

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended a Board meeting of the Experiment Station Associates and gave a report on Station research programs (December 4); attended an Invasive Plants Council meeting at the Valley Laboratory (December 9); attended a Farm Bureau meeting in Windsor and spoke on Station budget needs (December 10); and welcomed 3 high school teachers and 37 students participating in the Education Connection Tour program in Jones Auditorium and spoke about Station research (December 15).

Biochemistry and Genetics

DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN attended a Farmer's Market listening session sponsored by CT NOFA and the CT Farm Bureau held in the CT Farm Bureau conference room Windsor, CT (November 14) and had a lunch meeting with Bob Burns (Membership Chair and Farmer's Market Oversight Committee) (November 21).

DR. NEIL SCHULTES attended the Annual Sigma Xi conference in Washington D. C. served as the voting delegate for the Quinnipiac Chapter and presented a poster "High glycolate oxidase activity is required for survival of maize in normal air" (November 20-23).

Entomology

MS. ROSE HISKES participated in a CIPWG steering committee meeting in Windsor (November 5), gave a talk on the Asian Longhorned Beetle to the Connecticut Maple Syrup Producers in Storrs (70 attendees) (November 8), and hosted and chaired a meeting of the state Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Committee in Windsor (12 attendees) (November 13).

MR. IRA KETTLE gave a bee demonstration and talk on 'Climate Change & Bees' for the Lego-League with Beth Johnson, Science & Technology in Suffield (16 people present, children & adults) (November 11).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke about the first discovery of an exotic mollusk, the brown banded snail, in Connecticut at a meeting of the advisory committee of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (November 13) and discussed funding of wildlife projects at a meeting of the Invertebrate Subcommittee of Connecticut's Endangered Species Advisory Committee at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (November 21).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a meeting of Forest Health Cooperators, sponsored by US Forest Service Northeast Area Office, held at the George Washington/Pulaski Management Area, Chepachet RI, and presented reports on *P. ramorum* aquatic survey, surveys for Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Sirex Wood Wasp, and other exotic pests, and on aerial survey for Gypsy Moth and other defoliators (25 participants) (October 21 and 22) and presented a talk at the CT Urban Forest Council meeting, held at MountainRidge Resort in Wallingford, CT, titled "Asian Longhorned Beetle: On Our Doorstep;" (approximately 200 participants) (October 23).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III participated in a bed bug workshop planning session organized by DR. GALE RIDGE with representatives from DEP, state and local health, and the pest control industry (November 3); spoke on the use of repellents, sprays, and treating pets for Lyme disease prevention at the Ridgefield Health Department's Lyme Disease Prevention Symposium in Ridgefield, CT (approximately 35 attendees) (November 5); spoke on tick control and tick-associated diseases at Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center, Burlington, CT (approximately 50 attendees) (November 12); participated in a CAPS committee meeting at the Valley Laboratory (November 13); participated on a panel discussion on Lyme disease in Deep River, CT (approximately 63 attendees) (November 15); attended the annual meeting of the Working Lands Alliance in Hartford (November 19); discussed research plans and training again at the fire school with DR. KIMBERLY STONER, Winthrop Baum, and Ted Jones at the Southern New England Beekeepers Assembly in Hamden, CT (November 22); and interviewed by Kendra Bobowick, Newtown Bee, about deer and Lyme disease (November 25).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in the Harvest Celebration and Annual Meeting of CT NOFA at Jones Auditorium in New Haven (November 1); met with research associates Paige Newby and Dana MacDonald of Brown University about identification of pollen samples (November 7); made a presentation with Bill Duesing of CT NOFA at the Smart Growth Conference on "Getting the Food to Where the People Are" (November 13); chaired the annual retreat of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA at Mercy Center in Madison (November 14-16); attended the annual meeting of the Working Lands Alliance in Hartford (November 19); gave a presentation at the NOFA Organic Lawn and Turf Course for Municipalities on "Why Organic?" (November 20); and attended the Southern New England Bee Assembly in Hamden (November 22).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD met with Leslie Kane, Director of Audubon Connecticut Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary and Justin Coppola to discuss invasive species control options (November 10); spoke on "A short history of the Connecticut Forest" for the Branford Garden Club in Branford (17 attendees) (November 10); along with DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS and JP BARSKY, visited with Jennifer Kaufmann, Parks Coordinator, to advise on invasive shrub control in Mansfield (November 13); met with Greenwich Town officials Denise Savageau and Bruce Spaman to discuss invasive shrub control (November 14); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (November 19); and spoke "Connecticut Highlands Ecosystem Health Project" at the 4th Annual Connecticut Forest Conservation and Research Forum in Storrs (45 attendees) (November 25).

DR. MARTIN GENT presented a poster "A dynamic linear model of water movement in whole plants" at the IPlant Collaborative Workshop (University of Arizona) on "Developing common models for molecular mechanisms, crop physiology, and ecological studies" held at the Biosphere Arizona (100 attendees) (November 8-9) and met with Dean Weigers and Mike Bogolawski of Hanna Instruments at the Ebb & flow greenhouse to discuss installation of a chlorine sterilization system (November 18).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD attended a meeting of Solid Waste Advisory Committee at DEP headquarters in Hartford (November 17); reported on Station activities at a quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor (November 18); and along with DR. DAVID E. HILL, attended the Soil Survey Planning Conference in Tolland (November 20).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (November 3); participated in the annual meeting of NE-1020: Multi-state Evaluation of Winegrape Cultivars and Clones in Palisade, CO (November 6-7); participated in a meeting of the State Consulting Committee for Agricultural Education at Lebanon High School (November 20); inspected a potential vineyard site at Holcomb Farms in West Granby (November 20); and visited the future site of Lost Acres Vineyard in Granby with Kevin Riggott (November 26).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS gave lecture and demonstration on "Large mammal capture techniques" to the Wildlife Sampling Techniques class of the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering of the University of Connecticut, Storrs (15 students) (November 5); with J.P. BARSKY hosted a forestry

tools and forest disease demonstration table at the Connecticut FFA Forestry Fall Career Development Events at UConn Storrs (30 students from 19 Vo-Ag schools) (November 7); met with Leslie Kane, Director of Audubon Connecticut Bent of the River Wildlife Sanctuary and Justin Coppola to discuss deer browse damage (November 10); hosted a table at the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Annual Career night (350 students) (November 12); met with Greenwich Town officials Denise Savageau and Bruce Spaman to discuss white-tailed deer research (November 14); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (November 19); and presented research poster titled “Connecticut Deer Vehicle Collisions” at GIS Day at Southern Connecticut State University (November 19).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY participated in a Connecticut Chapter of the Society of American Foresters Executive Committee Meeting at Yale University (November 19) and attended the Fourth Annual Connecticut Forest Conservation and Research Forum at the University of Connecticut (November 25).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about butternuts to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jenkins (1 adult and 13 students attended) (November 10); reported on searching for oak wilt at the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) meeting in Windsor (15 adult attendees) (November 13).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH gave a talk entitled “Selecting bacteriophages for biological control” at the 2nd International Symposium on Biological Control of Bacterial Plant Diseases in Orlando, FL (70 adult attendees) (November 4-7).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS participated in the November meeting of the CTPA Board of Directors in New Haven (November 4); gave an invited presentation entitled “What we need to know about powdery and downy mildews on greenhouse crops” (200 adult attendees) and participated in the “Ask the Experts” session at the New England Greenhouse Conference in Worcester, MA (November 5-6); spoke about the Experiment Station and the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jenkins (1 adult and 13 students attended) (November 10); participated in the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) meeting and discussed results of the 2008 Surveys of Ramorum Blight and Chrysanthemum White Rust in Windsor (15 adult attendees) (November 13); and participated in a conference call for members of the Board of the APS Foundation (10 adult attendees) (November 19).

DR. WADE H. ELMER gave two talks entitled “Bio-control options for disease control—Part II: Root-rot diseases” (45 adult attendees) and “Managing plant nutrition to limit disease susceptibility” (28 adult attendees) at the New England Greenhouse Conference in Worcester, MA (November 5-6); and gave a talk entitled “Fusarium: Taxonomy and ecology” to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jenkins (1 adult and 13 students attended) (November 10).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO gave a talk entitled “The epidemiology of grape powdery mildew” to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jenkins (1 adult and 13 students attended) (November 10); with DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA, met with Frank Caruso (UMASS Cranberry Station) at the Griswold Research Center to discuss collaboration concerning the overwintering inoculum of Grape Powdery Mildew (GPM) (November 20); and met with Arthur Tuttle (UMASS Extension) at the Griswold Research Center to discuss collaboration concerning the overwintering inoculum of Grape Powdery Mildew (November 20).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave a talk entitled “Molecular methods in Ramorum Blight diagnostics” to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University in Jenkins (1 adult and 13 students attended) (November 10); hosted Nick Brazee, a PhD student in forest pathology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, to instruct and supervise him on the SSCP technique in his laboratory; Dr. Marra is on Mr. Brazee’s PhD committee (November 14); and attended the Connecticut Forest & Park Association’s annual forum entitled “Public benefit of forests: What are they worth?” and participated in a workshop on “Urban and community forestry” (20 adult attendees) at UCONN in Storrs (November 25).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the 2008 West Nile virus season in Connecticut and the northeastern US by Marc Sims of CT Public Radio (November 7); presented an overview of the State Mosquito and Arbovirus surveillance Program to State Senator Edward Meyer (November 14); and lectured about mosquitoes and West Nile virus to 18 students from St. Ann School in Bridgeport and provided a tour of the biosafety level 3 and electron microscope laboratories as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (18 students) (November 20).

DR. GREGORY BUGBEE presented an invited seminar entitled, *Connecticut's Invasive Aquatic Plant Problem* at the Albert Notation Memorial Seminar Series held at Quinnipiac University in Hamden (November 13).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented an invited talk entitled, *Attenuation of the Surface Activity of Chars by Natural Substances in Soil* at the 29TH Annual Meeting of Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry held in Tampa, FL (November 16-20).

MS. ROSLYN REEPS presented a poster entitled *The Invasive Aquatic Plants of Lake Zoar* for Connecticut GIS Day, held at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven (November 19) and represented CAES at the Connecticut Geospatial Council meeting held at SCSU (November 19).

MR. JOHN SHEPARD spoke to 18 students from St. Ann School in Bridgeport and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (18 students) (November 20).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS spoke to 18 students from St. Ann School in Bridgeport and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (18 students) (November 20).

DR. JASON WHITE has been elected Vice President of the International Phytotechnology Society and participated in EPA-sponsored conference call to begin planning of the next International Phytotechnology Society meeting (November 6).

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES discussed the use of ELISA technology in forestry research with three representatives from Horiba Company, November 4; and presented "Organic land care: the white grub challenge" to the Connecticut Environmental Council annual meeting, Southington (150 attendees) (November 25).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA presented a Plant Pathology lecture on nematode biology, diseases, sampling and management and a laboratory exercise on plant parasitic nematode extraction and identification at the University of Connecticut (9 students) (November 5); met at the University of Connecticut with Bill Manning of the University of Massachusetts and Julia Kuzovkina of UConn to evaluate results from a cooperative ozone damage experiment (November 5); and conducted a day-long train-the-trainer NE-SARE Professional Development Program Workshop on 'Diagnosis, Visual Assessment and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruit in the Northeast' in Allentown Pennsylvania (22 persons) (November 18).

DR. DEWEI LI started serving as a Member of the Editorial Advisory Board of The Open Mycology Journal (November 2008).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH participated in a symposium follow-up meeting and a steering committee meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (12 attendees) (November 5) and participated in the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) committee meeting in Windsor (15 attendees) (November 13).

Journal Articles Approved December 2008

- Balogh, Botond, M. T. Momol, A. Obradovic, and J. B. Jones. Bacteriophages as Agents for the Control of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria. In: Disease Control in Crops: Biological and Environmentally Friendly Approaches, Dale Walters, (ed.), John Wiley & Sons Ltd., UK
- Balogh, Botond, J. B. Jones, F. B. Iriarte, and M. T. Momol. Phage Therapy for Plant Disease Control. Current Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, Special Topics Issue – Phage Therapy
- Elmer, Wade H. Using Fertility to Suppress Vegetable Diseases. Proc. Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention & Trade Show, 13-15 January 2009, Atlantic City, NJ
- Elmer, Wade H. Asparagus Disease Management in the Northeastern US. Proc. Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention and Trade Show, 13-15 January 2009, Atlantic City, NJ
- Elmer, Wade H. and R. Jimenez. Disease Management Session. Journal of Plant Pathology
- Magnarelli, Louis A. Global Importance of Ticks and Associated Infectious Disease Agents. Clinical Microbiology Newsletter
- Mansfield, T.A., Neil P. Schultes, Mourad, G. S. AtAzg (and AtAzzg) Comprise a Novel Family of Purine Transporters in Arabidopsis. FEBS Letters
- Stoner, Kimberly A. and Brian D. Eitzer. Measuring Pesticides in Pollen. Proceedings of the Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention
- Ward, Jeffrey S. and Scott C. Williams. Effectiveness of Deer Repellants in Connecticut. Human Wildlife Conflicts Journal
- Wen, A., Botond Balogh, M. T. Momol, S. M. Olson, and J. B. Jones. Management of Bacterial Spot of Tomato With a Phosphorous Acid Compound. Crop Protection
- Zelitch, Israel, Neil P. Schultes, Richard B. Peterson, P. Brown, and T. P. Brutrell. High Glycolate Oxide Activity is Required for Survival of Maize in Normal Air. Plant Physiology

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