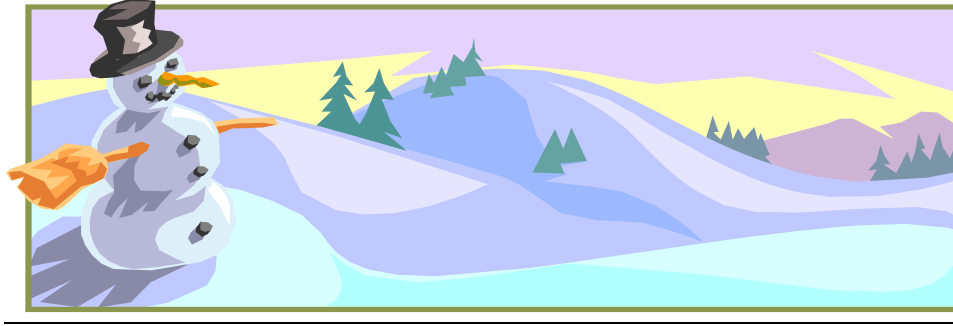


# *Station News* A PROGRESS REPORT for staff and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

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December 1, 2005

Yesterday, I conveyed to you the sad news that Dr. Charles R. Frink passed away. He would have been very pleased to hear that the Station had another great year in research and outreach. New discoveries were made, residents of the state were pleased with the service they received, and changes were made to enhance the institution's image. Some residents wrote letters to the Governor, state legislators, and members of Congress praising our work.

The Board of Control has two new members. Mr. Terry Jones of the Jones Family Farm in Shelton replaced Mr. John Lyman, III and Dr. Johan Varekamp, a geochemist at Wesleyan University, succeeded Dr. Donald Oliver. Both persons were familiar with the Station before accepting their new assignments. The Connecticut Post published an uplifting editorial, written by Mr. Jones, on the value of the Station. Dr. Varekamp knew about the works of our analytical chemists and made a special effort to see our facilities in New Haven, Windsor, and Hamden.

Governor Rell and several legislators have been very supportive. My request for emergency state appropriations to renovate laboratories in the Jenkins Building and to secure a technician position for research on Ramorum Blight (Sudden Oak Death) was granted. There also was strong public support to strengthen our capacity to diagnose plant diseases.

In February, we learned that the Hatch and McIntire-Stennis formula funds were targeted to be eliminated in President Bush's proposed budget. More than 100 letters were written by Connecticut residents to members of Congress. The Connecticut delegation helped reinstate these funds. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee for Agriculture, visited the Station in July and spoke to the staff. She was impressed with the research being conducted in our

laboratories and was well informed about our extensive field studies on mosquitoes and invasive aquatic plants.

Plant Science Days in April and August were successful. The summer program attracted 1,017 persons, including Dr. Frink. He regularly attended this event and, for many years, participated in selecting the recipient of the Century Farm Award. Staff members' suggestions to encourage children to attend, to award pesticide credits, and to allow more state and federal agencies to have exhibits enhanced our outreach efforts. New fencing installed at Lockwood Farm along the western and southern borders greatly reduced deer damage to crops. New chairs and tables provided a more comfortable environment for attendees under the main tent.

Cost-cutting measures have reduced pressure on our budget. Dr. MaryJane Mattina played an important role in obtaining electronic access to scientific journals through Yale University. Mr. Michael Last has developed a plan to save energy. The Station was the first state agency to participate in a program to monitor energy consumption and to participate in a program to reduce load on the state's electric grid system during power emergencies.

Research discoveries and the diligent work of staff members who analyze foods and soil samples, diagnose insect and plant disease problems, and who test ticks for the Lyme disease pathogen continue to help build our public support base. New viruses (Potosi and LaCrosse) were discovered in mosquitoes, new plantings of grapes, plum trees, watermelons, and vegetables were successful, and more formal collaborations with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (Food Emergency Response Network) and state agencies have been established. There continues to be strong public interest in forestry and pests of trees and crops.

The strength of any organization lies with its members. Each person contributes to the overall success of operations and programs. Thank you for your interest and accomplishments.

Roberta and I wish you and your family members a safe and happy holiday season and good health in 2006.

Louis A. Magnarelli, Director



Mike Short (left), and Jeff Ward (right) complete some tree measurements in Hartland, CT.

## **Departmental News**

### **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI participated in an invasive plant council meeting in Hartford (November 1).

### **Analytical Chemistry**

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA spoke to approximately 30 members of the Naugatuck Valley chapter of the American Society for Quality regarding work in progress in Analytical Chemistry (November 9); was invited to present a report on research related to the analysis of chiral pollutants in the environment at the 26th national meeting of the Society of Toxicology and Chemistry in Baltimore, MD (November 14); provided a presentation to the Science Club of Albertus Magnus College, approximately 15 students and three faculty also toured the laboratories in Analytical Chemistry and saw demonstrations and instrumentation (November 18); met with Mr. Russell Slayback, Chairman of Leggette, Brashears, and Graham to discuss work conducted in Analytical Chemistry. Mr. Slayback also toured our laboratories and spoke with the staff and Director Magnarelli (November 17); and conducted a tour of our laboratory for Lts. McCarroll and Chabot of the 14th Civil Support Team (Connecticut). They met with staff in Analytical and with Director Magnarelli (November 22).

### **Entomology**

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER delivered a seminar titled "Invasive Insects In or Near Connecticut: Life Histories, Distributions, and Monitoring Techniques" at Trinity College, Hartford. (30 people) (November 15) and summarized events at the recent Field Meeting of the North American Dipterists' Society in Oregon, displayed Oregon insects, and showed publications of two prominent societies for Diptera enthusiasts during the monthly meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. (ca. 30 people) (November 18).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH presented a talk at the University of Connecticut Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, titled "Ramorum Blight-a Potential Threat to CT Forest", 35 attended (November 2).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III interviewed about tick testing by Mary Conseur, Naugatuck Citizen News (November 7); met with Dr. Joseph Piesman, CDC, Dr. Randall Nelson, CT Department of Public Health, and Dr. Anuja Bharadwaj to discuss current and future research on ticks and Lyme disease (November 16);

and organized and introduced the speakers for the Prevention of Violence in the Workplace training sessions (November 28 & 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented a progress report on the Organic Land Care Program to the annual meeting of CT NOFA (60 people). New Haven. (November 5); organized and chaired a meeting of "It's Not Farmland Without Farmers," (10 people), Valley Laboratory, Windsor (November 8); participated in a forum on open space, and made a brief presentation on the need for access to land for beginning farmers at the Litchfield Community Center (November 12); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee, Valley Laboratory, Windsor, (November 15); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Tolland (November 20); and represented Connecticut NOFA in a meeting of the Interstate Council, the body coordinating all the seven NOFA chapters in the Northeast. Old Chatham, NY (November 30 – December 1).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY WARD spoke on "Guidelines To Minimize The Impacts Of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid" for the Potapaug Audubon Society in Essex (November 3); presided at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven (November 8); presented poster "Influence of prescribed fire on stem girdling and mortality" at Fire in Eastern Oak Forests Conference in Columbus, Ohio (November 15); interviewed about the importance of ash in Connecticut by Bob Miller of the Danbury News-Times (November 29); and chaired research committee session at the Connecticut Forest Forum in West Hartford (November 30).

DR. MARTIN GENT spoke on "Plant species differ in movement of hydrophobic organic chemicals: Measurements and modeling" at the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Meeting in Baltimore, MD (16-7 November); spoke on "Vegetable production and nutrition in greenhouses" to the Albertus Magnus College Science Club in New Haven (November 18); and visited the Sound School New Haven to advise the Agriculture class on plants growing in hydroponics. (November 30).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD reported on Station activities at a quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor (October 27).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL attended a meeting of NE-1020: Multi-State Evaluation of Winegrape Varieties and Clones, in Winchester, VA (November 2-3); attended a meeting of the Connecticut Grape and Wine Association (November 14); met with Bill Hopkins and David Vollweiler to discuss the 2005 growing season (November 14); met with Andrew Johnson to evaluate a prospective vineyard site in New Preston (November 21); met with Jim Baker to review the growing season at Hopkins Vineyards (November 21); and met with Jerry Servino to discuss IPM options for 2006 for his vineyard in Woodbridge (November 29).

SCOTT WILLIAMS lectured on "Deer research at the Station" for the North America Wildlife class the University of Connecticut in Storrs (November 8).

## **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about "Chestnut research in Connecticut" to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jones Auditorium (November 7).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR gave an invited talk entitled "Quantifying aerial dispersal of maize pollen" at a Symposium on Biotechnology Risk Assessment, organized by the USDA-APHIS and the US EPA, in Greenbelt, Maryland (November 30).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS lectured on tree diseases at the Hands-on Session of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's Arboriculture 101 and assisted students as they examined tree samples (November 2); gave a presentation entitled "Ramorum Blight (a.k.a. Sudden Oak Death) and Connecticut" for members

and their invitees of the Durham Garden Club in Durham (November 10); and was interviewed about what is killing ash trees in Connecticut by Bob Miller of the Danbury News-Times (Nov. 29).

DR. WADE H. ELMER spoke about *Fusarium* to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jones Auditorium (November 7); spoke on "Management of Fusarium corm rot of Gladiolus" to the Connecticut Gladiolus Society in West Hartford; and was visited by Prof. Wopke van der Werf of Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands, and discussed *Fusarium* problems (November 16).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO spoke about "Nectria canker on black birch" to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jones Auditorium (November 7).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA spoke about "Ramorum Blight" to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jones Auditorium (November 7).

#### MISCELLANEOUS:

Prof. Wopke van der Werf and Mr. Peter Skelsey from Wageningen University in the Netherlands visited the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology. Prof. van der Werf presented a Lockwood Lecture entitled "Potato Late Blight in the Netherlands: The National Research Initiative to Reduce Fungicide Dependence by Increased Resistance and Better Forecasting." In addition, Drs. Aylor, Ferrandino, and Boehm and Mr. Skelsey and Prof. van der Werf each gave several lectures within the group during intensive exchanges of information on the epidemiology of plant diseases (November 14-17).

#### LOCKWOOD FARM:

MR. RICHARD CECARELLI and MR. ROLLIN HANNAN dug and packed up two 6-ft. chestnut trees grown by DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS for the University of New Hampshire. A UNH staff member was on hand with a van to transport the trees, which will be planted in memory of Charles Warren, a staff member who was recently killed in an accident (October 17).

## **Soil and Water**

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the first isolation of LaCrosse virus from mosquitoes collected in CT by Marian Gail Brown, Connecticut Post (November 14); presented an invited seminar entitled *Epidemiology of West Nile virus in the northeastern US: a seven year perspective 1999 – 2005* to the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University (November 17); was interviewed about the first isolation of LaCrosse virus from mosquitoes collected in Fairfield, CT by Bill Bittar, Fairfield Minute Ma (November 18); presented an overview of the Experiment Station's Mosquito and Arbovirus Research Program to a group of Biology Club students from Albertus Magnus College (November 18); and presented an invited talk entitled *Host feeding patterns of Culex mosquitoes in relation to enzootic and epidemic transmission of West Nile virus in the northeastern US* at the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, Northampton, MA (November 28).

DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG was interviewed for the Connecticut Post by Marian Gail Brown about the recent discovery of LaCrosse Virus that was isolated from mosquitoes collected in Fairfield, Connecticut (November 14).

GREGORY BUGBEE spoke at a public meeting of the Guilford Green Committee on *Turf Care Options for Public Places* (November 30).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented an invited talk *Irreversible sorption of organic compounds to soil organic matter: Underlying causes and implications for the physical nature of SOM as a sorbent* in a Symposium on Humic Substances as Environmental Sorbents, at the Soil Science Society International Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah (November 6-10) and has been nominated to Chair the S-11 Division (Soils and Environmental Quality) of the Soil Science Society of America for 2007.

DR. JASON WHITE attended the 26th Annual Meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) in Baltimore, MD and chaired a session on, *Plant uptake of organic chemicals* and co-

presented a poster entitled, *Multi-species interactions impact the uptake of persistent organic pollutants* (November 16-17).

## **Valley Laboratory**

TIMOTHY ABBEY presented “Introduction to Weeds” at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Nursery Accreditation Program in Southington (November 1); “Ornamental Insect Pests” to a pesticide applicator training class at Soundview Landscaping in West Haven (November 3); “Designing an Integrated Pest Management Program” for the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (CTPA) Arboriculture 101 class in New Haven (November 9); “An Integrated Pest Management Review” at the Environmental Industry Council Annual Meeting in Southington (November 22); and attend a meeting of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group in Windsor (November 29).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH together with JAMES PRESTE, met with Dennis Souto, of the USDA Forest Service, at Framingham, MA to discuss HWA biological control progress on (November 1); processed Chinese hemlock foliage collections at the USDA Forest Service Quarantine Laboratory at Ansonia on (November 2); gave a presentation on biological control of HWA to freshmen classes (25) from Trinity College at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (November 17); together with JAMES PRESTE, met with Carol Youell, Natural Resources Administrator of the Metropolitan District Commission to discuss HWA research on MDC lands; met with USDA Forest Service scientists at the Northeastern Research Station, Hamden on November 21 and November 28 and met with Krystle Olszewski and John Cale, senior students from Paul Smith’s College of Arts and Sciences, NY, to discuss mentorship on Capstone Projects and to discuss research proposals on biological control of HWA and beech bark disease (November 22).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid,” to students from Trinity College at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (November 17) (40 attendees); and “Management of annual bluegrass weevil after pyrethroid failure,” to golf course superintendents at Harrell’s Annual Fall Education Seminar, W. Boyleston, MA (November 22) (160 attendees).

ROSE HISKES with THOMAS RATHIER taught pesticide applicator training to Grape and Christmas Tree Growers in Windsor (November 3) (7); and proctored the private applicator pesticide exam in Windsor (November 15) (6).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA presented a Plant Pathology lecture on Nematode identification at the University of Connecticut (17 students) (November 16); and spoke about ‘Tobacco blue mold, a periodically introduced pathogen’ to Trinity College students (30 audience) at the Valley Lab (November 17).

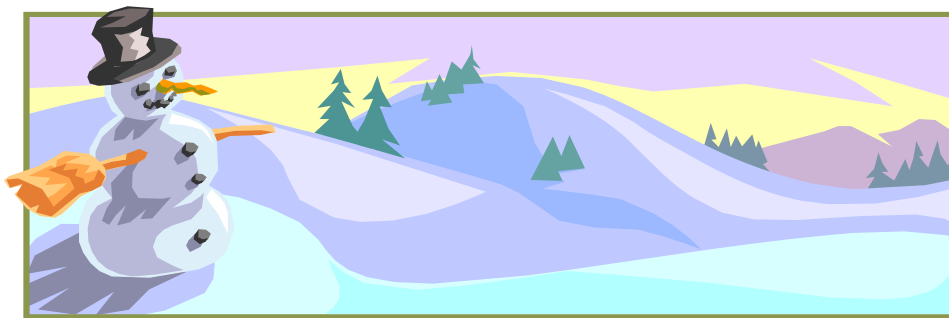
DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about “Invasive plant management in right-of-way areas” as part of a DEP workshop in North Haven (November 16) (70 attendees); spoke to two classes from Trinity College about “Invasive Plants in Connecticut” at the Valley Laboratory (November 17) (35 students); and hosted and participated in two meetings of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Lab (November 29) (30 attendees).

## **Journal Articles Approved November 2005**

Cowles, Richard S., Carole A. S-J Cheah, and M. E. Montgomery. Systemic application of imidacloprid for controlling hemlock woolly adlegid (Homoptera: Adelgidae). *Journ. Econ. Entomol.*

Magnarelli, Louis A., S. A. Levy, and R. A. Koski. Detection of antibodies to *Francisella tularensis* in cats. *American Journal of Veterinary Research.*

Ward, Jeffrey S. Alternative forest management practices: the good, the bad, and the ugly. *Frontiers of Plant Science.*



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