

# *Station News* A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

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## **Departmental News**

**INTERPRETIVE NATURE HIKE—  
GUILFORD LAND TRUST** by Mr. Scott  
Williams



On October 17, Mr. Scott Williams led an interpretive hike on a future piece of Guilford Land Conservation Trust property for which \$500,000 was awarded by the State of Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant for its purchase.

## **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI attended a meeting on the control of nematodes in Mystic, CT and gave a report on the federal USDA budget (October 4); as Chairman, conducted a meeting of the Invasive Plants Council in Windsor (October 9); spoke to a class of students enrolled at Albertus Magnus College in the Institute for Learning in Retirement (10 students) (October 11); and was interviewed about the Department of Environmental Protection's property in Griswold and the future plans for a Station research station by Megan Bard of the New London Day (October 29).

## **Grants and Fundraising Office**

MS. TESS FOLEY attended New Haven Land Trust 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, in New Haven (October 9); attended Fairfield County Farm Bureau annual meeting (October 16); attended Farm City held at the Jones Family Farm in Shelton (October 17); and presented a talk on fundraising and the CAES grants submission process, CAES (30 attendees) (October 30).

## **Analytical Chemistry**

DR. MARYJANE INCORVIA MATTINA hosted a tour of the Analytical Chemistry Department for Marcy Picano of the Office of Fiscal Analysis on Monday (October 1), Ms. Picano met MS. TERRI ARSENAULT, DR. CHRISTINA ROBB, and MR. CRAIG MUSANTE and heard of our work on adulterants in toothpaste, lead in toys, and biofuels; was featured in the October 4<sup>th</sup> "Newspapers in Education" section of the Hartford Courant. The article also highlighted the work done in the Department of Analytical Chemistry under my direction; myself and the STAFF in ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY had a roundtable discussion with four visitors from ConocoPhillips and following the meeting the Conoco team toured the laboratories and heard more about the Station's biofuels project (October 23); and myself and the

STAFF in ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY discussed the work underway in the Department with Jerry Farrell, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, and his assistant, Linda Roberts. They were also provided a tour of our laboratories (October 24).

## **Entomology**

MR. IRA KETTLE gave a honey bee presentation for Miss Matturo's second grade class (23 present) and gave another presentation in the playground during recess, which was impromptu, as the kids and playground monitor asked questions as I was leaving (22 present) at the Savin Rock Community School, West Haven (October 15); had a honey bee exhibit at Brookvale Fall Festival in Hamden (1200 attendees) (October 20); and had a honey bee exhibit at Norwalk Chapter A.A.R.P. (45 attendees) (October 25).

MS. ROSE HISKES participated in a Connecticut Tree Protective Association education committee meeting in New Haven (October 4), gave a talk on Houseplants to the North Haven Garden Club in North Haven (25 attendees) (October 11), gave a talk on invasive plants to the East Windsor Garden Club in East Windsor (25 attendees) (October 16); and to an ecology class at Asnuntuck Valley Committee College in Enfield (15 attendees) (October 24).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER displayed insects captured in Arizona and New Mexico at a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society in Jones Auditorium (October 19); spoke on disease and insect problems in fruit orchards at the New England, New York, and Canadian Fruit Pest Management Workshop in Burlington, VT (October 22); and gave a seminar on "Alien Insects Recently Discovered in Northeastern North America" at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain (October 29).

DR. VICTORIA SMITH participated in a meeting of the Northeast Forest Cooperators, sponsored by the USFS-Northeast Area Field Office, held in Portsmouth, NH at the Seacoast Science Center, with discussions on emerald ash borer, firewood regulations, and forest pest conditions in CT (30 participants) (October 16-17) and participated in a meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization, as a representative of the Eastern Plant Board, held in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, at the Delta Hotel and Conference Center, with discussions on firewood regulations, chrysanthemum white rust, invasive species, quarantine regulations, and forest pests (200 participants) (October 22-26).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by Michael Dinan, Greenwich Times, about adult deer tick activity (October 2); spoke on ticks and Lyme disease at the Station for the Institute for Learning in Retirement (12 attendees) (October 3); met with an MPH intern from the University of Connecticut, Farmington, to discuss research possibilities (October 10); along with MS. GALE RIDGE, spoke on activities of the Entomology Department and insects to a student group touring the Station (20 attendees) (October 16); met with Dr. Ron Lacewell, Texas A&M University, to discuss research collaborations (October 18); attended a meeting of the Connecticut Entomological Society (October 19); and was interviewed by Bob Miller, Danbury News Times, about adult deer tick activity (October 26).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER met with Ted and Becky Jones at Jones Apiaries, Farmington, to discuss proposed station research on management of varroa mites in honey bees (October 2); presided over the annual meeting of Friends of Boulder Knoll, a non-profit group in Cheshire whose mission is to educate the local community about responsible uses of open space, Cheshire (20 attendees) (October 4); chaired a meeting of the Organic Land Care Committee of NOFA, Valley Laboratory (10 attendees) (October 16); presented a talk on "Management of Resistance to Pesticides" to the "Pesticides and Roast Beef" conference in the Jones Auditorium (50 attendees) (October 17); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of CT NOFA, Roby's Organic Farm, Berlin (October 21); and participated with DR. BRIAN EITZER in a nationwide meeting of bee researchers preparing a letter of intent to apply for a grant on Protection of Managed Bees (October 24-26).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY S. WARD chaired CTPA- Education committee meeting in New Haven (October 4); spoke on "Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii* DC) control in southern New England" at the Natural Areas Association 34th Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio (50 attendees) (October 10); moderated the session "The Role of Tree Wardens" at the Connecticut Urban Forest Council's 2007 Conference in Wallingford (70 attendees) (October 25); spoke on "The history of Connecticut's Forest" for the Salem Land Trust in Salem (35 attendees) (October 25); along with MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS, spoke on "Deer Vehicle Collision Trends in Connecticut" at the Deer-Vehicle Crash Reduction Symposium in Schenectady, NY (24 attendees) (October 29); and was interviewed about fall leaf color by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times (October 19).

DR. MARTIN P.N. GENT attended the University of Massachusetts Plant Biology Symposium on Plant Biology and Bioenergy (October 13).

DR. ABIGAIL A. MAYNARD participated in DEP's Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee in Hartford (October 23); participated in a meeting of the Organics Recycling and Composting Subcommittee in Hartford (October 23); and discussed new crops research at Henninger's farm in Hamden (October 26).

DR. WILLIAM R. NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council at the Connecticut Department of Agriculture in Hartford (October 4).

MR. JOSEPH P. BARSKY gave a presentation "Trees and You" to a kindergarten class at Bear Path Elementary School in Hamden (20 children) (October 17).

MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS led an interpretive hike on a future piece of Guilford Land Conservation Trust property (15 participants) (October 17) and gave a talk to students of the New Haven School System's Gifted and Talented Program on wildlife in Connecticut (14 children) (October 18).

## **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS gave two invited talks entitled "Breeding chestnut trees for resistance to gall wasp" and "The influence of the pollen parent on nutrients in chestnuts" at the International Workshop entitled "Chestnut Management in Mediterranean Countries: Problems and Prospects" held in Bursa, Turkey (120 adult attendees) (October 23-25).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS gave a presentation on poisonous plants at the Madison Child Care Center in Madison (10 adults and 1 youth attended) (October 1); gave a presentation on the Plant Disease Information Office to talented and gifted students from the New Haven school system and discussed plant pathology and how plants get sick (2 adult and 18 youth attendees) (October 16); welcomed the participants of the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association's seminar on "Pesticides and Roast Beef" held in Jones Auditorium (55 adult attendees) (October 17); welcomed attendees and introduced guest speaker Dr. Dale Bergdahl at the Lockwood Lecture entitled "Biology, ecology, epidemiology, and impact of butternut canker disease" in Jones Auditorium (October 31); and met with Dr. Dale Bergdahl, Lockwood Lecturer, to discuss the Experiment Station and the Department of Plant Pathology and Ecology (October 31).

DR. WADE H. ELMER gave a lecture/lab on *Fusarium* to students in an Introductory Plant Pathology class at UCONN in Storrs (12 adult attendees) (October 3); presented the talk "Use of a pre-plant corm treatment to suppress *Fusarium* corm rot of gladiolus" (40 adult attendees), chaired the Extension/Industry Meeting (25 adult attendees), coordinated the jeopardy games at the Wednesday Night Social, and made reports at the business meeting at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society in Cape May, NJ (October 10-12); moderated the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association's seminar on "Pesticides and Roast Beef" held in Jones Auditorium (55 adult attendees) (October 17); and gave a presentation on sudden wetland dieback to the Learning in Retirement Group in Slate Board Room (9 adult attendees) (October 18).

DR. FRANCIS J. FERRANDINO presented a talk entitled "The effect of host growth on the dynamics of plant disease epidemics" at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society in Cape May, NJ (40 adult attendees) (October 10-12).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA gave a talk titled "Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphic (AFLP) markers for the forest fungal pathogen, *Neonectria ditissima*" at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society in Cape May, NJ (40 adult attendees) (October 10-12).

## **Soil and Water**

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS presented an overview of the Station's Mosquito Surveillance and Research Program to budget analysts from the State Department of Policy and Management (October 12); interviewed about the West Nile virus and mosquito season for 2007 by Marian Gail Brown, CT Post, and by Bob Miller, News Times (October 16); presented an overview of mosquito biology to a group of TAG students visiting the Station from the New Haven area (October 18); and interviewed about the conclusion of the mosquito trapping and testing program for West Nile virus and eastern equine encephalitis by Matt Dwyer, WTIC radio; Marc Sims, CT Radio Network; and Metro News CT (October 31).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE presented a seminar on *Turf Management* to a class at Southern Connecticut State University (October 29).

DR. MICHELL MARKO was invited to EnviroScience, Inc. in Stow, Ohio to discuss her research on the use of the milfoil weevil *E. lecontei* as a biological control and explore future collaborations (October 4-5).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented an invited talk as Plenary Session Keynote Speaker entitled, *Sorption to black carbon: mechanisms, hysteresis and attenuation by humic substances* at the Asian-Pacific International Conference on Pollutants Analysis and Control held in Beijing, China (October 10-15); presented an invited seminar, *Unraveling the causes of sorption hysteresis in soils* to the Environmental Sciences Department, Nanjing University; Nanjing, China (October 16); presented an invited seminar, *Unraveling the causes of sorption hysteresis in soils* at the State Key Laboratory of Organic Geochemistry, Guangzhou Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences; Guangzhou, China (October 18).

MS. ROSLYN SELSKY led an invasive aquatic plant identification workshop for the residents of Beach Pond in Voluntown (20 people in attendance) (October 6).

MR. JASON WHITE chaired the Phytoremediation Session at the 23rd Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (October 16).

## **Valley Laboratory**

DR. CAROLE CHEAH visited the NJ Department of Agriculture Phillip Alampi Beneficial Insect Laboratory, Trenton, NJ (September 13); research discussions on mile-a-minute biological control; met with Kathleen Nelson and Betsy Corrigan of the Mad Gardeners' mile-a-minute eradication team with DR. TODD MERWOSH in New Milford (September 27); and made a hemlock woolly adelgid inspection at a private property in Roxbury, CT (September 27).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Chemical control of hemlock woolly adelgids" at the 2007 Forest Health Cooperators Meeting for New England and New York in Rye, NH (20 attendees) (October 16).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA conducted a day-long train-the-trainer NE-SARE Professional Development Program Workshop on 'Diagnosis, Visual Assessment and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruit in the Northeast' in Windsor, CT (15 attendees) (October 3); hosted, chaired and spoke about research results at the annual meeting of the Northeast Regional Nematology Technical Committee (NE-1019) held in Mystic CT (14 people) (October 4-5); spoke about biodiesel and integrated pest management to the Middlesex County Farm Bureau in Dunham (50 attendees) (October 8); attended

the Northeast Division Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society as Secretary Treasurer and to present 'Actigard increases fungicide efficacy against *Peronospora tabacina*, cause of tobacco blue mold' in Cape May, NJ (October 10-12); participated in the meeting of the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council in Tolland (October 15); was interviewed about Connecticut tobacco types and culture and the effects of disease and environment on yield and quality by Bruce Windel of the USDA Risk Management Agency based in Missouri (October 16); presented a research report on biodiesel and IPM to the Station Board of Control in Windsor (October 17); met with Dr. Ron Lacewell, Assistant Vice Chancellor at Texas A&M University, in New Haven to discuss biofuels research (October 18); spoke to Conoco-Philips representatives about Station biodiesel and IPM research and attended the Conoco-Philips Conversation on Energy Town meeting held at the Omni Hotel in New Haven (October 23); and taught a class on tree diseases to students in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association's Arboriculture 101 class(42 attendees) (October 30).

DR. DE-WEI LI participated in a board meeting of the Analytic Accreditation Board of American Industry Hygiene Association (AIHA) in Louisville, KY on October 20, 2007.

DR. TODD L. MERVOSH spoke about weed management at a twilight meeting of the Conn. Christmas Tree Growers' Assoc. in Mystic (approximately 40 attendees) (August 7); was interviewed by Matthew O'Rourke of the Waterbury Republican-American about the invasive mile-a-minute vine (August 23); presented results from his experiment on control of mile-a-minute vine at a meeting of the Mile-a-Minute Task Force in New Milford (10 attendees) (October 5); participated in the IR-4 Project's Ornamental Horticulture Workshop in Cherry Hill, NJ (October 10-11); spoke about management of invasive plants at a Massachusetts Professional Foresters' Assoc. conference in West Springfield, MA (approximately 100 attendees) (October 12); and participated in a steering committee meeting for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group at the Valley Laboratory (12 attendees) (October 18).

## **Journal Articles Approved October 2007**

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. Fats, protein, carbohydrates, and fatty acids in chestnut fruits. Proceedings of Intl. Workshop on Chestnut Management in Mediterranean Countries: Problems and Prospects, 23-25 October 2007, Bursa, Turkey.

Anagnostakis, Sandra L, S. Clark, and H. McNab. Preliminary report on the segregation of resistance in chestnuts to infestation by Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp. Proceedings of Intl. Workshop on Chestnut management in Mediterranean Countries: Problems and Prospects, 23-25 October, 2007, Bursa, Turkey.

Elmer, Wade H. Preventing spread of Fusarium wilt of *Hiemalis Begonias* in the greenhouse. Crop Protection.

R. Cloyd and Wade H. Elmer. Impact of water and nutrient management on arthropod and disease problems. Chapter in Nutrient Management for Greenhouse Crops, Kimberly A. Williams (ed.), Ball Publishing Co.

Rathier, Tom and M. Brown. Improvement in leaf quality of shade tobacco with supplemental applications of soluble N under plasticulture (abstract). 34<sup>th</sup> National Agricultural Plastics Congress.

Stafford, Kirby C. and Kimberly A. Stoner. Colony Collapse Disorder and Honey Bees in Connecticut. CT Weekly Agricultural Report.

White, Jason C. Phytoremediation of Persistent Organic Pollutants. UNESCO EOLSS Chapter.

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