

Station News

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



Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended a meeting at the DEP in Hartford and spoke about proposed new EPA pesticide regulations for aquatic systems (July 12); was interviewed by Laura Collier of News 12 in Norwalk about bird and butterfly gardens (July 12); was interviewed about Station research programs by Ray Bendici of Connecticut Magazine (July 21); was interviewed about Experiment Station research and Plant Science Day by Ray Andrewsen of WQUN Radio in Hamden (July 28); was interviewed about Station scientists testing seafood from the Gulf of Mexico by Ed Stannard of the New Haven Register (July 29); was interviewed about Station scientists testing seafood from the Gulf of Mexico by Nancy Cohen of NPR Radio (July 29); and was interviewed about Station scientists testing seafood from the Gulf of Mexico by Judy Benson of the New London Day (July 29).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. JASON WHITE participated in a conference call sponsored by the US EPA concerning the planning of the upcoming International Phytotechnology Society meeting in Parma, Italy this September. Dr. White is Vice President of the Society and on the organizing committee for the meeting (July 8 and July 22); Dr. Jason White, **DR. WALTER KROL, AND MS. TERRI ARSENAULT**, participated in a conference call with the FDA Forensic Chemistry Center to discuss the development of extraction and analysis methods for chemical contamination of seafood due to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture was also on the call (July 7, 12, 16, 21, and 23); Dr. Jason White and staff participated in a FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (CAP) Laboratory conference call (July 8-July 27); Dr. White and staff were notified of the successful funding of their re-application to the FDA Food Emergency Response Network. The total funding for this award is \$2,000,000 over 5 years. The Department received a score of 96 out of 100 (July 20); gave a tour of the Department laboratories and described key programs to Mr. Ray Bendici of *Connecticut Magazine* (July 21); attended at meeting at the FDA Forensic Chemistry Center (FCC) in Cincinnati Ohio. Chemists from the FCC, along with representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, presented a new LC-Fluorescence method for the detection of oil contaminants

in seafood to scientists from the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). CFSAN scientists approved the method and posted it on the FDA website (July 24); The Department of Analytical Chemistry received seafood samples from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The department was one of three labs in the country running the newly approved LC-Fluorescence for oil contamination in seafood (July 28); was interviewed by Bob Pollack on the Departments testing of seafood from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The article will run in an upcoming issue of the Experiment Station Associates Bulletin (July 28); was interviewed by Ed Stannard of *The New Haven Register* on the Departments testing of seafood from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (July 29); was interviewed by Judy Benson of *The New London Day* on the Department's testing of seafood from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (July 30); was interviewed by Dan Cain of Channel 3 News (CBS) on the Department's testing of seafood from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (July 30); was interviewed in the NBC Connecticut 30 studio by Keisha Grant on the Departments testing of seafood from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (July 30).

Entomology

MS. KATHERINE DUGAS staffed a CAPS and Forest Pest table at the CNLA summer meeting in Canterbury (200 attendees) (July 14); with **MS. ROSE HISKES**, **MR. THOMAS RATHIER**, and **MS. KATELYNN KING**, gave a forest pest presentation to children at the Channel 3 Kids Camp in Andover (100 attendees) (July 22); with **MS. ROSE HISKES** and Chris Donnelly, gave a forest pest training session to Advanced Master Gardeners in Bethel (35 attendees) (July 29).

MS. ROSE HISKES, with **DR. TODD MERVOSH**, gave a presentation on invasive plants to Masters students who are high school biology teachers at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven (12 attendees) (July 1); with Mr. Bud Neal, gave a presentation on forest pests such as the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB), Emerald ash borer (EAB) and firewood at the Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury (14 attendees) (July 7); prepared a display on forest pests for the Somers Garden Tour (175 attendees) (July 10 and 11); staffed a Forest Pest table and, with **DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE**, **DR. ROBERT MARRA**, and **MR. THOMAS RATHIER**, staffed the question-and-answer table at the CTPA summer meeting at the Farmington Club (590 attendees) (July 15); with **MR. THOMAS RATHIER**, **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, and **MS. KATELYNN KING**, gave a forest pest presentation to children at the Channel 3 Kids Camp in Andover (100 attendees) (July 22); with **DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE**, Tim Hay of Bigelow Nurseries, MA, and Chris Donnelly, gave a forest pest training seminar to members of CNLA and CTPA in Windsor (14 attendees) (July 22); was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer by Melissa Traynor of the Hartford Courant (July 23); was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer by Nancy Cohen of NPR (July 26); gave a talk on "Weeds and forest pests" at a meeting of the Oxford Garden Club in Oxford (35 attendees) (July 27); with **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS** and Chris Donnelly, gave a forest pest training session to Advanced Master Gardeners in Bethel (35 attendees) (July 29); and was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer by Xerxes Wilson of the Waterbury Republican American (July 30).

MS. KATELYNN KING staffed a CAPS and Forest Pest table at the CNLA summer meeting in Canterbury (200 attendees) (July 14); gave a presentation to Girl Scouts at Camp Merrie-Wood in Manchester (45 attendees) (July 15), gave a presentation to elementary school students at summer camp at the Common Ground School in New Haven (50 attendees) (July 16); with **MS. ROSE HISKES**, **MR. THOMAS RATHER**, and **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, gave a forest pest presentation to children at the Channel 3 Kids Camp in Andover (100 attendees) (July 22).

DR. GALE E. RIDGE spoke to residents and officials of the East Hartford Housing Authority, health department officials, and aldermen of the East Hartford Council about bed bugs and their management (110 attendees) (July 21); was interviewed about bed bugs by the Hartford Courant (July 23); was interviewed about weather-related insect activity by John DeCaro of Channel 3 (July 27); was interviewed about bed bugs by the Waterbury Republican-American (July 28); and was interviewed about bed bug issues in the Davenport and Dunbar Apartments in New Haven by the New Haven Register (July 29).

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH participated in the annual Summer Meeting of the CT Nursery and Landscape Association, held at Canterbury Horticulture in Canterbury, and discussed pre-treatment of ash nursery stock with Michael Millane of Millane Nurseries in Cromwell (approx. 150 participants) (July 14).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III participated in a conference call on the Asian longhorned beetle infestation in Boston (July 7); participated in a conference call of the EPA's Network for Lyme Disease Prevention (July 7); participated in the joint meeting of the Northeastern Regional Association of Experiment Station Directors (NERA) and Extension Directors (NEED) and a meeting of the Multi-States Activity Committee in Baltimore, MD (July 11-13); participated in a Forest Pest Outreach and Survey project conference call (July 22); was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer by Robert Miller of the Danbury News Times (July 23); was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer by Mark Sims of CT Radio Network (July 23); was interviewed about tick control research by Laura Landro of the Wall Street Journal (July 26); was interviewed about bed bugs by Mike Patrick of the Republican-American (July 28); and was interviewed about the Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer by Sheryl Shaker of New Canaan Patch.org (July 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (12 attendees) (July 13); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA in Manchester (12 attendees) (July 18); was interviewed about losses of honey bees in Connecticut in relation to national surveys of bee losses by Melinda Tuhus of the Connecticut News Service (July 19), by Heath Goldman from the Greenwich Time (July 19), and by the Waterbury Republican-American (July 26).

MS. TRACY ZARRILLO attended a class on "Native Bee Identification, Ecology, Research and Monitoring" held at The National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV (July 5-10).

Environmental Sciences

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about State and Federal funding for mosquito and arbovirus surveillance by Michael Puffer, Waterbury Republican American (July 8); was interviewed about the impact of the record hot temperatures on mosquitoes and West Nile virus activity in the State by Bob Miller, Danbury News Times and Amanda Pinto, New Haven Register (July 20); presented an overview of the State Mosquito Trapping and Virus Testing Program to Ray Bendici, Associate Editor, Connecticut Magazine (July 21); and was interviewed about the impact of the record hot temperatures on mosquitoes and West Nile virus activity in the State by Amanda Cuda, Connecticut Post (July 21).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke at the annual meeting of the Bashan Lake Association on *Update on Controlling Variable Milfoil in Bashan Lake* in East Haddam (approx. 50 attendees) (July 7) and was interviewed by freelance writer Bob Pollack on CAES research on invasive aquatic plants (July 30).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI Ms. Jennifer Giulietti a student from the Sacred Heart Academy completed her 8-week internship with Dr. Goudarz Molaei's laboratory.

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD along with **DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS**, **MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY**, and **MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT**, attended the Connecticut Tree Protective Association annual meeting in Farmington (July 15); along with **DR. PAUL WAGGONER**, met with Pekka Kauppi (University of Helsinki), Iddo Wernick (Rockefeller University), and Liisa-Maija Harju (United Nations) to discuss forests, their measurement and growth in developed nations (July 26); and an invited guest on WTIC AM-1080 radio talk show "Garden talk" to offer advice on tree care (July 31)

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke about the New Crops Program with officials from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture at Lockwood Farm (3 adults) (July 29) and spoke about Plant Science Day and the New Crops Program on Garden Talk on WTIC 1080 (July 31).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL presented a poster presentation, “Dry Matter Accumulation and Partitioning in Response to Fruit Thinning in Pinot Noir Grapevines” at the American Society of Enology and Viticulture-Eastern Section annual meeting in Geneva, NY (July 13); participated in the annual ASEV-ES Business Meeting (July 14) and two Board of Directors meetings (July 11 and 15); served on the judging panel for Best Student and Enology presentations at the ASEV-ES meeting (July 13); attended the National Viticulture Research Conference held in conjunction with the annual ASEV-ES meeting (July 12-15); toured the grape-related facilities at the New York Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, NY (July 14); and met with Steve and Ann Sawyer at Preston Ridge Vineyards in Preston to discuss summer management practices and winter pruning; inspected the vineyards at Jonathan Edwards Winery in North Stonington and Stonington Vineyards in Stonington (July 21).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended a conference on Plant Vascular Biology held in Columbus Ohio and presented a poster on "A model of water movement to relate carbon and nitrogen metabolism in whole plants" (150 attendees) (July 24-27).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS presented a paper on “Breeding chestnut trees for resistance to Asian Chestnut Gall Wasp,” presented the Treasurer’s Report, and attended the Board meeting at the annual meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association in Wooster, OH (120 adult attendees) (July 18-21); appeared on Garden Talk with Len & Lisa (WTIC-1080) and discussed Plant Science Day and her chestnut research (July 31).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about the status of late blight of tomato and potato this year by Judy Benson of The Day (New London) (July 7); was interviewed about late blight of tomato and potato in 2010 by Julie Grant of Public Radio’s “Living on Earth” series (July 7); met with Dr. Paul Turner, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University, to discuss bacterial pathogens of plants and possible collaborations with CAES, along with **DRS. DOUGLAS W. DINGMAN** and **ROBERT E. MARRA** (July 14); organized, assisted, and answered questions on tree diseases at the CTPA summer meeting held at the Farmington Club (590 attendees) (July 15); was interviewed about late blight by Leslie Hutchison of the Meriden Record Journal (July 19); gave a presentation about current diseases in Christmas tree plantations and answered questions about conifer problems at the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association twilight meeting at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (60 adult attendees) (July 20); was interviewed about how/why plants can grow in a driveway, particularly portulaca and petunia, by Zachary Grabko of the New Britain Herald (July 21); was interviewed about why late blight isn’t a problem this year and why it was in 2009 by Paul Singley of the Waterbury Republican-American (July 22); and appeared on Garden Talk with Len & Lisa (WTIC-1080) to publicize Plant Science Day and answer questions on plant diseases (July 31).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA and **MS. MARY K. INMAN** assisted with the CAES booth and answered questions about tree diseases at the CTPA summer meeting held at the Farmington Club (590 attendees) (July 15).

MR. PETER THIEL spoke about Dr. Elmer’s salt marsh research to a workshop group from ISIS (Institute for Science Instruction and Study) at the Cove River conservation property in West Haven (12 adult attendees) (July 1).

Valley Laboratory

DR. CAROLE CHEAH together with Dr. Todd Mervosh, talked about CT’s biocontrol program for mile-a-minute to 20 students and DEP officials from New Britain High School at Quinnipiac River State Park (23 persons) (July 13); gave a presentation on invasive species and CT’s biological control program for mile-a-minute invasive weed and hemlock woolly adelgid to high school students for the Christadora Ecology Camp at Great Mountain Forest (15 people (12 youth) (July 19); was interviewed by Frank MacEachern of the Greenwich Time on progress of biological control of Mile-a-Minute in CT (July 23);

and co-authored a poster on quality control systems in predator rearing programs which was presented at the Southern Forest Insect Work Conference in Wilmington, NC (July 20-23).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA attended the annual meeting of the Society of Nematologists in Boise ID to participate in the Executive Board meeting as the Vice President, meet with committee chairs and present a poster entitled "Rotation and green manure crops for management of lesion and dagger nematodes." (July 9-15); met with Bill Manning of the University of Massachusetts and Julia Kuzovkina of the University of Connecticut to discuss an ongoing cooperative ozone damage experiment at the Valley Laboratory (July 21); and participated in a USDA block grant review of strawberry research at the Valley Laboratory (July 29).

DR. DE-WEI LI visited Shandong Academy of Forestry, Shandong Agricultural University, Qingdao Forestry Bureau, Hubei Academy of Forestry, and Jiangsu Polytechnic College of Agriculture and Forestry in China (June 25-July 15). During his visit DeWei gave presentations on "Mycology, Forest Pathology and Forestry" and "Forestry and Forest Diseases in US" at Shandong Academy of Forestry and Shandong Agricultural University, respectively and had a round table discussion on biocontrol of plant diseases with forest protection specialists at Qingdao Forestry Bureau. (Total audience/participants 130). In Hubei province he made a field trip to the western area of the province with Dr. Jingyuan Chen of Hubei Academy of Forestry Research and 106 hyphomycete specimens were collected. De-Wei obtained three type cultures of *Stachybotrys nielamuensis*, *Stachybotrys variabilis*, and *Stachybotrys zhangmuensis* from Prof. Tian-Yu Zhang of Shandong Agricultural University and four cultures of *Stachybotrys* spp. from The Fungal Culture Center, Chinese Forestry Academy. DeWei also worked on his collaborative research of biocontrol of blue stain fungi on wood of hybrid poplar with Prof. Guihua Zhao at Jiangsu Polytechnic College of Agriculture and Forestry. This project is sponsored by State Forestry Administration, PR China, Program 948.

DR. HUGH SMITH attended the annual meeting of the Florida Entomological Society in West Palm Beach and gave a presentation entitled "Reducing Insecticide Use on Guatemalan Snow Peas" (approximately 30 attendees) (July 27).

Journal Articles Approved July 2010

Bharadwaj, Anuja and Kirby C; Stafford, III. Efficacy of *Metarhizium anisopliae* strain F52 (Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae) against *Ixodes scapularis* (Acari: Ixodidae) in the laboratory. Journal of Invertebrate Pathology

Elmer, Wade and L. Datnoff. Role of mineral nutrition on plant disease. International Conference on Plant Nutrition, 9-10 August 2010, Hyderabad, India (Proceedings)

Krol, Walter J., Brian D. Eitzer, Terry Arsenault, and Jason C. White. Pesticide residues in produce sold in Connecticut in 2009. CAES Technical Bulletin

Gratz, S., A. Mohrhaus, B. Gamble, J. Gracie, D. Jackson, J. Roetting, L. Ciolino, H. CdCauley, **Walter J. Krol, Terri Arsenault, Jason C. White,** M. Flottmayer, D. Heitkemper, F. Fricke. Screen for the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in select seafood using LC-Fluorescence. Laboratory Information Bulletin (FDA/DRA/DFS)

Brazee, N.J., **Robert E. Marra,** L. Gocke, and P. van Wassenae. Detection of internal decay in northeastern hardwoods using PiCUS sonic and electrical impedance tomography. Forestry

Simpson, J. E., P. J. Hurtado, J. Medlock, **Goudarz Molaei, Theodore G. Andreadis,** A. Galvani, and M. A. Diuk-Wasser. Vector host-preferences drive transmission of multi-host pathogens: using West Nile virus as a model system. Proceedings National Academy of Sciences

Williams, Scott C. White-tailed deer research at CAES. Branford Land Trust Newsletter

Grant Updates and Awards July 2010

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER was awarded a Conservation Innovation Grant from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service of \$74,949 for research on the squash bee, an important specialized native pollinator of pumpkins and squash, and on bloom time and pollinators visiting alternative floral resources (such as cover crops, herbs, cut flowers, and hedgerows) on diversified vegetable farms.

DR. JASON WHITE and staff were notified of the successful funding of their re-application to the FDA Food Emergency Response Network. The total funding for this award is \$2,000,000 over 5 years.



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