

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended the annual meeting of the northeastern multistate project on controlling plant parasitic nematodes in Newport, Rhode Island (October 7-8); met with Board members of the Experiment Station Associates in the Slate Building and gave a report on Station research (October 29); and Met with officers and Council members of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering at the University of Hartford to explore possible scientific studies to be done in the state (October 30).

Biochemistry and Genetics

DR. NEIL SCHULTES lectured on Plant Identification and Taxonomy to The Federated Garden Club of America Garden Study School at Jones Auditorium (October 7); along with DR. RICHARD PETERSON attended an executive meeting of the Quinnipiac Chapter of Sigma Xi in Hamden CT (October 16); and spoke on genetic research in photosynthesis to visiting scholars from China hosted by DR. DE-WEI LI (October 9).

DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN participated in an informal conference with David Blocher (president of Backyard Beekeepers Association) and DR. KIMBERLY STONER discussion topics included Dr. Dingman's research on American Foulbrood and other honey bee research being conducted at CAES (October 2); telephone conversation with Stan Wisniewski (Berlin, CT) about conditions of his hives following Doug's analysis and subsequent findings of American Foulbrood in Mr. Wisniewski's apiary (October 16); and a telephone conversation with Michael Larose (Market Segment Manager) and Robert Larose (President, CEO) of Biosafe Systems LLC pertaining to testing of a sanitizing agent for toxicity to honeybees (October 30).

DR. NEIL MCHALE taught a mini course on "Factors Affecting Plant Growth" for the Federated Garden Clubs of CT (October 7) and presented a lecture on "Genetic Modification of Agricultural Plants" to the Western Chapter of the American Chemical Society in Bridgeport (October 21).

Entomology

MS. ROSE HISKES was a session moderator at CIPWG symposium in Storrs (395 attendees) (October 1), taught an adult education class "Trees and Shrubs for the Fall Landscape" in Windsor (4 attendees) (October 4), gave a talk "Invasive Plants in Connecticut" to the Oxford land trust (15 attendees) (October 23), taught the naturalist and forester badges for Cub Scout Pak 389 in South Windsor, (22 attendees) (October 25), and gave a talk on Insects to inmates at the Charles Manson Youth Institute in Cheshire (15 attendees) (October 29).

MR. IRA KETTLE provided a honey bee display and information booth at the Brookvale Fall Festival in Hamden (1,200 people came through per Park Ranger, Vinny Lavorgna) (October 18).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER was visited by John Ascher, American Museum of Natural History, by Sam Droege, U.S. Geological Survey, and by David Wagner, University of Connecticut, who assisted with identifying and curating the bees in the Station collection (October 1); presented a display on new

entomological literature and on the new infestation of the Asian longhorned beetle in Worcester, MA, at a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (October 17); and spoke about apple pest problems during the 2008 growing season while attending the Annual New England, New York, and Canadian Fruit Pest Management Workshop in Burlington, VT (October 21).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a meeting of the Forest Health Cooperators, held in conjunction with the Northeast Area Field Office of the US Forest Service, at George Washington/Pulaski Management Area in Chepachet RI, with reports on surveys for Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Sirex, *Phytophthora ramorum*, and other forest health matters (16 participants) (October 21-22) and presented a talk to the Urban Forestry Council of CT, titled "Asian Longhorned Beetle: on Our Doorstep"; approximately 200 participants (October 23).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke on biological and natural tick control in a symposium on recent advances in tick-borne disease at the 40th annual Society for Vector Ecology Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado (held September 28-October 2, 2008) (September 29); participated in a conference call with DR. LOUIS MAGNARELLI and Ron Laceywell, Texas A&M University to discuss possible joint research initiatives (October 16); attended a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (October 17); interviewed by Meredith Blake, Greenwich Times, about the tick season and adult tick activity (October 20); spoke on ticks and the Asian longhorned beetle at the Hadlyme Hall Garden Club in East Haddam, CT (30 attendees) (October 22); and participated in a bed bug workshop planning session organized by DR. GALE RIDGE with a representatives from DEP, state and local health, and the pest control industry (October 24).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented a talk, "Pesticides in Pollen Collected from Honey Bee Hives in Connecticut," at the Pollinator Conference: Information for Action, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (100 people attending) (October 3); presented the work of the Entomology Department, along with DR. GALE RIDGE and MS. ELIZABETH ALVES, to three visiting Chinese government administrators (October 9); chaired the meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee by conference call (8 people) (October 16); led a tour of Lockwood Farm for the New Haven Bioregional Group (15 people) (October 18); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Berlin, CT (13 people) (October 19); presented a talk, "Alternatives to Insecticides for Managing Vegetable Insects" to the Naugatuck Valley Audubon Society at the Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby (12 people) (October 21); presided over the annual meeting of a community farming group, the Friends of Boulder Knoll in Cheshire (20 people) (October 23) and presented an on-farm workshop on Winter Growing along with Bryan O'Hara of Tobacco Road, sponsored by CT NOFA. For an account of the workshop from a gardener at the Connecticut College community farm, see: <http://sproutgarden.blogspot.com/> (36 attendees) (October 26); and spoke about my career as a scientist in a symposium on Women in Science at the Naugatuck Valley Community College in Waterbury. (65 people attended) (October 28).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD spoke on "Japanese barberry control" at the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium in Storrs (150 attendees) (October 1); spoke on "A short history of the Connecticut Forest" for the Cherry Brook Garden Club in Canton (26 attendees) (October 14); interviewed about fall leaf color by John Burgeson of the Connecticut Post (October 14); spoke on "Historic changes at Gold's Pines" at the Annual Meeting of the Cornwall Conservation Trust (23 attendees) (October 19); spoke on "Invasive shrub control" for the Clinton Land Trust in Clinton (37 attendees) (October 20); spoke "The historical and future impacts of exotic insects and diseases in Connecticut's urban forests" at the Connecticut Urban Forest Council's 20th Annual Conference in Wallingford (60 attendees) (October 23); and spoke on "Forestry and Wildlife" for students from the Coop High School, New Haven (5 students, 1 teacher) (October 30).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD gave a tour of Lockwood Farm to Pre-K and Kindergarten classes from Hamden Hall Country Day School (35 children, 4 teachers) (October 14).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Department of Agriculture in Hartford (October 30).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS gave invited talk “Overabundant Suburban White-Tailed Deer as Seed Dispersal Agents” at the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (60 attendees) (October 1) and gave a lecture and demonstration on small rodent capture, handling, and sera collection to the Wildlife Techniques class in the Department of Natural Resources Management and Engineering at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (15 attendees) (October 8).

JOSEPH P. BARSKY gave a presentation on forest measurements to high-school students at an Envirothon Forestry Training Workshop at the Tolland County Agricultural Center in Vernon (120 students). (October 18).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS reported on Experiment Station chestnut research at the annual meeting of the Multistate Research Project NE-1015, “Biological improvement, habitat restoration, and horticultural development of chestnut by management of populations, pathogens, and pests” in Frankfort, MI (40 adult attendees) (October 16-19).

DR BOTOND BALOGH discussed disease management strategies for Christmas tree plantations at the Annual Fall Field Day of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association at Greer Tree Farm in Griswold (80 adult attendees) (October 4).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about the foliar disease of sugar maples in Connecticut and potential tourism with regard to fall color by Eric Campaigne of WSHU-NPR’s “All Things Considered” (October 1); was interviewed about Septoria leaf spot of maple and the impact of the disease on fall color in Connecticut by Dan Kain of WFSB TV (October 1); gave a talk entitled “Environmentally friendly methods for managing plant diseases” for the Branford Garden Club Day Group in Branford (65 adult attendees and 1 youth attendee) (October 2); was interviewed about the disease of maple and how it would impact tree health and fall color by Tetiana Anderson of the Weather Channel (October 3); was interviewed about predicting fall color and the physiology of leaf senescence by Abram Katz of the New Haven Register (October 3); met with Chinese visitors, Gao Li, Qianhong Li, and Fasheng Wang, hosted by DeWei Li and discussed research and outreach programs of the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology (October 9); was interviewed about Septoria leaf spot of maple and its impact on tree health and foliage color by Derrick Henry of the New York Times (October 10); was interviewed about symptoms of Septoria leaf spot by Jim McDonald of the New York Times Photo Desk, and was asked to contribute a digital photo for Derrick Henry’s article (October 14); participated in the meeting of the CTPA Board of Directors (October 14); participated in a conference call for the Foundation Board for the American Phytopathological Society (October 15); participated in a conference call on Chrysanthemum White Rust with state and national collaborators and APHIS PPQ (October 15); participated in a meeting of Connecticut DoAg Specialty Crop Block Grant awardees with DoAg cooperator Linda Piotrowicz, and discussed the support role of plant pathology in these projects (October 16); gave a talk entitled “Environmentally friendly methods for managing plant diseases” for the Simsbury Garden Club and answered questions in the “Ask the Expert” part of their meeting (62 adult attendees) (October 20); gave an invited talk entitled “How to kill a tree in ten easy steps” at the 20th Annual Conference on Urban and Community Forestry in Connecticut “Who Needs Healthy Trees?” hosted by the Connecticut Urban Forest Council in Wallingford (165 adult attendees) (October 23); was awarded the “2008 Fred Borman Award for Outstanding Professional Urban Forestry” from the Connecticut Urban Forest Council at the 20th Annual Conference in Wallingford (165 adult attendees) (October 23); and participated in the Connecticut Girls Collaborative Project Convention held at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford. This convention was cosponsored by NSF with the goal of increasing the participation of girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. She discussed the mentorship program of underrepresented middle school girls that she is developing with assistance from Tess Foley (150 attendees) (October 28).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended a conference on Fusarium Genetics and participated in the Ph.D. comprehensive examination of Cheng-Hua Huang at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL (8 adult attendees) (October 3); co-chaired the Extension/Industry meeting and co-presented the Connecticut extension report with DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO (22 adult attendees), presented the symposium talk entitled "Influence of N-form, chloride, and manganese on suppression of plant disease" (55 adult attendees), served on the Graduate Student Award Committee, presented the talk "Discovery of a new species of *Fusarium* and the influence of drought on its ability to infect *Spartina alterniflora*," and presided over the Symposium on Turfgrass Diseases (85 adult attendees) at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society in Newport, RI (October 8-10); gave the presentation entitled "Influence of drought and salinity on infection of *Spartina alterniflora* by a pathogenic *Fusarium* species" and served as the presiding judge for the coveted Stickleback Award at the Biannual Meeting of the New England Estuarine Research Society on Block Island, RI (60 adult attendees) (October 16-18); and participated in a field trip of a dieback area on Barn Island, Connecticut, with scientists from Connecticut College, The University of Connecticut, the University of New Haven, and the Department of Environmental Protection (6 adult attendees) (October 22).

MS. MARY K. INMAN spoke on "Houseplants, general care, and diagnosis of common problems" to the Men's Garden Club of Greater Bridgeport in Stratford (17 adult attendees) (October 15).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA met with an arborist in New London to inspect and sample European beeches exhibiting bleeding cankers (October 20); and attended the 20th Annual Conference on Urban and Community Forestry in Connecticut "Who Needs Healthy Trees?" hosted by the Connecticut Urban Forest Council in Wallingford (October 23).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS interviewed about the 2008 mosquito and West Nile virus season in Connecticut for 2008 by Steve Kotchko, CT Radio Network (October 2).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE presented a talk entitled, *Control of Eurasian Watermilfoil* at a nuisance aquatic plant symposium sponsored by the town of Newtown (approx 40 attendees) (October 9) and gave two presentations on *Soil Testing* to 7th and 8th grade classes at the Highville Charter School in Hamden (approx 40 attendees) (October 14).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented a talk entitled, *Biochar as Soil Amendment: What effect will it have on chemical availability* in a Symposium on Black Carbon in Soils and Sediments: Formation, Stabilization, and Environmental Function, held at the Joint Annual Meeting of the ASA-CSSA-SSSA-GSA in Houston, TX. (October 5-9); chaired the Business Meeting of S-11 (Division of Soils and Environmental Quality, Soil Science Society of America) at the Annual Meeting, of the ASA-CSSA-SSSA-GSA in Houston, TX (October 5-9); and presented an invited seminar entitled, *Black carbon—its complex role as an adsorbent in the availability of organic chemicals in the environment* at Yale Institute of Biospheric Studies (October 31).

MS. ROSLYN REEPS presented a talk entitled, *Identification of Invasive Aquatic Plants* at the 2008 Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Invasive Plant Symposium held at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (75 people attended) (October 1); moderated a discussion session on *Hydrilla verticillata* (20 people attended) and presented a poster entitled, *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program* at the 2008 Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group Invasive Plant Symposium held at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (October 1); attended the GIS Council meeting in East Hartford as the Station's representative (October 22); and presented a talk entitled, *Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification* to Post University Students in Waterbury (15 people attended) (October 27).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS was appointed for a five-year term as a Curatorial Affiliate at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History, Division of Entomology (October 1); led a nature walk at the Hartford Audubon Society Centennial Family Field Day Celebration at Northwest Park, Windsor (100 attendees)

(October 5); and demonstrated mosquito rearing protocols at the University of Connecticut with a student working on an independent research project (October 13).

DR. JASON WHITE

October 16. Presented a seminar at the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture entitled *Controlling invasive aquatic weeds in CT lakes*. The conference was held by the State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) and involves regional EPA and NE state agriculture agency representatives (20 people in attendance) (October 16) and chaired the Phytoremediation session at the 24th Annual International Conference on Contaminated Soils, Sediments and Water held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. (approximately 30 people in the session) (October 22).

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Christmas tree insect management" to the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Association, Jewett City (60 attendees) (October 4); discussed research programs with three visiting Chinese dignitaries (October 9); and presented "Strawberry breeding for tolerance to soil-dwelling pests" to a representative from the CT Department of Agriculture, New Haven, (October 16).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed about 2008 tobacco diseases by the New England Agricultural Statistics Service (October 2); taught a lecture and lab exercise on the role of fungi in plant diseases and Botrytis resistance to fungicides at the Valley Lab to students from Central Connecticut State University (October 2); spoke about research results at the annual meeting of the Northeast Regional Multistate Nematology Technical Committee (NE-1019) held in Newport RI (12 persons) (October 6-8); attended the Northeast Division Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society as Vice President and to present 'Resistance to blue mold in Connecticut shade tobacco' in Newport RI (40 persons) (October 8-10); 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 as a part of the NED APS program (10 persons) (October 10); attended the fall meeting of the Station Board of Control held at the Valley Laboratory (October 15); attended the fall meeting of the New England Estuarine Research Society at Block Island RI to speak about "*Meloidogyne spartinae* and a *Fusarium* sp. as possible stresses associated with decline of the salt marsh grass *Spartina alterniflora*' (60 persons) (October 15 to 18); 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 held in Westampton NJ (17 persons) (October 21); 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 (42 persons) (October 22); and met with Nancy Simcox, research industrial hygienist at the Center for Indoor Environments and Health of the University of Connecticut Health Center at the Valley Laboratory to discuss a tobacco worker safety research project and participation in the CAES Tobacco Research Meeting (October 23).

DR. DEWEI LI coordinated a visit by 3 Chinese administrators who are doing internships at OPM (October 9). The Chinese groups visited The Valley Laboratory and departments in New Haven.

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH served on the planning committee, was a session moderator and presented a talk on "Research projects: Management of pale swallow-wort and Japanese stiltgrass" at the Invasive Plant Symposium at UConn in Storrs (400 total attendees; ~150 at the talk) (October 1); and spoke about weed control options at the fall meeting of the Conn. Christmas Tree Growers' Assoc. in Griswold (60 attendees) (October 4).

Journal Articles Approved October 2008

Balogh, Botond and J. B. Jones. Selecting bacteriophages for biological control. Abstract, 2nd Intl. Symposium on Biological Control of Bacterial Plant Diseases, 4-7 November 2008, Orlando, FL

- Cowles, Richard S. Effective products require the right equipment and timing to work. Evergreen Bulletin. RI Christmas Tree Growers' Newsletter
- Elmer, Wade H. and Francis J. Ferrandino. Suppression of Verticillium wilt of eggplant with earthworms. Plant Disease
- F. A. Nalim, Wade H. Elmer, R. J. McGovern, and D. M. Geiser. Multilocus phylogenetic diversity of *Fusarium avenaceum* pathogenic on lisianthus. Phytopathology
- D. Wedge and Wade H. Elmer. Fusarium wilt of orchids. International Commercial Orchid Growers Organization
- Ward, Jeffrey S, Sandra L. Anagnostakis, and Francis J. Ferrandino. Long-term changes in canker incidence on birch in Connecticut, USA. Northern Journal of Applied Forestry
- Williams, Scott C., Jeffrey S. Ward, Worthley, and Kirby C. Stafford, III. Managing Japanese barberry reduces blacklegged tick abundances.

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