

# STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION



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STATION NEWS  
*PUTTING SCIENCE TO WORK FOR  
SOCIETY*

The mission of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific knowledge, improve agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well-being through research for the benefit of Connecticut residents and the nation. Seeking solutions across a variety of disciplines for the benefit of urban, suburban, and rural communities, Station scientists remain committed to "Putting Science to Work for Society", a motto as relevant today as it was at our founding in 1875.



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## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

### ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

**DR. JASON C. WHITE** participated in an Association of Public Health (APHL) organized conference call with Consumer Reports on a potential project to evaluate imported seafood for chemical contamination (August 6); hosted Captain Michael McLaughlin of the United States Public Health Service and the Food and Drug Administration for his 3-day visit (August 6-8); gave a presentation at the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Plant Science day entitled "Food safety research in the Department of Analytical Chemistry: Surveillance of fresh and manufactured foods for chemical contamination (August 7)(approximately 100 attendees); participated in a conference call with Professor Lee Newman of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) regarding the promotion of Ms. Wenjun Cai from a Master's degree program to a Ph.D. research program (August 9); agreed to serve on the Ph.D. committee of Ms. Wenjun Cai of SUNY ESF (August 9); with **MR. JOSEPH HAWTHORNE** met with Mr. Mark Struss of Millipore regarding installation of a new water purity system in the laboratory (August 15); served as a Thesis Committee member at the Master's Thesis defense of Ms. Rinda Soumya Mangu of the University of New Haven, which was entitled "The effect of functionalized carbon nanotubes on agricultural crops (zucchini and soybean)" (August 14); participated in an Organizational Committee conference call for the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> International Phytotechnologies Conference in Syracuse NY (August 15, 29), participated with **DR. BRIAN EITZER, MS. KITTIPATH PRAPAYOTIN-RIVEROS, MS. TERRI ARSENAULT, MR. CRAIG MUSANTE, MR. MICHAEL CAVADINI, DR. CHRSTINA ROBB, MR. JOSEPH HAWTHORNE AND DR. WALTER KROL** in the monthly FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement Program conference call and the monthly FDA ISO Accreditation conference call (August 15); participated with **DR. BRIAN EITZER, MS. KITTIPATH PRAPAYOTIN-RIVEROS, MS. TERRI ARSENAULT, MR. CRAIG MUSANTE, MR. MICHAEL CAVADINI, DR. CHRSTINA ROBB, MR. JOSEPH HAWTHORNE AND DR. WALTER KROL** in the Year 2 "Kick Off Call" for the FDA ISO Accreditation Program (August 25); and participated in a National Science Foundation webinar highlighting recently funded nanotechnology research (August 30).

**MR. JOSEPH HAWTHORNE** attended the Master's Thesis Defense of research collaborator, Rinda Soumya Mangu, entitled "The effect of functionalized carbon nanotubes on agricultural crops (zucchini and soybean)" at the University of New Haven (August 14).

### ENTOMOLOGY

**MS. TIA M. BLEVINS** attended the Understanding Audit training course provided by the USDA APHIS PPQ at their eastern regional office in Raleigh, NC. The course is an introduction to the audit process used as part of a systems-based certification approach to phytosanitary certification in USDA programs like the United States Nursery Certification Programs (USNCP), the United States Greenhouse Program, and the Customer Assisted Inspection Program (August 27-30).

**MR. MARK H. CREIGHTON** manned a booth at Plant Science Day and provided two technical demonstration talks to 172 people at Lockwood Farm in Hamden (August 7); was interviewed and did a photo shoot with The Day (New London) on the duties of the Apiary Inspector; also visited two locations and was videotaped performing honeybee hive inspections for clients (August 15); manned a booth and spoke about beekeeping and beekeeping challenges in Connecticut at the Wolcott County Fair (August 16-18); attended CAEE Professional Day at Southington High School and spoke with Ag-Science teachers about beekeeping, followed by a field



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component at the apiary at Lockwood Farm (August 21); was interviewed for an article on beekeeping by Kathryn Boughton of the Litchfield County Times; this article was reprinted in the Middletown Press (August 22).

**MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, with **MS. ROSE HISKES**, staffed a forest pest table at the Downtown Bridgeport Farmer's Market in Bridgeport (86 people stopped by the booth) (August 22); with **MS. ROSE HISKES**, staffed a forest pest table at the New London Farmer's Market in New London (86 people stopped by the booth) (August 28).

**MS. ROSE HISKES** staffed a forest pest table at the North End Hartford Farmer's Market in Hartford (57 people stopped by the booth) (August 21); with **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, staffed a forest pest table at the Downtown Bridgeport Farmer's Market in Bridgeport (86 people stopped by the booth) (August 22); with **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, staffed a forest pest table at the New London Farmer's Market in New London (86 people stopped by the booth) (August 28); with **MR. JAMES PRESTE**, worked to update the CNLA Discovery and Education Gardens at the Valley Lab in Windsor; worked with Robert Baker Nurseries (Suffield) and the Garden Barn Nursery (Vernon) to purchase needed plants (August 29); met with John Tetrault, Asplundh Tree Service Company, East Windsor, to discuss getting Connecticut Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer identification materials and contact information to their employees (August 30).

**DR. CHRIS T. MAIER** was interviewed about the survey for the 17-year periodical cicada by John Burgeson of The Connecticut Post (August 7).

**DR. GALE E. RIDGE** presented a talk about Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle to the West Haven Land Trust (25 attendees) (August 14); went on a collecting field trip to a chicken coup in Watertown. The chickens were infested with bird mites, a species of predatory Heteroptera on the mites, and the Common bed bug, *Cimex lectularius*. Additionally, the owner had a population of *C. lectularius* living in the folds of her bed skirt, which Dr. Ridge also collected (August 18); presented a talk about management and self-protection against bed bugs to numerous social agencies serving over 4,000 citizens in the state at the Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown (49 attendees) (August 21); did a field visit to a home in Wallingford to collect bat bugs, *Cimex adjunctus* (August 27); and was interviewed about West Nile virus on The Tad Show on Star 99.9 Radio (August 30).





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**DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH** participated in the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Plant Board, as outgoing Eastern Plant Board President, and in discussions on quarantine-significant pests and diseases, held at the Galt House in Louisville, KY (150 participants) (August 4-8); was interviewed about recent detections of Emerald ash borer by Mark Sims, CT Radio Network (August 12); was interviewed about recent detections of Emerald ash borer by the Meriden Record Journal (August 12); was interviewed about recent detections of Emerald ash borer by Bill Leukhardt of the Hartford Courant (August 12); was interviewed about the upcoming hearing on expansion of the Emerald ash borer quarantine boundaries by Quannah Leonard of the Waterbury Republican American (August 27); participated in a public forum at the Town Hall in Prospect on expansion of the existing quarantine boundaries for Emerald ash borer infestation (15 participants) (August 28).

**DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III** was interviewed about Plant Science Day and research at the Station by Ray Andrews, WQUN-1220 AM radio (August 1); was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer by Kate Mattiace, Citizen News, Fairfield (August 2); was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer by Bob Miller, Danbury News Times (August 19); was interviewed about ticks and Lyme disease by Pat Grandjean, Connecticut Magazine (August 21); was interviewed about the Giant Swallowtail by Mike Patrick, Republican American (August 29); was interviewed about West Nile virus and the potential for Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Wallingford by Eric Vo, Record-Journal (August 30).

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS** was interviewed about the detection of eastern equine encephalitis virus in Plainfield by Denise Coffey, Staff Writer ReminderNews (August 1); was interviewed for a feature story on the Station's Mosquito and Arbovirus Surveillance and Research Programs by William Weir Hartford Courant (August 1); was interviewed about the detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes from twelve towns in Connecticut by Jeff Valin, WTNH TV8 New Haven (August 7); was interviewed about West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis virus on the Mary Jones Show, WDRC AM Radio (August 8); was interviewed about the current status of West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis virus in Connecticut this summer by Jan Spiegel, Connecticut Mirror (August 15); was interviewed about the current status of West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis virus in Connecticut by Marc Sims, Connecticut Public Radio (August 20); met with State Representative Patricia Dillon, Robert Klee, DEEP Chief of Staff and New Haven Community Organizer, Stacy Spell to discuss the implementation of community Mosquito and West Nile virus workshops (August 20); was interviewed about the high levels of eastern equine encephalitis activity in the Pachaug State forest in Voluntown by Ayana Harry, Fox61 and Doug Green, NBC30 (August 22); was interviewed about the application of insecticides to kill mosquitoes infected with eastern equine encephalitis in the Pachaug State forest in Voluntown by Janice Steinhagen, Reminder News and Ken Markel, WTNH TV8 (August 27); was interviewed about the closing of the campgrounds application of insecticides to kill mosquitoes infected with eastern equine encephalitis in the Pachaug State forest in Voluntown and William Weir Hartford Courant (August 28); was interviewed about the first human case of West Nile virus in Straford, Connecticut for the 2013 season by Amanda Cuda, Connecticut Post; Fran Schneidau, CBS Radio, WTIC Radio; Sameea Kamal, Hartford Courant and Steven Singer, Associated Press (August 28).

**MR. GREGORY BUGBEE** Spoke on *Invasive Plants in Moodus Reservoir* at Town meeting held at the Moodus Sportsman's Club (approx. 75 attendees) (August 1).

## FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE

**MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY** gave a presentation on How Trees Grow to students from the Brown-Tufts Montessori School in Woodbury (15 students, 3 teachers) (June 3)

**MS. JOAN L. BRAVO** spoke with the staff at Gouveia's Winery in Wallingford on methods of installing side netting in a vineyard (August 21).



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**DR. MARTIN GENT** visited Richard Fu and colleagues at Agrivolution, a company developing vertical farming techniques at Univ. Connecticut Avery Point Campus, to discuss various technical aspects for production of hydroponic lettuce (August 6).

**DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD** visited Holbrook farm in Bethel and the Offinger farm in Wilton (August 21).

**DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS** was confirmed adjunct research professor status within the Department of Biology and Environmental Science at the University of New Haven (August 8); met with Dr. Morty Ortega and Dr. Tracy Rittenhouse at the University of Connecticut to discuss collaborative research and small mammal capture techniques demonstration (August 23).

**DR. JEFFREY WARD** advised Wallingford Center, Inc. on urban tree selection and planting (20 attendees) (August 6); participated in a Research Working Group for the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development in Hartford (August 9); interviewed about Japanese barberry by Quannah Leonard of the Waterbury Republican (August 16); participated in the CT DEEP Endangered Species Taxonomic Advisory Committee for Plants meeting in Marlborough (August 20); interviewed about running bamboo by Phyllis Swebilus of the New Haven Register (August 21); Harvard Forest tour (August 24); interviewed about early fall colors and forest health by Steve Grant for the Hartford Courant (August 28).

## PLANT PATHOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

**DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS** gave a report on Experiment Station chestnut research at the annual meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association in East Lansing, MI (August 10-14).

**DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS** presented a poster titled "Efficacy of sanitizing agents to refine best management practices for the boxwood blight pathogen, *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*," met with members of the Boxwood Blight Working Group, and participated in a meeting of NPDN laboratories at the Annual Meeting of The American Phytopathological Society held in Austin, TX (August 10-15); was interviewed about premature fall color and why many trees are stressed by weather events by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (August 27).

**DR. WADE H. ELMER** presented a paper titled "Comparison of the *Fusarium* species composition between a New England and Chinese salt marsh affected by dieback and climate change" (34 attendees), attended and participated in the Divisional Forum for APS, and the Widely Prevalent Fungi Committee where he serves as the Northeast regional representative at the Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society held in Austin, TX (August 11-14). In addition, he moderated a new APS symposium that he helped develop and sponsor titled "Showcasing the Outstanding Graduate Student from the divisions." **Megan McConnell**, a past summer assistant who worked in the PDIO, was chosen by the Potomac Division of APS as one of the best Graduate student presentations. She is pursuing her Ph.D. at the University of Maryland.



Top graduate students from the six American Phytopathological divisions.

Megan McConnell (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and Wade Elmer (right).



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**DR. ROBERT E. MARRA** attended a workshop titled “Comparative Fungal Genomics with MycoCosm,” was the lead author on a poster titled “Molecular diagnostics for the boxwood blight fungus, *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*: strategies for early detection,” and was an author on an oral presentation titled “Population genomic RAD-Seq characterization of the boxwood blight fungus, *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*” at the joint annual meetings of the American Phytopathological Society and the Mycological Society of America held in Austin, TX (August 10-14).

## VALLEY LABORATORY

**DR. CAROLE CHEAH** conducted a webinar titled “Biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid: a Connecticut Perspective” as part of the 2013 New York Statewide Invasive Species Series (June 26) (20), to be posted to Youtube NY Invasives Channel; was interviewed, together with Donna Ellis of University of Connecticut by the Ridgefield Patch and by the Voice in Woodbury during new releases of the imported weevil, *Rhinoncomimus latipes* on town lands in Ridgefield and Woodbury, for biological control of the invasive mile-a-minute weed (July 18).

**DR. RICHARD COWLES** participated in a spotted wing drosophila update for the Cooperative Extension Fruit Specialist berry conference call, (15 attendees) (August 5); presented a tent talk "Spotted wing drosophila management for home gardeners" and the related field exhibit "Trapping spotted wing drosophila" at Plant Science Day, Hamden (August 7); discussed "Christmas tree insect pests," at the CCTGA twilight meeting, Durham (40 attendees) (August 1); and spoke about "How to apply insect pathogenic nematodes to manage white grubs," at a workshop for school grounds maintenance staff sponsored by UConn, East Haddam, CT (50 attendees) (August 15).

**DR. JAMES LAMONDIA** conducted a tour of Valley Laboratory research plots and discussed plant pathology research with Keith Burnell, R&D Scientist for Syngenta (August 2); was interviewed about the current status of the shade and broadleaf tobacco crops by Robin Helrich of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service (August 13); and led a tour of the Valley Laboratory and Research Farm and discussed CAES and Valley Laboratory research and service to agriculture for Bryan Hurlburt, State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency, and Ross Eddy and Devon Marsden of the FSA (August 21).

**DR. TODD L. MERVOSH** participated in tree inventory training sessions as part of the Master Tree Plan for Main Street in Suffield (August 14 and 28); and participated in an IR-4 Project regional priority setting meeting for pest management needs in specialty food and ornamental crops in Albany, NY (August 20).



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## GRANT AWARDS AUGUST 2013

**Kirby C. Stafford III**, with co-investigators **Scott C. Williams**, **Goudarz Molaei**, and postdoctoral scientist **Laura E. Hayes**, received authorization with full funding (\$300,000) for the second year of the project titled "An Integrated and Individual Tick Management Program to Reduce the Risk of Lyme Disease" (\$900,000 total for three years, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

## JOURNAL ARTICLES APPROVED AUGUST 2013

**Cowles, Richard S.** Pollinator safety and neonicotinoid use in Christmas tree culture. Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Newsletter

**De La Torre-Roche, Roberto, Joseph R. Hawthorne**, Deng, Xing, Cai, Newman, Wang, Ma, Hamdi, **Jason C. White**. Multiwalled Carbon Nanotubes and C<sub>60</sub> Fullerenes Differentially Impact the Accumulation of Weathered Pesticides in Four Agricultural Plants. Environmental Science and Technology

**Eitzer, Brian D.**, W. Hammack, M. Filigenzi. Interlaboratory Validation of a General Method to Screen Food and Beverages for Pesticides Using QuEChERS Extraction with High Performance Liquid Chromatography and High Resolution Mass Spectrometry. Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry

**Li, De-Wei.** *Triadelphia acericola* sp. nov. and a synopsis of the genus *Triadelphia*. Mycological Progress

**Ward, Jeffrey S.**, T. E. Worthley, P. J. Smallidge, K. P. Bennett. Northeastern Forest Regeneration Handbook, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. USDA Forest Service

**Ward, Jeffrey S.**, T. E. Worthley, P. J. Smallidge, K. P. Bennett. Northeastern Forest Regeneration Handbook, revised. USA Forest Service NA-TP-03-06

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*Putting Science to work  
for Society.*



Entrance to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven on Huntington Street



Main Laboratories, New Haven



Lockwood Farm, Hamden



Griswold Research Center, Griswold



Valley Laboratory, Windsor

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