

Station News

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

J.P. Barsky counted the annual rings on the stump of the White Oak tree and it was 162 years old. This was the White Oak tree removed off The Station property in New Haven on Thursday, October 27th. He came across this poem for the occasion:

Nothing Gold Can Stay
by: Robert Frost

*Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.*



Hemlock removal from The Station property in New Haven on Thursday, October 27th. Image taken by Scott Williams.

Seed Cleaning Workshop

The Valley Laboratory hosted the Organic Seed Partnership Seed Production and Seed Cleaning Workshop conducted by Teri Ferrin of the USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources Unit in Geneva, NY, on October 20, 2005. Growers participating in the workshop learned about seed production and were able to utilize USDA mobile seed cleaning equipment. Farm Manager Rich Horvath assisted with equipment set up.

Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about food safety by Nancy Cohen of Public Radio October 4, and greeted the greenhouse growers in Jones Auditorium and gave a brief report on research advances at the Station (October 26).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. DAVID STILWELL hosted a tour of the Department by a group of Chinese Administrators, whose visit was coordinated by DR. DEWEI LI, at the Valley Laboratory (October 3) and presented a talk "Copper, Chromium, and Arsenic in Soil and Plants Near Coated and Uncoated CCA Wood," at the 21st annual international conference on Soils, Sediments and Water, October 17-20, 2005 in Amherst MA (October 17).

DR. BRIAN EITZER, DR. MARYJANE INCORIVA MATTINA, and TERRI ARSENAULT attended a meeting of the Food Emergency Response Network's Northeastern Chemistry Section at the Northeastern Regional Laboratory of the Food and Drug Administration in New York City (October 27).

Entomology

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER displayed new entomological literature, a Connecticut walking stick, and an unusual collection of acrocerid flies (spider parasites) (October 21).

DR. CLAIRE RUTLEDGE spoke to workers at Milane's Nursery in Cromwell about how to recognize Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, and management issues for Bronze Birch Borer and Gypsy Moth were also addressed (October 14) and taught a session of Arboriculture 101 (a class presented by CTPA) titled "Insects that attack trees" (October 26).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH visited with a group of Chinese Administrators, and took them on a brief tour of the entomology department (with Di Wei Li of the Valley Lab) (October 3); represented the Station at a joint meeting of the cooperators of the Durham Field Office and the Morgantown Field Office of the US Forest Service, with a presentation on Forest Health Monitoring and Surveys; held at West Point, NY (October 4-6); presented a lecture on Tree Diseases to the class of Arboriculture 101, held by CT Tree Protective Association; at the Jones Auditorium at the Station (October 19); and presented a talk to the CT Urban Forestry Conference, titled "Ramorum Blight: A Potential Threat To CT Forests", held at Mountainside Resort in Wallingford (October 27).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III attended the International Congress of Vector Ecology in Reno, NV and spoke on integrated management for the prevention of tick-associated disease in a symposium on the prevention of tick-borne disease (October 2-6); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease to a class at Eastern State University (October 21); and interviewed about Lyme disease in Connecticut and impact of deer reductions on ticks and Lyme disease (October 24).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER participated in the US Department of Agriculture Forum on the 2007 Farm Bill by making a brief speech on the importance of funding programs for beginning farmers and research on organic agriculture at the Berlin Fair (October 1); led a meeting of "It's Not Farmland Without Farmers," discussing the needs for information and resources of beginning farmers trying to get access to farmland owned by others (public or private) at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (October 6); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA in Berlin (October 16); led a meeting of the NOFA Organic Land Care Committee at the Valley Laboratory Windsor (October 18); spoke about cabbage maggot life cycles and organic management at a meeting on Production of Brassica Crops at Appleton Farm, Ipswich, Mass. (October 19); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Risk Management Advisory Group, Tolland (October 25); participated in a training on Plain Language for Agriculture, sponsored by the National Network for Immigrant Farming Programs, and funded by the

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Program, Glynwood Farm and Conference Center, Cold Spring, NY. (October 26-28); and interviewed by Bob Miller, Danbury News-Times, about multicolored Asian ladybeetles (October 31).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD presided at the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven, CT (October 4); interviewed about fall foliage by Gil Simmons of WTHN channel 8 (October 6); spoke on "Stand development insights from research in Connecticut" at the White Mountain National Forest Oak Regeneration Workshop at Laconia, NH (October 12); spoke on "Homeowner tree care" for the West Haven Garden Club in West Haven (October 13); taught "Introduction to forest ecology" for Coop High School, New Haven (October 17); taught "Basic forest measurements" for Sound High School, New Haven (October 19); along with SCOTT WILLIAMS, advised foresters of the Regional Water Authority and Metropolitan District Commission on reducing deer browse damage (October 21); hosted a visit by Tatsuhiro Ohkubo of Utsunomiya University, Japan to discuss forest regeneration research and tour station facilities (October 24); spoke on "The Connecticut urban forest: composition and structure" at the 17th annual conference on urban and community forestry in Connecticut in Wallingford (October 27); was interviewed about the effect of recent weather on fall foliage by Andy Hutchison of the Fairfield Minuteman Newspaper (October 28); and spoke on "Old-Series plots (1927-1997): observations from long-term research" at the Yale Forest Forum Seminar in New Haven (October 31).

DR. MARTIN GENT spoke to the Experiment Station Associates about Greenhouse Tomato Production at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield (October 5).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD spoke about the New Crop Program to the Experiment Station Associates at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield (October 5); hosted the third grade from Hamden Hall Country Day School at Lockwood Farm and spoke about the New Crop Program (October 6); and spoke about the New Crop Program to visiting students from the Metropolitan Academy-New Haven (October 7).

SCOTT WILLIAMS spoke about deer research and capture techniques to visiting students from the Metropolitan Academy-New Haven (October 7); and spoke on wildlife careers at a Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies workshop (October 27).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS spoke about Experiment Station chestnut research at the Annual Meeting of the Multistate Research Project NE-1015, "Biological improvement, habitat restoration, and horticultural development of chestnut by management of populations, pathogens, and pests," in Hamilton, NY (October 13-16).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR spoke about "Aerial dispersal of maize pollen" to a visiting delegation from China (October 3) and spoke about "Dispersal of corn pollen" to visiting students from the Metropolitan Business Academy (October 7).

DR. MATTHEW T. BOEHM spoke about "Dispersal of corn pollen" to visiting students from the Metropolitan Business Academy (October 7).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS was interviewed about the effects of heat and drought on lawns and other plants in Connecticut by Abram Katz of the New Haven Register (September 2); was interviewed about this season's drought and its impact on plant health by Allan Cohn of Channel 8 (September 7); was interviewed about the pros and cons of organic agriculture in Connecticut and how it might fit into the Farmland Trust Program (October 26); and about the rains of October and their impact on tree health by Brigitte Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican-American (October 28).

DR. WADE H. ELMER presented the Connecticut Report at the Extension/Industry meeting, accepted the President's gavel as President of NED-APS, presided over the paper session "Forestry and Soilborne

Pathogens, and presented the paper “Influence of earthworm activity on soilborne diseases” at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society (NED-APS) in Geneva, NY (October 5-7); presented the lecture “Fusarium: Taxonomy, ecology, and pathology” to Dr. von Bodman’s introductory plant pathology class at UCONN in Storrs (October 12); gave the presentation “Plant parts and their diseases” to the first grade classes at Mile Creek School in Old Lyme (October 19); and moderated the fall meeting of the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association and gave the presentation “Biofungicides in Connecticut” in Jones Auditorium (October 26).

MS. MARY K. INMAN gave a talk entitled “General care and common problems of houseplants” to the Branford Garden Club in Branford (October 6) and attended the Federal Seed School conducted by the Seed Regulatory Branch of the USDA for training on current rules and methods of testing seeds for purity and germination in Gastonia, NC (October 24-28).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS interviewed about West Nile virus activity in Connecticut in 2005 by George Goodridge CT Public Radio (October 4); was interviewed about the first human fatality due to West Nile virus in Connecticut by Bill Hathaway, Hartford Courant (October 6); was interviewed about human cases of West Nile virus in Connecticut by Jessica Schneider, WFSB TV3 Hartford, and Marian Gail Brown, CT Post (October 12); interviewed about our mosquito blood meal analysis studies by Jessa Netting, Discover Magazine (October 13); was interviewed about West Nile virus activity in Connecticut in 2005 by Jim Bichanan WICC Radio (October 14); presented an overview of the Experiment Station’s Mosquito and Arbovirus Research Program to Drs. Darrell Cole and Kenneth Lithicum of the USDA/ARS (October 27); and was interviewed about nonviremic transmission of West Nile virus by mosquitoes by Jessa Netting, Discover Magazine (October 28).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI presented a poster display, *Host feeding patterns of Culex mosquitoes in relation to enzootic and epidemic transmission of West Nile virus in the Northeastern United States*, at the 4th International Congress of Vector Ecology, Reno, NV (October 2-7).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented a talk, *Molecular interactions of nonionic organic compounds with environmental black carbon* at the 1st International Conference for Carbon for Energy Storage and Environmental Protection, Orleans, France (October 4) and presented an invited talk, *Issues of biostimulation, bioaugmentation and bioavailability in the remediation of PAHs in a coal tar soil* at the 21st Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water, University of Massachusetts, Amherst., 2005 (October 17).

DR. JASON WHITE chaired the *Phytoremediation* session at the 21st Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water" at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (October 20).

Valley Laboratory

TIMOTHY ABBEY presented “Why Trees Fall Apart: Insects, Diseases & Injury” to the Connecticut Tree Warden School in Middlefield (October 21); “Introduction to Plant Diseases” and “Introduction to Ornamental Insect Pests” at the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association Nursery Accreditation Program in Southington (October 18 and 25); attended the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Pesticide Workshop in New Haven (October 26); and the Connecticut Urban and Community Forest Conference in Wallingford (October 27).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH attended and participated in an Insect Diet and Rearing Institute Workshop, run by Dr. Allen C. Cohen, (October 2-7); Tucson, AZ at the University of Arizona; visited the USDA Pink Bollworm Facility in Phoenix and the Carl Hayden Bee Research Laboratory, Tucson, AZ (October 5); met with USDA Forest Service researchers to discuss progress and updates in cooperative research on (October 17 and 24); at the Northeastern Research Station in Hamden, CT; together with Jim Preste, processed shipments of imported ladybeetle predators from China on (October 20) at the USDA Forest Service

Quarantine Facility at Ansonia, CT; and met with Scott Dawley, DEP Pachaug State Forest Recreation Manager on (October 26) to facilitate winter field studies at the state forest.

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Insect management in Christmas trees” for the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers’ Association (80 attendees), Hamden, (October 1); spoke about “The world of insects” with 4th grade classes at the Metacomet Elementary School (45 attendees), Bloomfield, (October 12); presented “Insect behavior and IPM,” to the undergraduate entomology class at Eastern Connecticut State University (8 students), Willimantic, (October 21); and discussed “Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgid,” at the New England Chapter annual meeting of the International Society for Arboriculture (120 attendees), Burlington, VT, (October 25).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA conducted a tour of the Valley Laboratory and farm with Zhang Bin, Tang Fuquan, and Li Changwen of the Peoples Republic of China (October 3); met with representatives of the crop insurance industry Jack Singer, Jeremy Forrett, Karen Bodley and Charles Goode to review culture and disease aspects of both shade tobacco and broadleaf tobacco in the Connecticut Valley (October 6); participated as Secretary of the Extension and Industry Committee meeting and presented a paper ‘Systemic acquired resistance and fungicides for management of tobacco blue mold’ at the Northeast Division meeting of the American Phytopathological Society in Geneva NY (October 5-7); spoke about research results at the annual meeting of the Northeast Regional Nematology Technical Committee (NE-1019) held in Geneva NY (October 6-8); spoke to the CAES Board of Control about strawberry black root rot research (October 19); and gave a guest lecture on ‘Genetics in plant pathology’ to students at Asnuntuck Community College (October 24).

DR. DE-WEI LI attended the Indoor Air 2005 meeting in Beijing, China (September 4-9) and presented his paper “Airborne basidiospores of boletes and their potential to infiltrate a residence in central Connecticut” (100). During his staying in Beijing, he visited the Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and visited the labs of mycologists: Dr. Ruyong Zheng, Prof. He Huang, Dr. Wenying Zhuang, and Dr. Xiaoyong Liu, and used the herbarium to examine specimens of *Stachybotrys* there. He gave an invited presentation “Indoor fungi, their health effects, and research development” (30) at Beijing Forestry University. He met and discussed the potential collaborations with Professor Guihua Zhao of Jiangsu Polytechnic College of Agriculture and Forestry. After the conference, he was invited to visit Shandong Forest Protection Institute, Shandong Academy of Forestry in Jinan on (September 13), met and had a discussion of research of mutual interests with Plant Pathologists: Yuzhu Wu and Yanping Ji who visited CAES in 2004. DeWei Li hosted a group of 3 Chinese administrators on a visit arranged by the State Office of Policy and Management. The groups visited Valley Lab and Departments of Plant Pathology and Ecology, Analytical Chemistry, Entomology, and Forestry and Horticulture in New Haven (October 3). As a board member, he attended and participated in a meeting of the Analytic Accreditation Board, American Industry Hygiene Association in Denver, CO (October 21-24).

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about weed management in Christmas tree plantings at the fall meeting of the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers’ Association in Hamden (October 1); led an on-site workshop focused on identification and management of invasive plants for the East Granby Land Trust (October 5); and participated in the IR-4 Project’s Ornamental Horticulture Workshop (Weed Science section) in Charleston, SC (October 11-12).

Journal Articles Approved October 2005

- Aylor, Donald E., M. T. Boehm, and E. J. Shields. Quantifying aerial concentrations of maize pollen in the atmospheric surface layer using remote-piloted airplanes and Lagrangian stochastic modeling. *Journal of Applied Meteorology*.
- Ferrandino, Francis J., J. H. Ward, and S. L. Anagnostakis. Role of *Nectria*-cankered birch in the future of Connecticut's forests. *Frontiers of Plant Science*.
- Gent, Martin P. N. Modeling the effect of nutrient solution composition and irradiance on accumulation of nitrate in hydroponic lettuce. Proceedings, I.S.H.S. symposium "Hortimodel 2006" Wageningen, Netherlands, November 2006 (Abstract).
- Gent, Martin P. N. Effect of shading on quality of greenhouse tomato. Proceedings, I.S.H.S. symposium on "Advances in Soil and Soilless Cultivation Under a Protected Environment", Agadir, Morocco, February 2006. (Abstract).
- Gent, Martin P. N. Nutrient composition of salad greens as a function of season and fertilization. New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference. Proceedings, Manchester, NH, December 2005.
- Gent, Martin P. N. Greenhouse tomato: Nutrition and watering through the year. New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference Proceedings, Manchester, NH, December 2005.
- Maynard, Abigail A. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Investigates New Specialty Crops Jilo and Japanese Plums. *The Connecticut Weekly Agricultural Report*.
- Maynard, Abigail A. Sweet Potatoes for New England. Proceedings of the 2005 New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference.
- Sokolova, Yuliya Y., Irma V. Issi, E. V. Morzhina, Y. S. Tokarev, and Charles R. Vossbrinck. Ultrastructural analysis supports transferring *Nosema whitei* Weiser 1953 to the genus *Paranosema*. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*.
- Solter, Leellen F., J. V. Maddox, and Charles R. Vossbrinck. Physiological Host Specificity: A Model Using the European Corn Borer, *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Hubner) (Lepidoptera:Crambidae) and Microsporidia of Row Crop and Other Stalk-boring Hosts. *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology*.
- Ward, Jeffrey S. and P. H. Brose. Influence of prescribed fire on stem girdling mortality (Abstract). Proceedings: Fire in Eastern Oak Forests.
- Ward, Jeffrey S., D. Starkey, K. O'Donnell, R. Clear, D. Gaba, S. Patrick, H.C. Kirtler, L. Gale, and Wade H. Elmer. FHB species and trichothecene toxin diversity in North America. Abstract: 2005 National Fusarium Head Blight (NFHB) Forum.
- White, Jason C. Phytoremediation of urban soils (Book Chapter), "Urban Soils" (Textbook).

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