

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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BIOCHEMISTRY AND GENETICS

DR. RICHARD PETERSON served as a judge at the New Haven Science Fair (May 14-15).

DR. NEIL MCHALE participated in Career Day at the North Branford High School (May 24).

DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN hosted a hands on workshop at CAES for the Backyard Beekeepers Association focusing on identification of Nosema infestation by light microscopy (image below) (May 25).



ENTOMOLOGY

MS. KATHERINE DUGAS staffed a Forest Pest booth at the New Britain Youth Museum (May 4); staffed a Forest Pest display table at the Norwalk Regional Tree Festival at Cranbury Park in Norwalk (May 11); attended the spring CAPS meeting at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (May 22); and spoke to two preschool classes at Nathan Hale School in East Haven about insects and periodical cicadas (May 31).

MS. ROSE HISKES gave a talk and did an activity on "Forest Pests" with two Brownie troops at the Marlborough Elementary School in Marlborough (18 attendees) (May 1); participated in a State Survey Coordinator conference call for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program (CAPS) (May 16).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER was interviewed about the 17-year periodical cicada by Zach Howard, contributing writer with Reuters (May 2), by Dana Whelan of WTIC radio (May 3), by Kate Mattiace, reporter for the Citizen News of New Fairfield (May 7), by Jim Elliot of Channel 3 News (WFSB) (May 7), by Lara Landa, a producer with the Discovery Channel in Toronto, Canada (May 9), by Will Rowlands of Connecticut Gardener Magazine (May 10), and by Eliza Clare for an article in the newspaper of Staples High School in Westport (May 10); conducted a workshop on surveying periodical cicadas at Sessions Woods in Burlington (16 attendees) (May 13); was interviewed about 17-year periodical cicadas by John D'Andre of WQUN radio (May 14), and by Patricia Brown of the New York Times (May 24); and was interviewed about the emergence of periodical cicadas by Danielle Fried of the North Dutchess News (May 28), and by Daryl Fears of the Washington Post (May 31).

DR. GALE E. RIDGE delivered a speech about her research on bed bug reproduction and behavior to the New England Resident Service Coordinators Conference in Brewster, MA (150 attendees) (May 2); talked about the emergence of the 17-year periodical cicada on the Chaz and AJ radio show in Milford (May 13); addressed staff about bed bug management in hospitals at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven (40 attendees) (May 16); spoke about bed bugs to the Adult Day Care Directors Organization of Connecticut in Berlin (49 attendees) (May 21); spoke about bed bugs to the Southeastern Mental Health Authority in Norwich (40 attendees) (May 28); and was filmed for a future broadcast about the 17-year periodical cicada by Scott Ticker of Expedition New England (May 30).



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DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

DR. JASON C. WHITE participated in Skype teleconference calls of the organizing committee for the upcoming 10th International Phytotechnologies Conference in Syracuse, NY in October (May 2, 23); participated with **DR. BRIAN EITZER** and **DR. CHRISTINA ROBB** in FDA cCAP organizing call for the upcoming annual technical meeting in Minnesota in September (May 2, 30); was a delegate at the 23rd Annual SETAC Europe meeting in Glasgow, Scotland and presented two posters entitled "Nanomaterial Toxicity to Agricultural Crops" and "Nanoparticle Exposure Alters Pesticide Residue Accumulation by Agricultural Plants" and also participated in the SETAC Nanotechnology Advisory Group Meeting (May 12-16); participated in an outreach event at Lockwood Farm and described Department of Analytical Chemistry research and programs for Common Ground High School students (May 22); attended a meeting at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford with Mr. Erik Williams of Gaia-Plant Based Medicine and Mr. Armando P. Paolino III of Paolino Public Affairs Consulting, Inc. concerning analytical testing of medical marijuana (May 24); hosted Professor Tomas Vanek of the Institute of Experimental Botany in Prague, Czech Republic and discussed current and future collaborations related to the molecular response of plants to nanoparticle exposure (May 29-31); and hosted Professor Lee Newman of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and discussed ongoing collaborative research (May 30).

DR. BRIAN EITZER gave laboratory tour and discussed possible future collaborations with Dr. Michael A. Tarselli and Dr. Chris Schneider of Biomedisyn Corp, and then visited their facility in Woodbridge, CT (May 8); participated in the NACRW (North American Chemical Residue Workshop) Organizing Committee teleconference call (May 9); participated in the FERN Northeast Regional teleconference call (May 14); participated with **MS. KITTIPATH PRAPAYOTIN-RIVEROS, DR. WALTER KROL, DR. CHRISTINA ROBB, MS. TERRI ARSENAULT, MR. CRAIG MUSANTE, MR. MICHAEL CAVADINI, AND MR. WILLIAM BERGER** in an FDA ISO Accreditation Conference call (May 16); gave a laboratory tour and discussed CAES's use of high resolution mass spectrometry in the analysis of pesticide residues in food with Phil Epstein and Joe Doktorski of AB Sciex (May 16); and participated with **MS. KITTIPATH PRAPAYOTIN-RIVEROS, DR. WALTER KROL, DR. CHRISTINA ROBB, MS. TERRI ARSENAULT, MR. CRAIG MUSANTE, MR. MICHAEL CAVADINI, AND MR. WILLIAM BERGER** in an FDA FERN Chemistry Cooperative Agreement Program (cCAP) conference call (May 17).

MR. JOSEPH HAWTHORNE participated in a Webinar hosted by Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc (PJLA) entitled "Critical Issues Related to The Purchasing Function ISO/IEC 17025-Section 4.6" (May 1); and traveled to Malvern Corp. in Framingham MA along with **DR. ROBERTO DE LA TORRE ROCHE** to attend a training workshop entitled "Light Scattering and GPC/SEC technologies: Theory and Applications, hosted by the Malvern Corporation" (May 14).

MS. TERRI ARSENAULT was an Instructor for the FDA FERN Training Course LB508 entitled "Toxin Screening Using GC/MS" at the Commonwealth of Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services in Richmond VA (June 4-6).



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DR. CLAIRE E. RUTLEDGE gave a talk entitled “Emerald Ash Borer in Connecticut” to the Norfolk Land Trust in Norfolk (10 adult attendees) (May 19); and attended a meeting of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) committee at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (May 22).

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH, with Eric Chamberlain, USDA-APHIS-PPQ Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist, conducted a training session on permitting and inspections, in conjunction with the Yale Biosafety Committee in New Haven (24 participants) (May 6).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III was interviewed about tick control by Cindy McCormik of the Cape Cod Times (May 2); was interviewed about the periodical cicada by Tina Detelj of Channel 8 News (May 6); was interviewed about the periodical cicada by Mary Jones of WDRC-Radio (May 7); participated in a Jenkins-Waggoner Construction Project Meeting in the Slate Board Room (10 attendees) (May 7); with **DR. SHARON DOUGLAS**, participated in a conference call on the furnishings for the Jenkins-Waggoner Laboratory (6 attendees) (May 7); was interviewed about ticks and tick research by Cynthia Drummond of the Westerly Sun (May 13); was interviewed about ticks for a series on Lyme disease by Beth Daley of the Boston Globe (May 16); conducted a meeting of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) committee at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (11 attendees) (May 22); was interviewed about ticks, Lyme disease, and the emerald ash borer by Sam Gingerella of WTIC-Radio (May 23); was interviewed about the emerald ash borer by Mark Seems of CT Radio Network (May 23); and was interviewed about the weather and insects by Kaomi Goetz of WSHU-FM (May 29).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a meeting of the Urban Agriculture Working Group at the Gateway Community College campus at Long Wharf (15 attendees) (May 9); participated in leading a tour of Lockwood Farm for students from Common Ground High School in New Haven (13 students and 4 adults attendees) (May 22); and gave a talk to coordinators of school vegetable gardens from elementary and middle schools in New Haven and Bridgeport about common insect pests and beneficial insects in vegetable gardens and ways to manage them within the restrictions on pesticide use at K-8 schools at Common Ground High School in New Haven (12 attendees) (May 22).

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the impact of the dry spring on anticipated mosquito populations and West Nile virus activity this summer by Amanda Cuda, Connecticut Post (May 17); was interviewed about the State Mosquito Trapping and Testing Program and forecast for West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis virus activity this summer by Sam Gingerella, WTIC Radio (May 23); was interviewed about the State Legislator’s passage of a bill to ban the use of methoprene for control of mosquitoes in Connecticut by Johanna Somers, The Day (May 31).

MR. GREG BUGBEE with **JORDAN GIBBONS** presented the results of our 2012 aquatic plant survey of Mono Pond at a public meeting sponsored by Columbia Conservation Commission (25 attendees) (May 2); presented the results of our 2012 aquatic plant survey of Fence Rock Lake in Guilford at the annual meeting of the Fence Rock Lake Association (25 attendees) (May 13).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI was Skype interviewed by the University of Toronto Career Centre on current research activities in his laboratory and at the CAES Center for Vector Biology and Zoonotic Diseases (May 2); attended the 2013 Northeastern Eastern Equine Encephalitis Conference held in Concord, NH and discussed potentials for regional collaborations (May 10); presented an invited talk, *Mosquito-Borne Infections: An Emerging Public Health Challenge in New York City and the Metropolitan Area* to the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, NYC, NY (May 16); As President of the Connecticut Entomological Society, organized a “Student and Postdoc Symposium” involving Yale, UConn and Wesleyan universities held at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT (May 17).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO judged posters at the New Haven Science Fair for The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Award (May 14-15); lectured the 6th grade science class at St. Thomas’s Day School, New Haven on *What’s in a Handful of Soil?* (May 30).



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MR. JOHN SHEPARD hosted Siddartha Bhandaray, Nicole West, and Chelsea Savit (Department of Epidemiology and Microbial Diseases, Yale University) and presented a two-day training course of adult mosquito identification and mosquito trapping techniques (May 14-15).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS led a bird walk for the Hartford Audubon Society at Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls, MA on May 11 (12 attendees) (May 11); hosted Siddartha Bhandaray, Nicole West, and Chelsea Savit (Department of Epidemiology and Microbial Diseases, Yale University) and presented a two-day training course of adult mosquito identification and mosquito trapping techniques (May 14-15); attended the North American Dipterists Society Meeting at the Mississippi Entomological Museum, Mississippi State University (May 17-19); met with Paul Stanton of Fitzgerald & Halliday in Cromwell, CT to discuss the Mattabasset Regionalization Project and potential impact to state-listed invertebrates (May 29); and participated in a Northeast Regional Conservation Nees grant conducting the first Region-wide conservation assessment of Odonata (Dragonflies & Damselflies) in the Northeastern Region with project director Erin White of the New York Natural Heritage Program (May 29).

FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE

DR. JEFFREY WARD participated in a review and update of the written arborist examinations (May 1); participated in the Urban Forest Council/Forest Forum conference planning committee in Middlefield (May 7); participated in the CT Forest Stewardship committee in Haddam (May 9); meet with Will Hochholzer, CT DEEP Forestry, to discuss beech control strategies (May 9); participated in the urban forest management planning meeting in Middlefield (May 10); meet with David Wheeler, Larry Federman, and Graham Cox (Audubon, NY) to discuss invasive species control in Craryville, NY (May 13); along with **Drs. JAMES LAMONDIA and CAROL CHEAH, JOSEPH P. BARSKY, and JORDAN GIBBONS**, hosted an exhibit on innovative research by the Station in the Capitol Corridor in Hartford (May 15); meet with Otto Schaefer to examine a stand of declining sugar maples in Branford (May 16); spoke on "What's Next? Mitigating Tree Damage in the 21st century" at the Connecticut Tree Wardens' Association spring workshop in West Hartford (60 attendees) (May 21); participated in the urban forest management planning meeting in Middlefield (May 23); attended the executive meeting of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council in New Haven (May 24); and advised Fulton Park committee on invasive species control in Waterbury (7 attendees) (May 24).



MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY and DR. JEFFREY WARD with Speaker of the House, J. Brendan Sharkey, when he visited our display in the Capitol Corridor on May 15.



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DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD assisted with establishment of a preschool garden at Hamden Hall Country Day School (12 children, 2 adult attendees) (May 7); attended a meeting of the State Technical Committee in Tolland (20 adult attendees) (May 15); spoke about the New Crops Program to students from the Common Ground High School at Lockwood Farm (15 students, 3 adult attendees) (May 22); and reported on Station activities at a quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Windsor (16 adult attendees) (May 30).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS attended a planning meeting for the annual Connecticut Urban Forest Council Conference, Middlefield, CT (May 7); met with Christine Witkowski, Assistant Professor Middlesex Community College, about a possible graduate internship for her student (May 15); with **MR. MICHAEL SHORT** and **MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY**, held an invited invasive control workshop to members of the East Haddam Land Trust, East Haddam, CT (15 attendees) (May 21); attended the executive meeting of the Connecticut Urban Forest Council in New Haven (May 24).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY served as a judge for the state-wide FFA Agri-Science Fair at Southington High School (50 students) (May 17); gave a presentation on safe work habits at an invasive control workshop for the East Haddam Land Trust (12 attendees) (May 21); participated in an Environmental Science Career Fair at North Branford High School (500 attendees) (May 24).

PLANT PATHOLOGY AND ECOLOGY

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS stood by a table of Plant Pathology information at the Norwalk Regional Tree Festival held at Cranbury Park in Norwalk (900 attendees) (May 11); with Serap Acikgoz, attended the Chestnut Growers of America meeting in Gainesville, FL, and reported on Experiment Station chestnut work and the importance of chestnut as a crop in Turkey (40 attendees) (May 17-19).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS participated in a second panel organized by the CT Tree Protection Examining Board to review questions for the written exam for arborists (May 1); was interviewed about boxwood blight by Marilyn Van Norse for the Buffalo, New York, master gardener newsletter (May 10); participated in a conference call for the NEPDN to discuss the FY13 budget (May 10); participated in the monthly meeting of the CTPA Board of Directors in the CAES Board Room (May 14); coordinated judging for CAES special awards at the 2013 New Haven Public Schools Science Fair at Yale University (May 14-15) (see article, page 7); served as a judge for the 2013 CT FFA Agri-Science Fair held at the Southington High School Vo Ag Building (May 17); met with Assistant Attorney General Michael Bullers to discuss tree failure and how CAES can assist his office with pathogen identification (May 21); was interviewed about impatiens downy mildew and its impact on growers and homeowners in CT by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (May 22); participated in a conference call of the Boxwood Blight Working Group to discuss research projects (May 29); and was interviewed about impatiens downy mildew in CT by Tyler Morrissey of the Waterbury-Republican American (May 29 and 31).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended the Governor's Advisory Council for Vocational Agriculture at the Sound School in New Haven (8 adults and 16 high school student attendees) (May 7); participated as a judge for the AgriScience Fair held at Southington High School (over 50 high school students attended) (May 17); participated in Career Day at North Branford High School (100 student attendees) (May 24).



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DR. WADE ELMER and **MR. RICHARD CECARELLI** at Career Day at North Branford High School.

DR. YONGHAO LI gave a talk titled “Common Diseases of the Perennial Garden” for the Institute of Learning in Retirement in Hamden (9 attendees) (May 1); and gave a talk titled “Diagnosis and Control of Vegetable Diseases” to members of the Bethany Garden Club in Bethany (19 attendees) (May 13).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA joined **DR. SANDRA ANAGNOSTAKIS** in representing the Department of Plant Pathology at the Norwalk Regional Tree Festival held at Cranbury Park in Norwalk. In addition, he fielded questions relating to trees, tree diseases, and tree care and presented information on the use of sonic and electrical impedance tomography to assess the internal condition of trees (900 attendees) (May 11); joined **DRS. SHARON DOUGLAS, DOUGLAS DINGMAN, RICHARD PETERSON,** and **JOSEPH PIGNATELLO** as judges in the New Haven Public Schools’ Science Fair, held at Yale University’s Woolsey Hall (May 14-15); and met with Mr. Michael Bullers, an attorney with the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General, to discuss the biology of tree failure (May 30).

VALLEY LABORATORY

DR. CAROLE CHEAH answered questions about Station activities and research while manning a display at the Legislative Office building/Capital Corridor (May 15).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council to select the Connecticut Century Farm Award finalists (May 3); participated in a Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board subcommittee meeting to review written exam questions (May 1); was interviewed about the diseases affecting the cigar wrapper tobacco crop and the economic importance of the Connecticut tobacco industry by Jason Marchi of Elan Magazine (May 7); spoke to nursery staff about progress and updates concerning boxwood blight management at Prides Corner Farms in Lebanon (10 attendees) (May 10) and Imperial Nurseries in Granby (3 attendees) (May 14); answered questions about Station activities and research while manning a display at the Capital Corridor (May 15); spoke about Oomycete diseases at Revays Garden Center in East Windsor CT (12 attendees) (May 16); visited farms to select the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council Connecticut Century Farm Award winner (May 21); and provided information about hops to Will Rowlands for Connecticut Gardener (May 28).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH talked about weed management strategies with rosarian Christine Paul and members of the Elizabeth Park Conservancy during a walk through the historic Elizabeth Park Rose Garden in West Hartford (7 attendees) (May 10).

ARTICLES OF INTEREST MAY 2013

Station Scientists Judge Projects at the 2013 New Haven Public Schools

Science Fair at Yale University

From May 14-16, at the Yale University Commons, Drs. Douglas Dingman, Sharon Douglas, Robert Marra, Richard Peterson, and Joseph Pignatello served as special awards judges for the New Haven Public Schools Science Fair, choosing winners on behalf of CAES. Two awards were granted, the first was *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Award* (\$100) for the “Best project related to food, plants, insects, or the environment.” They unanimously chose Lauren Low, an 8th grader from Mr. Roger Rushworth’s class at the Engineering & Science University Magnet School for her project titled “Evaluating Lead Levels in Home Water.” The second award was the *Albert E. Dimond Award of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station* (\$150) for the “Best project demonstrating an innovative approach to discovery in plant science.” The awardee was selected by CAES judges and Ms. Susan Dimond Brown, founder of the award and daughter of Dr. Dimond. The recipients of this award were Sophie Edelstein and Rachel Kawall, 6th graders from Ms. Dianna Carter’s class at Worthington Hooker School, for their project titled “Plants in Super-gravity.”

Dr. Marra presented the CAES awards and certificates to the students at the Awards Ceremony held in Yale University’s Woolsey Hall on the evening of May 16th.



Dr. Robert Marra presenting *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Award* to Lauren Low (photo on left) and presenting the *Albert E. Dimond Award of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station* to Sophie Edelstein and Rachel Kawall (photo on right).





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Zheni Gusho Wins First Place Award at ISWEEEP 2013

Zheni Gusho, a Greenwich High School student working with Dr. Wade Elmer, won the first place gold medal in the Environmental Division at the 2013 International Sustainable World Energy Engineering Environment Project (ISWEEEP) Olympiad Conference held in Houston, Texas, May 8-13, for her presentation titled "Sustainable Enhancement of Plant Growth and Disease Reduction Using Biochar Soil Additives."



Zheni Gusho displays her first place award at the ISWEEEP 2013 conference.

JOURNAL ARTICLES APPROVED MAY 2013

ARMSTRONG, PHILIP M., JOHN F. ANDERSON, Ary Farajollahi, Sean P. Healy, Isik Unlu, Taryn N. Crepeau, Randy Gaugler, Dina M. Fonseca, **THEODORE G. ANDREADIS.** Isolations of Cache Valley virus from *Aedes albopictus* (Diptera: Culicidae) in New Jersey and evaluation of its role as a regional arbovirus vector. *Journal of Medical Entomology*

COWLES, RICHARD S. Seeing spots: how homeowners may protect their fruit crops from spotted wing drosophila. *Connecticut Gardener*

Cha, D. H., S. P. Heisler, **RICHARD S. COWLES,** H. Vogt, G. M. Loeb, and P. J. Landolt. Comparison of a synthetic chemical lure and standard fermented baits for trapping *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae). *Journal of Economic Entomology*

Li, H., J. Shao, S. Qiu, **WADE H. ELMER,** L. M. Wolfe, B. Li. Phragmites dieback in Chinese salt marshes linked to a pathogenic fungus transferred from invasive *Spartina alterniflora*. *Journal of Applied Ecology*

Becnel, James J., Rudolf H. Scheffrahn, **CHARLES VOSSBRINCK,** and Brian Bahder. *Multilamina teevani* gen. et sp. nov., a microsporidian pathogen of the neotropical termite *Uncitermes teevani*. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*

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AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT
STATION**

Main Laboratories
123 Huntington Street
New Haven, CT 06511-2016
Phone: 203-974-8500

Valley Laboratory
153 Cook Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095-0248
Phone: 860-683-4977

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

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