

Station News

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

Departmental News

2007 CPTV FAMILY SCIENCE EXPO

By Mrs. Vickie M. Bomba-Lewandoski

The Experiment Station hosted a booth and exhibit at the CPTV Family Science Expo this year held at the Expo Center in Hartford on April 26-28. We exhibited a biodiesel display, numerous oil and seed samples and a live seed pressing demonstration. We also hosted our live



honey bee observation hive. The Station staff that volunteered their time and expertise this year



were: Mr. Ira Kettle, Ms. Lisa Kaczynski, Dr. Walter Krol, Mrs. Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski, Ms. Tia Mastrone, Mrs. Rose Hiskes, Dr. Douglas Dingman, Mrs. Rose Bonito, Mr. Stephen Sandrey, and Dr. James LaMondia. Thank you for making our exhibit a success. The event statistics this year were: Number of Booths-50; Attendance-13,500 (9,000 weekdays and 4,500 on Saturday); and Number of Schools Attending-98 (with a wait list for Thursday).

Images taken by Mrs. Rose Bonito.



A LOOK BACK

By Ms. Joan L. Bravo

39 Years ago

On **August 14, 1968**, Mr. Walter Sullivan, Science Editor of the New York Times, gave the annual Samuel W. Johnson Memorial Lecture on the "Hopes and Fears for the Year 2000." Approximately 1,000 visitors were present to hear the lecture.

38 Years ago

On **February 5, 1969**, Gordon S. Taylor, formerly of the Windsor Laboratory, received the distinguished service award presented annually by the Cigar Manufacturers Association of America and the Cigar Institute of America. He was the fourth member of the Station staff to

receive this award. P.J. Anderson, T.R. Swanback, and H.B. Vickery were the previous recipients.

On **October 16, 1969**, The Station's Board of Control re-established the Department of Soil adding the function of Water to it. The Department of Ecology and Climatology was also created. This reorganization reflects the increasing need for research on the soil, water, plants, and air of Connecticut.

37 Years ago

Beginning of 1970, Station Chemists began the process of re-occupying the newly renovated Johnson Laboratory. In April 1969, the 60-year old building renovation was initiated. It was said that the laboratory was built in the same era as the Model T Ford. It's wires overheated, fuses blew, and it was in need of chemical fume hoods that would protect their users. The architect stated that the building had character associated with a National Historic Landmark and therefore the shell and foot thick concrete floors were to remain while the rest of the building was brought up to the code of the sixties. It was estimated to take about five months. Renovations were completed about nine months later and the re-dedication was held on June 5, 1970.

On **July 23, 1970**, three staff members were honored in the Britton auditorium for long-time service. They included, Dr. Chester I. Bliss (29 years) Station biometrician, Mr. George D. Condon (25 years) Maintenance staff, and Miss Helen Kocaba (25 years) Analytical Chemistry. You can read more about their accomplishments in the 1969/70 record of the year pg. 5.

23 Years ago

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about honey bees by Brian Smith of WICC Radio in Bridgeport (April 18); welcomed attendees at the Station's Open House event in Jones Auditorium (April 19); was interviewed about ticks by Bett Zimmerman of the Villager Newspaper (April 23); was interviewed about honey bees by Bobby Sherwood of WTIC Radio (April 24); and was interviewed about honey bees by Abe Katz of the New Haven Register (April 27).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. WALTER J. KROL provided a telephone interview to Steve Slossberg of the Day Newspaper, Norwich, for an article on Biofuels (April 2); provided an interview to Paul Gough for an article on Biofuels for the Bulletin of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (April 5); presented a talk entitled "Biodiesel Fuel from Connecticut Oilseed" at the Spring 2007 Open House held in the Donald

On **December 2, 1983**, there was a reception for John F. Ahrens and David E. Hill for completions of 25 years of service at the Experiment Station.

SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT'S EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

By Mrs. Vickie M. Bomba-Lewandoski and Ms. Tess Foley

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station was invited to Sikorsky Aircraft's Corporate Headquarters in Stratford for a public open house on April 19th for an Earth Day celebration. We were invited to present information, posters, and brochures to the public attending on the following research projects Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus, Phytoremediation, Wetland Dieback, Biofuels, and Invasive Aquatic Plants. The staff members who participated in the event were DR. ANUJA BHARAWAJ, DR. JASON WHITE, MS. ROSLYN SELSKY, MS. HEIDI STUBER, MR. SCOTT WILLIAMS, DR. JEFFREY WARD, DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS, DR. JAMES LAMONDIA, MR. J.P. BARSKY, and MS. TESS FOLEY.



Image taken by Sikorsky Aircraft.

F. Jones Auditorium (April 19); and presented an exhibit entitled "Oilseed Crops for Biodiesel" at the CPTV Family Science Expo, Expo Center, Hartford, (April 26-28).

DR. CHRISTINA S. ROBB attended the LC Resources HPLC-MS training at the Public Health Department in Hartford (April 11-13).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

DR. ANUJA BHARADWAJ attended an exhibit on ticks at Sikorsky in Stratford (April 19).

MRS. ROSE BONITO staffed an exhibit on honey bees and biodiesel at the CPTV Family Science Expo in Hartford (April 28).

MR. IRA KETTLE gave a bee presentation to the Duck River Garden Club of Lyme & East Lyme (March 12); gave a bee presentation to Mrs. Sheridan's the 3rd grade class at Lake St. School in Vernon. (April 9); gave a bee presentation to the Norwalk Garden Club in Norwalk (April 11); and staffed an exhibit on honey bees and biodiesel at the CPTV Family Science Expo in Hartford (April 26-28).

MRS. ROSE HISKES identified invasive species at the Quaker Meetinghouse in New Haven (April 4), gave a talk on 'A Cutting Garden' to the Bethany Garden Club in Bethany (30 attendees) (April 9), staffed an insect display at the Imagine Nation Museum in Bristol (40 attendees) (April 13), gave a talk on "Invasive Plants" to the Connecticut Gladiolus Society (10 attendees) (April 14), with Dr. Kirby Stafford staffed a tick display at the Peabody Museum in New Haven (2,000 attendees) (April 19) and staffed the station booth at the Connecticut Science Exposition in Hartford (April 27); and staffed an exhibit on honey bees and biodiesel at the CPTV Family Science Expo in Hartford (April 27).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER displayed entomological literature at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (April 20).

MR. STEPHEN SANDREY staffed an exhibit on honey bees and biodiesel at the CPTV Family Science Expo in Hartford (April 28).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH completed USDA-Biotechnology Regulatory Services course 201, Regulations and Processes, held at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH (approximately 30 participants) (April 2); participated in the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Eastern Plant Board, held at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH (approximately 100 participants) (April 2 – 5); and participated in a training workshop for aquatic sampling for *P. ramorum*, conducted by the US Forest Service and held at Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area, part of Patapsco Valley State Park, Owings Mills, MD (approximately 15 participants) (April 17-19).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke on ticks and tick management at the Holcomb Farm Learning Center in West Granby, CT (15 attendees) (April 4); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at the Lions Club meeting in Bethany (20 attendees) (April 10); interviewed by Dan Kain, Channel 3 News, about bees and colony collapse disorder (April 17); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease prevention at the Yale Peabody Museum as part of their Lyme & Lobster/Biodiversity Day (30 attendees) and with Rose Hiskes staffed a CAES booth on ticks (2,000 attendees, about 2/3 children) (April 19); interviewed by Fran Kefalas, Page Editor Norwich Bulletin, about bees and colony collapse disorder (April 20); attended a USDA/CSREES Planning and Evaluation mini-conference in Seattle, WA (April 23-24); and interviewed by Janice Podsada, Hartford Courant, for an update on colony collapse disorder (April 30).

DR. KIMBERLY STONER visited Tobacco Road Farm in Lebanon to set up experiments to measure parasitism of imported cabbageworm caterpillars at four organic farms in Eastern Connecticut (April 3); interviewed by Rick Green of the Hartford Courant about bees and Colony Collapse Disorder (April 4);

interviewed by Patty Gaye of the Weston Forum on honey bees and Colony Collapse Disorder (April 10); set up "trap plants" with imported cabbageworm caterpillars on four farms in Eastern Connecticut (Oneco, Hampton, Lebanon) (April 11); spoke to the CT Beekeepers Association about new research project studying pesticide contamination of pollen, Jones Auditorium (April 14); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Manchester (April 15); interviewed by Anthony Santano, journalism student at Southern Connecticut State University, about bees and Colony Collapse Disorder (April 17); went with MR. IRA KETTLE, bee inspector, to investigate dead bee hives, Fairfield (April 20); and interviewed by Janice Posada of the Hartford Courant about bees and Colony Collapse Disorder (April 26).

MS. HEIDI STUBER staffed an exhibit on ticks at Sikorsky in Stratford (April 19).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY S. WARD participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven (April 10); served on the Goodwin Forestry Scholarship Committee in Hartford (April 16); along with MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS and MR. J.P. BARSKY, presented posters of forestry and wildlife research at Earth Day at Sikorski (20 attendees) (April 19); and spoke on the importance of trees to over 30 students and 8 teachers at the Arbor Day celebration at the state Capital (April 27).

DR. MARTIN P.N. GENT was visited by Dr. Ido Seginer of the Haifa Technion, Israel, to discuss modeling nitrate and sugar content of lettuce (April 16); presented a poster "A Dynamic Model of Water Potential and Movement in Whole Plants Based on Compartment Volumes and Water Contents" at the Biological Systems Simulation Group Conference in Beltsville, MD (60 attendees) (April 17-19); and visited Marrakech Inc. New Haven, a job development and employment service, to talk about conditions for growing vegetable plants (15 attendees) (April 26).

DR. ABIGAIL A. MAYNARD hosted a visit by the Girl Scout Troop from Hamden Hall, they visited with MR. JOHN SHEPARD and MR. MICHAEL THOMAS in the Department of Soil and Water, MS. GALE RIDGE in the Department of Entomology, and DR. SHARON DOUGLAS in the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology (8 girls and 2 adults) (April 20) and was appointed by the DEP Commissioner to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Subcommittee on Organics Recycling and Composting (April 24).

DR. WILLIAM R. NAIL participated in a Grape Bud Necrosis clinic at Sakonnet Vineyards, Little Compton, RI (April 18).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS gave an invited talk "Deer as seed dispersal agents" at the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation's Forest Health Workshop, White River Junction, VT. (109 attendees) (April 5); attended the 63rd Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, Mystic, CT (April 23); and interviewed by Brad Drazen of NBC-30 on prescribed fire for control of the invasive exotic Japanese barberry and its potential effects in limiting native regeneration and increased tick dens (April 24).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR gave a lecture entitled "Aerial transmission of plant disease" at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (32 adult attendees) (April 4).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS participated in an exercise and debriefing conference call to discuss Ramorum Blight organized by the NEPDN (April 3-25); participated in a conference call to discuss issues of concern for the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network (NEPDN) (April 18); organized a display on winter injury of broadleaved and needled evergreens and answered questions about plant health at Plant Science in

Spring (April 19); and discussed plant pathology and the importance of disease diagnosis with Girl Scouts, hosted by DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD (10 youths and 2 adults attended) (April 20).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended a Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association planning meeting at Michaels Greenhouse in Cheshire (April 10); attended the Board of Control meeting and spoke on "The role of plant pathogens in Sudden Wetland Dieback" (April 12); and attended the planning meeting for the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society (April 27).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO gave two talks entitled "Milk: An environmentally friendly control for powdery mildew on cucurbits" and "Culture of eggplants in Connecticut" to the Heritage Village Garden Club in Southbury (54 adult attendees) (April 18).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented two talks entitled (1) "Host feeding patterns of mosquito vectors of West Nile virus in the northeastern US" and (2) "Molecular identification of the blood meal sources of the *Culiseta* vectors of eastern equine encephalitis in an endemic focus in New York" at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Mosquito Control association (approximately 1,000 in attendance) (April 2); interviewed about eastern equine encephalitis and West Nile virus vaccines for horses by Mariann Gail Brown, Connecticut Post (April 13); presented and invited lecture entitled "West Nile virus: an exotic emerging mosquito-borne disease in the western hemisphere" at the Holcomb Farm Learning Center, Granby, CT (8 in attendance) (April 18); presented a display on "West Nile virus" at Sikorsky Aircraft Earth Day Celebration, Stratford, CT (approximately 500 in attendance) (April 19); attended a meeting of the Advisory Board of the "Peabody Fellows Biodiversity and Human Health Program" held at Yale University, New Haven, CT (12 in attendance) (April 24); and interview about spring mosquitoes by Fran Schneido, CBS radio, New York (April 30).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE interviewed by Pamela Weil of the Connecticut Gardener on using manure in the garden (April 9) and spoke on "Management and Control of Invasive Aquatic Plants" at a conference entitled "Beneath the Surface: Understanding the Lakes We Love" co-hosted by the town of Woodstock Conservation Commission and Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor Inc. (approx 100 attendees) (April 26).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO Presented an invited talk "DOM Transport in Natural Solids: Lessons from the Behavior of Organic Pollutants," at the European Geophysical Union General Assembly, held in Vienna, Austria (APRIL 16-21).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY presented a display poster entitled, "The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program" at the Sikorsky Earth Day celebration in Stratford (April 19) and presented a display poster entitled, "The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program" at CAES Spring Open House (April 19).

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "White grub biology and control" to the Garden Gate Club of Mansfield (30 attendees) (April 16).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA spoke about breeding shade and broadleaf tobacco for multiple pathogen resistance at the CPS Tobacco Growers Meeting held in East Windsor (150 attendees) (April 4); participated in a Connecticut Valley tobacco growers meeting to address issues affecting crop production held at Suffield High School (April 5); hosted and participated in a planning meeting of Connecticut and Massachusetts tobacco growers at the Valley Laboratory to create the ConnMass Tobacco Growers Association and address issues affecting crop production (April 9); attended posters on 'Oilseed Crops and Biofuels' and 'Sudden Marsh Dieback' for Earth Day held at Sikorsky in Stratford CT (April 19); spoke about 'Biofuel Crops and Integrated Pest Management' and spoke to tour groups about the 'Role of Plant Pathogens in Sudden Wetland Dieback' as a part of the CAES Plant Science Day in the Spring Open House

(April 19); interviewed about biofuels for the New Haven Register (April 19); hosted and participated in a meeting of the ConnMass Tobacco Growers Association at the Valley Laboratory to address issues affecting crop production (April 23); participated in a planning meeting of the executive committee of the Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society in Cape May NJ (April 26 and 27); and spoke about biodiesel production from oilseed crops as a part of the Station booth at the CPTV Family Science Expo 2007 in Hartford (April 28).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH served on the Connecticut Nurserymen's Foundation scholarship committee, which interviewed finalists and selected scholarship recipients at a meeting at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (15 attendees) (April 11); presented information about work/internship opportunities at the Valley Laboratory to students in the Suffield Regional Agriscience Center at Suffield High School (approximately 100 attendees) (April 12); presented an informational display of weeds at Plant Science in the Spring at CAES New Haven (approximately 120 attendees) (April 19); participated in a planning meeting regarding the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England project in Middlefield (12 attendees) (April 23); and spoke about invasive plants and management research as part of the Spring Garden Series at Mystic Seaport (20 attendees) (April 27).

Journal Articles Approved April 2007

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. Diaporthe eres (Phomopsis oblonga) as a pathogen of Butternut (Juglans cinerea) in Connecticut. Plant Disease (Note)

Heidi E. Brown, Maria A. Diuk-Wasser, Theodore G. Andreadis, and Durland Fish. Remotely-Sensed vegetation indices identify mosquito clusters of West Nile virus vectors in an urban landscape in the northeastern US. Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Gent, Martin P. N. A dynamic linear model of water content and movement in whole plants. Abstract: Amer. Soc. Agron. Meeting, New Orleans, November 2007

Gent, Martin P. N., Jason C. White, Brian D. Eitzer, and MaryJane I. Mattina. Modeling uptake and translocation of DDE in Cucurbita. Abstract Amer. Soc. Agron. Meeting, New Orleans, November 2007

LaMondia, James. Connecticut grown oilseed for biodiesel fuel and integrated pest management. The voice: The CT Academy of Arts and Sciences Newsletter

Li, De-Wei, Richard Cowles, and Charles Vossbrinck. Metarhiziosis microspora sp. no. associated with the elongate hemlock scale. Mycologia

Stafford, Kirby C., III. Coping with ticks in the home landscape. 2007 Guide to Organic Land Care

Vossbrinck, Charles R. and Theodore G. Andreadis. The phylogenetic position of *Ovavesicula popilliae* (Microsporidia) and its relationship to *Antonospora* and *Paranosema* based on small subunit rDNA analysis. Journal of Invertebrate Pathology

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, religious creed, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, criminal conviction record, genetic information, learning disability, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation or physical disability including but not limited to blindness, or marital or family status. To file a complaint of discrimination, Abstract write Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504, or call (203) 974-8440. CAES is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information should contact the Chief of Services at (203) 974-8442 (voice); (203) 974-8502 (FAX); or Michael.Last@po.state.ct.us (E-mail).
