

Station News

A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Departmental News

Snow-Bound in the Nursery: Trace-Back in December!

By
Victoria L. Smith

On December 23, the Survey and Inspection team (Jeff Fengler, Vicki Smith, and Peter Trenchard), accompanied by Kate Aitkenhead (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) visited a major production nursery to trace-back Rhododendrons possibly infested with *Phytophthora ramorum*, an important disease of regulatory concern. The goal was to find plants remaining from a shipment sent in April to South Carolina, and to collect any symptomatic tissue for presence of *P. ramorum*. The snow was about 4 feet deep; the temperature in the low 20's, but the sun was shining. We collected 14 samples; all were tested and found negative for the presence of *P. ramorum*.



Image by: Victoria L. Smith



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Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended a Board meeting of the Experiment Station Associates and gave a report on Station research programs (December 4); attended an Invasive Plants Council meeting at the Valley Laboratory (December 9); attended a Farm Bureau meeting in Windsor and spoke on Station budget needs (December 10); and welcomed high school students participating in the Education Connection Tour program in Jones Auditorium and spoke about Station research (December 15).

Biochemistry and Genetics

DR. DOUGLAS DINGMAN participated in the Farmer's Market meeting held in the conference room of the CT Farm Bureau, Windsor, CT (December 10) and attended the program planning committee meeting for the Quinnipiac chapter of Sigma Xi as a committee member, Hamden, CT (December 15).

Entomology

MS. ROSE HISKES participated in a National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) committee meeting in Phoenix (December 2-4).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER displayed live specimens of the Bruce spanworm and a poster on topics discussed at a fruit IPM meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (December 2).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE taught sessions of CTPA Arboriculture 101 at Jones Auditorium (45 people) (October 8 and 29); gave talk entitled “Asian longhorned beetle, a huge problem on our doorstep” to the annual meeting of the Environmental Industry Council in Farmington CT (about 200 people) (November 25); taught session of CTPA Arboriculture 101 at Jones Auditorium (45 people) (December 3); and gave talk entitled “Asian longhorned beetle: Worcester” to the NOFA Organic Land care Update Course in Worcester, MA (180 people) (December 9).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a meeting of the National Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey, held at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix, AZ, as the Eastern Plant Board Representative, and participated in a State Plant Regulatory Official’s meeting in response to the Asian Longhorned Beetle (approximately 200 participants) (December 3-4).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Roby’s Organic Farm, Berlin (12 people) (December 7).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III participated as administrative advisor at a technical meeting for regional project NE-1031 in Raleigh, NC (December 12).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III invited Dr. Joseph S. Elkinton to present a Lockwood Lecture on “Winter Moth Invasion of New England in the Jones Auditorium”. Dr. Joseph S. Elkinton is a Professor of Entomology in the Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He spoke about his research on population dynamics and biological control of the Winter Moth (December 8).



Image by: Rose Bonito

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (December 10); participated in Future of CT Forests Symposium planning committee at Yale University (December 10); interviewed about lack of acorns by Keila Torres of the Connecticut Post (December 16); visited to Holcomb Farm in Granby to advice on invasive plant control (6 attendees) (December 18); and interviewed about longevity of Kwansan cherries by Wendy Carlson of the New York Times (December 22).

DR. MARTIN GENT along with M.R. SHORT, attended a workshop on Alternative Greenhouse Crops at Sturbridge MA (150 attendees) (December 12); participated in a Steering committee meeting for the New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference, Manchester NH (15 Extension personnel) (December 18); and visited hydroponics production facility for lettuce and salad greens at Woodbury Farm, Woodbury CT; and talked to Joe Donato about nutrition and other aspects of growing plants in hydroponics (December 19).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD attended the annual meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (December 2) and spoke to Biology class at Hamden Hall Country Day School about the New Crops Program (10 students, 1 teacher) (December 4).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture in Hartford (December 11).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS presented preliminary research results of the response of forest vegetation to exclusion from browsing deer over 3 growing seasons to the Stewardship Committee of The Nature Conservancy's Burnham Brook Preserve in East Haddam (15 attendees) (December 8).

JOSEPH BARSKY provided an update on current forest research at the New England Society of American Foresters Executive Committee meeting in East Concord, NH (December 10).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology to a group of high school students from Education Connection at the Station (10 adult attendees, 40 youth attendees) (December 15).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH gave a talk entitled "Peach bacterial spot update" at the Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society in Glastonbury (70 adult attendees) (December 2) and hosted and discussed his research with Dr. Jeffrey B. Jones, who gave a Lockwood Lecture entitled "Current Research on Citrus Canker, Bacterial Spot of Tomato and Pepper, and Bacterial Wilt" at the Station (December 4).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS discussed the history of the Experiment Station and research and outreach programs of the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology with Dr. Jeffrey Jones, Lockwood Lecturer (December 4); participated in the December meeting of the CTPA Board of Directors at the Aquaturf in Plantsville (15 adult attendees) (December 4); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protective Examining Board with the administration of the oral component of the Connecticut arborist exam (December 10); participated in a conference call of the CTPA Board of Directors to discuss strategies for the Mark McClure Research Fund (December 17); met with Dr. Vivian Williamson, candidate for a position in Analytical Chemistry, with DRS. BALOGH and FERRANDINO, and discussed the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology (December 18); and met with Mr. Richard Therrien, K-12 Science Supervisor of New Haven Public Schools, and Tess Foley to discuss developing a partnership with New Haven Public Schools and a CAES mentorship program (December 22).

DR. WADE H. ELMER presented a seminar entitled "Possible role of plant pathogens in the decline of salt marshes along the Atlantic seaboard" at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven (8 adult attendees) (December 3); was interviewed about the effect of weather on plant growth by Brigette Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican-American (December 11); and spoke about the ability of corm soak treatments to suppress *Fusarium* corm rot of gladiolus to the Connecticut Gladiolus Society in Avon (10 adult attendees) (December 13).

Soil and Water

AWARDS DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS and DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI were recipients of the 2008 McColgan Grant-in Aid Award from the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association. The funding will be used to support research to evaluate role of *Culiseta melanura* and *Culiseta morsitans* mosquitoes in epidemic and epizootic transmission of eastern equine encephalitis virus in northeastern United States with special focus on the recent outbreaks of human cases in Massachusetts.

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS gave an oral presentation on West Nile virus and a tour of the Biosafety Level 3 and electron microscope laboratories to a group of 28 students from Career High School in New Haven as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (28 students) (December 3); presented an invited talk, *Failure of the Asian Tiger Mosquito, Aedes albopictus to*

overwinter following introduction and seasonal establishment at a tire recycling plant in Connecticut at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Providence, RI (approximately 100 in attendance) (December 8); and gave an oral presentation on West Nile virus and a tour of the Biosafety Level 3 and electron microscope laboratories to a group of 25 students from Career High School in New Haven as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (25 students) (December 18).

DR. SHAOMING HUANG presented an invited talk, *Genetic variation in populations of Culex pipiens from the northeastern and Midwestern United States* at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Providence, RI (approximately 100 in attendance) (December 8).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI presented an invited talk, *Epizootiology of eastern equine encephalitis virus in the northeastern United States: Lessons from the mosquito blood feeding behavior* at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Providence, RI (approximately 100 in attendance) (December 8).

MS. ROSLYN REEPS gave a talk about invasive aquatic plants and CAES Invasive Aquatic Plant Program to 6 Education Connection student groups (6 education connection student groups) (December 15).

DR. JASON WHITE met with Prof. Saionk Sinha of The University of New Haven regarding supervision of one of his students Master's Research (December 18).

MR. JOHN SHEPARD spoke to 28 students from Career High School in New Haven and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (28 students) (December 3); presented a talk, *Arbovirus Activity in Connecticut, 2008* at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association, held in Providence, RI (approximately 100 in attendance) (December 8); and spoke to 25 students from Career High School in New Haven and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (25 students) (December 18).

MR. MICHAEL THOMAS spoke to 28 students from Career High School in New Haven and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (28 students) (December 3) and spoke to 25 students from Career High School in New Haven and provided hands on activities about mosquito biology and arbovirus surveillance as part of the NIH/NSF sponsored Peabody Fellows Program, Yale University (25 students) (December 18).

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES was interviewed by Emily Dahlbeck for an article to be published in *Arbor Age* on management of hemlock woolly adelgid.

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA participated in a 'Community collaboration for farm worker health and safety meeting' held by the Northeast Center for Agricultural Health in East Windsor (December 4) and participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council to plan Ag Day at the Capitol (December 11).

Journal Articles Approved December 2008

Balogh, Botond, M. T. Momol, A. Obradovic, and J. B. Jones. Bacteriophages as Agents for the Control of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria. In: *Disease Control in Crops: Biological and Environmentally Friendly Approaches*, Dale Walters, (ed.), John Wiley & Sons Ltd., UK

Balogh, Botond, J. B. Jones, F. B. Iriarte, and M. T. Momol. Phage Therapy for Plant Disease Control. *Current Pharmaceutical Biotechnology*, Special Topics Issue – Phage Therapy

- Elmer, Wade H. Using Fertility to Suppress Vegetable Diseases. Proc. Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention & Trade Show, 13-15 January 2009, Atlantic City, NJ
- Elmer, Wade H. Asparagus Disease Management in the Northeastern US. Proc. Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention and Trade Show, 13-15 January 2009, Atlantic City, NJ
- Elmer, Wade H. and R. Jimenez. Disease Management Session. Journal of Plant Pathology
- Magnarelli, Louis A. Global Importance of Ticks and Associated Infectious Disease Agents. Clinical Microbiology Newsletter
- Mansfield, T.A., Neil P. Schultes, Mourad, G. S. AtAzg (and AtAzzg) Comprise a Novel Family of Purine Transporters in Arabidopsis. FEBS Letters
- Stoner, Kimberly A. and Brian D. Eitzer. Measuring Pesticides in Pollen. Proceedings of the Atlantic Coast Agricultural Convention
- Ward, Jeffrey S. and Scott C. Williams. Effectiveness of Deer Repellants in Connecticut. Human Wildlife Conflicts Journal
- Wen, A., Botond Balogh, M. T. Momol, S. M. Olson, and J. B. Jones. Management of Bacterial Spot of Tomato With a Phosphorous Acid Compound. Crop Protection
- Zelitch, Israel, Neil P. Schultes, Richard B. Peterson, P. Brown, and T. P. Brutrell. High Glycolate Oxide Activity is Required for Survival of Maize in Normal Air. Plant Physiology

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