

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

FARM CITY 2006

At Lockwood Farm we hosted Farm City on Tuesday, May 16 through Thursday, May 18th. We had 677 students, 22 teachers, 22 classes, and 90 chaperones participate in the event this year. The students ranged from grades 3-7. We had a difficult start, having to compete with 1.14 inches of rain and wind on Wednesday, but the next two days were just perfect. We had a great year and I would like to thank all of the Station Staff that participated in this important educational program. Station staff that participated were Richard Cecarelli, Heide Mizak, Rollin Hanna, Rose Hiskes, Timothy Abbey, Ira Kettle, Stephen Sandrey,



Peter Trenchard, Victoria Smith, and Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski. Next year Farm City will be hosted at the Jones Family Farms in Shelton.



Rose Hiskes educating the students about Integrated Pest Management and some of the devices that are used in the monitoring process (above).

Some students posing with the CAES tractor for a souvenir digital photograph provided by First Pioneer Farm Credit (above).



Timothy Abbey showing the students some specimens under the microscope (above).



Ira Kettle teaching the students about Bees and Beekeeping (left).

BIRD AND BUTTERFLY GARDEN TOUR HOSTED



Rose Hiskes led a tour of the Bird & Butterfly Garden at Lockwood Farm on May 23rd for the Red Hat Ladies of Cheshire. (Photo by Pamela Sletten)

TRAINING ON NEW EQUIPMENT

TIA MASTRONE and PETER TRENCHARD in Digital Aerial Sketch Mapping training held by the Durham Field Office of the US Forest Service, at the Holyoke Heritage State Park Site, Holyoke MA on May 16th. (Photo by Victoria Smith).



Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI participated as Chair of the Invasive Plants Council in Hartford (May 11); discussed possible research to keep deer away from highways with 4 Connecticut Department of Transportation officials in New Haven; was interviewed about ticks and Lyme disease by Fran Schneido of WCBS Radio (May 26); and was interviewed about ticks by Tim Washer of Public Affairs TV Program "Local Edition" in Newtown, CT (May 30).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA attended the 20th Annual meeting of CPEP(Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program), the sponsoring organization of the New Haven Public Schools Science Fair, at the Peabody Museum (May 8); and addressed members of the Connecticut Association for Food Protection which held a meeting in Jones Auditorium. Staff from the Connecticut Department of Consumer

Protection, Department of Public Health, and representatives of various food retailers across the state, attended the all-day meeting (May 23); and was interviewed by Janet Pelley, contributing editor for the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* on (May 31) regarding atmospheric transport of persistent organic pollutants. Many of these pollutants are "legacy" agrochemicals, such as chlordane and DDT, and are no longer permitted for use in most countries.

DR. DAVID STILWELL attended the 2006 CPEP (CT Pre-Engineering Program) Annual Meeting at the Yale Peabody Museum (May 8).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

IRA KETTLE gave a honey bee presentation and talk to the senior citizens of Andover (21 adults) (May 5), and spoke on registering colonies, Varroa medications, and Honey Sanitation guidelines, and about the Asian Longhorned Beetle and recent inspections at the Twilight Meeting of the Eastern Beekeepers Association in Woodstock. (40 attendees) (May 11).

GALE RIDGE spoke to Hoa Neguyer of Greenwich Times about Gypsy moths, Eastern Tent, Boxwood leafminers and other early springtime pests Caterpillars (May 5), spoke to Steve Grant of Hartford Curreant about Gypsy Moth outbreaks and what will happen this spring especially with the wet weather (May 12), spoke to Kevin Hogan of Channel 3 Television about Gypsy moths (May 12), and spoke to Teresa Barger of Hartford Courant about Gypsy moths, Bed bugs, Eastern subterranean termites, Carpenter ants, Carpenter bees and other insect pests around homes this springtime in Connecticut (May 25).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated with TIA MASTRONE and PETER TRENCHARD in Digital Aerial Sketch Mapping training, held by the Durham Field Office of the US Forest Service, at the Holyoke Heritage State Park Site, Holyoke MA; (16 participants) (May 16); participated in a planning meeting for a full-scale emergency exercise, held by the USDA Professional Development Center, at the Wallingford office of USDA-APHIS-PPQ; (8 participants) (May 18); participated in a meeting of the CT Pomological Society, held at Belltown Orchards in South Glastonbury, and presented a brief Gypsy Moth Update; (approximately 70 participants) (May 24).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD interviewed by John Voket, Associate Editor, Newtown Bee, about Lyme disease prevention and tick activity on tape for a program on WEZN and WPLR radio (May 2); spoke on tick management in a forum sponsored by the Newtown Health Department in Newtown (20 attendees) (May 2); interviewed by Dan Lovallo, WDRC Radio, about tick bite prevention and the upcoming tick season (May 3); and spoke on tick management at a symposium on current trends in Lyme disease research at the University of New Haven (65 attendees) (May 12); interviewed by Jody Latina, Channel 8 News, about ticks (May 12); interviewed by Michael Dinan, Greenwich Times, about tick numbers and Lyme disease cases in 2005 (May 16); with VICTORIA L. SMITH, met in Wallingford with Patricia Douglas, Thomas Chanelli, Thomas Scott, and other staff from USDA AHPIS PPQ and Ralph Scarpino, Connecticut DEP, to discuss an exercise of the Incident Command System for the Asian longhorned beetle (May 18); interviewed by Eric Parker, Channel 3 News, about tick numbers and Lyme disease cases in 2005 (May 19); participated in a teleconference call on the One Solution reporting system for USDA funded activities. (May 24); interviewed by Brian Lee, a student at Darien High School, about Lyme disease and tick control for a class project (May 25); interviewed by Robert Miller, Danbury News Times, about the lone star tick in Connecticut and the increase in Lyme disease cases in 2005 (May 26); interviewed by Meg Barone, Connecticut Post, about ticks and Lyme disease (May 30); and With LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI, interviewed by Tim Washer in the studios of Charter Communications in Newtown for their public affairs TV program Local Edition piece on Lyme Disease Awareness (May 30).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD presented a talk "Unusual Garden Vegetables" to the Heritage Village Garden Club in Southbury (40 attendees) (May 17), and assisted Brownie Troop 360 in science experiments in Hamden (10 attendees including 8 youths) (May 22).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL assisted in pruning and restoration of heritage greenhouse grapes at Harkness State Park with Sioux Mackey (May 10), and visited a newly planted vineyard in Branford with Vincent Giordano Jr. and Vincent Giordano III (May 17).

MICHAEL SHORT was accepted as a member of The Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association (May).

DR. JEFFREY WARD participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven, CT (May 2); spoke on "Reducing browse damage" to the Killingworth Land Trust in Killingworth (64 attendees) (May 10); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in West Hartford (May 17); spoke on "Precommercial thinning in upland oak stands" to the CT-DEP foresters in Naugatuck (24 attendees) (May 16); interviewed by Kent Pierce, News Channel 8, about cottonwood seeds (May 30).

SCOTT WILLIAMS presented research posters "White-tailed deer as seed dispersal agents" and "Deer research at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station" at the First Annual Connecticut Wildlife Conference, Storrs, CT (May 2).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS and PAMELA SLETTEN went to the Port Chester (NY) middle school for their Earth Day celebration (about 100 students, teachers, news reporters, and photographers) watched them plant a chestnut tree at the edge of the school grounds. They gave the school 40 of the Experiment Station's hybrid chestnuts for their planting project. DR. ANAGNOSTAKIS gave a talk on "Chestnuts in the U.S." to a class of eighth-graders (36 attendees) and then (125 students and teachers attended) a panel discussion on trees (ANAGNOSTAKIS and SLETTEN), recycling (the head of the Westchester Recycling facility), solar energy (an architect from Stamford), and participation in local government (the mayor of Port Chester) (May 25).

DR. MATTHEW T. BOEHM presented a talk entitled "Coupling Lagrangian surface layer and convective boundary layer models to describe aerial dispersal of particles released near the ground" at the American Meteorological Society's 17th Symposium on Boundary Layers and Turbulence and 17th Conference on Biometeorology and Aerobiology in San Diego, CA (50 attendees) (May 22-25).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a talk entitled "Common diseases of the perennial garden" to members of the Westport Senior Center (14 attendees) (May 1), was interviewed about poison ivy by Charlie Walsh of the Connecticut Post (May 8), was photographed with poison ivy for the Connecticut Post article (May 11), and gave a presentation entitled "Poisonous plants" to members of the Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby (47 attendees) (May 16).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended the Dedication of the West Hartford Veteran's War Memorial where foreign soils from battlefield cemeteries were ceremoniously scattered over the lawn. Dr. Elmer was instrumental in receiving and sterilizing the soils and the Station was thanked (1,000 attendees including state and local representatives) (May 21), presented the paper "Taxonomic notes on *Fusarium* species associated with *Spartina*" at the 2nd Sudden Wetland Dieback Workshop in Wellfleet, MA (35 attendees) (May 24), and gave a presentation entitled "Plant parts and their diseases" to four first-grade classes at Doolittle School in Cheshire (80 attendees) (May 26).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS May 12. Interviewed about the gypsy moth by Kevin Hogan WFSB TV3 gypsy moth (May 12), and interviewed about the impact of the heavy rainfall on anticipated mosquito problems this spring and West Nile virus by Sean Philips NBC 30 TV (May 22).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO attended the 16th Annual Meeting of the European Branch of Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC- Europe), held at The Hague, Netherlands and (1) presented an invited talk, *Effect of Natural Organic Substances on the Surface and Adsorptive Properties of Black Carbon,* (2) co-authored a second talk, "*Sorption to char in multi-solute systems: distinguishing true hysteresis from artificial hysteresis due to the competitor dilution effect,*" and (3) co-authored a poster, *An isotope exchange technique to validate true hysteresis and probe its underlying cause in natural organic matter* (May 7-11).

DR. JASON WHITE May 9. Hosted Dr. Ted Center and Dr. Min Raymajhi from the Invasive Plant Research Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA. They are collaborating with Dr. White and Mr. Bugbee and Dr. Marko on the Invasive Aquatic Weed Project (May 9), participated in a US EPA sponsored conference call to begin organizing an International Phytotechnologies Society, Dr. White is part of the Executive Committee (May 9).

Valley Laboratory

TIMOTHY ABBEY presented Insect Pest Management with an Organic Focus to the Connecticut Rose Society in Hartford (May 7), Integrated Pest Management for the Farm City Program at Lockwood Farm in Hamden (approximately 600 students) (May 16, 17, 18), and attended a meeting of the CTPA Arboriculture 101 instructors in New Haven (May 31).

ROSE HISKES staffed a Station booth at the May Market in Suffield (May 13), along with TIMOTHY ABBEY taught Integrated Pest Management to over 600 school children during Farm City at Lockwood Farm in Hamden (approximately 600 students) (May 16, 17, 18) and led the Cheshire Red Hat Club on a tour of the Bird and Butterfly Garden at Lockwood Farm in Hamden (7 attendees) (May 23).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed by author Bruce Fairchild about the historical role of tobacco in the economy of colonial Connecticut (May 10); and participated in a planning meeting for Arboriculture 101 in New Haven (May 31).

DR. DEWEI LI participated in the AAB board meeting of the American Industrial Hygiene Association in Chicago (May 13). A broad range of issues related to the lab accreditation program of Environmental microbiology were discussed.

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH was interviewed by Lauren Daniel of *NM Pro* magazine about weed management options for container-grown nursery stock (May 9); participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Lab (10 attendees) (May 15), and was interviewed by Mindy Ramsey of NBC 30 Connecticut News about poison ivy (May 22).

Journal Articles Approved May 2006

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. Effect of shade on growth of seedling American chestnut trees. *Northern Journal of Forestry*

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. and David Stilwell. Survival and growth of hybrid chestnut trees planted in forest and field plots. *Forest Ecology and Management*

Capers, Robert, Roslyn Selsky, Gregory Bugbee, and Jason White. Boat traffic alters aquatic plant community composition, increasing both native and invasive species richness. *Conservation Biology*

Cheah, Carole A. S.-J. (2006). Release of beetles to control hemlock woolly adelgid in Cockaponsett State Forest in 2006. Cockaponsett State Forest Updates 5-12-06

Shields, K. S., R. Talbot Trotter, III, and Carole A. S.-J. Cheah. Climate variables can determine the ultimate distribution of hemlock woolly adelgid in Eastern North America

Cowles, Richard S. Efficacy of various insecticides for managing armored scales on Christmas trees. The Real Tree Line

Douglas, Sharon M. and Mary K. Inman. Seed Germination and Purity Analysis 2006. Station Bulletin

LaMondia, James A. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Blue Mold Update. Web page: www.ctvalleytobacco.org

Stafford, III, Kirby C. The Tick Management Handbook: A Resource for the Prevention of Lyme Disease. The Real Tree Line

Stafford, III, Kirby C. Quarantine of the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island for pine shoot beetle (*Tomicus piniperda*). The Real Tree Line

Vavra, J., Hylis, M., Vossbrinck, Charles, Pilarska, D., Linde, A. Weiser, J., McManus, M., Hoch, G., Solter, L. *Vairimorpha disparis* n. comb. (Microsporidia:Vurnellidae): A redescription and taxonomic revision of *Thelohania despairis*. Timofejeva 1956, a Microsporidian parasite of the gypsy moth *Lymantria dispar* (L) (Lepidoptera:Lymantriidae). Journal of Eukaryotic Microbiology

Williams, Scott C., Jeffrey S. Ward, and Uma Ramakrishnan. Deer Damage Management Options. Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin

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