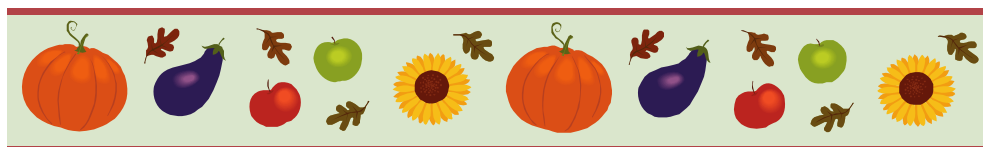


# *Station News* A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

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## Departmental News

### Administration

**DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI** was interviewed about ticks and Lyme disease by Amy Barth of Discover Magazine (October 8); was interviewed about Lyme disease by Abigail Dumes of Yale University (October 8); and attended the New Haven Farm Bureau meeting in Hamden and spoke about Experiment Station research programs (October 19).

**MS. TESS FOLEY** and **MR. RICHARD CECARELLI** held a conference call with the New England Grassroots Environment Fund to discuss potential funding support for upkeep of the Bird & Butterfly Garden at Lockwood Farm (October 18).

### Analytical Chemistry

**DR. JASON WHITE** met with Professor Saion Sinha and his graduate student Sowjanya Chintala of the University of New Haven to discuss collaborative experiments to be conducted at CAES for Ms. Chintala's Master's Degree (October 7); was interviewed by Mr. Jeffrey Ball of the Wall Street Journal regarding the departments testing of seafood from areas of the Gulf of Mexico impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill. (October 13); Dr. White and staff participated in a FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (CAP) Laboratory conference call (October 14); attended the 26th Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. White co-chaired the Phytoremediation session and also presented a talk entitled "Phytoremediation of soils contaminated with persistent organic pollutants" (October 19); presented an invited lecture at the Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program at the Yale School of Medicine entitled "The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Department of Analytical Chemistry: 115 Years of Food Safety Research" (October 26); Dr. White and Mr. Craig Musante met with Professor Om Parkash of the University of Massachusetts and two of his post-doctoral associates regarding collaborative investigations into the uptake of arsenic and other heavy metals by plants (October 27); participated in an International Phytotechnology Society conference call; Dr. White is Executive Vice President of the society. The focus was on the previous annual meeting (held in Italy in September) and the upcoming meeting (in Portland, Oregon next August) (October 27); and participated in an EPA-sponsored webinar on upcoming BP and EPA requests for proposals focused on the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico (October 28).

**DR. CHRISTINA ROBB** attended Biobus as a visiting scientist at Watertown High school and helped students run experiments on "Genetically modified organisms" and "Glowing from permutation". She also

explained her job and career as a chemist and answered student questions on careers in science. Biobus is run by the organization Connecticut United for Research Excellence (CURE) (October 4).

## Entomology

**MS. KATHERINE DUGAS** submitted the Asian longhorned beetle costume to the Pest Fest competition at the Continental Dialogue meeting in Waltham, MA (October 5); with **MS. ROSE HISKES**, taught a class on “Insect Pests of Plants” for Advanced Master Gardeners in Norwich (20 attendees) (October 6); with **DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE**, ran the showing of “Lurking in the Trees,” a Nature Conservancy Documentary about the Worcester Asian longhorned beetle infestation, in Jones Auditorium (8 attendees) (October 8); gave a talk about Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer to the Windsor Garden Club in Windsor (20 attendees) (October 11); participated in a conference call for the Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Program (October 21); and gave a presentation about Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer to the Hardy Plant Society in Wethersfield (15 attendees) (October 27).

**MS. ROSE HISKES**, with **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, taught a class on “Insect Pests of Plants” for Advanced Master Gardeners in Norwich (20 attendees) (October 6); with **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS** and **KATELYNN KING**, organized a showing of “Lurking in the Trees,” a Nature Conservancy Documentary about the Worcester Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infestation, in Jones Auditorium (8 attendees) (October 8); and organized and moderated a breakout session of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group’s biennial symposium at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (350 attendees) (October 14); participated in a Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey conference call for the eastern region (October 21).

**MR. IRA KETTLE** did a honey bee presentation at the Brooksvale Park Fall Festival in Hamden. The children, as usual, really enjoyed the honey bees and the handouts (361 visitors to the table) (October 6); did a honey bee presentation for three classes at The Children’s Tree Montessori School in Old Saybrook. The children were attentive and asked very good questions. The honey bees were a big hit, as were the handouts (37 youth attendees, 11 adult attendees) (October 20).

**MS. KATELYNN KING** staffed a forest pest booth at the Ansonia Nature Center’s Sustainability Fair in Ansonia (20 attendees) (October 16).

**DR. CHRIS MAIER** exhibited specimens of the brown marmorated stink bug and an uncommon dung beetle and briefly discussed their biology at a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (October 22).

**DR. GALE E. RIDGE** was interviewed about bed bugs by the Danbury News-Times (September 10); presented a talk on bed bugs to students at the University of Bridgeport (80 attendees) (September 14); spoke about bed bugs on the Chaz & A. J. morning radio show with a listening audience of 800,000 (September 21); spoke about bed bugs to staff from the Uncas Health District and Foxwoods Casino (150 attendees) (September 21); spoke about bed bugs on WTIC radio with a listening audience of over 3 million (September 28); with Judy Dicine and Mike Lipsett, board members of CCABB, were recorded for a future broadcast by Charter Television on bed bugs (September 28); returned to the University of Bridgeport to deliver two consecutive speeches to students and faculty about bed bugs (170 attendees) (September 29); was again invited back to the University of Bridgeport to talk about bed bugs to dorm room students (60 attendees) (October 6); was interviewed about bed bugs by Jill Konopka of Channel 3 TV at the Station (October 7); was interviewed about canine bed bug detection by The Day (October 13); spoke about bed bugs at the annual conference of the Association for Professional Infection Control and Epidemiologists in Springfield, MA (130 attendees) (October 14); she was contacted by an editor from the Encyclopedia Britannica fact checking on the worldwide “bed bug pandemic” (October 15); had a table at the University and City of Bridgeport Health Fair (400 visitors) (October 21); lectured about insects in general, modes of pesticide resistance, and bed bugs to the Pest Management Professional supervisors who were renewing their licenses with the DEP (100 attendees) (October 26); spoke about bed bugs at the Vermont Pest Control Professionals annual meeting in Montpelier, VT (190 attendees) (October 27); spoke about bed bugs at a luncheon of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (40 attendees) (October 28); lectured about bed bugs and hospital protocols to doctors at Waterbury Hospital

(50 doctors attended) (October 29). Dr. Ridge also submitted a grant application to the EPA for \$198,000 for research and public and professional outreach on bed bugs.

**DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE** attended the conference “Biological Control for Natural Environments” in Northampton, MA (October 5); taught “Insects that attack trees” for the CTPA’s Arboriculture 101 course in Jones Auditorium (45 attendees) (October 6); presented “Emerald Ash Borer” at a Lunch Club in Jones Auditorium (25 attendees) (October 8); and presented “*Cerceris fumipennis*, the beetle hunting wasp” at the Sigma Xi seminar at Quinnipiac University in Hamden (35 attendees) (October 18).

**DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH** participated in a meeting to discuss regulatory aspects of a potential Emerald ash borer detection, held at the USDA-APHIS-PPQ office in Wallingford (6 participants) (October 19); participated in a meeting of the Yale Biosafety Committee in New Haven (25 participants) (October 21); and participated in a meeting of the *Phytophthora ramorum* Regulatory Working Group Co-Chairs, held at the Red Lion Hotel in Salem, OR, and at Silver Falls State Park, outside of Salem (26 participants) (October 25-29).

**DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III** participated in a conference call of the EPA’s Lyme Disease Prevention Network (October 7); participated in a NIFA reporting webinar (October 14); participated in an Emerald ash borer regulatory working group meeting at the USDA-APHIS office in Wallingford (October 19); participated with a booth and talked to students at the Gateway Community College Jobs Café in New Haven (spoke with 15 students) (October 20); participated in a conference call for the Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Program (October 21); with DR. GALE E. RIDGE, and spoke to visiting students from the Hooker School about research and activities in the Department of Entomology (11 attendees) (October 22).

**DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER** participated in a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (10 attendees) (October 12); participated in a joint meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee and the Board of Directors of CT NOFA (20 attendees) (October 14); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA by conference call (12 participants) (October 17); and co-organized the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Community Farming Conference with Bill Duesing of CT NOFA, and led the session where representatives of community farms across the state shared the current status of their farms, their resources, and their needs (42 attendees) (October 31).

## Environmental Sciences

**DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS** Presented a lecture in a course on “Ecology and epidemiology of Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases” entitled: *West Nile virus: a retrospective look at an emerging mosquito-borne disease in the western hemisphere* to a class of graduate students at Yale University (20 attendees) (October 5); and presented a seminar to the Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, entitled: *West Nile virus: a retrospective look at an emerging mosquito-borne disease in the western hemisphere* (30 attendees) (October 7).

**MR. GREGORY BUGBEE** spoke on *Connecticut’s Invasive Aquatic Plant Problem – Searching for Solutions*” at the Annual Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Conference at UCONN (approx. 60 attendees) (October 14); and gave a seminar on *Using GIS in the Surveillance and Management of Invasive Aquatic Plants* as part of the CT DEP wetlands training workshop at Quinebaug Community College in Danielson (approx. 40 attendees) (October 30).

## Forestry and Horticulture

**DR. JEFFREY WARD** along with DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS, JOSEPH P. BARSKY, and MICHAEL R. SHORT attended a CT-DEP Wildfire Training workshop in Torrington (October 13); spoke on “Controlling Japanese Barberry: Alternative Methods and Impact on Tick Populations” at the 2010 Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Invasive Plant Symposium in Storrs (150 attendees) (October 14); taught “Introduction to forest ecology” for Coop High School, New Haven (6 students, 1 teacher) (October 20); and presented paper “Alternative Methods Of Controlling Japanese Stiltgrass” at the 2010 Natural Areas Conference in Osage Beach, MO (25 attendees) (October 29).

**DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD** gave a tour of Lockwood Farm and talked about the New Crops Program to the Pre-Kindergarten and 3rd grade from Hamden Hall Country Day School (36 children, 6 adults) (October 13).

**DR. WILLIAM NAIL** was interviewed by Anne Vandermeij of the Hartford Courant for an article about Connecticut wineries (October 13); was interviewed by John Dube at Lockwood Farm for a book on Connecticut wineries (October 27).

**DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS** officiated at the wedding ceremony between former CAES seasonal employees Emily Kiesewetter and Geoffrey Picard in the Bird and Butterfly Garden at Lockwood Farm. (October 10); and spoke on "Impacts of Japanese Barberry and Browsing White-Tailed Deer on Forest Regeneration" at the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (150 attendees) (October 14).

**MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY** participated in the Tour des Farms 25 mile bicycle ride, an event which supports the King's Mark Resource Conservation and Development Program (October 2); gave a presentation titled "Trees, Forests, and You!" to kindergarten students at Bear Path Elementary School, Hamden (72 students, 12 Adults) (October 18); taught "Forest measurements" for Coop High School, New Haven (6 students, 1 teacher) (October 20); and gave a presentation titled "Trees, Forests, and You!" to second grade students at Mile Creek Elementary School, Old Lyme (86 students, 7 adults) (October 26).

## Plant Pathology and Ecology

**DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS** was interviewed about chestnuts as a healthy, nutritious food by Alice Marcus Krieg and Carmen Devito on their call-in talk show "We Dig Plants" on Heritage Radio Network (October 14).

**DR. DONALD E. AYLOR** gave an invited lecture titled "A framework for modeling aerial transport of plant pathogens" in the Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA (52 adult attendees) (October 6).

**DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS** chaired and organized a meeting of the CTPA Education Committee to discuss upcoming workshops for Connecticut arborists (October 5); was interviewed about fall color and predictions for the season by Gil Simmons of WTNH, Channel 8 (October 8); participated in a meeting of the CTPA Board of Directors at the Station (October 12); met with Dr. Odile Carisse, Lockwood Lecturer, to discuss the Station and research in the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology (October 26); and participated in the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society in Northampton, MA (65 adult attendees) (October 28-29).

**DR. WADE H. ELMER** was interviewed about pumpkin culture by Jan Spiegel of The New York Times (October 4); was interviewed about pumpkin culture by Makayla Silva of the CT Post (October 4); and presented a talk titled "Use of biochar to increase mycorrhizal colonization and suppress Fusarium crown rot of asparagus in replant soils" and presented the Divisional Forum Representative report at the business meeting (12 adult attendees) at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society in Northampton, MA (65 adult attendees) (October 27-29).

**DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO** invited Dr. Odile Carisse, a Canadian Plant Pathologist (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Horticultural Research and Development Center, Quebec, Canada), to visit the Station and deliver a Lockwood Lecture on 25 October 2010 titled "Molecular tracking of airborne inoculum: Impact on grape disease management." In addition, Dr. Carisse had many fruitful discussions with members of the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology and the Department of Biochemistry over the course of her visit (October 25-26); and gave a talk titled "How the dynamics of plant disease epidemics depend on the timing of inoculum production" at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society in Northampton, MA (65 adult attendees) (October 27-29).

**MS. MARY K. INMAN** gave a talk on “Plant propagation” to the Branford Garden Club (day group) in Branford (46 adult attendees) (October 7).

**DR. YONGHAO LI** gave the talks “Needlecast diseases in conifers” at the Extension Meeting (12 adult attendees) and “Anthracnose of *Miscanthus sinensis* caused by *Colletotrichum graminicola*” at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society in Northampton, MA (65 adult attendees) (October 27-29).

**DR. ROBERT E. MARRA** gave a lecture titled “*Phytophthora ramorum*: Molecular diagnostics in plant pathology” to Professor Barbara Nicholson’s biology class at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain (24 juniors and seniors) (October 15); gave a presentation titled “Can bacteriophage be used to control bacterial leaf spot of peach?” at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of the American Phytopathological Society in Northampton, MA (65 attendees) (October 28-29); Ms. Danielle Marias completed her summer student internship working with Dr. Marra on surveying for Ramorum Blight and also on population biology of *Neonectria ditissima* (October 29).

**MR. PETER W. THIEL** was visited by Ms. Carol Lemmon, formerly of CAES, now representing the Connecticut Herbarium. Salt marsh species of *Spartina* were discussed, and a donation to the herbarium was made of ten specimens of *Spartina cynosuroides*, collected at Hammonasset Beach State Park (October 22) and also made a donation of seven live specimens of the little-studied Purple Marsh Crab, *Sesarma reticulatum*, which is native to Connecticut, to the Nature Center at Hammonasset Beach State Park to start a new tank of the *Spartina* eaters (October 28).



Photos by Mr. Peter Thiel



## Valley Laboratory

**DR. CAROLE CHEAH** gave a presentation on CT’s biological control program for mile-a-minute invasive weed at the CIPWG (Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group) symposium on “Challenges and Successes: Working Cooperatively to Manage Invasive Plants”, October 14, at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (200 people).

**DR. RICHARD COWLES** presented "Hemlocks: Control of adelgids and scale insects," at the Valley Laboratory Nursery and Landscape Research Tour, September 22, Windsor (20 attendees). He lectured on "Turf Insects" for the athletic turf maintenance course at the University of Connecticut, Sept. 28, Storrs (10 attendees). He gave the Entomology Department seminar "Managing Armored Scales in Christmas Trees," at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (40 attendees); the Keynote Speaker for Connecticut's 2010

Outstanding Biology Teacher Award ceremony, cosponsored by the Connecticut Association of Biology Teachers and Manchester Community College, presenting "A bed bug's worst nightmare: How understanding bed bugs can be put to our advantage," Manchester (50 attendees) (October 22); presented "Biological control at the Valley Laboratory," to a Bloomfield High School Environmental Studies class, (15 attendees) (October 27); and gave a guest lecture "Bed bugs," for Education Connection, a program for four high school science classes held at Manchester Community College, (120 attendees) (October 29).

**DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA** spoke about progress toward release of disease-resistant tobacco breeding lines to the CAES Board of Control at the Valley Laboratory (October 13); taught a class on identification, biology and management of tree diseases to students in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's Arboriculture 101 class in New Haven (October 13) (40 persons); spoke about research results at the annual meeting of the Northeast Regional Multistate Nematology Technical Committee (NE-1019) held in Northampton, Massachusetts (October 25-27) (15 persons); and attended the Northeast Division Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society to serve as Past-President, Chair of the awards Committee, and to present an invited nematology symposium presentation on 'Implementing Allelopathic Chemical and Cultural Controls' (50 persons), and present a research paper entitled 'Early Season Potyvirus Epiphytotic Affects Cigar Wrapper Tobacco in Massachusetts and Connecticut' in Northampton, Massachusetts (October 27-29) (45 persons).

**DR. DE WEI LI** was interviewed by Robert Miller, a journalist from The News-Times in Danbury about the appearance of giant puffballs, *Calvatia gigantea* in CT (October 20). The article "Puffballs proliferate publicly" appeared in print and online in The News-Times on October 21, 2010.



DR. DEWEI LI with a giant puffball

**DR. TODD L. MERVOSH** gave a talk and demonstration on tree leaf identification and fall foliage to a group of senior citizens in East Granby (24 attendees) (October 8); and served as a session moderator, presented a talk "Management options for Japanese stiltgrass: research in a Connecticut woodland", and was a co-author [with DR. CAROLE CHEAH and Donna Ellis (UConn)] of a poster "Biological control of mile-a-minute weed in Connecticut" at the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (350 attendees) (October 14).

## Journal Articles Approved October 2010

**Ahrens, John F. and Todd L. Mervosh.** Further Experiments with Mesotrione for Postemergence Weed Control in Actively Growing Conifers. The Proceedings of the Northeastern Weed Science Society.

**Anagnostakis, Sandra L.** More than Chestnuts Roasting. CT Farm to Chef Newsletter.

**Anderson, John F., Francis J. Ferrandino, Douglas W. Dingman, A. J. Main, Theodore G. Andreadis,** and J. J. Becnel. Control of West Nile Virus Vectors in Catch Basins in Connecticut with Bacillus

Thuringiensis Israelensis, Bacillus Sphericus, and Spinosad. Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association.

Barolli, S. and **John F. Ahrens**. Herbicide Sprays for Container-grown Hydrangea. The Proceedings of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, Volume 65, 2011.

**Douglas, Sharon M.** Gymnosporangium Rusts: Common Cedar Rust Diseases in Connecticut. CAES Fact Sheet.

Duclos, J., **Rose Hiskes**, and **James A. LaMondia**. CAES Valley Laboratory CNLA Discovery and Education Garden Plant Information and Planting Map. Handout and CAES website publication.

**Elmer, Wade H.** and **Joseph J. Pignatello**. Biochar Amendment Enhances Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhizae Associations and Suppresses Fusarium Crown and Root Rot of Asparagus in Replant Soils. Plant Disease.

**Gent, Martin P. N.**, R. J. McAvoy. Water and Nutrient Uptake and Use Efficiency with Partial Saturation Ebb and Flow Watering. Journal of the American Society of Horticulture Science.

Gratz, **Walter J. Krol**, **Terri Arsenault**, and **Jason C. White**. Screening and Determination of PAHs in Seafood Using QuEChERS-Based Extraction and HPLC-FLD. Journal of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists International (J. AOAC Int.).

**LaMondia, James A.**, and **Charles R. Vossbrinck**. First Report of Target Spot of Tobacco Caused by *Rhizoctonia solani* (AG-3) in Massachusetts. Plant Disease.

McGraw, Benjamin A., P. J. Vittum, **Richard S. Cowles**, A. M. Koppenhofer. Entomopathogenic nematodes for the biological control of the annual bluegrass weevil. Golf Course Management.

## Articles of Interest October 2010



### CAES LOVE...

Former CAES seasonal employees Geoffrey Picard and Emily Kiesewetter were married on October 10, 2010 (10/10/10) in the Bird and Butterfly Garden at Lockwood Farm in Hamden. They were each seasonal employees in the Department of Forestry and Horticulture. Dr. Scott Williams, who introduced them to one another, officiated the ceremony.

**Congratulations Geoffrey and Emily!**



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