



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

123 HUNTINGTON STREET BOX 1106 NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06504

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Putting science to work for society

SPRING 2010—OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND, 2010, 1:00 PM

REFRESHMENTS (1:00PM-1:15PM)

SIGN-IN FOR PESTICIDE CREDITS (1:00PM-1:15PM)

WELCOME (1:15PM-1:30PM) Dr. Louis A. Magnarelli, Director

SHORT TALKS (1:30PM-3:00PM)

1:30pm-2:00pm

***Biological Control of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Mile-a-Minute Weed in Connecticut.* Dr. Carole A. Cheah**

Hemlock woolly adelgid has been a serious exotic insect pest of forests, nurseries, and landscapes since its first detection in Connecticut in 1985. Mile-a-minute weed is an exotic invasive plant that was initially reported in Connecticut in 1997 and again in 2009. This plant has been detected in 17 Connecticut towns in 2009. This presentation will discuss the history and progress of two biological control programs against these two important invasive species in Connecticut and will provide updates on the current status and distribution of these pests in eastern North America.

2:00pm-2:30pm

***Plants for the Landscape: Native or Exotic?* Ms. Rose T. Hises**

Each spring, New Englanders appreciate anew the plants and wildlife in our yards and gardens. However, exotic herbaceous and woody plants used in landscapes can escape into our forests, meadows, and other natural environments where they may displace native plants that are important food sources for animals. Learn how to identify some native and exotic landscape plants and the effects they have on Connecticut's ecosystems.

2:30pm-3:00pm

***Connecticut's Invasive Aquatic Plants: Searching for Solutions.* Mr. Gregory J. Bugbee**

Connecticut's lakes and ponds face an imminent threat from invasive plants. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Invasive Aquatic Plant Program is taking a proactive, multifaceted approach in its search for solutions. The results of our vegetation surveys of 162 bodies of water, our research on the impacts of the aquatic invasions, and our tests of novel control methods will be discussed.

GUIDED TOURS (3:00PM-4:06PM)

3:00pm-3:22pm

***1. Role of Marsh Crabs and Plant Pathogens in Sudden Vegetation Dieback of Connecticut's Salt Marshes.* Dr. Wade H. Elmer**

Sudden Vegetation Dieback is the rapid loss of *Spartina* grass species in the intertidal creeks of Connecticut salt marshes. The cause is not clear, but herbivory from the blue marsh crab (*Sesarma reticulatum*) and diseases caused by plant pathogens, like *Fusarium* spp. and root knot nematodes, may hinder the regrowth and recovery of *Spartina* grass into these dieback areas. We are conducting studies designed to determine (1) if crabs are more attracted to infected *Spartina* grass than healthy grass, and (2) if disease stress correlates with plant feeding. Attendees will have the opportunity to see the crabs in action.

Location: Plant Pathology and Ecology greenhouse

3:22pm-3:44pm

***2. Controlling Barberry and Ticks.* Drs. Jeffrey S. Ward and Scott C. Williams**

Areas where Japanese barberry has invaded Connecticut's forests have three times more ticks infected with *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causal agent of Lyme disease in humans and dogs. Our research has developed a two-step process to control Japanese barberry with minimal or no herbicide applications.

Location: Forestry and Horticulture greenhouse

3:44pm-4:06pm

***3. Invasive Aquatic Plant Greenhouse.* Mr. Gregory J. Bugbee and Ms. Martha E. Balfour**

Our invasive aquatic plant greenhouse contains live samples of Connecticut's most troublesome species. Attendees can view both invasive and native plants growing in large tanks and learn how to identify plant species. We will also discuss our lake survey techniques and demonstrate how we use global position systems to document plant locations and create maps.

Location: Greenhouse near Johnson-Horsfall building

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