

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.



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DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

ADMINISTRATION

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about the Experiment station's budget by WQUN radio in Hamden, CT (June 1); and gave a report on Station research and other activities to the Experiment Station Associates (June 6).

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

DR. JASON C. WHITE presented a lecture entitled "Role of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Department of Analytical Chemistry in the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response" at the annual meeting of Connecticut Hospital Association (~ 25 attendees) (June 2); met with Professor William Manning of UMass-Amherst regarding the establishment of collaborative experiments on ozone phytotoxicity (June 3); participated in the monthly Laboratory Preparedness Network meeting at the Department of Public Health in Hartford (June 6); participated with Department staff in a FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCap) Laboratory conference call (June 9); hosted a tour of Analytical Department laboratories for the CT Tree Wardens (~ 12 attendees) (June 9); participated with Department staff in a Northeast Regional FDA FERN conference call and updated members on the current budget situation at CAES (June 14); attended the Northeast Environmental and Public Health Laboratory Directors (NEEPHLD) Quarterly meeting in Concord, NH and presented a lecture entitled "CT Agricultural Experiment Station Department of Analytical Chemistry: 115 Years of Food Safety Research" (~ 12 attendees) (June 15); was awarded one of three inaugural "Super Reviewer Awards" by Prof. Jerald Schnoor, Editor-In-Chief of *Environmental Science and Technology* (June 21); participated in a conference call on the organization of the 8th International Phytotechnology Society meeting to be held on September 13-16, 2011 in Portland, OR (June 22); held a conference call of Project-Directors from UMass-Amherst, SUNY ESF, and Southern Illinois University for our USDA Food Safety grant (June 24); presented a lecture entitled "Nanotoxicology" to a graduate class on "Nanotechnology" at the University of New Haven (~ 12 attendees) (June 28); hosted a tour of the Analytical Department laboratories for students from Southern Connecticut State University (~ 10 attendees) (June 29); participated with Department staff in an FDA FERN-wide conference call (June 29); conducted a phone interview with a graduate student from Clemson University regarding her application to a post-doctoral position in the Department (June 29); and hosted a tour of Department laboratories and programs for two Yale University Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering graduate students (June 30).

DR. BRIAN EITZER attended a planning grant meeting along with Dr. Kimberly Stoner (Entomology Department) at the University of Massachusetts (June 6); participated in a FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (June 9); participated in FDA FERN CAP Chemistry conference call for LC-MS Exactive users (June 15); hosted a tour of the Analytical Department laboratories for students from Central CT State University (~ 12 attendees) (June 15); and participated in a Honey Bee CAP stationary apiary conference call (June 20).

DR. WALTER KROL participated in a FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (cCAP) Laboratory conference call (June 9); participated in FDA FERN CAP Chemistry conference call for LC-MS Exactive users (June 15); and participated in an FDA FERN-wide conference call (June 29).



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DR. WALTER KROL and Karen Hansted were married on June 11, 2011 and used the scenery at the Lockwood Farm for wedding portraits.

ENTOMOLOGY

MS. KATHERINE DUGAS gave a presentation of the Asian longhorned beetle and the Emerald ash borer at Nature Day at Panthorn Park in Southington, CT (150 students attended) (June 2).

MS. ROSE HISKES participated in the Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Program conference call (June 9); was interviewed about the Emerald ash borer by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times (June 10); gave a talk on "Pests of the garden" at the Milford Library (25 attendees) (June 15); and was interviewed about ants by Harlan Levy of the Manchester Journal Inquirer (June 20).

MR. IRA KETTLE gave a honey bee presentation on the importance of pollination at Nature Day at Panthorn Park in Southington, CT (150 students attended) (June 2); gave a presentation on honey bees and the importance of pollinators in Connecticut at the June meeting of The Friends of Harkness held at the Harkness Mansion in Waterford, CT (35 attendees) (June 6); manned the display on honey bees and the importance of pollination and the Asian longhorned beetle/Emerald ash borer informational table at the Griswold Research Center Open House (66 attendees) (June 16); manned a booth on honey bees and the importance of pollination and gave informational talks on the Asian longhorned beetle and the Emerald ash borer at the Bristol Flower Show held at the Carousel Museum in Bristol, CT (200 attendees) (June 18); and participated in a honey bee workshop where he opened hives, showed bees on frames, showed a queen on a frame from another hive (everyone was enthralled with the queen), and held a question-and-answer segment at Massaro Community Farm in Woodbridge, CT (40 attendees) (June 25).

DR. GALE E. RIDGE attended the Conference of Product Stewardship Institute mattress stewardship initiative workgroup via webinar (May 10); installed a display population from her colony of bed bugs at the Peabody Museum exhibit titled the "Invasion of the Bloodsuckers: Bed Bugs and Beyond," which runs from May 28, 2011 through January 8, 2012 (May 18); at the opening reception for the exhibit she was seen on video talking about the combined history of bed bugs and man (May 26); attended an online EPA National Enforcement Training Initiative on bed bugs regarding national legal issues (May 25); spoke about bed bugs to the Department of Public Health, local health administration inspectors, and daycare providers in Hartford, CT (35 attendees) (June 1); spoke about bed bugs to staff from the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut, and was filmed by Connecticut Public Television for a future broadcast, in New Haven, CT (60 attendees) (June 9); was interviewed about insects of Connecticut and the European Honey bee by Judy Benson of The Day (June 9); spoke about entomology to visiting students from Central Connecticut State University (20 attendees) (June 15); spoke about bed bugs to staff from the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut in Meriden, CT (30 attendees) (June 23); and spoke about entomology to a visiting group of teachers led by Dr. Gerry Frumento (10 attendees) (June 29).

DR. CLAIRE E. RUTLEDGE conducted a training session for the WaspWatcher Program, where volunteers monitor the prey of a native, ground-nesting wasp that hunts for beetles. If the Emerald ash borer, a dangerous invasive beetle that is on the borders of Connecticut is present,



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the wasps will bring them to their nests. The training session was held at White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield (27 attendees) (June 28).



DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE training volunteers for the WaspWatcher Program at the White Memorial Conservation Center.

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH completed USDA Cooperative Agreements Training, held via video teleconference at the USDA-APHIS-Plant Protection and Quarantine office in Wallingford (June 21-22); met with Dr. Wayne Wehling, USDA-Marketing and Regulatory Programs-Plant Protection and Quarantine, at Science Park at Yale, to learn about quarantine assessment and evaluation (June 23); and met with Dr. Wayne Wehling, USDA-Marketing and Regulatory Programs-Plant Protection and Quarantine, at the CT Science Center in Hartford, CT to learn about quarantine assessment and evaluation (June 27).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III spoke on "Tick management and Lyme Disease" to members of the Weston Select Committee on Sustainability and the public at the Weston Town Hall (20 adult attendees) (June 7); was interviewed about tick activity by Judy Benson of The Day (June 13); spoke on "Insect Pests of Poultry and Pest Management" at a poultry biosecurity and pest management workshop at the University of Connecticut (8 adult attendees) (June 15); spoke with visitors, including Representative Steven T. Mikutel, at the Griswold Research Center Open House (~80 attendees) (June 16); was interviewed about human babesiosis by George Kennedy of the Republican-American (June 22); was interviewed about the current status of Lyme disease and tick activity by Page Gance of the Norwalk Hour (June 28); with **DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS** and **MR. MICHAEL P. LAST**, met with the Flad Architects design team on the renovations to the Jenkins-Waggoner Building in the Slate Board Room and Jones Auditorium (June 29); was interviewed about tick activity by William Weir of the Hartford Courant (June 30); and was interviewed about tick activity and prevention by Debbie Handley of WLAD, Danbury, CT (June 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a meeting to develop grant proposals for research on improving the effectiveness of honey bees and managed bumble bees for crop pollination. The meeting was held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and was led by Dr. Nick Calderone of the Dyce Honey Bee Lab at Cornell. Other participants included **DR. BRIAN D. EITZER**, Dr. Anne Averill of UMass; Andy Card, a large-scale migratory beekeeper; and Dr. Deborah Delaney of the University of Delaware (June 6); was interviewed about organic land care and bee research on camera by Amy Dziobek of NBC-TV (June 16); and was interviewed about the results of the union elections and the possibility of closure of the Station by Jesse Buchanan of the Meriden Record Journal (June 27).

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the mosquito and arbovirus surveillance program for the 2011 season and the impact of budget cuts on the program by Christine Woodside, Groton Patch (June 1); was interviewed about the start of the mosquito trapping and testing program and the abundance of early spring mosquitoes by Judy Bensen (June 2); was interviewed about the mosquito and arbovirus surveillance program for the 2011 season, the impact of budget cuts on the program, and the abundance of early spring mosquitoes by Marc Sims,



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Connecticut Radio Network and WTIC radio (June 6); was interviewed about the mosquito and arbovirus surveillance program for the 2011 season, the impact of budget cuts on the program, and the abundance of early spring mosquitoes by Amanda Cuda, Connecticut Post (June 7); was interviewed about the mosquito and arbovirus surveillance program for the 2011 season, the abundance of early spring mosquitoes and the forecast for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses in New England Jane Allan, ABC News, New York (June 7); was interviewed about the abundance of early spring mosquitoes and its impact on West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses in Connecticut by Diane Orson, WNPR/Connecticut Public Radio (June 8); was interviewed about the abundance of early spring mosquitoes and its impact on West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses in Connecticut by Chrystal Haynes, WTNH TV8 (June 8); was interviewed about abundance of early spring mosquitoes and the isolation Jamestown Canyon virus from mosquitoes collected in Wilton and Easton by Jeannette Ross, Wilton Bulletin (June 24); and was interviewed about abundance of early spring mosquitoes and Jamestown Canyon virus in Connecticut by William Weir, Hartford Courant (June 29).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke to a tour group of tree wardens on Soil Testing and Invasive Aquatic Plants (June 9); spoke to a tour group from Central Connecticut State University on soil testing and invasive aquatic plants (June 15); and spoke to a tour group of teachers from Southern Connecticut State University on soil testing and invasive aquatic plants (June 29).

FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE

DR. JEFFREY WARD gave four talks on "Fruits of the Forests" to 4th grade students at the Southington School Nature Day (118 students, 18 adults) (June 2); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (June 8); provided overview of horticulture and forestry research for Connecticut Tree Wardens (8 attendees) (June 9); interviewed about controlling Japanese barberry by Judy Benson of the New London Day (June 13); spoke on "Dating vegetation at crime scenes" at the Clandestine Grave Workshop at the University of New Haven in West Haven (18 attendees) (June 14); spoke on using propane torches to control invasive shrubs to staff of The Nature Conservancy, and members of the Salem, Haddam, and Lyme land conservation trusts (11 attendees) (June 17); interviewed about controlling Japanese barberry by Bob Miller of the Danbury News-Times (June 21); spoke on "A Short History of the Connecticut Forest" to the Orchard Valley Garden Club in Southington, CT (34 attendees) (June 28); and provided overview of horticulture and forestry research for teachers studying at Southern Connecticut State University (7 teachers) (June 29).

DR. MARTIN GENT presented "Composition of hydroponic lettuce: Effect of time of day, plant size, and season" at the NE1035 regional research committee meeting "Commercial Greenhouse Production: Component and System Development" in Portland, ME (12 extension personnel attending) (June 20-22).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD talked about the New Crops Program to a class from Southern Connecticut State University at Lockwood Farm (7 teachers) (June 29).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL co-hosted a grower meeting and gave a tour of experimental hybrid training trials at Gouveia Vineyards in Wallingford (21 people attending) (June 9); interviewed by Russell Blair of the Wallingford Post for an article on hybrid grape research in Connecticut and other northeastern states (June 9); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at Gouveia Vineyards (June 9); and presented a poster, "Effect of Graft Union Height on Vine Performance and Winter Survival of Chardonnay Grapevines" and attended a seminar on grapevine viruses at the American Society of Enology and Viticulture annual conference in Monterey, CA (June 21-24).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS attended Future Farmers of America award ceremony at Lyman Memorial and was presented with a certificate of appreciation for giving talks to students (June 1); with **MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT**, field visit of deer repellent experimental plots with Tim Morrell, Director of Sales and Greg Ecsedy, President, Bobbex, Inc. (June 3); spoke on relation-



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ship of Japanese barberry and Lyme disease risk to staff of The Nature Conservancy, and members of the Salem, Haddam, and Lyme land conservation trusts (11 attendees) (June 17); and received a \$3,400 grant contract with The Nature Conservancy, Connecticut Chapter to conduct vegetation inventories to determine the impact of overabundant deer browse on native species regeneration (June 15).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT attended the Invasive Species Control Workshop in Lyme, CT (June 17).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY was presented with a certificate of appreciation from Lyman Hall Agricultural Education/Future Farmers of America at their annual award ceremony in Wallingford (June 1); presented six talks on "How trees grow" to 4th grade students at the Southington Schools Nature Day (120 students, 20 adults) (June 2); spoke on "Safety: YES" to attendees of an invasive species control workshop held in Lyme (11 attendees) (June 17); and staffed a Station exhibit and presented material on Emerald Ash Borer and tree identification skills during the Family Camping Festival/Great American Backyard Campout in West Hartford, CT (500 attendees) (June 25).

GRANT AWARDS JULY 2011

DR. CHRIS MAIER received a two-year grant from the Department of Environmental Protection to survey for horse and other flies of environmental concern.

PLANT PATHOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS, with **MS. PAMELA SLETTEN**, explained their advanced-breeding chestnut plot to visitors at the Griswold Research Center Open House (51 adult attendees) (June 16); and gave a talk titled "Ozark Chinquapins in the CAES Breeding Program" at the annual meeting of the Chestnut Growers of America held in Louisiana, Missouri, and checked and talked about the 4,000 chestnut seed planted at the Forrest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, MO, which are part of a planting experiment with the University of Tennessee (June 24-26).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about the plan to close the Station and the impact on CAES services by Amanda Cuda of the Connecticut Post (June 7); assisted the CT Tree Protective Examining Board in administering the oral part of the arborist licensing exam at the Station (June 8); was interviewed about plants that cause dermatitis by Cindy Decker of the Columbus Dispatch (Ohio) (June 9); discussed the function and services of the Plant Disease Information Office with members of the CT Tree Wardens Association (15 adult attendees) (June 9); participated in a conference call of the Board of Directors of the APS Foundation (June 13); gave a presentation titled "Eco-friendly management of plant diseases" for members of the Daytime Gardeners of North Haven (18 adult attendees) (June 14); participated in a meeting of members of the CTPA Board of Directors and Linda Schmidt (CT DEP) to discuss revising the written exam for the CT arborist license at the Station (12 adult attendees) (June 14); participated in the CAPS meeting conference call (June 16); participated in the monthly meeting of the CTPA Board of Directors at The Farmington Club in Farmington (14 adult attendees) (June 16); and gave a presentation titled "Common diseases in the landscape" for the Friends of the Middle Haddam Library at the library (17 adult attendees) (June 21).

DR. WADE H. ELMER spoke about Sudden Vegetation Dieback to groups of students from Central Connecticut State University (15 students attended) (June 15); presented his plot on the role of earthworms and biochar on asparagus crown rot at the Griswold Research Center Open House (51 adult attendees) (June 16); received a Best Seller Status award by APS Press for 2008, 2009, and 2010 for his book titled *Mineral Nutrition and Plant Disease* (June 24); and spoke about his eggplant plots and the role of earthworms and biochar on Verticillium wilt to Dr. Gerry



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Frumento's class of high school biology teachers from Southern Connecticut State University at Lockwood Farm (8 adult attendees) (June 29).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO spoke about powdery mildew on grapes to visitors at the Griswold Research Center Open House (51 adult attendees) (June 16).

DR. YONGHAO LI spoke about the Plant Disease Information Office and plant disease diagnostics to Dr. Gerry Frumento's class of high school teachers from Southern Connecticut State University (1 teacher and 6 students attended) (June 29).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA spoke about forensics in plant pathology to Tom Mione's class visiting from Central Connecticut State University (20 attendees) (June 15); participated in the CAPS meeting conference call (June 16); attended the meeting of the West Haven Tree Commission to discuss the West Haven Street Tree Inventory in West Haven, CT (June 23); and spoke about his research and about the Station's efforts to keep on the lookout for the Ramorum Blight (Sudden Oak Death) pathogen using the tools of molecular plant pathology to Gerry Frumento's class of high school teachers from Southern Connecticut State University (10 adult attendees) (June 29).

VALLEY LABORATORY

DR. JOHN AHRENS attended a twilight meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association at the Mike Dzen farm in East Windsor, CT and spoke about weeds and their control (~ 50 attendees) (June 15); and spoke on Herbicides for control of specific weeds in Christmas Tree plantings at a Saturday meeting of the New Hampshire/Vermont Christmas Tree Growers Association at the Tester farm in Barton, VT (~ 60 attendees) (June 25).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH, along with **DR. TODD L. MERVOSH** and Donna Ellis of the University of Connecticut, released a further 5,000 weevils, *Rhinoncominus latipes*, for biological control of mile-a-minute weed in Connecticut. The weevils were released at four new sites in Newtown, Greenwich, Norwalk and Sprague (June 13-16); was interviewed by Dan Kane of WFSB Channel 3, Greenwich Time, Norwalk Patch, CBS 880 News and AP, The Hour, and Norwich Bulletin (June 13-16); and attended training for cooperative agreements at USDA APHIS, Wallingford, CT (June 21 & 22).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Systemic insecticides to manage hemlock pests" for the "Treatment Options for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop," sponsored by the University of New Hampshire and held for northern New England foresters in Walpole, NH (50 attendees) (June 8); presented two posters on the same subject at the Griswold Research Farm Field Day (20 attendees) (June 16); and provided a hands-on demonstration and discussed using insect pathogenic nematodes, and presented "Insect Management on K-8 School Grounds" for the "Adjusting to the Pesticide Ban Legislation: K-8 School Grounds Turfgrass Management Workshop" sponsored by the University of Connecticut, Hartford, CT (70 attendees) (June 23).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (June 8); participated in a tour of the Futtner Family Farm in East Hartford and the Powder Hill Farm in Enfield to speak with family members to collect information for the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council Century Farm Award selection (June 8); conducted a tour of the Valley Laboratory and discussed research and careers in science with students from Rockville High School Vo-Ag Advances in agriculture class (4 persons) (June 9); met with representatives from Leaf Tc from the United Kingdom to discuss social responsibility initiatives in cigar wrapper tobacco production in Connecticut (June 15); participated in the Griswold Research Farm open house (June 16); and discussed research and services and conducted a tour of the Valley Laboratory with Jason Jackman, curator of the Luddy/Taylor Connecticut Valley Tobacco Museum, located in Northwest Park in Windsor, CT (June 29).



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DR. TODD L. MERVOSH was interviewed about biological control of mile-a-minute weed by Chase Wright of *The Hour* and by a Channel 12 News reporter in Norwalk, CT (June 15); and by Adam Benson of *Norwich Bulletin* in Sprague (June 16).

JOURNAL ARTICLES APPROVED JUNE 2011

- Ahrens, John F. Brush Control in Christmas Trees. The Real Tree Line, Newsletter CCTGA, 2011
- Cloyd, R. A., J. A. Bethke, and Richard S. Cowles. Systemic Insecticides and Their Use in Ornamental Plant Systems. Floriculture and Ornamental Biotechnology
- Cowles, Richard S. Managing Annual Bluegrass Weevil Resistant To Pyrethroids. New Jersey Turf EXPO Proceedings
- Cowles, Richard S. Systemic Insecticides for Tree and Shrub Care. New Jersey Turf EXPO Proceedings
- Douglas, Sharon M. Anthracnose Diseases of Trees. June 2011 (rev.). CAES Fact Sheet
- Ni, Jinzhi, Joseph J. Pignatello, and Baoshan Xing. Adsorption of Aromatic Carboxylate Ions to Black Carbon (Biochar) is Accompanied by Proton Exchange with Water
- Stafford, Kirby C. III and Gale E. Ridge. Insect Identification and Inquiries: Over a Century of Entomological Service in Connecticut. American Entomologist
- Ward, Jeffrey S. Influence of Disturbance on Stand Development During Forest Succession. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report
- Ward, Jeffrey S. and Scott C. Williams. Treating Japanese Barberry During the Dormant Season. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report
- Williams, Scott C., Jeffrey S. Ward, Worthley. Deer Ticks Thrive in Japanese Barberry. UConn Home and Garden Newsletter

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Lockwood Farm
890 Evergreen Avenue
Hamden, CT 06518-2361
Phone: 203-974-8618

Griswold Research Farm
190 Sheldon Road
Griswold, CT 06351-3627
Phone: 860-376-0365

*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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