

Station News

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

Departmental News



MASTRONE RECEIVES CERTIFICATE FOR CONNECTICUT ACCREDITED NURSERY PROFESSIONAL Mrs. Tia M. Mastrone was presented with her certificate for successfully completing the Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professional (CANP) Education program at the CNLA Winter Meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2007. Mrs. Mastrone was one of the top graduates in her class. Congratulations!



A LOOK BACK By Ms. Joan L. Bravo

138 Years ago

In 1869, S.W. Johnson wrote **How Crops Grow**.

54 Years ago

House Bill #1237 for \$85,000 to build the **Slate** laboratory, was turned down by the state in keeping with the 1953 Legislative policy to slash all possible costs within the state, but Bill # 1735 was approved for \$80,000 for renovations of the **Osborne library**. Note in 1957 the Slate laboratory project was approved.

50 Years ago

In **November 1957**, Slate building construction started. Full article in Volume 10 Frontiers of Plant Science Fall #1 1957. (Includes a brief history of Slate the Man.)

In **1957**, the Speaker at Field Day (Plant Science Day) was John Lyman of Middlefield – Editor of *Hartford Times*.

In **May 10, 1957**, Alfalfa weevil first collected in Connecticut.

On **May 13, 1957**, Owen L. Nolan, Head of Analytical Chemistry was 1st to receive the 50 year diamond pin. He served under Slate and Horsfall.

40 years ago

On **July 15, 1967**, Dr. Horsfall received a letter from United States President Lyndon B. Johnson, for his service on the National Advisory Commission on Food and Fiber. The commission presented the report to Vice President Humphrey in Washington. Further reading can be found on page 22 of the Record of the Year for 1967.

38 years ago

On **January 24, 1969**, issue of *Life Magazine* encompassed a 15 page spread on a “New Challenges to World Hunger.” Two of those pages dealt with this station, particularly that on conservation of water through regulation of stomatal action and development of high protein corn. Does anyone have a copy of this issue? Several of our Scientists’ works were featured.

18 Years ago

On **July 10, 1989**, the Station was hit by a tornado. Damage was limited to a few broken windows in the greenhouses and 18 fallen and damaged trees. The National Weather Service estimated that winds in New Haven were in excess of 150 mph during the storm. Full story in Record of the Year 1989 page 2.

16 Years ago

In **1991**, The Experiment Station Associates was founded as an outside support group for the Station. It was Dr. George Whitney’s idea and he became the first president.

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI, as Chairman of the Legislative Invasive Plants Council, participated in a meeting held in Hartford (January 9); was interviewed about invasive plants by Nancy Cohen of WNPR, Connecticut Public Radio (January 10); welcomed the grape growers at the Valley Laboratory (January 23); met with Drs. Kitty Cardwell and Tom Tate of USDA/CSREES at the Station and reviewed research programs (January 24-25); met with Farm Bureau members and legislators in Jones Auditorium and spoke about research on crops/biodiesel, invasive aquatic plants, and mosquitoes/encephalitis viruses (January 25); testified at an Environment Committee hearing on Invasive Plants in Hartford (January 31); and met with Drs. Ron Lacewell and Alan Jones of Texas A&M University at the Station and reviewed Station research programs on ticks, mosquitoes, invasive plants, and food safety (January 31).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. WALTER J. KROL attended The University of Connecticut Biodiesel Symposium and presented a poster entitled: ‘Oilseed Crops for Biodiesel and Conversion of Oilseed to Biodiesel.’ (January 11) and presented a talk entitled ‘Characterization of Connecticut Grown Wines - Analytical Capabilities at CAES’ at the *Grape Management Resources* meeting held at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor, CT (January 23)

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke on “Alien Insects That Could Threaten Forest Health” and answered questions at the CAES booth during the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington, CT. (810 people in attendance) (January 18) and displayed new entomological literature at a

meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT (ca. 35 in attendance) (January 19).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE and associates at University of Illinois and University of California presented a talk titled "Potential pheromones of an invasive longhorn beetle, *Callidiellum rufipenne*" (December 11); and with an associate at the University of Wisconsin displayed a poster entitled "A tumbling flower beetle is attracted to sweet birch oil" at the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Indianapolis, IN (December 12); and gave a talk entitled "Insects that attack trees" for the Greater New Haven Bonsai Society (10 people in attendance) (January 9).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the CT Nursery and Landscape Winter Symposium and Expo, held at Mountainside Resort in Wallingford (approximately 200 attendees), by manning the CAES table and with the presentation of 4 talks entitled: Gypsy Moth Outbreaks of 2005 and 2006, Bedbugs: an Increasing Menace, Disease highlights of 2006, and *Phytophthora ramorum*: Program Updates and New Findings (January 3 & 4); participated in the CT Tree Protective Association Winter meeting, held at the Aqua-Turf in Southington, by organizing the CAES speakers and with the presentation of a talk entitled: "Gypsy Moth Outbreaks of 2005 and 2006" (approximately 800 attendees) (January 18); and participated in a meeting of the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NE-SARE) Professional Development Program, held at the Highlander Inn in Manchester, NH (30 attendees) (January 23 & 24).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III participated in the CNLA Winter Meeting in Wallingford, CT. (January 3-4); participated in a meeting of the Multi-State Project NE-1014 in Atlantic City, NJ (January 18-19); welcomed attendees to the Experiment Station at the bedding plant workshop in Jones Auditorium (37 attendees) (January 23); and interviewed by Alison Damast, Stamford Advocate, about Lyme disease reporting and tick testing (January 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented "Insect Pest Management in Organic Land Care" in the NOFA Organic Land Care Course at the Doyle Environmental Center, Leominster, MA (60 attendees) (January 11); organized and presented the welcome and introduction to the "Getting Started in Organic Farming Conference" in the Jones Auditorium in New Haven (60 attendees) (January 13); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA. Tolland, CT (15 attendees) (January 21); chaired the meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee. Windsor, CT (8 attendees) (January 23); presented "Organic Management of Pests of Brassicas" at the NOFA-NY Conference, Syracuse, NY (50 attendees) (January 26); and presented "Introduction to the Organic Land Care Course" and also presented a brief introduction to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at the NOFA Organic Land Care Course, Jones Auditorium, New Haven (70 attendees) (January 31).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD attended the CNLA winter meeting in Wallingford (January 3); visited Joe Greenbacker at his farm in Durham to examine declining eastern red cedars (January 3); participated in the Invasives Plant Demonstration Project Committee meeting in Middlefield (January 9); spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (47 students) (January 10); interviewed by Brian Sandie of the Waterbury Republican on the impact of the warm winter on trees (January 12); participated in the Connecticut Forestlands Council meeting in Middlefield (January 16); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (January 17); interviewed by Shaun Moriarty of the Woodstock Villager on the impact of the warm winter on trees (January 17); participated in the 85th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plainville (January 18); and participated in Deer-Vehicle Crash Information and Research Center Pooled Fund meeting in Shoreview, Minnesota (January 28-31).

DR. MARTIN GENT presented a poster on "Effect of Degree and Duration of Shade on Quality of Greenhouse Tomato" at the Northeast Region American Society of Horticultural Science meeting in College Park MD (January 4-5); served on a panel of judges of graduate student presentations (30 attendees) (January 4-5); attended a planning meeting of the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference in Manchester NH (20 attendees) (January 22); met with Kerry Martens, a teacher at Lyman

Hall High School in Wallingford, to show him the hydroponics production greenhouses at Lockwood Farm, and to discuss various options for hydroponics systems for the high school (January 25); and met with Chas Mevrelion at Sound School in New Haven to revise plans for a new hydroponics production greenhouse at Pardee Gardens (January 30).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke on “Composting and Utilization of Compost” to the Hamden Rotary Club (18 attendees) (January 15) and reported on white-tailed deer studies at the Station at the quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation in Tolland (22 attendees) (January 23).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Grape and Wine Association at the Valley Laboratory (12 attendees) (January 8); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Council at the CAES Slate Building (5 attendees) (January 8); and hosted a workshop, “Grape Management Resources” and gave a presentation, “Viticulture Research at CAES” at the Valley Laboratory (48 attendees) (January 23).

MR. J.P. BARSKY attended the 85th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plainville (January 18).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS visited Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary to advise Dan Donahue, Director of Land Protection & Stewardship, on deer browse damage forest regeneration in Stafford (January 23).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS judged 94 categories of nuts (Grand Champion was a ‘Coble’ Persian walnut) in the Nut Exhibits at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, PA (January 5) and spoke about “Butternut research at CAES” at the Annual Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville (810 attendees) (January 18).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about the impact of the unseasonably warm temperatures on trees by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (January 2); was interviewed about the impact of the unseasonably warm temperatures on trees by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant (January 3); was interviewed about the warm weather and plants in flower by Gina DeNatale of WTNH TV8 (January 4); was interviewed live about the impact of warm weather on plants and what to expect next spring by Dianne Smith of the WTIC morning show (January 4); was interviewed about the unseasonable weather and crops in Connecticut by Ralph Hohman of the Meriden Record-Journal (January 8); was interviewed about weather, plants in flower, and what to expect in spring by Bob Miller of the Danbury News-Times (January 8); gave a talk entitled “Recognition of common diseases of perennials in the landscape” to the Milford Garden Club in Milford (35 attendees) (January 9); was interviewed about the unseasonable weather and the Experiment Station by Freda Moon of the New Haven Advocate (January 10); was interviewed about the quirky weather by Shaun Moriarty of the Woodstock Villager newspaper (January 17); gave two presentations entitled “How to kill a tree in 10 easy steps” and “Noteworthy diseases of 2006” at the Annual Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville (810 attendees) (January 18); organized and participated in the Experiment Station booth at the Annual Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. Developed a new disease quiz for attendees, a popular feature of the CAES booth and distributed prizes kindly provided by Roberta Ottenbreit. Participants of the CAES booth were ROSE HISKES, THOMAS RATHIER, JAMES LAMONIDA, TIA MASTRONE, and SHARON DOUGLAS (700 attendees visited the booth) (January 18); received the Award of Merit from the Connecticut Tree Protective Association for exemplary professionalism and dedication to the care and protection of Connecticut trees (January 18); gave a talk entitled “Noteworthy grape diseases of 2006” and answered questions about grape diseases at the Grape Management Resources Meeting at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (45 attendees) (January 23); met with Dr. Kitty Cardwell, CSREES and National Program Leader, Plant Pathology, past director of NPDN, to discuss the Plant Disease Information Laboratory and CAES participation in the NPDN (January

24); and attended and participated in the 1st National Meeting of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) in Orlando, FL (250 attendees) (January 28 – February 1).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended the Connecticut Greenhouse Grower's Association Winter Meeting at the Mountainside Conference Center in Wallingford (January 3); gave four presentations entitled "Biological products for nursery crop control" (45 attendees), "Biological products for greenhouse crop control" (42 attendees), "Root rot diseases of nursery crops" (45 attendees), and "Root rot diseases of greenhouse crops" (42 attendees) at the Long Island Agricultural Forum Meeting in Riverhead, NY (January 18-19); and moderated the meeting and presented a talk entitled "Diagnosing, preventing, and managing bedding plant diseases" at the UCONN-CAES Bedding Plant Meeting in Jones Auditorium (37 attendees) (January 23).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented an overview of the CAES Mosquito/Arbovirus surveillance and research programs to Tom Tate and Kitty Cardwell of USDA CREES (January 24) and presented an overview of the CAES Mosquito/Arbovirus surveillance and research programs to Dr. Ron Laceywell and Alan Jones of Texas A&M University (January 31).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on *Aquatic Weed Control Options in Pattagansett Lake* to group of 12 citizens (approx. 12) and state representative Ed Jutila in East Lyme (January 10); spoke on *Aquatic Weed Options for Crystal Lake* at a town meeting (at Middletown High School (approximately 40 people in attendance) (January 11); with MS ROSLYN SELSKY, administered the supervisory aquatic license recertification program at the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Annual Conference at Mount Snow, Vermont. (approximately 50 people) (January 16); and recognized by the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society with a plaque for "Outstanding Contributions" to the Society, for service on the board of directors, presentation of papers and expanding the recertification program (January 17).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented an invited seminar entitled Interactions of Organic Compounds with Natural Organic Matter: Sorption from the Viewpoint of the Sorbent to the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL (January 31).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY presented a talk entitled, Using GIS to Map Invasive Aquatic Plants in Connecticut at the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society Meeting held at Mt. Snow, Vermont. (approximately 150 people in attendance) (January 17); presented an overview of the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program's geospatial work to officials from USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) (January 25); and presented an overview of the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program's geospatial work to officials from Texas A & M University (January 31).

MR. JASON WHITE participated in EPA sponsored conference call that focused on the formation of a new society called The International Society of Phytotechnologies and on the upcoming first annual meeting in Denver (January 12) and met with Tom Tate and Kitty Cardwell of USDA CREES concerning the CAES Invasive Weed Program (January 25).

Valley Laboratory

DR. JOHN AHRENS attended his 50th consecutive meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society in Baltimore, MD (January 2-5), and presented a paper on "2006 Weed Management Trials in Christmas Trees" and coauthored two other papers at the Central Environmental Nursery Trade Show (CENTS), in Columbus, OH, he presented talks on "Weed Control Options for Field Nurseries" and "Herbicide Options for Deciduous and Evergreen Trees and Shrubs" (January 21).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH presented two talks on artificial diet developments for HWA predator, *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* and the hemlock woolly adelgid at the HWA Biological Control Technical Committee Meeting at Annapolis, MD (January 9); was interviewed by Elizabeth Hunter, from North Carolina for a book on hemlock woolly adelgid (January 15); and met with Jim Gillespie, consulting forester for assessment of hemlocks on private property in Winchester (January 29).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Prospects for using plant growth regulators in managing soil-dwelling insect pests of strawberries” to the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers’ Association, (120 attendees) (January 5); “Ramifications of pyrethroid resistance for annual bluegrass weevil management,” “Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgids,” and “White pine weevil management” to the Eastern PA Turfgrass Conference, King of Prussia (400 attendees) (January 11); “Principles of insect and mite management for trees and shrubs,” “Organic management of turf insects,” and “A pest management walking tour” for the Organic Land Care Seminar for the Massachusetts Northeast Organic Farm Alliance, Leominster, MA (80 attendees first two talks, 40 attendees for third activity) (January 16); and spoke about “Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid,” at the CT Tree Protective Association Winter Meeting, Plantsville, CT (500 attendees) (January 18).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA participated in the Pandemic Continuity of Operations COOP Interagency Training Session held at Manchester Community College (January 8); and spoke about “Biofuel crops and Integrated Pest Management” at the Biofuels Symposium - Policy, Opportunity and Science, held at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (50 people) (January 11); spoke to the Station Board of Control about “Integrated pest management with biofuels oilseed crops” in Hartford (January 16); and spoke about “Management of nematodes and fungal diseases of grapes” at a Grape grower meeting held at the Valley Laboratory (45 attendees) (January 23).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about his research on “Tolerances of ornamental shrubs to halosulfuron, sulfentrazone and V-10142” and “Efficacy of glyphosate, imazapyr and triclopyr for phragmites management in a Connecticut marsh” at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Weed Science Society in Baltimore, MD (75 attendees) (January 3-5); participated in a meeting about management of pale swallowwort, an invasive plant, in Westborough, MA (January 23); and presented a talk “Herbicides: how they work and what happens to them” at the Fairfield County Master Gardeners program in Bethel (25 attendees) (January 24).

Journal Articles Approved January 2007

Douglas, Sharon M. Disease Management Guide for Connecticut Arborists 2007-2008.

Elmer, Wade H. A survey of *Fusarium* species colonizing *Spartina* along Long Island Sound and their possible role as pathogens. Abstract, 2007 Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, UCONN, Storrs, 9 March 2007.

Mervosh, Todd and D. Gumbart. Management of Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and pale swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossicum*) at Bluff Point Coastal Reserve. Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, Abstract.

Mervosh, Todd and D. P. Roach. Evaluation of herbicides for phragmites management in Connecticut marshes. Weed Science Society of America, Abstracts Vol. 47 (2007).

Molaei, Goudarz, Theodore G. Andreadis, Philip M. Armstrong, et al. Host feeding pattern of *Culex quinquefasciatus* (Diptera:Culicidae) and its role in transmission of West Nile virus in Metropolitan Harris County, Texas.

A. J. DeNicola and Scott C. Williams. Sharpshooting suburban white-tailed deer reduces deer-vehicle collisions. Human-Wildlife Conflicts.

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