidal, Tree Warden of the Town of Suffield.

Richard Horvath, Jane Morrison, John Winiarski, Mike McHill, Matt Deltenre, Jeremy Leifert, Laura Heath, and Jill DeMers provided assistance with planning and preparation.



Ron Vidal, Tree Warden for the Town of Suffield and Dr. Mark McClure at the dedication.

## CELL PRESS ANNOUNCES FREE ACCESS TO RECENT ONLINE ARCHIVE

PRESS RELEASE

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

August 18, 2004

Cell Press is pleased to announce that access to the recent online archive of Cell and the other premier journals of the Cell Press collection will become freely available beginning in January 2005. The recent archive of these journals includes content that is 12 months old or older and dating back to content from 1995. Each month as new issues are published, the year old issues will be added to the freely accessible recent archive. Free access to the recent archive will be available on both ScienceDirect ([www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)) and on the Cell Press journal sites ([www.cellpress.com](http://www.cellpress.com)).

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Kind regards,

Melinda Chandler, Marketing Coordinator

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## Photos of the Month...



Plant Science Day 2004

Photos taken by Clare Secker-Walker from the Department of Soil and Water

## **Departmental News**

### **Administration**

DR. JOHN F. ANDERSON participated in a CDC orientation teleconference on West Nile virus (July 6); hosted a group of Connecticut high school teachers (July 8); along with Dr. Louis Magnarelli hosted and participated in the annual meeting of NERA (July 11-13); hosted a trip to Plum Island for participants in the annual NERA meeting (July 14); attended the annual meeting of the CT Tree Protective Association (July 15).

### **Analytical Chemistry**

### **Biochemistry and Genetics**

### **Entomology**

ROSE BONITO set-up and manned an exhibit for the Station at the Conn. Agricultural Fair (Education exhibit area) in Goshen at the Goshen Fairgrounds (July 24 & 25).

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI interviewed by Garret Condon of the Hartford Courant about mosquitoes (July 7) and by Erica Cohen of the Keene Sentinel about hemlock woolly adelgids (July 14). Participated in the Northeast Directors Association meeting in Mystic (July 12 & 13). Spoke at the CT. Agricultural Fair in Goshen about ticks (July 23).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke about the career and life on Ron Prokopy at a Twilight Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society at Maple Bank Farm, Washington (June 9). Spoke about exotic and native apple pests and literature about them at the President's summer Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society at Kollas Orchard, Tolland (June 30).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH attended the CT Nursery and Landscape Summer meeting held at Hollandia Nursery in Bethel (July 14), participated in the CT Tree Protection Association meeting held in Farmington, with a table on invasive insects (July 15), participated in the Nursery and Landscape Research Tour, held at the Valley Lab in Windsor, with a display on non-native threats to trees, such as insect pests and diseases (July 20).

### **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. KIRBY STAFFORD interviewed by Nicholas Moorehead, Shelter Island Reporter, about 4-poster deer treatment stations for the control of *Ixodes scapularis* (July 1); interviewed by Alex Cody, Ridgefield Press, about spraying and deer management for tick control ( July 12); spoke on Lyme disease and West Nile virus at Northeast Utilities Corporate Office in Berlin, CT (July 13); interviewed by Anne Underwood, Newsweek Magazine, about Lyme disease and other tick-associated diseases (July 22); interviewed by Nathan Duke, Norwich Bulletin, about the incidence of Lyme disease (July 26).

DR. JEFFREY WARD interviewed about effect of hayscented fern on forest regeneration by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (July 5); invited guest on WTIC AM-1080 radio talk show "Garden talk" to offer advice on tree management (July 10); spoke on "All about trees" for Wintergreen Magnet School Summer Program (July 13); attended summer meeting of Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Farmington (July 15); visited River Bottom Farm Preserve in Cheshire to advise Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society on forest management alternatives (July 17); visited Hopkins School in New Haven to offer advice on mature tree care (July 30).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended the American Society of Horticultural Science meeting in Austin TX and presented a poster on "Effect of shade on quality of greenhouse tomato." (July 17-20).

DR. UMA RAMAKRISHNAN interviewed by Paul Fresman, State Office of Legislative Research, on the ongoing deer research programs in Connecticut (July 28).

## **Lockwood Farm**

### **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS gave a talk entitled "Chestnuts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" to the Bethlehem Land Trust in Bethlehem (July 18).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR was visited by a group of high school science teachers from Connecticut and spoke about "The aerobiology of corn pollen" at the Station and at Lockwood Farm (July 8).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS hosted and organized a visit to the Station for a group of students from Wintergreen Magnet School in Hamden who are in the summer program on plants and animals; the program included talks by MR. STEPHEN SANDREY on "Bees and beekeeping," MR. KENNETH WELCH on "Exploring the world of insects," DR. SHARON DOUGLAS on "Plant diseases and their impact on our lives," DR. JEFFREY WARD on "All about trees," DR. NEIL McHALE on "Plant genetics," and DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN on "Genetic engineering: Past, present, and future" (July 13); organized the Experiment Station exhibit booth at the summer meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association and answered questions on tree health problems and sponsored a tree disease quiz with CAES pencils as prizes in Farmington (July 15); gave talks entitled "Sudden oak death" and "Update on current disease problems in the Connecticut landscape" at the annual Nursery Tour at the Valley Lab in Windsor (July 20); was visited by a group of students from the Common Ground High School Ecology Project and spoke about plant diseases, disease diagnostics, and the Plant Disease Information Office (July 23); attended the annual meeting of The American Phytopathological Society and participated in a leadership forum and scientific planning board meetings in Anaheim, CA (July 28-August 2).

### **Soil and Water**

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS interviewed about the start of the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for 2004 by Chris Francis, WTIC Radio, Hartford; Wendy Cory, WNLK Radio, Norwalk; Jodie Latino, WTNH Channel 8; Laura Walsh, AP Hartford; News 12 Norwalk; Ted Larson, Metro Networks; Marian Gail Brown, CT Post; and Carolyn Pennington, NBC 30 (June 1); interviewed about the development of a human vaccine for West Nile virus by Michael Hurtzenback, WTNH TV8 (June 3); interviewed about West Nile virus and the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program by Leon Collins, WFSB TV3 (June 8); interviewed about West Nile virus and the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program by Marilyn Moss, Hartford Courant; and Marian Gayle Brown, CT Post (June 15); interviewed about the mosquito testing results for West Nile and Eastern equine encephalitis viruses by Marian Gayle Brown, CT Post (June 18); presented an overview of West Nile virus and the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program to a group of teachers representing the Capitol Region Educators Council (June 29); interviewed about the first bird testing positive for West Nile virus in Connecticut for 2004 by William Hathaway, Hartford Courant and Marian Gayle Brown, CT Post (June 29); interviewed about the first isolations of West Nile virus of the 2004 season by Fran Schnieido, WCBS radio; CT Metro News; Leon Collins, WFSB Hartford TV3; Marc Sims, CT Public radio; and Amy Perez, Fox 61 (July 7); interviewed about the first isolations of West Nile virus of the 2004 season by Gillian Neff Cablevision 12 Norwalk (July 8); presented an invited talk " Evolutionary strategies and adaptations for survival between mosquito-parasitic microsporidia and their intermediate copepod hosts" at a NATO Advanced Research Workshop "Emergent Pathogens in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: First United Workshop on Microsporidia from Invertebrate and Vertebrate Hosts" held in

Ceske Budejovice, CZECH REPUBLIC (July 12-16); interviewed about West Nile virus and the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program by Chris Francis, WTIC Radio, Hartford (July 20); interviewed about West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis and the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program Steve Kotchko, CT Public Radio (July 22); interview about human infection with microsporidian parasites from mosquitoes by Abe Katz, New Haven Register (July 27); interviewed about recent West Nile virus activity in birds and mosquitoes in CT by Fran Schneido-WCBS radio, NY (July 30).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented a talk and co-authored a poster at the Gordon Research Conference Section on Environmental Sciences: Water, held at Holderness School, Plymouth, NH (June 27); presented a paper and co-authored two posters at the Colloids and Surfaces Symposium, American Chemical Society, Yale University, New Haven (June 20-23).

GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on "Soil Fertility" at a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Bureau held at CAES (July 12).

DR. CHARLES VOSSBRINCK presented an invited talk "Molecular phylogeny of the microsporidia: ultrastructural and ecological considerations" at a NATO Advanced Research Workshop "Emergent Pathogens in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: First United Workshop on Microsporidia from Invertebrate and Vertebrate Hosts" held in Ceske Budejovice, CZECH REPUBLIC (July 12-16).

DR. JASON WHITE hosted Jason Kesley of Muhlenberg College while performing collaborative experiments on PCB uptake by earthworms (July 21-22); hosted Elisha Tel-Or of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as we prepared a joint research proposal (July 21-22); hosted Christopher Collins (Imperial University, London) and Gary Harman (Cornell University.) while discussing collaborative work. Mr. Collins gave a Lockwood lecture (July 28-30).

## **Valley Laboratory**

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Imidacloprid application techniques and hemlock woolly adelgid management," for an educational program at the CNLA Summer Meeting, Bethel, CT (July 14); presented "Hemlock woolly adelgid management" at the Valley Laboratory Nursery and Turf Field Day, Windsor (July 20); discussed "Insect and mite management in Christmas trees" at the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Association meeting, Windsor (July 20).

DR. TODD MERVOSH presented a demonstration of proper use of backpack sprayers at the Conn. Nursery & Landscape Assoc. Summer Field Day in Bethel (July 14); gave field talks about "Managing horsetail (Equisetum) in landscapes", "Tolerance of herbaceous perennials to herbicides" and "Comparison of granular herbicides for residual weed management in containers" at the Nursery & Landscape Research Tour, and spoke about weed management at the Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting at the Valley Laboratory (July 20); and along with JEREMY LEIFERT, presented an informational display of weeds at both meetings that day.

ROSE HISKES displayed a poster reporting on the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Discovery and Education Garden at the CNLA summer meeting in Bethel (July 14); staffed the station booth at the CTPA summer meeting in Farmington (July 15); gave a talk and walk on weeds to Advanced Master Gardeners in Storrs (July 17); and gave a talk on winter injury, garden rejuvenation, and insect pests of witchhazel, London plane tree and elm at the Nursery and Landscape Research Tour in Windsor (July 20).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed about tobacco history and culture in Connecticut by Elaine Morikawa for a documentary on tobacco for Japanese television (July 1).

THOMAS RATHIER attended the summer meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association in Bethel (July 14); and answered questions about tree problems at the Experiment Station's booth at the summer meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Farmington (July 15).

## **Journal Articles Approved July 2004**

Ramakrishnan, Uma. The Nocturnal Activity Patterns of Female White-tailed Deer in Different Seasons and Moon Phases. *American Naturalist*.

White, Jason C., Z. D. Parrish, M. Isleyen, M. P. N. Gent, W. Iannucci-Berger, B. D. Eitzer, M. J. I. Mattina. "Uptake of Weathered pp-DDE by Plant Species Effective at Accumulating Soil Elements. *Microchemical Journal*.

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