

# Station News

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

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## Departmental News

### STATION HOSTS CGGA- CAES-UCONN DIAGNOSTICS WORKSHOP



The Experiment Station hosted a *Diagnostics Workshop* for members of Connecticut's Green Industry in Jones Auditorium on 22 June 2010. This hands-on workshop was co-organized by the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association, the Experiment Station, and UCONN. Thirty stations of plants with either biotic (disease, insect, or mite) or abiotic (cultural or environmental) problems challenged the diagnostic skills of 48 attendees as they attempted to diagnose the plant health issues at



each station. After an initial round at self-diagnosis, participants heard several presentations, including "Diagnosing Plant Health Problems: How to Get Started" by DR.



**SHARON M. DOUGLAS**, “How to Identify & Diagnose Plant Disease Symptoms” by **DR. WADE H. ELMER**, “How to Identify & Diagnose Abiotic Disorders” by Richard McAvoy (UCONN), “How to Identify & Diagnose Insect Related Disorders” by Leanne Pundt (UCONN), and “Weed, Algae & Related Problems” by **DR. TODD MERVOSH**. Also participating in this well-received event were **MS. MARY INMAN**, **MR. PETER THIEL**, and Joan Allen (UCONN). Bob Heffernan, CT Green Industries, coordinated registration and refreshments. Thanks to **MS. NICOLE WACHTER** for assistance with set-up in Jones Auditorium.



Images taken by Mr. Peter Thiel.

## CONGRESSWOMAN ROSA DELAURO VISITS LOCKWOOD FARM AT THE JUNE ANNUAL PICNIC AND MEETING OF THE CONNECTICUT BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

At the invitation of Association President Ted Jones, Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro met with members of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association and the Experiment Station during the club's annual June picnic and meeting held Saturday, 12 June 2010 at Lockwood Farm in Hamden, CT. Congresswoman DeLauro was greeted by Mr. Ted Jones and Station Vice



Director **DR. KIRBY STAFFORD**. Topics of discussion included honey bees, agriculture, some of the concerns and problems that face beekeepers, and progress on honey bee research. Other Station staff participating in the meeting was **DR. BRIAN EITZER** and **DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN**. Club members and Station Staff expressed their appreciation for the



work Congresswoman DeLauro has done for farmers and agriculture.

With 81 members in attendance, the speaker for the meeting was Melanie Kempers from the Ontario Beekeepers Association Bee Tech Transfer Program talking and conducting a program with honey bees on detection and



management of bee diseases and parasites.

Pictures; top: Ted Jones speaks to Congresswoman DeLauro; middle: Dr. Brian Eitzer explains bee research issues; bottom: Becky Jones and other club members talk with Congresswoman DeLauro.

## GOVERNOR M. JODI RELL VISITS THE EXPERIMENT STATION

On Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> there was a special ceremony, which occurred near the front of the Jenkins Building. The governor signed the patent bill, which gives authority to the Experiment Station to seek patents, licensing agreements, and trademarks for new discoveries. She also, announced the support for \$1.26 million in bond funds to begin renovations for the Jenkins Building.



## Administration

**DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI** welcomed visitors from the US Food and Drug Administration and state laboratories in the Johnson/Horsfall Building (June 8); participated in an Invasive Plants Council meeting in Hartford and spoke about incineration procedures for plant materials (June 8); attended an Experiment Station Associates meeting and gave a report on Station research and other activities (June 21); was interviewed about the Governor's plan to release bond funds for facility upgrades by Matt Dwyer of WTIC Radio (June 25); and was interviewed about Experiment Station research by Melissa Bailey of the New Haven Independent (June 25).

**MS. TESS FOLEY** interviewed **DR. WADE ELMER** about the importance of wetland restoration on WMNR's interview program "Fine Arts Forum." WMNR is broadcast throughout Connecticut, Long Island, NY, and Westchester County, NY, as well as over the Internet (June 27) and hosted a USDA representative from Washington, DC for a site visit to both Lockwood Farm and the Valley Laboratory to monitor progress on three CAES programs supported by the Specialty Crop Block Grant. Scientists **DR. JAMES LAMONDIA** and **DR. RICHARD COWLES** presented results of their strawberry research; **DR. WILLIAM NAIL** and **DR. FRANCIS FERRANDINO** presented grape and grape disease prevention research findings; and **DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD** presented data on ethnic crop research (June 29).

## Analytical Chemistry

**DR. JASON WHITE** met with Rep. John Hetherington of New Canaan and a constituent. The various research and service projects within the Analytical Chemistry department (June 2) were discussed; along with staff, hosted a 3-day Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) course on gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. **MS. TERRI ARSENAULT** was one of three instructors for the course. (12 attendees from FERN laboratories around the country) (June 8-10); participated in a conference call sponsored by the US EPA concerning the planning of the upcoming International Phytotechnology Society meeting in Parma, Italy this September. Dr. White is Vice President of the Society and on the organizing committee for the meeting (June 9); along with staff participated in a FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement (CAP) Laboratory conference call (June 10); attended a Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) briefing from the Peer Review Committee on their evaluation of the CAES Department of Analytical Chemistry research and final report on tire crumb rubber. **DR. KIRBY STAFFORD** was also in attendance (June 15); along with **DR. BRIAN EITZER**, **DR. WALTER KROL** and **MS. TERRI ARSENAULT** participated in a conference call with the FDA Forensic Chemistry Center to discuss the development of extraction and analysis methods for chemical contamination of seafood due to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture was also on the call (June 16); participated in a CT DEP sponsored conference call focusing on the release of the multi-agency report on tire crumb rubber. **DR. KIRBY STAFFORD** was also in attendance (June 28); and attended the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) National Training Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota (June 28-July 2).

**DR. BRIAN EITZER** along with **DR. KIRBY STAFFORD**, met with Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro at the Connecticut Beekeepers Association annual June picnic and meeting held at Lockwood Farm in Hamden, CT (June 12); attended the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) National Training Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota and presented a lecture entitled "The analysis of paraquat and diquat by HPLC-MS in beverages" (June 28-July 2); and along with **DR. WHITE**, **DR. KROL** and **MS. ARSENAULT** participated in a conference call with the FDA Forensic Chemistry Center to discuss the development of extraction and analysis methods for chemical contamination of seafood due to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture was also on the call (June 16).

**MS. TERRI ARSENAULT** served as an instructor for a 3-day Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) course on gas chromatography/mass spectrometry. Twelve attendees from FERN laboratories around the country attended the course (June 8-10); and along with **DR. BRIAN EITZER**, **DR. WALTER KROL** and **DR. JASON WHITE** participated in a conference call with the FDA Forensic Chemistry

Center to discuss the development of extraction and analysis methods for chemical contamination of seafood due to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture was also on the call (June 16).

**DR. WALTER KROL** along with **DR. BRIAN EITZER**, **DR. JASON WHITE** and **MS. TERRI ARSENAULT**, participated in a conference call with the FDA Forensic Chemistry Center to discuss the development of extraction and analysis methods for chemical contamination of seafood due to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture was also on the call (June 16).

**DR. CHRISTINA ROBB** attended the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) National Training Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Robb presented a lecture entitled “ELISA analysis of abrin” (June 28-July 2).

## Entomology

**MR. IRA KETTLE** stood by the Asian longhorned beetle and Emerald ash borer displays for Nature Day at Panthorn Park in Southington (166 youths and adults attended) (June 3).



A large group of children heading down the trail toward the ALB/EAB booth.



Some young visitors studying the ALB and EAB displays. They were really interested in the Asian longhorns!

**DR. CHRIS T. MAIER** spoke about the brown marmorated stink bug, an invasive insect recently discovered in Connecticut, at a twilight meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield (June 15).

**DR. GALE E. RIDGE** held a special Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs (CCABB) board meeting in the Slate Building Board Room. Staff from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and

Consumer Protection attended. St. Vincent de Paul had contacted the DEP asking for a permit to hand-deconstruct old mattresses for recycling. Because of this, DEP wanted to update an out-of-date, preexisting permit and provide best practices management guidelines. They asked CCABB for assistance (June 2); students from Central Connecticut State University visited the Insect Information Office to learn about the functions of the office (June 15); held a second meeting of CCABB and met with Mr. Terry McDonald, Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul, from Eugene, Oregon. The meeting focused on the recycling of used mattresses in Connecticut (June 29); and spoke about bed bug management at a meeting held by the East Hartford Housing Authority in East Hartford. Residents, pest control operators, housing and health department officials attended. The meeting was abruptly terminated by Dr. Ridge because a resident had presented with live bed bugs crawling on him. She convened a second meeting with health, pest control, and housing officials outdoors while the meeting room, halls, and elevators were treated, and advised them on future management policies (June 30).

**DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH** participated in the Twilight Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society, held at Belltown Orchards in Glastonbury, with a discussion on Light Brown Apple Moth (approximately 60 participants) (May 25); participated in the annual meeting of the California Oak Mortality Task Force, held at Dominican University of California in San Rafael, California, with discussions on *Phytophthora ramorum* movement in landscapes, symptomology, and survival, and a field trip to the experimental nursery and to the first known infestation of *P. ramorum* at China Camp State Park (approximately 100 participants) (June 8-11); participated in the Twilight Meeting of the CT Pomological Society, held at Lyman's Orchards in Middlefield, with a discussion on Light Brown Apple Moth (approximately 60 participants) (June 15).

**DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III** participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs in the Slate Building Board Room (June 2); participated in a conference call of the U.S. EPA Lyme Disease Network (June 3); was interviewed about Lyme disease prevention by John Dankosky on WPNR's "Where We Live" program, at WPNR's New Haven studio (June 8); attended an Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner with **GREGORY BUGBEE** as representative of the Experiment Station at the request of Representative Christopher Caruso (June 10); with **DR. BRIAN EITZER** and **DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN**, participated in the summer meeting of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association at Lockwood Farm and provided a brief welcome and update on Station activities (81 attendees) (June 12); spoke with Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, who made an appearance at the meeting (June 12); attended a meeting of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering peer review committee for the synthetic turf field study in Rocky Hill (June 15); participated in affirmative action update training in Hartford (June 18); with **DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI**, attended a results based accountability (RBA) update session at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford (June 23); participated on a conference call of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering peer review committee for the synthetic turf field study (June 28); was visited by Linda Grace, DVM, technical services veterinarian from Merial (June 29); with **DR. GALE RIDGE**, met with Mr. Terry McDonald, St. Vincent de Paul Society, about mattress recycling and bed bugs (June 29); and was interviewed about ticks and Lyme disease by Mark Sims of Connecticut Radio Network (June 30).

## Environmental Sciences

**DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS** presented an overview of the Station mosquito and arbovirus research and surveillance programs to State Representative John Hetherington of New Cannan who was visiting the Station (June 2); was interviewed about the start of the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses by Marc Sims, Connecticut Radio Network (June 3); was interviewed by Dr. Janelle Weaver a free-lance science writer for Nature on a paper entitled "Exploiting mosquito sugar feeding to detect mosquito-borne pathogens" to be published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (June 4); was interviewed about the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses and the outlook for 2010 by WNLK Norwalk (June 7); was interviewed about the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program for West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses by Jeannette Ross Wilton Bulletin (June 8); was interviewed about West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses by Harlan Levy Journal Inquirer (June 22); was interviewed about the first isolation of West Nile virus in mosquitoes for the season in Stamford by Schneido CBS radio, New York; Sam Singer Associated Press; WTIC Radio (June 23); was interviewed

about mosquitoes, West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis viruses and the state mosquito surveillance program by Steve Kotchko, Connecticut Radio Network (June 24); and was interviewed about the first isolation of West Nile virus in mosquitoes for the season in Stamford by Jocelyn Maminta WTNH TV8 (June 24).

**MR. GREGORY BUGBEE** spoke at a meeting of the directors of the Sloper Lake YMCA camp in Southington on *Managing Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation* (June 2); participated in the USEPA public hearing on National Pesticide Discharge Elimination System permits for aquatic vegetation and mosquito control in Boston, MA (June 21); summer research assistants Andrea Ellison and Jennifer Fanzutti, under the direction of Greg Bugbee taught students at Project CLEAR how to identify and map Eurasian water Milfoil on Candlewood Lake (June 24); and spoke on *Managing Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation* at the annual meeting of the Rogers Lake association in Lyme (June 29).

## Forestry and Horticulture

**DR. JEFFREY WARD** gave six talks on "Fruits of the Forests" at the Southington School Nature Day in Southington (118 students, 18 adults) (June 3); spoke on controlling invasive species at an evening workshop at Creaser Park in Coventry (19 attendees) (June 10); visited Jessica Toro and Sari Hoy, Native Habitat Restoration, to discuss barberry control, Sheffield, MA (June 11); provided overview of horticulture and forestry research for Central Connecticut State University Students (18 students) (June 15); along with **DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS**, visited Charles Island, Milford to advise CT-DEP Wildlife on invasive tree management (June 16); spoke on controlling invasive species at Regional Water Authority Deer Day in North Branford (14 adults, 3 children) (June 21); and provided a field workshop on tree measurements for CLEAR students in New Milford (16 students, 2 teachers) (June 24).

**DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD** met at Lockwood Farm with NRCS employees to plan their upcoming Diversity Day (4 adults) (June 2) and spoke about the New Crops Program and gave tour of Lockwood Farm plots to NRCS employees as part of their Diversity Day (44 adults) (June 23).

**DR. WILLIAM NAIL** presented two talks, "Criticality of Vineyard Best Practices" and "Weed and Disease- Whittling Down the Options" at the Vermont Grape and Wine Council annual conference in Randolph, VT (72 people attending) (June 7); visited with Charlie Rosabianca at his vineyard in Hamden to confirm phenoxy herbicide drift damage (June 14); attended the 7th International Cool Climate Symposium in Seattle (June 21-22); presented a poster "Dry Matter Accumulation and Partitioning in Response to Leaf Removal in Pinot Noir Grapevines" at the American Society of Enology and Viticulture annual conference in Seattle (June 23-24); and participated in a planning meeting for a funded SCRI project, "Improved grape and wine quality in a challenging environment: An eastern US model for sustainability and economic vitality" in Seattle (June 23).

**DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS** spoke on "Wildlife Research at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station" to members of the Branford Land Trust (14 attendees) (June 22).

**MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY** gave six talks on "How trees grow" at the Southington School Nature Day in Southington (120 students, 20 adults) (June 3) and provided a field workshop on inventorying the forest understory for CLEAR students in New Milford (16 students, 2 teachers) (June 24).

## Plant Pathology and Ecology

**DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS** attended the BioBlitz at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden to help identify plants and fungi (June 13) and gave a paper on "Connecticut Chestnuts" at the Annual Meeting of the Chestnut Growers of America held in Sherwood, Oregon (30 adults attended) (June 19).

**DR. DONALD E. AYLOR** attended a NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) sponsored workshop on HYSPLIT - Hybrid Single Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory Model held in Silver Spring, Maryland. The model uses archived 40 km gridded weather data to calculate air movement over regions of the U.S. (40 adults attended) (June 23-25).

**DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS** assisted the Connecticut Tree Examining Board with administering oral examinations to arborist candidates (June 9); participated in the planning meeting for the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's summer meeting at the Farmington Club in Farmington (June 9); spoke about the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology and the role of the Plant Disease Information Office in assisting green industry professionals and homeowners with plant health problems to students from Central Connecticut State University (18 students, 1 teacher) (June 15); participated in a conference call of board members of the APS Foundation to discuss the foundation's strategic business plan 2010-2015 (June 16); and gave a talk titled "Diagnosing plant health problems: How to start" and assisted attendees with identifying plant health issues at the CGGA Diagnostic Workshop, which was co-organized by UCONN, CAES, and CGGA (48 adult attendees) (June 22).

**DR. WADE H. ELMER** was interviewed about Sudden Vegetation Dieback by Tess Foley at WMNR in Monroe (June 10); participated in the BioBlitz at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden (June 13); and spoke on "How to identify and diagnose plant diseases" at the CGGA Diagnostic Workshop, which was co-organized by UCONN, CAES, and CGGA (48 adult attendees) (June 22).

**MS. MARY K. INMAN** gave the talk "Pruning woody ornamentals" to the Bridgeport Men's Garden Club at Sterling House in Stratford (14 adults attended) (June 16).

## Valley Laboratory

**DR. JAMES LAMONDIA** participated in a tour of the HF Brown Farm in Windsor and spoke with family members to collect information for the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council Century Farm Award selection (June 1).

**DR. TODD L. MERVOSH** participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (May 19); spoke about weed management at a meeting of the Conn. Christmas Tree Growers' Assoc. in East Hampton (40 attendees) (June 9); and spoke about weed identification and management in greenhouses at a plant diagnostic clinic for the Conn. Greenhouse Growers Assoc. at CAES New Haven (50 attendees) (June 22).

## Journal Articles Approved June 2010

**Elmer, Wade H.** Asparagus in Connecticut and diseases to watch out for. Connecticut Agricultural Weekly Report

**Molaei, Goudarz, Robert F. Cummings, Tianyun Su, Philip M. Armstrong, Greg A. Williams, Min-Lee Cheng, James P. Webb, and Theodore G. Andreadis.** Vector-host interactions governing epidemiology of West Nile virus in southern California. PLOS Pathogens

**Nail, William R.** Dry matter accumulation and partitioning in response to fruit thinning in Pinot Noir grapevines. American Journal of Enology and Viticulture

**Nail, William R.** The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is evaluating new winegrape cultivars. Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report

**Vossbrinck, Charles R., Jason C. White, Gregory J. Bugbee, Kittipath Prapayotin-Riveros, Michelle Marko, Ryan Thu, Elizabeth Larue, and Nathan Havil.** Isolation of microsatellite markers for the watermilfoil weevil *Euhrychiopsis lecontei*. Molecular Ecology Resources

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