

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

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## **Departmental News**

### **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about invasive plants by Tim Stelloh of the Stamford Advocate (May 8); was interviewed about honey bees by Jared Newman of the Wilton Villager (May 29); spoke to the Backyard Beekeepers Association in Weston about Station Research (53 attendees) (May 29); and was interviewed about mosquitoes by Nancy Cohen of Connecticut Public Radio (WNPR) (May 31).

### **Analytical Chemistry**

DR. CHRISTINA S. ROBB was part of the Science Research Review panel for the 2007 CT High School Exposition in Hartford (May 14).

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA did a presentation on the Station and the activities of the Department of Analytical Chemistry related to food safety for the monthly meeting of the laboratory preparedness group related to counterterrorism at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. (approximately 35 attendees from CT DPH, Connecticut hospitals, local health departments, and state agencies) (May 7).

### **Biochemistry and Genetics**

DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN served on the science review panel for the CT High School Innovation EXPO 07 (May 12).

DR. RICHARD PETERSON presented a lecture at the DeKalb Plant Genetics Laboratory in Mystic, CT entitled "Genetic Regulation of Light-Harvesting: A Yield-Enhancing Opportunity?" (May 24).

### **Entomology**

MS. ROSE BONITO set-up a display table for the 'Annual Bird and Butterfly Gardening Plant Sale' held at the Peabody Museum in New Haven (approximately 125 adults and 53 children) (May 12).

MR. IRA KETTLE provided honey bee educational shows for the following minority students (African American and Hispanic) at C.R.T. Early Care & Education Center (Community Renewal Team, Inc.) in Hartford (48 students, 11 adults) (May 9) and at Locust St. Headstart in Hartford (50 students, 9 adults) (May 15); attended the Eastern Connecticut Beekeepers Association Twilight meeting at Richard Norman's in Woodstock and spoke on the importance of registering (60 people) (May 17); and provided a Bee Presentation and Talk for two Science classes at Stonington High School in Pawcatuck (32 people) (May 25).

MS. ROSE HISKES with MR. TOHOMAS RATHIER gave a talk on 'Integrated Pest Management' at Farm-City in Shelton (around 700 students from Bridgeport, Stratford and Torrington) (May 15-17), gave a talk on "Plants Out of Place" to the Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society (20 attendees) (May 15); and talked to Boy Scout Pack 25 about being an entomologist (May 31).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke about the threat of exotic leafrollers to orchard trees at a Twilight Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society at March Farms in Bethlehem (approximately 50 participants) (May 24).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the Cooperative Program Review, with a presentation on Station research in cooperation with DEP; presented at DEP Headquarters in Hartford (15 participants) (May 16); participated in Digital Aerial Sketch Mapper training, held by the US Forest Service North East Region, at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, NH (30 participants) (May 22); and participated in the Twilight Meeting of the CT Pomological Society, held at March Farms in Bethlehem (approximately 50 participants) (May 24).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke on tick management issues at the Aquarion Water Company in Monroe, CT (8 attendees) (May 3); interviewed by Jeff Kurz, Record Journal, about honey bees (May 4); interviewed by Elaine Stoll, The Day (New London), about bees and colony collapse disorder (May 4); organized a visit to CAES and met with Dr. Daniel Rossi, Executive Director of the Northeast Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) (May 7); interviewed by Michael Dinan, Greenwich Times, about a reported drop in Lyme disease cases in Connecticut for 2006 (May 14); with DR. VICTORIA SMITH, participated in the Connecticut Cooperative Management Review of the forestry program in Hartford by the U.S. Forest Service (May 16); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease prevention at Aetna Insurance headquarters in Hartford the presentation was recorded for viewing by other Aetna employees (50 attendees) (May 17); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease prevention for staff of the Aquarion Water Company in Easton, CT (20 attendees) (May 25); spoke on the Africanized honey bee plan at the meeting of the Backyard Beekeepers Association in Weston, CT (100 attendees) (May 29); interviewed by Sam Gingerella, WTIC-radio, about ticks and Lyme disease (May 30); and spoke on the current status of ticks and tick control research at Lake Gaillard, North Branford, for a Natural Resources Council tour (May 31).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER was interviewed by Elaine Stahl of the New London Day about bees and Colony Collapse Disorder (May 4); photographed by C. M. Glover of the New York Times collecting bees at Holmberg Orchard in Gales Ferry (May 9); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee of the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (May 15); interviewed by Darren Hobbs of the Waterford Times (May 25); and spoke to the Backyard Beekeeping Association about current research on bees and pesticide contamination of pollen (May 29).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY S. WARD chaired CTPA- Education committee meeting in New Haven (May 2); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven (May 8); chaired Connecticut Forest Council- research committee meeting in Middlefield (May 15); and spoke on "Japanese barberry control" at the Natural Resources Council of Connecticut field tour at Lake Gaillard in North Branford (70 attendees) (May 31).

DR. MARTIN P.N. GENT hosted an open house to demonstrate the new Ebb and Flood Watering Greenhouse, constructed by Geremia Greenhouse at Lockwood Farm. Besides Station Staff, other attendees were Rich McAvoy of the Department of Plant Science, University of Connecticut, and Joe Geremia and Phil Banning of Geremia Greenhouse, Wallingford CT. (May 8).

DR. ABIGAIL A. MAYNARD reported on Station activities at the quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Tolland (15 attendees) (May 3); attended a meeting of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee (SWAC) of DEP and a meeting of the SWAC subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting in Hartford (May 22); spoke about Station research and gave a tour of Lockwood Farm to the 4th grade of Hamden Hall Country Day School (29 children and 2 teachers) (May 31).

DR. WILLIAM R. NAIL attended a meeting of the Connecticut Grape and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (May 7); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Valley Laboratory (May 7); met with Jerry Servino of Servino Vineyards to discuss pest management strategies for the 2007 growing season (May 8); and was interviewed by Leonard Felson for an upcoming article about the Connecticut grape and wine industry for Connecticut Magazine (May 21).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS met with staff of the Aquarion Water Company, The Nature Conservancy, and Dr. Tony DeNicola to discuss deer management strategies in Fairfield County (May 17); gave a talk on conflicts with pets and coyotes, fishers, and foxes at Paws By The Green pet shop Guilford, CT (15 attendees) (May 22) and spoke on "White-tailed deer research" at the Natural Resources Council of Connecticut field tour at Lake Gaillard in North Branford (70 attendees) (May 31).

## **Lockwood Farm**

### **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR gave an invited talk entitled "Aerial dispersal of maize pollen" at Monsanto's Mystic Research Center in Mystic (35 adults attended) (May 24).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS met with Dr. Daniel Rossi, Executive Director of the Northeastern Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, to discuss the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology's research and outreach programs and the provisionally approved laboratory for *P. ramorum* testing (May 7) and via conference call, discussed the artillery fungus, *Sphaerobolus stellatus*, and strategies for remediation of this nuisance fungus with members of the Board of Regency Meadows of Trumbull (8 adult attendees) (May 23).

DR. WADE H. ELMER presented the paper entitled "Pathogenicity of *Fusarium* species to *Spartina alterniflora*" at the New England Estuarine Research Society in Booth Bay Harbor, Maine (45 adults attended) (May 3-5); visited Dr. Susan Adamowicz, U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Service, at the Rachel Carson Wildlife Preserve to discuss Sudden Wetland Dieback sites in Maine (May 5); gave the presentation entitled "Plant parts and their diseases" to four classes at Doolittle School and to eight classes at Highland School in Cheshire (240 children and 18 adults attended) (May 21); met with Eric Chamberlain of USDA-APHIS-PPQ to discuss soil permits (May 16); presented an update on pathogenic species of *Fusarium* on *Spartina alterniflora* (42 adults attended) (May 22-23); gave a brief report on the role of *Fusarium* in Sudden Wetland Dieback at the CT DEP press conference held at Hammonasset State Park in Madison (15 adults attended); and was interviewed about Sudden Wetland Dieback by a reporter from Quinnipiac's WQUN Radio (May 25).

MS. MARY K. INMAN answered questions from employees about plant problems at the CAES booth set up for the Earth Day celebration at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford (100 adults attended) (April 20).

### **Soil and Water**

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS interviewed about human cases of West Nile virus in 2006 by Steven Kobak, Stamford Advocate (May 1); presented an overview of the Stations research and surveillance program on mosquitoes and arboviruses to Dr. Daniel Rossi, Executive Director, Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (May 7); interviewed about the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis viruses by the New Haven Register (May 21); interviewed about spring mosquitoes and the outlook for the 2007 season by WTIC radio (May 22); and interviewed about mosquitoes, mosquito-borne diseases and the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program by Sam Gingerella, WTIC radio (May 30).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY met with web portal staff from the Department of Information Technology to discuss the CAES Invasive Aquatic Plant Program portion of our website (May 10) and assisted students in the identification of aquatic organisms at the Connecticut Envirothon (May 17).

DR. JASON WHITE participated in an EPA sponsored conference call on the upcoming meeting of the International Phytotechnologies Society for which he is serving on the organizing committee (May 25).

## **Valley Laboratory**

DR. RICHARD COWLES reported on progress on the management of annual bluegrass weevil at the Northeast Regional Hatch Project (NE-1025) Meeting, Geneva, NY (20 attendees) (May 8) and was interviewed by Matt Heid, Senior Editor of AMC Outdoors Magazine, on the subject of the possible impact of global warming on hemlock woolly adelgid, and on hemlock woolly adelgid biology and management (May 30).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH met with Zach Wolf, undergraduate of Columbia University for mentoring of his senior research project on hemlock stream diversity and then met with Carol Youell, Natural Resource Administrator of the Metropolitan District Commission and Lisa Smith, MDC Forester, at the MDC Headquarters, Barkhamsted, (April 2); met with Zach Wolf for field visits to HWA biocontrol release sites on (April 9); met with Jody Bronson, Forest Manager for Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk, CT to discuss HWA research there (April 23); met with John Rodgers, retired entomologist and cooperater at Leyden, MA to discuss HWA winter mortality and to scout the property for HWA (April 26); met with Michael Geryk, Forest Health District Supervisor from MA Department of Conservation and Recreation to collect northern HWA samples and discuss adelgid winter mortality (May 3); met with Art McCann of the CT Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Recreation at Bigelow Hollow State Park to discuss biocontrol of HWA (May 7); met with Chris Bellucci, CT Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, (May 17) to discuss impact of HWA on stream diversity research; was interviewed by Matt Heid for Appalachian Mountain Club Outdoor Magazine (May 30) for an article on climate warming effects on adelgid trends; and met with Zach Wolf of Columbia University to show him HWA impacted sites and to release biocontrols at Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown, (May 31).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA spoke about the pathogens which cause disease on roses to the Connecticut Rose Society at the pond house in Elizabeth Park, Hartford (55 attendees) (May 6); met with Dr. Daniel Rossi, Executive Director of the Northeast Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors in New Haven (May 7); presented an invited talk on *Meloidogyne spartinae*, a possible cause of sudden salt marsh dieback, at the Sudden Wetland Dieback Workshop held in Wellfleet MA (30 attendees) (May 23); and sampled wetland grasses at Hammonasset State Park with plant ecologist Dr. Nels Barrett of the USDA NRCS (May 31).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH participated in a meeting regarding mile-a-minute vine, a new invasive plant in western Connecticut, in Southbury (8 attendees) (May 18); spoke about the Valley Laboratory and presented a display of weeds to a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class at Kennedy Elementary School in Windsor (16 students, 2 teachers) (May 22); spoke about invasive plants and control methods to the Enfield Garden Club in Enfield (25 attendees) (May 23); and met David Havens, environmental coordinator at St. Luke's School in New Canaan, to show him incursions of mile-a-minute vine and other invasive plants in New Milford and Bridgewater (May 31).

## **Journal Articles Approved May 2007**

Anderson, John F., Andy J. Main, Karine Delroux and Erol Fikrig. Interaction of Horizontal and Vertical Transmission of West Nile Virus by *Culex pipiens*. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Andreadis, Theodore G., John F. Anderson, Philip M. Armstrong, and Andrew J. Main. Isolations of Jamestown Canyon Virus (Bunyaviridae: Orthobunyavirus) from field-collected mosquitoes

(Diptera:Culicidae) in Connecticut, USA: a ten-year analysis, 1997-2006. Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Douglas, Sharon M. and Mary K. Inman. Seed Germination and Purity Analysis 2007. Station Bulletin

Elmer, Wade H., James A. LaMondia, C. L. Robertson, S. Useman, R. L. Schneider, K. O'Donnell, Robert Marra, and F. L. Caruso. Incidence of Plant Pathogens in Salt Marshes Affected by Sudden Wetland Dieback. Abstract, Estuarine Research Federation 2007 Conference, Providence, RI, November 4-8, 2007

LaMondia, James A. CAES Blue Mold Page. [www.ctvalleytobacco.org](http://www.ctvalleytobacco.org)

Robb, Christina S. Applications of Physically Adsorbed Polymer Coatings in Capillary Electrophoresis. Journal of Liquid Chromatography

Stoner, Kimberly. Organic Farming and Land Care in Connecticut. Dept. of Agriculture Weekly Agricultural Bulletin

Vossbrinck, Charles R., Bettina A. Debrunner-Vossbrinck and Peter G. Debrunner. Insects Breathe Discontinuously to Avoid Evaporative Cooling. Journal of Experimental Biology

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