

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

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI Chaired the Invasive Plants Council meeting in Hartford (October 10); participated in a CT Academy of Sciences and Engineering meeting in New Haven (October 18); attended the New Haven Farm Bureau meeting in New Haven and spoke about Station programs (October 19); and as Administrative Advisor, participated in a multi-state research meeting in Gainesville, Florida on nematode pests of plants (October 26).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. BRAIN EITZER attended a meeting of the New Haven Section of the American Chemical Society, Wallingford (October 5) and attended the Thermo Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry users meeting in New Haven (October 10).

DR. CHRISTINA ROBB attended the Thermo Liquid Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry users meeting in New Haven (October 10).

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA, DR. BRIAN EITZER, and MR. WILLIAM IANNUCIBERGER presented a poster entitled "What Chiral Pollutants May Be Trying to Tell us About Mechanisms of Phytoextraction" at the fourth Annual Symposium in Plant Biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (October 14).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

MR. IRA KETTLE gave a live Honey Bee Demo to the 2nd grade class at the Catherine Maturo's Savin Rock Community School in West Haven (23 attendees) (October 6); showed Honey bees, passed out Honey bee fact sheets to adults and older children and cartoon coloring Honey bee sheets; and passed out Station information on services to Connecticut citizens, and spoke on the importance of pollination at the Fall Festival at Brooksvale Park in Hamden (per Park Manager 2,500 attendees) (October 21).

MS. ROSE HISKES gave a talk on houseplants to the Olde Ripton Garden Club in Seymour (20 attendees) (October 2) and participated in a Connecticut Tree Protective Association education committee meeting in Windsor (October 25).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in Northeast Pesticide Summit, sponsored by the Toxics Action Center, in Worcester, Mass (July 8); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care committee, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (July 11); participated as a trainer in the final session of the Organic Agriculture Professional Development Program, funded by the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program, Ithaca, NY (July 12-14); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut (CT NOFA), Northford Farm, Northford, CT (July 16); answered insect and garden questions on "Len and Lisa's Garden Talk" on WTIC radio,

Farmington (July 22); interviewed by Ron Gagliardi for a local television show, "Spotlight on Cheshire" about community farms in Connecticut and plans for a community farm at Boulder Knoll in Cheshire, Cox Cable, Cheshire (July 26); participated in a Professional Development Program, funded by Northeast SARE, called "Reading the Farm." This was a multidisciplinary program examining two farms in Connecticut for agricultural, environmental, and economic sustainability, Vernon, CT (August 7-10); participated in a forum to develop a National Action Plan for Organic Agriculture, Amherst, Mass. (August 10-11); presented a workshop on "Biological Control: What is Worth the Money?" for the NOFA Summer Conference, Hampshire College, Amherst, Mass. (30 attendees) (August 12); spoke in the CT NOFA Organic Lawn and Turf Course on the topic, "Why Organic?", Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven (70 students in the course) (August 15); spoke in the NOFA/ Mass Organic Lawn and Turf Course on the topic, "Why Organic?", Hanover, Mass. (65 students in the course) (August 17); participated in the Hymenoptera Identification Course, sponsored by the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the Smithsonian Institution, Portal, Arizona (September 4- 11); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Ron's Raspberries, Durham, CT (September 17); organized a field day at Upper Forty Organic Farm, Cromwell, as part of the Brassica project funded by Northeast SARE. Focus of the field day was on growing summer broccoli (September 24); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (September 26); participated in an advisory meeting to the Quinnipiac River Fund on the most effective ways to reduce water pollution in the Quinnipiac Watershed. Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, New Haven. (October 13); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Roby's Organic Farm, Berlin (October 15); visited Tobacco Road Farm, Lebanon, and met with farmers from 3 other organic farms to discuss research on overwintering *Brassica* and the effect on biological control of pests in the following year (October 16); Visited Holcomb Farm, West Granby, to prepare for a twilight meeting the following week (October 19); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care committee, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (October 24); Twilight Meeting at Holcomb Farm, West Granby, as part of the Brassica project funded by Northeast SARE. The meeting and farm tour discussed growing Asian greens late in the fall in the greenhouse for harvests through mid-December, experiments with summer broccoli varieties, and management of diseases such as black rot and *Alternaria*. (25 participants) (October 25).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD spoke on "Reducing browse damage" to the Durham Garden Club (16 attendees) (October 11); displayed poster "Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) control using propane torches – an organic option" at the CIPWG Invasive Plant Symposium in Wallingford (October 12); interviewed about the number of leaves in a forest by Steve Busemeyer of the Hartford Courant (October 10); along with JP BARSKY attended CT-DEP wildland fire training at the John A. Minetto State Park in Torrington (October 17); visited Tim Hawley to advise on landscape care at Regional Water Authority water treatment plant in Hamden (October 18); and was interviewed by Liz Ellis of Shoreline Times on late fall colors (October 23).

DR. MARTIN GENT delivered an invited talk "Factors affecting starch mobilization in greenhouse vegetables" at the Canadian Greenhouse Conference in Toronto Canada (100 growers, 20 scientists and extension agents) (October 4-5) and presented a talk on "Modeling the effect of nutrient solution composition and irradiance on accumulation of nitrate in hydroponic lettuce" at Hortimodel 2006, a symposium sponsored by the International Society of Horticultural Science in Wageningen Netherlands (150 scientists) (October 29-November 2).

MR. SCOTT WILLIAMS presented research poster "Deer as seed dispersal agents" at the Invasive Plants Working Group meeting in Wallingford (October 12) and attended an ArcView 9.2 training seminar in Hartford (October 17)

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS, with MS. PAMELA SLETTEN, conducted a tour of The Chestnut Plantation at Sleeping Giant for the Spring Glen Garden Club (20 attendees) (October 5); reported on her butternut research for the last two years at the Research Symposium on Butternut Canker Disease (co-sponsored by the USDA and their Canadian counterpart) in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada (42 attendees) (October 16-19); and reported on her chestnut research at the Annual Meeting of the Multistate Research Project NE-1015, "Biological improvement, habitat restoration, and horticultural development of chestnut by management of populations, pathogens, and pests," in Shepherdstown, WV (33 attendees) (October 26-29).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS, with MS. MARY INMAN, attended a training session at Cornell University for use of the Plant Disease Information System (PDIS) database needed for participating members of the National Plant Disease Network (NPDN) (October 4-6); was interviewed about maple diseases occurring this year by Bob Miller of the News Times (Danbury) (October 12); was interviewed about the impact of frost on fall color by Kenton Robinson of The Day (New London) (October 13); and was interviewed about fall color (this was a follow-up to an earlier interview) by Liz Ellis of the Shoreline Times (October 23).

DR. WADE H. ELMER presented a series of laboratory lectures on "Using Vegetative Compatibility Groups in *Fusarium*" at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL (12 attendees) (October 7-10); was interviewed by Rebecca Packard of the Suffolk News about sudden wetland dieback on Orient Point, Long Island, NY (October 24); and presented the poster "*Fusarium* species associated with declining *Spartina* in areas affected by sudden wetland dieback" at the New England Estuarine Research Society Meeting in New London, CT (100 attendees) (October. 26-28).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS met with State Representative Louis P. Esposito of West Haven and officials from DEP to conduct an on-site inspection of a wood lot in West Haven for potential mosquito habitat. Michael Thomas also assisted (October 11).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE with MS. ROSLYN SELSKY, presented results of the CAES Aquatic Plant Survey of Candlewood Lake to the Candlewood Lake Advisory Committee, at the Northeast Utilities headquarters in Sharon, CT (October 11) and with MS. ROSLYN SELSKY and MS. MICHELLE MARKO hosted the annual meeting of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes in Jones Auditorium and gave an update on the CAES Invasive Aquatic Plant Program (approximately 50 attendees) (October 21).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented Lunch Club seminar with DR. JASON WHITE entitled "Getting the scientific grant: What me worry?" (October 11).

DR. JASON WHITE presented Lunch Club seminar with DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO entitled "Getting the scientific grant: What me worry?" (October 11); attended a day-long Plant Biology Seminar entitled "Phytoextraction of nutrients" at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (October 14); and chaired the Phytoremediation session at the 21st Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (October 17).

Valley Laboratory

DR. JOHN AHRENS presented 'The Latest on Herbicides for Christmas Trees ' to the 50th Annual NH/VT Christmas Tree Growers' Association Meeting, Hampton Falls, NH (120 attendees), (September 27); and attended the National IR-4 Project 2006 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop in Denver, CO to set priorities and secure data to enable herbicide registrations for ornamental crops (October 10 to 12).

MR. TIMOTHY ABBEY presented "Why Trees Fall Apart: Insects, Diseases & Injury" to the Connecticut Tree Warden School in Middlefield (October 13); "Introduction to Plant Diseases" and "Introduction to Ornamental Insect Pests" at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Nursery Accreditation

Program in Southington (October 3, 17 and 24); and served as a moderator at the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Invasive Plant Workshop in Wallingford (October 12).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH was interviewed at the Valley Laboratory by Elizabeth Hunter and Doug Hibschan, freelance writers from North Carolina for a book on hemlock woolly adelgid and biological control (October 11).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA contributed a poster on Oilseed crop research as a part of the biofuels presentation held at the Cornucopia Fest at the University of Connecticut (October 8); participated in the meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council in Tolland (October 13); presented a research report on bioenergy and IPM to the Station Board of Control in Windsor (October 18); and spoke about research results at the annual meeting of the Northeast Regional Nematology Technical Committee (NE-1019) held in Gainesville FL (14 people) (October 26-27).

DR. TODD MERVOSH participated in symposium planning meetings for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group in Wallingford (October 2) and in Windsor (October 10); was chair of the "Management" session, spoke on the subject of "Herbicides: how they work, and what happens to them"; and presented a research poster with David Gumbart of The Nature Conservancy on "Control of Oriental bittersweet and pale swallowwort at Bluff Point Coastal Reserve" at the invasive plants symposium "Working Together for the Landscape of Tomorrow" in Wallingford (330 attendees) (October 12).

Journal Articles Approved October 2006

Andreadis, Theodore G. and Philip M. Armstrong. A 2-yr evaluation of elevated canopy trapping for *Culex* mosquitoes and West Nile virus in an operational surveillance program in the northeastern United States. *Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association*.

Cowles, Richard S. New products and their uses in Christmas tree mite and insect management. *MA Christmas Tree Growers' Newsletter*.

Elmer, Wade H., C. L. Robertson, S. Useman, R. L. Schneider, and K. O'Donnell. *Fusarium* species associated with declining *Spartina* in areas affected by sudden wetland dieback. Abstract, 66th Annual Meeting, NE Division of the American Phytopathological Society, Burlington, VT, 7-9 November, 2006.

Ferrandino, Francis J. Crop growth, ontogenic resistance and disease progress: A discussion with examples. Abstract, 6th Annual Meeting, NE Division, American Phytopathological Society, Burlington, VT, 7-9 November, 2006.

Gent, Martin P. N. Effect of degree and duration of shade on quality of greenhouse tomato. *Journal of the American Society of Horticultural Science*.

LaMondia, James A. and Wade H. Elmer. Characteristics of *Meloidogyne spartinae* infection of the salt marsh grass *Spartina alterniflora*.

Marra, Robert E., Sharon M. Douglas, and Jason Corwin. SSCP in Ramorum blight survey diagnostics. Abstract, 66th Annual Meeting, NE Division, American Phytopathological Society, Burlington, VT, 7-9 November, 2006.

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