

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

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Note From Uma Ramakrishnan...

I am conducting a survey on deer damage to gardens and other cultivated landscapes. So far, I have sent surveys to members of the Federated Garden Club, the Connecticut Farm Bureau and members of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association. I would also like station employees who have gardens to participate in this survey. The survey can be accessed at:
<http://www.caes.state.ct.us/SpecialFeatures/SpecialFeatures.htm> Then select Online Deer Damage Survey (Gardeners) Please spend a few moments filling out the questionnaire on deer problems on your property. If you prefer a hard copy of the survey, let me know and I will send you a copy via inter-departmental mail. Feel free to contact me either by phone or via e-mail if you have any questions. Thank You.

Please remember to submit your special photos you recently took and would like to share. We can feature them in our photo of the month section.

Photo of the Month...



Departmental News

Administration

DR. JOHN F. ANDERSON gave a talk and Powerpoint presentation to the Garden Club of Old Saybrook about West Nile virus and Lyme disease (January 5); Participated in a meeting of the Natural Resources Council in New Haven (January 7); Welcomed the Connecticut Pomological Society to Jones Auditorium at their Annual Meeting (January 13); Participated in a meeting on Invasive Plants held in Hartford (January 13); Spoke at and gave a Powerpoint presentation on the Station, West Nile virus and Lyme disease to the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (January 15); Hosted and participated in a meeting of the Station's Board of Control held in Hartford (January 20); Welcomed the Federated Garden Club to Jones Auditorium (January 20); Spoke to and gave a Powerpoint presentation on West Nile virus and Lyme disease to the Branford Land Trust in Branford (January 21); Hosted a group from the Department of Environmental Protection (January 22); Welcomed and gave a short Powerpoint presentation to Bedding Plant Growers in Jones Auditorium (January 23); Participated in a meeting on Invasive Plants held in Hartford (January 29); and met with Drs. Larry Dunn and Alison Tuttle from Mystic Aquarium (January 29).

Analytical Chemistry

Biochemistry and Genetics

DR. NEIL McHALE taught a minicourse on "Botany for Gardeners" in the Garden Study Program run by the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut on (January 21-22).

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Entomology

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI interviewed by Joseph Straw of the New Haven Register about select agents and Station research (January 2); interviewed by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times about longhorned beetles (January 12); participated in a CDC special Emphasis Panel to review grants for Lyme disease in Atlanta, GA. (January 14).

DR. CHRIS MAIER -spoke on "Non-native Fruit Pests: Future Insect Threats" and displayed a poster on "The Apple Tortrix and the Green Pug" at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Jones Auditorium (January 13); given the Award of Merit at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Jones Auditorium (January 13); spoke on the emerald ash borer at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington (January 15); presented a display on new entomological literature and insects on stamps while attending a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (January 23).

STEPHEN SANDREY moderated talks at the Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Associations winter meeting in Stamford (January 15).

DR. VICTORIA LYNN SMITH gave a talk at the meeting of the CT Pomological Society, titled "Multidisciplinary Evaluation of Apple Cultivars in the NE-183 Regional Project"; the meeting was held at the Station in Jones Auditorium (January 13). Attended a meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, held at the Westin Hotel and Conference in Stamford (January 14). Attended a meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, held at the Aqua-Turf in Southington (January 15). Attended a meeting of the New England Wild Flower Society Connecticut Task Force, held at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association Headquarters in Rockfall (January 23).

Forestry and Horticulture

KIRBY STAFFORD spoke at the Advisory Committee meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Lyme disease community prevention project in Groton (January 13); attended the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association winter meeting in Stamford, CT (January 14-15); participated in a the Advisory Committee meeting for the Westport Weston Health District Lyme disease community prevention project in Westport (January 23); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at the annual NOFA Organic Land Care Course in Worcester, MA (January 26); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association in Wallingford (January 28); spoke on the government panel at the "Lyme Disease Hearing: Perspectives on Lyme Disease" organized by the Attorney General and Commissioner of the Department of Public Health at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford (January 28).

JEFFREY WARD was elected President of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at the annual meeting in Plainville, CT (January 15); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (January 20); spoke on "Fire and the Connecticut Forest" at the Quinnipiac Audubon Society in Wallingford (January 21); attended January meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of American Foresters in Middlefield (January 22); Spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (January 28).

MARTIN GENT attended the northeast region American Society for Horticultural Science meeting in Cambridge MA, moderated a session, and presented a poster on 'Effect of shade on quality of greenhouse tomato' (January 6-8); attended the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association meeting in Stamford CT (January 14); attended the Connecticut Vegetable and Fruit Growers meeting in Vernon CT and gave a talk on 'Greenhouse tomato cultivar trials 1999 - 2002' (January 22).

UMA RAMAKRISHNAN gave a talk on "Impact of White-tailed Deer on Connecticut Agriculture: Survey Findings" at the annual Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association meeting at Stamford, CT (January 14).

ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke on "Update on trials with Japanese plums and beach plums" at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in New Haven (January 13); reported on Station activities at the quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor (January 22).

J.P. BARSKY Organized and attended the Annual Winter Meeting for the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. (January 22).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR attended the annual meeting of the Conn. Pomological Society in Jones Auditorium (January 13).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS attended the winter meeting of the Conn. Pomological Society in Jones Auditorium (January 13); attended the winter meeting of the Conn. Nursery & Landscape Association and answered plant health questions in Stamford (January 14); organized a booth for the Experiment Station at the annual meeting of the Conn. Tree Protective Association and answered tree health questions and distributed fact sheets at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville (January 15); assisted and helped organize the Federated Garden Club's "Garden Study School" in Jones Auditorium (January 20-23).

DR. WADE H. ELMER gave an invited seminar entitled “Microbials and low-tox products for disease management” and presented a workshop entitled “Name that disease and disorder” two times on each of the three days at the Tri-State IPM Workshop held at the following locations: Longfellow’s Greenhouses in Augusta, ME (January 6); the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH (January 7); and the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT (January 8); spoke about “Management of pumpkin diseases” at the annual meeting of the Conn. Pomological Society in Jones Auditorium (Jan. 13); attended the annual meeting of the Conn. Nursery & Landscape Association/Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association in Stamford (January 15); gave presentations on “Management of *Fusarium gladiolus* corm rot with chemical and biological fungicides” and “*Fusarium* diseases of cut flowers” at the North American Gladiolus Council meetings in Albany, NY (January 20-21); organized and moderated the CAES-UCONN Spring Bedding Plant Meeting and also gave a talk entitled “Update on bedding plant diseases” in Jones Auditorium (January 23).

Soil and Water

THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about chemoreceptors in mosquitoes by Bill Hathaway of the Hartford Courant (January 14); presented an overview of the Mosquito Surveillance Program for West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis viruses to Drs. Larry Dunn and Allison Tuttle of the Mystic Aquarium and provided a tour of the research facilities at the Station including the Bio-Safety Level 3 laboratory with Dr. Anderson. (January 29).

JOSEPH PIGNATELLO attended the annual meeting of Multistate Research Committee W-82 at USDA Salinity Lab, Univ. of California, Riverside and gave a report of research progress (January 14-16).

JASON WHITE met with CT Department of Transportation officials regarding possible funding for phytoremediation at DOT sites through the New England Transportation Consortium (NETC) (January 13); attended a Joint Interagency Program on Phytoremediation workshop at NSF headquarters in Arlington VA and presented progress report on EPA funded phytoremediation project (January 19-21).

Valley Laboratory

TIM ABBEY presented Beneficial Insects in the Garden at the North American Gladiolus Council Annual Meeting in Albany, NY (January 20); Ornamental Plant Insect Pests to a pesticide applicator training class in West Hartford (January 22); Organic Pest Management for Ornamental Insect Pests at the Northeast Organic Farming Association Organic Land Care Course at the EcoTarium in Worcester, MA (January 23); and Ornamental Plant Problems to a University of Connecticut Master Gardener class in North Haven (January 29); attended and served as Winter Education Committee Chairman for the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Meeting in Stamford (January 14-15); and attended a meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association Education Committee in Windsor (January 6).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH hosted Maggie Brykit, a graduate student from Oregon State University studying predators of HWA (January 11-12, 16); who visited the Valley Laboratory, Windsor and the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station in Hamden; presented two talks at the HWA Biological Control Committee meeting, (January 13) at Annapolis, MD on “Alternate prey and diets for *Pseudoscymnus tsugae*” and “The status of *Scymnus* ladybeetle colonies”; attended and co-authored posters on “Reproductive Strategies for *Scymnus* ladybeetle predators of HWA”; “Overwintering mortality of 2002-2003 Winter Mortality of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Northeastern U.S.” and “Comparing Systemic Imidacloprid Application Methods for Controlling Hemlock Woolly Adelgid” for the 15th USDA Interagency Research Forum on Gypsy Moths and Other Invasive Species, (January 13-16) at Annapolis, MD.

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Black vine weevil management in strawberries,” to the Scotia Horticultural Congress, Greenwich, Nova Scotia (NS), (January 15); presented the experiment station seminar, “Opportunities for improving the tolerance of strawberries to black vine weevils” at the Atlantic Food and Horticulture Research Centre, Kentville, NS, (January 16); participated in a videoconference with

researchers across Canada studying root weevils in strawberries; other participants were from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia, (January 16); presented "Root feeding insects in strawberries and blueberries," for the Connecticut Small Fruit and Vegetable Growers' meeting, Vernon, (January 22); spoke about "Organically acceptable control of turf insect pests," at the Organic Land Care Workshop, Waltham, MA, (January 23); discussed "Landscape design for pest management," at the Rhode Island Association of Landscape Architects Meeting, Newport, RI, (January 29).

ROSE HISKES attended the annual meeting of the CNLA in Stamford (January 14); answered questions at the CAES booth at the CTPA winter meeting in Southington (January 15) and participated in a CIPWG symposium planning committee meeting in Windsor (December 20).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA spoke about the development and management of strawberry black root rot to the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association in Chicopee MA (January 2).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH presented research on "Flumioxazin efficacy and safety to deciduous shrubs and ornamental grasses in containers" and "Evaluations of clomazone, ethalfluralin and halosulfuron in pumpkins" at the Northeastern Weed Science Society annual meeting in Cambridge, MA (January 5-8); spoke about "BroadStar and SureGuard - New herbicide options for nurseries" at the Conn. Nursery & Landscape Assoc. winter meeting in Stamford (January 15); and spoke about "Weed control for pumpkins" at the Connecticut Farm Fresh Cooperative annual meeting in Wethersfield (January 31).

THOMAS RATHIER attended the annual winter meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association in Stamford (January 14); discussed tree problems with arborists at the Experiment Station's booth at the winter meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington (January 15); lectured on soils and soil testing to the Gardening Study School conducted by the Connecticut Federated Garden Clubs in Jones Auditorium (January 20); and spoke on soil testing and soil health at a round table meeting of the Ecological Landscaping Association at the Valley Laboratory (January 23).

Journal Articles Approved January 2004

Anderson, J.F., Theodore G. Andreadis, Andy J. Main, and Daniel L. Kline. West Nile Virus Prevalent in Tree-Canopy Inhabiting *Culex pipiens* and Associated Mosquitoes. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Barsky, J.P. Structural Changes in the New England Landscape During the Last 100 Years. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report.

Cheah, C.S.-J, K.S. Shields, P. M. Moore, J. E. Ogrodivick, G. L. Bradford. Reproductive Strategies of Scymnus Ladybeetle Predators of HWA. Proceedings of the Fifteenth MSDA Interagency Research Forum on Gypsy Moth and Other Invasive Species.

Cowles, R.S., S. Polavarapu, R. N. Williams, A. Thies, and R.-U. Ehlers. Nematodes for Mangement of Insect Pests in Small Fruit Crops. Nematodes as Biological Control Agents, edited by P. S. Grewal and R.-U Ehlers, CABI Press.

Cowles, R.S., C.S.-J. Cheah, and M. E. Montgomery. Comparing Systemic Imidacloprid Application Methods for Controlling Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Proceedings of the 15th USDA Interagency Research Forum on Gypsy Moth and Other Invasive Species.

Ferrandino, F.J. Sampling a Two Dimensional Binary Epidemic: Maximum Spatial Information with Minimal Effort. Phytopathology.

LaMondia, J.A. Strawberry Black Root Rot. Advances in Strawberry Research.

Ward, J.S. Crop-tree Release Incrosses Black Birch Diameter Growth. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report

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