

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

Departmental News



CONNECTICUT FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Here are some visitors happy to see our live honey bee display at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show on February 22nd – 25th at the Connecticut Convention Center in Harford. This year we had Mr. Ira Kettle, Ms. Rose Bonito, Ms. Lisa Kaczinski, Mr. Peter Trenchard, Dr. Todd Mervosh, and Mr. Stephen Sandrey helping with our display. They did a terrific job for The Station.

Image taken by Ms. Rose Bonito

A LOOK BACK By Ms. Joan L. Bravo

86 Years ago

November 30, 1921 was the 86th anniversary of Valley Laboratory.

54 Years ago

When Paul J. Anderson retired in **1953**, the **Tobacco Laboratory** changed from a separate department to an arm of the director's office with the staff as members of various departments.

52 Years ago

In **1955**, renovation of Osborne library was completed.(\$81,553.47) and a formal dedication occurred on September 28, 1955.

\$420,400 appropriated by the Legislature to construct new office and laboratories at the station.

42 Years ago

In **1965**, the Tobacco Laboratory in Windsor was renamed the **Valley Laboratory**.

40 Years ago

On **July 15, 1967**, Dr. Horsfall received a letter from United States President Lyndon B. Johnson for his service on the National Advisory Commission on Food and Fiber. The commission presented the report to Vice President Humphrey in Washington. (Further reading can be found on page 22 of the Record of the Year for 1967).

37 Years ago

On **Plant Science Day** in 1970, a new program of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council honoring families that have maintained successful farm operations in this State for a hundred years or longer was initiated (now called the **Century Farm Award**). Dr. Horsfall presented citations from Governor Dempsey to Willard J. Stearns & Sons (dairy farm in Mansfield) and Kendrick Brothers, Inc. (tobacco farm in Windsor).

24 Years ago

On **September 25, 1983**, the Staff of the Valley Laboratory prepared a float for a six-hour parade

in the Town of Windsor's for its 350th birthday. The tractor-drawn float was driven by Richard Horvath. It featured a replica of the Valley Laboratory and a tobacco shed surrounded by Christmas trees, turf, tobacco and other crops. The sign on the float said, "The First Station Salutes the First Town." Float preparations were made by Richard Horvath, John F. Ahrens, Xavier Asbridge, Lila De Robertis, Robert Moore, Victor Ortiz, Thomas Rathier, Michael Sarchuk, Gordon Taylor and John Winiarski.

At the **August 10th 1983** Board of Control meeting, Dr. Lester Hankin was appointed Chief Analytical Chemist on the retirement of Mr. J. Gordon Hanna.

On **December 16, 1983**, the Board of Control established the new department *Plant Pathology and Ecology* and Dr. Donald E. Aylor was named Chief of the new department.

TOBACCO RESEARCH MEETING HELD AT SUFFIELD VO-AG CENTER

About one hundred and forty five people attended the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's annual Tobacco Research Meeting held at the Suffield High School

auditorium on February 21, 2007. Drs. James LaMondia and Lou Magnarelli, Director of the Station, welcomed growers. The meeting addressed many topics of concern to growers. Dr. Magnarelli gave growers an overview of research and services at the Experiment Station, Dr. James LaMondia 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. Mr. Thomas Rathier spoke about nutrient management under plasticulture, black root rot and diagnostic problems in 2006. Dr. Todd Mervosh spoke about herbicide effects on tobacco. Mr. Jeremy Forrett spoke about updates and changes in the insurance program and Mr. Ross Eddy of the Farm Services Administration provided updates on their services to growers. Ms. Robin Helrich and Mr. Travis Averill of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service provided updates on their services to growers. Ms. Jane Canepa-Morrison and Mr. James Preste assisted with much of the behind the scenes work for the meeting. The meeting qualified for pesticide applicator recertification credit in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. Posters on 'disease management using plant genetic resistance' and 'Seed production to maintain resistance and cultivar identity' were presented.

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI as Chairman, conducted a meeting of the Legislative Invasive Plants Council in Hartford (February 13); gave a talk on Station research to tobacco growers at Suffield High School (February 21); testified at an Appropriations Hearing in Hartford and reported on Station research accomplishments (February 22); and was interviewed by Rebecca Ransome of the Litchfield County Times about snow and the survival of plants and insects (February 27).

Analytical Chemistry

Biochemistry and Genetics

DR. RICHARD PETERSON is on a sabbatical leave conducting joint research with Dr. Agu Laisk of the University of Tartu on the role of the psbS protein in protection of the photosynthetic apparatus from oxidative damage. Dr. Peterson presented a lecture on "Spectroscopy of Photosynthetic Pigment Proteins" to scientists at the University's Institute of Physics (February 1).

Entomology

MS. ROSE BONITO set-up a display and worked our exhibit at the 26th Annual Flower & Garden Show at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford (February 22-25).

MR. IRA KETTLE worked at our exhibit at the 26th Annual Flower & Garden Show at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford (February 22-25).

MS. ROSE HISKES was interviewed by Bob Miller of the Danbury News-Times about weather and insects (January 8), staffed the CAES booth at the winter meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington (January 18), gave a talk on 'Insects' to the YWCA after school program at Annie Fisher School in Hartford (30 attendees) (January 19), and participated in a Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group steering committee meeting in Windsor (January 30).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke on "Alien Insects That Could Threaten Forest Health" at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (ca. 35 attendees) (February 22).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE taught class at Bartlett's Arboretum for aspiring arborists "Introduction to IPM and insects attacking trees", Stamford (18 attendees) (February 15), taught class in CTPA's "Aboriculture 101" "Insects attacking trees and shrubs", Jones Auditorium, New Haven (50 attendees) (February 21); participated in 'Forest Health Monitoring Workshop', gave talk "Emerald Ash Borer and European Wood Wasp Surveys in 2006", Jones Auditorium, New Haven (35 attendees) (February 22); and gave a phone interview to New York Times reporter about Emerald Ash Borer (February 27).

MR. STEPHEN SANDREY answered questions from the public and manned display at the 2007 Hartford Flower & Garden Show (February 24).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a meeting of the CAPS-Early Detection & Rapid Response team, held at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, NH; (approximately 30 participants) (February 6) and organized the annual Forest Health Workshop, held in the Jones Auditorium, and presented two talks titled "Gypsy Moth Outbreaks of 2005 and 2006" and "*P. ramorum* Survey Activity for 2006 and 2007" (approximately 30 participants) (February 22).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke on Pest Management: Ticks and Lyme Disease at the NOFA Annual Course in Organic Land Care in Jones Auditorium (70 participants) (February 5); welcomed state foresters and staff from USDA-PPQ to our annual Forest Health Workshop in Jones Auditorium (30 participants) (February 22); provided a research update on tick control to the Ledge Light Health District Advisory Committee as part of the Community Lyme Disease Prevention Project (15 participants) (February 23); spoke on the relationship between deer and Lyme disease and vehicle collisions and participated on an expert panel on wildlife issues at the Westport Weston Health District Wildlife Symposium opening plenary session in Weston (40 participants) (February 27); and was interviewed by Janice Podsada, Hartford Courant, about honey bees and colony collapse disorder (February 28).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented the "Insect Mangement in Organic Land Care" and "Tick Management and Lyme Disease" at the NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course in Massachusetts, Leominster, MA (60 participants) (January 11); co-organized the "Getting Started in Organic Farming" Conference and presented the introduction and welcome to the Experiment Station, New Haven (60 participants) (January 13); participated in a round-table for the organizing meeting of the Connecticut Women's Agricultural Network, Mercy Center, Madison (25 participants) (January 20); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Vernon (25 participants) (January 21); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (9 participants) (January 23); presented a talk on "Organic Management of Insect Pests of Crucifers" and participated in a forum on organic management of insect pests of vegetables at the NOFA-NY Conference, Syracuse, NY (50 participants) (January 26); and presented "Introduction to Organic Land Care" at the NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course in Connecticut, New Haven (60 participants) (January 31).

MS. HEIDI STUBER worked at our exhibit at the 26th Annual Flower & Garden Show at the Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford (February 23).

MR. PETER TRENCHARD attended CNLA Winter Meeting, Mountainside Resort, Wallingford (January 4); spoke about Digital Aerial Sketch Mapping at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop at CAES, New

Haven (February 22); and worked the exhibit at the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, Hartford (February 23-24).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY S. WARD chaired Connecticut Forest Council- research committee meeting in Middlefield (February 7); along with SCOTT C. WILLIAMS, meet with ConnDOT officials to discuss deer vehicle collisions (2 attendees) (February 9); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Britain (February 13); attended annual meeting of the Yankee Society of American Foresters in Enfield (February 15); spoke on "Barberry control research" at 12th annual Forest Health Monitoring Workshop in Jones Auditorium (24 attendees) (February 22); meet with Christina Berger, Connecticut DEP, to advise on tree care standards (February 23); spoke on "Barberry control research" at a town meeting in Redding (6 attendees) (February 26); interviewed by Chris Graef of the New York Times on the impact of invasive species on forests (February 26).

DR. MARTIN P.N. GENT visited with Sali Barole of Imperial Nurseries to discuss possible collaboration in studies of the effect of growth regulators on rhododendron during propagation. (February 8).

DR. ABIGAIL A. MAYNARD attended the 6th Annual Connecticut Organic Land Care course sponsored by the Connecticut and Massachusetts Chapters of NOFA in Jones Auditorium (January 31-February 6).

DR. WILLIAM R. NAIL along with DR. WALTER J. KROL, met with three winegrape growers to discuss CAES library and analytical resources (February 20); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Grape and Wine Association at the Valley Laboratory (February 21); met with Jamie Jones to discuss cultivar and site selection (February 21); attended the Viticulture 2007 conference and New York Wine Industry Workshop in Rochester, NY (February 7-9).

MR. J.P. BARSKY attended annual meeting of the Yankee Society of American Foresters in Enfield (February 15).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT participated in an Education Committee meeting of the CT Nursery and Landscape Association in Cromwell (February 15).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS visited with Bryan Connolly to discuss possible collaborative research on deer and invasive plant species (February 2); presented an invited lecture "Exotic Seed Dispersal by White-tailed Deer in Connecticut" at the Annual Meeting of the Invasive Plant Council of New York State (50 attendees) (February 7); spoke with Girl Scout Emily Pepe of Wallingford, CT about white-tailed deer research and invasive plants to help her to earn her Wildlife Interest Project Award toward her Gold Award (Eagle Scout Equivalent) (February 23).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS reported on her research on chestnut, butternut, and black birch at the Forest Health Meeting in Jones (40 adults attended) (February 22).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a lecture on "Understanding plant diseases" as part of the NOFA Organic Land Care Certification course (60 adults attended) (February 5); participated in an exercise sponsored by the Northeast Plant Diagnostic Network (NEPDN) about an infestation by the emerald ash borer; conference calls (February 7 and February 26); gave a presentation entitled "General care and common problems of houseplants" for the West Hartford Garden Club (75 adults attended) (February 8); was interviewed about Southern Blight of Hosta by Pamela Weil of The Connecticut Gardener newsletter (February 9); was interviewed about the impact of no snow and quirky weather on agriculture and plants in Connecticut by Bridgette Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican-American (February 20); participated in a

conference call with members of NEPDN about lab accreditation and strategies for the future (February 21); gave a seminar on "The Home Orchard" at the Connecticut Flower Show at the Convention Center in Hartford (35 adults and 2 youths attended) (February 23); and was interviewed about ash decline and street trees in Greenwich by the Greenwich Time (February 26).

DR. WADE H. ELMER gave the presentation entitled "Diagnosing, preventing, and managing bedding plant diseases" at the Bedding Plant Meeting in Tolland (28 adults attended) (February 1); sponsored David Rochford, a student at Cheshire High School, for a half day of career shadowing (February 2); was visited by Dr. Frank Caruso of the University of Massachusetts to discuss funding proposals for wetland dieback (February 7); presented an invited seminar entitled "The possible role of plant pathogens in sudden wetland dieback" at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA (17 adults attended) (February 20); and presented a talk entitled "Diagnosing, preventing, and managing bedding plant diseases" at the Bedding Plant Meeting in Torrington (24 adult attendees) (February 27).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the recent discovery of the overwintering mechanisms of West Nile virus by Marc Sims, CT Public Radio (February 28).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke at the Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference at Adrian's Landing in Hartford on "Managing Nuisance Vegetation in Lakes and Ponds" (approx. 75 people in audience) (February 1); staffed a Station booth at the Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference at the Connecticut Convention Center (February 1); gave a seminar at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford, entitled "An Arborists Guide to Soils" (approx. 35 attendees) (February 8); gave Lunch Club talk on "Aliens From the Deep: CAES Invasive Aquatic Plant Program. (approx 25 attendees) (February 13); and participated in a meeting of the Lake Candlewood Technical Committee held at the headquarters of First Light Power Resources (formerly Northeast Utilities) in Sherman (February 20).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY staffed a Station booth at the Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference at the Connecticut Convention Center (February 1); gave two workshops at the University of New Haven on the identification of invasive aquatic plants to about 60 students participating in the Connecticut Envirothon (February 3); talked about the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program's website during a lunch club at the Station (February 13); and met with First Light Power officials and representatives from the DEP and Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar Lakes in New Milford to discuss the invasive plants in the three lakes and possible future study and management methods (February 20).

Valley Laboratory

DR. JOHN AHRENS attended his 50th consecutive meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society in Baltimore, MD (January 2 to 5); presented a paper on "2006 Weed Management Trials in Christmas Trees". coauthored two other papers at this meeting; presented talks on "Weed Control Options for Field Nurseries" and "Herbicide Options for Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs" at the Central Environmental Nursery Trade Show (CENTS), in Columbus, OH (January 21); and presented a talk on 'Christmas Tree Herbicide Update' at the 2007 Christmas Tree Management Short on (February 14) at State College, PA.

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave a presentation on biological control of HWA in CT at the Forest Health Monitoring Workshop, New Haven (40 persons) (February 22).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Biology and management of insects affecting trees and shrubs," a 2.5 hour lecture for the University of Massachusetts Green School, Milford, MA (70 attendees) (November 13); presented "Organic Management of Turf Insects" to the Organic Land Care Seminar for the Connecticut Northeast Organic Farm Alliance, New Haven (50 attendees) (February 5); "Mite management" and "White grub management" for the Pennsylvania Christmas Tree Growers' Short Course, State College, PA, (130 attendees) (February 13 and 14); and two 75-minute presentations "Insects of trees and shrubs: Introduction and chewing pests" and "Insects of trees and shrubs: Sucking pests and gall makers" for the Save-A-Tree plant health care workshop, (60 attendees) (February 28).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA taught a session on tree diseases as a part of Arboriculture 101 in New Haven (40 students) (November 1); participated in a planning meeting about biofuel held at the Office of Policy and Management in Hartford (November 3); attended the Northeast Division Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society to present ‘Characteristics of *Meloidogyne spartinae* infection of the salt marsh grass *Spartina alterniflora*’ (50 persons), and act as secretary of the extension-industry meeting in Burlington VT (November 7 to 9); presented root-knot nematode results during a meeting about salt marsh dieback held in East Wareham MA (November 17); participated in a UConn-CAES Biofuels Research planning meeting held in New Haven (February 1); participated in a meeting of the UConn Biofuels Consortium held in Storrs (February 2); participated in a committee meeting about developing a CAES Educational Web Site for Teachers and Students in New Haven (February 5); was interviewed about plans for the proposal ‘Training for Ag Service Providers in the Diagnosis, Visual Assessment, and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes’ by the NE-SARE Professional Development Grants panel in Manchester NH (February 7); presented a seminar with Wade Elmer on the ‘Potential Role of Pathogens in Sudden Marsh Decline’ to the Department of Plant and Soil Science at the University of Massachusetts (30 attendees) (February 20); spoke about research on management of tobacco pathogens including blue mold and tobacco mosaic virus and breeding for multiple pathogen resistance at the Tobacco Research Meeting held in Suffield (145 attendees) (February 21); and participated in a second UConn-CAES Biofuels Research planning meeting held in Storrs (February 22).

DR. DEWEI LI participated in a board meeting of the Analytic Accreditation Board (AAB) of American Industry Hygiene Association (AIHA) in San Francisco, CA (February 8-10) and a board member of AAB.

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH participated in a Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group planning committee meeting in Windsor (November 20); and spoke about “Invasive plant management research” to middle-school and high-school science teachers (6th-year certificate education program) at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven (23 teachers each with about 100 students) (November 30); presented a poster on “Evaluation of herbicides for phragmites management in Connecticut marshes” at the annual meeting of the Weed Science Society of America in San Antonio, TX (400 attendees) (February 5-8); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) at the Valley Laboratory (25 attendees) (February 15); spoke about “Herbicide effects on tobacco” at the Tobacco Research Meeting in Suffield (145 attendees) (February 21); and helped at the Connecticut Flower & Garden Show in Hartford with exhibits for CAES (February 23) and CIPWG (February 25).

Journal Articles Approved February 2007

Elmer, Wade H. Abiotic and Biotic Stresses Associated with Sudden Wetland Dieback. , 2007
Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, UCONN, Storrs, 9 March 2007

Gent, Martin P. N. A Dynamic Model of Water Potential and Movement in Whole Plants Based on
Compartment Volumes and Water Contents. Abstract 37th Annual BSSG Conference, Beltsville,
MD

LaMondia, James A. The Association of Tobacco Mosaic Virus with Green Spot of Cured Wrapper
Tobacco Leaves. Plant Disease

Mervosh, Todd L. Control of Oriental Bittersweet: A Non-native, Invasive Woody Vine. Connecticut
Weekly Agricultural Report

Ward, Jeffrey S. and Todd L. Mervosh. Reducing Browse Damage on Eastern White Pine in Southern
New England, USA. Forest Ecology and Management

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).
