

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

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Photos of the Month...

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station hosted Farm City 2005 at our Lockwood Farm in Hamden on May 17th-19th. We had approximately 925 students, 28 classes, and 16 difference schools from New Haven County. The stations that were presented to the students were Animals, Soils, Integrated Pest Management, Bees, Wildlife, Biotechnology, and short informational sessions from the CT Farm to School Program, CT Greenhouse Growers Association, NOFA, and static displays provided by the CT Farm Bureau Association, 4-H, and hatching chicken eggs from UCONN.



Rose Hiskes and a student reviewing some Integrated Pest Management practices while another student looks into the microscope at some pests.



Peter Trenchard and Ira Kettle talking to some students about honey bees and beekeeping.



A digital class picture was presented to each group that attended Farm City for a souvenir of their trip. This is one of the classes that participated in Farm City 2005.

In March, Lisa Kaczinski and her father, Bill Kaczinski, created a Bluebird Trail at the farm. Mr. Kaczinski built ten boxes with wood donated from a local sawmill and repaired the two existing nest boxes. To date there is one pair of Bluebirds nesting. Other residents include House Wrens and Tree Swallows.



Dr. Jason White hosted three visitors from the former Russian Republics of Kazakhstan and the Ukraine. They are, from right to left, Dr. Izbasar Rakhimvaevich (Director of the Institute of Plant Physiology, Almaty, Kazakhstan), Dr. Lidiya Moklyachuk (Institute of Agroecology and Biotechnology, Ukraine), and Dr. Asil Nurzhanova (Institute of Plant Physiology, Almaty, Kazakhstan). They met with Dr. White concerning future collaborative efforts concerning the remediation of persistent organochlorine pesticides in soil. He has been working with them informally over the past year.

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI greeted members of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut in Jones Auditorium and spoke about Ramorum Blight April 6; Participated in a meeting of the Experiment Station Associates Board of Directors at Lockwood Farm and spoke about Ramorum Blight April 7; Spoke about Station programs at a Farm Bureau meeting in Windsor April 12; and Greeted the Future Farmers of America in Jones Auditorium April 25

Analytical Chemistry

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA met with Elaine Forte, Virginia Kristie, and Christopher Cannon from the Yale Office of Emergency Preparedness to discuss food safety activities in Analytical Chemistry that intersect with activities at Yale (April 27); met with Jack Crane and Maureen Coelho to discuss summer internships for New Haven Public schools students in Analytical Chemistry (April 27); invited to participate in the Advisory Panel for Environmental Science and Toxicology Program at Gateway Community College (April 28).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

ROSE BONITO participated in planning the Station display and assembling the materials for the CPTV Family Science Expo at the Expo Center in Hartford, helped arrange and manned an exhibit of a honey bee demonstration hive, invasive aquatic plants water tank, Asian Longhorn Beetles exhibit, and Bird and Butterfly Garden information (April 7, 9, & 10); set up and manned an exhibit on ticks and the History of the Station at the Seth Haley Science Fair 2005 at the Seth G. Haley Elementary School, West Haven (April 14); set up and manned an exhibit on Ramorum Blight, Asian Longhorned Beetle, West Nile Virus, Butterfly Gardening and a honey bee demonstration hive at the "EarthPlace Earth Day Festival" in Westport (April 30).

IRA KETTLE helped set up a display and manned the exhibit on honey bees, Asian Longhorn Beetles, aquatic invasive plants, and Bird and Butterfly Gardening at the CPTV Family Science Expo in Hartford (April 7 -10); set up and manned an exhibit on Ramorum Blight, Asian Longhorned Beetle, West Nile Virus, Butterfly Gardening and a honey bee demonstration hive at the "EarthPlace Earth Day Festival" in Westport (April 30).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke on the "Emerald Ash Borer and Other Exotic Insects" at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (March 11); displayed spiders and related arthropods on stamps, spider parasites (small-headed flies), and recent literature on spider parasites at a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (March 18); displayed new European entomological literature and a European checkered beetle (Cleridae) recently trapped in New Haven (April 15), and spoke on "Invasion of Alien Insects" during Spring Plant Science Day in Jones Auditorium (April 18).

TIA MASTRONE helped set up a display and manned the exhibit on honey bees, Asian Longhorn Beetles, aquatic invasive plants, and Bird & Butterfly Gardening at the CPTV Family Science Expo in Hartford (April 7).

GALE RIDGE was interviewed on "Some Common Insect and Disease Problems in the Spring Landscape" by Pamela Weil for Connecticut Gardener Magazine in Greens Farms (April 15).

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH attended the Eastern Plant Board Meeting, held in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey; moderated sessions on invasive plant laws, communications in emergency situations, and was nominated to the national Cooperative Agricultural Pests Survey (CAPS) Committee as a representative of the eastern region (April 4 – 7); organized a meeting of the CT P. ramorum Task Force, comprised of representatives of CT-DEP, UConn, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, and CAES held at the Cottage at Lockwood Farm (April 14); and met with DEP at their headquarters in Hartford to finalize expedited permitting procedures for regulated waste (April 15).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by Dan Sahpley, Poughkeepsie Journal (NY), about the Maxforce rodent bait boxes (April 1); interviewed by Shelia Maslie, Bottomline Health News, about tick control (April 7); participated in a meeting of the advisory committee for the Lyme project in the Ledge Light Health District in Groton (April 12); spoke to physicians on tick management at Danbury Hospital (April 12); participated in a meeting with staff from CAES, USDA, UConn, and DEP forestry to plan 2005

activities to *Phytophthora ramorum* at the Lockwood Farm cottage (April 14); participated in a meeting with CAES, USDA and DEP on the streamlined process to dispose of plant and animal products (April 15); spoke on tick management at a Lyme forum sponsored by State Senator Bob Duff in Norwalk (April 16); interviewed by Laura DeAngelis, television News 12, about tick activity, risk and prevention (April 16); interviewed by Harold F. Cobin for The Hour about tick control (April 16); interviewed by Garret Condon, Hartford Courant, about bait box research (April 22); spoke to visiting FFA teachers about activities of the Entomology Department (April 25); interviewed by Bridget Ruthman, Republic American, about tick activity (April 25); interviewed by Patrick White, Turf Magazine, about landscape aspects of tick management and Lyme disease risk (April 27); visited by Dr. Joseph Piesman, CDC, Fort Collins, CO and Dr. Randall Nelson, CT DPH, to discuss the Lyme disease project and tick control research (April 27); Spoke about tick biology and management to the Orange Land Trust in Orange along with Dr. Robert Schoen, Yale University, who spoke on the clinical aspects of Lyme disease (April 27).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated as a member of the training team and presented an economic analysis of three New England organic farms as part of the first session of "Advanced Organic Training," a professional development program for Cooperative Extension and other agency personnel in the Northeast, funded by the Northeast Regional Sustainable Agriculture Program, Latham, NY (March 1-3); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care committee, Windsor (March 10); presented a poster, "Organic Land Care – Beyond IPM," gave a talk, "What the Citizens Need to Know: The View from Those Who Respond to Public Inquiries" (in place of Ken Welch, who could not attend), and was co-organizer and moderator of a session "Agriculture in the Urban Interface", Northeast Regional Integrated Pest Management Conference, Manchester, NH (March 15-16); participated in Board of Directors meeting for CT NOFA, Bethlehem, CT (March 20); presented a talk, "Insects of Vegetable Gardens," at the statewide Community Gardening Conference, Institute of Living, Hartford (April 2); represented the Experiment Station at the meeting of the Statewide Advisory Committee for Agricultural Education, Stamford (April 11); participated in a meeting of the Farm Transfer Working Group, Lockwood Cottage, Hamden (April 15); participated in Board of Directors meeting for CT NOFA, Hamden, (April 17); and organized, publicized, and led a meeting, "It's Not Farmland Without Farmers," starting a network to assist and advocate for linking farmers with available farmland, Windsor, Valley Laboratory (April 26).

HEIDI STUBER set up and manned an exhibit on ticks and history of the Station at the Seth Haley Science Fair 2005 at the Seth G. Haley Elementary School, West Haven (April 14).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD presided at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven (April 5); spoke on "Trees and shrubs: growth, care, and pruning" for the Sound School Adult Education program in New Haven (April 6); along with Dr. Sharon Douglas, advised New Haven Garden Club on management of Belt's Triangle Park in New Haven (April 6); spoke on "Forest regeneration practices in Southern New England" at Envirothon training in Middlefield (April 9); served on the Goodwin Forestry Scholarship Committee in Middlefield (April 14); hosted a visit by Dr. Mark Rudnicki and a graduate student, University of Connecticut, to examine research on stand development in hardwood forests (April 26); represented CAES at the Arbor Day celebration at the state capital. (April 29).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD reported on Station activities at the quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor. (April 21).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL presented a talk, "Strategies for Achieving Vine Balance" at the New England Grape Growers' Spring Grape Grower Workshop in Westport, MA. (April 20); spoke on "Resources and Research in Viticulture at CAES" and participated in a roundtable discussion at a Litchfield Farm Bureau seminar entitled "Grapes- the Next Cash Cow?" (April 27).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about careers in agricultural science to a group of Girl Scouts in North Haven (April 2); gave a Sigma Xi-sponsored lecture on “Chestnuts in the 21st Century” at Quinnipiac University in Hamden (April 14); discussed chestnut research and toured the chestnut orchards at Lockwood Farm and the Sleeping Giant Chestnut Plantation with Susan Freinkel, who is writing a book about chestnuts (April 19); gave a talk on “Chestnuts in the 21st Century” to the Litchfield Garden Club in Litchfield (April 21); gave a talk on “Chestnuts in the 21st Century” at Connecticut College in New London (April 28).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR spoke about “The effect of wind and plant architecture on completeness of seed set in maize production fields” during a 90-minute teleconference with scientists in Iowa and in France (April 14); spoke about “Efficiency of pollination in corn plants” as part of the Greenhouse Tour at Plant Science in the Spring (April 18); spoke about “Epidemiology and the spread of plant diseases and cross-fertilization in corn” to a group of FFA teachers touring the Station (April 25).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS, with DR. JEFFREY S. WARD, met with members of the New Haven Garden Club, who are caretakers of the Phelps Triangle, and Bob Gregan, landscape architect, to discuss disease, insect, and cultural problems on plantings in the triangle; suggested strategies to maintain plant health and vigor (April 6); gave a presentation entitled “Ramorum Blight (Sudden Oak Death) in Connecticut” to George Whitney’s group of the Institute of Living in Retirement in the Board Room (April 8); participated in a meeting with APHIS/PPQ, UCONN, and DEP-Forestry about developing policies for Ramorum Blight in Connecticut for 2005 at the Lockwood Farm cottage (April 14); gave a short talk titled “Ramorum Blight (Sudden Oak Death) in Connecticut” and answered questions about plant health problems at Plant Science in the Spring (April 18); participated in the symposium sponsored by the Litchfield Garden Club and presented a talk on “Ramorum Blight (Sudden Oak Death) in Connecticut—Are we at risk?” in Litchfield (April 21); gave a presentation entitled “The home orchard” to members of the Hadlyme Garden Club in Hadlyme (April 27); gave a presentation titled “The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station: Who we are and what we do” and provided an update on Ramorum Blight in Connecticut to the Wilton Rotary Club in Norwalk (April 29).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended a planning meeting for the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society in Geneva, NY (April 15).

MS. MARY K. INMAN gave a talk entitled “Pruning for the home gardener” to members of the West Haven Garden Club in West Haven (April 14); gave a talk on “Basic techniques for propagating plants” to the Heritage Village River Garden Club at Heritage Village in Southbury (April 20).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS interviewed about the impact of the heavy spring rains on the anticipated mosquito season and West Nile virus by Kevin Hogan, WFSB TV3 Hartford (April 5); interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Dan Kane, WFSB TV3 Hartford (April 7); presented an overview of the Experiment Station’s Mosquito / West Nile Virus Surveillance and Research Programs to a group of teachers from the Future Farmer’s of America (April 25).

DR. ROBERT CAPERS presented a talk on the Experiment Station’s aquatic plant surveys during Plant Science Day in the Spring. He and Roslyn Selsky also had a table display to distribute information on the State’s invasive aquatic plants and showed people live and preserved specimens of the most common invasive aquatic plants (April 18); interviewed about the volunteer lake-monitoring program the Experiment Station launched this spring in conjunction with the Connecticut Federation of Lakes by Gretchen Zonas of the New Haven Register (April 18); interviewed about invasive plants in Connecticut by Judy Benson, of the New London Day (April 19); presented a talk about the Experiment Station’s aquatic plant surveys and the volunteer lake-monitoring program to the Longmeadow Lake Management Committee and Members of the Bethlehem Conservation Commission in Bethlehem (April 19); conducted the first of three workshops with Greg Bugbee and Roslyn Selsky to train volunteers to identify invasive

aquatic plants and to explain survey and boat-ramp surveillance procedures to be used as part of the volunteer lake-monitoring program (April 30).

JOHN SHEPARD and MICHAEL THOMAS Gave a laboratory presentation and display on mosquito biology and the Experiment Station's Mosquito / West Nile Virus Surveillance and Research Programs during Plant Science Day in the Spring (April 18).

DR. JASON WHITE discussed phytoremediation research with Professor Richard Meagher of The University of Georgia who was visiting Yale and CAES (April 14); attended the 3rd International Phytotechnologies Conference in Atlanta Georgia and presented two talks "Mechanistic investigation into the uptake and translocation of weathered POPs in soil by Cucurbita species" and "Enhancing the accumulation of weathered DDE by *C. pepo*", and chaired a session on "Persistent Organic Pollutants." (April 18-22); chaired an Editorial Board Meeting for the International Journal of Phytoremediation (April 20); hosted three scientists from the former Russian Republics of Kazakhstan and the Ukraine to discuss future collaborative efforts concerning the remediation of persistent organochlorine pesticides; Dr. Izbasar Rakhimvaevich (Director of the Institute of Plant Physiology, Almaty, Kazakhstan), Dr. Lidiya Moklyachuk (Institute of Agroecology and Biotechnology, Ukraine), and Dr. Asil Nurzhanova (Institute of Plant Physiology, Almaty, Kazakhstan) (April 24-26); Timothy Korpita, a high school student, worked in my lab for the day extracting vegetation that he grew in contaminated soil as part of a research project on phytoremediation (April 29).

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "White grubs in blueberries" and "Black vine weevil management in strawberries," to the Eastern Ontario Berry Growers' Association in Kemptonville, Ontario (April 1); spoke about "Prospects for conventional breeding of strawberries for resistance to black vine weevils," at the CAES lunch club, New Haven (April 11).

ROSE HISKEES staffed a CAES booth at the Family Science Expo in Hartford (April 9-10).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA spoke to Windsor High School student Sydney Owens about Station history, research programs and services to the public while touring the Laboratory and farm as a part of a job shadowing day (April 13); spoke about the Experiment Station and agricultural research at a Career Day held at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain (April 22).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH taught a class on "Plant taxonomy and identification" for the Federated Garden Clubs at Elizabeth Park in West Hartford (April 5); presented a display of weeds and wild plants at Plant Science in the Spring at CAES in New Haven (April 18); and gave a guest lecture on "Herbicides: mode of action, environmental fate, use in weed management" for Plant Science 213 (an ecology lab) at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (April 19).

Journal Articles Approved April 2005

Abbey, Timothy and Thomas Rathier. Effects of mycorrhizal fungi, biostimulants and water absorbing polymers on the growth and survival of four landscape species. *Journal of Environmental Horticulture*.

Cowles, Richard S. Mitigating pollution risk when using imidacloprid to control hemlock woolly adelgids. *USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team Bulletin*.

Douglas, Sharon M. and Mary K. Inman. Seed Germination and Purity Analysis 2005. *Station Bulletin*.

Elmer, Wade H. Effects of acibenzolar-S-methyl on the suppression of *Fusarium* wilt of cyclamen. *Crop Protection*.

- Elmer, Wade H. and Francis J. Ferrandino. Distribution of *Fusarium* species on corn stubble in Connecticut. *Phytopathology* (Abstract).
- Ferrandino, Francis J. and Victoria L. Smith. An evaluation of the efficacy of milk-based foliar sprays for the control of powdery mildew on pumpkins in the field. *Plant Disease*.
- LaMondia, James A. Connecticut River Valley Blue Mold Web Page URL:
www.crosswinds.net/~bluemold.htm.
- Parrish, Zakia, Jason White, Mehmet Isleyen, Martin Gent, William Iannucci-Berger, Brian Eitzer, Jason Kelsey, MaryJane Incorvia Mattina. Accumulation of weathered polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) by plant and worm species. *Chemosphere*.
- Sanders, Michael, Yuefeng Lu, and Joseph J. Pignatello. Conditioning-annealing studies of natural organic matter solids linking irreversible sorption to irreversible structural expansion. *Environment Science Technology*.

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