

Station News

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

Departmental News

CAES PARTICIPATES IN THE BIG E: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

By Rose Bonito and Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski



Ira Kettle was interviewed by DRC-FM radio 102.9FM (image taken by Rose Bonito)



Our booth at The Big E (image taken by Rose Bonito, setup by Rose Bonito and Lisa Kaczynski)



Lockwood Farm harvest on display at The Big E (image taken by Rose Bonito)



Lockwood Farm harvest on display at The Big E (image taken by Rose Bonito)



Citizens viewing our display (image taken by Rose Bonito)

First, I would like to thank our staff at Lockwood Farm: Richard Cecarelli, Michael McHill, and Rollin Hannan for providing us with the bountiful harvest to display and offer apples to the citizens visiting the Connecticut Building at The Big E. The display of crops from the farm was beautiful and well received by the public for our display at The Big E.

I would also like to thank the following staff for their time manning the booth: Ira Kettle, Rose Bonito, Lisa Kaczynski, Tia Blevins, and Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski.

We were able to provide apple slices to the public again this year. The posters we displayed were on our Specialty Crops Program by Abigail Maynard and our Invasive Aquatic Plant Program by Gregory Bugbee and Roslyn Selsky.

CAES SURVEY AND INSPECTION TEAM— CHRYSANTHEMUM WHITE RUST

By Dr. Victoria Smith



Chrysanthemum White Rust (Image by Victoria Smith)

The Survey and Inspection Team, working in cooperation with USDA-APHIS-PPQ officers, completed the largest regulatory event in CT to

date. When Chrysanthemum White Rust, a federally-regulated plant disease, was confirmed at a local nursery. Protocol mandated a survey of the entire production area, about 20 acres, and delimitation of the outbreak. There was subsequent destruction of infected plants and all neighboring host plants. In total, 61 tons of regulated plant waste, over 8500 individual plants valued at \$200,000, were incinerated. Sharing coordination of the activity were Kate Aitkenhead (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) and Victoria Smith (Entomology), and assisting were Nicole Campbell (USDA-APHIS-PPQ), Tia Blevins, Jeff Fengler, Steve Sandrey, and Peter Trenchard (Entomology) (September 2-22).

TANYA PETRUFF HAS LEFT CAES

By Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski



Tanya Petruff (Image by Tia Blevins)

As of September 26th, Ms. Tanya Petruff has left The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Tanya worked in the Department of Entomology with Dr. John F. Anderson as one of his technicians. She has moved to Florida to further pursue her education and career. Good luck Tanya!

Administration

DR. LOUIS MAGNARELLI attended a Working Lands Alliance meeting in Hartford (September 9); attended a Legislative Invasive Plants Council meeting in Windsor (September 9); attended a Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association meeting at Lockwood Farm in Hamden (September 11); and welcomed 55 persons who were taking a course in environmental studies in Jones Auditorium and gave an update on Station research (September 22).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. BRIAN EITZER along with DR. KIMBERLY STONER were interviewed about pesticides in honey bee pollen by Kevin Jacobsen of News 12 Connecticut (September 2).

Biochemistry and Genetics

DR. NEIL SCHULTES traveled to Indiana Perdue University in Ft. Wayne IN to serve on a graduate thesis examination committee for Tyler Mansfield (September 25).

Entomology

MS. ROSE BONITO arranged, setup and staffed an exhibit for our Station on tick/Lyme disease, Asian Longhorned Beetles, and Invasive Aquatic Plants at the '7th Annual Celebrating Agriculture' at the Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock (600+ visitors to our exhibit) (September 20) and arranged display and assisted at the Station's exhibit at the Big E (September 24).

MS. ROSE HISKES was interviewed by Jim Essling of the Worcester Telegram about the Asian Longhorned Beetle (September 10), participated in a Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group symposium planning committee meeting in Windsor (September 8, 22), gave a tour of the Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Education gardens and an arthropod and pesticides update at the Nursery and Landscape research tour at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (September 16), gave a talk on "Houseplants" to the East Haddam Garden Club in East Haddam (30 attendees) (September 17), staffed the USDA, Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey booth at the Big E (September 20,23); and gave a talk on "Invasive Plants of Connecticut and their Management" to the Friends of Boulder Knoll Learn Today, Grow Tomorrow Program (12 attendees) (September 28).

MR. IRA KETTLE was interviewed by Tina DePelj, Channel 8 news, concerning C.C.D. and Varroa mites (September 23); interviewed at the Big E on FM radio 102.9, concerning honey, etc. (shelf life, crystallization); at both interviews, Ira made sure the Station was positively and prominently promoted; was the featured speaker on "The Role of Bees as Pollinators", the talk was for the Friends of Valley Falls, "An Afternoon at the Farm", in Vernon (25 attendees) (September 28); and featured in the Friends of Valley Falls, Fall newsletter 2008, see photo of Ira with a beehive display in their upcoming Events Section (September 2008).

MR. STEPHEN SANDREY arranged, setup and staffed an exhibit for our Station on tick/Lyme disease, Asian Longhorned Beetles, and Invasive Aquatic Plants at the '7th Annual Celebrating Agriculture' at the Woodstock Fairgrounds, Woodstock (600+ visitors to our exhibit) (September 20).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a twilight meeting of the CT Greenhouse Growers Association, held at Lockwood Farm, with a presentation titled "Chrysanthemum White Rust Update" (approximately 60 participants) (September 11); hosted a workshop for DEP Foresters and interested Station personnel on Asian Longhorned Beetle. Topics included how to recognize the insect, how to spot damage, and what to do if it is found (approximately 60 participants) (September 12); hosted the Chrysanthemum White Rust (CWR) Strike team, a unit from USDA-APHIS-CPHST (Center for Plant Health Science and Technology), which visited CT to assess risk of CWR and to investigate the recent outbreak (September 17); and participated in the meeting of the CT Tree Wardens, held at Connecticut College, with a presentation on

Asian Longhorned Beetle titles "Everything You Wanted to Know About ALB..." (approximately 60 participants) (September 24).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III interviewed by Tina DePelj, WTNH Channel 8, about Asian longhorned beetles (September 2); interviewed by Scott Zoback, News Editor Worcester Magazine, about Connecticut response to the discovery of Asian longhorned beetles in Worcester (September 2); spoke about Asian longhorned beetles and ticks on Representative Pamela Sawyer's cable access show in Bolton, CT (September 16); interviewed by Heather Nann Collins about Asian longhorned beetle for the Journal Inquirer, Manchester, (September 22); and interviewed by Robert Miller, News Times, Danbury, about deer reductions, ticks and Lyme disease (September 24).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a policy and planning meeting of the Working Lands Alliance for farmland preservation in Hartford (30 people present) (September 9); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee at the Valley Laboratory (8 people) (September 9); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Roby's Organic Farm, Berlin (13 people) (September 21); spoke on "Starting an Organic Garden" and organized the educational event, "Learn Today, Grow Tomorrow," at Boulder Knoll Farm in Cheshire (20 people) (September 28); and spoke about the Experiment Station research on honey bees to the Back Yard Beekeepers Association, Westport (65 people) (September 30).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD was an invited guest on WTIC AM-1080 radio talk show "Garden talk" to offer advice on barberry control (35,000 audience) (August 2); interviewed about lack of cherry fruits this year by Marian Fitzpatrick of the Stamford Advocate (August 29); spoke on "Reducing browse damage in gardens" for the Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society in Derby (20 attendees) (September 16); spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (49 attendees) (September 3); was interviewed about swamp maples by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times (September 5); administered practical and oral examinations to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (September 9); chaired Connecticut Forest Council-research committee meeting in Middlefield (September 11); spoke on "Invasive shrub control" at a workshop in Middlefield (15 attendees) (September 11); spoke on the "History of Connecticut's Forest" for two literature classes at Southern Connecticut State University (46 students) (September 15); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Education Committee meeting in New Haven (September 16); spoke on "Crop Tree Management" at the Fox Forest Workshop in Hillsborough, NH (50 attendees) (September 19); participated in a Connecticut Forestlands Council-Executive Board meeting in Middlefield (September 23); and visited Quinnipiac State Park to advise Peter Picone, DEP-Wildlife, on establishing conifers after invasive plant control (September 23).

DR. MARTIN GENT hosted a visit at Lockwood Farm by Joe Donato and staff from Woodbury Farm to examine the greenhouse tomato and lettuce operations and discussed hydroponic (August 1); toured the wine and fruit production area south of Torino Italy with Sylvana Nicola, Assoc. Professor, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Torino (August 25); gave a talk on 'A novel phytoremediation system for soils contaminated with persistent organic pollutants' in a session on Phytoremediation at the International Congress for Plant Pathology in Torino, Italy (30 people) (August 26); organized an "Evening in the Greenhouse" event with Bob Heffernan of the CT Greenhouse Growers Association featuring an open house of the greenhouses at Lockwood Farm and a program of talks including "Plant response to partial saturation ebb & flow watering" (30 attendees) (September 11); discussed research projects with a class of students from Sound School who visited the greenhouses (20 students, 3 adults) (September 22); and was interviewed by Jackie Brenning of the Waterbury Republican about hydroponic production of vegetables (September 24).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD discussed the New Crops program on WTIC AM-1080 radio talk show "Garden talk" (35,000 audience) (August 2); attended an Experiment Station table and answered questions at the Waterbury Farmer's Market (30 contacts) (August 7); judged fruits and vegetables at the North Haven Fair (September 4); discussed the New Crops program to some participants of the greenhouse

growers conference at Lockwood Farm (September 11); talked about beach plums and Japanese plums on the Nurserymen's Research tour at the Valley Laboratory (60 adults) (September 16); participated in a meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in Hartford (September 23); participated in a meeting of the subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting in Hartford (September 23); and gave a tour of Lockwood Farm and discussed the New Crops program to the 3rd grade of Hamden Hall Country Day School (32 children, 2 adults) (September 29).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL met with vineyard manager and winemaker Larry McCulloch at Chamard Vineyards (September 15); gave two presentations on new and existing cultivar trials to the Nursery and Landscape Research Tour at the Valley Laboratory (51 attendees) (September 16); and participated in a meeting of the State Consulting Committee for Agricultural Education at the Harris AgriScience and Technology Center at Bloomfield High School (September 23).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS was selected by Connecticut Department of Transportation as the Technical Representative to the Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center (September 17).

MICHAEL R. SHORT assisted at the "Evening at the Greenhouse" meeting at Lockwood Farm presented by The CT Greenhouse Growers Association. (September 11) and discussed hydroponic greenhouses and ebb & flow greenhouse at Lockwood Farm with Chas Mavrelion's freshman class of The Sound School (15 students) (September 21).

JOSEPH P. BARSKY gave a brief report of current forestry research while additionally serving as Connecticut Representative to the New England Society of American Foresters Executive Committee meeting in Warren, NH (September 19).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about her chestnut research and the Cheshire chestnut to members of the Cheshire Congregational Church at their annual Welcome Sunday in Cheshire (175 adult attendees, 175 youth attendees) (September 7).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH gave a talk entitled "Common disease problems in 2008" at the Annual Nursery and Landscape Research Tour held at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (51 adult attendees) (September 16).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS assisted the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board with administering the oral examination to obtain an arborist license in New Haven (September 9); participated in the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in New Haven (September 9); participated in the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association's "Evening at the Greenhouse" and answered questions about chrysanthemum white rust and other diseases at Lockwood Farm (25 adult attendees) (September 11); participated in a conference call with USDA-APHIS-PPQ and state regulatory officials about dealing with this year's outbreak of chrysanthemum white rust (September 15); gave a talk entitled "Handling plant disease emergencies" at the Annual Nursery and Landscape Tour held at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (51 adult attendees) (September 16); hosted three Boy Scouts from St. Rita's School in Hamden to discuss the Plant Disease Information Office and other plant-related resources available at the Station (3 youth attendees, 1 adult attendee) (September 23); participated in the workshop "Trees and construction: Preparing for construction and remediating the effects," sponsored by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, and answered questions about current diseases of Connecticut trees at Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center in Burlington (106 adult attendees) (September 25); was interviewed by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant about Septoria leaf spot, an unusual disease of sugar maples this year (September 26); organized and participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's "Meeting Planning Committee" to discuss the educational component of the 2009 Annual Meeting in Southington (7 adult attendees) (September 29); was interviewed about predictions for fall foliage and the impact of tree diseases by Abe Katz of the New Haven Register (September 29); and was interviewed about the impact of this year's rainfall on plant health by Pamela Weil (ESA Newsletter) (September 30).

DR. WADE H. ELMER gave a presentation entitled “Spread of *Pythium* in ebb and flow irrigation systems” at the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association’s “Evening at the Greenhouse” held at Lockwood Farm (25 adult attendees) (September 11); was interviewed about Sudden Vegetation Dieback by Judy Day of The Day (New London) (September 15); gave a lecture and a lecture/lab on *Fusarium* to a UCONN Introductory Plant Pathology class in Storrs (9 adult attendees) (September 17); gave a presentation entitled “Plant parts and their diseases” to first-grade students at Mile Creek School in Old Lyme (80 youth attendees, 7 adult attendees) (September 18); was interviewed about pumpkins by Nancy Barnes of the New Milford Times (September 29); and was interviewed about the effects of the wet weather on the pumpkin crop in Connecticut by Pamela Weil (ESA Newsletter) (September 30).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO gave a report on the progress of his research on powdery mildew of grape at the Connecticut Vineyard & Winery Association meeting at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (11 adult attendees) (September 9) and gave a talk entitled “Powdery mildew on grapes” at the Annual Nursery and Landscape Research Tour held at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (51 adult attendees) (September 16).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA presented a talk titled “Fungal mating systems: What we know, what we don’t know” at a conference and workshop titled “Analogies in the Evolution of Gender Expression and Sexual Strategies in Animals and Plants” in Stuttgart, Germany (85 adult attendees) (September 10-14).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Kevin Jacobson News 12 Connecticut (August 8); was interviewed about West Nile virus activity in the town of Stamford by Meredith Blake, Greenwich Times (August 8); was interviewed about the detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes collected in New Canaan by the New Canaan News Review Bob Miller - News Times; Steve Kobak - The Hour Norwalk (August 12); was interviewed about the detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes collected in New Canaan, Shelton, Westport and Wilton by Bob Miller, Danbury News Times; and Steve Kobak, The Norwalk Hour (August 13); was interviewed about the current status of West Nile virus in the State of Connecticut by Steve Kotchko, Connecticut Radio Network (August 14); was interviewed about West Nile virus activity in the Town of Greenwich by Meredith Blake, Greenwich Times (August 14); was interviewed about the abundance of mosquitoes this summer and the impact on West Nile virus activity by Steve Grant, Hartford Courant (August 25); was interviewed about the human case of West Nile virus in a resident of Bridgeport by Fran Schneido, CBS radio, New York (August 26); presented an overview of the Station’s research and surveillance program on mosquitoes and West Nile virus to Dr. Gregory Weidemann, Dean and Director, College of Agriculture, University of Connecticut (August 28); and was interviewed about the human case of West Nile virus in an elderly resident of Stamford by Martin Cassidy, Stamford Advocate (September 18).

GREGORY BUGBEE was interviewed by Jillian Moro of WLAD FM on invasive aquatic plants in Connecticut (August 8); staffed a soil testing booth at the Waterbury Farmers Market (August 21); spoke on *Environmentally Sound Gardening* to the Greens Farms Garden Club in Fairfield (September 9); and represented the Station at a meeting concerning winter drawdown in Bashan Lake at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford (September 23).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO participated in a workshop on *Research and Development Needs for Understanding and Assessing the Bioavailability of Contaminants in Soils and Sediments* sponsored by the DOD Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and Environmental Security Technology Certification Program held at Annapolis, Maryland (August 20-21); chaired a session and presented a poster *Attenuation of char surface activity over time by natural substances in soil,* at a Conference of the International Biochar Initiative: Biochar, Sustainability and Security in a Changing Climate, Newcastle, United Kingdom (September 8-10); and hosted Prof. Robert Cook, Department of Chemistry, Louisiana State University, who gave a lecture and visited with staff (September 15).

DR. JASON WHITE met Dr. Julia Kuzokina (UConn) and Dr. William Manning (UMass) to discuss collaborative experiments on ozone toxicity to plants (August 7); met with Mark Mankin (of Mankin Farms in New Milford) and a high school student to advise them on a project they are undertaking to create a powdery mildew resistant edible pumpkin through traditional crossing techniques (August 21); and met with Dr. Robert Cook of Louisiana State University to discuss mutual research interests (September 15).

Valley Laboratory

DR. CAROLE CHEAH together with DR. TODD MERVOSH, met Peter Picone (DEP Wildlife) and Laurie Lindquist (DEP State Parks) to examine recent discoveries of the invasive weed, Mile-A-Minute, in North Haven (September 2) and attended and participated in the Great Mountain Forest, Corp. Open Forest Day, Norfolk (September 28).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Turf insect pest management" to the Athletic Turf Management course at UConn (8 attendees) (September 11); "Elongate hemlock scale predators and chemical control" for the Valley Laboratory nursery field day (40 attendees) (September 16); and "Systemic insecticides to control hemlock woolly adelgids" for a meeting sponsored by Native Tree Society and Valent Corporation in Asheville, NC (85 attendees) (September 18).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (September 9) and spoke about cover crops for disease and nematode management and spoke about biofumigation and biodiesel oilseed crops at the Valley Laboratory Nursery and Landscape Research Tour (September 16).

DR. DEWEI LI gave presentations of his research on indoor fungi and fungal biosystematics to Hubei Academy of Forestry (40 people), Key Laboratory of Biotechnology at Xuzhou Normal University (25 people), College of Forestry and Natural Resources at Beijing Forestry University (20 people) in September, respectively, when he was conducting his collaborative research in China. He gave a walking tour on fungi to the mycology class (14 students) of Dr. Barbara Nicholson of the Biology Department at Central Connecticut State University when they visited Valley Laboratory (October 2).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH served as leader of a project to control the invasive plant Japanese knotweed along Salmon Brook as part of the United Way "Day of Caring" activities at Holcomb Farm in Granby (supervised 7 volunteers) (September 5); participated in a symposium planning committee meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (10 attendees) (September 8); and was an instructor for four sessions at the Noxious & Invasive Vegetation Management Short Course sponsored by the Northeastern Weed Science Society at Mt. Gretna, PA (70 attendees) (September 15-17).

Journal Articles Approved September 2008

Anagnostakis, Sandra A. Trees notable for other reasons. Connecticut Woodlands.

Elmer, Wade H. Influence of drought and salinity on infection of *Spartina alterniflora* by a pathogenic *Fusarium* species. Abstract, New England Estuarine Research Society Meeting, 16-18 October 2008, Block Island, RI.

Elmer, Wade H. and Robert E. Marra. Discovery of a new species of *Fusarium* from *Spartina alterniflora* and the influence of drought on its ability to cause plant mortality. Phytopathology (abstract).

LaMondia, James A. Resistance to blue mold in Connecticut shade tobacco. Phytopathology (abstract).

LaMondia, James A. and Wade H. Elmer. *Meloidogyne spartinae* and a *Fusarium* sp. as possible stresses associated with decline of the salt marsh grass *Spartina alterniflora* (abstract).

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