

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

---

## **Entomology**

MS. ROSE HISKES assisted three Southern Connecticut University entomology students and one Naugatuck Valley student with their research projects; and coordinated the work of a volunteer in the insect collection (during the month of December).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER presented a poster (with Ms. Rose Bonito) on the history of the Connecticut Pomological Society at the Annual Meeting of the Society in Glastonbury (December 4); presented a poster on "Flight Periods of Longhorned Beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) Estimated by Capturing Adults in Baited Lindgren Funnels in Connecticut Forests" while attending the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in San Diego, CA (December 11); and spoke about endangered insects at a meeting of the Invertebrate Subcommittee of Connecticut's Endangered Species Program at Yale University, New Haven (December 20).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by John Bergeson, Connecticut Post, about the Fairfield County Municipal Deer Alliance (December 3); spoke on "Ticks and Tick-borne disease: An Update" at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association meeting in Plymouth, MA. (December 4); interviewed by George Krimsky, Republic American, on deer abundance and the impact of deer reductions on ticks and Lyme disease. (December 7); and spoke on tick control approaches, including deer reduction, at the Lyme Disease Prevention Forum for the Public Health Committee at the Legislative Office Building, Hartford. (December 18).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER chaired the annual retreat of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA at Mercy Center in Madison (10 attendees) (December 1-2); made a presentation on "Strategies to Control Insects in Successive Plantings" at the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Conference in Manchester, NH (150 attendees) (December 11); and participated in a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA to revise the *Standards for Organic Land Care* at Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston, MA (7 attendees) (December 11).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY S. WARD spoke on "Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* DC) control in southern New England" for a seminar at Yale University (6 attendees) (December 4); participated in Connecticut Forestlands Council meeting in Middlefield (December 11); spoke on "Organic control of Japanese barberry" at a course for NOFA accredited professionals in Boylston, MA (80 attendees) (December 11); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (December 12); and participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in Southington (December 12).

DR. MARTIN P.N. GENT participated in a steering committee meeting of the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference in Manchester NH (December 10); moderated a session (150 attendees) and a grower-to-grower discussion (40 attendees) on "Season Extension" at the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference in Manchester, NH (December 11); presented a talk "Using a forced air furnace to heat the soil under a greenhouse" at the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference in Manchester NH (150 attendees) (December 11); and moderated a grower-to-grower-discussion on "Greenhouse Tomato" the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference in Manchester, NH (40 attendees) (December 12).

DR. ABIGAIL A. MAYNARD attended the Pomological Society meeting in Glastonbury (December 3).

DR. WILLIAM R. NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (December 3); spoke on “Critical Issues in Early Vineyard Establishment” at the 2007 New England Vegetable and Berry Conference in Manchester, NH (70 attendees) (December 13); spoke on “Trellis Construction for the Long Haul” at the 2007 New England Vegetable and Berry Conference in Manchester, NH (70 people attendees) (December 13); evaluated a potential vineyard site with Bill and David Anderson in Granby (December 19); and participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (December 20).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY along with MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS, attended a wildfire training session in Windsor Locks (December 4) and participated in a meeting of the Executive Committee of the New England Society of American Foresters in Concord, New Hampshire (December 12).

## **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS gave a talk entitled “A tree by any other name” to the Yale Forest Forum in New Haven (30 adult attendees) (December 6).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH attended the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society and discussed diseases of tree fruit with Connecticut growers in Glastonbury (65 adult attendees) (December 4).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS attended the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society and discussed diseases of tree fruit with Dr. Dan Cooley (UMASS) and Connecticut growers in Glastonbury (65 adult attendees) (December 4); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protective Examining Board with oral examinations for the arborist exam in New Haven (December 12); and attended the December meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association Board of Directors at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (December 12).

DR. WADE H. ELMER presented a talk entitled “Using biofungicides for diseases in the greenhouse” at the Growing and Marketing Green Conference in Sturbridge, MA (35 adult attendees) (December 14).

## **Soil and Water**

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented an invited talk, *Host feeding patterns of mosquito vectors in the northeastern US and their role in transmission of West Nile virus* at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Plymouth, MA (approximately 100 in attendance) (December 3); gave an oral presentation on West Nile virus and a tour of the Biosafety Level 3 and electron microscope laboratories to a group of 28 students from Branford Horizons Alternative High School as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (28 students) (December 12); gave an oral presentation on West Nile virus and a tour of the Biosafety Level 3 and electron microscope laboratories to a group of 20 students from Waterbury High School as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (20 students) (December 19); and gave an oral presentation on West Nile virus and a tour of the Biosafety Level 3 and electron microscope laboratories to a group of 24 students from Barnard Environmental Magnet School in New Haven as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (24 students) (December 20).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO served as a judge for Best Presentation Award at the annual Robert M. Langor Graduate Symposium, Yale Chemical Engineering Department (December 14).

DR. JASON WHITE met with Nancy Marek, a master’s candidate at Yale’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, to discuss phytoremediation potential at Brownfield sites in New Haven (December 6) and met with Evelyn Silva, a graduate of Yale’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, to discuss collaborative phytoremediation experiments (December 13).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY attended the Connecticut Geospatial Council meeting held in East Hartford as the Station's representative (December 12).

MR. JOHN SHEPARD presented a talk, *Arbovirus Activity in Connecticut, 2007* at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Plymouth, MA (approximately 100 in attendance) (December 3); spoke to 28 students from Branford Horizons Alternative High School students and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (28 students) (December 12); spoke to 20 students from Waterbury High School and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance to a group of 20 students as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (20 students) (December 19); and spoke to group of 24 students from Barnard Environmental Magnet School in New Haven and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance to a group of as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (24 students) (December 20).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS spoke to 28 students from Branford Horizons Alternative High School students and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (28 students) (December 12); spoke to 20 students from Waterbury High School and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance to a group of 20 students as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (20 students) (December 19); and spoke to group of 24 students from Barnard Environmental Magnet School in New Haven and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance to a group of as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (24 students) (December 20).

DR. CHARLES VOSSBRINCK presented a talk on *Spiders* to a 2nd grade class at the Savin Rock Elementary School in West Haven. The presentation included pictures, live and preserved specimens, stories and questions from the children (20 students) (December 3).

## **Valley Laboratory**

DR. JOHN AHRENS attended the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual meetings of the Northeastern Weed Science in Philadelphia, PA (January 7-10) and presented a paper coauthored with Dr Todd Mervosh on "Tolerance of Fraser Fir to Herbicides Applied Before and After Bud Break". He also coauthored a paper with DR. TODD MERVOSH on "Tolerances of Container-Grown Ornamentals to Experimental and Registered Herbicides"; spoke about "Application Strategies- Ornamental Herbicides" (200 attendees) (January 22) and participated in a workshop for nurserymen at the Ohio State University Short Course, speaking about "Weed Control in Containers" (40 attendees) (January 29).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Biology and Management of White Grubs," at the LESCO Company winter educational seminar series, South Windsor, (30 attendees) (January 9), met with the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents Board of Directors, Berlin (12 attendees) (January 14), presented "Annual Bluegrass Weevil: Can We Find the Kryptonite for Superweevils," at the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents winter educational meeting, Berlin (200 attendees) (January 15), "Introduction to Insects and Organic Management of Insect Pests of Trees and Shrubs," and "Organic Management of Turf Insect Pests," at the Massachusetts NOFA Organic Land Care Course, Leominster, MA (78 attendees) (January 22), "Organic Management of Turf Insect Pests," at the Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Course, New Haven (80 attendees) (January 28), "Biology and Management of Turf Insect Pests" a 2-hour course for the Connecticut Groundskeepers' Association, Hartford (100 attendees) (January 30), and "Organic Management of Turf Insect Pests," and "Biology and Management of White Grubs," for the CGKA, Hartford, (80 attendees) (January 31).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA attended the winter meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington, CT (January 17); participated in the meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council in Windsor (January 22); spoke to students and parents about research and services conducted at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Valley Laboratory during the Windsor Schools Science

exposition held at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Windsor (150 students and parents) (January 25); 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 Hershey PA (12 persons) (January 28).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about his research on "Tolerances of container-grown ornamentals to experimental and registered herbicides" at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society in Philadelphia, PA (35 attendees) (January 10); spoke about weed management strategies for lawns and landscapes at a seminar organized by LESCO-John Deere in Meriden (80 attendees) (January 16); participated in a meeting about mile-a-minute vine in New Milford (10 attendees) (January 18); and participated in a symposium planning committee meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (10 attendees) (January 22).

## **Journal Articles Approved December 2007**

Aylor, Donald E. A Lagrangian stochastic simulation model for evaluating cross fertilization in maize. Abstract, 28<sup>th</sup> Conference on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, Orlando, FL, 28 April – 2 May, 2008.

Ahrens, John F. and Todd L. Mervosh. Tolerance of fraser fir to herbicides applied before and after bud break. Northeastern Weed Science Society, 2008 Proceedings.

LaMondia, James A. Early crop root destruction for management of tobacco cyst nematodes. Journal of Nematology.

Li, De-Wei, B. Kenrick, D. Spero, and C. MacDonald. *Baloniopsis triangularis* sp. nov. from indoor environments. Mycotaxon.

Maynard, Abigail. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Investigates New Specialty Crops: Heirloom Tomatoes. Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report.

Mervosh, Todd L. and John F. Ahrens. Tolerances of container-grown ornamentals to experimental and registered herbicides. Northeastern Weed Science Society, 2008 Proceedings.

Ridge, Gale E. A Home Owner's Guide to the Human Bed Bugs *Cimex lectularius* L., *C. hemipterus* Fabr. (Cimicidae: Heteroptera). Station Website.

Ward, Jeffrey S. and Scott C. Williams. Japanese barberry can be controlled. Clinton Land Trust Newsletter.

White, Jason C. Optimizing Planting Density for p,p'-DDE Phytoextraction by *Cucurbita pepo*. Environmental Engineering Science.

Liste, H. and Jason C. White. Plant Hydraulic List of Soil Water-implications for Crop Production and Land Restoration. Plant and Soil.

Williams, Scott C. and Jeffrey S. Ward. Increased white-footed mouse and black-legged tick abundances in Japanese Barberry Infestations. Abstract – The 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference.

---

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, religious creed, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, criminal conviction record, genetic information, learning disability, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation or physical disability including but not limited to blindness, or marital or family status. To file a complaint of discrimination, Abstract write Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504, or call (203) 974-8440. CAES is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information should contact the Chief of Services at (203) 974-8442 (voice); (203) 974-8502 (FAX); or [Michael.Last@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Michael.Last@po.state.ct.us) (E-mail).

---