

Station News

A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

DR. ANDREADIS HOSTS FIELD TRIP, MT. CARMEL

On April 27th Dr. Theodore Andreadis hosted a field trip for a group of science teachers and taught them how to collect mosquitoes at one of our trapping sites in Mt. Carmel. This field trip on April 27th was part of a workshop on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases through the Science Education Award granted by the NIH to Yale's Peabody Museum.



CPTV FAMILY SCIENCE EXPO, HARTFORD

We hosted an interactive exhibit at the Expo Center for the 2006 CPTV Family Science Expo from Thursday, April 27th through Sunday, April 30th. We exhibited various topics at our display live honey bees, bird and butterfly gardening, aquatic invasive plants poster, samples of CT native aquatic plants, a display on wood-boring insects, and other services our Station offers to its citizens. Ira Kettle, Rose Bonito, Lisa Kaczynski, Tia Mastrone, Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski, Stephen Sandrey, Rose Hiskes, and Philip Armstrong participated in the event. The CPTV Family Science Expo had an attendance of 12,000 and hosted 85 schools. Our booth alone hosted 4,177 children and 1,665 adults. Image taken by Rose Bonito.



Some students looking in on our Native Aquatic Weed tank. Image taken by Rose Bonito.

At times during the expo Ira Kettle seemed to have hosted a classroom exercise on honey bees. Image taken by Rose Bonito.



These young ladies were required by their teacher to summarize our exhibit. Many students spent time writing detailed information on the subjects we presented at our exhibit. Image taken by Rose Bonito.

Phil Armstrong is answering questions from some young inquisitive minds. Image taken by Rose Bonito.



Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI gave a report to Experiment Station Associates Board members on Station research (10 attendees) (April 5); was interviewed by Fran Schneido of WCBS News Radio about gypsy moths (April 20); was interviewed by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times about ticks (April 20); welcomed 85 residents at the CAES Spring 2006 Open House in Jones Auditorium (April 20) (85 attendees); and was interviewed by Nancy Cohen of Public Radio about invasive plants (April 20).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. CHRISTINA ROBB and WILLIAM IANNUCCI-BERGER attended ELISA training at the Forensic Chemistry Center in Ohio (April 2-4)

DR. DAVID STILWELL attended the New Haven Science Fair Dinner (April 11) and attended an ICP-MS training course, Forensic Chemistry Center, Food and Drug Administration, Cincinnati, OH (April 26-28).

DR. WALTER KROL served as a Judge in the CPEP New Haven Public Schools Science Fair at Woolsey Hall in New Haven (March 13-14); was Officially Elected as *Secretary* for the New Haven Section of the American Chemical Society by the membership, with a term running from 1/1/06 to 12/31/07; attended a course at the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF) at Bradley International Airport entitled 'Small Scale Production of Chemical / Biochemical Agents' (April 3-7), The course was designed to train Military personnel and civilian responders in ways to identify small scale terrorism production laboratories for counterterrorism purposes; and presented a talk at the CAES Spring 2006 Open House entitled "Pesticides in food—keeping up with new products", in the Jones Auditorium (April 20).

Biochemistry and Genetics

Entomology

ROSE BONITO assisted VICKIE BOMBA-LEWANDOSKI and TIA MASTRONE in arranging, setting up, and staffing the Station display at the CPTV Family Science Expo 2006 at the CT Expo Center, Hartford. Our Station display consisted of a live honey bee display, bird and butterfly gardening, aquatic invasive plants poster and some samples of CT native aquatic plants, a display on wood-boring insects, and other services our Station offers to citizens. Also staffing the display were IRA KETTLE, STEVE

SANDREY, ROSE HISKES, PHILIP ARMSTRONG, and LISA KACZENSKI. (Children-4,177, Adults-1,665) (April 27-30).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke to the Directors of Aton Forest, Norfolk, about research projects involving the Diptera (flies) of Connecticut (ca. 10 people) (April 7); spoke about the emerald ash borer and the brown marmorated stink bug at a meeting of the State Survey Committee of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) of USDA, APHIS, at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (ca. 20 people) (April 11); and displayed a collection and showy tropical insects and distributed new information on exotic pests at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (60 people) (April 21).

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH participated in the annual meeting of the Eastern Plant Board, held in Rehoboth Beach Delaware (April 3-6), by serving as a moderator in a session titled "Partner Updates" (April 4), presenting a talk titled "A Pine Shoot Beetle Management Area—The Connecticut Experience" (April 5), moderating a session titled "Partner Updates" (April 5), and presenting a talk titled "Case Studies—Effects of Invasive Plant Laws on the Nursery Business in Connecticut" (April 6), also served on the planning committee for this meeting (approximately 200 attendees); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Committee, held at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (15 attendees) (April 10); at the request of the City of Hartford, surveyed Elizabeth Park for gypsy moth egg masses, with STEPHEN SANDREY and PETER TRENCHARD (April 20); and participated in training presented by the Durham Field Office of the US Forest Service, to use a Digital Aerial Sketch Mapping System, held at Purgatory Chasm State Park in Massachusetts (10 attendees) (April 21).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by Katy Zachry, Channel 3 TV, about gypsy moth activity. (April 3); spoke on tick management at the Department of Pathobiology, University of Connecticut. (45 attendees) (April 6); spoke on tick identification and provided training for diagnostic laboratory staff in the Department of Pathobiology. (8 attendees) (April 6); interviewed by Robert Miller, News Times Danbury, about ticks. (April 7); spoke on the prevention of Lyme disease at a Lyme Disease Conference at Danbury Hospital. (60 attendees) (April 8); participated in a meeting of the CAPS committee at Windsor to discuss surveys for exotic pests. (20 attendees) (April 11); attended the meeting of the Board of Control in the Slate Board Room. (April 13); interviewed by Gary Santaniello about the correlation between ticks and Lyme disease for Fairfield County magazine. (April 19); spoke briefly about the Experiment Station and product registrations for varroa mite at a meeting of the Connecticut Beekeepers Association in Jones Auditorium. (40 attendees) (April 22); interviewed by Steve Savino, WQUN Radio, Hamden, about ticks and Lyme disease prevention. (April 25); spoke briefly about the Experiment Station and product registrations for varroa mite at a meeting of the Backyard Beekeepers Association in Weston, CT. (120 attendees) (April 25); participated in a combined meeting of the Yale Emerging Infections and Lyme Disease Prevention Programs in New Haven. (13 attendees) (April 27); and spoke on tick management in Ridgefield, CT (40 attendees) (April 29).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER presented a talk, "Basics of Organic Vegetable Gardening" at the Cheshire Earth Day celebration (22 attendees) (April 22); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Manchester (April 23); participated in a meeting of the State Advisory Council to the Vocational Agricultural School System, WAMOGO Vo-Ag School, Litchfield (April 25); chaired a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee, Windsor (April 25); and made a site visit to the farm of Gordon Benarz, Glastonbury, to implement an IPM program for organic vegetables (April 27).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven, CT (April 4); assisted with the "Tree Risk Assessment Workshop" in Burlington (April 6); interviewed about red maple flowering by Bob Miller of the Danbury News-Times (April 11); spoke on "How trees grow and tree care" to (23 students) and (5 teachers) at the Manson Youth Institute in Cheshire. (April 12); chaired Connecticut Forest Council- research committee meeting in Middlefield (April 12); spoke on "Legend of the unchanging forest" to the Guilford Conservation Commission (37 attendees) in Guilford (April 18); served on the Goodwin Forestry Scholarship Committee in Middlefield

(April 19); spoke on "Fire and stand development" to the Experiment Station Associates (57 attendees) in Chaplin (April 26); and spoke on the importance of trees to over 30 students and 8 teachers at the Arbor Day celebration at the state Capital. (April 28).

DR. MARTIN GENT visited Chas Mavrelion, a teacher, and a class of (10 students) at Sound School, New Haven to discuss germination and nutrition of hydroponics lettuce (March 28); and visited Eric Wildes, a teacher, and a student at Regional School #7, Winsted, to discuss watering and nutrition of hydroponics tomatoes. They have an agriculture program with about 20 students in horticulture and 70 in general agriculture (April 19).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD reported on Station activities at a quarterly meeting of the Council on Soil and Water Conservation (15 attendees) in Windsor (April 26).

SCOTT WILLIAMS presented research titled "Overabundant suburban deer as seed dispersal agents" at the 62nd Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference (42 attendees) in Burlington, VT. (April 25).

Lockwood Farm

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS gave a talk entitled "Chestnuts for timber and for food" to the Yale Chapter of the Society of American Foresters in New Haven (15 attendees) (April 5); and attended the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee Meeting in Windsor (April 11).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a presentation entitled "Common diseases of perennials" to the Evergreen Garden Club of South Glastonbury (24 attendees) (April 6); gave updates on Ramorum Blight and the Chrysanthemum White Rust surveys at the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) Committee Meeting in Windsor (April 11); answered questions about plants and plant health and assisted people with the "Plant Puzzler" at the Spring 2006 Open House at the Station (April 20); and was interviewed about some of the current problems in the landscape such as winter injury and drought on trees and shrubs, problems with lawns, and common lawn weeds by Harlan Levy of the Waterbury Republican-American (April 24).

DR. WADE H. ELMER served as a committee member for Anuthep Pasura's Ph.D. Advisory Committee progress update at UCONN in Storrs (April 4); attended a planning meeting for the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society in Burlington, VT (April 14); and gave a talk entitled "Asparagus culture and vegetable diseases" to the Heritage Village Garden Club in Southbury (38 attendees) (April 19).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREASIS presented an invited talk entitled *Avian Hosts of Mosquito Vectors of West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis Viruses in the Northeastern US* in a forum on *Avian Reservoirs of Human Pathogens* sponsored by the Center for Eco-Epidemiology, Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies. (about 100 in attendance) (April 21); interviewed about West Nile virus by Ronnie Rittenberry, Occupational Health & Safety Magazine (April 25); and with JOHN SHEPARD and MICHAEL THOMAS conducted a workshop on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases with a group of ten sciences teachers from three urban public school districts as part of a Science Education Partnership Award granted by the NIH to Yale's Peabody Museum. The program is designed to increase science literacy and encourage research careers (April 27).

GREGORY BUGBEE with DR. ROBERT CAPERS and ROSLYN SELSKY hosted and a *Volunteer Invasive Aquatic Plant Monitoring Workshop* in Jones Auditorium. (about 25 in attendance) (April 29).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO has been elected chair of Division S-11 (Soils and Environmental Quality) of the Soil Science Society of America; has been named by Thomson Scientific (formerly Thomson ISI) as an *ISI Highly-Cited author* in the field of Engineering. This means he is among the top 250 cited authors worldwide. In 2002, he was also named so in the field of Ecology/Environment, where he maintains this distinction. ISI Highly-Cited authors comprise 0.5% on average of all publishing research.

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES attended the Northeast Regional Turf Workgroup meeting, New Brunswick, NJ, (April 19–20).

ROSE HISKES participated in a Connecticut Tree Protective Association education committee meeting in Wallingford (April 11); and staffed the Station booth at the Connecticut Public Television Family Science Expo in Hartford (April 29).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA spoke about breeding for resistance to multiple pathogens in Connecticut wrapper tobaccos at the CPS Tobacco Growers Meeting held in East Windsor (117 attendees) (April 5); and was interviewed about tobacco fungicide options by Dr. Richard Michell of the US EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (April 24).

DR. DEWEI LI hosted Dr. Kenneth Dangman, Paula Schenck, and Nancy Simcox of the Occupational and Environmental Health Center, UCONN Health Center for a lab tour and to discuss future research collaboration (April 13).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH participated in a state survey committee meeting of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) at the Valley Lab (April 11).

THOMAS RATHIER attended the annual Winter Meeting of the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association in Wallingford (January 5); spoke on Soils and Composting as a part of the Garden Lecture Series for the Friends of Elizabeth Park at the park's Pond House in West Hartford (50 attendees) (January 18); answered questions about tree health at the CAES booth at the annual winter meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in Southington (January 19); Lectured on Tree Soil Relationships to Arboriculture 101 students (45 attendees) in Jones Auditorium (February 1); interviewed about affect of unusually warm weather on woody plants by Christine McCluskey of the Journal Inquirer (February 6); organized the educational program for the annual winter meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Growers Association in Middletown (March 4); Lectured on Keys to Success with Woody Plants in the Landscape at the UConn Garden Conference (400 attendees) in Storrs (March 9); Instructed students in insect identification and management for Arboriculture 101 (45 attendees) (March 15); spoke about diagnostic services of use to sport facilities managers to graduate sport management students from Springfield College (90 attendees) at the Valley Laboratory (March 21); attended the UMass Tree Conference in Amherst, MA (March 23); spoke about tobacco cultural and fertility management at a dinner meeting for growers sponsored by Crop Production Services (140 attendees) in East Windsor (April 5); attended a CTPA seminar on Tree Risk Assessment in Burlington (April 6); attended the annual CAPS survey meeting at the Valley Laboratory (April 11); participated in a review session for Arboriculture 101 students in Jones Auditorium (45 Attendees) (April 19); and answered questions about landscaping and gardening for hosts and callers to the WDRC radio program House Calls (8,000-10,000 listeners) in Bloomfield (April 22).

Journal Articles Approved April 2006

Anagnostakis, Sandra A. Effect of shade on growth of seedling American chestnut trees. Northern Journal of Forestry.

Anagnostakis, Sandra A. and David E. Stilwell. Survival and growth of hybrid chestnut trees planted in forest and field plots. Forest Ecology and Management.

Cowles, Richard S. Efficacy of various insecticides for managing armored scales on Christmas trees. The Real Tree Line.

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, 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@po.state.ct.us (E-mail).
