

Station News

A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Departmental News

MOSQUITO TRAP EXPLANATION HELD WITH THE CONNECTIUCT STATE POLICE BOMB SQUAD TRAINING SESSION

By Mr. Terril D. Goodman

Trooper Charles Shaw, of the Connecticut State Police Bomb Squad, first contacted the Department of Public Health and then The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station regarding the types of traps deployed in Connecticut for the mosquito surveillance program. The Bomb Squad's concerns were based on an alert sent to all State Police Bomb Squads from the DeKalb County (Georgia) Bomb Squad. They stated that mosquito traps, in particular the gravid trap, could be mistaken for an explosive or chemical-biological dissemination device upon visual observation, or x-ray imaging.

Trooper Shaw requested that we attend a bomb squad training session at Southbury Training School. I attended this session on July 13, 2007 and deployed MMX and CDC traps for the training exercise.



Bomb squad personnel analyzed the traps using visual observation, x-ray imaging, and simulated rifle shots to disable batteries.



All concluded that the devices did not pose any threat and were probably some type of insect trap. Terry also took the opportunity to setup and describe a gravid trap and explain how all three traps operated.



ANNUAL TWILIGHT MEETING FOR CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS

On July 10, 2007, 63 growers and professionals attended the annual Christmas Tree Twilight

Meeting, at the Valley Laboratory, sponsored by The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association. Attendees toured the Christmas tree plots and heard the following presentations: Fertility and cultural management, Mr. Thomas

Rathier; Disease management, Dr. Sharon Douglas; Shearing demonstration, Dr. John Ahrens; Insect and mite management, Dr. Richard Cowles; Weed management, Dr. Todd Mervosh; Connecticut weed display, Dr. Todd Mervosh.

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about invasive plants by Judy Moeckel of the Town Times (July 2); welcomed 17 high school teachers who were visiting the Station (July 6); was interviewed about Station history and research by Gerri Hirshey of the New York Times (July 11); was interviewed by Nancy Cohen of NPR Public Radio (July 25); was interviewed about Plant Science Day and Station research programs by Ray Andrewsen of WQUN Radio (July 26); was interviewed about honey bees and Station research by Jared Newman of the Wilton Villager (July 27); and was interviewed about Station research and Plant Science Day by Brian Smith of WICC Radio in Bridgeport (July 31).

Grants and Fundraising Office

MS. TESS FOLEY attended a fundraising seminar at the Foundation Center in New York City (July 25); met with the President & CEO of The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven to present CAES research projects for funding consideration (August 2); and has been invited by "Country Folks New England Farm Weekly" to cover farming and agriculture stories in Connecticut.

Analytical Chemistry

DR. WALTER KROL spoke about our work on Biodiesel to a group of (22 High School Teachers) from SSCS (July 6) and invited to speak at the Florida Pesticide Residue Workshop held in St. Pete Beach, FL and presented a talk entitled "Pesticide Residues in Produce Sold in Connecticut: A Comparative Study of Present and QuEChERS Methodology" (July 22-25).

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA spoke with Bob Miller of the Danbury Times News (July 3) and spoke with Frank Luongo of the Westport News regarding experiments conducted in the Analytical laboratories by Mehmet Isleyan and Saim Ozdemir, visiting scientists from Turkey, with assistance from MR. WILLIAM BERGER. The work focused on potentially noxious materials leaching or out-gassing from tire crumbs being used on athletic fields in Connecticut (July 9).

DR. BRIAN EITZER presented a paper on the analysis of bee pollen at the Florida Pesticide Residue Workshop in St. Petersburg Beach Florida (July 23- 35).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

DR. VICTORIA SMITH attended the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Summer meeting, held at VanWilgen's Garden Center in North Branford (July 11) and participated in the Summer Meeting of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education Administrative Council, as the Eastern Plant Board Representative, held at Jiminy Peak Resort in Hancock, MA (approximately 25 attendees) (July 23-25).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by Mar Walker, Redding Pilot, about tick testing and Lyme disease statistics (July 2); was interviewed by Jerry Dukles, WICC-600 Radio, about ticks, bees and colony collapse disorder on the noon Talk of the Town program (July 2); spoke about activities in Entomology Department and Lyme disease to SCSC Graduate Students touring the Station (20 attendees)

(July 6); participated in a meeting of the Northeast Regional Experiment Station Directors (NERA) in Providence, RI (July 9-10); interviewed by Gerri Hirshey, New York Times, about ticks, Lyme disease, other research at the Station, and provided a tour of the Station (July 11); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at the Yale Peabody Museum Fellows Summer Institute for secondary teachers (28 teachers with 1,044 students) (July 12); interviewed by Abram Katz, New Haven Register, about bed bugs (July 19); and joined DR. SHARON DOUGLAS, DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD, and MR. THOMAS RATHIER "Garden Talk", WTIC-1080 radio, and spoke about bees, ticks, and Plant Science Day (July 28).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA at the Valley Laboratory (July 10); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA at Roby's Organic Farm in Berlin (July 15); and visited the farm of Andre Groszyk in Enfield to consult about Integrated Pest Management (July 26).

Lockwood Farm Bird & Butterfly Garden Plant Science Day: 2007

Butterflies

1. Cabbage White
2. Orange Sulphur
3. Clouded Sulphur
4. Monarch
5. Northern Broken Dash
6. American Lady
7. Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
8. Common Sootywing
9. Spicebush Swallowtail
10. Pearl Crescent
11. Tawny-edged Skipper
12. Peck's Skipper
13. Question Mark
14. Great Spangled Fritillary
15. Silver-spotted Skipper
16. Red Admiral

Moths

1. Hummingbird Clearwing
2. Bumblebee Clearwing

Birds

1. Eastern Bluebird
2. Canada Goose
3. Killdeer

4. Barn Swallow
5. Cedar Waxwing
6. American Robin
7. BlueJay
8. Song Sparrow
9. Red-winged Blackbird
10. Red-tailed Hawk
11. Mourning Dove
12. European Starling
13. Northern Mockingbird
14. American Goldfinch
15. House Finch
16. Northern Cardinal
17. Tree Swallow
18. Gray Catbird
19. Turkey Vulture
20. House Sparrow

Dragonflies

1. 12-spotted Skimmer
2. Black Saddlebags
3. Widow Skimmer

Other

1. Eastern Cottontail
2. White-tailed Deer

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY S. WARD participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in New Haven (July 18); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association annual meeting in Farmington (July 19); spoke on "History of Connecticut's forests" to Hamden Rotary (12 attendees) (July 23); served on Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection-Endangered Species Taxonomic Advisory Committee for Plants in Storrs, CT (July 24); and hosted an ICIS internship by Ms. Kimberly Bloom, a science teacher at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School in Wallingford (July 9-27).

DR. MARTIN P.N. GENT attended the CNLA summer meeting at Van Willgen in North Branford (July 11).

DR. ABIGAIL A. MAYNARD visited Dean Larson's farm in Brookfield to make suggestions on his tomato crop (July 18) and discussed utilization of compost and the new crops program on WTIC AM-1080 radio talk show "Garden talk" (35,000 audience) (July 28).

DR. WILLIAM R. NAIL participated in a meeting of the American Society of Enology and Viticulture-Eastern Section in Lehigh Valley, PA (July 15-17); participated in a meeting of grape researchers from the USDA-ARS, industry, and academia in Kennewick, WA (July 24-25); and attended a board meeting of the National Grape and Wine Initiative in Kennewick, WA (July 26-27).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT participated in an Education Committee meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association in Berlin (July 27).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR gave a presentation entitled "Pollen-mediated gene flow" and was the Technical Co-chair and discussion leader at an EPA-sponsored Research Workshop on Gene Flow in the Environment in Arlington, VA (18 adults attended) (July 23-24).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS discussed the Plant Disease Information Office and how to integrate plant pathology into the high school curriculum with members of Dr. Jerry Frumento's graduate school class from Southern Connecticut State University (13 adults attended) (July 6); presented a talk on current diseases of Connecticut Christmas trees at the Summer Twilight Meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association in Windsor (60 adults attended) (July 10); welcomed and introduced a class of gifted middle school students to the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology and discussed plant pathology's impact on daily life (20 youths and 2 adults attended) (July 13); was interviewed about "super" poison ivy in Connecticut and the impact of global warming on this troublesome weed by Amanda Cuda of the Connecticut Post (July 16); gave two lectures entitled "How to kill a tree in ten easy steps, Part II" to arborists at the CTPA Summer Meeting at The Farmington Club; organized the CAES display booth and answered questions about tree health problems (800 adults attended) (July 19); and was invited to appear on "Garden Talk with Len and Lisa" on WTIC AM-1080 to answer questions on diseases and to publicize Plant Science Day and the Experiment Station (July 28).

DR. WADE H. ELMER was interviewed about wetland dieback by Tim Stelloh of the Stamford Advocate (July 3); gave a presentation on wetland dieback to middle school students (20 youths and 2 adults attended) (July 13); was interviewed about wetland dieback at Hammonasset State Park by Tim Stelloh of the Stamford Advocate (July 17); was interviewed about wetland dieback by Tim Stelloh of the Stamford Advocate (July 25); and presented a poster entitled "Survey of *Fusarium* spp. associated with *Spartina* spp. from Atlantic states and their pathogenicity to *S. alterniflora*" at the Annual Meeting of The American Phytopathological Society held in San Diego, CA (July 27-31).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDDREADIS July 6. Was interviewed about the first detection of West Nile virus infected mosquitoes in Manchester by Fran Schneido, CBS Radio NY and Metro News (July 6); was interviewed about funding cuts by the CDC to the State mosquito West Nile virus surveillance program by Bill Hathaway, Hartford Courant (July 9); was interviewed about West Nile virus by Michael Dinan, Greenwich Times (July 10); was interviewed about the State mosquito West Nile virus surveillance program by the Weston Forum weekly newspaper (July 10); was interviewed about impact of global warming on mosquito-borne diseases by Bob Miller, News Times (July 11); presented a lecture entitled "*West Nile virus: an exotic emerging mosquito-borne disease in the western hemisphere*" to a group of secondary school teachers from Connecticut as part of the "Peabody Fellows Program on biodiversity and Vector-Borne Diseases (approximately 30 in attendance) (July 11); was interviewed about mosquitoes and

the threat of West Nile virus by Gary Ginsberg CTDPH radio (July 14); was interviewed about the effectiveness and safety of mosquito repellents by Tara Moncheck WFSB TV3 (July 17); was interviewed about the history of West Nile virus in mosquitoes and humans from 1999 to 2006 by Steven Busemeyer, Hartford Courant (July 18); was interviewed about the status and outlook for West Nile virus in Connecticut for the 2007 season by Bob Miller, News Times (July 18); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Patrick Mousinack Cablevision 12 Norwalk-WNV (July 20); was interviewed about the status and outlook for West Nile virus in Connecticut for the 2007 season by Steve Kotchko, CT Public Radio (July 25); and was interviewed about the State mosquito West Nile virus surveillance program by the Marietta Homayonpour, Danbury News Times (July 27).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke to students from Southern Connecticut State University "*Soil Testing and Invasive Aquatic Plants*." (approximately 25 in attendance) (July 7); spoke to students from "Talented and Gifted Program" of the New Haven school system on "*Soil Testing and Invasive Aquatic Plants*." (approximately 25 in attendance) (July 13); spoke at the annual Bashan Lake Association meeting in East Haddam on "*Update on control of variable milfoil in Bashan Lake*." (approximately 60 in attendance) (July 21); and interviewed by Mike Russo of the newspaper Voices on control of water chestnut in Long Meadow Lake (July 25).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY attended the Connecticut Geospatial Council's Stakeholders' meeting at Eastern Connecticut State University, where she participated in discussions about the needs of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) users in the state (July 20) and attended the Geospatial Council monthly meeting and made a formal request for the Station to join the Council as a non-voting member. The Council was created by Public Act 05-3, "to coordinate, within available appropriations, a GIS capacity for the state, regional planning agencies, municipalities, and others as needed" (July 25).

Valley Laboratory

DR. CAROLE CHEAH hosted a tour of the Kenneth White Insectary by the Commissioner of Agriculture (June 12); and by visitors from OPM (July 20).

DR. JOHN AHRENS presented information and demonstrated equipment calibration at a Twilight meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Grower's Association in Southington (40 attendees) (June 6) and presented information on Canaan fir tolerance to soil acidity and demonstrated shearing principles and techniques in white pine at a twilight meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Grower's Association at the Valley Laboratory (63 attendees) (July 18).

DR. RICHARD COWLES discussed insect and mite pests at a summer meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Association, Berlin (50 attendees) (June 6); presented "Hemlock woolly adelgid and its management," at Valent Corporation's biennial ornamentals workshop, Moran, WY (20 attendees) (June 26); and discussed insect and mite pests at a summer meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Association, Valley Laboratory (50 attendees) (July 10).

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 (June 12); conducted a tour of the Valley Laboratory for the Commissioner of Agriculture (June 12); assisted with the Station booth at the summer meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Association in Farmington (July 19); spoke about the Valley Laboratory, biodiesel research, and conducted a tour of field plots at the Valley Laboratory for visitors from the Office of Policy and Management and the Governor's energy office; and attended the joint annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society and Society of Nematologists in San Diego CA to present a poster entitled "The tobacco cyst nematode affects photosynthesis of shade-grown cigar wrapper tobacco" (80 people) (July 28-30).

DR. DEWEI LI gave a presentation "Development of Biosystematics of *Stachybotrys* and *Memnoniella*" at Hubei Academy of Forestry Research, Wuhan, China. (56 people were in the audience) (July 10); gave a presentation "Airborne and Indoor Fungi" at Nanjing Forestry University, Nanjing, China (about 150 people were in the audience) (July 21); and conducted collaborative research in Professor Guihua Zhao's

laboratory for 4 weeks at Jiangsu Polytechnic College of Agriculture and Forestry in China, including a 2-week field trip to Shennongjia to collect fungal specimens with his colleagues in China. Over 300 specimens of macrofungi and microfungi were collected. During his visit DeWei had discussions about his mycological research with faculty members and research scientists from Jiangsu Polytechnic College of Agriculture and Forestry, Nanjing Forestry University, Central China University of Agriculture, Hubei Academy of Forestry Research, and Jiangsu Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau.

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about weed management for Christmas tree farms and presented an informational exhibit of weeds at the twilight meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Association at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (approximately 50 attendees) (July 10); and participated in a workshop on Japanese stiltgrass, mile-a-minute and other "early detection" invasive plant species for New England in West Springfield, MA (approximately attendees) (July 20).

Journal Articles Approved July 2007

McGovern, R. J., R. Singh, L. R. Myers, Wade H. Elmer, and D. M. Geiser. Evaluation of fungicide combinations for reduction of *Fusarium solani* infection of caladium tubers. Special Research Report, American Floral Endowment

Gilbert, M. L., C. R. Semer IV, R. J. McGovern, Wade H. Elmer, and D. M. Geiser. Sensitivity of *Fusarium oxysporum* from ornamentals to selected fungicides. Special Research Report, American Floral Endowment

Peterson, Richard B., H. Eichelmann, V. Oja, A. Laisk, E. Tafts, Neil P. Shultes. Photosynthetic system responses to tobacco rattle virus-induced gene silencing in *Nicotiana benthamiana*. Plant Physiology

Stafford, Kirby C., III. Tick Management Handbook. Station Bulletin 1010

Stoner, Kimberly. Farm Tour 2007. Gleanings

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