

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

New online publication. Branching Out an IPM publication published by Cornell. Go to our useful links page on our intranet site to get the web address, user name, and passwords to access the 2004 issues. The first issue was published on April 2nd.

<http://eww.insidecaes.state.ct.us/UsefulLinks/UsefulLinks.htm>

Check out our **complete listing of online journals** at the EBSCO EJournals site: <http://ejournals.ebsco.com/Home.asp>. (NOTE for Valley Lab: *Customer Code*: CAES, *User ID*: Library, *Password*: Library).

Take a look at the **2004 CT.gov Virtual Greenhouse**:

<http://www.ct.gov/ctportal/cwp/view.asp?Q=272732&A=888>.

Please submit your special photos you recently took and would like to share. I would like to feature it in our photo of the month section.

Photos of the Month...



Sleeping Giant as seen from Lockwood Farm on the day of the last snowfall 3/19/04.
Photo taken by: Michael Vasil



Display on Lyme Disease, Butterfly Garden, West Nile virus, Arsenic in Pressure-treated Wood, and a demonstration honey bee hive at the Annual Garden Expo in Fairfield (March 27 & 28). Ira Kettle and Rose Bonito were present at the show.

Departmental News

Administration

DR. JOHN F. ANDERSON greeted participants in the Federated Garden Clubs Horticulture Day in Jones Auditorium (March 4); participated in a meeting of the Invasive Plants Council in Hartford (March 11); participated in Agriculture Day at the Capitol (March 17); along with James LaMondia, Todd Mervosh, Timothy Abbey, Kimberly Stoner, Wade Elmer, and Abigail Maynard met with staff from National Resources Conservation Service to discuss IPM in Tolland (March 18); welcomed pesticide applicators at a workshop in Jones Auditorium (March 19); Greeted participants in the Federated Garden Clubs Garden Design Study School (March 23); participated in a meeting of the Invasive Plants Council in Hartford (March 25); hosted and spoke at the Experiment Station Associates Annual Meeting in Jones Auditorium (March 25); and participated in a meeting of the Invasive Plants Council in Hartford (March 31).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. MARY JANE INCORVIA MATTINA met with Dr. Martha Gilmore of Wesleyan University and discussed plant uptake of organic pollutants and heavy metals (March 22).

DR. DAVID STILWELL served on the Judging Committee for Science Fair Projects at New Haven Science Fair (March 9-10); attended a meeting of the Sound School Advisory Committee meeting (March 11); met with Dr. Martha Gilmore of Wesleyan University and discussed plant uptake of organic pollutants and heavy metals (March 22); presented a talk "CCA pressure treated wood after the phase out,; replace or remediate?" at the annual meeting of the Station Associates (March 25).

DR. BRAIN EITZER attended a meeting of the Sound School Advisory Committee meeting (March 11).

Biochemistry and Genetics

DR. NEIL MCHALE was a speaker at a Genetics Symposium at the Thomas Edison Middle School in Meriden, CT (March 1).

Entomology

ROSE BONITO assisted at a workshop lead by Donna Ellis of the University of Connecticut and the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association to present a workshop to the public who would like to raise *Galerucella pusilla* beetles to control purple loosestrife in the watershed (March 25). Set-up and presented a display on Lyme Disease, Butterfly Gardening, West Nile Virus, Arsenic in Pressure-treated Wood, and a demonstration honey bee hive at the Annual Garden Expo in Fairfield (March 27 & 28).

IRA KETTLE Set-up and presented a display on Lyme Disease, Butterfly Gardening, West Nile Virus, Arsenic in Pressure-treated Wood, and a demonstration honey bee hive at the Annual Garden Expo in Fairfield (March 27 & 28).

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended and participated in the Northeast Directors' meeting in Washington, DC and spoke about Station research (March 2-4). Attended the Eastern Plant Board meeting in New Haven and spoke about tick-associated diseases (March 7-11). Interviewed by Doug Miller of the Danbury News Times about babesiosis (March 16), and by Dana Whelan of WTIC radio about babesiosis (March 17). Attended the Annual Forest Health workshop in Jones Auditorium and spoke about Sudden Oak Death (March 31).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER organized and moderated a symposium titled "Theoretical and Practical Implications of Ecological Research on Herbivorous Insects: A Symposium in Honor of Mark McClure" and spoke about "The Man We Honor" at the Eastern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in New Haven March 8. Spoke about "Exotic Woodboring Beetles Asian Longhorned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer" at the Annual Meeting of the Station Associates in Jones Auditorium March 25.

Spoke about “Emerald Ash Borer “A Potential New Threat” at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium March 31.

STEPHEN SANDREY attended the 30th annual meeting of the Eastern Chapter, Horticultural Inspection Society in New Haven (March 8-11). Attended the Forest Health monitoring Workshop in New Haven (March 31).

DR. VICTORIA LYNN SMITH was on the local arrangements committee for the joint meeting of the Eastern Plant Board and the Horticultural Inspection Society, held at the Omni Hotel and Convention Center in New Haven (7-11 March). Participated in a group discussion on the recent *Ralstonia* outbreak (8 March). Presented a paper titled "Nursery Diseases" to the Horticultural Inspection Society (9 March). Moderated a group discussion on Invasive Species with the combined EPB/HIS (10 March). Interviewed by Charles Walsh of the CT Post about effects of the previous winter on tree health (22 March). Spoke to Rep. David McCluskey of Hartford, about suitability of disease resistant cultivars of elm for planting in urban settings (23 March). Organized and presided at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop, held in Jones Auditorium, and presented a paper titled "Sudden Oak Death Update" (31 March)

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER spoke to a meeting of participants in the Asian vegetable/flea beetle project on the results of testing organic insecticides against flea beetles at the Valley Laboratory (March 4). Spoke at the Eastern Branch meeting of the Entomological Society of America on “Real World Organic: Results of Case Studies of Exemplary Organic Farms in the Northeast” in New Haven (March 9). Spoke about the Organic Land Care Program at the Capacity Building and Skills Exchange Day sponsored by the Interstate Council of NOFA at Hampshire College, Amherst, MA (March 17)

PETER TRENCHARD attended the 30th annual meeting of the Eastern Chapter, Horticultural Inspection Society in New Haven (March 7-11).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. KIRBY STAFFORD interviewed by Georgina Gustin, The Day, about the community-based Lyme disease projects (March 3); spoke on tick control at the Eastern Plant Board/Horticultural Inspection Society meeting in New Haven (March 10); visited by Drs. Joseph Piesman and Charles (Ben) Beard of the CDC (March 26); spoke on tick control and Lyme disease to the Senior Men’s Association in Darien (March 31).

DR. JEFFREY WARD presided at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven, CT (March 2); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (March 3); presented paper “Initial survival and growth of individual stems after prescribed burning in recent clearcuts” at the 14th Central Hardwood Conference in Wooster, Oh (March 17); presented poster “Crop-tree release increases black birch diameter growth” at winter meeting of New England Society of American Foresters in Quebec City, Quebec (March 24); spoke on “Rehabilitating Hemlock Stands Damaged By Hemlock Woolly Adelgid” for the Northeastern Forest Pest Council in Quebec City, Quebec (March 25); was awarded the Ernest M. Gould Technology Transfer Award by the New England Society of American Foresters in Quebec City, Quebec (March 25); visited Guilford to advise town on tree problem (March 30); spoke on “Prescribed Burning And Forest Regeneration” at 9th annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop (32 P) (March 31).

DR. MARTIN GENT participated as a judge in the New Haven Schools Science Fair in Woolsey Hall (March 8-9).

DR. UMA RAMAKRISHNAN gave a talk on Reducing deer browse damage to Christmas tree plantations at the annual Christmas Tree Growers' meeting held at Middletown, CT (March 6); interviewed by Len Giddix on WTIC 1080 AM radio on deer research at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (March 6); presented a poster on Connecticut's White-tailed deer at the Agricultural Day at the Capitol (March 17); gave a talk on Non-lethal methods of controlling deer population growth at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop at the Jones Auditorium (March 31).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD discussed Station research and possible collaboration with staff from the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Tolland (March 18); spoke on "New Vegetable Crops in Connecticut" at the annual meeting of the Experiment Station Associates at Jones Auditorium (March 25); interviewed by Rick Green of the Hartford Courant about backyard composting (March 30).

J.P. BARSKY attended and presented an award-winning research poster titled "Structural changes in the New England landscape during the last 100 years" at the 84th Annual Winter Meeting of the New England Society of American Foresters, held in Quebec City, PQ (March 23-26).

SCOTT WILLIAMS flew aerial deer survey over the towns of Westport and Weston (March 20); attended the Department of Environmental Protection's Forestry Division prescribed burn and fire shelter training course at Session's Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington, CT (March 24).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS gave a talk about careers in agriculture to two groups of New Haven eighth graders as part of Citywide Career Day at Yale in New Haven (March 11); gave a talk on Connecticut chestnut research at the Connecticut Tree Wardens Association Annual Dinner at the Yankee Silversmith Inn in Wallingford (March 30); gave an update on Experiment Station work on nut trees at the Forest Health Workshop in Jones Auditorium (March 31).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS presented a lecture titled "Diseases of shade and ornamental trees" as part of the CTPA Arboriculture 101 class in Jones Auditorium (March 3); gave a presentation titled "Daylily rust and chrysanthemum white rust" to members of the Horticulture Inspection Service and discussed the Connecticut perspective on the *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 Biovar 2 for two years at the Eastern Plant Board Meeting at the Omni Hotel in New Haven (March 8); gave a talk titled "Current diseases in the home landscape" to the East Haven Garden Club in East Haven (March 18); lectured on "Tree diseases" as part of the CTPA Arboriculture 101 "Hands-on" session in Jones Auditorium (March 24); participated in the radio show "The neighbors are talking" as the expert on plant diseases with Bruce Barber and Sissy Biggers of WELI (taped March 25, aired March 27); spoke about "Current diseases of shade and ornamental trees in Connecticut" and provided an update on Sudden Oak Death at the Connecticut Tree Wardens Association Annual Dinner at the Yankee Silversmith Inn in Wallingford (March 30).

DR. WADE H. ELMER moderated the afternoon session at the Perennial Plant Conference in Storrs (March 10); was a judge for the finalist of the Student Science Fair at Quinnipiac University in Hamden (March 11).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO gave a talk on "Pesticide drift" at the Eastern Plant Board Meeting at the Omni Hotel in New Haven (March 8); gave a talk on "The sporulation of *Nectria* on standing dead trees" at the Forest Health Workshop in Jones Auditorium (March 31).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented an invited talk entitled "Connecticut's Approach to West Nile Virus: Surveillance and Epidemiology" to the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America, New Haven, CT (March 8); presented an invited talk entitled "The Emergence and Spread of West Nile Virus in North America" to the Annual Meetings of the Horticultural Inspection Society and the Eastern Plant Board, New Haven, CT (March 10); was interviewed about Mosquito control in rain barrels by Kathy Connolly, CT Gardener Magazine (March 15); was interviewed about spring mosquitoes by Dan Kane, WFSB TV3 Hartford, CT (March 29).

GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on "Improving Soil in the Home Garden" to gardeners at the Heritage Village retirement community in Southbury, CT (March 17); spoke on "Maintaining the Splendor of Ponds" at the Connecticut Master Gardeners Conference in Manchester, CT (March 20); participated on the CTDEP Freshwater Invasive Plants Subcommittee to help formulate an aquatic nuisance species plan (March 29);

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented an invited seminar on "Bioavailability of Chemicals in Soil" to the Environmental Fate Group, Dupont Corporation, Newark, DL (March 4); presented an invited seminar on "Sorption Hysteresis of Chemicals in Soil" to the Department of Plant and Soil Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA (March 29).

DR. JASON WHITE presented a talk "Phytoremediation- Using Plants to Clean Hazardous Waste" at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Science Day (March 12); attended 14th Annual West Coast Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water in San Diego. Chaired a Phytoremediation Session and gave a talk entitled "Influence of cultivation conditions and nutrient amendments on the phytoextraction of weathered DDE." (March 14-17); attended Master Gardeners Symposium at Manchester Community College and presented a talk entitled "Phytoremediation- A Green Technology" (March 20).

Valley Laboratory

TIM ABBEY served as the local arrangements coordinator for the Entomological Society of America Eastern Branch meeting in New Haven (March 7-9); co-organized the Pesticide Application Techniques Workshop for the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in New Haven (March 19); participated in an Invasive Plants Group Discussion at the Horticultural Inspection Society/Eastern Plant Board Meeting in New Haven (March 10); presented Invasive Plants and Alternatives at the Horticultural Inspection Society/Eastern Plant Board Meeting in New Haven (March 11); Ornamental Plant Problems to a University of Connecticut Master Gardener class in Norwich (March 16); An Organic Approach to Pest Management in Coventry (March 18); Native Alternatives for Invasive Ornamental Plants at the UConn Master Gardener Symposium in Manchester (March 20); co-staffed the CAES display at Connecticut Ag Day at the Capitol in Hartford (March 17); and attended a meeting of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group steering committee in Storrs (March 29).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave a talk on biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid at the Horticultural Inspectors Meeting at the Omni Hotel, New Haven (March 11); together with Dr. Richard Cowles, hosted Alan Sior and Roy Wilt of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and discussed HWA winter mortality and monitoring for predators of HWA (March 17), gave a talk on biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid at the Forest Health Workshop, at the Jones Auditorium in New Haven (March 31).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Welcome to the www: weevils, white grubs, and woolly adelgids," to the Eastern Plant Board, New Haven (March 9); spoke on "Black vine weevil management in strawberries", and "Advances in root weevil and white grub management," to agricultural professionals at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (March 11); discussed "Imidacloprid application techniques and hemlock woolly adelgid management," at a USDA Forest Service meeting, Otis Air National Guard Base (March 16); presented "Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid" and did a hands-on demonstration of soil injection techniques for a Connecticut Tree Protective Association training meeting, New Haven (March 19); interviewed by the Canadian Christmas tree growers' representative on new pesticides, to determine which products are suitable for consideration in their equivalent to the IR-4 program (March 29); presented "Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid" to the Connecticut DEP State Foresters at their Forest Health Monitoring Workshop, New Haven (March 31).

JEFF FENGLER assisted with the audio-visual setup and operation and participated in the 79th Annual Eastern Plant Board/ Horticultural Inspection Society meeting at the Omni Hotel in New Haven (March 8-11); had 8 images of assorted garden pest insects published in Garden Insects of North America by Whitney Cranshaw (Princeton University Press: 2004); and had 3 images of woodland butterflies published in the Spring 2004 edition of American Butterflies (Definitive Destination: West Rock Ridge State Park, New Haven County, Connecticut by Larry Gall of the Yale Peabody Museum).

ROSE HISKES gave a talk on general gardening to the Wethersfield Garden Club in Wethersfield (March 8); helped put on the Perennial Plant Conference in Storrs (March 10); staffed a station booth at the Master Gardener Symposium in Manchester (March 20); gave a talk on invasive plants to the Rocky Hill Garden Club in Rocky Hill (March 22); gave a walking and digital tour of the CNLA Discovery and Education

Garden to the Tunxis Garden Club in Windsor (March 23); and was trained on the identification of invasive plants for the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England in Middlefield (March 28).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed about and provided handouts concerning the biology and management of the foliar nematode on Hosta by John O'Brien, Connecticut Director of the Tri-State Hosta Society (March 11); spoke to the Tunxis Garden Club about nematode diseases of ornamentals and breeding for disease resistance (March 23); spoke about research on management of tobacco pathogens including sore shin, blue mold and tobacco mosaic virus at the Crop Production Services Growers Meeting held in East Windsor (March 25); and spoke about recognizing, understanding and managing grape diseases at the Annual Connecticut Wine Symposium held by at the Connecticut Vineyard & Winery Association and the CT chapters of the American Wine Society at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury (March 27).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about "Giant hogweed in Connecticut" and helped lead a discussion about invasive species at meetings of the Eastern Plant Board and Horticultural Inspection Society in New Haven (March 9-10); spoke about "Giant hogweed: Invasive plant & health hazard" for Science Day at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village (March 12); spoke to cut-flower growers about weed management at the Western Massachusetts Gladiolus Society meeting in Chicopee, MA (March 27); and participated in a steering committee meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group in Storrs (March 29).

Journal Articles Approved March 2004

Fikrig, Erol, Utpal Pal, Manchuan Chen, John F. Anderson, and Richard A. Flavell. OspB Antibody prevents *Borrelia burgdorferi* colonization of *Ixodes scapularis*. Infection and Immunity, 2004.

LaMondia, James A., and J. J. LaMondia. TCN Tracker – a decision-based tobacco cyst nematode management aid for CT cigar wrapper tobacco types. CAES Bulletin.

Maier, Chris T. Non-native fruit pests: Future insect threats. Proceedings of the Connecticut Pomological Society.

Maier, Chris T. Hosts, Pattern of seasonal emergence, and flight and new distributional records of *Palaearctic chlorodlystis rectangular* (L) (hepidoptera:Geometridae) in the Northeastern United States. Annals of the Entomological Society of America.

Maynard, Abigail A. The effect of compost on fertilization requirements in butternut squash production. BioCycle.

McHale, Neil and Ross Koning. MicroRNA directed cleavage of PHAVOLUTA mRNA regulates the vascular cambium and structure of apical meristems in Nicotiana. Plant Cell.

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