

Station News A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

Tobacco Research Meeting Held at Suffield Vo-Ag Center

About one hundred forty five people attended the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's annual Tobacco Research Meeting held at the Suffield High School auditorium on February 17, 2004. Director Dr. John Anderson, and Harrison Griffin, Director of the Suffield Vo-Ag program, welcomed growers. The meeting addressed many topics of concern to growers. Dr. James LaMondia spoke about research on management of tobacco pathogens including blue mold and tobacco mosaic virus and the use of an Access database 'TCN Tracker' as a management decision aid for the tobacco cyst nematode on shade and broadleaf. Dr. Frank Ferrandino spoke about sampling for tobacco cyst nematodes. Thomas Rathier spoke about nutrient management under plasticulture, black root rot problems and curing problems in 2003. Dr. Todd Mervosh discussed herbicide experiments in tobacco. Ross Eddy of the Farm Services Administration provided updates on their services to growers and presented a plaque to Mr. Stanley Waldron for over 42 years of service to the farm community. Robin Helrich of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service provided updates on their services to growers. Christina Berger of the CT DEP spoke about worker protection and what to expect from a DEP inspection. Cliff Parker of the USDA Risk Management Agency spoke about crop insurance and other services to growers, and Jane Dauphinais and Betty Wagner of Congressman Rob Simmons's office entertained comments from growers concerning disaster relief. Jane Canepa-Morrison, Rich Horvath, and Steve Lamoureux assisted with much of the behind the scenes work for the meeting. The meeting qualified for pesticide applicator re-certification credit in both Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Please submit your special photos or article to Station News to share with other staff members. We can publish them in the next issue of Station News.

Photo of the Month...



Tick IPM Workshop, Westport, CT
Sponsored by CAES and the Westport Health District, 207 attendees
February 18, 2004

Departmental News

Administration

JOHN F. ANDERSON participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Wine Council at the Department of Agriculture, Hartford, (February 2); was interviewed by Karen Breckbill Cohen about West Nile Virus (February 3); participated in a meeting of Connecticut Wine Growers at Chamard Vineyards in Clinton (February 9); participated in a meeting on Invasive Plants held in Hartford (February 10); gave a tour of the Station to Drs. Goldman and Beckett, two visiting veterinarians (February 11); participated in a meeting of InfraGard, a security committee set up by the FBI (February 12); gave a tour of the BSL-3 lab to visitors from Yale University (February 13); gave a welcome to the Tobacco Growers Annual Meeting in Suffield (February 17); participated in a Planning Meeting for NERA through a conference call (February 20); gave a welcome to vegetable growers at their annual meeting held in Jones Auditorium (February 24); participated in a meeting on Invasive Plants held in Hartford (February 26); welcomed teachers and students of FFA in Jones Auditorium (February 27).

Analytical Chemistry

DAVID STILWELL presented a talk "Effects of Coatings on CCA Leaching in a Soil Environment," at the Conference on the Environmental Impacts of Wood Preservation in Orlando, Florida (February 9-11); presented a poster on Arsenic in Pressure Treated Wood at the Annual Flower Show in Hartford, CT (February 26-29).

Biochemistry and Genetics

NEIL MCHALE presented a seminar entitled "Molecular Landmarks for Leaf Morphogenesis" in the Department of Biology at the University of Massachusetts (February 5).

Entomology

ROSE BONITO presented a display on Butterfly Gardening, West Nile Virus, and Arsenic in Pressure-treated Wood, and helped with the demonstration honey bee hive at the Annual CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 28 & 29).

IRA KETTLE presented a display on Butterfly Gardening, West Nile Virus, and Arsenic in Pressure-treated Wood, and a demonstration honey bee hive at the Annual CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 26-29).

LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI interviewed by Karen Cohen about mosquitoes and West Nile encephalitis (February 3); participated in a Cooperative Agricultural Pest State Survey Committee meeting in New Haven (February 23); spoke to Future Farmers of America teachers on tick-associated diseases during their tour of the Station (February 27).

CHRIS T. MAIER displayed new entomological literature at a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (Feb. 20); and spoke on the emerald ash borer at a meeting of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Committee in Jones Auditorium (Feb. 23)

GALE RIDGE presented a display on Butterfly Gardening, West Nile Virus, and Arsenic in Pressure-treated Wood, and helped with the demonstration honey bee hive at the Annual CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 26).

STEPHEN SANDREY was a moderator for talks at the CNLA Winter Meeting, Westin Hotel, Stamford (January 15); presented a display on Butterfly Gardening, West Nile Virus, and Arsenic in Pressure-treated Wood, and helped with the demonstration honey bee hive at the Annual CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 29).

VICTORIA SMITH attended a meeting of the CT Beekeepers Association, held in the Jones Auditorium (February 7); presided over a meeting of the Cooperative Agricultural Pests Survey (CAPS), held in the Jones Auditorium (February 23); presented a talk at the CT Nursery and Landscape Association Foundation Short Course, titled "Disease Problems of Conifers", at the Valley Lab, Windsor (February 25)

PETER TRENCHARD was a moderator for talks at the CNLA Winter Meeting, Westin Hotel, Stamford (January 14); presented a display on Butterfly Gardening, West Nile Virus, and Arsenic in Pressure-treated Wood, and helped with the demonstration honey bee hive at the Annual CT Flower and Garden Show, Expo Center, Hartford (February 26-28).

Forestry and Horticulture

KIRBY STAFFORD spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at the annual NOFA Organic Land Care Course in Jones Auditorium (February 17); with cooperation with the Westport Weston Health District, organized and spoke at a tick IPM workshop for pesticide applicators and landscapers at the Westport Middle School (207 attended) (February 18); co-organized a special tick control session at the American Mosquito Control Association meeting in Savannah, GA and spoke on "Acaricides, Landscape Management and the Pest Management Professional in Tick Control" (February 23); visited Drs. James Oliver, James Keirans, and Lance Durden, staff and students at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro and toured the National Tick Collection (February 24); spoke on Lyme disease to touring FFA Teachers (February 27).

JEFFREY WARD presided at Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven, CT (February 3); attended Yankee SAF workshop on "Ecology and conservation of forest songbirds" in Enfield (February 16); along with J.P. Barsky and Scott Williams, attended CT-DEP training workshop "Wildlands fire and electrical hazards" in Windsor Locks (February 18).

MARTIN GENT attended a meeting of the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Steering Committee in Manchester NH to evaluate the December 2003 conference (February 5); the agriculture class at the New Haven Sound School came to Lockwood Farm and painted troughs for a hydroponics tomato experiment (February 10); organized and moderated a CAES Vegetable Growers meeting in Jones auditorium (February 24); made a presentation to FFA teachers concerning research on The Effect of Shade on Greenhouse Tomato (February 27).

UMA RAMAKRISHNAN gave a talk on "Reproductive control as a potential white-tailed deer population management technique" to graduate and undergraduate students at the Dept. of Pathobiology, University of Connecticut. (February 5); gave a talk on "Limiting wildlife damage to gardens and landscapes" to the organic land care professionals at the Jones auditorium (February 17); gave a talk on "Reducing damage from deer browsing on cultivated plants and landscapes" at the Tick IPM workshop to pesticide applicators at Wesport (February 18); gave a talk on "Non-lethal methods of controlling deer population growth" at the Lion's Club in Bethany (February 24).

ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke on Calabaza and Jilo: New Crops for Connecticut at the CAES Vegetable Production Conference in Jones Auditorium (February 24).

J.P. BARSKY attended and served as chair at the Yankee Division Society of American Foresters Annual Winter Meeting in Enfield, CT (February 12); attended a wildland forest firefighter training workshop at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor, CT (February 18); met with Jim Lucey, Wilton High School, and David Lynch, Wilton Deer Management Committee, to discuss a possible forest research study at Quarry Head, Wilton, CT (February 26).

SCOTT WILLIAMS finalized and resubmitted paper from work as a master's student to Northeast Wildlife titled "Home range increase of lactating female white-tailed deer following herd reduction" (February 10); attended wildland fire fighting workshop in Windsor Locks (February 18); met with Jim Lucey (Wilton High School biology teacher) and David Lynch (member of the Wilton Deer Committee) about deer enclosure research options and the future of deer management in the town of Wilton (February 26).

HEIDI STUBER helped staff the display for CAES at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. (February 27).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR gave a talk entitled "Factors affecting pollination and cross pollination of corn" at the CAES Vegetable Production Conference in Jones Auditorium (Feb. 24); was visited by a group of FFA teachers and spoke about "Aerial dispersal of corn pollen" (Feb. 27).

DR. MATTHEW T. BOEHM visited the Department of Meteorology at The Pennsylvania State University and discussed Lagrangian stochastic modeling of the convective boundary layer with Dr. John Wyngaard and the possible use in the corn pollen dispersal project of the MM5 mesoscale weather forecast model with Dr. David Stauffer (February 13).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS presented a talk entitled "Understanding plant diseases" as part of the 3rd Annual Connecticut NOFA Organic Land Care Workshop in Jones Auditorium (February 17); reported on the progress of detection of Sudden Oak Death at the CAPS meeting in Jones Auditorium (February 23); presented a talk entitled "The home orchard" as part of a special session held at the Connecticut Flower Show in Hartford (February 27).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended a planning meeting of the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association in Branford (February 9); attended a committee meeting for Anuthep Mung, a Ph.D. graduate student, and gave a presentation entitled "Update on bedding plant diseases" at the Bedding Plant meeting in Vernon (February 12); gave a presentation entitled "Management of pumpkin diseases" at the CAES Vegetable Production Conference in Jones Auditorium (February 24); was visited by a group of FFA teachers and spoke about "*Fusarium* diseases" (February 27).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO gave a talk entitled "Milk controls powdery mildew on cucurbits" at the CAES Vegetable Production Conference in Jones Auditorium (February 24).

Soil and Water

THEODORE ANDREADIS attended the 2004 National Conference on West Nile Virus in the United States, held in Denver Colorado (February 2-5); interviewed about West Nile virus by Karen Breckbill Cohen, of The Write Stuff, LLC for an article in the Bulletin of the Connecticut Academy of Science & Engineering (February 11); presented an overview of the State Mosquito Surveillance Program for West Nile Virus to a group of scientists from Yale University (February 13); presented an overview of West Nile Virus and the State Mosquito Surveillance Program to a group of teachers from the Future Farmer's of America. (February 27).

GREGORY BUGBEE spoke on "Control of Invasive Aquatic Weeds" at a meeting of the Invasive Plant Council in Hartford (February 10); spoke on "Container Gardening" to the Madison Garden Club (February 10); interviewed by Pamela Wilde of The Connecticut Gardener on "What Makes Quality Topsoil" (February 11); gave a "Soils" seminar to an arboriculture class at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford (February 12); gave a seminar on "Soils and Turf" at the Annual Connecticut Groundskeepers Conference at the Hartford Civic Center (February 25).

CHARLES VOSSBRICK spoke to Invasive Plants Council in Legislative Office Building in Hartford on the use of molecular techniques for the identification of exotic aquatic weeds (February 10).

JASON WHITE was interviewed about the phytoremediation project at O'Sullivan's Island in Derby CT by Susan Hunter, a freelance reporter doing a story on Brownfield projects in the Naugatuck Valley (February 3); spoke to Invasive Plants Council in Legislative Office Building in Hartford on the CAES Aquatic Weed Project (February 10).

Valley Laboratory

TIM ABBEY presented Ornamental Plant Problems to the Newington Garden Club in Newington (February 2); Woody Plant Pest Management and Care to a University of Connecticut Master Gardener class in Torrington (February 4); and Vernon (February 20); Ornamental Plant Insect Pests to a Pesticide Applicator Test training class in West Hartford (February 5); and East Haven (February 10); Organic Pest Management for Ornamental Insect Pests at the Northeast Organic Farming Association Organic Land Care Course at CAES New Haven (February 11); Care of Conifers in the Landscape for the Connecticut Nurserymen's Foundation in Windsor (February 11); and Ornamental Tree Insect Pests to an arborist training class at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford (February 2); attended a meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Winter Education Committee in Manchester (February 10); and the Connecticut Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program at CAES New Haven (February 23).

CAROLE CHEAH was interviewed about *Pseudoscymnus tsugae* and biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid by Nathan Long, of the Northeast Georgian, from Cornelia, GA (February 24); was interviewed about winter mortality of hemlock woolly adelgid by Bob Miller of the Danbury New Times (February 26).

RICHARD COWLES presented "Organically acceptable management of turf pests," to NOFA's Organic Landcare Workshop, New Haven, (February 11); spoke on the subject "Insect and Mite Pests of Conifers" for the Connecticut Nurserymen's Foundation, Windsor, (February 18); discussed "Insect pest management in turf," and "Problem insects of trees and shrubs" for the Connecticut Groundskeeper's Association annual meeting, Hartford, (February 25); presented "Insect management, with a focus on hemlock woolly adelgid" at the Sav-A-Tree annual training program, Southington, (February 26).

ROSE HISKES participated in a CNLA flower show planning meeting in Windsor (February 11); participated in Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) symposium planning committee meeting in Storrs (February 18); gave a talk on general gardening to the East Haven Garden Club in East Haven (February 19); set up the CNLA flower show booth in Hartford (February 24); and staffed the CNLA and CIPWG booths at the flower show in Hartford (February 27).

JAMES A. LAMONDIA was interviewed about the effects of weather and diseases on the tobacco crop by Mark Jakanowski of the USDA Risk Management Agency (February 9); spoke about research on management of tobacco pathogens including blue mold and the use of TCN Tracker as a management aid for the tobacco cyst nematode (February 17); submitted a Section 18 emergency pesticide registration request to the CT DEP for Quadris use in shade tobacco for blue mold control (February 23).

TODD L. MERVOSH presented research on "Flumioxazin in field and container plantings of woody ornamentals" at the annual meeting of the Weed Science Society of America in Kansas City, MO (February 9-12); spoke about weed control at the Tobacco Research meeting in Suffield (February 17); participated in a planning committee meeting of the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group in Storrs (February 18); and spoke about "How to calibrate a backpack sprayer" at the Vegetable Production Conference in New Haven (February 24).

THOMAS RATHIER taught the soil-tree relationships class of Arboriculture 101, a course offered by the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Jones Auditorium (February 11); and attended the Winter Conference of the Ecological Landscape Association in Boxboro, MA (February 27).

Journal Articles Approved February 2004

Cheah, Carole, Kathleen Shields. Status of *Scymnus* Lady Beetle Colonies. Proceedings of the HVA Biological Control Committee Meeting, Annapolis, MD, January 13, 2004. (FHTET/USDA-FS).

Cheah, Carole, Charlene Donahue, Allen C. Cohen, and Richard S. Cowles. Alternate Prey and Diets for *Pseudoscymnus Tsugae*. Proceedings of the HVA Biological Control Committee Meeting, Annapolis, MD, January 13, 2004 (USDA FS/FHTET).

Magnarelli, Louis A. Monitoring Connecticut Forests. CT Tree Protective Association Newsletter.

Maier, Chris T. First North American Records of *Batrachedra pinicolella* (Lepidoptera:Batrachelidae), a Palearctic Needleminer of Spruces. Canadian Entomologist.

Stoner, Kimberly A. Aspects of Cultural Management of Insect Pests to Consider in Crop Rotation and Field Layout. Chapter in book: Crop Rotation Manual for Organic Farms.

Charles L. Mohler and Kimberly A. Stoner. Rules of Thumb for Intercropping. Chapter in book: Crop Rotation Manual for Organic Farms.

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