

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

ADMINISTRATION

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed by Nancy Cohen of CT Public Radio about invasive plants (June 19).

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY



On June 3, 2009 approximately 100 students, teachers and parents attended an award banquet in the Jones Auditorium as part of the New Haven Section American Chemical Society National Chemistry week. Awards were presented for the 2008 Poster Contest, organized by **DR. WALTER J. KROL**, as well as for the Chemistry Olympiad which was held in March in the Yale University Chemistry Laboratory.

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA was recognized by the US FDA at the Thursday morning session on 18 June 2009 of the National Conference of the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) in Dallas. She was cited for her contributions to the formation of the FERN and the implementation of the program in the Department of Analytical Chemistry. The Director of the FDA's Forensic Chemistry Center also acknowledged her contributions to food safety and security issues.

DR. WALTER J. KROL was interviewed by Lauren Parajon of 'Prevention Magazine' regarding the benefits of rinsing produce under tap water to remove pesticide residues (June 15).

BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS

DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN participated in the Connecticut Beekeepers Association quarterly meeting at Lockwood Farm, Hamden, CT (June 13) and participated in a telephone discussion with Mr. Robert Burns (Aiki Farms, Ledyard, CT) on food safety issues at local farmers markets (June 18).

ENTOMOLOGY

MS. TIA BLEVINS participated in a teleconference with the Executive Committee of the Horticultural Inspection Society, Eastern Chapter, to plan for the 2010 Annual Meeting (June 19).

MS. ROSE BONITO arranged and set up an educational display for the patrons of the Main New Haven Free Public Library (June 1-30).



Library visitor reading our display information on “Common Garden Pests.”

Photo by Rose Bonito.

MR. IRA KETTLE displayed the Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer and gave a presentation on the severity of both types of infestations at Panthorn Park in Southington. There were 150 children and 20 adults who came by his table (June 4).



IRA KETTLE is visiting the hives of a very active beekeeper, Clifford Sneider, who is 100 years old.

Photo by Ira Kettle.

Helen Sneider of Deep River and her father Clifford Sneider. Both are beekeepers in Connecticut. Clifford Sneider turned 100 years old on April 14, 2009 and as you can see he is still very active in beekeeping.

Photo by Ira Kettle.



DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke about a premature emergence of periodical cicadas in orchards at a Twilight Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society held at Blue Hills Orchard in Wallingford (75 attendees) (June 10); and spoke about the biodiversity of two-winged flies (Diptera) while participating in the Keney Park BioBlitz, based at Goodwin College, East Hartford (200 attendees) (June 13).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the Stakeholder Meeting for the 2008 Farm Bill Section 10201, as a representative of the National CAPS Committee, held at USDA-APHIS offices in Riverdale, MD (approx. 200 participants) (June 7-9); participated in a Twilight Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society, held at Blue Hills Orchard in Wallingford, and presented information on Export Certification of apples (approx. 60 participants) (June 10); participated in a briefing for Asian Longhorned Beetle Emergency Preparedness held at DEP Headquarters in Hartford (10 participants) (June 11); and hosted the National *Phytophthora ramorum* Quality Assurance Review Team, and led tours to production nurseries, a tour of laboratory facilities, discussions with nursery growers, and discussions on procedures (10 participants) (June 15-16).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III participated in a CAPS meeting in Windsor (June 2); participated in affirmative action training in Hartford (June 5); was interviewed about the effects of the weather on ticks by Elizabeth Sile of the Hartford Courant (June 15); was interviewed about ticks and the weather by Mark Herz of WSHU-Radio (June 19); spoke on poultry pest identification and IPM at the North Atlantic Poultry Biosecurity and Pest Management Workshop at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (40 attendees) (June 24); spoke to student teachers from Southern Connecticut State University touring the Station about programs in the Department of Entomology (13 attendees); and was interviewed about tick activity and Lyme disease by Mark Sims of Connecticut Radio Network (June 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented a talk entitled "Threats to the health of wild bees and honey bees" to the annual meeting of the Hamden Land Trust (40 attendees) (June 17); participated in a meeting to plan the "Tour des Farms," a bicycle tour of farms in Hamden, North Haven, and Cheshire, sponsored by the Green Expo/CT Folk Alliance (4 attendees) (June 23); and participated in a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA by conference call (8 attendees) (June 24).

FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE



JOSEPH P. BARKSY talking about how trees grow to Southington 5th graders.

DR. JEFFREY WARD gave six talks on "Fruits of the Forests" at the Southington School Nature Day in Southington (120 students, 20 adults) (June 4); gave three talks on "Crop tree management" at the American Forestry Past & Present – a 2009 Connecticut Trails Day Event in Chaplin (5 children, 35 adults) (June 7); spoke on "Forest Forensics" for Middletown 7th graders in Middlefield (60 students, 4 teachers) (June 8); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (June 10); participated in NESAF Silvicultural Working Group Summer 2009 Field Trip at Yale-Myers Forest in Union (June 26); spoke on current research in the Department of Forestry & Horticulture to teachers from SCSU (12 educators) (June 30).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended the NE1035 Regional Research Committee Meeting on Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development at Laval University, Quebec City, Canada (15 attendees, 5 Extension) (June 14); presented talks on 'Rapid watering to achieve partial saturation of root medium on flooded floors' and 'Measurement and modeling of diurnal variation of nitrate and sugars' at . GreenSys 2009, the International Society of Horticultural Science Symposium on High Technology for Greenhouse Systems in Quebec City, Canada (200 attendees) (June 15-18).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD attended a meeting the Solid Waste Advisory Committee at DEP HQ in Hartford (June 23).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Department of Agriculture in Hartford (June 11); presented a poster presentation "Effects of Horticultural Oil on Carbon Assimilation and Fruit Set on Winegrapes" (June 24) (June 24); served on the judging panel for the Student Oral and Poster Competition at the national American Society of Enology and Viticulture meeting in Napa, CA (June 22-25) (June 22-25).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY gave six talks on "How trees grow" at the Southington School Nature Day in Southington (120 students, 20 adults) (June 4).

PLANT PATHOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS presented a paper entitled "Connecticut Chestnut trees" at the annual meeting of the Chestnut Growers of America in Carrollton, OH (40 adults attended) (June 26-28).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR gave a talk entitled "Modeling disease spread across multiple spatial and temporal scales" at the 10th International Epidemiology Workshop (IEW10) in Geneva, NY (65 adults attended) (June 9).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about cottonwood trees and why they produce seeds with cotton by Harlan Levy of the Journal Inquirer (June 1); participated in the Connecticut CAPS meeting and discussed diseases of concern for 2010 surveys (12 adult attendees) (June 2); participated in a conference call with Dr. Richard Therrien, K-12 Science Supervisor for New Haven Public Schools, and Tess Foley to discuss the CAES Girls Science Mentorship Program (3 attendees) (June 8); participated in the CTPA Board of Directors Planning Meeting for the CTPA Summer Meeting at the Farmington Club (12 attendees) (June 9); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board with administering oral arborist examinations (June 10); participated in the *Phytophthora ramorum* on-site USDA-APHIS-PPQ review of CAES facilities and standard operating procedures (12 adult attendees) (June 16); was interviewed about poison ivy, dermatitis, and why it is so plentiful in Connecticut by Bill Weir of the Hartford Courant (June 19); participated and helped to organize the CNLA/CTPA workshop on Asian Longhorned Beetle at Naugatuck Valley Community College (55 adult attendees) (June 25); was interviewed about the impact of rainy, cool weather on Connecticut crops by Tom Burgeson of the Connecticut Post (June 26); discussed the mission of the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology, the function of the Plant Disease Information Office, and techniques used for disease diagnosis with SCSU graduate students of Dr. Gerry Frumento (12 adult attendees) (June 30).

DR. WADE H. ELMER spoke about "Plant parts and their diseases" to five first-grade classes at Doolittle School in Cheshire (107 youths and 12 adults attended) (June 5); led the Plant Pathogen team at the 2009 BioBlitz event at Goodwin College and reported that 26 plant pathogens were identified. The event had over 40 scientists and over 30 collectors (10 adults and 20 youths attended) (June 12-13).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO presented a talk entitled "Sampling, disease rating and analysis for models of spatially aggregated plant disease epidemics" and coauthored a poster presentation entitled "Some consequences of using the Horsfall-Barratt scale for estimating disease severity compared to nearest percent estimation" at the 10th International Epidemiological Workshop in Geneva, New York (65 adult attendees) (June 8-12).

MS. MARY K. INMAN gave a talk entitled “Pruning woody ornamentals” to the Olde Ripton Garden Club in Shelton (24 adult attendees) (June 1).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA spoke about the use of molecular diagnostics in identifying *Phytophthora ramorum* to students in Dr. Thomas Mione’s class at Central Connecticut State University (18 adults attended) (June 10); demonstrated and explained the work plan for *Phytophthora ramorum* molecular diagnostics for the *Phytophthora ramorum* on-site USDA-APHIS-PPQ review of CAES facilities and standard operating procedures (12 adult attendees) (June 16); met with Mr. Norman Pruitt of USDA-CSREES as part of the Civil Rights Review (June 17); spoke about our participation in the annual survey for *Phytophthora ramorum* and the use of molecular diagnostics in its detection to high school teachers from Dr. Gerry Frumento’s class at Southern Connecticut State University (12 adults attended) (June 30).

MS. PAMELA SLETTEN’S son Arthur and daughter Hope each received a Bernard H. McCusker Scholarship from CSEA, our union! We are very fortunate (and they worked very hard).

SOIL AND WATER

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the start of the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses by Fran Schneido CBS Radio NY; Marc Sims-Connecticut Radio Network; and WTIC Radio (June 1); was interviewed about the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses and the outlook for 2008 Blaise Gomez-Cablevison 12 Norwalk (June 2); June 4. Was interviewed about the Experiment Station’s Mosquito and Arbovirus Surveillance and Research Programs by Marc Sims-Connecticut Radio Network (June 4); participated in a State Public Health Vector Control Conference on current issues concerning mosquitoes, ticks, arbovirus surveillance, and bed bugs (June 4); was interviewed about the potential impact of the decline in bats due to the “white-nose fungus on mosquito populations and West Nile virus by Libby Sile, Hartford Courant (June 15); was interviewed about the impact of the excessive amount of rainfall in June on mosquito populations and West Nile virus by Fran Schneido CBS radio, New York (June 22); was interviewed about the impact of the excessive amount of rainfall in June on mosquito populations and West Nile virus by Dana Waylon, WTIC radio (June 23); was interviewed about pesticide resistance in mosquitoes by Elie Dolgin Associate Editor, The Scientist Magazine (June 23); was interviewed about the Experiment Station’s Mosquito and Arbovirus Surveillance and Research Programs by Lauri Sanders, National Public Radio (June 24); and was interviewed about the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses by Mari Ann Gail Brown, Connecticut Post (June 30)

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE instructed students on the identification and surveying of invasive aquatic plants as part of the *Candlewood Lake Environmental Awareness and Responsibility Program*. Assisted by Martha Balfour and Rachel Soufrine. (Approximately 20 students in attendance) (June 24-25).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI was interviewed about research on molecular identification of blood meals from field-collected mosquitoes by Lauri Sanders, National Public Radio (June 24).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS participated in the 10th Anniversary of the Connecticut State Bioblitz held in the Greater Hartford area (99 participating scientists) (June 12-13); and was interviewed about procedures used in collection and identification of mosquitoes in the Experiment Station’s Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program by Lauri Sanders, National Public Radio (June 24).

MR. JOHN SHEPARD was interviewed about procedures used in collection and identification of mosquitoes in the Experiment Station’s Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program by Lauri Sanders, National Public Radio (June 24) and was interviewed about the Experiment Station’s Mosquito and Arbovirus Surveillance and Research Programs by Lauri Sanders, National Public Radio (June 24).

DR. JASON WHITE attended the Master’s Degree defense of Dimitrios Stampoulis at the University of New Haven. Dimitrios conducted his research on the impact of nanoparticles on plant growth here at CAES under my supervision (June 8); presented a poster, *Assay-dependent phytotoxicity of nanoparticles*

to plants” at the “Environmental Implications and Applications of Nanotechnology Conference” held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (June 10); hosted Dr. Michelle Marko and student, Emily Lichte of Concordia College in Moorhead MN. They conducted collaborative field research on the biological control of Eurasian watermilfoil (June 15-19); and began mentoring Emily Baumgaertner, a junior at Sacred Heart High school in Hamden. The mentoring program is coordinated the Sacred Heart High School Summer Internship Program and consists of a minimum of 80 hours of mentoring time (June 22).

VALLEY LABORATORY

DR. JOHN AHRENS spoke on the subjects of vegetation control and fir species adaptation at a twilight meeting of the Connecticut Christmas tree Growers’ Association at the Staeley Farm in East Haddam, CT (40 attendees) (June 17) and spoke to 75 members of the New Hampshire/Vermont Christmas Tree Association on vegetation control in Christmas Trees at their annual summer meeting at the Russell Reay farm in Cuttingsville, VT (75 attendees) (June 20).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Managing armored scales," for a Rhode Island Christmas Tree Growers' meeting, Hope, RI, (30 attendees) (May 16) and participated in a teleconference with other research entomologists and EPA regulators in Washington, D.C. (May 6), regarding the Section 3 registration of Safari for protecting ash trees from emerald ash borer. The discussion led to immediate approval of this label. Presented "Managing armored scales," for a Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' meeting, E. Haddam, (30 attendees) (June 17) and presented "Questions about Safari" as an invited contributor to the Valent ornamentals workshop, Banff, Alberta (25 attendees) (June 23).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council to select the winner of the Century Farm Award (June 3) and examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (June 10).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH arranged a display of non-native invasive plants and native ornamental plants for the Suffield Garden Club’s flower show in Suffield (approximately 100 attendees) (June 5-6); was interviewed by Tom Moroney of Bloomberg.com News regarding potential impact of the invasive mile-a-minute vine on Connecticut agriculture (June 12); spoke about weed management at a twilight meeting of the Conn. Christmas Tree Growers’ Association in East Haddam (approximately 40 attendees) (June 17); was interviewed by Kendra Bobowick of *The Newtown Bee* newspaper regarding the plan to release weevils as biological control agents for mile-a-minute vine in Newtown (June 22); was interviewed by Frank MacEachern of *Greenwich Time* newspaper regarding plan to release biocontrol weevils for mile-a-minute vine in Greenwich (June 23 & 25); and hosted a meeting and led a walking tour of the Valley Laboratory property for board members of the Suffield Land Conservancy (9 attendees) (June 25).

DR. HUGH SMITH spoke about integrated pest management to the Open Spaces Committee of the Town of Simsbury (June 3).

JOURNAL ARTICLES APPROVED JUNE 2009

Andreadis, Theodore G. Trapping and testing program for mosquito-borne viruses to begin on June 1, 2009. Connecticut Weekly Agriculture Report

Bugbee, Gregory J. Control of *Potamogeton crispus* and *Myriophyllum spicatum* in Crystal Lake, Middletown, CT. Station Bulletin

Bugbee, Gregory J. and Roslyn Reeps. Invasive Aquatic Plants. Lake Candlewood – Lake Zoar. Monitoring Report – 2008. Station Bulletin

Dingman, Douglas. Dealing with American Foulbrood. Backyard Beekeepers Association Newsletter

Abigail Maynard. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Investigates New Specialty Crops.
CT Weekly Agricultural Report

Molaei, Goudarz, A. Farajollahi, P. M. Armstrong, J. Oliver, J. J. Howard, and Theodore G. Andreadis.
Identification of blood meals in *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* and *Anopheles punctipennis* from
eastern equine encephalitis virus foci in northeastern USA. Medical and Veterinary Entomology

Nail, William R. Effects of Fruit Thinning on Yield, Fruit Quality, and Vine Performance of Red
Bordeaux Winegrape Cultivars. Station Bulletin.

D. Stampoulis, S. K. Sinha, **Jason C. White.** “Assay-dependent phytotoxicity of nanoparticles to plants.
Environmental Science and Technology

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