

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

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Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI welcomed the Experiment Station Associates to their annual meeting in Jones Auditorium and gave an update on research programs (32 attended) (March 16); and welcomed Federated Garden Club members to Jones Auditorium and gave a report on Station research (45 attended) (March 21).

Analytical Chemistry

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

ROSE BONITO set up an exhibit and greeted visitors at the Annual Garden Expo, Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Fairfield with information on Butterfly Gardening, Aquatic invasive plants and a honey bee demonstration hive (visitors at our exhibit 1,419) (March 18 & 19)

IRA KETTLE set up an exhibit and greeted visitors at the Annual Garden Expo, Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Fairfield with information on Butterfly Gardening, Aquatic invasive plants and a honey bee demonstration hive (visitors at our exhibit 1,419) (March 18 & 19).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke on the "Emerald Ash Borer and Other Exotic Insect," displayed exotic insects, and distributed fact sheets at the forest health workshop in Jones Auditorium (40 people) (March 9).

GALE RIDGE talked on Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus, the H5N1 flu, and effects on society from past flu pandemics at the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association in Hartford. (110 attendees) (February 15); gave a lunch time lecture on the adult heteroptera thoracic endoskeleton at the CAES (February 28); interviewed on gypsy moths in Connecticut by Phoebe Hall of Shore Publications in New London (March 14); and gave a lecture on Adult heteropteran thoracic endoskeleton at the graduate symposium at University of Connecticut in Storrs (March 18).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE gave a talk entitled "Chemical Communication by Small Japanese Cedar Beetle" to the Forest Health Workshop (March 9); and participated in the "Tree Conditions Laboratory" night of the Arboriculture 101 course given by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (March 15).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH completed Incident Command System level 300 training, a course presented by the National Incident Management System; held at the USDA regional offices in Robbinsville, New Jersey (March 2); coordinated the annual Forest Health Workshop, in cooperation with DEP personnel and participated with a talk titled "Gypsy Moth Outbreak of 2005"; held at the Jones Auditorium (40 attendees) (March 9); participated in the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey-Early Detection and Rapid Response workshop, held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (40 attendees) (March 15); completed Incident Command System level 400 training, a course presented by the National Incident Management System; held at USDA Eastern Regional Headquarters in Raleigh, North Carolina (March 20-23); and interviewed by Joyce Conlon of the New London Day, concerning the Gypsy Moth outbreak of 2005 and prospects for 2006 (March 31).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke on ticks and Lyme disease for the Easton Garden Club in Easton, CT. Presentation was taped for airing on cable access television (30 attendees) (March 8); welcomed attendees and spoke on Station forest funding at the Forest Health Workshop in Jones Auditorium (March 9); spoke on 'Creating Tick Free Zones' at the NOFA Organic Connecticut Conference in Windsor, CT (20 attendees) (March 11); presented an update on tick control research at the annual meeting of the Experiment Station Associates (32 attendees) (March 16); spoke on tick management and Lyme disease prevention and presented a tick workshop for 9 science teachers and staff at the Yale Peabody Museum for curriculum development modeled on biodiversity and vector-borne disease (12 attendees) (March 22); participated in a meeting of the northeast regional association of experiment station directors in State College, PA (March 28-29); provided an update on CAES research and survey for gypsy moth at the annual meeting of the Tree Warden Association (70 attendees) (March 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented two workshops, "Organic Management of Insects for Farmers and Gardeners," and "Improving Production of Brassicas" at the Cultivating an Organic Connecticut Conference (CT NOFA) at Windsor High School (50 attendees) (35 attendees at the two workshops) (March 11); interviewed by Jim Battaglio for the newsletter of the Community Foundation for a Greater New Haven about the Organic Land Care program (March 17); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, West Hartford (March 19); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee, Windsor (March 21); and presented a workshop on Insect Management at the Community Gardening Conference at the Beardsley Zoo, in Bridgeport (25 people attended the workshop) (March 25).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven, CT (March 7); spoke on "Defoliation and oak mortality in southern New England" at 11th annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop (33 attendees) (March 9); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (March 16); and spoke on "Homeowner's tree care" to Shoreline Gardeners Club in Madison (20 attendees) (March 28).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD advised Brownie Troop 360 on gardening at Hamden Hall Country Day School (11 children and 3 adults attendees) (March 6 and 27); and interviewed about the New Crops Program by Marian Brown from the Connecticut Post (March 23).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL met with Jerry Servino to review the pest management plan for his vineyard in Woodbridge (March 6); visited a potential vineyard site in Hamden with Charlie Rosabianca (March 6); participated in a UMass Extension meeting to discuss grape harvest rots in Westport, MA (March 15); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Council at Charmard Vineyards, Clinton (March 16); participated in SARE Project LNE04-198 progress meeting in East Wareham, MA (March 20); evaluated a potential vineyard site with Paul Crowley in Woodstock Valley (March 21); and participated in the National Viticulture Extension Leadership Conference in San Antonio, TX (March 28-30).

SCOTT WILLIAMS spoke on "Overabundant suburban white-tailed deer as seed dispersal agents" at 11th annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop (33 attendees) (March 9); became a Ph.D. candidate in wildlife science at the University of Connecticut after successfully passing the general examinations (March 15).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS reported on her research on chestnuts and butternuts at the Forest Health Workshop held in Jones (40 attendees) (March 9); and gave a talk entitled “Chestnut for timber and for food” at the annual meeting of the Eastern Connecticut Land Owners Association in Brooklyn (62 attendees) (March 23).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a lecture entitled “Diseases of shade and ornamental trees” as part of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association’s Arboriculture 101 class held in Jones (55 attendees) (March 1); presented a talk entitled “Ramorum Blight and Connecticut’s rhododendrons” to the Connecticut Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society at the Valley Lab (38 attendees) (March 7); gave a talk entitled “Update on Ramorum Blight” at the Forest Health Workshop held in Jones (40 attendees) (March 9); participated in the Hands-On Session of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association’s Arboriculture 101 class by discussing tree diseases with live specimens in Jones (55 attendees) (March 15); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board with administering the oral exams to arborist candidates at the Station (March 16); gave a lecture entitled “Understanding plant diseases—How they impact our daily lives” to members of the Simsbury Garden Club in Simsbury (53 attendees) (March 20); assisted MS.. VICKIE BOMBA-LEWANDOSKI and DR. ROBERT E. MARRA with the Experiment Station’s display on Ramorum Blight and the new Molecular Plant Diagnostics Laboratory at Ag Day at the Capitol in Hartford (March 22).

DR. WADE H. ELMER served as a judge for the State Science Fair held at Quinnipiac University in Hamden (March 15).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO gave a talk entitled “The coincident rise of deer, black birch, and Nectria canker in the northeastern hardwood forest” at the Forest Health Workshop held in Jones (50 attendees) (March 9).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS interviewed about the elimination of mosquito control in shoreline communities in CT by Leon Collins, WFSB-TV3 (March 11).

GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on Dredging Options for Connecticut Lakes to the Stateline Pond Association at the Stafford Springs Town Hall (March 27).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented an invited seminar Surface and adsorptive properties of wood char at the IX Humic Science and Technology Meeting, Boston, MA (March 22); and presented a keynote address, Issues in sorption related to the bioavailability of chemicals in soils at the Pesticide Behaviour in Soils, Water and Air Conference, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK (March 27-29).

DR. JASON WHITE attended the 16th Annual West Coast Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water in San Diego, CA, where he co-chaired the Phytoremediation session and presented a lecture entitled “Mechanistic investigation into the phytoremediation of weathered persistent organic pollutants by cucurbits: Rhizotron studies” (March 12-14).

Valley Laboratory

TIMOTHY ABBEY presented “Woody Plant Pest Management and Care” to a University of Connecticut Master Gardener class in Norwich (52 attendees) (March 14) and North Haven (40 attendees) (March 16) and “Implementing an IPM Program” to the CTPA Arboriculture 101 class in New Haven (38 attendees)

(March 22); and served as a moderator at the University of Connecticut Perennial Plant Conference in Storrs (March 8).

DR. JOHN AHRENS gave a presentation on Weed Management in Christmas Trees at The Pest Management Short Course in Keene, NH (85 attendees) (March 17); and conducted a laboratory there on Calibrating Sprayers.

DR. CAROLE CHEAH met with USDA Forest Service scientists at the Northeastern Research Station, Hamden (March 3, 6 and 17), to discuss future research projects, gave an update on biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop at the Jones Auditorium, New Haven, (35 attendees) (March 9); and gave a tour of the Insect Rearing Facility, USDA FS Hamden, and an update on the *Scymnus* biological control project to Dr. Danny Lee, Director of the USDA Forest Service Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Centre of Asheville, NC (March 24).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Update on Christmas Tree Insect Pest Management" at the annual winter meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association, Middletown (100 attendees) (March 4) "Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid" to the Connecticut Forest Health meeting, New Haven, (50 attendees) (March 9) and Northeast Forest Pest Council, (March 23), Newport, RI (80 attendees); and 5 presentations (4 jointly presented with Ron Kelley), "Biology of stem and root insects," "Biology of white grubs," "Biology of foliar feeding insects," "Control of soil-dwelling and shoot boring insects," and "Control of foliar-feeding insects," at the biennial Christmas Tree IPM Workshop, Keene, NH (85 attendees) (March 16-17).

ROSE HISKES gave a talk to the Green Bay Garden Club on "Care of Home Lawns" in Windsor (15 attendees) (March 7); participated in a Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium planning committee in Windsor (March 10), staffed the Station Booth at the Master Gardener Symposium in Manchester (March 18), gave a talk on invasive plants at Nichols Garden Club in Trumbull (20 attendees) (March 14) arranged a display of Station Research on Invasive Plants for an Arbor Day Fair at Mitchell College in New London (March 21), with Tom Rathier, Jim LaMondia, DeWei Li and John Winiarski, gave a talk on Educational and Display Gardens to students from Springfield College in Windsor (90 attendees) (March 21); and taught an adult education class on "Trees and Shrubs for the Connecticut Landscape" in Windsor (6 attendees) (March 23 and 30).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA prepared and submitted a Section 18 emergency registration request to the CT DEP for Quadris fungicide for use against blue mold on shade-grown wrapper tobacco (March 10); examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (March 16); discussed Connecticut Valley tobacco culture and diseases with Dr. Asimina Mila of North Carolina State University and Paul Peters at the Valley Laboratory and attended a tobacco growers informational meeting held by DeCran Ag Supplies in Northampton MA (March 16); and spoke about the CAES overview and plant pathology research to students in the Sports Management graduate program from Springfield College at the Valley Lab (100 students) (March 21).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH participated in a regional workshop on giant hogweed, a federal noxious weed, in Harrisburg, PA (March 7-8); hosted a symposium planning meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Lab (11 attendees) (March 10); and spoke about plant / herbicide interactions at a training session for pesticide applicators organized by Vegetation Control Service, Inc. in Orange, MA (70 attendees) (March 23).

Journal Articles Approved March 2006

Armstrong, Philip M. and Theodore G. Andreadis. A new genetic variant of LaCrosse virus (Bunyaviridae) isolated from New England. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*

- Boehm, Matthew T. and Donald E. Aylor. Coupling Lagrangian surface layer and convective boundary layer models to describe aerial dispersal of particles released near the ground. Proceedings, 17th Symposium on Boundary Layers and Turbulence, San Diego, CA, 22-26 May 2006
- Elmer, Wade H., Martin P. N. Gent, James A. LaMondia, Francis J. Ferrandino, and Kimberly A. Stoner. Root nutrition, rhizobacteria, and the early dying disease of potato as affected by spent mushroom compost, straw mulch, and fumigation. Second International Spent Mushroom Compost Symposium
- Elmer, Wade H. Efficacy of pre-plant treatments of gladiolus corms with combinations of acibenzolar-s-methyl and biological or chemical fungicides for the suppression of *Fusarium* corm rot. Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology
- Elmer, Wade H. and Francis J. Ferrandino. Distribution of *Fusarium* species on corn stubble in Connecticut. Phytopathology (Abstract)
- Gent, Martin P. N. Benefit of shade for greenhouse tomato. CT Weekly Agriculture Report
- Gent, Martin P. N., Jason C. White, Brian D. Eitzer, and MaryJane I. Mattina. Modeling how cucurbits differ in uptake and translocation of DDE. Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry
- Hiskes, Rose. Columbine Sawfly, *Pristiphora aquilegiae*. Connecticut Gardener
- LaMondia, James A. Timing of broadleaf tobacco post-harvest tillage affects tobacco cyst nematode population development. Journal of Nematology (Abstract)
- Li, De-Wei. A new species of Apophysomyces. Mycotaxon
- Maier, Chris T. Distribution and hosts of *Callidiellum rufipenne* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae), an Eastern Asian borer established in the United States
- Molaei, Goudarz, JoAnne Oliver, Theodore G. Andreadis, Philip M. Armstrong, and John J. Howard. Molecular identification of blood meal sources in *Culiseta melanura* and *Culiseta morsitans* from an endemic of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus in New York, USA. The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- Stoner, Kim. Organic Land Care – In Your Own Yard. Gleanings (CT NOFA Newsletter)
- Stoner, Kim. Harvesting salad greens through the Fall and Spring at Tobacco Road Farm. Gleanings (CT NOFA Newsletter)
- White, Jason, D. W. Ross, Martin P. N. Gent, Brian Eitzer, and MaryJane Incorvia Mattina. Effect of mycorrhizal fungi on the phytoextraction of weathered DDE by *Curcubita pepo*?. Journal of Hazardous Materials.

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