

STATION NEWS

THE CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION



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STATION NEWS
*PUTTING SCIENCE TO WORK FOR
SOCIETY*

The mission of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is to develop, advance, and disseminate scientific knowledge, improve agricultural productivity and environmental quality, protect plants, and enhance human health and well-being through research for the benefit of Connecticut residents and the nation. Seeking solutions across a variety of disciplines for the benefit of urban, suburban, and rural communities, Station scientists remain committed to "Putting Science to Work for Society", a motto as relevant today as it was at our founding in 1875.



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

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FEBRUARY 2013

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DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

ADMINISTRATION

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI met with members of the Experiment Station Associates and presented an update on Station activities (January 8); hosted and participated in a meeting of the Station's Board of Control (January 16); and participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association (January 17).

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

DR. JASON C. WHITE participated an FDA 50-state conference call describing new regulations as part of the Food Safety Modernization Act (January 3); participated in the monthly Laboratory Preparedness Network meeting at the Department of Public Health in Rocky Hill (January 7); along with **MR. JOSEPH HAWTHORNE** hosted undergraduate student Nicole Cammisa of Muhlenberg College who worked in the laboratory on collaborative experiments (January 7-8); participated with **DR. BRIAN EITZER, MS. KITTIPATH PRAPAYOTIN-RIVEROS, DR. CHRISTINA ROBB, MS. TERRI ARSENAULT, MR. CRAIG MUSANTE, AND MR. WILLIAM BERGER** in an FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) conference call (January 10); participated in an organizational conference call with the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) regarding a special "Nanotoxicology" session I will be co-chairing at the upcoming APHL meeting in June 2013 (January 11); gave a lecture at the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) entitled "Phytotechnologies- The use of vegetation to alleviate environmental contamination" (20 attendees) and met with officials from DEEP and Wesleyan University regarding potential phytoremediation projects (January 15); gave a presentation on recent food safety research at CAES to Melinda Cep of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Washington DC staff (January 16); gave a lecture at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg Maryland entitled "Nanomaterial interactions with agricultural crop species" (25 attendees) and met with several NIST research groups to discuss collaborative research projects (January 17); met with Captain Michael McLaughlin of the Public Health Service in Rockville Maryland regarding FDA Food Emergency Response Network activities (January 17); participated with **DR. BRIAN EITZER, DR. WALTER KROL, MS. KITTIPATH PRAPAYOTIN-RIVEROS, DR. CHRISTINA ROBB, MS. TERRI ARSENAULT, MR. JOHN RANCIATO, MR. WILLIAM BERGER, MR. CRAIG MUSANTE, AND MR. JOSEPH HAWTHORNE** in a FDA ISO Accreditation Cooperative Agreement Laboratory conference call (January 24); participated in a conference call for the organizing committee of the upcoming 10th International Phytotechnologies Conference in Syracuse NY (January 24), and along with **DR. CHRISTINA ROBB** attended an organization meeting for the annual First Responder Terrorism Response training conference at the Department of Public Health in Rocky Hill (January 29).

DR. BRIAN EITZER attended the PI meeting of the Coordinated Agricultural Program on Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Health of Managed Bees, the NC1173 Multi-State Hatch Meeting on Sustainable Solutions to Problems Affecting Bee Health, and the American Bee Research Conference in Hershey, PA from (January 8- 11); was interviewed by June Stoyer of "The Organic View Radio Show", an internet based talk radio show, about his research on the effects of neonicotinoid pesticides on bees (January 16); and attended the Clinical/Analytical "Toxi-Rounds" at the CT Department of Public Health in Rocky Hill and contributed information to a seminar on drug adulteration (January 31).



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MS. TERRI ARSENAULT, along with **MS. KITTIPATH PRAPAYOTIN-RIVEROS**, viewed a webinar by Henry L Alexander (Calibration Program Manager) from PJLA (Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation) as part of our ISO Accreditation program (January 29).

ENTOMOLOGY

MS. KATHERINE DUGAS staffed a Forest Pest and CAPS booth at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Winter Meeting at Manchester Community College (January 3-4); staffed a Forest Pest display table supported jointly by DEEP Forestry and USDA APHIS PPQ staff at the RV and Camping Show at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford (January 11-13); staffed a Forest Pest and Question and Answer booth at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association Winter Meeting at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (January 17); and staffed a Forest Pest display table at the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association Conference in Cromwell (January 22-23).

MS. ROSE T. HISKES staffed a Forest Pest and CAPS booth at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Winter Meeting at Manchester Community College; updated Pesticide Guide Toward Integrated Pest Management for Connecticut Nurseries was available for sale (January 3-4); with **MR. JAMES PRESTE**, met with Hartford County Master Gardener Coordinator, Sarah Bailey, to set up a program where Master Gardeners, under supervision, use our Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Discovery and Education Gardens as a hands-on place to practice what they have learned in their classroom lectures (January 10); set up and staffed a Forest Pest display table supported jointly by DEEP Forestry and USDA APHIS PPQ staff at the RV and Camping Show at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford (January 11-13); with **MS. KATHERINE DUGAS**, **DRS. CLAIRE E. RUTLEDGE** and **KIRBY C. STAFFORD III**, staffed a Forest Pest and Question and Answer booth at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association Winter Meeting at Aqua Turf in Plantsville; and updated the Pesticide Guide Toward Integrated Pest Management for Connecticut Arborists was available for sale (January 17).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER discussed the distribution and life cycle of the periodical cicada at a meeting to design an exhibit about the insect for the Peabody Museum, Yale University, New Haven (January 28).

DR. CLAIRE E. RUTLEDGE gave a talk titled "An Update on Emerald Ash Borer" at the Winter Symposium of the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association and Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association held at Manchester Community College (50 adult attendees) (January 4); presented a table on "*Cerceris fumipennis*, the beetle hunting wasp" at the Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (January 17).

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH gave a talk titled "Working Within a Quarantine: What You Need to Know" at the Winter Meeting of the CT Nursery and Landscape Association at Manchester Community College (approx. 200 participants) (January 4); participated in a Cooperative Management Review, in conjunction with DEEP and the US Forest Service, of CAES-DEEP-USFS cooperative forestry programs, held in the Russell Conference Room in Hartford (20 participants) (January 22-25).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III attended the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association meeting in Manchester (January 4); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association winter meeting in Plantsville (January 17); attended the 500th meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society at Yale University (January 18); participated in the U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Management Program Review and Forest Health Program Review in Hartford (14 attendees) (January 22-23, 25); with **DRS. GOUDARZ MOLAEI** and **DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS**, met with Dr. Charles B. Beard, Chief, Bacterial Diseases Branch, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, CDC (January 24); participated in a webinar on site administration of the new USDA-NIFA REEport project reporting system (January 29); with **MR. MICHAEL P. LAST**, provided testimony on three house bills to update the language of the Experiment Station's statutes and attended the opening of the bids for the Jenkins-Waggoner Laboratory in Hartford (January 30).



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DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a day-long discussion of the Advisory Team to the “Scaling Up” project, led by Jiff Martin of the University of Connecticut, at the Tolland County Extension Center in Vernon; this is a project to assist farmers who want to increase the size and scope of existing farming operations (9 attendees) (January 10) and spoke on “Pest Management for Organic Farms” at the CT NOFA Getting Started in Organic Farming Conference held at Goodwin College in East Hartford (60 attendees) (January 26).

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

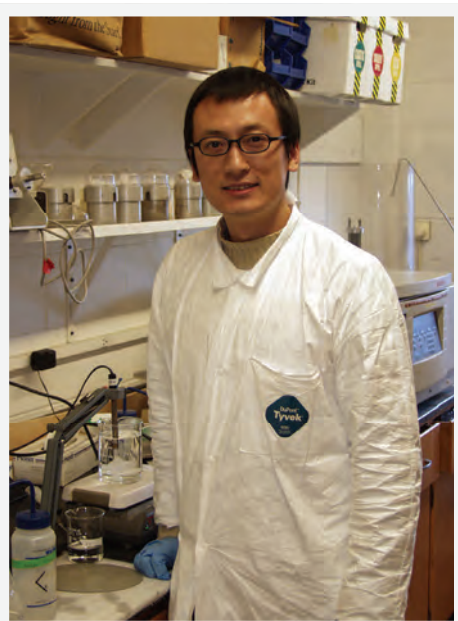
MR. GREG BUGBEE spoke to a 2nd grade class at L.W. Beecher School in New Haven on *Soil* (25 attendees) (January 7); spoke to a class at the COOP High School in New Haven on *Soil Testing* (20 attendees) (January 9); spoke to a 2nd grade class at L.W. Beecher School in New Haven on *Soil* (25 attendees) (January 15); interviewed by Kristen Dimer of Serendipity Magazine on soil testing (January 15); with **MS. JORDAN GIBBONS** and **MS. JENNIFER FANZUTTI** presented a poster entitled *New Nuisance Aquatic Plants for New England* at the 14th Annual Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference in Westbrook, CT (150 attendees) (January 23).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO attended and chaired the program and lectured at Annual Meeting of the USDA Multistate W2082 group. Title of lecture *Sorption selectivity in natural organic matter studied with nitroxyl paramagnetic relaxation probes* held at Ft. Collins, CO (January 22-24).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS discussed invertebrate conservation projects and funding priorities at a subcommittee meeting of Connecticut's Endangered Species Advisory Committee held at Wesleyan University, Middletown (January 21).

NEW STAFF

DR. FENG (FRANK) XIAO joined the staff of the Department of Environmental Sciences on January 3 as a Postdoctoral Scientist. He is working with Dr. Joseph Pignatello on an NSF-sponsored project: *Interactions of ionic and ionogenic compounds with biochars and other carbonaceous substances*. Dr. Feng received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Minnesota Minneapolis with a major in Civil Engineering (Environmental) and a minor in Environmental Health. Before joining of CAES, he worked for a short time as a Post-Doctoral Associate at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory.





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FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY attended New York/New England Society of American Foresters annual meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY (January 31).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD attended the Connecticut Vegetable Growers Meeting in Vernon (January 17); gave an update of Station activities a meeting of the State Technical Committee in Tolland (32 participants) (January 23); assisted AP Biology students with their projects at Hamden Hall Country Day School (16 students, 1 teacher) (January 24).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference Steering Committee conference call (January 14).

DR. JEFFREY WARD participated in the Roadside Management Plan meeting in Middlefield (January 14); attended the Connecticut Tree Protective Association annual meeting in Plainville (January 17); interviewed about running bamboos by Julie Curtis, The Daily Voice (January 22); participated in a conference call meeting of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council (January 25); interviewed about climate and leaf-out dates by John Burgeson of the Connecticut Post (January 28); attended New York/New England Society of American Foresters annual meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY (January 30-31); spoke on "Comparing effectiveness impacts of Japanese barber control treatments and herbivory reduction on non-native and native plant communities: 4-5 year results" at the New York/New England Society of American Foresters annual meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY (80 attendees) (January 30).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS participated in a conference call meeting of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council (January 25)

PLANT PATHOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a presentation titled "Update on boxwood blight and impatiens downy mildew in Connecticut" at the CNLA/CGGA Winter Symposium at Manchester Community College (120 attendees) (January 4); participated in and organized the CTPA Annual Meeting and coordinated the CAES booth at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (880 attendees) (January 17); was interviewed by Melanie Box, producer of "Breakthroughs," a Public TV program hosted by Martin Sheen. They were exploring the possibility of featuring CAES and its service and research programs in their upcoming segment on agriculture (January 28); and was interviewed about climate and the timing of flowering of woody plants in Connecticut by John Burgeson of the Connecticut Post (January 28).

DR. WADE H. ELMER moderated and spoke on a panel session on "Good cultural practices" at the CNLA/CGGA Winter Symposium at Manchester Community College (75 attendees) (January 3); and gave an invited seminar titled "Sudden vegetation dieback along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts" at the Fisheries and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg, FL (32 attendees) (January 11).

DR. YONGHAO LI attended the CNLA/CGGA Winter Symposium at Manchester Community College (January 4) and staffed the CAES booth at the CTPA Winter Meeting held at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (January 17).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA met with **DRS. SHARON DOUGLAS, NEIL MCHALE,** and **YONGHAO LI** to discuss molecular-based plant disease diagnostics (January 15); helped staff the Plant Pathology table at the CTPA Winter Meeting held at Aqua Turf in Plantsville (January 17); and attended a meeting of the "Improving Tree Health" working group (January 29).



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VALLEY LABORATORY

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave a presentation on 5 years of USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area funded biological control projects on hemlock woolly adelgid and mile-a-minute weed to USDA Forest Service program reviewers and state officials at the DEEP HQ Forestry Division, Hartford, during the USDA Forest Service NA Cooperative Management Review (15 people) (January 22); and gave a webinar on the use of artificial diets for rearing of HWA predators for the USDA Forest Service, (18 attendees) (January 30).

DR. RICHARD COWLES provided 1.5 hours of pesticide training on the subject of "Optimal pesticide selection" to growers at Summerhill Nursery, Madison (5 attendees) (January 22); spoke on "Exotic insects and their management" to the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association, Cromwell (200 attendees) (January 23); presented "Spotted wing drosophila: research update" at the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers' Association, Montpelier, VT (200 attendees) (January 28).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed about research plans for hop production and disease management by Will Rowlands of Connecticut Gardener Magazine (January 7); presented a poster and spoke to growers on 'Bloat Nematode (*Ditylenchus dipsaci*) Infecting Garlic' at the Connecticut Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Conference in Vernon (197 people) (January 17); with colleagues George Abawi of Cornell-Geneva and Beth Gugino of Penn State University conducted a day-long SARE-funded workshop on the identification, assessment and management of soilborne plant pathogens in vegetable systems held in Hershey PA (40 people) (January 28); and was interviewed about vegetable pathology and the importance of outreach by Jamie Klein of the Reading Eagle newspaper (January 28).

MS. MICHELLE SALVAS assisted with registration at the CT Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Conference held in Vernon (January 17).

ARTICLES OF INTEREST



New England Society of American Forester's Distinguished Service Award for 2013

Ms. Joan Nichols (CAES Board of Control), was awarded the New England Society of American Forester's Distinguished Service Award on January 31, 2013. Photo credit: Mel Harder.

JOAN NICHOLS
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
2013 NESAF/NYSAF WINTER MEETING
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

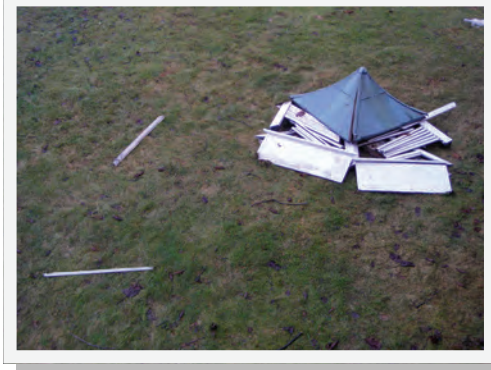


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Valley Laboratory cupola damage from a wind and rain storm on Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Photo credit: Jeffrey Fengler





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JOURNAL ARTICLES APPROVED JANUARY 2012

- Anagnostakis, Sandra L.** Growing Chestnut Trees. CAES Fact Sheet (rev. January 2013)
- Dreyer, G., **Jeffrey S. Ward.** Right Tree, Right Place – Roadside Planting for the Future. Connecticut Gardener
- Elmer, Wade H.** and L. E. Datnoff. Plant Health Management: Mineral Nutrition and Suppression of Plant Disease. Encyclopedia of Agriculture and Food Systems, R. James Cook, Editor; Elsevier Publishing Co.
- Eitzer, Brian D.,** W. Hammack, M. Filigenzi. General method to screen foods and beverages for pesticides using QuEChERS extraction...” FERN/FDA
- Gent, Martin P. N.** Effect of Daily Integrated Irradiance on Composition of Hydroponic Lettuce. J. Science of Food and Agriculture
- Li, De-Wei, E.** Johanning, and C. S. Yang. Airborne Fungi and Mycotoxins. Manual of Environmental Microbiology (book chapter)
- Maier, Chris T.** Return of the Periodical Cicadas. Giant News (a newsletter)
- Marra, Robert E.** Ramorum Blight (Sudden Oak Death). CAES Fact Sheet
- Maynard, Abigail A.** How to Grow Sweet Potatoes in Connecticut. CT Weekly Agricultural Report
- Rutledge, Claire E.,** M. K. Fierke, P. Careless, T. Worthley. First Detection of *Agrilus planipennis* in Connecticut Made by Monitoring *Cereceris fumipennis* (Crabonidae) Colony. Journal of Hymenopteran Research
- Schein, J., K. A. Hunt, **Neil P. Schultes,** G. S. Mourad. Functional characterization of the *C. reinhardtii* nucleobase cation symporter1 reveals parallel substrate specificity to AtNCSI in Arabidopsis. Biochem Biophys. Research Communications
- Ward, Jeffrey S., Scott C. Williams,** T. E. Worthley. Japanese barberry control methods. Reference guide for foresters and professional woodland managers. Station Fact Sheet
- Yong, R. Y. Yang, B. Xing, **Joseph J. Pignatello,** S. Kwon, W. Su, and L. Zhou. Evidence of Micropore-filling for Sorption of Nonpolar Organic Contaminants by Condensed Organic Matter. Journal of Environmental Quality

**THE
CONNECTICUT
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*Putting Science to work
for Society.*



Entrance to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven on Huntington Street



Main Laboratories, New Haven



Lockwood Farm, Hamden



Griswold Research Center, Griswold



Valley Laboratory, Windsor

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Station News was prepared and edited by Dr. Louis Magnarelli, Dr. Kirby Stafford, Ms. Tia Blevins, and Mrs. Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski.