

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

Springfield College Students Tour Valley Laboratory

Over 100 undergraduate and graduate students from the Sports Management and Recreation Department at Springfield College toured the Valley Laboratory on March 31, 2005. They heard the following presentations: Experiment Station overview and plant pathology research (James LaMondia); CAES/CNLA educational landscape (Rose Hiskes); Soil testing (John Winiarski); and Diagnostic services (Tom Rathier).

Photos of the Month...



Station exhibit at the Connecticut Public Television Family Science Expo at the Expo Center in Hartford on April 7-10, 2005. We had a very successful booth with the help of many station staff Rose Bonito, Ira Kettle, Jane Canepa-Morrison, Lisa Kaczynski, Rose Hiskes, Tia Mastrone, and Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski. Thank you to everyone who participated. Pictures taken by Rose Bonito.



Dr. Kimberly Stoner at the Northeast Regional IPM Conference in New Hampshire, March 15-16, 2005.

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about federal formula funds for research by Peter Urban of the Connecticut Post (March 1); was interviewed about biological control of purple loosestrife by Peter Martika of the Hartford Courant (March 7); was interviewed about mosquitoes and ticks by Ed Kranter of the Connecticut Post (March 10); spoke about the Station's budget to the Experiment Station Associates members in Jones Auditorium (March 15); was interviewed about Sudden Oak Death by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (March 21); greeted the Federated Garden Club in Jones Auditorium (March 22); spoke about Sudden Oak Death to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection and other staff members (March 28); spoke about the Station's research program to students in the Institute for Learning in Retirement at the Station (March 31); spoke about Ramorum Blight, mosquito surveillance, and food safety program to tree wardens in East Haddam (March 31).

Analytical Chemistry

DRS. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA and DAVID STILWELL, and TERRI ARSENAULT met with staff of the Connecticut Post on (March 1); to discuss issues related to formula funding and work impacted by such funding in Analytical Chemistry. A front page article appeared with Terri Arsenault's photo on the front page of the March 2 paper.

DRS. MATTINA and MAGNARELLI, VICKIE BOMBA-LEWANDOSKI, and MICHAEL LAST met with the head of Yale's scientific library services, David Stern, on (April 4) to discuss cooperative interaction between the Station and Yale's library resources in the near future.

DRS. BRIAN EITZER and MARYJANE MATTINA visited Thermo Inc. in Somerset NJ on (April 7); for a demonstration of the LTQ. This is an atmospheric pressure ionization liquid chromatography mass spectrometer which would be useful for the analysis of polar and non-volatile pesticides.

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

DR. JOHN F. ANDERSON participated as a panelist of applications sent to NIH in the program entitled "Innovative Virology in response to BioDefense and Emerging Infectious Disease Research Opportunities Program". Bethesda, Maryland from (March 16-March 18); explained the Biosafety Level Laboratory to a group of teachers associated with Farm City Week (March 30); in New Haven.

ROSE BONITO set up an exhibit and greeted the public at the Annual Garden Expo, Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Fairfield with information on Sudden Oak Death, Butterfly Gardening, Aquatic invasive plants and a honey bee demonstration hive (March 19 & 20).

IRA KETTLE set up an exhibit and greeted the public at the Annual Garden Expo, Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Fairfield with information on Sudden Oak Death, Butterfly Gardening, Aquatic invasive plants and a honey bee demonstration hive (March 19 & 20).

STEPHEN SANDREY hosted a table at Agriculture & Forestry Day in the CT Capitol in Hartford (March 23).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH presented a talk to the Christmas Tree Growers Association titled "Exotic Pests of Importance to CT Christmas Trees and Forests" at their annual meeting held at Snow Elementary School in Rockfall (March 5), met with officials of DEP and USDA to expedite permitting procedures for regulated

waste, at DEP Headquarters in Hartford (March 10), coordinated and participated in the Annual Forest Health Workshop, held in Jones Auditorium at CAES, and presented a talk titled "Update on Ramorum Blight" (March 11), received certification in Biotechnology Regulatory Notification Inspections, from USDA-APHIS-BRS (Biotechnology Regulatory Services), in a workshop held at Frederick MD (March 14-17), presented a talk on "Ramorum Blight: a Potential Threat to CT Forests" to a meeting of the Shoreline Gardeners, held at Scranton Library in Madison (March 22), hosted a table at Agriculture & Forestry Day in the CT Capitol in Hartford (March 23), and participated in a workshop on protocol for exotic pest introduction held by conference call and hosted by the National Plant Diagnostic Network (March 29).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III Participated in a meeting of the northeast regional association of experiment station directors in Beltsville, MD. (March 2-3); participated in affirmative action training at Hartford, CT. (March 8-9); gave an introduction and Station update at the Forest Health Workshop in Jones Auditorium. (March 11); presented a talk on integrated tick management for the prevention of Lyme disease at the Northeast Regional Community and Urban Integrated Pest Management Conference in Manchester, NH. (March 15-16); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease prevention at the Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, CT (Dr. Randall Nelson, Department of Public Health also spoke on rabies and West Nile virus). (March 24); spoke on tick management and Lyme disease prevention at a pediatric nursing symposium at Danbury Hospital. (March 29); spoke to visiting teachers about research and activities in the Department of Entomology. (March 30).

PETER TRENCHARD hosted a table at Agriculture & Forestry Day in the CT Capitol in Hartford (March 23).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD presided at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in Southington (March 1); lectured on "Prescribed fire and forest resources" for the Fire Management class at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. (March 2); lectured on "Fire and stand development: some observations from Connecticut" for the Fire Science and Policy class at Yale University in New Haven. (March 3); presented invited talk on "Regeneration of the Southern New England Landscape" at the Rhode Island Natural History Survey 10th Annual Conference in Cranston, RI (March 4); administered practical examination of arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board. (March 9); spoke on "Birch is the future: do not despair" at 10th annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop (March 11).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended a steering committee meeting for the New England Vegetable and Berry Conference in Manchester NH. (March 7); visited Len Schneider of Swiss Valley Produce in Ellington CT to discuss problems related to greenhouse hydroponics production of tomatoes. (March 15); presented a short research summary to school teachers involved in the Farm City program during their tour of CAES (March 30).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD was interviewed about mulch by Paul Tukey from People, Places, and Plants magazine (March 21).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL visited the vineyard of Jerry Servino of Woodbridge to discuss organic pest management strategies (March 3); participated in meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Council at the Valley Lab (March 7); attended a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Council at the Valley Lab (March 7).

J.P. BARSKY presented a display on forest research at Forestry Day in the State Capitol Concourse in Hartford (March 23).

SCOTT WILLIAMS spoke on "Update on Deer Population Studies" at 10th annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop (March 11); spoke on "Reducing deer browse damage to cultivated landscapes" for the Hadlyme Garden Club in Hadlyme (March 30).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS was visited by J. Zak, a construction engineer, and discussed the physical properties of chestnut wood (March 3); reported on the progress of Experiment Station chestnut research at the Forest Health Meeting in Jones (March 11); gave a paper entitled "Introduction of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* into the U.S. and the death of the chestnuts" at the symposium "Sudden oak death: East Coast perspective" at the Potomac Division Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society in Eastern Shore, MD (March 16); gave a talk entitled "Chestnuts in the 21st Century" at the Yale Forestry School (March 24).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR spoke about "Plant diseases: Their diagnosis and spread" to a group of high school teachers associated with Farm-City who were visiting the Station (March 30).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a talk entitled "Environmentally-friendly methods for managing plant diseases" to members of the Gardeners of Greater New Haven at the cottage at Lockwood Farm (March 7); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protective Examining Board by conducting oral exams for licensing (March 9); gave a talk entitled "Recognition and management of common diseases of perennials" for the Hill & Dale Garden Club of South Glastonbury (March 10); served in a "Career Shadowing Experience" for Debby DiGennaro, a middle school French and Spanish teacher in an area outside of her expertise as part of an enrichment program, and participated in the Forest Health Workshop held in Jones Auditorium (March 11); was interviewed about Ramorum blight, bacterial leaf scorch, and oak wilt by Kathy Connolly of Ct Gardener (March 15); conducted the Tree Diseases portion of the Hands-on Night of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's Arboriculture 101 in Jones (March 16); gave a presentation entitled "Top three disease threats to Connecticut trees and shrubs" at the Connecticut Master Gardener Symposium in Manchester (March 19).

DR. WADE H. ELMER presented a lecture/lab titled "Diagnostics of plant disease" to an undergraduate class at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA (March 7); moderated the afternoon session of the Perennial Plant Conference at UCONN in Storrs (March 9); participated in the advisory Ph.D. committee for Anuthep Pasura in the Department of Plant Science at UCONN in Storrs (March 30).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave a talk entitled "Thoughts on *Neonectria*" and participated in a discussion about *Phytophthora ramorum* at the Forest Health Workshop in Jones (March 11); gave a talk about *Phytophthora ramorum* and Ramorum blight to the Experiment Station Associates in Jones Auditorium (March 15).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the feeding patterns of mosquito vectors of West Nile virus by Marian Gail Brown, CT Post (March 9); presented an invited talk, "Epidemiology of West Nile Virus in Connecticut: A Six-Year Analysis of Mosquito Data, 1999 – 2004" at the Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Mosquito Control Association in Atlantic City, NJ (March 10); interviewed about spring mosquitoes by Jeff Holtz, NY Times. (March 14); participated in Qualifying Exams of Heidi Brown, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University School of Medicine (March 23).

GREG BUGBEE spoke to the East Hartford Garden Club on "Container Gardening Indoors and Out." (March 7).

DR. ROBERT CAPERS gave a presentation in Natick, Mass on the Station's aquatic plant survey program during a meeting among officials from throughout the Northeast who are responsible for invasive species planning (March 23). Gave a presentation to the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group, explaining plans for a volunteer lake-monitoring program that the Station is launching this spring to increase the number of people looking for invasive aquatic plants and submitting data on their occurrence (March 28).

DR. JASON WHITE attended 15th annual West Coast Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water. He chaired a session on Phytoremediation (March 13-15); met with a graduate student from Southern Conn. State University and answered questions concerning the control and remediation of agricultural run-off and waste (March 29).

Valley Laboratory

TIM ABBEY assisted at the University of Connecticut Perennial Plant Conference in Storrs (March 9); attended the CAES Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in New Haven (March 11).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave a talk on biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid at the annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop at the Jones Auditorium in New Haven (March 11); gave a tour of the Valley Laboratory with Richard Chandler III and Eddie Thornton, Weaver High School interns, to Mr. and Mrs. Figueroa on (March 22); presented a poster on hemlock woolly adelgid and biological control in Connecticut on Agricultural Day at the State Capitol, (March 23); discussed future internships with Joseph Rodrigues of the Harris AgriScience Center, Bloomfield (March 29).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid and biological control of elongate hemlock scale" at the Connecticut Forest Health Conference, New Haven, (March 11); (coauthored by Carole Cheah and Michael Montgomery). He presented "Protecting our forest hemlocks" to the Conservation Biology Class at Eastern CT State University, Willimantic, (March 14); and to the Massachusetts Community Tree Conference, Amherst, MA, (March 29). He presented "Chemical control of forest pests: hemlock woolly adelgid and western poplar clearwing borers" at the Eastern Branch Meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Harrisburg, PA, (March 22); He spoke to the Ontario Berry Growers' Association about "White grubs in blueberries" and "Black vine weevil management in strawberries," Guelph, Ontario, (March 31).

ROSE HISKES gave a talk on pests of the garden to the Sew-n-Reap Garden Club in Granby (March 3); participated in a CNLA Education Committee meeting in Cromwell (March 10); staffed a CAES booth at the Master Gardener Symposium in Manchester (March 19); gave a talk on invasive plants to the public in Lyme (March 24); and participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Peabody Museum in New Haven (March 28).

RICHARD HORVATH spoke about 'Practical aspects of pesticide and nutrient applications in the vineyard' at the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association meeting held in Windsor (March 19).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed about Connecticut cigar wrapper tobacco by James O'Brien of the Cigar Association of America (March 4); examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (March 9); discussed research with Mr. Jim Ross, Research Manager of the Prairie Turfgrass Research Centre in Alberta, Canada on (March 11); met with Dr. Kenna MacKenzie, berry crop Entomologist with Agriculture Canada concerning strawberry black root rot research at the Valley Lab (March 23); conducted a tour of the Valley Lab and discussed research projects with Dr. Sandra Shinn, R&D Scientist for Syngenta Crop Protection (March 28); and spoke about plant breeding and research on management of tobacco pathogens including sore shin, blue mold, cyst nematode and tobacco mosaic virus at the Crop Production Services Growers Meeting held in East Windsor (March 30); and spoke to about 100 students from Springfield College about Station history, research programs and services to the public at the Valley Lab (March 31).

DR. DEWEI LI hosted a visit to the Valley Lab by Mr. Jim Ross, Research Manager of the Prairie Turfgrass Research Centre in Alberta, Canada on (March 11).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH participated in a meeting of the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Peabody Museum in New Haven (March 28).

THOMAS RATHIER attended a meeting of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (Connecticut Committee) at the Valley Laboratory (February 8); spoke on diseases of flowering shrubs at a seminar presented by the Connecticut Nurserymen's Foundation at the Valley Laboratory (February 9); planned the educational portion of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association winter meeting and participated in the meeting's question the experts session in Middletown (March 5); provided instruction on identifying and managing insect pests of trees in a hands-on laboratory session of Arboriculture 101 in Jones Auditorium (March 16); and spoke about tobacco cultural and fertility problems at a meeting of tobacco growers in East Windsor (March 30).

Baby!

Heidi and Tim Abbey welcomed their son Liam Thomas Abbey into their family at 9:52pm on Wednesday, March 30, 2005. He weighed 6 lbs 2.3 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. Everyone is doing great and looking forward to the future.

Journal Articles Approved March 2005

Abbey, Timothy. Invasive plants in the Connecticut landscape. CT Horticultural Society Newsletter.

Anagnostakis, Sandra. Fats, protein, carbohydrates, and fatty acids in chestnut fruits. Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture.

Capers, Robert S., Roslyn S. Selsky, Gregory J. Bugbee, and Jason C. White. Aquatic plants among most destructive invasives." Frontiers of Plant Science.

Cowles, Richard S. Hard-to-control insect pests in Christmas trees: white grubs and weevils. Michigan Christmas Tree Journal. (Variations of article will be used in NJCTGA's "Growing Points" and MA CTGA newsletters).

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

Elmer, Wade H. and Frank J. Ferrandino. Distribution of *Fusarium* species on corn stubble in Connecticut. Phytopathology (Abstract).

Krol, Walter J., Terri Arsenault, and MaryJane Incorvia Mattina. Assessment of dermal exposure to pesticides under "Pick Your Own" harvesting conditions. Bull. Env. Cont. Tox.

LaMondia, James A. The effect of lesion nematode management by rotation or green manure crops on potato early dying. Journal of Nematology (Abstract).

Li, De-Wei. Release and dispersal of basidiospores from basidiomata of *Amanita muscaria* var. *alba* and their infiltration to a residence. Mycological Research.

Maier, Chris. Invasion of alien insects. Frontiers of Plant Science.

Pitman, J., Louis A. Magnarelli, R. Heimer, J. Meek, and C. Lyons. Human exposure to *Francisella tularensis* in Southern Connecticut, 2000. Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Sanders, Michael and Joseph J. Pignatello. An isotope exchange technique to assess mechanizing of sorption hysteresis applied to naphthalene in kerogenous organic matter. Environ. Sci. Technol.

Stoner, Kim. Economics of organic farming: Or how do I decide which crops are making money? Gleanings (CT NOFA Newsletter).

White, Jason, Z. D. Parrish, Martin P. N. Gent, William Iannucci-Berger, Brian D. Eitzer, Mehmet Isleyen, and MaryJane Incorvia Mattina. Soil amendments, plant growth stage, and intercropping impact the bioavailability of weathered DDE to *Curcubita pepo*. Environmental Science and Technology.

Zhu, Dongqiang, Seokjoon Kwon, and Joseph J. Pignatello. Adsorption of single ring organic compounds toward charcoals prepared under different thermochemical conditions. Environ. Sci. Technol.

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