

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



TIMBER RATTLESNAKE *(Crotalus horridus)*

Peter Trenchard stumbled on a Timber Rattlesnake sunning itself on Friday, June 16th in the Housatonic State Forest in Sharon, CT. (Image taken by Peter Trenchard)

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI welcomed members of Multistate Research Project NE-1017 on greenhouse studies at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (June 1); was interviewed about mosquitoes and encephalitis viruses by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times (June 2); met with the Board of Directors of the Experiment Station Associates and gave a report on mosquito/encephalitis viruses, invasive aquatic plants, and integrated pest management research (June 13); and was interviewed about gypsy moths by Marian Brown of the Connecticut Post (June 19).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. DAVID STILWELL, along with THOMAS RATHIER met with Michael Keilty, Tom Morris and Dawn Pettinelli of UCONN to discuss ways to survey, on a state-wide basis, lead in community garden soils and vegetables (June 14).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

ROSE BONITO presented a display with information on our Station, Tick Control, and Native plants at the annual Topmost Farm Herb Festival in Coventry (65 people) (June 3).

GALE RIDGE spoke to Bridget Ruthman of the Republican American about Eastern tent and the Gypsy moth caterpillars and their damage to trees in Connecticut this year (June 9), spoke to Abram Katz of the New Haven Register about Biological control on Purple Loosestrife using *Galerucella californiensis* L. and *Galerucella pusilla* beetles (June 6), and spoke to Fran Kefalas of the Norwich Bulletin about Gypsy Moth and springtime feeding damage and the effects on the population from the fungus (June 15).

DR. CHRIS MAIER displayed a poster on the winter moth and handed out fact sheets on the brown marmorated stink bug while attending the President's Summer Meeting of the Connecticut Pomological Society at Norton Brothers Orchard, Cheshire (June 14).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a planning for an Incident Command System exercise; held at the USDA office in Wallingford; (6 other attendees) (June 6); met with Dennis Souto of the US Forest Service Durham Field Office, to plan a program review for August 2006 (June 16); and met with Jim Frament of the US Forest Service Durham Field Office, to program the Digital Aerial Sketchmapping System for use in Gypsy Moth surveys (June 28).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III spoke to members of the Natural Resources Council of Connecticut about ticks at Lake Gaillard (attendees 150) (June 1); participated in a pandemic influenza planning summit for state agencies in East Hartford (June 2); interviewed about tick control for a Moms Gone Mad Show on Lyme disease on Comcast Cable Television in Danbury (June 5); participated in affirmative action training in Hartford (June 8); interviewed by George Krinsky, Republic American, about the impact of weather on ticks (June 8); interviewed by Abram Katz, New Haven Register, about tick life cycle and control (June 9); provided an update on tick control research to Westport and Weston Health District staff and the chair of their Board of Directors in Westport (attendees 10) (June 14); with a conference link in Bridgeport Connecticut, spoke on ticks and tick associated diseases to DuPont employees at locations through the U.S. as part of their health, safety, and environment training (attendees 150) (June 15); interviewed by Pamela Weil, Connecticut Gardener, about the survival of blacklegged ticks in washer and dryer (June 22); interviewed by Marilyn Ross about anaplasmosis for the Orange Bulletin (June 29); and interviewed by Bridget Ruthman, Republic American, about mosquito activity and surveillance (June 30).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER farm visit to Paul Bucciaglia, Fort Hill Farm, New Milford, CT, worked on integrated pest management program for this organic, community supported agriculture farm (May 2); presented a talk "All About Lady Beetles" at the Westport Center for Senior Activities (25 attendees) (May 8); farm visit to Andre Groszyk, of Groszyk Farms, Enfield, CT, worked on an integrated pest management program for the vegetable part of this farm (May 19); met with farmers Sam Hammer and Jonathan Kirschner at Holcomb Farm CSA, Granby, and Andre Groszyk of Groszyk Farms, Enfield, set out swede midge traps at these farms (May 30); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee, Valley Laboratory, Windsor (May 30); farm visit to Gordon Bednarz, Glastonbury, discussed record keeping for integrated pest management (June 2); farm visit to Fort Hill Farm, New Milford, CT, set up swede midge traps and discussed integrated pest management (June 9); participated in a meeting of the State Advisory Council for Agricultural Education, Michaels Greenhouse, Cheshire (June 12); farm visit to Walter Greist of Mill River Valley Farm, North Haven, set up swede midge traps on this farm (June 15); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee; Valley Laboratory, Windsor (June 27); participated in a meeting organized by the CT Department of Agriculture to create a Farm Link program – a program to link landowners seeking to rent or sell farmland and farmers or prospective farmers seeking farmland, CT Farm Bureau office, Windsor (June 28).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD along with SCOTT WILLIAMS, spoke on "White-tailed deer studies: effect and control" at the Natural Resources Council of Connecticut field tour at Lake Gaillard in North Branford (120 attendees) (June 1); spoke on "The natural history of trees" for Strong (24 students, 1 teacher) and St. Thomas (26 students, 2 teachers) 5th graders in Southington (June 2); invited guest on WTIC AM-1080 radio talk show "Garden talk" to offer advice on tree management (35,000 listeners) (June 3); administered practical and oral examination to arborist candidates for the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (June 14); participated in a workshop "Developing an Urban Forest Management Plan" in Jones Auditorium (June 15); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in Farmington (June 20); and chaired Connecticut Forest Council - research committee meeting in Middlefield (June 21).

DR. MARTIN GENT organized and hosted a meeting and field trip for the NE 1017 regional research committee on "Developing and Integrating Components for Commercial Greenhouse Production Systems"

at the Gordon Taylor Conference room in Windsor, (Fifteen scientists from twelve states attended the meeting), each of these scientists has research and extension responsibilities, that affect 100s of clients in their respective states (June 1-2); and participated in an Agriculture and Environment Career Panel at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford, spoke to two classes (25, 10th grade students) (June 5).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD toured gardens at Hamden Hall Country Day School and answered questions about gardening and the Station (June 5); and visited the farm at the Common Ground High School in New Haven (June 8).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in the Connecticut Grape and Winery Association meeting at the Valley Laboratory (13 attendees) (June 5); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Council at the Valley Laboratory (4 attendees) (June 5); met with Dale Strand to discuss operating a Farm Winery in Connecticut (June 15); and attended the annual meeting of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture in Sacramento (June 28-30).

SCOTT WILLIAMS conducted a wildlife inventory on a parcel of land for the Guilford Land Conservation Trust (June 22).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS was visited by Michele Warmund and Mark Coggashall from the University of Missouri. They toured Lockwood Farm and The Chestnut Plantation at Sleeping Giant and discussed collaborative chestnut projects in progress (June 27).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR presented an invited seminar entitled “Biophysical and landscape constraints on long-distance spread of plant pathogens” in the Department of Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA (June 9).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was visited by Gary Crump of Priam Vineyards and discussed diseases of grapes and the role of the Plant Disease Information Office (June 7); was interviewed about the impact of wet weather on plants and foliar diseases by John Bracchitta of the Connecticut Post (June 12); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board with oral exams for candidates for the arborist license (June 14); was interviewed about Hosta X Virus by Pamela Weil of the Connecticut Gardener (June 19); and was interviewed about mushrooms growing on walls in a house by Darren Duarte of Channel 8 (June 27).

DR. WADE H. ELMER participated in the Comprehensive examination of Anathep Pasura for his Ph.D. program at The University of Connecticut in Storrs (June 7); was interviewed about the association between *Fusarium* species and the sudden wetland dieback phenomenon observed in Long Island Sound and Cape Cod by Judy Benson of The Day (New London) (June 8); was interviewed about the possible role of *Fusarium* species in wetland dieback on the Connecticut coast by Judy Benson of The Day (New London), along with Ron Roza (a coastal ecologist from the Department of Environmental Protection), at Hammonasset Beach State Park (June 15); and with DR. MARTIN GENT and MR. RICHARD CECARELLI, met with Joe Geremia and Phil Banning of Geremia Farms of Yalesville to discuss the construction of a new experimental flooded floor greenhouse at Lockwood Farm (June 29).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDDREADIS was interviewed about Connecticut’s West Nile Virus Surveillance Program by Marc Sims, CT Public Radio (June 5); was interviewed about the role of robins in the transmission of West Nile virus by Nicholas Bakalar, National Geographic News (June 5); was interviewed about Connecticut’s West Nile Virus Surveillance Program by Andrew Pergam NBC30 TV (June 7); was interviewed about West Nile virus by University of Massachusetts Radio, Amherst (June 7); was

interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Sam Gingerella, WTIC Radio (June 8); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by William Weir, Hartford Courant (June 9); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Kent Pierce WTNH TV8 (June 12); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Hartford Metro News (June 12); was interviewed about mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Don LoVello WDRC AM Radio, Harford (June 13); was interviewed about the impact of the heavy rainfall on mosquitoes, West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis by Francesca Kefalas Norwich Bulletin (June 15); was interviewed about the impact of the heavy rainfall on mosquitoes and West Nile virus by Michael Dinan-Greenwich Times (June 19); was interviewed about Connecticut's Mosquito and West Nile Virus Surveillance Program by Marilyn Moss Connecticut Post (June 21); and was interviewed about the impact of the heavy rainfall on mosquitoes, West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis by Steve Kotchko Connecticut Public Radio (June 26).

GREGORY BUGBEE spoke to 30-40 students on "Invasive Aquatic Plants" during project CLEAR at Lake Candlewood in Sherman (June 23); and with Jason White, presented information on aquatic vegetation options for Crystal Lake, at a town meeting at the Falcons Club in Middletown. Approximately 30 people were in attendance including Representative Gail Hamm, the Mayor of Middletown and several CTDEP officials (June 27).

Dr. JASON WHITE participated in EPA sponsored Conference call concerning the formation of the International Society for Phytotechnologies, serving on the Executive Committee (June 5); and hosted Dr. Min Rayamajhi and Paul Madeira from the USDA ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, they collected samples of invasive aquatic plant species from CT waters and are isolating potential microbial pathogens of interest (June 20-30).

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Biology and chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid" to the Bedford Farmers' Club at Bedford, NY, June 21 (32 attendees).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA welcomed the Regional research group NE-1017 to the Valley Laboratory during their project meeting (June 1); was interviewed by Paul Hughes of the Waterbury Republican American concerning cottonseed tree seed dispersal (June 6); participated in the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council meeting in Tolland (June 7); examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (June 14); attended the annual meeting of the Society of Nematologists to present a paper entitled "Timing of broadleaf tobacco post-harvest tillage affects tobacco cyst nematode population development" (80 people), and chaired the Honors and Awards Committee meeting, participate in the Journal of Nematology Editorial Board meeting, and chair the student paper and poster competitions (June 18 – 21).

DR. DEWEI LI attended the Hartford Courant Newspaper's Health Fair (June 16) and had a presentation on laptop and a poster on "Airborne Fungi and Human Health" (125 people stopped at the booth); Mr. Chu, Bingyu and Mr. Zhou, Shengkuo from Shandong Province, China visited Valley Laboratory following their visit to OPM (June 21). DeWei accompanied them as a host during their visit. They showed great interest in the field studies on strawberry, vegetables, and Christmas trees. They indicated that they will visit our facilities in New Haven this coming fall.

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about weed control options for Christmas tree plantings at a meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association in Somers (60 attendees) (June 6); and participated in a symposium planning meeting for the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (June 13).

Journal Articles Approved June 2006

- D.W. Onstad, J.R. Fuxa, J. Oestergard, D.I. Shapiro-Ilan, V.V. Gouli, R.S. Anderson, Theodore G. Andreadis, and L.A. Lacey. An Abridged Glossary of Terms Used in Invertebrate Pathology, 3rd Edition. Society for Invertebrate Pathology
- Anderson, John F. and Andy J. Main. Vertical and horizontal transmission are important in survival and amplification of West Nile virus in the northeastern United States. *Journal of Infectious Diseases*.
- Capers, Robert, Roslyn Selsky, Gregory Bugbee, Jason White. Aquatic Plant Community Invasibility and Scale-Dependent Patterns in Native, Exotic Species Richness. *Ecology*.
- Li, X-Y, Richard S. Cowles, E. A. Cowles, R. Gaugler and D. L. Cox-Foster. Virulence of entomopathogenic nematodes as correlated with the immune responses of their hosts. *International Journal of Parasitology*.
- Nail, William R. Grapevine Cultivation in Connecticut. *Bulletin*.
- Pignatello, Joseph J., Seokjoon Kwon and Yuefeng Lu. Effect of humic substances on the surface and adsorptive properties of environmental black carbon (char): Attenuation of surface activity by humic and fulvic acids. *Environmental Science and Technology*
- Sanders, Michael and Joseph J. Pignatello. On the Reversibility of Sorption to Black Carbon: Distinguishing True Hysteresis from Artificial Hysteresis Caused by Dilution of a Competing Adsorbate. *Environmental Science and Technology*
- Selsky, Roslyn, Gregory J. Bugbee and Jason C. White. Using GIS to Map Invasive Aquatic Plants in Connecticut Lakes. *Proceedings of the ESRI User Conference (on line)*.
- Stoner, Kimberly. Why Organic? *NOFA Organic Lawn & Turf Handbook*
- Stoner, Kimberly. 1) Farm Tours Highlighting Broccoli and Salad Greens. 2) Healthy Growth of the Organic Land Care Program. *Gleanings*

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