

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

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## **Butterfly Identification Walk on Plant Science Day**

Rose Hiskes and Jeffrey Fengler leading a butterfly identification walk on Plant Science Day. (Image taken by Rose Bonito)

## **Butterfly Walk on Plant Science Day**

Jeffrey Fengler leading a butterfly walk on Plant Science Day. (Image taken by Rose Bonito)



## **96<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Science Day Open House at Lockwood Farm—A Great Success (This article was published in the Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report)**

By: Vickie M. Bomba-Lewandoski

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station held its 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Science Day open house on Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Lockwood Farm in Hamden.

Gary Crump, partner, winemaker, and Manager of Priam Vineyards in Colchester, gave

the Samuel W. Johnson lecture this year entitled “Grapes and Wine in Connecticut”.

This year, we featured 5 main lectures, 2 technical demonstrations, 6 barn exhibits, and 77 field plots for our visitors to explore, learn, and experience what the scientists at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station are investigating. Research on food safety, growing crops for biodiesel fuel, chestnut trees, and on ticks and mosquitoes attracted special public interest. All research projects are designed to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific

knowledge, increase agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well being of Connecticut residents.

We hosted approximately 625 adult visitors, including 103 children, throughout the day, along with the distribution of 8 Brownie try-it badges and 5 Junior badges for the interactive passport activity. We hosted this activity for all of the children who attended Plant Science Day. They received information about native trees, corn, birds, butterflies, honeybees, honey, and watermelon. A few small tokens were given to each child for a completed passport. By incorporating more children activities into our Plant Science Day program, we are hoping to encourage our youth to develop an interest in agriculture and other fields of science. We also presented pesticide credits for attendance to talks, demonstrations, and participation in an hour long research tour. We had 26 Plant Science Day attendees receive pesticide credits for various licenses. This year, we also hosted two guided walking tours of our Lockwood Farm, one in the morning with 5 field plot lectures, and one in the afternoon with 6 different field plot lectures.

Another annual event of Plant Science Day is the presentation of the Century Farm Award to a Connecticut farming family in operation for more than 100 years. The recipient is selected by the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council. This year's recipient was

Mulnite Farm in Broad Brook. Members of the Mulnite family have been farming the 350 acres in Broad Brook since 1905.

The Bird and Butterfly Garden and the Connecticut Nurserymen's Garden are always a popular attraction to our visitors. These gardens provide people with first-hand information on native varieties of plant specimens and the bird, insect, and other animals these plants attract. Every year we record the butterfly, moth, bird, dragonfly, and other animal sightings. This year we had 13 different butterfly species, 3 species of moths, 11 species of birds, 5 species of dragonflies, and 2 species of frogs. Our Bird and Butterfly Garden is open to the public Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:00pm, but is closed on weekends and state holidays.

We had a very successful event this year despite the extreme heat index, and we hope to have another great event in 2007. We invite you to our 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Science Day the first Wednesday in August 2007 at our Lockwood Farm in Hamden.

## **Departmental News**

### **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about Station research programs by Ray Andrewsen of WQUN radio in Hamden (August 1); was interviewed about Station research by Jim Buchanon of WICC radio (August 1); was interviewed about Plant Science Day by Ann DeMatteo of the New Haven Register (August 2); spoke to growers at a forum hosted by Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro in Wallingford (August 3); and was interviewed about ticks by Christiana Glavin of the New Canaan News Review (August 24).

### **Analytical Chemistry**

### **Biochemistry and Genetics**

### **Entomology**

ROSE HISKES participated in the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group symposium planning committee in Wallingford (August 9), participated in a Green School planning meeting via conference call (August 11) and participated in a Connecticut Nursery and Landscape education committee meeting in Cromwell (August 15).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a program review, conducted by the US Forest Service-Durham (New Hampshire) Field Office, by presenting talks on gypsy moth, forest health plots, and survey information; held in the Jones Auditorium (approximately 25 attendees) (August 8-9) and participated in a workshop on grant proposal writing, held by North East Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NE-SARE); held at the Highlander Inn in Manchester, New Hampshire (10 attendees) (August 31).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke on Station organization and new activities and directed discussion on forestry research at the Experiment Station for the US Forest Service Cooperative Forest Health Program review in the Jones Auditorium. The review was conducted by Bernard Raimo, Margaret Weeks, and Dennis Souto from the US Forest Service Durham Field Office, Durham, New Hampshire. Also present at the review were Kyle Lombard Forest Health Program Coordinator for New Hampshire and Ralph Scarpino, Program Leader for Forest Protection, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Station staff presenting updates on survey and research work was DR. VICTORIA SMITH, DR. CAROLE CHEAH, DR. RICHARD COWLES, DR. CHRIS MAIER, DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE, DR. JEFFREY WARD, SCOTT WILLIAMS, DR. ROBERT MARRA, and DR. SANDRA ANAGNOSTAKIS (August 8-9); with DR. LOUIS MAGNARELLI, conducted diversity training for new employees in Jones Auditorium (August 21); and with DR. JEFFREY WARD, participated in a US Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Invasives Species Research Program Technical Advisory meeting in Avon, Connecticut (August 30).

MRS. ROSE BONITO, MR. JEFFREY FENGLER, and MR. MICHAEL THOMAS observed 13 species of butterflies, 3 species of moth, 11 species of birds, 5 species of dragonflies, and 2 species of frogs in the Bird & Butterfly Garden on Plant Science Day (August 2).

<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>	<b>BIRDS</b>	<b>DRAGONFLIES</b>
Broad-winged Skipper	American Goldfinch	Blue Dasher ( <i>Pachydiplax longipennis</i> )
Cabbage White	Barn Swallow	Common Whitetail ( <i>Libellula lydia</i> )
Common Sootywing	Brown Thrasher	Spot-winged Glider ( <i>Pantala hymenaea</i> )
Eastern Tailed Blue	Common Grackle	Twelve-spotted Skimmer ( <i>Libellula</i> )

		pulchella)
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	European Starling	Wandering Glider ( <i>Pantala flavescens</i> ) (in field)
Least Skipper	Gray Catbird	
Monarch (laying eggs)	House Finch	
Orange Sulphur	House Sparrow	
Pearl Crescent	Mourning Dove	
Peck's Skipper	Northern Cardinal	
Question Mark (including larvae)	Song Sparrow	
Spicebush Swallowtail (including larvae)		
Tawny Edge Skipper		
<b>MOTHS</b>		<b>OTHER</b>
Chickweed Geometer		Green Frog
Lesser Grapevine Looper Moth		American Bullfrog
Polyphemus Moth		

## Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD visited by Ann Camp and Helen Poulus (Yale faculty) to discuss long-term research in Connecticut (August 2); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven (August 8); spoke on "Current Forest Research" at the Connecticut Forest Health Program Review in New Haven (August 9); chaired Connecticut Forest Council- research committee meeting in Middlefield (August 15); participated in technical review of USDA Forest Service – Northern Research Station Invasive Species Research Program in Avon (August 30); interviewed about fall leaf colors by Brigitte Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican (August 31).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended a "meet the public" event for Rosa DeLauro at Geremia Greenhouse Wallingford CT (August 3); and gave a talk on "Extending the vegetable season" to the East Haven Garden Club (8 adults) (August 17).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD discussed the New Crops Program with John Holbrook at his farm in Bethel (August 10).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL gave a presentation to members of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association and an overview of CAES winegrape research at Gouveia Vineyards (48 attendees) (August 5); participated in a grape pathology workshop at the University of Connecticut (15 attendees) (August 9); attended a University of Massachusetts-SARE workshop on grape harvest rot and sprayer technology at Johnathan Edwards Winery (40 attendees) (August 29); met with Larry McCulloch at Charmard Vineyards to discuss harvest season strategies (August 31).

MICHAEL SHORT became a member of the CT Nursery and Landscape Association (August 1); and administrated the CT Accredited Nursery Professional course as a member of the CNLA Education committee (August 2006).

SCOTT WILLIAMS spoke on "Seed Dispersal by Deer" at the Connecticut Forest Health Program Review in New Haven (August 9).

## Lockwood Farm

## **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS reported on her chestnut and butternut research to the Forest Health Program Review Panel in Jones Auditorium (20 attendees) (August 8).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS assisted with a tour of the new Molecular Plant Diagnostics Laboratory for attendees of the Forest Health Program Review Panel (August 8); was interviewed about poisonous plants by Chris Weatherbee for an article that she is writing for The American Gardener and Ms. Weatherbee requested the use of Dr. Douglas' fact sheet on poisonous plants in her article (August 15); was interviewed about the parasitic seed plant dodder by Judy Benson of The Day (New London) (August 18); was interviewed about diseases of maples this season by Dick Cummings of the Connecticut Post (August 28); was interviewed about the Plant Disease Information Office and how it assists residents of Connecticut by Alison Damast of the Stamford Advocate (August 29); was interviewed about fall color in Connecticut by Bridgette Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican-American (August 31).

DR. WADE H. ELMER was interviewed about the *Fusarium* species associated with Sudden Wetland Dieback by Ashley Ahearn of National Public Radio's "Living on Earth"; attended a meeting/presentation with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro to discuss agricultural issues at Geremia Farms in Wallingford (August 3); was interviewed about the association of *Fusarium* with Sudden Wetland Dieback in New England by Ray Henry of the Associated Press (August 10); was interviewed about the association of *Fusarium* with Sudden Wetland Dieback in New England by Nancy Cohen of Connecticut Public Radio (August 11); with DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA and MS. JOAN BRAVO, met with Ashley Ahearn of National Public Radio at Hammonasset Beach State Park to view and report on a site where Sudden Wetland Dieback has occurred; was interviewed about the association of *Fusarium* with Sudden Wetland Dieback in New England by Jim Shelton of the New Haven Register (August 16); was invited to join Drs. Frank Caruso and Stephen Smith of the University of Massachusetts to inspect the Middle Meadows on the Great Island on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where Sudden Wetland Dieback has appeared (August 28).

## **Soil and Water**

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Ann DeMatteo, New Haven Register (August 2); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Jeff Holtz, NY Times (August 3); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Nancy Cohen, Connecticut Public Radio (August 3); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Nanci Hutson, Danbury News Times (August 3); was interviewed about the first human case of West Nile virus for the year in Bristol, CT by Marc Sims, Connecticut Public Radio (August 4); was interviewed about the first human case of West Nile virus for the year in Bristol, CT by Fran Schneido, CBS Radio NY (August 4); was interviewed about the first human case of West Nile virus for the year in Bristol, CT by Debra Bogstie, NBC 30TV (August 4); was interviewed about the first human case of West Nile virus for the year in Bristol, CT by Leon Collins WFSB TV3 (August 4); was interviewed about the first human case of West Nile virus for the year in Bristol, CT by the Norwich Bulletin (August 4); was interviewed about West Nile virus infections in horses by Sharon Smith, Quarter Horse Journal (August 23); was interviewed about the first West Nile virus human fatality by Bob Miller, Danbury News Times (August 23); was interviewed about the first West Nile virus human fatality by the Associated Press of Hartford (August 23); was interviewed about the first West Nile virus human fatality by Steve Kotchko, Connecticut Public Radio (August 23); was interviewed about the human cases of West Nile virus by Brian Burnell, New England Cable News (August 24); was interviewed about the human cases of West Nile virus by Shawn Philips, NBC 30 (August 24); was interviewed about the human cases of West Nile virus by Hartford Metro News (August 24); was interviewed about the 2<sup>nd</sup> human case of West Nile virus in New Haven by Abe Katz, New Haven Register (August 28); was interviewed about the cluster of human cases of West Nile virus in the New Haven area by Jeff Holtz, New York Times (August 29); was interviewed about the cluster of human cases of West Nile virus in the New Haven area by Anna Gustafson, Norwalk Hour (August 29); was interviewed about the cluster of human cases of West Nile virus in the New Haven area by John Charlton, Fox 61 (August 30); was interviewed about the status West Nile virus in Connecticut and the mosquito trapping and testing program by Jim Moore, Waterbury Republican (August 30); was interviewed about the cluster of human case of West Nile virus in the New Haven area by Nancy Hudson, Danbury News Times (August 30); met with officials from State DEP, DPH, the towns of New Haven and West

Haven to discuss and map out regions for adulticiding for mosquitoes along the West River area (August 31); appeared on the Fox 61 Talk Show *Going Beyond the Headlines* with Dr. James Hadler of the CTDPH and moderator Lori Perez, to discuss the situation with West Nile virus in CT (August 31); was interviewed about adult mosquito pesticide spraying in the greater New Haven area by Abe Katz, New Haven Register (August 31); and was interviewed about the first detection of Eastern Equine encephalitis virus in Stonington by Judy Benson, The Day (August 31).

DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG Presented a talk entitled *Diversity of Mosquito-borne Viruses in Connecticut* at Plant Science Day, held at Lockwood Farm in Hamden (August 2).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI Presented a talk entitled *Vertebrate hosts of mosquitoes involved in transmission of West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis viruses in the northeastern United States* at the Annual Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs CT. (greater than 250 attendees) (August 9); and presented a poster display co-authored by Theodore Andreadis and colleagues from Yale University entitled *Habitat determines host feeding patterns of Culex salinarius, a bridge vector of West Nile virus in Connecticut, USA* at the Annual Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs CT (greater than 250 attendees) (August 9)

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY presented a paper entitled, *Using GIS to Map Invasive Aquatic Plants in Connecticut* at the ESRI User Conference held in San Diego, CA (August 6-9).

DR. JASON WHITE Participated in EPA sponsored Conference Call as a member of the Executive Committee to finalize the formation of the International Society of Phytotechnologies (August 29).

## **Valley Laboratory**

TIMOTHY ABBEY gave a short presentation on “Plant Health Care for the Connecticut Nursery and Landscaping Industries” and staffed the corresponding display at Plant Science Day in Hamden (August 2).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave 2 talks for the Pesticide Credit Tour and Walking Tour (25 attendees) on biological control of HWA at Plant Science Day, (August 2) at Hamden; gave a presentation on biological control of HWA in CT to the USDA Forest Service (10 attendees) for the Forest Health Program Review (August 8) at the Jones Auditorium in New Haven; gave a presentation on artificial diet development for HWA predators and attended the HWA Steering Committee Meeting (20 attendees) at Avon Old Farms Hotel, Avon, CT on (August 29).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Monitoring and Management of Turf Insects” at the demonstration tent (60 attendees), and “Chemical Control of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid,” for the walking tour (10 attendees) at Plant Science Day, Hamden (August 2) and also provided an update, “Chemical Control of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid,” at the Forest Health Program Review, New Haven (15 attendees) (August 8).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA was interviewed about the use of oilseed crops for biodiesel by Ann DeMatteo for the New Haven Register (August 2); participated in the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council meeting in Tolland (August 15); was interviewed about root-knot nematodes infecting *Spartina* salt marsh grasses by Ashley Ahearn National Public Radio ‘Living on Earth’ (August 16); met with researchers at the University of Connecticut Chemistry and Engineering Departments to discuss research on biodiesel production in Connecticut (August 23); assisted Lakshmi pathi Srigiriraju, graduate student at Virginia Polytech, with a survey of tobacco aphid tolerance to imidacloprid, acephate, methomyl and lambda-cyhalothrin (August 25); and participated in the Office of Policy and Management Bio-energy Research Center meeting (August 31).

## **Journal Articles Approved August 2006**

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. The Chestnut Plantation at Sleeping Giant: Legacy of Arthur Harmount Graves. Journal of the American Chestnut Foundation

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in the United States. The Australian Nutgrower

Boehm, M. T., Donald E. Aylor, and E. J. Shields. Maize Pollen Dispersal Under Convective Conditions. Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology

Cheah, Carole. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in Connecticut 2005-2006. 2006 HWA Newsletter

L. Datnoff, Wade Elmer, A. Prabhu, and N. Fageria. Balanced Chloride, Potassium, and Silicon Nutrition for Plant Disease Management. Intl. Symposium on Balanced Fertilization for Sustainability of Crop Productivity, 22-25 Nov. 2006

Li, De-Wei. *Stachybotrys eucylindrospora* sp. nov. Resulting from a Re-examination of *Stachybotrys cylindrospora*. Mycologia

Mattina, MaryJane Incorvia, William A. Berger. Root Physiology Determines Pollutant Profiles in Planta, Confirming Soil-to-Plant Uptake. Plant Physiology (Scientific Correspondence)

White, Jason C., R. Peters, J. W. Kelsey. Surfactants Impact DDE Accumulation by Plant and Earthworm Species. Environmental Science and Technology

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