

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

Departmental News

RAINBOW OVER LOCKWOOD FARM

This rainbow appeared at Lockwood Farm on June 23, 2007 on the same day that the Connecticut Beekeepers Association Meeting was being held at the farm.



Image taken by Mr. Ted Jones and Mrs. Becky Jones

PLANTING SPARTINA GRASS

By Dr. Wade H. Elmer

Technician Mr. Peter Thiel and summer research assistant Ms. Christina Connelly, plant Spartina grass in a dieback site at Hammonasset State Park as a family of Canadian geese stroll by in the background.



Image taken by Dr. Wade H. Elmer

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI chaired the Invasive Plants Council Meeting at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (June 12); met with the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor to consider farms for the Century Farm Award (June 13); and met with Experiment Station Associates Board of Directors and gave a report on Station research and other activities (June 14).

Grants and Fundraising Office

Analytical Chemistry

DR. WALTER KROL served as the Chairman for the American Chemistry Society National Chemistry Week essay contest. This involved designing experiments and judging essays based on these experiments submitted by grammar through high school students throughout New Haven County. Ten student prizes

were awarded to the best essays at an annual American Chemistry Society dinner award ceremony, which honored the students' achievements. The ceremony was held on (June 6) at Eli's on Whitney.

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA presented a talk on the work in progress in the Department of Analytical Chemistry to a group of 12 persons. These were high school teachers from the US and Europe participating in a one week Pfizer-sponsored program headquartered in Groton. The teachers visited Yale and CAES with the goal of generating ideas to develop into curriculum enhancements (12 participants) (June 28).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

MS. ROSE BONITO delivered information and hand-outs from the Station to Yale's Harkness Hall for the Community Gardening Conference, New Haven (June 16).

MR. IRA KETTLE presented an educational Honey Bee Presentation for the Ridge Road School at Lockwood Farm. A 'question and answer' period followed. (51 attendees) (June 14).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER discussed surveys and survey techniques for exotic insects at a meeting of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (June 1). Spoke about exotic apple leafrollers at a Twilight Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society at Woodstock Orchards, Woodstock (June 21).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a twilight meeting of the CT Pomological Society, held at Woodstock Orchards in Woodstock, CT (approximately 60 participants) (June 21).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by Kate Carey for the Backus Hospital Magazine about ticks, Lyme disease, and expectations for 2007 (June 1); spoke on poultry insect pests and natural enemies at the 2007 North Atlantic Poultry Biosecurity & Pest Management Workshop at the University of Connecticut (10 attendees) (June 2); interviewed by Abram Katz, New Haven Register, about Lyme disease cases and tick activity (June 5); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at a meeting of the Joseph Lawrence School of Nursing Alumni Association in Old Lyme, CT (June 6); interviewed by Rinker Buck, Hartford Courant, about risk of Lyme disease to landscapers (June 7); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at the Glastonbury Wellness Expo in Glastonbury, CT (6 attendees) (June 9); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association at Lockwood Farm (June 23); and spoke on the history of the Station and West Nile virus and Lyme disease, and presented a session on ticks under the microscope to teachers visiting the Station under the sponsorship of Pfizer, Inc (11 attendees) (June 28).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Old Solar Farm, Oxford (June 3); visited the farm of Andre Groszyk in Enfield for training in vegetable Integrated Pest Management (June 7); participated in the 2007 BioBlitz at Wilbur Snow Elementary School in Middletown (June 8-9); gave a presentation on "Managing Good Bugs and Bad Bugs" at the Community Gardening Conference, New Haven (June 16); second visit to Andre Groszyk's farm in Enfield for training in Integrated Pest Management in vegetables (June 18); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (June 19); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Beekeepers, Lockwood Farm (June 23); and visited the farm of Gordon Bednarz for training in Integrated Pest Management of organic vegetables (June 26).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY S. WARD spoke on "The natural history of trees" for Thalbery (18 students, 2 teachers) and Derynoski (28 students, 2 teachers) 4th graders in Southington (June 1); invited guest on WTIC AM-1080 radio talk show "Garden talk" to offer advice on tree management (35,000 audience) (June 2); interviewed about Arbor Day and tree care by Brucie Izard of Life Publication (June 2); interviewed about wild

blueberries and huckleberries by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (June 5); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (June 12); hosted a field tour of the barberry control study for Lori Mathieu and Paula Pendleton, Connecticut Department of Public Health, in Redding (June 14); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in Farmington (June 18); and interviewed about barberry control by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (June 29).

DR. MARTIN P.N. GENT attended the NE1017 regional research committee meeting on Developing and Integrating Components for Commercial Greenhouse Production Systems held in Reading PA (20 scientists) (June 7); and visited Sali Barolli of Imperial Nurseries, Granby CT, to observe a trial of growth regulators on rhododendron (June 11).

DR. ABIGAIL A. MAYNARD attended a meeting of the CT-DEP Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (SWAC) in Hartford (June 26) and attended a meeting CT-DEP Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee subcommittee on Organic Recycling and Composting in Hartford (June 26).

DR. WILLIAM R. NAIL participated in a meeting of the State Consulting Committee for Agricultural Education at the Freund's Farm Market in East Canaan (June 11) and attended a meeting of the Connecticut Grape and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (June 4).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT attended the CT Nursery and Landscape Association Open House at Specialty Growers in Cheshire (June 13).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS conducted a natural resources inventory for the Guilford Land Conservation Trust (June 12).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended the 2007 BioBlitz in Middletown and served as leader of the Plant Pathogens team. He found 46 plant pathogens (150 adults and 150 youths attended) (June 8-9); was interviewed about salt marsh dieback by Jim Frasier of the Cape Cod Times (June 12); was interviewed about salt marsh dieback by Dave Funkhouser of the Hartford Courant (June 14); met with Dave Funkhouser of the Hartford Courant at the Banca Marsh in Branford to discuss salt marsh dieback (June 20); and was visited by Dr. Frank Caruso of University of Massachusetts to discuss pathogens other than *Fusarium* associated with dying *Spartina* plants on Cape Cod (June 28).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDEADIS was interviewed about the impact of West Nile virus on birds by free lance writer Robert Tougias (June 4); was interviewed about West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis by Kate Carey, Backus Hospital Healthy Connections Magazine (June 6); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus in Connecticut by Jason Austin, Metro News (June 18); and was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Adam Bolger Hartford Advocate (June 27).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE Spoke to the Indian Lake Association on the plant survey performed by CAES IAPP and nuisance vegetation control. This meeting was held at The Orange Community Center (approx. 25 people attended. (June 5); instructed students on how to survey Candlewood Lake for plants and milfoil weevils as part of Project CLEAR. This meeting was held at the Candlewood Lake Authority Headquarters in Sherman, CT (approx. 50 attendees.) (June 21-22); hosted the CAES Aquatic Plant Workshop in Jones Auditorium. Spoke on "Management of Nuisance Aquatic Plants" (14 attendees) (June 23); and spoke on "Invasive Aquatic Plants" at an invasive plant symposium held at the Jewish Community Center in Sherman, CT (30 attendees) (June 24).

DR. MICHELLE MARKO instructed students on how to survey Candlewood Lake for plants and milfoil weevils as part of Project CLEAR. This meeting was held at the Candlewood Lake Authority Headquarters in Sherman, CT (approx. 50 attendees) (June 21-22).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO was awarded an "Excellence in Review Award" by the editors of *Environmental Science & Technology* for review of manuscripts for the journal (June 26).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY Met with the Indian Lake Association 5 to talk about the 2006 Invasive Aquatic Plant Program survey of that lake and answer questions from the association members (30 people in attendance) (June 5); led a workshop on the identification of aquatic plants at the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society's 2007 New England Lakes Conference held at the University of Connecticut (6 people in attendance) (June 8); was interviewed about the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop June by the Shoreline Times (June 12); was interviewed about the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop by The Source (June 13); was interviewed about the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop by the Meriden Record Journal (June 15); taught a group of students participating in Project CLEAR on Candlewood Lake about the identification of aquatic plants, specifically *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian water milfoil), and led these students in the collection of data on *M. spicatum* and the water milfoil weevil (June 21-22); organized and led a workshop on the identification of invasive aquatic plants, held at the Station (15 people in attendance) (June 23); and met with representatives from FirstLight Power Resources and Candlewood Lake Authority to discuss possible remote sensing options for Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah, and Zoar (June 23).

DR. JASON WHITE was awarded an "Excellence in Review Award" by the editors of *Environmental Science & Technology* for review of manuscripts for the journal (June 26).

Valley Laboratory

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

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).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH co-led an educational hike, along with David Gumbart of The Nature Conservancy, about their research projects on management of the invasive plants Oriental bittersweet, pale swallowwort and phragmites at Bluff Point Coastal Reserve in Groton (14 attendees) (June 6); spoke about weed management at a twilight meeting of the Conn. Christmas Tree Growers' Assoc. in Berlin (approximately 40 attendees) (June 6); and met with Greenwich town officials, an Audubon Society representative, and Les Mehrhoff and Donna Ellis of UConn regarding management options for mile-a-minute vine in Greenwich (June 25).

Journal Articles Approved June 2007

Armstrong, Philip M. and Theodore G. Andreadis. Genetic relationships of Jamestown Canyon virus strains infecting mosquitoes collected in Connecticut, USA. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*

Dingman, Douglas W. Geographical distribution of milky disease bacteria in the eastern U.S. based on phylogeny. *Invertebrate Pathology*

Elmer, Wade, R. McGovern, and D. Geiser. Management of Fusarium wilt of *Hiemalis begonias*. Special Research Report, American Floral Endowment

- Elmer, Wade, R. McGovern, and D. Geiser. Mangement of fusarium corm rot of gladiolus. Special Research Report, American Floral Endowment
- Elmer, Wade, R. McGovern, and D. Geiser. Fusarium wilt of China asters. Special Research Report, American Floral Endowment
- Gilbert, M. L., C. R. Semer IV, R. J. McGovern, Wade H. Elmer, and D. M. Geiser. Evaluation of chemical disinfestation of Styrofoam. Special Research Report, American Floral Endowment
- Geiser, D. M., A. Nalim, R. J. McGovern, and Wade H. Elmer. Molecular identification of Fusarial floricultural pathogens. Special Research Report, American Floral Endowment
- Nail, William R. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Investigates Performance of Winegrape Cultivars. Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report

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