

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Nursery and Landscape Research Tour

Over 45 Nursery and Landscape professionals attended the annual Nursery and Landscape Research Tour at the Valley Laboratory on July 19, 2005. After being welcomed by Tom Rathier, the group toured the following research plots or displays: Conifer transplant survival and nutrition, Tom Rathier; Managing horsetail in landscapes, Todd Mervosh; Use of hydrogen dioxide in landscape soils, Tom Rathier; CAES/CNLA education gardens, Rose Hiskes; Connecticut weed display, Todd Mervosh, Krystle Olszewski and Dorothy Reiss; Connecticut insect pests display, Rose Hiskes; exotic pests display, Victoria Smith; Weed management in container grown plants, Todd Mervosh; Inspection procedures for sudden oak death, Victoria Smith.

The meeting concluded with the following short talks: Detecting and managing emerald ash borer and Asian longhorn beetle, Claire Ruteledge; Managing Japanese knotweed and Phragmites, Todd Mervosh; Native plants for Connecticut landscapes, Tim Abbey; Arthropod and pesticides update, Tim Abbey; Disease/cultural problems update, Tom Rathier.

Richard Horvath, Matt Deltenre, Nick Sikorski, Jane Morrison and John Winiarski provided support for the meeting.

Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting

Over 65 Christmas tree growers and professionals attended the annual Christmas tree twilight meeting on July 19, 2005 at the Valley Laboratory. The group heard the following presentations: Managing disease and non-disease problems of conifers, Sharon Douglas; Conifer nutrition, Tom Rathier; Managing insects and mites, Tom Rathier; Managing weeds in Christmas tree plantations, Todd Mervosh; Connecticut weed display, Todd Mervosh, Krystle Olszewski and Dorothy Reiss.

Richard Horvath, Matt Deltenre, and Nick Sikorski provided support for the meeting.

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed by Ray Andrewsen of WQUN Radio in Hamden about Plant Science Day (August 2); participated in an agricultural forum at the Hindinger Farm in Hamden and spoke about Station research farms (August 2); was interviewed by Brian Smith of WICC Radio about Plant Science Day; was interviewed by Joyce Resinold, a freelance writer, about hybrid corn research done at the Station (August 25).

Entomology

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by Helen Bennett Harvey, New Haven Register, about the importance of bees in agriculture and threats to bee industry (August 26).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented a workshop on “Risk and the Precautionary Principle” at the NOFA Summer Conference, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA (August 13). Participated as a representative from Connecticut at a meeting of the Interstate Council of NOFA, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA (August 14). Gave a talk on “Why Organic” at the NOFA Organic Lawn and Turf Course, Manchester Community College (August 16).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD presided at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven (August 2); was interviewed about the effect of summer heat on fall leaf color by Bridget Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican (August 10); along with SCOTT WILLIAMS, visited John Lyman in Wallingford to discuss deer browse damage of agricultural crops (August 12).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended a meeting with farmers organized by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro at the Hindinger Farm in Hamden CT (August 2).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD reported on Station activities at the quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor. (August 4).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL met with Dale Strand to discuss potential vineyard sites in Connecticut (August 9); attended a meeting of the New England Grape Growers in Little Compton, RI (August 15); visited David Verhasselt at a vineyard he manages in Old Stonington (August 16); met with Charlie Rosabianco to evaluate a potential vineyard site in Wallingford (August 17); met with Mark Liano to discuss cultural practices for his young vineyard in Watertown (August 29).

SCOTT WILLIAMS spoke to Weston Technical Committee on Deer Management (August 30).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS presented the paper “Nutrients in chestnuts” and read a paper by DR. ROBERT E. MARRA entitled “An update on Sudden Oak Death” at the Annual Meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association in Pella, IA (August 1-3).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about the effects of weather on plants in Connecticut and what we might expect for fall foliage by Ed Krauter of the Connecticut Post (August 25).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended an “Evening at the Greenhouse” event sponsored by the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association at Sunny Border Nurseries in Kensington (August 31).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the history of West Nile virus in Connecticut and the State Surveillance Program by John Burgeson, CT Post (August 3); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Jess Wakeman, Fairfield Citizen; and Ryan Jockers, Stamford Advocate (August 4); appeared on Face-the-State with Al Terzi, WFSB, TV 3, to discuss mosquitoes, West Nile virus, and State Surveillance Program (August 5); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Mark Sims, CT Public Radio (August 12); provided an overview of the Station’s research and surveillance program on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases to visitors from the NASA’s Sandia National Laboratory and gave a tour of the laboratories (August 16); was interviewed about the detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes in thirteen towns in CT in 2005 by Fran Schneido, WCBS Radio NY; Jim Moore, Metro News Hartford; and Mark Sims, CT Public Radio (August 16); gave an overview of the Station’s research and surveillance program on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases to CAES Board of Control member, Dr. Johan Varekamp CAES BOC (August 23); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus on the Mary Jones Show WDRM AM Radio (August 23); was interviewed about the Station’s research and survey on the Asian tiger mosquito by Marianne Gail Brown, CT Post (August 29).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented an invited lecture, *Insights on molecular interactions of nonionic organic compounds with environmental black carbon (wood char) drawn from adsorption experiments, surface characterization and studies of model systems*, in an Environmental Chemistry Division Symposium on Characterization and Properties of Environmentally Relevant Black Carbon Particles, American Chemical Society, held in Washington, D.C (August 28).

DR. JASON WHITE visited, along with GREGORY BUGBEE, the USDA ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale Florida to discuss our Collaborative Project on Invasive Aquatic Plants (August 18-19).

Valley Laboratory

TIMOTHY ABBEY presented “Arthropod and Pest Management Update” at the CAES Valley Laboratory Tour in Windsor (July 19), “Organic Land Care and Native Plants” at a workshop sponsored by the Ecological Landscaping Network in West Hartford (July 23); attended the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Summer Meeting at Clinton Nursery in Westbrook (July 13), and helped staff the CAES display at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association Summer Meeting in Farmington (July 21); presented “Ecological Landscaping with Native Ornamental Plants” and staffed the display “Plant Health Care for the Connecticut Nursery and Landscaping Industries” at Plant Science Day in Hamden (August 3); and attended the NOFA Organic Lawn and Turf Course in Manchester (August 16).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH together with James Preste, met and discussed hemlock health and pests with Brian Kennedy of the Department of Environmental Protection at Burr Pond State Park, Torrington, CT (August 16).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgids” at Plant Science Day, Hamden (August 3); spoke about “Managing black vine weevils with insect pathogenic nematodes” to the Western Australia Grape Growers Association, Manjimup and Margaret River, Western Australia (August 12 and 16), respectively; and was interviewed by Skye MacArthy from the Bunbury Office of Australian Broadcasting Corporation on the subject of insect pathogenic nematodes for root weevil control, (August 12).

ROSE HISKES participated in a CNLA Education Committee meeting in Kensington (August 11) and monitored the CNLA Accredited Nursery Professional course in Southington (August 23).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA gave a short talk “rotation and green manure crops for nematode control” on Plant Science Day (August 3).

THOMAS RATHIER discussed cultural and fertility problems of conifers at a twilight meeting conducted by the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association in Voluntown (June 21); organized and led a tour of crops in the Connecticut River Valley, helped organize and lead a tour of a biotechnological facility and watershed study area in Southeastern Connecticut and presented a paper titled “Review of variables affecting the availability of mineralized N for shade tobacco fertilized with organic meals under plasticulture” for the annual meeting of the Northeast Branch of the American Agronomy Society/Soil Science Society of America in Storrs (July 11-13); answered questions about tree problems at the CAES booth at the summer meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Farmington (July 21); met with officials from EPA and USDA-NRCS at the Jones Family Farm in Shelton (August 15); and organized and presented an educational tour for the summer field meeting of the Rhode Island Christmas Tree Growers Association in Rehoboth, MA (August 27).

Journal Articles Approved August 2005

Dingman, Douglas W. DNA fingerprinting of *P. popillae* and *P. lentimorbus* using PCR amplified 165-235 intergenic transcribed spacer regions. *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.

Elmer, Wade H. Influence of earthworm activity on soil-borne diseases. *Phytopathology* (Abstract).

Ferrandino, Francis J., Jeffrey S. Ward, and Sandra L. Anagnostakis. The effect of girdling and cutting on perithecia production in *Nectria* cankers on Black Birch. *Phytopathology* (Abstract).

LaMondia, James A. Systemic acquired resistance and fungicides for management of tobacco blue mold. *Phytopathology* (Abstract).

Stilwell, David E., Craig L. Musante, and Brij L. Sawhney. Copper, chromium, and arsenic in soil and plants near coated and uncoated CCA wood. *Contaminated Soils, V-11, Conference Proceedings*.

Ward, Jeffrey S. Defoliation and oak mortality in southern New England. *Proceedings: Central Hardwood Forest Conference XV, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report*.

Williams, Scott C. Deer transport seeds of alien species. *The Newsletter of the Sleeping Giant Park Association*.

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