

# *Station News* A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

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## **Departmental News**

**A LOOK BACK** by Ms. Joan Bravo

### *130 Years ago*

Legislature passed a bill in **1877** transferring The Station from Wesleyan to Yale in New Haven.

### *107 Years ago*

In **1900**, the 1<sup>st</sup> endowment was received under the will of William R. Lockwood of Norwalk, Connecticut.

### *60 years ago*

Tobacco Substation of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station renamed to Tobacco Laboratory (changed again to Valley Laboratory in 1965)

### *59 Years ago*

In November **1948**, the first issue of *Frontiers of Plant Science* was published.

James Horsfall was promoted to Director, until 1971 when he stepped down.

### *56 Years ago*

Lockwood Lectures initiated with the first speaker Detlev Bronk, President of the National Academy of Sciences.

### *55 Years ago*

H. B. Vickery received the first grant to an Experiment Station from the National Science Foundation. Acceptance of the grant was approved by the Board of Control at their September 23, **1952** meeting. It was in the amount of \$24,500, an exceptionally large amount for the time (Record of the Year, 1953/1954, page 81).

### *53 Years ago*

In **1954**, The Station bought new 1954 Chevrolet 2-door sedan for \$1,194.00

In 1953/1954 Record of the Year, Dr. Robert C. Wallis, Medical Entomologist, started a study of insects that transmit diseases. (Eastern Equine Encephalitis)

### *35 Years ago*

In **1972**, Governor Thomas J. Meskill presented the first Donald F. Jones gold medal to Dr. George W. Beadle, a Nobel laureate in Medicine and Physiology at the September 14<sup>th</sup> opening of the Donald F. Jones auditorium. The Jones medal is an award instituted by the Station Board of Control in recognition of the distinguished contributions of Donald F. Jones to genetics and agriculture. You can read more about this award and the first presentation in the Record of the Year 1972-1973 on page 3.

## **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI Spoke to Experiment Station Associates Board members about Station research (December 5) and was interviewed about organic farming by Cara Barruzzi of the New Haven Register (December 22).

## **Analytical Chemistry**

DR. BRIAN EITZER gave a seminar on the analysis of pesticide residues by HPLC/MS at Albertus Magnus College (December 1).

MR. CRAIG MUSANTE tested children's toys for lead that were pulled off store shelves by The Department of Consumer Protection. The toys in question exceeded the safe limit for lead as set by The Federal Government and The State of Connecticut (December 1).

## **Biochemistry and Genetics**

DR. NEIL SCHULTES presented a series of lectures on “Application of Biotechnology to Modern Agriculture” to an undergraduate seminar Science 130 at Yale University (December 1, 8, &14).

## **Entomology**

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER presented a poster on the winter moth and exhibited a new field guide on fruit pests at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (December 5); and displayed a poster titled “Weekly Abundance of Wood-boring Beetles and Selected Natural Enemies (Coleoptera) Captured on Sticky Bands on Girdled Trees and in Lindgren Funnel Traps in Connecticut Forests” while attending the Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Indianapolis, IN (December 13).

MS. GALE RIDGE won third place in the ladies competition for cricket spitting at the Entomological society of America national convention in Indianapolis with a distance of 16’7” (December 12); spoke at the Entomological Society of America national convention in Indianapolis on the heteropteran endothorax (December 13); and identified a new species of ant to the State of Connecticut; The Guinea ant; *Tetramorium bicarinatum*; Workers are generalized scavengers and they are confined to the greenhouses (December 20).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH attended the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society, held at the Gallery in Glastonbury; approximately (60 participants) (December 5).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III participated in the Southern New England Beekeeper Assembly in New Haven (November 18); with DR. ANUJA BHARADWAJ, presented a poster on research with the fungus *Metarhizium anisopliae* for tick control at the annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America in Indianapolis, IN. (December 12); and Interviewed by Mar Walker, Redding Pilot, about tick infection rates (December 18).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER organized and led the annual retreat of the Organic Land Care Committee, a joint program of the Connecticut and Massachusetts chapters of the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Mercy Center, Madison, (12 people) (December 8-10); participated as co-leader of a meeting of farmers and scientists to discuss the techniques tested and progress made in improving the yield, quality, and profits on *Brassica* crops as part of the project ‘Achieving High Quality *Brassica* Crops on Diversified Vegetable Farms’ funded by the Northeast SARE program. Grafton, Massachusetts. (10 people) (December 11); spoke about accreditation as an Organic Land Care Professional and about new developments in the Organic Land Care Program at the Organic Land Care Update course; Tolland Agricultural Center, Tolland; (120 people) (December 14); and organized and led the annual retreat of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Lockwood Cottage, Hamden (12 people) (December 16).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY WARD was interviewed by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant on controlling barberry with propane torches (December 4); interviewed by Rich Churchill of People, Places, and Plants Magazine about whether it is legal to cultivate *Ribes* (December 4); interviewed by Jan Spiegel of the New York Times about the factors influencing the heavy crop of white pine cones (December 11); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in Southington (December 13); and administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (December 13).

DR. MARTIN GENT participated in the organizing committee meeting of the New England Vegetable and Fruit Growers Conference in Manchester NH (20 attendees) (December 21).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD Attended the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (December 5).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL attended a viticulture workshop at the Cornell Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center (December 6) and evaluated a potential vineyard site in Stonington with Arthur Heywood (December 20).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS spoke on "Deer-Vehicle Collisions" for state and town officials of the Connecticut Transportation Institute at DOT Headquarters, Newington, Connecticut (25 attendees) (December 13).

## **Lockwood Farm**

### **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a talk entitled "Top diseases of 2006" at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society and received the 2006 Award of Merit in Glastonbury (85 attendees) (December 5); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protective Examining Board with the oral exam for arborists at the Station (December 13); and gave a talk entitled "Common diseases of juniper and rose" at the Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Update Seminar in Tolland (120 attendees) (December 14).

DR. WADE H. ELMER was interviewed about the role of fungal pathogens in marsh dieback in Connecticut by Leah Stetson for the newsletter of the Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc. (December 1).

### **Soil and Water**

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO served as a judge at the Langer Graduate Student Symposium in Engineering, held at Yale University (December 1) and presented a talk entitled, "Facilitated Bioavailability of PAHs to Native Soil Bacteria Promoted by Nutrient Addition", in a Symposium on Influence of Bioactivity on Mass Transfer Processes Occurring Within Contaminant Source Areas, at the Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union, held in San Francisco, CA. (approximately 100 attendees)(December 11-15).

DR. JASON WHITE met with Larry Marcicano, Manager for Candlewood Lake to discuss potential research projects and funding sources for 2007 (December 18).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY met with Larry Marsicano, Executive Director of the Candlewood Lake Authority concerning Candlewood Lake's invasive plant problem (December 18).

DR. CHARLES VOSSBRINCK presented a talk on Spiders to a 2nd grade class at the Savin Rock Elementary School in West Haven (20 students in attendance) (December 8).

### **Valley Laboratory**

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA participated in the Pandemic Continuity of Operations COOP Interagency Training Session held at Manchester Community College (December 13) and spoke about "Sudden wetlands dieback – possible role of root-knot nematodes" at Lunch Club in New Haven (December 14).

DR. DEWEI LI presented "A Pilot Study of Worker's Exposure to Airborne and Phylloplanr Fungi in Greenhouses in Connecticut with a Traditional Method and QPCR" at the Center for Indoor Environments and Health at the UConn Health Center (12 faculty, physicians, and attendees) (December 13).

## **Journal Articles Approved December 2006**

Cowles, Richard S. The growing importance of armored scales in Christmas tree plantations. Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report

Elmer, Wade H. Effect of increasing rates of acibenzolar-S-methyl on Fusarium corm rot of gladiolus, 2006. Plant disease Management reports (PDMR)

Elmer, Wade H. and Francis J. Ferrandino. Influence of earthworms on Verticillium wilt of eggplant, 2006. Plant disease Management Reports (PDMR)

LaMondia, James A. and Wade H. Elmer. The plant parasitic nematode *Meloidogyne spartinae* – a possible contributor to salt marsh decline. Proceedings CCNR Conference.

Mattina, MaryJane Incorvia, William Iannucci-Berger, and Brian D. Eitzer. Factors affecting the phytoaccumulation of weathered, soil-borne organic contaminants. Analyses at the exPLANTA and inPLANTA sides of the plant root. Plant and Soil

Maynard, Abigail A. Utilization of compost as a soil amendment in cut flower production. Compost Science and Utilization

Mervosh, Todd L. and John F. Ahrens. Tolerances of ornamental shrubs to Halosulfuron, Sulfentrazone, and V-10142. Proceedings of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, Vol. 61 2007

Mervosh, Todd L. and David P. Roach. Efficacy of Glyphosate, Imazapyr, and Triclopyr for phragmites management in a Connecticut Marsh. Proceedings of the Northeastern Weed Science Society, Vol. 61 (2007)

Nail, William R. Grape cultivar selection and grapevine canopy management. Frontiers of Plant Science.

Rutledge, Claire E. and D. K. Young. First report of an attractant for a tumbling flower beetle (Coleoptera:Mordellidae). Environmental Entomology

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