

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



Departmental News

Administration

DR. LOUIS A. MAGNARELLI was interviewed about Station research by Alexis Ann of the Resident in Stonington (August 5); was interviewed about Asian longhorned beetles by WFSB TV (August 6); was interviewed about Asian longhorned beetles by John Charlton of Fox 61 TV (August 6); was interviewed about Asian longhorned beetles by Bob Miller of the Danbury News Times; was interviewed about honey bees by Karen Singer of New Haven Magazine (August 7); welcomed attendees of the FDA Food Emergency Response network meeting in Jones Auditorium (August 12); was interviewed about mosquitoes by Vinti Singh of the Darien Times (August 13); and was interviewed about rainfall and insect populations (August 19).

Analytical Chemistry

DR. WALTER J. KROL participated in the organization of, and acted a host for the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) chemistry cooperative agreement technical meeting held at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven. During the meeting presented a talk entitled "*T021 and T022 Toxins Through QuEChERS: Making State and Federal Work Two Sides of the Same Coin.*" There were approximately 60 attendees present at the meeting representing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the FERN chemistry cooperative agreement laboratories throughout the country (60 attendees) (August 11-13) and provided a short tour and discussion into the operation of the laboratories in Analytical Chemistry at CAES to Terry Jones and three of his associates (August 18).

MR. CRAIG MUSANTE hosted Jennifer Nyquist (a chemistry teacher from Masuk High School in Monroe working on her 6th degree), performed a summer internship (July 13-24) and attended the FDA FERN CAP meeting (August 11-13) held in the Jones Auditorium

Biochemistry and Genetics

MS. CYNTHIA MUSANTE hosted Jennifer Nyquist (a chemistry teacher from Masuk High School in Monroe working on her 6th degree), performed a summer internship (July 13-24).

Entomology

MR. IRA KETTLE was interviewed about honey bees by Erin Singer of New Haven Magazine (August 10); had a table with his honey bee display, along with the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) outreach program, at The Mystic Seaport for Garden Days. Everyone enjoyed the bees and handouts. The beetle transfer tattoos were a great hit with the children, as was Katherine Dugas' ALB puppet! The adults were extremely interested in the plight of the honey bees in regard to Varroa mites and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), as well as the information on ALB. The photos we had on our display board of the "before" and "after" pictures of Worcester, Massachusetts, showing what the city looks like after the felling of 26,000 street trees, left many of the audience aghast. If they had any doubts as to the potential severity of a beetle infestation, it has been removed (August 21-23).



Rose Hiskes talks about ALB and gives out tote bags to visitors.



Katherine Dugas talks to visitors about ALB and EAB.



Ira Kettle talks about honey bees with some young visitors.



Photo of the crowd at our table. As you can see, it was a very popular booth!

DR. VICTORIA SMITH was interviewed about the Asian Longhorned Beetle by NBC-30 News (August 6) and participated in the Annual Meeting of the National Plant Board, as vice-president of the Eastern Plant Board, the *P. ramorum* Working Group, and as a member of the Plant Board's Board of Directors, in Oklahoma City, OK (200 adult participants) (August 10-14).

DR. KIRBY C. STAFFORD III spoke on ticks and Lyme disease and the Asian Longhorned Beetle at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association in Madison (75 adult attendees) (August 6); spoke about regulatory issues and the Asian Longhorned Beetle at a Forest Pest Town meeting in Norwich (10 adult attendees) (August 12); spoke about regulatory issues and the Asian Longhorned Beetle at a Forest Pest Town meeting in Torrington (6 adult attendees); and was interviewed about bird mites and Lyme disease in the Stamford Police Department by Jeff Morganteen of the Connecticut Post (August 18).

DR. KIMBERLY A. STONER gave a presentation entitled “Why Organic?” to the Massachusetts Organic Lawn and Turf Course at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (45 adult attendees) (August 7); participated in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Organic Farming Association in Berlin (12 adult attendees) (August 16); gave a presentation entitled “Why Organic?” to the Connecticut Organic Lawn and Turf Course at the Valley Laboratory in Windsor (45 adult attendees) (August 20); and participated in the workshop of the CT Climate Change Working Group on Risk Assessment for Agriculture at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (50 adult attendees) (August 24).

Forestry and Horticulture

DR. JEFFREY WARD visited Veteran's Park to advise Stephen T. Hladun, Special Projects Coordinator - City of Bridgeport, on invasive shrub control (August 11) and along with **DR. LOUIS MAGNARELLI**, **DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS**, **GREGORY BUGBEE**, and **MICHAEL THOMAS**, met with Representative Chris Caruso and members of the Connecticut Yankee Council-Boy Scouts of America to discuss potential collaborative projects (August 25).

DR. ABIGAIL MAYNARD talked about the New Crops Program on WTIC's Garden Talk radio show (August 1) and participated in a meeting of the Agricultural Working Group Stakeholders that is part of the State's Climate Change Risk Assessment in Storrs (August 24).

DR. WILLIAM NAIL participated in the Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change Workshop at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (August 24).

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS was awarded a grant of \$3,500 from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation for barberry control research. (August 1) and gave an invited lecture at the 5th Annual Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council Conference titled "Managing Japanese Barberry Infestations Reduces Blacklegged Tick Abundance and Infection Prevalence with *Borrelia burgdorferi*" in Johnstown, PA (August 12).

Griswold Research Center

MR. ROBERT DURGY gave a talk entitled “Late Blight and the Summer With No Tomatoes” at the Coventry Farmer's Market in Coventry (20 adult attendees) (August 23).

Plant Pathology and Ecology

DR. SANDRA L. ANAGNOSTAKIS attended and participated in a workshop on “Agriculture and Climate Change: Risk Assessment” at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (65 adult attendees, which broke into sections for discussion of specific issues) (August 24).

DR. DONALD E. AYLOR gave a talk entitled “Sampling and quantifying plant disease spores in the atmosphere” to a group at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, VA (84 adult and 16 youth attendees) (August 11).

DR. BOTOND BALOGH discussed his research and late blight of tomato as a guest on Len and Lisa's “Garden Talk” radio program broadcast on WTIC (August 1) and gave a talk entitled “Common diseases of

Christmas trees” at the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers Association meeting held at Holiday Farm in New Hartford (August 10).

DR. SHARON M. DOUGLAS discussed Plant Science Day 2009 as a guest on Len and Lisa’s “Garden Talk” radio program broadcast on WTIC (August 1); was interviewed about late blight of tomato and potato by Nancy Crevier of the Newtown Bee (August 3); was interviewed about the 2009 outbreak of late blight of tomato and potato and implications for crop pricing and availability by Bob Miller of the Danbury News-Times (August 12); was interviewed about late blight of tomatoes and potatoes by Colleen Fitzpatrick of The Connecticut Horticultural Society Newsletter (August 14); was interviewed about this season’s weather, how it has affected corn growth, and implications for fall corn mazes by Meg Barone of the Connecticut Post (August 14); and was interviewed about late blight of tomato by Marc Robbins of Channel 8 (August 17).

DR. WADE H. ELMER attended and participated in a workshop on “Agriculture and Climate Change: Risk Assessment” at the University of Connecticut in Storrs (65 adult attendees, which broke into sections for discussion of specific issues) (August 24).

MS. MARY K. INMAN gave a talk on “Plant propagation” to the East Haven Garden Club at the Beach House in East Haven (19 adult attendees) (August 20).

DR. ROBERT E. MARRA attended a PhD committee meeting for Nicholas Brazee, a PhD candidate at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, to discuss progress on his dissertation research on *Armillaria* species distribution based on forest type in northeastern forests (August 24).

Soil and Water

DR. THEODORE ANDREADIS was interviewed about the detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes collected in Greenwich by Lisa Chamoff, Greenwich Times (August 4); was interviewed about the impact of the excessive rainfall in June and July on mosquito populations, West Nile virus activity in Connecticut by Steve Kotchko Connecticut Public Radio and TPR, Metro News, Rinker Buck, Meriden Record Journal (August 4); was interviewed about the impact of the excessive rainfall in June and July on mosquito populations, West Nile virus activity in Connecticut by Kara Buckley, New York Times (August 6); and was interviewed about the detection of West Nile virus in mosquitoes collected in Monroe by Marla Hoffman, Monroe Courier (August 31).

DR. JASON WHITE presented an invited talk entitled, *Determining the Bioavailability of Highly Weathered Organochlorine Insecticide Residues* in session on Soil Bound Residues and Relevance to Environmental Exposure at the 238th Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington DC (August 18-21); briefed Brian Ronholm, a staffer of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, on the accomplishments of Invasive Aquatic Weed Program, in Rayburn House Office Building in Washington DC (August 19); and was interviewed by Jennifer Read, a reporter for New York Newsday, on the use of phytoremediation at contaminated sites in CT, NY and elsewhere (August 27).

DR. GOUDARZ MOLAEI hosted Jacob Greenberg, a student from the University of New Mexico and instructed him in molecular methods in mosquito blood meal identification (August 17-21).

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO presented a talk entitled, *Impact of Biochar on the Bioavailability in Soil of Chemicals Important in Agriculture* at 2009 North American Biochar Conference, held in Boulder, CO (August 9-12) and presented an invited talk entitled, *Desorption Resistance of Chemicals in Soil* in a symposium on Soil Bound Residues and Relevance to Environmental Exposure, at the 238th Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington DC (August 16-20).

Valley Laboratory

DR. RICHARD COWLES presented "Managing armored scales," for a Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers' Association meeting at the Valley Laboratory, Windsor (40 attendees) (July 9), and in New

Hartford (40 attendees) (August 10); and participated in a workshop on the impacts of global warming on Connecticut agriculture at the University of Connecticut, Storrs (40 attendees) (August 24).

DR. JAMES A. LAMONDIA spoke about biofumigation research for soilborne pathogens using Brassicas during the pesticide recertification tour and spoke about B2 – a new pathogen resistant broadleaf tobacco line to the Board of Control at Plant Science Day (August 5); was interviewed about tobacco diseases and the growing season by Aaron Kupec of WTIC Radio (August 7); was interviewed about fungal and virus tobacco diseases and the growing season by Hallie Jackson of WFSB TV (August 17); and participated in the Agricultural Workgroup Climate Change Risk Assessment Committee meeting held at UConn (August 24); and participated in the NE-IPM Small Fruit Workgroup Pest Issues Tour in Sandwich, MA (August 25-27).

DR. TODD MERVOSH spoke about weed management at a meeting of the Conn. Christmas Tree Growers Association in New Hartford (30 attendees) (August 10) and was interviewed by Carolyn Moreau of *The Hartford Courant* about tobacco diseases and mile-a-minute vine (August 12).

Journal Articles Approved August 2009

J. E. Simpson, C. M. Folsom-O'Keefe, J. E. Childs, L. E. Simons, **Theodore G. Andreadis**, and M. A. Diuk-Wasser. Avian host-selection by *Culex pipiens* Say (Diptera: Culicidae) in experimental trials. PLOS One

A. Liu, V. Lee, D. Galusha, M. Slade, M. Diuk Wasser, **Theodore Andreadis**, R. Nelson, M. Scotch, and P. Rabinowitz. Risk factors for human infection with West Nile virus in Connecticut: a multi-year analysis. International Journal of Health Geographics

M. A. Diuk-Wasser, Goudarz Molaei, J. E. Simpson, C. M. Folsom-O'Keefe, Philip M. Armstrong and **Theodore G. Andreadis**. Avian communal roosts as amplification foci for West Nile virus in urban areas in northeastern United States. Emerging Infectious Diseases.

Grant Awards August 2009

DR. WADE H. ELMER was awarded a USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant through the Connecticut Department on Agriculture on "Enhancing Asparagus Production in Connecticut's Agriculture."

DR. TODD MERVOSH received \$3,000 from Valent U.S.A. Corporation.

DR. JOSEPH PIGNATELLO has been awarded a National Science Foundation, CBET, Environmental Engineering grant entitled Collaborative Research: Advanced Solid-State NMR Characterization of Non-Covalent Interactions of Organic Compounds in Soil and Sediment Organic Matter \$225,000.

DR. SCOTT WILLIAMS was awarded a grant of \$3,500 from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation for barberry control research.

Articles of Interest August 2009

PLANT SCIENCE DAY 2009

BIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDEN LISTS

Butterflies 15 species

Cabbage White
Great Spangled Fritillary
Clouded Sulphur
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail
Pearl Crescent
Common Sootywing
Broad-winged Skipper
Question Mark
Peck's Skipper
Silver-spotted Skipper
Tawny-edged Skipper
Black Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail
Common Checkered Skipper
European Skipper

Birds 15 species

Bluejay

Song Sparrow
Mourning Dove
Barn Swallow
Northern Flicker
Red-tailed Hawk
Turkey Vulture
House Sparrow
European Starling
Tree Swallow
American Goldfinch
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
American Crow
Eastern Bluebird
Northern Mockingbird

Other 6 species

Green Frog
Cicada Killer (wasp)
12 spotted Skimmer (dragonfly)
Widow Skimmer (dragonfly)
Hummingbird Clearwing (moth)
Snowberry Clearwing (moth)

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