

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

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## **Departmental News**

### **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended the CNLA meeting in Wallingford (January 4); welcomed participants in Jones Auditorium during the winter meeting on forestry research in Connecticut (32 attendees) (January 10); participated in an Invasive Plants Council Meeting in Hartford (January 11); and attended the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's meeting in Southington (January 19).

### **Analytical Chemistry**

DR. BRIAN EITZER judged at the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade CT State Scholars Academy Science Fair in New Haven (January 31).

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA met with Dr. Helmut Ernstberger from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and spoke with the CAES staff regarding analyses and instrumentation common to both institutions (January 20).

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA and the entire staff of Analytical Chemistry participated in two days of meetings related to the Cooperative Agreement that the Department has received from US FDA. Dr. Fred Fricke and Karen Wolnik from the Forensic Chemistry Center in Cincinnati and Dean Turco, Division of Field Science at FDA, attended the discussions to enhance cooperation between the two laboratories (January 24-25).

DRS. WALTER J. KROL AND MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA as well as other members of the Analytical Chemistry staff, and other member of the staff of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station visited with Dr. Dennis Jakiela, Chairman of the New Haven Chapter of the American Chemical Society (January 17).

DR. WALTER KROL has accepted the position of Secretary for the New Haven Chapter of the American Chemical Society.

DR. CHRISTINA ROBB has joined the staff of Analytical Chemistry. Please come and meet her.

### **Entomology**

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke about the "Survey for the Emerald Ash Borer" and presented a poster on the winter moth at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plantsville, CT (675 attendees) (January 19); and visited Torsten Dikow and John Ascher at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, to confirm first Connecticut records of exotic and native insects (January 26).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE met with the Environmental Industry Council, Southington, CT on the Emerald Ash Borer, Asian Longhorned Beetle, and Gypsy Moth (November 22); gave a Lunch Club Talk, Jones Auditorium, Chemical Ecology of *Callidiellum rufipenne*, the Small Japanese Cedar Longhorn Beetle (December 7); NOFA Organic Land Care Update Course, Tolland, CT; Bronze Birch Borer Biology and an update on Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle (December 8); met with the Entomological

Society of America, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Chemical Ecology of *Callidiellum rufipenne*, the Small Japanese Cedar Longhorn Beetle (December 15); attended the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Meeting, Wallingford (January 4); attended the Connecticut Tree Protection Association Winter Meeting, Southington (January 19); and met with Spring Glen Garden Club, Spring Glen, Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorn Beetle (January 18).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the CT Nurserymen's Association Winter Meeting held at Mountainside Resort in Wallingford, with a table display and a talk titled "Update on *Phytophthora ramorum*" (500 attendees) (January 4-5); and participated in a meeting of the New England Wild Flower Society CT Task Force meeting, held at CTPA Headquarters in Rockfall (24 attendees) (January 10).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III interviewed by Jeff Yates, Wilton Bulletin, about various tick reduction options, including deer (January 3); attended and assisted with the booth at the winter meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association (January 4); Member and participant of a meeting of the Peabody Museum Advisory (January 10); Spoke on the status of gypsy moth in Connecticut at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (200 attendees) (January 19); interviewed by Diane Post, Rachel Carson Center, on the availability of entomopathogenic fungi for tick control (January 25); and welcomed growers at a Bedding Plants program in Jones Auditorium (40 attendees) (January 25).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER organized and ran a meeting of Community Farm groups, non-profit groups in the process of setting up agricultural and educational programs on publicly owned or land trust land across the state, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (40 attendees) (17 different organizations) (January 7); presented the "Introduction to the Organic Land Care Course" at the Massachusetts NOFA Organic Land Care Course, Doyle Conservation Center, Leominster, MA. (63 attendees) (January 10); presented the "Overview of Pest Management" and "Management of Ticks and Lyme Disease" at the Massachusetts NOFA Organic Land Care Course, Doyle Conservation Center, Leominster, MA. (63 attendees) (January 12); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, New Haven (12 attendees) (January 22); Chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee, Valley Laboratory (8 attendees) (January 24); and spoke at the Long Island Horticulture Conference on "Basics of an Organic Land Care Program." Ronkonkoma, New York (100 attendees) (January 27).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY WARD spoke on "Forest Research at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station - 2006" for the Connecticut Chapter-Society of American Foresters in New Haven (35 attendees) (January 10); spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (45 attendees) (January 11); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (January 18); presided at the opening of 84th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plainville. (January 19); spoke on "Results from a fuel modeling study" and "Effects of fire on oak and residual trees" at the Winter Meeting of the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission in South Portland, Maine (91 attendees) (January 24).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended the CGGA CNLA winter meeting at Mountainside, Wallingford (January 5); and participated in an evaluation meeting for the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference in Manchester, NH (January 30).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD reported on Station activities at a quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor (18 attendees) (January 31).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL attended meetings of the Connecticut Grape and Wine Association at the Valley Laboratory (January 9); met with Michael Malchiodi to evaluate a vineyard site in Wallingford (January 13); gave a presentation on "Vineyard Establishment" at the Connecticut Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Conference in Vernon (130 attendees) (January 26).

SCOTT WILLIAMS was interviewed by Jeff Yates of the Wilton Bulletin about non-lethal deer control (January 4).

J.P. BARSKY served as Chair at the Yankee Division Society American Foresters Executive Committee Meeting in New Haven (January 10); attended Connecticut Chapter - Society American Foresters meeting "A Conversation with the Scientists" (January 10); and met Mike Johnson of Summer Hill Nursery and discussed Atlantic White Cedar research (January 12).

## **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS judged the nut exhibit at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA. There were a total of 712 nut entries in 18 category groups, and five poster presentations to be judged. This was the 90<sup>th</sup> year for this Farm Show, and it runs for 8 days, and draws 400,000 visitors, 10,000 animals, 8,000 competitive exhibits, and 270 commercial exhibitors. The judging is done the day before the show opens so that visitors can see the award labels on the winners (January 6); gave a talk on chestnuts at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Mashantucket (10 attendees) (January 14); participated along with Drs. Sharon Douglas and Claire Rutledge in a tree health roundtable discussion and presented a discussion about canker diseases on trees at the Spring Glen Garden Club in Hamden (approx. 30 attendees) (January 18).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a talk entitled "Root diseases in the greenhouse" at the CNLA/CGGA Winter Meeting at Mountainside in Wallingford (92 attendees) (January 5); presented a lecture titled "Introduction to plant pathology" for the Guilford Garden Club in Guilford (45 attendees) (January 11); participated along with Drs. Sandra Anagnostakis and Claire Rutledge in a tree health roundtable discussion and presented a discussion on Ramorum Blight for the Spring Glen Garden Club in Hamden (approx. 30 attendees) (January 18); organized and staffed the Experiment Station's booth at the CTPA Winter Meeting at Aqua Turf in Southington. Over 262 arborists and meeting attendees stopped by the booth to take the tree disease quiz (and receive prizes), ask questions, and pick up fact sheets and other Station literature (approx. 262 attendees) (January 19).

DR. WADE H. ELMER was visited by retired commander Jim Tierney, Chairman of the Connecticut Veterans Memorial, West Hartford, to discuss the processing of foreign soil samples for the dedication ceremony of the New West Hartford Memorial (January 9); was visited by Eric Chamberlain from USDA-APHIS for a tour and inspection of the facilities used in processing foreign soils (January 23); moderated and presented a talk entitled "Update on biological fungicides in Connecticut" at the Bedding Plant Meeting in Jones Auditorium (35 attendees) (January 25).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA attended the CTPA Winter Meeting in Southington (January 19).

## **Soil and Water**

DR. JASON C. WHITE participated in an EPA sponsored conference call to explore the formation of an International Society of Phytotechnologists. I was asked to serve as an officer for this new society. We also began planning the next biennial International Phytotechnology Conference (January 19); and met with Nancy Murray and Charles Lee of DEP in Hartford concerning the presence of invasive and threatened species in Crystal Lake (January 27).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO spoke at a CAES Lunch Club seminar "Irreversible" sorption of organic compounds to soil particles (January 24).

DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG gave a seminar for the Yale West Nile Virus Research Group titled "The Connecticut Surveillance Program for West Nile Virus" at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (January 17).

## **Valley Laboratory**

TIMOTHY ABBEY Tim Abbey presented “New Insecticides and Miticides” at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Meeting in Wallingford (January 5); “Organic Pest Management for Ornamental Insect Pests” at the Northeast Organic Farming Association Organic Land Care Course at the Doyle Conservation Center in Leominster, MA (January 17); staffed the CAES booth at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Meeting in Wallingford (January 4 & 5); and at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association Winter Meeting in Plantsville (January 19).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH together with Jim Preste, met with Carol Youell, Natural Resources Administrator, and Lisa Smith, Forester, of the Metropolitan District Commission to discuss HWA research on MDC lands on (December 12); together with Jim Preste, met with Star Childs, Joel Bronson and Russell Russ of Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk (January 5); met with Shigehiko Shiyake, entomologist with the Osaka Natural History Museum, Japan, to discuss natural enemy collections in Japan and gave him a tour of the Insect Rearing Facility, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station, Hamden, and the USDA Forest Service Quarantine Facility in Ansonia (January 6); presented 3 progress reports and attended the HWA Biological Control Technical Committee Meeting at Annapolis, MD, (January 10); met with Dr. Ashley Lamb of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Dr. Wen Hua Lu and Dr. Mike Montgomery of the US Forest Service to discuss natural enemy collections in China (January 25); and gave a tour to Dr. Ashley Lamb of the Insect Rearing Facility, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station, Hamden, and the USDA Forest Service Quarantine Facility in Ansonia (January 25).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Organic Management of Turf Insects” to the Organic Land Care Seminar for the Massachusetts Northeast Organic Farm Alliance, Leominster, MA, (60 attendees) (January 17) and spoke about “Roots: The Saga of White Grubs and Black Vine Weevils,” at the New England Growers meeting, Boston, MA, (700 attendees) (January 31).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH presented research on “Quinoclamine for control of liverwort in the propagation of woody ornamentals” (talk) and “Management of Oriental bittersweet vines and pale swallowwort at a Connecticut coastal reserve” (poster), and was moderator for a symposium on “Recent advances in nursery weed management” at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society in Providence, RI (30 attendees) (January 4-6); and participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (10 attendees) (January 10).

## **Journal Articles Approved January 2005**

Boehm, Matthew T. and Donald E. Aylor. Coupling Lagrangian surface layer and convective boundary layer models to describe aerial dispersal of particles. AMS 27<sup>th</sup> Conf. Ag. & For. Meteorol., San Diego, CA, 22-25 May 2006.

Les, D. H., Robert S. Capers, N. Tippen. Introduction of *Glossostigma* (Phymaceae) to North America: A taxonomic and ecological overview. American Journal of Botany.

Gent, Martin P. N. Modeling the effect of nutrient solution composition and irradiance on accumulation of nitrate in hydroponic lettuce. Acta Horticulturae.

LaMondia, James A. Management of lesion nematodes and potato early dying with rotation crops. Journal of Nematology.

Molaei, Goudarz and Theodore G. Andreadis. Identification of avian- and mammalian-derived blood meals in *Aedes vexans* and *Culiseta melanura* (Diptera: Culicidae) and its implication for West Nile virus transmission in Connecticut, USA. Journal of Medical Entomology.

Schultes, Neil P. and Richard B. Peterson. A structure-function study of the psbS protein of photosystem II based on phylogeny and site-directed mutagenesis. Planta.

Mourad, G. S., B. Snook, J. Prabhakar, T. Mansfield, Neil P. Schultes. A novel fluoroorotic-acid resistant mutant of Arabidopsis defective in the uptake of uracil. *Planta*.

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