

# *Station News* A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

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The February 2005 issue of **iCONN Times** is now available at <http://www.iconn.org/iConnTimes.aspx>

The March issue of Connecticut Libraries contains an article on the new **iCONN** (pages 8 and 12) that provides information about: how the new version of iCONN came into being, the rationale behind certain system design decisions, a description of key system features, key development goals, and more. This issue is now available on the Web at <http://cla.uconn.edu/Newsletters/2005/mar2005.pdf>

## **Tobacco Research Meeting Held at Suffield Vo-Ag Center**

About one hundred forty five people attended the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's annual Tobacco Research Meeting held at the Suffield High School auditorium on February 22, 2005. Director Dr. Lou Magnarelli, and Harrison Griffin, Director of the Suffield Vo-Ag program, welcomed growers. The meeting addressed many topics of concern to growers. Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bruce Gresczyk spoke to growers about branding Connecticut tobacco. Dr. James LaMondia spoke about research on management of tobacco pathogens including blue mold and tobacco mosaic virus and results of the breeding program for pathogen resistance. Thomas Rathier spoke about nutrient management under plasticulture, black root rot problems and curing problems in 2004. Dr. Todd Mervosh spoke about weed control in tobacco. Ross Eddy of the Farm Services Administration provided updates on their services to growers. Robin Helrich of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service provided updates on their services to growers. Christina Berger of the CT DEP spoke about worker protection and pesticide storage requirements. Jeremy Forrett of the USDA Risk Management Agency spoke about crop insurance and other services to growers, and Kathy Johnson of NRCS spoke about EQIP grants available to growers. Dr. Matt Mahoney of Bayer and Steve Zapach of Syngenta updated growers on recent changes in products available for tobacco. Jane Canepa-Morrison and Rich Horvath assisted with much of the behind the scenes work for the meeting. The meeting qualified for pesticide applicator re-certification credit in both Connecticut and Massachusetts.

## **Photos of the Month...**



Screech Owl at Lockwood Farm, taken by J.P. Barsky in the Department of Forestry and Horticulture



Pictures of our exhibit at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford, February 24<sup>th</sup>-February 27<sup>th</sup>. Our exhibit won third place in the Special Exhibitor Section. Photos taken by Rose Bonito

## **Departmental News**

### **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed by Brian Saxton of the Danbury News Times about honey bees and Varroa mites (February 7); participated in an Invasive Plants Council Meeting in Hartford (February 15); welcomed students from Branford High School before they toured Station laboratories (February 17); spoke to tobacco growers in Suffield about Station research programs (February 22); and spoke to nursery owners about Sudden Oak Death in Jones Auditorium (February 22).

### **Analytical Chemistry**

DR. BRIAN EITZER gave a talk entitled "Organic Pollutants and the Environment" to the Talented and Gifted sixth grade class group at Fair Haven Middle School (February 1).

DRS. MARYJANE INCOVIA MATTINA, BRIAN D. EITZER, WALTER J. KROL, MEHMET ISLEYEN, together with WILLIAM IANNUCCI-BERGER and TERRI ARSENAULT met with Faithe Streickfuss from Waters/Micromass to discuss LC/MS instrumentation suitable for our analytical needs on (February 9)

DR. DAVID STILWELL was interviewed by Lisa Carberg, Ch 30, Hartford, on Lead in Children's Jewelry (February 15).

DRS. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA, BRIAN EITZER, MEHMET ISLEYEN, WALTER KROL, DAVID STILWELL and MAMIE PYLES, WILLIAM IANNUCCI-BERGER, and TERRI ARSENAULT all participated in talks and tours for students from Branford High School on (February 17). The emphasis for the visit by the students was on chromatography and spectroscopy theory and practice.

DRS. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA and LOUIS MAGNARELLI met with Paul Clark and Peter Zach from CT DEP to discuss expanded interaction and cooperation with Analytical Chemistry and in a separate meeting that day with Frank Greene of CT DCP to explore similar issues(February 24).

## **Biochemistry and Genetics**

### **Entomology**

DR. JOHN ANDERSON hosted Connecticut Department of Agriculture veterinarians Mary J. Lis and Bruce Sherman and showed them the Biosafety Level 3 Laboratory (February 5); attended a Board meeting of the Natural Resources Council of Connecticut in New Haven (February 10); met with high school students from Branford and discussed the importance of the Biosafety Level-3 laboratory (February 17).

ERIN AMEZZANE manned an exhibit and handed out information at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 27).

ROSE BONITO manned an exhibit and handed out information at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 26 & 27).

IRA KETTLE manned an exhibit, presented a live honey bee demonstration hive, and handed out information at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 24 - 27).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke about the emerald ash borer and the small Japanese cedar longhorned beetle, displayed a synoptic collection of exotic insects, and presented a poster on "Alien Insects Recently Discovered in Connecticut" at a meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (February 8) and introduced new entomological literature and displayed exotic insects found in Connecticut at a monthly meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (February 18).

STEPHEN SANDREY attended the Ramorum Leaf Blight Forum at the CAES, Jones Auditorium, New Haven (February 22) and manned an exhibit and handed out information at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 26).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH discussed the role of CAES in monitoring Ramorum Blight in CT with Faith Campbell of The Nature Conservancy (January 24), chaired (with Donna Ellis of UConn) the annual meeting of the Connecticut CAPS (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey) Committee, held at the Valley Lab (February 8), met with officials of DEP to expedite the permitting procedures for destruction of regulated waste, at the DEP Headquarters in Hartford (February 9), presented a paper titled "Sudden Oak Death: A Potential New Threat to Connecticut Forests" at the meeting of the Nutmeg Chapter of the Society of American Foresters, held in Enfield CT (February 10), coordinated, with Ralph Scarpino and Kevin Grady of DEP, Incident Command System Training-100 (ICS-100) for Experiment Station Personnel, in the Jones Auditorium (February 14), participated in the Official Briefing for the Green Industry on *Phytophthora ramorum*, held in the Jones Auditorium (February 22), and presented a talk titled "Sudden Oak Death: A New Threat to Connecticut Trees" to the annual meeting of the Connecticut Groundskeepers Association, held at the Civic Center in Hartford (February 23).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at a meeting of the Westport Rotary in Westport (February 8), spoke on Pest Management: Ticks & Lyme Disease at the NOFA annual course in Organic Land Care in Jones Auditorium (February 15), provided an introduction and Station update to the Connecticut Beekeeper's Association in Jones Auditorium (February 19), and chaired a briefing on *Phytophthora ramorum* for the green industry in Jones Auditorium (February 22).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER met with the director and staff at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport about setting up educational programs and managing the site organically (February 1), taught the session on "Principles and Procedures of the Organic Land Care Program" at the Connecticut Organic Land Care Course. New Haven (February 8), taught the session on "Pest Management in Organic Land Care" at the Connecticut Organic Land Care Course. New Haven (February 10), chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee, New Haven (February 15), led a discussion of research needs among farmers in the SARE funded project "Expanding Brassica Production in New England" as part of a tour of winter productions of salad greens at Starlight Gardens, Durham (February 17), and participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Berlin (February 20).

PETER TRENCHARD attended the Ramorum Leaf Blight Forum at the CAES, Jones Auditorium, New Haven (February 22) and manned an exhibit and handed out information at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 24 & 25).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY WARD spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (January 5); attended a conference on "The Natural and Cultural History of the Connecticut Forest", sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of American Foresters in Storrs (January 13); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield; (January 18); was elected President of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at the annual meeting in Plainville (January 20); spoke on "Guidelines To Minimize The Impacts Of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid" at the Third Symposium on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Eastern United States, in Asheville, NC (February 3); spoke on "Tree and shrub pruning for home gardeners" for the Evening Garden Club in Branford (February 7); spoke on "Stand development insights from research in Connecticut" at the Yankee Society of American Foresters annual meeting in Enfield (February 10); spoke on "Browse resistance gardening" at the Flower and Garden Show in Hartford (February 26); spoke to Fairfield County Municipal Deer Management Alliance about the impacts of deer browse on forest ecosystems (February 14).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended the northeast regional American Society for Horticultural Science meeting in Washington DC, chaired the graduate student presentation judging committee, and presented a poster on "Effect of shading on composition of fruit and leaves of greenhouse tomato".(January 4-6); attended a New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Steering Committee meeting in Manchester, NH (January 18); spoke on "Greenhouse vegetable production" to students from around Connecticut at Timothy Edwards Middle School in South Windsor (January 19); attended the Vegetable Growers meeting sponsored by University of Connecticut in Tolland (January 20); attended a growers meeting to discuss winter salad greens production at David and Tye Zemelski's farm, Durham CT (February 17).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke on composting and utilization of compost to students and teachers in the Future Problem Solving Program of Connecticut in South Windsor (January 19); taught a course on "Composting and Utilization of Compost" for National Organic Farming Association 4th Annual Course in Organic Land Care held in Jones Auditorium (February 9).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Council at the Valley Lab (January 10); participated in a meeting of scientists and growers to discuss an ongoing SARE project for Southern New England grape growers in East Wareham, MA (January 20-21); visited Joetta Kirk, vineyard manager, at Sakonnet Vineyards in Little Compton, Rhode Island (January 21); participated in meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Council at the Valley Lab (February 7); attended a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Council at the Valley Lab (February 7).

J.P. BARSKY attended a conference on "The Natural and Cultural History of the Connecticut Forest", sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of American Foresters in Storrs (January 13); presided at the Yankee Society of American Foresters annual meeting in Enfield (February 10); attended ICS 100 training module (February 14).

SCOTT WILLIAMS spoke to Fairfield County Municipal Deer Management Alliance about techniques for estimating deer population densities (February 14).

## **Lockwood Farm**

### **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS became a grandmother for the first time. Madison Vivian St. Clair (7 lbs., 11 oz., 20 inches long) was born February 1.

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a talk entitled "General care and problems with houseplants" for the luncheon meeting of the Open Door Seniors Group at Spring Glen Church in Hamden (February 2); gave a talk entitled "Common diseases of perennials in the home landscape" for the Olde Ripton Garden Club in Shelton (February 7); participated in the CAPS Program State Survey Committee Meeting and provided an update on SOD/Ramorum blight (February 8); presented a talk on "Understanding plant diseases" for the

NOFA 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Course on Organic Land Care (February 15); discussed plant diseases and the role of the Plant Disease Information Office with students from Branford High School (February 17); participated in a roundtable discussion on "Eco-gardening" and presented environmentally-friendly methods for disease management with the "Friends of Nature" group in Hamden (February 22); gave a lecture on "Diseases of shade and ornamental trees" as part of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's Arboriculture 101 course (February 23).

DR. WADE H. ELMER presented a talk entitled "Update on preventing, identifying, and managing bedding plant diseases" at the Bedding Plant Meeting in Tolland (February 8); spoke about "Growing asparagus" to the Hadlyme Garden Club in Hadlyme (February 23).

MS. MARY K. INMAN gave a talk entitled "Basic techniques for propagating plants" to the Bethany Garden Club in Bethany (February 14).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA spoke about *Phytophthora ramorum* and its potential threat to Connecticut to the Board of Directors of the Tree Wardens' Association at the headquarters of the Conn. Forest & Park Association in Middletown (February 15); participated in the CNLA Sudden Oak Death/*Phytophthora ramorum* informational meeting in Jones (February 22).

## **Soil and Water**

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS attended the CDC sponsored 2005 National Conference on West Nile Virus in the United States in San Jose, CA (February 8-9).

GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on "Container Gardening Indoors and Out" to the Hill and Dale Garden Club in Glastonbury (February 10); presented a seminar on "Lawn Care" to the Brinkman Group in Milford (February 14).

DR. JASON WHITE presented an invited seminar at The University of Massachusetts Boston entitled "Phytoremediation of persistent organic pollutants with Cucurbita pepo." Also met with graduate students and discussed collaborative research projects with Dr. Adan Colon-Carma of the Department of Biology (February 4); presented a demonstration on electricity and currents to the 4th grade class at St. Bridgets Elementary school as part of their Science Fair (February 9).

DR. CHARLES VOSSBRINCK Presented a talk at the 437th meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society entitled "The World of Spiders". The talk included aspects of spider biology, taxonomy, mythology and arachnophobia (February 18).

## **Valley Laboratory**

TIM ABBEY presented Woody Plant Pest Management and Care to a University of Connecticut Master Gardener class in West Hartford (February 2); Haddam (February 8) and Bethel (February 17); Organic Pest Management for Ornamental Insect Pests at the Northeast Organic Farming Association Organic Land Care Course at CAES New Haven (February 10); New and Exotic Insect Problems in Ornamentals at the Connecticut Groundskeepers Association Winter Meeting in Hartford (February 23); and attended a meeting of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Steering Committee in Storrs (February 9).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave a presentation, entitled "Assessments of biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid with *Sasajiscymnus* (*Pseudoscymnus*) *tsugae* in Connecticut and New Jersey" at the 3rd HWA Symposium, Asheville, North Carolina from (February 1-3); co-authored 2 posters on artificial diets and winter mortality of HWA in the northeast, and gave an update on the development of an artificial diet for *S. tsugae* at a HWA biological control forum on (February 2).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid" at the Third Symposium on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Eastern United States, Asheville, NC, (February 2) (coauthored by Carole Cheah and Michael Montgomery); presented "Organically acceptable management

of turf insect pests” to the Northeast Organic Farmers Alliance’s Organic Land Care Workshop, New Haven, CT, (February 10); spoke to the Connecticut Nursery Foundation educational series on “Insect pests of flowering shrubs,” Windsor, CT, (February 16), (coauthored by Paul A. Weston, Cornell University).

JEFFREY FENGLER took part in an ICS 100 training session (February 14) at the Jones Auditorium in New Haven; and assisted with the Connecticut Invasive Plant Work Group display booth at the Hartford Flower Show at the CT Expo Center in Hartford (February 24).

ROSE HISKES participated in a CNLA Education Committee meeting in Cromwell (February 16); staffed the CNLA and CIPWG booths at the Flower Show in Hartford (February 25 and 27); gave a talk on houseplants to the Shoreline Garden Club in Madison (February 22), and gave a talk on invasive plants at the Grange in North Stonington (February 25).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA participated in a meeting of the CAPS State survey committee meeting held in Windsor (February 8); and spoke about management of tobacco diseases and progress in breeding for resistance to tobacco pathogens at the Tobacco Research Meeting held in Suffield (February 22).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH met with representatives of Conn. DEP and The Nature Conservancy in Middletown to discuss management options for Japanese stiltgrass, an invasive plant (February 2); participated in a steering committee meeting of the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group in Storrs (February 9); and spoke about weed control at the Tobacco Research Meeting in Suffield (February 22).

## **Journal Articles Approved February 2005**

Root, C., C. Balbalian, R. Beirman, L. Geletka, Sandra Anagnostakis, M. Double, W. MacDonald, D. L. Nuss. Multiseasonal field release and spermatization trials of transgenic hypovirulent strains of *Cryphonectria parasitica* containing dDNA copies of hypovirus CHV1-EP713. *Forest Genetics*

Pal, U., X. Li, T. Wang, R. R. Montgomery, A. M. deSilva, F. Bao, N. Ramamoorthi, X. Yang, F. S. Kantor, S. Telford, M. Pypaert, John F. Anderson, E. Fikrig. Trosipa, an *Ixodes scapularis* receptor for *Borrelia burgdorferi*. *Cell*

Rahal, J.J., John F. Anderson, C. Rosenberg, T. Reagan, and L. L. Thompson. Effect of interferon alpha-2b therapy on St. Louis virus meningoencephalitis: Clinical and laboratory results of a pilot study. *J. Infect. Disease*

Wang, T., T. Town, L. Alexopoulou, John F. Anderson, E. Fikrig, and R. A. Flavell. Toll-like receptor 3 mediates West Nile virus entry into the brain causing lethal encephalitis. *Nature Medicine*

Aylor, Donale E. Quantifying maize (*Zea mays* L.) pollen movement in a corn canopy. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology*

Cheah, Carole, M.A. Mayer, D. Palmer, T. A. Scuder, R. Chianesi. Assessments of biological control of woolly adelgid with *Sasajiseymnus* (= *Pseudoscymnus*) *tsugae* in Connecticut and New Jersey. *Proceedings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> HWA Symposium, Asheville, NC, February 1-3, 2005*

Cowles, R. S., Carole S-J Cheah, and M. E. Montgomery. Comparing systemic imidacloprid application methods for controlling hemlock woolly adelgid. *Proceedings of the Third Symposium on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Eastern United States.*

Gent, Martin P. N. Effect of shading on yield and composition of fruit and leaves of greenhouse tomato. *HortScience* (abstract)

Krol, Walter, Terri Arsenault, Mary Jane Incorvia Mattina. Pesticide residues in produce. *CAES Bulletin*

Li, De-Wei. Airborne basidiospores of boletes and their potential to infiltrate a residence in central Connecticut

Li, De-Wei and Chin Yang. Spore counting. Book chapter: AIHA Green Book

Maier, Chris T. First records of alien insects in Connecticut (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae; Coleoptera: Buprestidae, Chysomelidae; Diptera: Rhagionidae, Tephritidae; Hymenoptera: Megachilidae). Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington

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