

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Departmental News

TOBACCO RESEARCH MEETING HELD AT SUFFIELD VO-AG CENTER

About one hundred and ten people attended the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's annual Tobacco Research Meeting held at the Suffield High School auditorium on February 19, 2008. Dr. James LaMondia and Harrison Griffin (Director of the Suffield High School Vo-Ag program) welcomed growers. The meeting addressed a wide variety of issues of concern to growers. Dr. James LaMondia spoke about research on management of tobacco pathogens including blue mold and tobacco mosaic virus and progress of the breeding program for multiple pathogen resistance. Thomas Rathier spoke about nutrient management in shade and broadleaf tobacco, and tobacco transplant production considerations. Christina Berger of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection spoke about how to comply with Worker Protection Standard laws. Clif Parker

and Arthur Carroll spoke about updates and changes in the Risk Management program and insurance programs and Ross Eddy of the Farm Services Administration provided updates on FSA services to growers. Alan Sanderson, Jr. updated growers about progress on issues of concern to the Conn-Mass Tobacco Association and Robin Helrich of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service provided updates on the Connecticut Valley tobacco crop statistics. Stephen Zapach of Syngenta spoke about product label changes and future directions. Michelle Salvas and James Preste 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. Posters on 'Non-chemical disease management using plant genetic resistance' and 'Tobacco seed production to maintain resistance and cultivar identity' were presented.

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI Participated in an Experiment Station Associates business meeting and gave a report on Station activities (10 participants) (February 28); Welcomed a group from Future Farmers of America and gave a report on past and current research findings (83 student and 10 teacher participants) (February 29).

Grants and Fundraising Office

Analytical Chemistry

DR. WALTER J. KROL participated in a webinar on FERN Elexnet Data Entry Training (January 18); presided as Secretary at the New Haven Section American Chemical Society Executive Board Meeting (February 1); and was involved in a conference call for the Florida Pesticide Residue Workshop (FPRW), and volunteered to become a member of the organizing committee for the 45th annual meeting to be held July 20-23, 2008 in St. Pete Beach, FL (February 28)

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA spoke to 25 attendees at the monthly meeting of the Naugatuck Valley chapter of the American Society for Quality. The title of her presentation was "TWO YEARS LATER AND ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY AT THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL

EXPERIMENT STATION KEEPS GETTING BETTER." Dr. Mattina has spoken to this group a number of times in the past (25 attendees) (February 13).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

MS. ROSE BONITO staffed the Station exhibit at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Hartford (approximately 25,000 visitors to the show) (February 23 & 24).

MS. ROSE HISKES gave a talk on "Preparation for a Career in Horticulture" at Mitchell College in New London (5 attendees) (February 20), staffed the station booth at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show in Hartford (February 21-22), staffed the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape booth at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show in Hartford (February 24), and participated in a Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group symposium planning committee meeting in Windsor (February 27).

MR. IRA KETTLE staffed the Station exhibit at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Hartford (February 21, 23, & 24).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke on "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner: An Update on Exotic Insects in the Northeast" at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (February 21).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE gave a talk entitled 'From big trees to bonsai' for the Leetes Island Garden Club in Branford (30 people) (\$150 contribution) (March 12); gave a class on "Insects and IPM in trees" for the Bartlett Arboretum Arboriculture course in Stamford (29 people) (March 14); gave a class on 'Insects attacking trees' CTPA Arboriculture 101 at the Jones Auditorium New Haven (40 people) (March 20); and gave a talk 'Mating behavior of Emerald Ash Borer and two Native Congeners' for the Forest Health Workshop In Hartford (30 people) (March 21).

MR. STEPHEN SANDREY staffed the Station exhibit at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Hartford (February 23).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the Fourth Woolly Adelgid Symposium, held at the Hartford Hilton, Hartford CT, as coordinator of the poster session, coordinator of continuing education credits, and as part of the local arrangements committee (approximately 150 participants) (February 11-February 14); Local Arrangements and Poster Session Organizer, 4th Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium, held in Hartford, (February 12-14); participated in a planning meeting for the Eastern Plant Board Annual Meeting, held at the Highlander Hotel, Manchester, NH (12 participants) (February 20); coordinated the annual Forest Health Workshop, held in the Jones Auditorium, and presented a talk titled "Field and Stream: the Search for *P. ramorum*"; approximately (60 participants) (February 21); participated in a training session on Post Entry Quarantine, held at Prides Corner Farms Nursery in Lebanon CT (25 participants) (February 25); participated in a training session on aquatic sampling for *P. ramorum*, held via conference call (8 participants) (February 26); and participated in the winter meeting of the Northeast Sustainable Research and Education Administrative Council, as the representative of the Eastern Plant Board, held at the Burlington Hilton, Burlington, VT (40 participants) (February 27- February 29).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III welcomed the Connecticut Beekeeper Association and their bee school to the Station in Jones Auditorium (190 participants) (February 2); interviewed by Myrna E. Watanabe, writer for BioScience, about bee research activities and colony collapse disorder in Connecticut (February 2); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease to the Green Farms Garden Club in Southport, CT (25 participants) (February 5); attended the 4th Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium in Hartford, CT (February 12); welcomed state foresters and staff from USDA-PPQ to our annual Forest Health Workshop in Jones Auditorium (40 participants) (February 21); interviewed by Bob Miller, Danbury News Times, about tick infection rates (February 25); participated in a review of county Lyme disease education proposals at the Department of Public Health in Hartford (6 participants) (February 27); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease in

Weston for the Westport Weston Health District. The presentation was taped for airing on public access television and possible video streaming on the WWHD website (February 29).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER hosted the Bee School of the CT Beekeeping Association in the Jones Auditorium, New Haven (170 people) (February 2); organized the 3rd annual Community Farming Conference in cooperation with CT NOFA and moderated the forum for exchange among the community farming groups, and presented a workshop on using Holistic Management in community farms, Jones Auditorium, New Haven (60 people) (February 9); traveled to Albany, NY with DR. BRIAN EITZER and Nick Calderone of Cornell University to be interviewed by a panel from the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program for a grant (3 people) (February 13); hosted the Getting Started in Organic Farming Conference with CT NOFA, Jones Auditorium, New Haven (25 people) (February 16); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA at Roby's Organic Farm, Berlin (12 people) (February 17); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (5 people) (February 26); and presented the "Pest Management Overview" for the NOFA Organic Land Care Course in Naragansett, RI. (56 people) (February 29).

PETER TRENCHARD staffed the Station exhibit at the CT Flower and Garden Show, Hartford (February 23).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD spoke on "Reducing browse damage in gardens" at the Friends of Elizabeth Park's Garden Lecture Series in West Hartford (20 attendees) (February 7); invited guest on WTIC AM-1080 radio talk show "Garden talk" to offer advice on tree management (35,000 audience) (February 9); gave keynote "The historical and future impacts of exotic insects and diseases on Connecticut's forests" at the 4th Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium in Hartford (130 attendees) (February 12); spoke on "Crop tree management - a new management paradigm" at 13th annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (24 attendees) (February 21); and spoke on "Flame technology to control invasive shrubs and trees" at the New York/New England Society of American Foresters meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY (125 attendees) (February 29).

DR. MARTIN GENT presented a seminar "Measurement and modeling of uptake and translocation in plants of a very hydrophobic chemical, p,p-dichlorodiphenylethylene" to the department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences at the University of Massachusetts and visited with several of the faculty including Allan Barker, Frank Mangan, and Baoshan Xing (30 attendees) (February 5) and presented a short talk to FFA teachers on research and outreach activities in the department of Forestry and Horticulture (12 attendees) (February 29).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD assisted in science fair projects at Hamden Hall Country Day School (32 children) (February 21); participated in a meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee in Hartford (February 26); and participated in a meeting of the subcommittee on Composting and Organics Recycling at DEP in Hartford (February 26).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL met with Jerry Savino of Savino Vineyards, Woodbridge, to discuss soil testing and fertilizer recommendations (February 21).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT participated in an Education Committee meeting of the CNLA in Cromwell (February 18).

MR. J.P. BARSKY attended the Forest Health Workshop (February 21); participated in the New England Society of American Foresters Executive Committee Meeting in Saratoga, NY (February 26) and served as technical session moderator and CAES representative to job fair at New York/New England Society of American Foresters Annual Winter Meeting, held in Saratoga Springs, NY (February 27-29).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS provided a field tour for Leslie Kane, Town of Guilford Environmental Planner to show her a properly constructed deer enclosure (February 15) and spoke on "Ticked off about

Japanese barberry” at 13th annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (24 attendees) (February 21).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about her chestnut and butternut research at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (60 attendees) (February 21); spoke about her chestnut research at a meeting of the Board of Directors of Friends of Boulder Knoll in Cheshire (7 adult attendees) (February 21); and gave a report as Park Naturalist on the chestnut trees in the park at the Annual Board of Directors meeting of the Sleeping Giant Park Association at Mory’s in New Haven (20 adult attendees) (February 25).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH attended the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (60 attendees) (February 21) and attended the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network in Chadds Ford, PA (24 adult attendees) (February 25-27).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS attended a training session on “Sexual harassment for managers” in Hartford (February 4); participated in a meeting of the CTPA Executive Board in Berlin (12 adult attendees) (February 12); participated in the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (60 adult attendees) (February 21); participated in the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network in Chadds Ford, PA (24 adult attendees) (February 25-27); and was visited by a group of FFA high school teachers and discussed the contributions of the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology to service and research (12 adult attendees) (February 29).

DR. WADE H. ELMER spoke about “Emerging diseases of ornamentals in Connecticut” at the joint UCONN-CAES Bedding Plant Meetings in Tolland (23 adult attendees) (February 5); gave a brief presentation on sudden vegetation dieback at a meeting with Prof. Ivan Valiela, his four graduate students, and Dr. Frank Caruso in Woods Hole, MA (February 8); gave a talk entitled “Why are the salt marshes dying?” and served on the panel at the Connecticut Audubon Society’s 2008 Eagle Festival in Essex (125 adult attendees, 25 youth attendees) (February 16); spoke about “Emerging diseases of ornamentals in Connecticut” at the joint UCONN-CAES Bedding Plant Meetings in Torrington (26 adult attendees) (February 28); and spoke about “Fusarium disease management” and “Biological fungicides in the greenhouse” at the Society of American Florists’ Crop Protection Symposium in Atlanta, GA (81 adult attendees) (February 29 – March 1).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave two talks titled “Molecular markers and what they can tell us about population structure in the tree pathogen, *Neonectria ditissima*” and “Have research findings on *Phytophthora ramorum* changed risk assessment for eastern forests?” at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (60 adult attendees) (February 21) and gave an invited talk titled “*Phytophthora ramorum*: History, biology, and risks associated with the Sudden Oak Death pathogen” at the 2008 Cranberry Research Symposium in North Dartmouth, MA (50 adult attendees) (February 26).

Soil and Water

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke to the Shelton Women’s Garden Club on *Container Gardening Indoors and Out* held at the Shelton Public Library (approximately 50 attendees) (February 4); presented a seminar on *Soil Science for Arborists* to approximately 30 people studying for their supervisory arborist’s license at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford (30 attendees) (February 7); and gave a presentation entitled *Invasive Aquatic Plants in Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar* to the FirstLight and Power Lakes Technical Committee in Sherman, CT (8 attendees) (February 20).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented an invited paper entitled *Factors affecting the bioavailability of contaminants in soil and sediment* at Workshop on Assessing Bioavailability as a Determinant of Pollutant Exposure, Superfund Basic Research Program, held in Tampa, Florida (February 19-23) and presented a

poster entitled *Coal tar PAHs in MGP site soils: bioavailability to indigenous microorganisms exceeds physical availability (Tenax method) after merely adding nutrients* at a Workshop on Assessing Bioavailability as a Determinant of Pollutant Exposure, Superfund Basic Research Program, Tampa, Florida (February 19-23).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY presented two invasive aquatic plant identification workshops for 80 students and teachers at the Envirothon Aquatics Workshop held at the Yale Peabody Museum (80 attendees) (February 9); presented results of surveys of Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar to six members of the Nuisance Plant Monitoring Committee for FirstLight Lakes in New Milford (6 members) (February 20); and attended the monthly meeting of the GIS Council meeting held at DOIT in East Hartford (February 27).

Valley Laboratory

DR. CAROLE CHEAH met with MDC Forester Scott Rogers to inspect hemlocks in New Hartford on (January 17); met and updated foresters from Great Mountain Forest, Corp. on research on HWA in Norfolk (January 17); presented a poster on biological control of HWA and coauthored a presentation on developing diets for adelgid predators for the 4th HWA Symposium in Hartford, (February 12-14); and hosted a tour of the Kenneth White Insectary at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor for Dr. and Mrs. Allen Cohen, Insect Diet and Rearing Research, LLC (February 14).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed about biodiesel research in Connecticut by Linda Doty, Biodiesel Consultant in Tulsa OK (February 15) and spoke about research on management of tobacco pathogens including blue mold and tobacco mosaic virus and results of the breeding program for multiple pathogen resistance (110 attendees) (February 19).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH was interviewed by Pamela Weil of *Connecticut Gardener* to answer three questions submitted by readers about weeds (February 1); attended the annual meeting of the Weed Science Society of America in Chicago, IL (February 4-7) and presented a talk on "Safety and efficacy of flumioxazin as a preemergence herbicide in nursery containers" (25 attendees) (February 5); gave a presentation on "Weed identification" (8 attendees) (February 22, during a snowstorm) and answered questions at the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group exhibit (February 24) at the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show in Hartford; and participated in a symposium planning committee meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group in Windsor (12 attendees) (February 27).

Journal Articles Approved February 2008

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. Flora Patterson's abstract. Abstract, Historical Session, 2008 APS Centennial Meeting, 26-30 July, 2008, Minneapolis, MN

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. Book Review: *Pioneering Women in Plant Pathology*, 2008, Jean Beagle Ristaino (ed.), APS Press, St. Paul, MN. *Inoculum*, The Mycological Society of America

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. The nation's first agricultural experiment station: Discoveries that shaped plant pathology. Abstract, APS Annual Meeting, St. Paul, MN, 26-30 July 2008

Cheah, Carole. The case for *Sadajiscymnus tsugae*: Biological control has helped save Connecticut's hemlocks. Poster abstract for: Proceedings of the 4th HWA Symposium, Hartford, CT February 12-14, 2008

Cohen, A. C., Carole Cheah, J. Strider, and F. Hain. Diet development for hemlock woolly adelgids and their predators. Proceedings of the 4th HWA Symposium, Hartford, CT, February 12-14, 2008

Cowles, Richard S. Best management practices for systemic control of HWA in forests. 4th HWA Symposium, Hartford, CT, February 12-14, 2008

- Gent, Martin P. N. Effect of Plant Size on Diurnal Variation of Nitrate and Sugars in Lettuce. Abstract, American Society for Horticultural Science. July 2008, Orlando, FL
- Gent, Martin P. N. Effect of Shade on Water and Nutrient Use in Greenhouse Tomato. Abstract, American Society for Horticultural Science. July 2008, Orlando, FL
- Huang, Shaoming, Goudarz Molaei, and Theodore G. Andreadis. Genetic insights into the population structure of *Culex pipiens* (Diptera: Culicidae) in the northeastern United States by using microsatellite markers. American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- LaMondia, James A. Actigard increases fungicide efficacy against tobacco blue mold. Plant Disease
- Maynard, Abigail and David Hill. How to grow globe artichokes in Connecticut. Station Fact Sheet
- Michael Sander and Joseph J. Pignatello. Sorption Irreversibility of 1,4-Dichlorobenzene in Two Natural Organic Matter Rich Geosorbents. Organic Geochemistry
- Ward, Jeffrey S. The Historic and Future Impacts of Exotic Insects and Diseases on Connecticut's Forests. 4th Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Symposium, Hartford, CT February 12-14, 2008

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