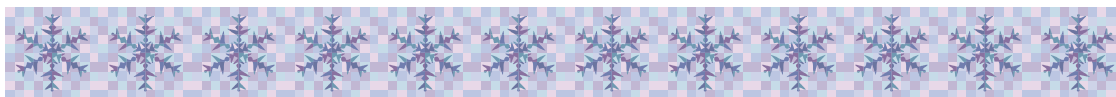


Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station



December 8, 2004

Many changes occurred at the Station in 2004. On November 12, Dr. John F. Anderson began the next segment of his career as Distinguished Scientist. He will now have more time to dedicate to his research. The building that he worked diligently to create is serving the needs of several scientists. Laboratories are active, and visitors are impressed. Staff members have re-occupied the Johnson Building. Other changes include the promotions of Dr. Kirby C. Stafford to Vice-Director and Head of the Department of Entomology, which includes the duties of State Entomologist, and of Dr. Jeffrey Ward to Head of the Department of Forestry and Horticulture. Five recently hired scientists (Drs. Armstrong, Li, Marra, Nail, and Rutledge) have brought new ideas and enthusiasm to the Station and have begun their research programs. Two custodians, Kareem Dixon and Michael Scott, have been hired.

Our research findings continue to attract public interest. Stakeholders frequently seek information on field trials of new crops, organic gardening, composting, invasive aquatic plants, mosquitoes and encephalitis viruses, ticks and associated diseases, integrated pest management, forestry research, analyses of food for pesticides, insect pests of homes and plants, and on plant diseases. Sudden Oak Death recently emerged as an important issue. Station staff members continue to connect with state residents by giving talks, actively participating on boards and committees, and by answering questions at agricultural fairs and other civic events.

As we look forward, plans have been made to improve infrastructure and research programs. Funding has been requested to finish the Johnson/Horsfall building and to upgrade the Jenkins Building. Authorization has been sought to hire a grants manager to help enhance extramural funding and to assist with applications and reporting. New ways of promoting Station research are being explored. There have been recent discussions with a manager of 3 radio stations in Hamden and with the Experiment Station Associates about doing 1-minute "spots" on important findings.

Staff members in the Department of Analytical Chemistry are cooperating with the U. S. Federal Drug Administration on counter-terrorism programs in the Federal Emergency Response Network. Those in Biochemistry and Genetics continue basic research.

When new problems occur, there are opportunities for research and further strengthening of public support. Station staff members are well known for their quick responses to public needs. You are all to be congratulated on this and your professional manner in addressing problems.

Roberta and I wish all of you a warm holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Louis A. Magnarelli, Director

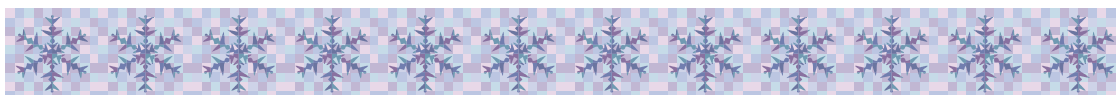


Photo of the Month...



Kirby Stafford spoke on the prevention of tick-associated diseases at the 19th annual pediatrics update conference at Danbury Hospital on November 4, 2004 (also pictured are conference faculty including Dr. Jack S.C. Fong, Chairman, Dept. of Pediatrics, Danbury Hospital in the white lab coat to the left of K. Stafford).



Departmental News

Administration

DR. JOHN F. ANDERSON, along with Dr. Louis Magnarelli, met with Elizabeth Moore of CT Farmland Trust at Lockwood Cottage (November 2); gave a talk and PowerPoint presentation to a group from the CT Valley Independent School Science Teachers Association about West Nile virus at Cheshire Academy (November 11).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. BRAIN EITZER presented a joint presentation with Dr. Mary Jane Incorvia Mattina on Station research on the uptake of organic contaminants by plants at the 25th annual Society of Toxicology and Chemistry meeting in Portland Oregon (November 14-18).

DR. MARY JANE INCORVIA MATTINA presented a joint presentation with Dr. Brain Eitzer on Station research on the uptake of organic contaminants by plants at the 25th annual Society of Toxicology and Chemistry meeting in Portland Oregon (November 14-18); along with Dr. Brij Sawhney we met with Dr. James Stuart and Karen Kinsella, both from UCONN, regarding research interaction (November 23).

CRAIG MUSANTE along with Dr. David Stilwell we presented a talk on heavy metals in community garden soils to the Science Club at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven hosted by Dr. Isaac Hon (November 3).

DR. DAVID STILWELL along with Craig Musante we presented a talk on heavy metals in community garden soils to the Science Club at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven hosted by Dr. Isaac Hon (November 3).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI participated in a Wine Council meeting in Windsor (November 1), participated in a meeting of the CT. Environmental Protection and USDA/APHIS personnel in Hamden on developing an action plan for exotic pests (November 2), participated in an Invasive Plants Council meeting in Hartford (November 8), participated in a Farm Bureau meeting in Vernon (November 9), greeted the Board Members of the Federated Garden Clubs of CT in Jones Auditorium (November 17), and was interviewed by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant about Sudden Oak Death (November 29). Interviewed by Paisy Chang of Channel 3 TV about Sudden Oak Death (November 30), by Jeff Holtz of the New York Times about Sudden Oak Death (November 30), by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times about Sudden Oak Death (November 30), and by Frank Morrell of WICC radio about Sudden Oak Death (November 30).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER presented a poster titled "Alien Insects Recently Discovered in Connecticut" at the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Salt Lake City, Utah. (November 17)

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the CAPS meeting (Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey) held in Charleston, SC (October 15-18) and was interviewed by Dave Krechevsky of the Waterbury Republican-American newspaper about exotic beetles in Christmas decorations (October 24).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III presented a talk on Host-Targeted Control of *Ixodes scapularis* at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America held (November 14-17, 2004).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. KIRBY STAFFORD spoke on the prevention of tick-associated diseases at the 19th annual pediatrics update conference at Danbury Hospital (November 4); spoke on Ticks and Tick-borne Illness at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club in Rocky Hill (November 6); interviewed by Bill Slokam, New York Times, about Lyme disease reporting (November 8).

DR. JEFFREY WARD presided at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven, CT (November 2); attended the 15th Annual Conference on Urban and Community Forestry in Connecticut "Trees mean business" in Wallingford (November 3); attended "Trees and the Law" workshop in Burlington (November 9); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (November 16); spoke on "Rehabilitating hemlock stands damaged by hemlock woolly adelgid" for Massachusetts Chapter – Society of American Foresters in Pelham, MA (November 18); interviewed about deer browse damage by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (November 22).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL attended a meeting of the Farm Wine Council with Dr. Louis Magnarelli (November 1); visited the vineyard of Jerry Servino of Woodbridge to assess vine loss and discuss cultural practices for 2005 (November 2); visited potential vineyard sites in Hampton with Dale Strand (November 4) and in Coventry with David Grace (November 17) to help determine their suitability for wine grape production.

DR. UMA RAMAKRISHNAN This was Dr. Uma Ramakrishnan's last day at the Experiment Station. She accepted a position at Juniata College in Pennsylvania (November 11).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD interviewed by Doreen Howard of the Mother Earth News on compost utilization research (November 29).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about Connecticut chestnut research to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University at the Station (Nov. 8).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR spoke about “Aerial dispersal of pollen and spores in the atmosphere” to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University at the Station (Nov. 8).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS participated in the meeting of the Pests of Regulatory Concern Emergency Action Committee at the Lockwood Cottage (Nov. 2); discussed tree diseases as part of the Hands-On Workshop of Arboriculture 101 at the Station (Nov. 3); spoke about the Plant Disease Information Office and the history of plant diseases to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University at the Station (Nov. 8).

DR. WADE H. ELMER spoke about “Plant parts and their diseases” to the first and second grade classes at Mile Creek Elementary School in Old Lyme (Nov. 2); spoke about “Fusarium diseases in Connecticut” to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University at the Station (Nov. 8); spoke about “Plant parts and their diseases” to the preschool, kindergarten, and first grade classes at Vincent Mauro Magnet School in New Haven (Nov. 9).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO spoke about “Aerial spread of soybean rust” to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University at the Station (Nov. 8).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA spoke about “Population biology of *Neonectria* on birch” to a Botany class from Quinnipiac University at the Station (Nov. 8).

Soil and Water

Valley Laboratory

DR. CAROLE CHEAH gave a tour of the Valley Laboratory to Jamie Fischer, wildlife biologist with the DEP on Nov. 16; was interviewed on hemlock woolly adelgid and biological control by Sam Fretwell, a reporter for The State, Columbia, SC on Nov. 19.

Journal Articles Approved November 2004

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. Chestnuts in the United States for food and for timber. *Acta Horticulturae* 2005.

Tuttle, A. D., Theodore G. Andreadis, S. Frasca, Jr., and J. Lawrence Dunn. Eastern equine encephalitis in an aquarium-maintained flock of African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*) in southeastern Connecticut, USA. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*.

Elmer, Wade H. Does applying salt (NaCl) increase spear earliness? Abstract, International Asparagus Symposium, 16-19 June 2005, Horst/Venlo, The Netherlands

Elmer, Wade H. Cultural and microbial amendments to suppress the replant disease in asparagus. Abstract, International Asparagus Symposium, 16-19 June 2005, Horst/Venlo, The Netherlands

Magnarelli, Louis A, S. Bushmich, J. IJdo, and E. Fikrig. Serologic confirmation of *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* infections in cats. *J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc.*

- Maier, Chris T. and C. Hansson. Palearctic *Sympiesis acalle* and *Sympiesis gordius* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) in North America: Taxonomic Changes and a Review of Nearctic Host Records
- Mervosh, Todd L. and John F. Ahrens. Tolerances of container-grown perennials to pre-emergence herbicides. Northeastern Weed Science Society, 2005 Proceedings
- Mervosh, Todd L. Comparison of granular herbicides for residual weed control in containers. Northeastern Weed Science Society, 2005 Proceedings
- Ward, Jeffrey S. Stand dynamics in Connecticut forests: The new-series plots (1959-2000). Station Bulletin

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, religious creed, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, criminal conviction record, genetic information, learning disability, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation or physical disability including but not limited to blindness, or marital or family status. To file a complaint of discrimination, write Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, P.O. Box 1106, New Haven, CT 06504, or call (203) 974-8440. CAES is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of communication of program information should contact the Chief of Services at (203) 974-8442 (voice); (203) 974-8502 (FAX); or Michael.Last@po.state.ct.us.
