

# Station News

A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

## **Departmental News**

### **DR. SANDRA ANAGNOSTAKIS HONORED**

Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis was honored as a finalist for the *2008 Women of Innovation Award* sponsored by the Connecticut Technology Center. The awards banquet and ceremony was held at Aqua Turf in Plantsville on 31 January 2008. Now in its fourth year, this annual event honors Connecticut women for their achievements as small business owners, entrepreneurs, researchers, community leaders, and innovators. Biographies of the finalists in each of eight categories were included in the printed program and the finalists were introduced during the ceremony. Over 600 attendees heard remarks from the Honorable Nancy Wyman, Comptroller, State of Connecticut and others. Pam Sletten attended the ceremony as Sandy's guest. Although Sandy was not selected as the final awardee in her category of community innovation and leadership, she was presented with a plaque and a signed *Official Citation* from Connecticut's Attorney General, Richard Blumenthal.



Pam Sletten and Sandy Anagnostakis at awards banquet.



Finalists in Sandy's category of community innovation and leadership.

### **THE EXPERIMENT STATION PARTICIPATES IN GREEN INDUSTRY MEETINGS**

The Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association (CNLA) and the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association (CGGA) Winter Meeting were held 15-16 January 2008, and the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (CTPA) Annual Meeting was held 17 January 2008 in Waterbury and Plantsville, CT, respectively. The Station had an informational display on the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) at both meetings organized by Rose Hiskes, the new State Survey Coordinator. This booth highlighted exotic insects and diseases. The Station also had a large educational booth at the CTPA meeting that was organized by Dr. Sharon Douglas. Meeting attendees asked questions, tested their knowledge of tree diseases by taking the "Disease Quiz", and viewed displays of conifer diseases and insect pests of trees such as Asian Longhorned Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer.

At the CNLA/CGGA meeting on January 16th, three Experiment Station staff; Richard Cecarelli, Michael McHill, and Jeffrey Fengler, received their certificates as Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professionals (CANP).

They took the course and passed the rigorous CANP exam, which had a passing rate of less than 30% of the 102 enrolled in the course. Michael Short proctored the exam and assisted with distributing the certificates.

Congratulations to our new accredited nursery professionals! Also attending the CNLA/CGGA meeting from CAES were Drs. Kirby Stafford, Sharon Douglas, DeWei Li, Botand Balogh, and Martin Gent and Nursery Inspectors Peter Trenchard, Stephen Sandrey, and Tia Blevins.

At the CTPA Meeting, members honored Dr. Jeffrey S. Ward with a *Certificate of Merit* for his many years of service to the organization. Dr. Ward stepped down from the CTPA Board of Directors, where he served as President in 2004 and 2005. Dr. Sharon Douglas was voted to replace Dr. Ward on the CTPA Board during the business meeting. Assisting at the CAES booth were Thomas Rathier, Rose Hiskes, Mary Inman, and Drs. Chris Maier, Botand Balogh, and Sharon Douglas. Also in attendance were Drs. Louis Magnarelli, Kirby Stafford, and James LaMondia.



## **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI participated in the Legislative Invasive Plants Council meeting in Windsor and spoke about public input on invasive plants (January 8); attended a Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities meeting in Hartford and answered questions about the Station's Affirmative Action Plan (January 10); welcomed 18 participants of the Greenhouse Growers meeting in Jones Auditorium (18 participants) (January 11); and attended a New Haven County Farm Bureau meeting and spoke about Experiment Station research programs (January 15).

## **Analytical Chemistry**

DR. DAVID STILWELL and MR. JOHN RANCIATO hosted the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Community Gardeners Association (CCGA) (January 29).

## **Entomology**

MS ROSE BONITO participated in the CT DEP statewide eagle count for the section of the Quinnipiac River covering the towns of New Haven, Hamden, and North Haven (January 11).

MS. ROSE HISKES was interviewed by Judy Benson, of the New London Day, about multicolored Asian lady beetle (January 11); gave a talk on 'Insect Pests of Tree & Shrubs' to a Lesco Seminar preparing landscapers for the Ornamentals & Turf pesticide exam in Norwalk (100 attendees) (January 15); staffed a Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) booth at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association

winter meeting in Waterbury (500 attendees) (January 16); staffed the Station Question and Answer booth and set up a CAPS information table with DR. CHRIS MAIER at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association winter meeting in Southington (850 attendees) (January 17); gave a talk on 'Houseplants' at the New England General Store in Farmington (25 attendees) (January 19); participated in a Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group symposium planning committee meeting in Windsor (January 22) and participated in a planning meeting for putting the 'Pesticide Guide toward Integrated Pest Management for Connecticut Arborists' by MR. KENNETH WELCH and MR. TIMOTHY ABBEY on the web at the Department of Information Technology offices in East Hartford (January 22).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER discussed the decline in bees and rare species while visiting John Ascher at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY (January 7); discussed longhorned beetles in Connecticut with Phil Perkins at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, MA (January 16); presented a poster on "Something Old and Something New" at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington (January 17); and was interviewed by Pamela Weil for an article to appear in the Connecticut Gardener (January 22).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE attended the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America Presented a poster entitled 'Mating behavior of the Emerald Ash Borer and two native con-geners' with co-author Juli Gould, USDA-APHIS Otis Pest Detection Laboratory, Otis Airforce Base, MA; also gave an invited talk at a symposium entitled 'Connections with plants: Lady beetle responses to crop characteristics' co-authored by Sanford Eigenbrode, Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow ID (December 9-12); and presented a lecture written by MS. GALE RIDGE at the National Pest Management Association's Eastern Conference entitled 'Bed bugs, the Wraiths in the Night and Delusory Parasitosis' at Foxwoods Casino and Resort in Ledyard, CT (January 17).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the Winter Meeting of the National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee, as a representative of the Eastern Plant Board, held at USDA-APHIS PPQ Regional Headquarters in Raleigh, NC (30 participants) (January 14-17) and was interviewed by Pamela Weil of Connecticut Gardener Magazine, on the recent chrysanthemum white rust outbreak (January 23).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III participated as administrative advisor in the technical meeting of Multi-State Project NE-1031 on potato breeding and variety development (January 7-8); was interviewed by Bill Weir, Hartford Courant, about honey bees in Connecticut (January 11); was interviewed by Judy Benson, New London Day, about winter tick activity (January 11); was interviewed by Noa Nguyen, Greenwich Times, about deer control for Lyme disease (January 11); attended the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Meeting at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury, Connecticut (January 16); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protection Association annual meeting in Plantsville, Connecticut (January 17); spoke on Pest Management: Ticks and Lyme Disease at the Organic Land Care Course in Leominster, MA (75 attendees) (January 18); was interviewed by Kathryn Boulton, Litchfield County Times, about deer management for tick control (January 22); was interviewed by Joy Ledwell, Easton Courier, about Lyme Disease and case rates (January 22); interviewed by Cindy Bishop, independent film producer, about Lyme disease and deer (January 22); was interviewed by Brigitte Ruthman, Republic American, about deer management for tick control (January 23); and spoke on Pest Management: Ticks and Lyme Disease at the Organic Land Care Course in the Jones Auditorium (90 attendees) (January 25).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a retreat of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Lockwood Farm (January 5); participated in the joint meeting of the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association, and the American Bee Research Conference; participated in the meeting of multi-state project, NC 508 Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Honey Bee Health, Sacramento, CA (January 8 – 12); presented a talk, "Threats to the Health of Bees," as part of the Environment and Conservation forum at Heritage Village, Southbury, CT (60 people) (January 16); taught "Insect Management in Organic Land Care" at the Massachusetts NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course, Leominster, MA (76 people) (January 18); taught "Organic Land Care Principles" at the Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course, New Haven (90 people) (January 23); and taught "Insect Management in Organic Land Care" at the Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course, New Haven (90 people) (January 25).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY WARD along with MR. J.P. BARSKY, attended the annual meeting of Connecticut Chapter-Society of American Foresters in Haddam (January 8); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (January 9); spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (48 students) (January 9); along with MR. J.P. BARSKY, provided a field demonstration of a propane torch for the New Hartford Conservation Commission (12 attendees) (January 12); attended the 86th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plainville (January 17); spoke on "Homeowner tree and shrub care" for the Mystic Garden Club (50 attendees) (January 22); presented an invited lecture on "Forest restoration strategies" at the Pennsylvania DCNR Winter Forest Management Meeting in State College, PA (250 attendees) (January 23); spoke on "Dispersal of exotic species by white-tailed deer in Connecticut" Bowman's Wildflower Preserve in New Hope, PA (50 attendees) (January 27); interviewed about leaf drop by Bryan Mandel of the Waterbury Republican (January 28); and spoke on "Our urban trees - what we have - what we could lose" at the 2008 Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference (120 attendees) (January 31).

DR. MARTIN GENT presented a poster on "Effect of Shade on Water and Nutrient Use in Greenhouse Tomato" at the Northeast Region American Society for Horticultural Science meeting at Rutgers University in New Brunswick NJ (40 attendees) (January 2-5); attended the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Winter Symposium at Naugatuck Valley College (January 16); and attended the Steering Committee meeting of the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference (January 22).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke on "New Crops research" at a Hamden Hall Country Day School biology class (15 students, 1 adult) (January 10); attended a meeting of the DEP's Solid Waste Advisory Committee in Hartford (January 22); attended a meeting of the Composting and Organics Subcommittee in Hartford (January 22); and reported on Station activities at a quarterly meeting the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor (12 attendees) (January 24).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (January 7); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut State Consulting Committee for Agriculture Education at the Glastonbury Agriculture Science Center (January 15); participated in a grape IPM workshop at the New Haven County Extension Center in North Haven (January 18); and spoke on "Cultural Approaches to Disease Management" for a grower's workshop at Jonathan Edwards Winery in North Stonington (18 people attendees) (January 29).

MR. J.P. BARSKY along with MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS, attended the Advanced Microsoft Excel Data and Functions class at Manchester Community College (January 22) and participated in the New England Society of American Foresters Executive Committee Meeting in Concord, NH (January 24).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT attended the CNLA and CGGA Winter Symposium in Waterbury (January 16) and participated in an Education Committee meeting of the CNLA in East Haven (January 20).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS was interviewed by Chrystal Haynes from WTNH Channel 8 about horses as dispersers of exotic seeds (January 15); spoke on "Impacts of Overabundant White-Tailed Deer on Forested Ecosystems" at the Annual Recreation Permit Holders Meeting at the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority Headquarters in New Haven (45 attendees) (January 16); and interviewed by Rachael Scarborough King of the New Haven Register on the impacts of horses to trails, specifically soil disturbance and exotic seed dispersal (January 21).

## **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS judged exhibits in the Edible Nut Division at the 2008 Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA (January 4) and visited with Peter del Tredici and measured and sampled butternut, heartnut, and chestnut trees in the collection at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, MA (January 28).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH attended the Winter Meeting of the CNLA/CGGA at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury (January 16); attended the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington (January 17); and attended the Connecticut Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers Conference in Vernon (January 24).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS attended the Winter Meeting of the CNLA/CGGA and discussed disease problems in production with growers at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury (800 adult attendees) (January 16); attended the Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, organized the CAES booth, and was elected as a new member of the CTPA Board of Directors at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington (832 adult attendees) (January 17); presented a lecture on "Understanding plant disease" as part of the NOFA Organic Land Care Study Course (80 adult attendees) (January 28); participated in a committee meeting for the "Director's Report" (January 29); gave an invited lecture entitled "Recognition and management of diseases of perennials" at the 2008 Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference sponsored by the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford (165 adult attendees) and answered questions from grounds keepers about diseases throughout the meeting (1,000 adult attendees) (January 31).

DR. WADE H. ELMER hosted and moderated the 2008 UCONN-CAES Bedding Plant Meetings and presented a talk entitled "Emerging bedding plant diseases" in Jones Auditorium (21 adult attendees) (January 11); attended the Winter Meeting of the CNLA/CGGA at Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury (January 16); and attended the Connecticut Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers Conference in Vernon (January 24).

MS. MARY K. INMAN participated in the CAES booth at the Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington (825 adult attendees) (January 17).

## **Soil and Water**

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE setup and staffed the CAES booth at the Connecticut Groundskeepers Conference in Hartford (January 31).

DR. MICHELLE MARKO presented a talk entitled *Status of the Milfoil Weevil in Connecticut Lakes* at the 9th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society held in West Dover, VT (January 15-16).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY attended a meeting of the Connecticut Geospatial Council as the Station's representative and a meeting on RAMONA, a GIS inventory system, held at the Connecticut Department of Information Technology (January 23) and staffed a booth featuring information on the Station and the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program at the 2008 Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford (January 31).

## **Valley Laboratory**

DR. JOHN AHRENS attended the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual meetings of the Northeastern Weed Science in Philadelphia, PA (January 7-10) and presented a paper co-authored with DR. TODD MERVOSH on 'Tolerance of Fraser Fir to Herbicides Applied Before and After Bud Break'; also co-authored a paper with DR. TODD MERVOSH on 'Tolerances of Container-Grown Ornamentals to Experimental and Registered Herbicides'; spoke about 'Application Strategies- Ornamental Herbicides' (200 attendees) (January 22); and participated in a workshop for nurserymen at the Ohio State University Short Course, speaking about 'Weed Control in Containers' (40 attendees) (January 29).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Biology and Management of White Grubs," at the LESCO Co. winter educational seminar series, South Windsor (30 attendees) (January 9), met with the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents Board of Directors, Berlin (12 attendees) (January 14), presented "Annual Bluegrass Weevil: Can We Find the Kryptonite for Superweevils," at the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents winter educational meeting, Berlin (200 attendees) (January 15), "Introduction to Insects

and Organic Management of Insect Pests of Trees and Shrubs," and "Organic Management of Turf Insect Pests," at the Massachusetts NOFA Organic Land Care Course, Leominster, MA (78 attendees) (January 22), "Organic Management of Turf Insect Pests," at the Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Course, New Haven (80 attendees) (January 28), "Biology and Management of Turf Insect Pests" a 2-hour course for the Connecticut Groundskeepers' Association, Hartford (100 attendees) (January 30), and "Organic Management of Turf Insect Pests," and "Biology and Management of White Grubs," for the CGKA, Hartford, (80 attendees) (January 31).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA attended the winter meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington, CT (January 17); participated in the meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council in Windsor (January 22); spoke to students and parents about research and services conducted at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Valley Laboratory during the Windsor Schools Science exposition held at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Windsor (150 students and parents) (January 25); and conducted a day-long train-the-trainer NE-SARE Professional Development Program Workshop on 'Diagnosis, Visual Assessment and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruit in the Northeast' in Hershey PA (12 persons) (January 28).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about his research on "Tolerances of container-grown ornamentals to experimental and registered herbicides" at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society in Philadelphia, PA (35 attendees) (January 10); spoke about weed management strategies for lawns and landscapes at a seminar organized by LESCO-John Deere in Meriden (80 attendees) (January 16); participated in a meeting about mile-a-minute vine in New Milford (10 attendees) (January 18); and participated in a symposium planning committee meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Lab (10 attendees) (January 22).

## **Journal Articles Approved January 2008**

Anderson, John F., Francis J. Ferrandino, S. McKnight, J. Nolin, and J. Miller. A Carbon Dioxide, Heat, and Chemical Lure Pitfall Trap for Capturing Bed Bugs, *Cimex lectularius* (Hemiptera: Cimicidae). Journal of Medical Entomology.

Cowles, Richard S. Optimizing dosage and preventing leaching of imidacloprid for managing hemlock woolly adelgids in forests. Forest Ecology and Management.

Elmer, Wade H. Fighting Fusarium on Cut Flowers. The Cut Flower Quarterly.

Elmer, Wade H. Integrated strategies for suppressing Fusarium diseases of ornamentals. Abstract, 10<sup>th</sup> Intl. Fusarium Workshop and Fusarium Genomics Workshop 2008, Sardinia, Italy, 8/30-9/2, 2008.

Elmer, Wade H., James A. LaMondia, Robert E. Marra, and F. Caruso. Incidence and characterization of plant pathogens in New England salt marshes affected by Sudden Vegetation Dieback. Abstract, Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, 10 March 2008, UCONN, Storrs.

Elmer, Wade H. and Robert E. Marra. Characterization of *Fusarium* species on *Spartina alterniflora* by morphology, pathogenicity, and phylogeny. Abstract, 10<sup>th</sup> Intl. Fusarium Workshop and Fusarium Genomics Workshop 2008, Sardinia, Italy, 8/30-9/2 2008.

Hiskes, Rose. Winter Moth – *Operophtera brumata*. CT Gardener.

LaMondia, James A. and Wade H. Elmer. Ecological Relationships Between *Meloidogyne spartinae* and Salt Marsh Grasses in Connecticut. Journal of Nematology.

Marra, Robert E. *Phytophthora ramorum* and Sudden Oak Death: Is Connecticut at Risk? Abstract, Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, 10 March 2008, UCONN, Storrs.

Mervosh, Todd L. and John F. Ahrens. Safety and Efficacy of Flumioxazin as a Preemergence herbicide in Nursery Containers. Weed Science Society of America, Abstracts. Vol. 48 (2008).

Molaei, Goudarz, Theodore G. Andreadis, Philip M. Armstrong and Maria Diuk-Wasser. Host Feeding Patterns of Mosquito Vectors of Arboviral Agents in Connecticut, USA: Molecular Analysis of Blood Meals from Twenby-three Species of Aedes, Anopheles, Culex, Coquillettidia, Ochlerotatus, Psorophora, and Uranotaenia. Journal of Medical Entomology.

White, Jason C. Phytoremediation: Using Plants to Remove Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) From Soil. Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report.

Zelennikova, O., Jason C. White, B. Smets. Plant Host, Age, and Soil Car Tar Contamination Impact the Rhizosphere Microbial Community Structure of Wheat and Zucchini. FEMS Microbial Ecology.

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