

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

Departmental News

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis at the Earth Day celebration at the Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven on April 18.

PRESS CONFERENCE AT CAES CONCERNING ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS



Left to right in the photo: Dr. MaryJane Incorvia Mattina; Connecticut Attorney General, Richard Blumenthal; Connecticut State Senator, Edward Meyer; Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro; Nancy Alderman

A press conference was held at the Experiment Station related to artificial turf fields. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, and State Senator Edward Meyer called for the U.S. EPA to initiate a study of potential impact of these fields on both the environment as well as human health issues on April 28.

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI welcomed members of the Experiment Station Associates to their Annual Meeting held in Jones Auditorium and gave a report on research advancements (April 1); welcomed 12 students and 2 teachers from Bunnell High School in Stratford (April 8); and moderated the Station's Spring Open House held in Jones Auditorium (128 attendees) (April 24).

Entomology

MS. ROSE BONITO coordinated and assembled display materials for and staffed the Station exhibit for the CTPV Family Science Expo at the CT Expo Center in Hartford (40 exhibit booths) (9,000 visitors) (April 24-26).

MS. ROSE HISKES participated in the CAPS meeting at the Eastern Plant Board meeting in Charleston, WV (April 1 – 3), gave a talk "Plants out of Place" to the Branford Garden Club in Branford (April 14), staffed a station booth at the Peabody Museum's 'Backyard Bloodsuckers' in New Haven (April 17), participated in a planning meeting for putting the 'Pesticide Guide toward Integrated Pest Management for Connecticut Arborists' by Kenneth Welch and Timothy Abbey on the web at Department of Information Technology offices in Hartford (April 18), gave a talk on "General Gardening and Seed Starting" for Earth Day at Bristol Meyers Squibb in Wallingford (April 23), staffed the Insect Information table at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Spring Open House in New Haven (April 24), and participated in a Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium planning committee meeting in Windsor (April 30).

MR. IRA KETTLE staffed our Station exhibit at the CTPV Family Science Expo at the CT Expo Center in Hartford (9,000 in attendance) (April 24-26).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER presented exhibits on vernal pool animals and longhorned beetles in Connecticut at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Jones Auditorium (April 18) and spoke about surveys for exotic leafrollers that attack fruit trees at a twilight meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society at Holmberg Orchards, Ledyard (April 29).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Eastern Plant Board, held at the Embassy Hilton in Charleston, WV, as a member of the meeting planning committee, in discussions on Chrysanthemum White Rust, Firewood Regulations, and Quality Pests and Diseases (approximately 150 participants) (March 31- April 3); participated in the East Coast Firewood Forum, sponsored by the US Forest Service, held at the Haggerty Education Center of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Whippany, NJ, as a member of the Eastern Plant Board (approximately 70 participants) (April 15); participated in an Agreements Workshop, sponsored by USDA-APHIS-PPQ Eastern Region, held at the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Office in Wallingford, CT, as the Deputy State Plant Regulatory Official (12 participants) (April 16); and participated in an evening meeting of the CT Pomological Society, held at Holmberg Orchards in Gales Ferry, CT; 60 participants (April 29).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke on the threats to bee health and bee research at the Station at the meeting of the Experiment Station Associates in Jones Auditorium (35 attendees) (April 1); spoke to students from Saint Francis School touring the Station about activities in the Department of Entomology. (10 attendees) (April 7); spoke to students from Bunnell High School touring the Station about activities in the Department of Entomology (17 attendees) (April 8); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease prevention at the annual meeting of the Eastern Connecticut Forest Landowners Association in Brooklyn, CT (52 attendees) (April 11); participated in a Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-PPQ) cooperative agreement training session in Wallingford, CT (April 16); attended the Connecticut Entomological Society meeting in Jones Auditorium (April 18); attended a Lyme disease seminar at the Yale Emerging Infections Program in New Haven and met with Drs. Mathew Cartter, Randall Nelson, and Starr Ertel, CT Department of Public Health about completion of the Lyme disease project (April 21); interviewed by Jenny Cox, Ridgefield Press, about Lyme disease incidence and infection rates (April 23); and spoke on ticks and Lyme Disease: An Update at the Spring Open House in Jones Auditorium. (128 attendees) (April 24).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER spoke with DR. BRIAN EITZER at the Spring Meeting of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association on "Measuring Pesticides in Pollen," Jones Auditorium, New Haven (80 people) (April 5); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care committee, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (6 attendees) (April 8); spoke to the Simsbury Garden Club on "Growing Fabulous Vegetable Gardens Organically." Eno Hall, Simsbury (80 attendees) (April 14); participated in meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Tolland (13 attendees) (April 20); consulted with Jeff Shwartz of the Back Yard Beekeepers Association on the design of a survey of their membership, with the goal of determining current beekeeping practices, and eventually investigating the relationship between practices and overwintering success of hives (April 21); visited Tobacco Road Farm, in Lebanon, to plan research projects on cross-striped cabbageworms and overwintering *Brassica* salad greens (April 23); and spoke to the Back Yard Beekeepers Association on "Measuring pesticides in Pollen," and other Experiment Station research on bees, bee registration, and registration for notification of pesticide application, Weston (65 people) (April 29).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD along with MR. SCOTT WILLIAMS, meet with Steve Patton (The Nature Conservancy), Edward Faison (Highstead Arboretum), and Gary Haines (Aquarion Water Company) in Redding to discuss Japanese barberry removal strategies and white-tailed deer research (April 2); presented a paper "Crop tree release increases growth of red oak sawtimber in southern New England: 12 year results" at the Sixteenth Central Hardwood Forest Conference in Lafayette, IN (60 attendees) (April 9); and attended annual meeting of the Yankee Society of American Foresters in Enfield (April 17).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke about gardening and the New Crops Program at the annual meeting of the Experiment Station Associates (50 attendees) (April 1); spoke on the New Crops Program at the Cannon Grange in Wilton (10 adults and 1 child) (April 3); assisted upper school students at Hamden Hall Country Day School with their independent projects (24 children) (April 2 and 16); spoke on the New Crops Program at the Station to High School Students from Stratford (12 children, 3 adults) (April 8); and spoke on the New Crops Program at Oronoque Village in Stratford (18 adults, 1 child) (April 24).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in the National Viticulture Extension Educators Conference in Albuquerque, NM (22 people attending) (April 2-4) and participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association at Valley Laboratory (April 7).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS along with MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY, assisted DEP Forestry staff in a prescribed fire at Higganum Meadows Wildlife Management Area (April 8); successfully defended dissertation "Effects of lethal management on behaviors, social networks, and movements of overabundant white-tailed deer" (20 attendees) (April 24); and presented research titled "Increased white-footed mouse and blacklegged tick abundances in Japanese barberry infestations" at the 64th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference in Galloway, NJ (42 attendees) (April 30).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY attended a seminar on Forest Decision Support Tools at the Yale Myers Forest, Union. (April 4) and attended annual meeting of the Yankee Society of American Foresters in Enfield (April 17).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS participated in the Earth Day celebration at the Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven (150 adults and 200 youths attended) (April 18) and participated in the Earth Day celebration at the University of Hartford in West Hartford (30 adults and 10 youths attended) (April 19).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR presented a talk entitled “A Lagrangian stochastic simulation model for evaluating cross fertilization in maize” at the American Meteorological Society’s 28th Conference on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology in Orlando, FL (60 adults attended) (April 28).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS discussed plant pathology and its historical and present impact on daily life with students from the St. Francis Children’s Home (1 adult and 6 youths attended) (April 7); discussed the role of the Plant Disease Information Office and plant pathology to students from Bunnell High School (2 adults and 14 youths attended) (April 8); organized and participated in a round-table discussion on the impact of gas leaks on urban trees with Bob Ackley of the Massachusetts Public Shade Tree Trust. In addition to Dr. Douglas, invited participants included DR. FRANCIS FERRANDINO and DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO, Chris Donnelly (CT DEP, Urban Forester), and Phil Wargo (retired U.S. Forest Service, Forest Pathologist) (April 16); and attended and participated in the CTPA Climbing Competition held at Edgerton Park in New Haven (April 19).

DR. WADE H. ELMER met with Dr. Charles F. Cleland (SBIR National Program Leader), Richard McAvoy (University of Connecticut) and Joe Geremia (greenhouse grower from Yalesville) at Lockwood Farm to demonstrate the flooded floor greenhouse (April 11) and gave a greenhouse tour on sudden vegetation dieback during Plant Science Day in the Spring (April 24).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO attended and gave a brief talk discussing the planned activities of the newly formed Southern New England Grape Information Network (SNEGIN) at the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association meeting held at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (April 7). The project is the result of a recently attained NE-IPM grant and involves investigators from UMASS, UCONN, and URI under the supervision of CAES.

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented a talk entitled, *West Nile Virus: An Exotic, Emerging Mosquito-Borne Disease in the Western Hemisphere* at the Biodiversity Day event, “Backyard Bloodsuckers: Biodiversity Bites Back!” held at the Peabody Museum, Yale University (1 in attendance) (April 17) and presented a talk entitled, *Research and Surveillance Activities on Mosquitoes and Mosquito-Borne Diseases* at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Plant Science Day In The Spring, New Haven, CT (April 24).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke at the annual meeting of the Lake Forest Association, in Bridgeport, on the results of the CAES 2007 aquatic plant survey of Lake Forest (approximately 50 people in attendance) (April 4) and spoke the Cheshire Garden Club on *Connecticut’s Invasive Aquatic Plant Problem* (Approximately 30 people in attendance) (April 7).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY attended the Connecticut Geospatial Council meeting as the Station’s representative held at the Department of Information Technology in East Hartford (April 23); and presented a poster entitled, *“The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program,”* and taught children and parents about invasive aquatic plants at Connecticut Public Television’s Family Science held at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford (April 24-26).

MR. JOHN SHEPARD presented a display on *West Nile Virus and Mosquito Biology* at the Biodiversity Day event, “Backyard Bloodsuckers: Biodiversity Bites Back!” held at the Peabody Museum, Yale University (1,267 museum visitors) (April 17).

DR. JASON WHITE visited Barnum Court in the City of Danbury to treat/destroy volunteers of genetically modified cottonwood plants that had been identified in the fall of 2007. A full site survey for additional volunteers was also conducted. The City Health Department and a representative of Applied Phylogenetics (the company holding the APHIS permit) were also present (April 30).

Valley Laboratory

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA spoke about research on tobacco disease management and the breeding program for multiple pathogen resistance at the CPS Tobacco Growers meeting held in Windsor Locks (April 17) (106 persons); was interviewed about cranbe as a biodiesel feedstock and IPM research in Connecticut by Mark Peters of the Hartford Courant (April 18); participated in a planning meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council in Windsor (April 21); conducted a tour of the Valley Laboratory Farm and discussed research plots with UConn MS student Matt DeBacco and advisor Tom Morris (April 21); participated in a planning meeting of the executive committee of the Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society in Newport RI (April 25); interviewed about research projects and science careers by Pierce Martin for a High School Science Class Project at the Renbrook School (April 30); and assisted with the application and obtained a SLN label for DuPont Manzate for control of blue mold in tobacco in Connecticut.

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH as part of the Connecticut Nurserymen's Foundation scholarship committee, helped conduct interviews of four high-school seniors and select the recipient of a CNF college scholarship (April 10); spoke about "Invasive plants in Connecticut: What they are, and why they are a problem" as part of a lecture series at the Bloomfield High School Agri-Science Center (20 students, 15 adults) (April 11); spoke about invasive plants in wetlands to environmental science students and instructors at Manchester Community College (25 students, 4 instructors) (April 22); presented a display of weeds and answered questions at the CAES Spring Open House in New Haven (April 24); spoke about poison ivy and related plants at an employee safety meeting at Connecticut Light & Power in Cheshire (40 attendees) (April 25); and participated in a symposium planning committee meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (10 attendees) (April 30).

Journal Articles Approved February 2008

D. Ramoutar, S. R. Alm, and Richard S. Cowles. Pyrethroid resistance in populations of annual bluegrass weevils, *Listronotus maculicollis* (Dietz), (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) from Connecticut golf courses. *Journal of Economic Entomology*.

Cheah, Carole. Research Abstract for Great Mountain Forest, Corp., Norfolk. Website

G. E. Rotheray, M. A. Marcos-Garcia, E. G. Hancock, C. Perez-Banon, Chris T. Maier. Neotropical *Copestylum* (Diptera, Syrphidae) breeding in Agavaceae and Cactaceae including 7 new species. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*

Maynard, Abigail. Planning Your Garden. CAES Fact Sheet

Maynard, Abigail. Planting Your Garden. CAES Fact Sheet

G.C. Chen, X.Q. Shan, Y. S. Wang, B. Wen, Z.G. Pei, Y. N. Xie, T. Liu, and Joseph J. Pignatello. Effect of cupric ion on the sorption of 2,4,6-Trichlorophenol onto multi-walled carbon nanotubes. *Environmental Science Technology*.

Stafford, Kirby. Fly Management Handbook. Station Bulletin

Stoner, Kimberly. A Community Farm in Everytown. Gleanings (CT NOFA Newsletter)

Ward, Jeffrey S. Intensity of pre-commercial crop tree release increases diameter growth and survival of upland oaks. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*

Williams, Scott, A DeNicola, I. Ortega, and Jeffrey Ward. Impact of controlled hunting on behaviors contributing to deer-vehicle collisions. *Journal of Wildlife Management*

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