

# *Station News* A PROGRESS REPORT for staff

and Friends of America's first Agricultural Experiment Station

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## **CAES Display at The Big E, West Springfield, MA**

**By Ms. Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski**

This year, we hosted a display in the Connecticut Building at The Big E on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. We displayed two posters on biodiesel entitled "Oilseed Crops for Biodiesel and Conversion of Oilseed to Biodiesel". This is a cooperative project by DR. WALTER KROL and DR. JAMES LAMONDIA. We also had a live honey bee display, Golden Smoothie apple slices, sunflower seed pressing demonstration, explaining the process of making biodiesel fuel,

and many Station publications and literature. The Connecticut Building has a flow of approximately 40,000 people per day on weekdays. So, our display was seen by approximately 80,000 people in two days! The Station Staff that assisted with our booth this year were MR. IRA KETTLE, MS. ROSE BONITO, MS. LISA KACZENSKI, MS. ROSE HISKES, DR. WALTER KROL, MS. TIA MASTRONE, MS. VICKIE BOMBA-LEWANDOSKI, MS. HEIDI STUBER, and DR. JAMES LAMONIDA. Thank you!



Above--image of the left side of our display, posters, Station publications and literature, and our live honey bee display. Image taken by Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski.

Left--image of the right side of our display, DR. WALTER KROL demonstrating the instrument that presses sunflower seeds to make sunflower oil and explaining the process of making biodiesel fuel and MS. LISA KACZENSKI cutting Golden Smoothie apple slices. Image taken by Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski.



Left—DR. WALTER KROL demonstrating sunflower seed pressing to get oil and explaining the processes of making biodiesel fuel. Image taken by Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski.

Right—DR. WALTER KROL at the sunflower seed pressing demonstration and MR. IRA KETTLE at the live honey bee display. Image taken by Vickie Bomba-Lewandoski.



## **Eastern Bluebirds at Lockwood Farm--Summer 2006**

**By Ms. Lisa Kaczinski**

This spring, initially two pairs of bluebirds arrived at Lockwood Farm, followed by three additional pairs a few weeks later. The original arrivals nested in the boxes along the fence located between the large rock towards the back of the farm and the new vineyard. The first pair claimed the nest box that was used last year; they could possibly be the same pair. The second pair of bluebirds took up residence in the nest box

located on the corner of the same fence by the beehives. Unfortunately, they lost their five eggs to an intruder, possibly a house wren, the punctured eggs were found on the ground under the nest box. Shortly afterwards, house wrens did build a nest over the existing bluebird nest.

The first pair of bluebirds that arrived had a successful brood of five. A few weeks later, they fledged a second nest was built (in the same box) with another five eggs, which also hatched and fledged successfully. During the same time, the three other pairs of bluebirds began nesting on



the opposite side of the farm. The box located just past the path to the cottage, along the rhododendron farm, had three eggs, the second pair nested in the box on top of the hill by the chestnut trees with four eggs and the last pair nested in the third box on the fence along the Christmas tree farm. All families successfully fledged.

All total, we had 21 fledglings this summer with 5 pairs of parents. Last year, we only had one pair of nesting Bluebirds. Other inhabitants have been chickadees (2 pair), house wrens (4 pair), tree swallows (4 pair), a continued battle with house sparrows and one family of white footed mice.



12 days old. Image taken by Lisa Kaczenski.



Eggs. Image taken by Terri Arsenault.



5 days old. Image taken by Lisa Kaczenski.

## Nursery and Landscape Research Tour

By Dr. James LaMondia

Over 60 nursery and landscape professionals attended the Valley Laboratory's annual Nursery and Landscape Research Tour on September 19, 2006. Attendees were welcomed by Dr. James LaMondia and then toured research plots for the following presentations: New chestnut hybrids, Dr. Sandra Anagnostakis; Rotation crops for nematode management, Dr. James LaMondia; Conifer nutrition needs, Tom Rathier; Deer management strategies, Scott Williams; Postemergent weed suppression, Dr. John Ahrens; Managing horsetail in landscapes, Dr. Todd Mervosh; Managing hemlock woolly adelgid, Dr. Richard Cowles; Connecticut weed display, Dr. Todd Mervosh and Dorothy Reiss; Exotic pest display, Dr. Victoria Smith; Weed management in container grown plants, Dr. Todd Mervosh and Dr. John Ahrens; Mite management in container grown junipers, Dr. Richard Cowles; CAES/CNLA education garden, Tom Rathier and Richard Horvath.

The tour was concluded with the following talks: Biological management of hemlock woolly adelgid, Dr. Carole Cheah; Container physical characteristics, Tom Rathier; Arthropods and pesticides update, Tim Abbey; Disease and cultural problem update, Dr. Sharon Douglas. James Preste, Matt Deltendre, Jane Morrison, John Winiarski and Richard Horvath provided help with preparations and during the meeting.

## **Departmental News**

### **Administration**

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about ticks and Lyme disease by Brian Walheimer of the Norwich Bulletin (September 1) and was interviewed about mosquitoes by Michael Dinan of the Greenwich Times (September 5).

### **Analytical Chemistry**

### **Biochemistry and Genetics**

### **Entomology**

MS. ROSE BONITO presented a display on the Bird & Butterfly Garden, Aquatic Invasive Plants, P. Ramorum Blight, and other current research projects and distributed station literature for 'Celebrating Agriculture' at the Woodstock Fairgrounds in Woodstock (950 visitors to the booth) (September 23) and staffed the Station booth at the Big E in Springfield, MA (September 27).

MR. IRA KETTLE presented a display of honey bees and distributed station literature for 'Family Day' at the Harkness State Park (1,159 people) (September 10) and staffed the Station booth at the Big E in Springfield, MA (September 27 & 28).

MS. ROSE HISKES participated in the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group symposium planning committee in Windsor (September 7); participated in a Connecticut Tree Protective Association Education Committee meeting in New Haven (September 6); along with Karl Reichle, South Windsor tree warden, taught cub scout pack 389 about trees, wildlife and insects (9 attendees) (September 7 & September 29); gave a talk on invasive plants to the Ledyard Garden Club in Ledyard (40 attendees) (September 11); was interviewed by Harlan Levy of the Journal Inquirer on insects that enter homes in the fall (50,000 circulation) (September 18); with Jen Wells of Imperial Nurseries, taught a Plant ID Clinic to students in the Connecticut Accredited Nursery Professional course in Windsor (12 attendees) (September 23); staffed The Station booth at the Big E in West Springfield (September 27); and taught a course on Ornamental Grasses for the Connecticut Landscape for Windsor Adult Education in Windsor (6 attendees) (September 30).

DR. CHRIS T. MAIER spoke about the emerald ash borer at the Forest Health Cooperators Meeting in New Haven (September 26).

MS. TIA MASTRONE staffed The Station booth at the Big E in Springfield, MA (September 27).

MR. STEPHEN SANDREY presented a display on the Bird & Butterfly Garden, Aquatic Invasive Plants, P. Ramorum Blight, and other current research projects and distributed station literature for 'Celebrating Agriculture' at the Woodstock Fairgrounds in Woodstock (950 visitors to the exhibit) (September 23).

DR. VICTORIA L. SMITH participated in the Nursery and Landscape Research Tour, held at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor, by organizing a table on Exotic Pests and Diseases (60 participants) (September 19); interviewed by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant, on anthracnose diseases of shade trees and potential impact on autumn color (September 21); and organized a meeting of Forest Pest Cooperators, with the Durham (New Hampshire) Field Office of the US Forest Service, held at the Colony in New Haven (25 participants) (September 26-27).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD, III was interviewed by Carla Bigelow, Cornwall Chronicle, about increase in the tick population and the use of insecticides for tick control (September 6); interviewed by Judy Benson, New London Day, about tick abundance and the increase in tick-associated illnesses in the New London

area (September 6); interviewed by Bob Miller, Danbury News Times, about the gypsy moth (September 8); interviewed by Edie Clark, Yankee Magazine, about ticks and Lyme disease (September 19); welcomed state forest health cooperators and staff from the US Forest Service to New Haven for a meeting held at the Colony in New Haven (20 attendees) (September 20); and spoke about the Experiment Station and results of our forest health surveys at the Connecticut Forest Research Forum organized by Dr. Jeffrey Ward and held at the West Hartford Campus of the University of Connecticut (200 attendees) (September 28).

## **Forestry and Horticulture**

DR. JEFFREY WARD along with MR. SCOTT C. WILLIAMS hosted a visit by Peter Montenegro and Mary McCarthy of the Connecticut Transportation Institute to discuss reducing deer-vehicle collisions (September 1); participated in the Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Board of Directors meeting in New Haven (September 5); was interviewed by Amy Parmenter of NBC-30 on fall color prediction (September 5); spoke on "Tree Biology" for the Arboriculture 101 class sponsored by The Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Jones Auditorium (44 attendees) (September 6); chaired CTPA-Education committee meeting in New Haven (September 6); was interviewed by Ed Crowder of Connecticut Post on fall color prediction (September 7); was interviewed by Bob Miller of Danbury News-Times on fall color prediction (September 8); along with Scott C. Williams spoke on "Ongoing and future Station deer research" to the Fairfield County Municipal Deer Management Alliance in Wilton, CT (12 attendees) (September 11); spoke on "Observations on oak regeneration in Connecticut" at the Ecology and Silviculture of Mixed Oak Forests session in Brookville, PA (36 attendees) (September 14); was interviewed by Lori Saunders of Public Radio on Forestry Forum (September 18); spoke on "Conservation and use of native shrubs" for the Spring Garden Club at Lockwood Farm (22 attendees) (September 20); was interviewed by Brigitte Ruthman of Waterbury Republican on the impact Anthracnose on maple syrup production (September 21); was interviewed by Liz Ellis of Shoreline Times on fall colors of sugar maple (September 21); was interviewed by John Burgeson of Connecticut Post on fall color development (September 22); spoke on "Seed Dispersal by Deer" at the Forest Health Cooperators Meeting in New Haven (21 attendees) (September 26); was interviewed by Marian Brown of Connecticut Post on Fall the percent of forest cover in Connecticut (September 27); organized and hosted the Connecticut Forest Research Forum: From Laboratory to Field in West Hartford and spoke on "Birch is the future: do not despair" in an afternoon concurrent session (180 attendees) (September 28).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD judged fruits and vegetables at the North Haven Fair (September 7); gave a tour of Lockwood Farm to the Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes from Hamden Hall Country Day School (38 children, 4 teachers, 6 parents) (September 21).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Grape and Winery Association at the Valley Laboratory (17 attendees) (September 11); participated in a meeting of the Connecticut Farm Winery Council (5 attendees) (September 11); evaluated bird predation at Connecticut Valley Winery in New Hartford with Dr. Anthony Ferraro (September 14); met with Vincent Giordano and Vincent Giordano III at their vineyard in North Branford (September 28); and attended grape pathology seminars at the University of Connecticut. (September 29).

MR. J.P. BARSKY attended the Connecticut Forest Research Forum: From Laboratory to Field in West Hartford (September 28).

MR. SCOTT WILLIAMS spoke to members of the Nursery and Landscape Association at the Valley Lab about ongoing deer repellent study (60 attendees) (September 19); displayed a poster explaining the role of deer as seed dispersers study at the Durham Fair (September 23); and spoke on "Seed dispersal by white-tailed deer" at the Forest Research Forum in West Hartford (180 attendees) (September 28, 180 attendees).

## **Lockwood Farm**

## **Plant Pathology and Ecology**

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS discussed her chestnut breeding work at the Nursery Tour at the Valley Lab in Windsor (September 19); reported on her butternut work at the Forest Cooperators Meeting at The Colony in New Haven (25 attendees) (September 26); gave a talk entitled “The return of the chestnut” at the Connecticut Forest Research Forum at UCONN in West Hartford (200 attendees) (September 28).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS met with Rich Elwell of Specialty Farms, a hydroponic sprout and wheatgrass producer, along with DR. DOUGLAS W. DINGMAN, to discuss contamination problems in production; reviewed his HACCP plan and identified fungal contaminants in his system; was interviewed about Dutch elm disease and its impact on elms in Connecticut by the Greenwich Time (September 1); assisted the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board (CTPX) with the oral exams for arborists at the Station (September 13); gave a presentation on current disease problems in the Connecticut landscape; answered questions on diseases at the Nursery Tour at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (September 19); was interviewed about anthracnose and foliar diseases of maple and the potential impact on fall color by Steve Grant of the Hartford Courant, and about what is wrong with the maples and the potential impact on fall color by Judy Benson of The Day (New London) (September 20); and was interviewed about what is wrong with the maples by Liz Ellis of the Shoreline Times, and about what is affecting maples in Connecticut by Bridgette Ruthman of the Waterbury Republican-American (September 21).

DR. WADE H. ELMER was interviewed about the association of *Fusarium* spp. with sudden wetland dieback in New England by Nancy Cohen of Connecticut Public Radio (September 12); presented a lecture on “Plant parts and their diseases” to the first- and second-grade classes at Mile Creek Elementary School in Old Lyme (82 attendees) (September 26); moderated a short course on “Poinsettia diseases” in Jones (15 attendees) (September 28).

## **Soil and Water**

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the detection of eastern equine encephalitis in Stonington by Kent Pierce, WTNH TV8 (September 1); was interviewed about mosquitoes and eastern equine encephalitis in Connecticut by Toby Henry, Union Leader (September 14); and was interviewed about the overall West Nile virus activity in Connecticut for the 2006 season by Fran Schneido, CBS Radio NY (September 26).

MR. GREGORY BUGBEE attended the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society board of directors pre-conference planning session at Mount Snow, VT (September 11); was interviewed by Avi Salsman of the New York Times on managing Eurasian water milfoil (September 14); and with MS. ROSLYN SELSKY and DR. MICHELLE MARKO presented a talk to CT DEP staff in Hartford on The CAES Invasive Aquatic Control Program. (50 attendees) (September 21).

DR. MICHELLE MARKO presented a seminar entitled, *Biocontrol of Watermilfoils and Future Goals of the Connecticut Invasive Aquatic Plant Program* at the USDA Agricultural Research Station in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (September 26).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI presented a poster co-authored by Theodore Andreadis and Philip Armstrong entitled *Epizootiology of Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus in northeastern USA: Lessons from host preference of mosquito vectors* at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Vector Ecology, held in Anchorage, Alaska (Audience >250) (September 30).

DR. JASON WHITE attended USDA Grant Writing Seminar in Washington, DC (September 6-7); met with Leigh Hightower, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Robert Simmons, briefed her on the CAES Aquatic Weed Program and on our work at Lake Pattaganset (September 6); met with Brian Ronholm, Chief of Staff for Rep. Rosa DeLauro, briefed him on the last year of work by the CAES Aquatic Weed Program (September 6); hosted Dr. Min Rayamajhi and Jorge Leidi of the USDA ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory, we are collaborating on a project investigating the presence of microbial pathogens on *Cabomba* populations in CT (September 11-19); and met with Charlene Spreda in Prospect, I spoke with

her about a pond on her property that has received excess run-off due to a failed retention pond at a construction site (September 17).

## **Valley Laboratory**

MR. TIMOTHY ABBEY designed the display “Native Ornamental Plants” that was present in the New England Center building at the Big E from (September 15 to October 1) (West Springfield, MA) and presented “Arthropod and Pest Management Update” at the CAES Valley Laboratory Tour in Windsor (September 19).

DR. CAROLE CHEAH was interviewed by Bob Miller of the News Times, Danbury on biological control and the recovery of hemlocks (September 8) and by Morgan Simmons of the Knoxville Sentinel Times (September 13); gave an evening presentation on hemlock woolly adelgid at the Eleanor Wolf Buck Nature Center in Wethersfield (4 attendees) (September 14); gave a presentation on biological control of HWA at the Nursery and Landscape Research Tour of the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (60 attendees) (September 19) and at the 2006 State Forest Health Cooperators Meeting at New Haven (20 attendees) (September 26).

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented “Chemical Control of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid,” and “Managing Juniper Tip Dwarf Mites” at the Valley Laboratory Nursery and Landscape Field Day, Windsor (54 attendees) (September 19) and he also provided an update, “New Products for Chemical Control of Christmas Tree Insect and Mite Pests,” to the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual NH/VT Christmas Tree Growers’ Association Meeting, Hampton Falls, NH (120 attendees) (September 29).

DR. JAMES LAMONDIA examined candidates for the Connecticut arborist license and participated in the quarterly meeting of the Connecticut Tree Protection Examining Board in New Haven (September 13); attended the Pilot Project Symposium for the Harvard-NIOSH ERC Occupational Health Program at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston (September 15); welcomed participants and spoke about rotation crops for nematode management as a part of the Valley Lab Nursery and Landscape Research Tour (September 19); met with Chris Glynos of BioPur in New Haven to discuss biodiesel and oilseed crop production in CT (September 22); discussed research proposals at a meeting of the UConn Biofuels Consortium in Storrs (September 27); and spoke about oilseed crop production for biodiesel at the Station Booth at the Big E (September 28).

DR. DEWEI LI and James LaMondia made a presentation to 20 persons “A Pilot Study of Workers’ Exposure to Airborne and Phylloplane Fungi in Greenhouses in CT with a Traditional Method and QPCR” at the Pilot Project Symposium for the Harvard-NIOSH ERC, Occupational Health Program, at the Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University (20 attendees) (September 15) and participated in a board meeting of Analytic Accreditation Board (AAB) of American Industry Hygiene Association (AIHA) in San Jose, CA (September 16). Dr. Li is a board member of Analytic Accreditation Board (AAB).

DR. TODD MERVOSH presented two talks on “Managing the toughest lawn weeds” in the demonstration tent at Plant Science Day (50 attendees) (August 2); participated in symposium planning meetings for the Conn. Invasive Plant Working Group in Wallingford (August 9) and at the Valley Lab (September 7); spoke about “Managing horsetail (*Equisetum*) in landscapes” and “Weed management in container-grown plants” and presented an informational display of weeds at the Nursery & Landscape Research Tour at the Valley Laboratory (September 19); and, with MS. DOROTHY REISS, delivered ~1600 lbs. of pumpkins harvested from experiments at the Valley Laboratory to Northwest Park in Windsor for use at their annual Country Fair (September 29).

## **Journal Articles Approved September 2006**

Anagnostakis, Sandra L. A tree by any other name: The future for chestnuts in the United States. Book Chapter, American Chestnut Foundation.

Dingman, Douglas. Characterization of the *Paenibacillus popilliae* plasmid PBP68: A possible filamentous bacteriophage derivative. Plasmid.

Elmer, Wade H., C. L. Robertson, S. Useman, R. L. Schneider, and K. O'Donnell. *Fusarium* species associated with declining *Spartina* in areas affected by Sudden Wetland Dieback. NE Estuarine Res. Soc. Mtg., 26-28 Oct. 2006, New London, CT.

LaMondia, James A. and Wade H. Elmer. Occurrence of *Meloidogyne spartinae* on *Spartina alterniflora* in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Plant Disease.

Stoner, Kimberly A. and S. Gilman. New Leaf Farm – Case Study. Chapter of book “Real World Organic: Exemplary Organic Farms in the Northeast”.

Williams, Scott C. and Jeffrey S. Ward. Seed dispersal by white-tailed deer in Southern Connecticut. Forest Matters: The Stewardship Newsletter (USDA).

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