

Station News

A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Departmental News

SILK'N SOUNDS WOMEN'S BARBERSHOP CHORUS SING THE CHESTNUT SONG

By Sandra Anagnostakis



People are (left to right) Sandra Frawley [social scientist, Yale], Elizabeth Dwyer [accountant], Rebecca Bartlett [editor], and Sandra Anagnostakis [scientist, CAES]. All are members of Silk'n Sounds Women's Barbershop Chorus.

The Chestnut Song

Original words and music by these words by Dr. Sandra Frawley, Mel Torme, and Robert Wells

To back-cross breeding we should all aspire.

Yes, this the village smithies say.

Those spreading boughs met a fate awfully dire
The challenge seized by Sandy A.

Have you ever heard of fungal hypovirulence?
It's key to stopping chestnut blight.
Scientists with their efforts intense
May just defeat that parasite [Let's fight!]

Now here comes Sandy on the run.
She nurtures saplings in the shade and in the sun.
Genomic studies in the lab, how science tries
To learn how nutty DNA will hybridize.

And so we're offering some hearty praise
To Sandy's colleagues on the ground.
And though they've been served many times,
many ways -

Roasted chestnuts, roasted chestnuts, roasted
chestnuts

All round.

(chestnut trees, chestnut trees, chestnuts all
around)

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended the Invasive Plants Council meeting at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (January 16); attended a New Haven County Farm Bureau meeting in Jones Auditorium and gave a report on Experiment Station research (January 27); welcomed state residents attending the talks and tours given by staff members in the Department of Analytical Chemistry (January 29); was interviewed by John Charlton of Fox 61 TV about food and other product testing conducted at the Experiment Station (January 29).

Grants and Fundraising Office

MS. TESS FOLEY participated in a consultation call about issues of importance in farming and farmland preservation with the policy director for Terry McAuliffe (January 26).

Analytical Chemistry

Analytical Chemistry hosted a talk and tour of its laboratories for state legislators and the public. Two state representatives attended, as did personnel from the US FDA, FBI, and Consumer Reports. Media coverage in print and TV was comprehensive. All department staff participated in this event (January 29).

Biochemistry and Genetics

DR. NEIL SCHULTES and DR. WILLIAM NAIL hosted Dr. Carole Merideth, Professor Emerita, University of California, Davis on a tour of The Station. Dr. Merideth presented a seminar entitled “Genetically Modified Wine Grapes: Culture, Community, and Conflict” at Yale University as part of the Genetically Modified Plant Study Group Seminars (January 15).

DR. NEIL SCHULTES hosted laboratory tours and talked about “Photosynthesis” to twenty five 4th graders from the talented and Gifted Program in New Haven (January 22)

Entomology

MS. TIA BLEVINS attended the Winter Symposium and Expo of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association and the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association at Mountainridge, Wallingford (January 15).

MS. ROSE HISKES staffed an APHIS-PPQ firewood outreach booth with Nichole Campbell at the RV & Camping show in Hartford (January 9), provided Asian Longhorned Beetle outreach material to the Connecticut Maple Syrup Producers Association in Windsor (January 17), gave a talk on Organic Management of Insect Pests of Ornamentals and Turf at the NOFA Organic Landcare Course in Leominster, MA (65 students) (January 20), participated in a meeting with the Connecticut Tree Protective Association and the Department of Information Technology on putting the Pesticide Guide Toward IPM for Arborists on the web in East Hartford (January 22).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER displayed a collection of invasive insects and a poster on the brown marmorated stink bug at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington (January 15) and spoke on “Alien Insects That Could Threaten Agriculture and Biodiversity in Connecticut” at a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (January 16).

DR. GALE E. RIDGE discovered the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug *Halyomorpha halys*; a new state record (December 16, 2008); lectured on flies, both beneficial and harmful, their medical and epidemiological significance at the 69th annual eastern conference of the National Pest Management Association at Foxwoods (290 attendees) (January 16); spoke about insect morphology, ecology and adaptations for survival to the talented and gifted program students of New Haven (30 students) (January 22); lectured on insects of medical importance to man; lice, bed bugs, fleas, scabies etc. to the Connecticut Department of Disabled Services for New Haven (27 attendees) (January 23); and lectured on the ecological history of the forests of the northeast, and how they have been historically impacted by man, at the winter conference of the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association in Hartford (60 attendees) (January 29).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE gave a talk entitled ‘A big problem on our doorstep, the Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester’ to the winter update course put on by John Deere Landscape (formerly Lesco). Meriden, CT (70 attendees) (January 14); attended the CTPA winter meeting in Farmington CT (January

15); gave a talk entitled 'A big problem on our doorstep, the Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester' at the Connecticut Turf & Landscape Conference. Hartford CT (40 attendees) (January 29); and gave a talk entitled 'What's bugging your trees' sponsored by the Milford Tree Commission, Inc. at the Milford Public Library. Milford CT (25 attendees) (January 31).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in the CT Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Symposium, held at MountainRidge Resort in Wallingford, with a talk titled "Asian Longhorned Beetle: On Our Doorstep" (approximately 60 participants) (January 14); participated in the CT Tree Protective Association Winter Meeting, held at AquaTurf in Southington, with a talk titled "Asian Longhorned Beetle: On Our Doorstep" (approximately 800 participants) (January 15); participated in the winter meeting of the National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Committee as the representative of the Eastern Plant Board, held at Eastern Region USDA-APHIS-PPQ Headquarters in Raleigh, NC (30 participants) (January 21-22); presented a talk to a meeting of the New Haven & Middlesex County Highway Associations, held at the Elks Club in Westbrook, titled "Asian Longhorned Beetle: What to Look For" (approximately 40 participants) (January 27).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III participated on an Asian longhorned beetle outreach conference call with USDA/APHIS/PPQ and regional state partners (January 9); with Patricia Douglas, USDA/APHIS/PPQ, spoke on Plant Quarantine Process at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association winter meeting in Wallingford, CT (30 attendees) (January 15); participated in a regional workshop to assess research and outreach needs in integrated pest management to reduce the incidence of tick-borne disease in the southern US at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA (January 21-23); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease and the Asian longhorned beetle at the Orchard Valley Garden Club in Southington, CT (53 attendees) (January 27); participated in the McIntire-Stennis Administrative Technical Representative meeting in Washington, D.C. (January 28); and spoke on Pest Management: Ticks and Lyme Disease at the Organic Land Care Course in Jones Auditorium. (67 attendees) (January 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in the annual retreat of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA. Lockwood Cottage (14 attendees) (January 3); presented a talk, "Measuring Pesticides in Pollen," co-authored with Brian Eitzer, at the Atlantic Coast Agricultural Conference in Atlantic City, NJ (50 attendees) (January 14); made a presentation, "Pest Management Overview" as a part of the NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course in Leominster, MA (65 attendees) (January 16); presented a talk, "Managing Good Bugs and Bad Bugs in Vegetables" at the Getting Started in Organic Farming Conference, and also hosted the conference in Jones Auditorium (45 attendees) (January 17); participated in a meeting on possible revisions to the Connecticut School Pesticide Law at the Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford (18 attendees) (January 22); made a presentation, "Principles and Procedures in Organic Land Care," as part of the NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course in New Haven (67 attendees) (January 27); made a presentation, "Pest Management Overview," as part of the NOFA Organic Land Care Accreditation Course in New Haven (67 attendees) (January 29).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD interviewed about Japanese barberry control by Jean Stowe of The Plantsman (UK) (January 4); attended the 87th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Plainville. (January 15); participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting in Middlefield (January 21); spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (49 students) (January 21); and spoke on forestry and wildlife research for the New Haven Talented and Gifted Program (16 students) (January 22).

DR. MARTIN GENT Michael Collins, entrepreneur, visited to discuss hydroponic lettuce production in urban areas (January 5); attended a meeting to discuss research and funding concerning agricultural use of biochar in Ithaca, NY (January 12); presented research poster on "Ebb and Flow Watering" at the Annual Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association in Wallingford (200+ attendees) (January 14); attended a steering committee meeting of the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers in Manchester, NH (15 extension, 5 grower attendees) (January 27).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD worked with upper school students at Hamden Hall Country Day School on their science projects (14 students, 2 teachers) (January 22) and attended a meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee at DEP (January 27).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Vineyard and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (January 5); gave a demonstration workshop on pruning and renewing grapevines at Chamard Vineyards in Clinton (5 attendees) (January 13); and participated in a meeting of the State Consulting Committee for Agricultural Education at the Middletown Agriculture Science and Technology Center at Middletown High School (January 27).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS presented research poster on “Effectiveness of Deer Repellents on Yews in Connecticut” at the Annual Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association in Wallingford (200+ attendees) (January 14) and participated in the Connecticut Urban Forest Council meeting, Middlefield, CT (January 21) (January 21).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY gave a brief report of current forestry research while additionally serving as Connecticut Representative to the New England Society of American Foresters Executive Committee meeting in Concord, NH (January 21).

MR. MICHAEL R. SHORT attended the CNLA-CGGA “Winter Symposium & Expo” in Wallingford and assisted with the Experiment Station display. (January 14).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about chestnut trees to a group of fourth-grade students in the talented and gifted program in New Haven at the Station (2 adult attendees, 24 youth attendees) (January 22).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH attended the CNLA/CGGA Winter Symposium and Expo in Wallingford (January 14, 2009); participated in the CTPA Winter meeting in Plantsville (January 15); attended the Connecticut Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers Conference in Vernon (January 22); and with Lorraine Los (Fruit Crops IPM Coordinator, UCONN), AND was interviewed by the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) competitive grants program regarding their joint 2009 Research and Education competitive grant proposal entitled “Development and on-farm training of biologically based methods for integrated crop management of stone fruits in New England” in Manchester, NH (January 29).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS participated in a conference call with members of the Board of the American Phytopathological Society Foundation (January 8); gave a presentation entitled “Environmentally friendly methods for managing plant diseases” to the Wallingford Garden Club in Wallingford (75 adult attendees) (January 13); gave an invited talk entitled “Update on Chrysanthemum White Rust in Connecticut” at the CNLA/CGGA Winter Symposium in Wallingford (60 adult attendees) (January 14); participated in the CTPA Annual Meeting as a member of the CTPA Board of Directors (720 adult attendees) (January 15); gave a presentation entitled “Chrysanthemum White Rust in Connecticut—What growers need to know” at the Connecticut Vegetable and Small Fruit Meeting in Tolland (175 adult attendees) (January 22); gave a presentation entitled “Common diseases of woody ornamentals: What bonsai growers need to know” at the January meeting of the Bonsai Society of Greater New Haven at Edgerton Park in New Haven (15 adult attendees) (January 27); and gave a lecture entitled “Understanding plant diseases” as part of the CT NOFA course on organic land care in New Haven (62 adult attendees) (January 29).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended an NERA Planning Grant Conference on the use of biochar and presented a talk entitled “Use of biochar in asparagus disease management” at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY (12 adult attendees) (January 12, 2009); and presented the talks “Soil fertility and vegetable crop disease” (25 adults attended) and “Asparagus disease management in the northeastern US” (15 adults attended) at the 2009 Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention & Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference & Trade Shows in Atlantic City, NJ (January 14-15).

MS. MARY K. INMAN gave a talk entitled “General care and common problems of houseplants” to the Branford Garden Club in Branford (16 adult attendees) (January 12) and gave a talk on “Plant propagation” to the Newtown Garden Club in Newtown (30 adult attendees) (January 27).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave a 2-hour lecture titled “Introduction to mycology” to participants in the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Advanced Master Gardener Program for Fairfield County in Bethel (26 adult attendees) (January 12) and gave a 2-hour lecture titled “Fungi of the forests: Friends and foes” to participants in the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Advanced Master Gardener Program for Fairfield County in Bethel (26 adult attendees) (January 26).

Soil and Water

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE was interviewed by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times on “Using winter drawdown to control Eurasian water milfoil in Candlewood Lake.” (January 15); spoke on *Connecticut's Invasive Aquatic Plants – Why They Are Where They Are* and administered the aquatic pesticide supervisor recertification program at the 10th Annual Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY (January 21); and spoke on *Soil Fertility as it Pertains to Turf* at the Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference in Hartford (January 29).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO attended the annual meeting of the W1082 Multistate Research Project and gave the CAES progress report (January 8-9) and presided over a meeting of the Biochar Planning Group to plan for submission of a multi-institutional grant proposal to the Biomass Research and Development Initiative program (DoE and USDA), held at Cornell University (January 12).

DR. JASON WHITE hosted an undergraduate student from Muhlenberg College who conducted experiments under his supervision (January 5-9) and met with Professor Saion K. Sinha of the University of New Haven whose student is currently completing his Master's research to examine the impact of nanoparticles on plants, under the supervision of Dr. White (January 30).

Valley Laboratory

DR. CAROLE CHEAH attended the 2009 HWA Biological Control Committee Meeting in Annapolis, MD and gave a presentation on artificial diet supplements for HWA predators (January 13).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Activity and persistence of systemics for managing hemlock woolly adelgids," at the USDA Research Forum on Invasive Species, Annapolis, MD (January 15) (200 attendees).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed about root-knot nematodes and wetland dieback by Joseph Ingoldsby for Orion magazine (January 2); participated in a conference call with growers and extension personnel from southeast Pennsylvania about nematode management (January 14); spoke about 'Identifying and managing nematode diseases of vegetable and small fruit crops' at the Connecticut Vegetable and small fruit growers conference in Vernon (January 22) (175 people); and participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council to plan Ag Day at the Capitol (January 26).

DR. HUGH SMITH gave a presentation on IPM principles for Connecticut's Nurseries in Spanish at the CNLA Winter Symposium (50 attendees) (January 15).

Journal Articles Approved January 2009

Micieli, Maria V., Juan J. Garcia, and Theodore G. Andreadis. Bioassay experiments on horizontal transmission of *Amblyospora albifasciati* (Microsporidia: Amblyosporidae) between *Ochlerotatus albifasciatus* (Diptera: Culicidae) mosquito larvae and the intermediate host, *Mesocyclops annulatus* (Copepoda: Cyclopidae). *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*

Elmer, Wade H. Using Fertility to Manage Diseases on Ornamentals. *Greenhouse World*.

Hiskes, Rose and Hugh Smith. Pesticide Guide Toward Integrated Pest Management for Connecticut Nurseries 2009

Hiskes, Rose and Hugh Smith. Pesticide Guide Toward Integrated Pest Management for Connecticut Arborists 2009

Hiskes, Rose and Hugh Smith. Pesticide Guide Toward Integrated Pest Management for Connecticut Nurseries 2009

De-Wei Li and James LaMondia. Airborne fungi associated with ornamental plant propagation in greenhouses. *Environmental Health Perspectives*

Maynard, Abigail A. How to Grow Personal-Size Seedless Watermelons in Connecticut. *Station Fact Sheet*

Mervosh, Todd L. and David Gumbart. Glyphosate and Triclopyr, with or without cutting, for control of oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Pale Swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*) and Morrow's Honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*). *Invasive Plant Science and Management*

Ridge, Gale E. Standardization of characters for the adult heteropteran thoracic endoskeleton, a family-level study (Insecta:Hemiptera). *Systemic Entomology*

Stoner, Kimberly. Case Studies of Organic Farms. *Gleanings (CT NOFA Newsletter)*

Stoner, Kimberly A. and Brian D. Eitzer. Measuring Pesticide in Pollen Trapped from Honey Bee Hives in Connecticut. *American Bee Journal (Abstracts from American Bee Research Conference)*.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities 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, Abstract 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@ct.gov (E-mail).
