

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

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI welcomed students from New Haven High School's Talented and Gifted Program and spoke about Station research programs (July 18).

Grants and Fundraising Office

MS. TESS FOLEY attended GE Health and Safety Day at GE Financial Danbury, CT Station presented information on Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, and indoor mold and air quality (Attendance 250 GE employees) (July 22); met with marketing representatives from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to discuss our CT Specialty Crop Block Grant (July 24); conference call with executives from Webster Bank to discuss site tour of Station and Lockwood Farm for funding consideration (July 28); toured the Yale Farm and met with representatives from Yale Community Sustainable Agriculture project (July 29).

Entomology

MS. ROSE BONITO prepared and set-up a display on 'Pollinators in the Garden' at the New Haven Main Public Library, New Haven. The display focused on honey bees and butterflies seen in Connecticut to go along with the summer reading program for children (July 1-July 31); arranged and set-up a table display and provided hand-outs for the 'Bees in Fair Haven' talk at the Fair Haven Library in New Haven (22 participants) (July 10) ; presented and set-up a table display and provided material for the 'Live Bees' talk at the Stetson Library in New Haven (58 participants) (July 15); created and set-up a table display and provided hand-outs for the 'Hear the Buzz' at the Wilson Library in New Haven (76 participants) (July 16); and arranged a Tick and Lyme Disease display for an exhibit at the GE Employee Safety Day held at their facility in Danbury (July 22).

MS. ROSE HISKES was interviewed by Jason Cunningham of the Journal Inquirer (Manchester, CT) about biting insects (circulation 43,000) (July 8), staffed a Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) booth at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association summer meeting in Lebanon (435 attendees) (July 16), staffed The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station question and answer booth at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association summer meeting in Farmington (676 attendees) (July 17), spoke about insects to the Talented and Gifted Program (40 students) (July 18), and participated in a Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group symposium planning committee meeting in Windsor (July 24).

MR. IRA KETTLE presented a honey bee show and talk with questions and answers for the "Bees in Fair Haven" at the Fair Haven Library in New Haven (22 participants) (July 10); presented a honey bee talk and showed equipment used for beekeeping and had a question and answer session for the 'Live Bees' talk at the Stetson Public Library in New Haven (58 participants) (July 15); provided a live honey bee exhibit and gave a talk with questions and answer session for the 'Hear the Buzz' at the Wilson Library in New Haven (76 participants) (July 16); and gave a short talk and answered questions for another group at the Wilson Library (7 participants) (July 16).



Mr. Ira Kettle at the Fair Haven Public Library (Photo by Ms. Rose Bonito)



Mr. Ira Kettle at the Stetson Public Library (Photo by Ms. Rose Bonito)



Mr. Ira Kettle at the Wilson Public Library (Photo by Ms. Rose Bonito)

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in an instructional Webinar on identification of Light Brown Apple Moth, conducted by the National Identification Service (approximately 60 participants) (July 1); was interviewed by Aaron Kupec of WTIC-Radio, about defoliation of oaks by gypsy moth (July 17); assisted USDA-APHIS-PPQ officers in a facility inspection of the USFS Insect Quarantine Facility in Ansonia, CT (July 18); participated in a meeting of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Administrative Council, as the representative of the Eastern Region Departments of Agriculture, held at Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, West Virginia (approximately 40 participants) (July 20- July 24); and participated in a meeting of the National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Committee, as the representative of the Eastern Plant Board, held at the USDA Professional Development Center in Frederick, Maryland (25 participants) (July 28- August 1).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD participated in the meeting of the Northeastern Regional Association of Experiment Station Directors (NERA) in Bethesda, MD (July 13-15); visited by Dr. Joseph Piesman, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to review progress on the CDC Cooperative Agreement

(July 25); and interviewed by Susan Haigh, Associated Press Writer, about gypsy moth activity and defoliation in Connecticut (July 28).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in the annual meeting of NE-9, the annual meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Plant Genetic Resource Unit of the USDA, located in Geneva, NY, Ithaca, NY (9 Attendees) (July 8); visited Bob Maddox at Sun One Solar Farm in Bethlehem, CT (July 11); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Berlin, CT (12 people) (July 20); and visited Terry Jones at the Jones Family Farm in Shelton, CT (July 20).

MS. HEIDI STUBER assisted with our displays and handed out material for an exhibit at the GE Employee Safety Day held at their facility in Danbury (July 22).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in New Haven (July 9); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association annual meeting in Farmington (July 17); spoke on forestry and horticultural research for TAG students (32 students, 2 teachers) (July 18); and spoke on tree growth at Park City GIS Tree Mapping Boot Camp in Bridgeport (12 students, 4 adults) (July 29).

DR. MARTIN GENT attended the American Society for Horticultural Science Meeting in Orlando FL and presented posters on "Effect of Shade on Water and Nutrient Use in Greenhouse Tomato" and "Effect of Plant Size on Diurnal Variation of Nitrate and Sugars in Lettuce" (1,000 attendees) (July 21-24).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke to a class from Southern Connecticut State University about the New Crops Program at Lockwood Farm (15 middle and high school teachers) (July 10); attended a Garden Party at the Yale Farm (July 29).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL attended the annual meeting of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture-Eastern Section in St. Catharines, Ontario (July 14-16); elected Secretary to the ASEV-ES Board of Directors (July 15); and participated in a meeting of the ASEV-ES Board of Directors (July 16).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS met colleagues from the University of Notre Dame (IN), University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and Frostburg University (MD) to discuss plans to integrate forest science into the new school program and to examine butternut trees and hybrids on the Qualla Boundary Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina (July 10-13); met with two students and the laboratory manager of the molecular genetics laboratory at the University of Notre Dame to show them butternut and hybrid populations found in Connecticut (July 18-20); presented a "re-creation" of a talk (done in period costume as Flora Patterson, USDA) on chestnut blight given by two USDA scientists at the first meeting in 1908 at the Centennial Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society in Minneapolis, MN (500 people attended) (July 28).



From left to right, Eric Stromberg (moderator), George Lacy as E. O. Smith (phytobacteria in 1908), Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis as Flora Patterson (chestnut bark disease in 1908), Gary Griffin (chestnut blight today), and Jeff Jones (phytobacteria today).

DR BOTOND BALOGH attended the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association Twilight Meeting at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (July 10) and attended the annual summer meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Farmington (July 17).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about plant pathology, the role of the Plant Disease Information Office, and Plant Science Day 2008 by Gerri Hirshey of the New York Times (July 3); discussed diseases of transplant beds of Christmas tree plantations in Connecticut and advantages of bare root versus plug transplants at the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association Twilight Meeting at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (50 adult attendees) (July 10); photographer Thomas McDonald visited the Station to take photos for the New York Times article by Gerri Hirshey (July 16); organized and moderated oral paper sessions and answered questions about current diseases of shade and ornamental trees at the Summer Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Farmington (646 adult attendees) (July 17); hosted a group of talented and gifted high school students to discuss plant pathology and the role of the Plant Disease Information Office of the Experiment Station (2 adults and 20 youths attended) (July 18); presented a poster entitled “The nation’s first agricultural experiment station: Discoveries that shaped plant pathology” and participated in a workshop entitled “Fighting *Phytophthora*” at the Centennial Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society in Minneapolis, MN (500 adult attendees) (July 25-30).

DR. WADE H. ELMER gave a talk on “Diseases caused by species of *Fusarium*” to a group of talented and gifted high school students visiting the Station (2 adults and 20 youths attended) (July 18); presented a poster entitled “The pathogenicity and phylogeny of *Fusarium oxysporum* isolates on *Coreopsis verticillata* ‘Moonbeam’” at the Centennial Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society in Minneapolis, MN (500 adult attendees) (July 25-30).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave a talk about the use of molecular biology in plant disease diagnostics to a group of talented and gifted high school students visiting the Station (2 adults and 20 youths attended) (July 18).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented a lecture entitled “*West Nile virus: an exotic emerging mosquito-borne disease in the western hemisphere*” to a group of secondary school teachers from Connecticut as part of the “Peabody Fellows Program on Biodiversity and Vector-Borne Diseases (approximately 30 in attendance) (July 15); was interviewed about the isolations of West Nile virus from mosquitoes collected in Stamford by Fran Schneido, CBS Radio NY and Stephen Clark, Stamford Advocate (July 15); was interviewed about the first human case of West Nile virus this year in a resident of

Sherman Connecticut by Fran Schneido CBS Radio, Bob Miller, Danbury News Times, Marc Sims Connecticut Public Radio (July 15); presented an overview of West Nile virus and the Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program to a group of approximately 24 TAG students from the greater New Haven area (July 18); was interviewed about the isolations of West Nile virus from mosquitoes collected in Stamford and the first human case of West Nile virus this year in a resident of Sherman by Chase Wright, Stamford Times and Meredith Blake-Greenwich Times (July 22); was interviewed about the isolations of West Nile virus from mosquitoes collected in Milford and overall West Nile virus activity in Connecticut by Pam McGloughlin, New Haven Register; Noelle Frampton, Connecticut Post; and Sara Wilson, Bristol Free Press (July 23); was interviewed about the isolations of West Nile virus from mosquitoes collected in Greenwich by Meredith Blake, Greenwich Times (July 24); was about the early West Nile virus activity in CT this year by Marc Sims Connecticut Radio Network (July 24); was interviewed about the isolations of West Nile virus from mosquitoes collected in Darien, East Haven, Hamden, New Haven, and Norwalk by Anjuli Porter, NBC 30TV; Fran Schneido, CBS radio NY; and Elizabeth Benton, New Haven Register (July 29).

DR. PHILIP ARMSTRONG spoke to students from the Yale Summer Scholars Program on the West Nile virus surveillance program (July 11).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on *Container Gardening Indoors and Out* as part of a gardening lecture series, at the Manross Library in Forestville (July 9); spoke on *Container Gardening Indoors and Out* to the Plymouth Garden Club at the Plymouth Town Hall (July 15); spoke on “*Milfoil Control in Bashan Lake*” at the annual meeting of the Bashan Lake Association in East Haddam, State Representative Linda Orange and State Senator Eileen Daley as well as First Selectman Mark Walter were in attendance (July 19); spoke on “*Composting*” as part of a gardening lecture series at the Burlington Public Library (July 30); and interviewed by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times on Milfoil in Lake Candlewood” (July 3).

MS. ROSLYN SELESKY gave an invasive aquatic plant identification workshop to residents of Lake Hayward in East Haddam on (40 people attended) (July 19) and gave an invasive aquatic plant identification workshop to students at the Kellogg Environmental Center Wild Kids Program in Derby (10 people attended) (July 29).

DR. JASON WHITE met with Professor Gennaro Frumento of Southern CT State University and 20 of his students at Lockwood Farm and discussed current experiments on phytoremediation and the biological control of Eurasian watermilfoil (20 students) (July 10); hosted Michael Petrillo, an undergraduate at Muhlenberg College in Allentown PA. He assisted on field experiments investigating the phytoremediation of legacy pesticides (July 14-18); and carried out a site visit at Barnum Court, in Danbury CT where efforts are being made to eliminate genetically modified cottonwood volunteers that were temporarily planted on the site to investigate mercury phytoremediation (July 29).

Journal Articles Approved July 2008

Andreadis, Theodore G. Failure of *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera:Culicidae) to Overwinter Following Introduction and Seasonal Establishment at a Tire Recycling Plant in the Northeastern US. Journal of the American Mosquito Control Association

Bugbee, Gregory J., Roslyn Selsky, and Michelle Marko. Invasive Aquatic Plants in Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar. Station Bulletin 1017

Capers, Robert S., Roslyn Selsky, and Gregory J. Bugbee. Integrating Environmental and Spatial Processes in Aquatic Plant Communities. Ecology

Douglas, Sharon M., Mary K. Inman. Seed Germination and Purity Analysis 2008. Station Bulletin

Elmer, Wade H. Influence of Earthworm Activity on Soil Microbes and Soilborne Diseases of Vegetables. Plant Disease

- Marra, Robert E and Jason A. Corwin. Isolation and Characterization of Codominant Markers for the Perennial Canker Fungal Pathogen, *Neonectria ditissima*. Molecular Ecology Resources
- Stillwell, David E., Thomas Rathier, Craig L. Musante, John Ranciato. Lead and Other Heavy Metals in Community Garden Soils in Connecticut. Station Bulletin
- Stillwell, David E. and Craig L. Musante. Comparison of Heavy metals in Community Garden Produce Versus Store-Bought Produce. Station Bulletin
- Stillwell, David E. and John Ranciato. Use of Phosphates to Immobilize Lead in Community Garden Soils. Station Bulletin
- Stoner, Kimberly A. Organic Vegetable Farms in New England: Three Case Studies. Station Bulletin
- Stoner, Kimberly A. Organic Approaches to Home Vegetable Gardening. Long Island Sound Update

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