

CPHST NEWS



People



Places



Projects &
Programs



Publications



Policy & Plans



Presentations



Philosophy

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New LucID Keys

March 2005

LucID tools are powerful and highly flexible knowledge management software applications designed to help users with identification or diagnostic tasks. The LucID software is a special type of expert system. Specifically designed for identification and diagnostic purposes, it enables expert knowledge to be "cloned" and distributed to a wide audience via CD or the Internet. The large number of functions incorporated in the software and the ability to include multimedia makes the key creation and use easy, effective and enjoyable. The development of LucID software for pests of quarantine interest continues to be a focus for identification efforts within CPHST, for use by PPQ and stakeholders. In addition, LucID software is being explored as a viable tool for use within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

CPHST has cooperated in the development of several LucID keys thus far. However, the next step for LucID in PPQ is to increase usership, and to solicit user feedback. These initiatives are being addressed through several steps. First, CPHST has recently developed a taxonomist position, located in Ft. Collins, CO. **Dr. Terrence Walters** has been hired to fill this position, and will spend a portion of his time contributing to these objectives. Please look for Dr. Walters in upcoming issues of the CPHST Newsletter (CPHST Spotlight Section). Dr. Walters is slated to start work in mid-April. Secondly, CPHST is planning a series of LucID workshops during the upcoming year to train key users on using the software efficiently. Finally, CPHST continues to rollout LucID keys to target audiences. **Julie Scher** recently traveled to the CAPS

Western Regional Meeting, where she conducted a workshop and gave a presentation. **Daniel Fieselmann**, leader for the Survey Detection & Identification National Science Program, sees the keys contributing to a number of users, including port inspection, CAPS survey programs, Risk Analysis, and International/Offshore Initiatives.

To date several keys have been developed, or are being developed within PPQ (Please see the associated table). Also, stay tuned for new keys, as well as updates on keys currently in development. CPHST maintains the goal of producing keys that benefit the plant regulatory community at large. In addition, California Department of Food and Agriculture taxonomists are also busy building LUCID keys. They have ten projects in progress, including insects, snail, and slug keys.

Visit <http://www.lucidcentral.org> or <http://www.cbit.uq.edu.au/> for more information or if you have questions, comments, or ideas, please send them to **Laura Duffié**.



Submitted by **Laura Duffié** &
Dan Fieselmann

Lead Author	Key Topic	Status
Paul Johnson	Click Beetles	Available
Robert Quartarone	Grasshoppers	Available
Shaun L. Winterton	Aquarium and Pond Plants	Available
Joe Kirkbride	Legume Fruits and Seeds	Available
Douglass Miller	Scale families	Available
Douglass Miller	Mealybugs	Available
Allen Norrbom	Pest Fruit Flies-Larvae	Available
Allen Norrbom	Pest Fruit Flies- Adult	Available
Julia Scher	Noxious Weed Disseminals	In Production
David Walter	What Is a Mite?	Beta Testing
David Walter	Major Mite Taxa	Beta Testing
David Walter	Endeostigmata & Sphaerolichida	Beta Testing
David Walter	Mesostigmata Monogynaspida	Beta Testing
David Walter	Glossary of Acarine Terms	Beta Testing
Wills Flowers	Eumolpinae	Under Development
John Dooley	Whiteflies	Under Development
David Walter	Exotic Mites	Under Development
Julia Scher	African Cut Flowers	Under Development



CPHST Hosts Agricultural Minister Counselor for Thailand

March 2005

CPHST hosted the Agricultural Attache and Agricultural Minister Counselor for Thailand, **Mr. Prakarn Virakul** as well as USDA retiree (now agricultural consultant), **Mr. Ralph Ross**. Messrs Virakul and Ross delivered completed risk assessments for six commodities Thailand is interested in exporting to the US [mango, lychees, mangosteen, pineapple, longans, and rambutan].



Longans

The visitors met with CPHST Director, **Gordon Gordh**, NSPL for pathway risk analysis, **Ron Sequeira** and PERAL Director, **Robert Griffin**. The discussions included a formal request

from the Government of Thailand for PPQ to provide support for risk management as a follow-up to their completion of the six risk assessments. The six risk assessments presented to CPHST by Counselor Virakul will be added to the PRA process according to the priority system established for this purpose. The Thai government has requested that the risk management phase be advanced to include a June 2005 workshop to which CPHST has been invited. This follows a series of scientific and technical exchanges between CPHST and Thailand's Department of Agriculture and with Kasetsart University.



CPHST welcomes the opportunity to collaborate further and looks forward to longer-term scientific exchanges with Thailand and other countries in the region. CPHST sees the leadership role that Thailand plays in the region as offering new and exciting possibilities for optimized safeguarding and productive multilevel ties with our colleagues and counterparts in the Asian theatre.



Submitted by Ron Sequeira & Bob Griffin



Plant Distribution Update Module: An APHIS and NRCS Partnership

March 2005

For the past several years, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) National Plant Data Center (NPDC) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the CPHST Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory (PERAL) have collaborated in order to make the PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>) of greater use for risk analysis and other CPHST activities. One of the major projects in this effort is the development of an online module for collecting new state and county plant distribution data submissions.

The module, called the Distribution Update Module, allows anyone with Internet access to participate in updating state and county distributions in the PLANTS Database. One of the particular goals of this module is to speed the input and subsequent dissemination of distributional information about weeds, especially those that are either spreading rapidly and/or are poorly known. The PLANTS Database is considered another resource for APHIS to learn of new plants to the U.S. or a particular state or track records/reports over time.

Module submissions require documenta-

tion to be considered for inclusion in PLANTS and each submission is evaluated by floristic botanists to assure reliability. Submissions may be documented by a voucher collection deposited at a recognized herbarium, published literature, or observation. If reviewed and verified, the data is then incorporated into the PLANTS Database. To access the Distribution Update module, go to the PLANTS Web site at <http://plants.usda.gov>, and select Distribution Update.

Some Information on the PLANTS Database

The PLANTS Database is an on-line scientifically robust resource providing diverse information on over 43,000 plant species—vascular and non-vascular alike—in the U.S. and its territories. It provides information to as many as 500,000+ extended users (18 million hits) per month. The comprehensive database maintains information—plant distributions, land conservation attributes, species abstracts, legal status, plant classification, nomenclature, onward links, and tens of thousands of images—in one



The DU captures, validates, and minimizes report time for new plant occurrences for species like *Salvinia molesta*, giant salvinia, a serious weed spreading across the U.S.

accessible location for the public, academic community, and government agencies' use in maintaining the ecological health of the land.

For more information on the Distribution Update Module, PLANTS, or the National Plant Data Center, please contact **Rebecca Noricks**, Plant Information Coordinator, at rebecca.noricks@la.usda.gov or (225) 775-6280 x10.



Submitted by Rebecca Noricks & Larry Fowler



Spanish Cold Treatment Visit

February 2005

Larry Zettler and **Scott Wood** visited with representatives of Sanidad Vegetal in Valencia, Spain during early February. The purpose of the visit was to open a direct line of communication with SV regarding cold treatment in Spain, provide new cold treatment information developed by CPHST, discuss the potential implications of implementing new or changed cold treatment regulations, and identify areas where mutual cooperation could improve research activities between SV and CPHST PPQ.

The cold treatment failure in imported Spanish Clementines several years ago resulted in closure of that market to the US for the remainder of the 2001 season. The incident caused many to question the validity of the PPQ cold treatment schedule and prompted CPHST to review the scientific data on which the treatment was based in an effort to determine the cause of the failure. One course of action resulted in extending the cold treatment schedule for an additional 2 days.

Another course of action was to develop a

computational fluid dynamics model of a cold treatment chamber. The model was then used to simulate the effects of operational factors on treatment efficacy to determine if hot spots exist in fruit cargoes under cold treatment. We learned from these simulations that hot spots may, indeed, develop within pallets of fruit and that the normal arrangement and placement of temperature sensors in that cargo might not be located in these hot spots. The model must first be validated with field experiments before operational changes in future cold treatment protocols can be implemented.

In our discussions, SV agreed to assist CPHST in setting up cold treatment experiments to validate the model. Additionally, they agreed to work with CPHST to develop research in support of a reduced cold treatment schedule and on developing additional criteria for determining viability of moribund fruit fly lar-



Left to right: Scott Wood (CPHST), Emilio Sanjuan (Sanidad Vegetal), Javier Rueda (Maersk Sealand), Andres Roman (Desarrollo Hortofruticola de la Safor S.A.), Amparo Sanchez (Hanjin Shipping), Francisco Dalman (Sanidad Vegetal), Andres Pesquera (Saguto Fruit Terminal), Pedro Leal (Ibertrade), Francisco Perez (Ibertrade), Joe Karpati (Sedo Group, Inc.), Rafael Laborda (University PV), Ernesto Santaballa (Sanidad Vegetal)

vae that might survive a cold treatment. Finally, the working group agreed to maintain a working relationship with CPHST with respect to science matters and to meet at least yearly, at alternating sites within the U.S. and Spain.



Submitted by Larry Zettler



Recent Progress in Reducing Cogongrass

March 2005

Cogongrass is a subtropical grass that has rapidly invaded roadsides and forest clearcuts in the southeastern coastal areas, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi. Cogongrass can reduce loblolly pine seedling growth by as much as 90% in the first year of planting. The rhizome biomass can approach 8-9 tons (oven dry biomass basis) per acre in Florida. A field study was installed near Pensacola, FL in Nov. 2004 to develop better methods of herbicide control of cogongrass. An objective of this study was to increase control of cogongrass by increasing foliar absorption and subsequent translocation of the active ingredients into the rhizomes of the plants.

This study involved three spray adjuvants, methylated seed oil (MSO Concentrate), seaweed extract (Stimupro), and an organosilicone surfactant (Silwett L-77) tank mixed with Glypho Plus and



Craig Ramsey researching cogongrass

Chopper. Previous research has shown that Silwett L-77 can significantly reduce foliar absorption times. Another study has shown that methylated seed oil improved control of barnyardgrass from 12-15 fold over the control. Photosynthetic measurements were taken within 45 - 70 hours after the treatments were applied.

A MSO treatment reduced photosynthesis by half compared to the control. Stimupro increased cogongrass photosynthesis within 45 hours after application.

Another field study installed last month involves the long-term control of cogongrass using herbicides followed by shade inhibition from planted pines. The overall objective of this study is to achieve canopy closure within three to four years after planting closely spaced, loblolly pine seedlings. If the pines can provide sufficient shade then long-term control may be possible without the cost of multiple spray applications. Future project plans may include: reducing seedbank viability, herbicide screening trials, and reducing root reserves using IPM methods.



Submitted by Craig Ramsey



First Meeting of the IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments

December 13-17, 2004

CPHST hosted the first ever meeting of the Technical Panel (TP) on Phytosanitary Treatments on December 13-17, 2004 at CPHST HQ in Raleigh. The TP was formed in response to the IPPC's Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) which identified the need for an international standard for phytosanitary treatments.

Technical Panels are standing committees established by, and operate under the guidance of, the Standards Committee (SC) of the IPPC. They assist the SC in the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in specified subject areas that have been identified as a priority. The TP provides the SC with specific draft standards as well as advises the SC on specific scientific and technical matters in their field or activity. Treatment specialists from around the world were in attendance. Participating from CPHST were **Scott Wood** and **Larry Zettler**. **Narcy**

Klag, PPQ, PIM, who is the agency's international standards program manager, also participated as the SC liaison.



Participants of the IPPC Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments

The panel focused on identifying tasks and work plans to initiate the process of soliciting, reviewing, and recommending phytosanitary treatments that would be internationally recognized. The ultimate goal of the TP is to provide an ISPM that

contains a register of approved phytosanitary treatments, an international treatment manual of sorts. International harmonization of phytosanitary measures will facilitate trade and help avoid the use of unjustifiable treatment measures that can be used as barriers to trade.

Specific tasks identified by the TP are to develop: 1) a protocol for conducting scientific research in support of a proposed phytosanitary treatment; 2) guidelines for the submission of that scientific data and for their subsequent review(s); and 3) a procedure for identifying and collecting existing treatments which are internationally needed. A call for treatment needs will be issued in early February, 2005.



Submitted by Larry Zettler & Scott Wood



John Mumford Visits CPHST

February 2, 2005

Dr. John Mumford, Professor of Natural Resource Management and Deputy Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Technology, Faculty of Life Sciences, Imperial College London, came to CPHST to address the issue of "The Future of Biosecurity." Dr. Mumford works at the interface of applied ecological management and social/economic management of environmental research and development projects for tropical and temperate agricultural pests (in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australasia and Latin America) and in the development of environmental management systems. His key research areas are quarantine and eradication policy for invasive pest species, integrated management of major insect pests, and design of decision tools for environmental risk management that apply systems analysis, ecological theory and economic modeling, geographical information systems, expert systems technology and participatory stakeholder

analysis to environmental and pest management.

Dr. Mumford and other researchers at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have developed a model that proposed a method of carrying out biosecurity risk profiling for the United Kingdom by comparing agricultural pest entry under present conditions with those under future conditions to supply biosecurity risk management strategies. Biosecurity risk management strategies are examined because of a perceived increase of frequency of problems, which are more destructive and damaging to the environment and economy, the demands from trade partners, public concern over perceived new environmental dimension, and security threats and capacity. The devastation caused by the last outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the United Kingdom strongly influenced public values, markets, and policy decisions.



John Mumford

An alternative analytical framework can be used in risk management for biosecurity policy-makers to identify a clear list of areas for improvement, priority actions and putting forward an economic model to show worth of investment strategies. In this way, appropriate funding decisions can be made to reduce future pest impacts.



Submitted by Christina Lohs



L-21 CPHST Action Learning Project: "Cooperation through Communication"

February 2, 2005

During PPQ's Mid-level Leadership Program, Leading in the 21st Century (L-21), last year, Executive Team members were asked to submit real-time issues that could be used as action learning projects (ALP) for the L-21 teams. **Dr. Gordon Gordh** proposed a project related to CPHST Customer Service and served as the project champion, while **Mr. Dan Fieselmann** was appointed the project liaison. The project was assigned during the 2nd of 4 workshops to a team whose 5 members represented 4 of the 5 PPQ programs: Plant Health Programs (PHP), CPHST, Eastern Region (ER), and Western Region (WR).



Left to right at L-21 graduation, wearing PPQ Race Team logo caps: Kristian Rondeau, Nicole Mikel-Brumfield, Sherrrena Harrison, Betty Alfred, Ann Wildman, Leeda Wood and Dr. Richard Dunkle

The team developed a working title of "Cooperation through Communication," and focused on identifying methods to improve communication among CPHST and other PPQ entities. **Mrs. Jane Berkow**, Business Practices Consultant, Riverdale, MD, assisted the team in de-

veloping a web-based survey, which was sent to 147 PPQ employees (GS-11 and higher) who were identified based on their required level of interaction and familiarity with CPHST.

Results from the survey indicated that 85% of the survey respondents felt that scientific support is critical to PPQ programs, specifically in eradication, management, and emergency programs; methods development and technology transfer; field use; new pest management and detection; and development of cost-effective PPQ programs. Based on the results and information from the survey, the team developed three recommendations to improve CPHST's customer service: (1) Develop and distribute a clear statement of CPHST's purpose within PPQ through the current newsletter; creation/distribution of other media, including paper and online pamphlets that highlight collaborative projects' updates and new or developing products of ad hoc and Call-for-Work initiatives; (2) Increase "face" time within all levels of PPQ through personal interactions; conduct bi-annual meetings within PPQ; product development based on customers' needs; and site visits by CPHST scientists throughout collaborative projects; and, (3) Increased dissemination of information related to projects and products via Internet postings, periodic emails and annual reports; and increased recognition of the value of cus-



tomers input for development of personalized products or applications.

The team reported the survey results and recommendations to CPHST on December 9, 2004, during the final workshop. The presentation was built around a "car" theme, with improving CPHST customer service portrayed as a car requiring repairs entering a repair shop, undergoing diagnosis and repair, with the end result of a finely-tuned car. During part 2, the team presented their overview of the entire L-21 experience and roles in PPQ, continuing the car theme using a race car team relying on communication to compete and win. The PPQ Executive Team (ET) members comprised the race team, with CPHST represented by **Dr. Gordh** as the leader of Engineering and Repair. The remaining ET members served on the race team as crew chief, spotter, planning and risk manager, drivers, trainers, and operations manager. All other PPQ employees were represented as the at-track and pit crews.



Submitted by Leeda Wood



CPHST Program Analyst Participates in Administrative Training for Foreign Service Nationals

January 10-14, 2005

The APHIS, International Services, hosted "Introduction to Basic Administrative Training for IS Foreign Service Nationals" in Riverdale, Maryland, January 10-14, 2005. A variety of materials was presented to promote uniformity in administrative processes throughout the organization. CPHST employee **Barbara Sowell**, Program Analyst, was selected to prepare and deliver the Status of Funds system module, including both an overview lecture section and demonstration of the automated program. Barbara was a member of the team that originally de-

signed the reporting system which has been used throughout APHIS for several years, and she is considered a subject matter expert utilizing this financial management tool. Barbara formulated this presentation specifically to address the unique application details necessary for the International Services organizational units. The participant list included 18 employees representing more than 10 countries world-wide. The feedback received from the participants' evaluations indicated that the training module was very beneficial, and an overall success.

In addition to serving as an instructor for the "Status of Funds" module, she was also involved in the "Local Ledger" presentation, by assisting participants during the hands-on portion of the course. A third item included providing consultation with the contract programming service representative for the new APHIS Cost Management System prototype development, scheduled for implementation agency-wide for Fiscal Year 2006.



Submitted by Doug Harris & Katie Flanigan



Recent Awards to CPHST Staff

March 2005

Amy Roda and **Jim Smith** of the Mollusk Action Plan Working Group were presented certificates and cash awards by **Joel Floyd**, Staff Officer for Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP), to recognize their contribution to the development of the Giant African Snail New Pest Response Guidelines.

Lynn Garrett, Agricultural Economist for CPHST, was awarded a certificate of appreciation and spot cash award on February 28th for his work in providing information on the economic analysis of Citrus Canker. This was initiated under the CPHST ad hoc project by **Victor Harabin**, Assistant Regional Director, Eastern Region.

Jeff Drake, CPHST's Image Processing Specialist, was awarded first place in Media Cybernetics' 2004 "Image-Pro in Action" Contest for his entry, "Automated Insect Survey Using Image Analysis." Click the link to view more details: http://www.mediacy.com/apps/image_contest_2004.htm



Submitted by Gordon Gordh & Katie Flanigan



CPHST Quality Management Unit Hosts ISO Workshop in Atlanta

February 1-4, 2005

The CPHST Quality Management Unit (QMU) hosted a 4 day workshop on implementing and auditing an International Organization for Standardization, ISO, quality system for laboratories. The workshop was held in Atlanta on February 1-4, 2005 and was attended by **Gordon Gordh, Robert Smith, Lisa Kennaway, Keith Colpetzer, Ken Lakin, Ron Mack, John Tanner, Danny Vasquez, Paul Parker, Leeda Wood, Dave Bartels, Laurene Levy, Renee DeVries, Carey Laney, Ernie Miller, Greg Simmons, Stuart Stein, Ava Ellsberry, John Gallagher** and **Kathy Burch**.

This workshop was the first step in the

CPHST initiative to become certified to the ISO international standard within the next 12 months. CPHST has committed to adhere to the requirements of the ISO quality management system outlined by the International Organization of Standards because of its excellent attributes, including continuous improvement, independent auditing, and national and international recognition. In addition, the International Organization of Standards' quality management system when used properly promotes excellence throughout all functions within the organization and will provide foreign governments, APHIS employees, plant boards, industry, farmers, universities and the American public with confidence in the scientific solutions

developed by CPHST.

As the quality management system is currently envisioned, there will be one quality manual and one set of quality procedures developed for CPHST. Each of CPHST's laboratories will be responsible for the development and implementation of their own technical procedures and any instructions needed to define the tasks described in the CPHST quality procedures. At the Atlanta meeting, initial drafts of the required quality management system documents were drafted or outlined. These documents will be distributed for comments.



Submitted by Kathy Burch



CPHST Serves as Peer Reviewers

March 2005

The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) extended appreciation to CPHST staff for participating as peer reviewers



Program Of Research On The Economics Of
INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

for the Program of Research on the Economics of Invasive Species Management (PREISM). Proposals reviewed for the program focused on applied economic research, and/or decision support system development having direct implications for USDA policies and programs relating to invasive species.

This is the second time CPHST has participated in the review since its initiation in FY 2003. CPHST staff involved in the peer review included: **Allen Auclair, Woody Bailey, Michael Hennessey, James Smith, Eileen Sutker,** and **Lynn Garrett**.

Thirty-two proposals were submitted to ERS for FY 2005. The seven that received funding can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/InvasiveSpecies/FY2004PREISMAwards.htm>. Proposals under the program are funded, inclusive of indirect cost when applicable, at between \$50,000 and \$250,000 (for the

duration of the grant and/or the cooperative agreement, not to exceed 3 years). Information on the next application cycle for PREISM will be announced at the following ERS website: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/InvasiveSpecies/>

PREISM proposals may be submitted by State agricultural experiment stations, colleges, universities, other research institutions or organizations, Federal, State, or county agencies, private organizations, corporations, or individuals.



Submitted by Lynn Garrett



Inside the Treatment Quality Assurance Unit, Raleigh, NC

March 2005

The CPHST Treatment Quality Assurance Unit (TQAU) was established in August of 2003. Previous CPHST AQI treatment units were stationed at Oxford, NC (1995-2003) and initially at Hoboken, NJ (1938-1995). The mission of this new unit is to safeguard American agriculture and natural resources by conducting treatment quality assurance audits (nationally and internationally) on commodity treatments conducted by PPQ, International Services and foreign cooperators. The core activities are recommending quarantine treatments (not in Treatment manual); supporting and overseeing new additions to this manual; certifying cold treatment vessels and containers; approving new treatment procedures, equipment, and fruit packing and wrapping materials; and development of new web based electronic tools for utilization world wide by various regulatory agencies and private industry.

Cold Treatment Program Vessels, refrigerated containers, and facilities must be certified by TQAU before they can conduct cold treatment of imported fruits. TQAU manages the information compiled during the certification process and tracks all imports of cold treated commodities. The cold treatment program has grown significantly since 1996 with the number of imported cartons increasing from 7,900,000 (1996) to 50,501,000 (2003). TQAU has responded by development of a website <http://www.cphst.org/treatment/> which provides industry and regulatory agencies real time data on vessels and containers



Audits have uncovered methyl bromide violations in exhaust units

certified by USDA. During the first 30 days of beta testing this website provided CBP and PPQ with violations resulting in over 40 containers being rejected at US ports of arrival (POA). These containers were loaded at foreign ports but were not certified for in-transit cold treatments. The foreign cooperators now have access

to this web product and are able to select certified containers and vessels to eliminate future rejections at POA.



TQAU Staff: Kellie Shobe, Scott Wood & Dean Komm

An electronic web based Cold Treatment Clearance Report and database (PPQ FORM 556) is being developed and should be available by August 2005. This product will require foreign cooperators to enter all commodity and vessel/container data at the port of origin within 72 hours of departure. Prior to arrival at the POA, electronic notification will be provided to PPQ and CBP to identify incoming CT cargo, means of convenience and estimated data of arrival. This design is laying the groundwork to eventually allow cold treatment data to be forwarded via satellite transmission from the vessel and/or container to the port of arrival (real time). Satellite transmission of data permits development of analytical programming for incoming CT data to assist PPQ in identifying treatment infractions or protocol deviations. Once analyzed, the processed data would be readily available for all authorized USDA and CBP personnel. This equips TQAU with the capabilities to further ensure quality assurance standards are being followed and achieved on all in-transit cold treatments.

Auditing, Recordkeeping and Treatment Recommendations In 2004, TQAU conducted pilot audits to determine at what level future auditing should be performed. Fumigation audits were conducted at ten U.S. ports. Each audit uncovered significant deviations from fumigation and cold treatment procedures. As staffing grows, TQAU plans to institute a full-scale auditing schedule of national and international fumigations and cold treatments. TQAU will also be able to more easily perform record audits since the Fumigant Record (PPQ Form 429) is now web-based. The paper form

was replaced with an electronic version, which collects more information and has key safeguarding and downloading features built in. This e-form is directly connected to the PPQ Treatment Manual index which was also developed by TQAU. This electronic on-line, searchable database which front ends a PPQ Treatment Manual speeds up and improves accessibility to treatment schedules and delivers numerous QA components. Test drive this new product here: <http://www.cphst.org/treatmentindex/>

Digitization of the Peter C. Witherell AQI Library Another project well underway is the digitization of the Peter C. Witherell AQI Library. Historical collections of articles, preprints, and other documents are being entered into a document management system. This database will be a primary source of expedient and easy-access information for CPHST (PERAL and TQAU) and key PPQ headquarters personnel. At completion, this database will house tens of thousands of articles, making it an extremely valuable tool for timely and pertinent data retrieval in support of program treatment decisions and operational procedures contained within the treatment manual.



An audit conducted on Italian grapes revealed sensors were improperly fitted with only 2 grapes & with the tip of the sensor extending beyond the fruit.

TQAU Home Page With a myriad of responsibilities and numerous web based e-forms and database tools, TQAU has developed their own home page. It serves as a centralized venue for PPQ officials, industry, and the general public to learn about the unit's roles and responsibilities. It also provides extensive applications for its user base, such as downloadable and web-linked forms and labels, a time and temperature converter, and regulatory and quarantine treatment information. To gain a greater understanding of TQAU projects and products, visit the TQAU home page at www.cphst.org/tqau.



Submitted by Scott Wood, Dean Komm & Kellie Shobe



CPHST Spotlight: Renee Bagneris

March 3, 2005

We recently saw one of our valued career employees retire. Her letter was quite moving and I thought we should share it with all PPQ staff.



Submitted by Gordon Gordh

Dear Friends and Coworkers,

On March 3, 2005, I will officially retire from Government service after 32 and one half years. They have been years filled with very exciting and rewarding experiences, as well as some times of turmoil. Throughout my experience, I have met and made friends with some amazing people. I want to take the time to thank you all for allowing me to come into your lives and hearts. I have learned quite a bit from my Government service; I have been trained very well for the jobs I've done. The government spared no expense in making that possible. As a result, I have traveled all over this country and met many of you through those training opportunities.

However, I have met most of you through a day to day working environment. We've shared many stressful times and many happy and silly times. Even if we were just classmates at a course or workshop, exchanged ideas and information, or worked side by side, you've touched my life and I have learned valuable things from you all.

You have enriched my life and given me new outlooks on every people. In my own way, I've tried to take all these experiences and make them work positively for me and everyone I come into contact with. But as you know, we don't always do things as well as we'd like. Just know that I've always tried to do my best whether it was in a work situation or a personal one. It mattered to me that things were done in a right way.

As I prepare to leave now, I look back fondly and remember all the times, the places and the experiences we shared. The difficult times fade away and only



the warm friendships and the close working relationships remain. These I will always treasure.

So, as I say goodbye, I say a big Thank You to you all. Without all of you in my life, it wouldn't have been as fulfilling.

Sincerely,
Renee W. Bagneris
Senior Chemist and Acting Quality Manager
FDA/USDA
1972-2005



Publications

March 2005

Victor Mastro, Director of the Pest Survey Detection and Exclusion Lab, along with **Richard Reardon**, USDA Forest Service, recently published a compilation of project summaries from the Emerald Ash Borer Research and Technology Development Meeting in Romulus, Michigan, October 5-6, 2004. Topics include Program Reviews, Biology and Behavior, Host Range, Chemical Control, Survey, Biological Control, and Regulatory Treatment of Emerald Ash Borer.

Lynn Garrett, Agricultural Economist for CPHST, collaborated with **C.S. Kim** and **Glenn D. Schaible** from the USDA Economic Research Service to publish "Economics of Controlling the U.S. Soybean Aphids." Soybeans are the second highest cash crop following corn in the United States. This study measures the economic effects on soybean producers, domestic consumers, and the volume of

soybean exports, of soybean aphid control.

Lynn Garrett also reviewed three workshop abstracts for the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association's Invasive Species workshop that is scheduled for June 12-15, 2005 in Annapolis, Maryland. Three broad areas of research will be highlighted: (1) interactions between trade and invasive species policies; (2) incorporating ecology and biology into economic models for policy evaluation; and (3) examining the efficiency of policies and regulations for managing invasive species.

Allan Auclair, Glenn Fowler, Michael Hennessey, Allan Hogue, M. Keena, David Lance, Robert McDowell, David Oryang and Alan Sawyer recently published "Assessment of the Risk of Introduction of Asian Long-

Horned Beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) in Municipal Solid Waste from the Quarantine Area of New York City to Landfills Outside of the Quarantine Area: A Pathway Analysis of the Risk of Spread and Establishment." *Journal of Economic Entomology* 98(1): 47-60. The article is now printed in the February 2005 issue of the *Journal of Economic Entomology*.

Upcoming publication: Auclair, A.N.D. 2005. Patterns and General Characteristics of Severe Forest Dieback in Northeastern United States. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research* (accepted March 7 2005, in press for July issue).



Submitted by Gordon Gordh
& Katie Flanigan



CPHST Spotlight: Bonnie Floyd

April 16, 2005

Bonnie Floyd will retire April 16, 2005, after a government career spanning 33 years. Bonnie's career started in July 1972 as a Clerk Steno for the Electrical Engineer at the Oxford, ARS facility. In August 1976 she transferred to the Administrative Office as a Clerk Typist and later was promoted to a position of Purchasing Agent. When ARS closed the Oxford facility in 1994, Bonnie was selected as the Acting Administrative Officer for the closure. In this capacity she conducted close-out duties which included assisting employees with retirement, transfers of personnel, and the termination of positions within the laboratory. She remained on the ARS close-out

team until the property was transferred to APHIS in January 1995, at which time she was reassigned to APHIS. Her administrative duties included budget, property, personnel and procurement. She was assigned additional duty with the Cold Treatment Program and was charged with the input and maintenance of the cold treatment and fumigation database records.

Bonnie has been a key player in providing administrative support during the closure of the CPHST Niles, MI Lab in February 2003 and again with the closure of the Oxford Lab. In addition to providing her expertise in these CPHST lab closures,

Bonnie provided the Treatment Quality Assurance Unit her expertise in the Cold Treatment database over the past year. CPHST will truly miss Bonnie and wish her the best of health and happiness in retirement.



Submitted by Doug Harris



CPHST Spotlight: Betsy Randall-Schadel

March 2005

Betsy Randall-Schadel, a native North Carolinian, earned a B.Sc. in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While taking a break from what she thought was her career as a biology and chemistry teacher to hone her skills and pursue a teaching-based M.A. in biology at Appalachian State University, Betsy discovered the wonders of fungi as seen through the eyes of plant pathologist Dr. John Bond. She worked with Dr. Larry Grand at North Carolina State University during her M.Sc. program comparing populations of ectomycorrhizal fungi from a disjunct population

of white pine with those in the general range. She served the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as Seed Pathologist for almost 20 years. During her tenure with NCDA&CS, she obtained her Ph.D. at North Carolina State University working on the seed transmission of *Cylindrocladium black rot* in peanuts with Drs. Jack Bailey and Marvin Beute. While still with NCDA&CS, she embarked on an Intergovernmental Personnel Act loan to the Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory where her efforts focused on analyses of *Phytophthora ramorum* in nursery stock and

wood products. Betsy joined the Staff of the Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory as a plant pathologist in August, 2004. She is currently working with Drs. Gary Cave and Scott Redlin on a risk analysis to support rule-making for *P. ramorum*.



CPHST Spotlight: Greg Parra

March 2005

Greg Parra made the move to CPHST in September 2004 from the Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University. While at NCSU he worked with the soil-borne plant pathogens and ornamental plant pathology research programs. He currently works with the IPM and Emergency Programs unit at CPHST as a Biological Science Technician. Originally from California, Greg has a B.S. in Horticulture from Pennsylvania State University and has work experience in landscape and turf,

plant tissue culture, and in nematology at UC Davis.

Outside of work, Greg spends time involved in sports, baking, being a general 'foodie', drinking coffee, and enjoying the natural areas of the Triangle and North Carolina. He has also been heavily involved in the adaptive sport of Beepball which is basically baseball for the visually impaired both here in North Carolina and in California.



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Client Based Assessment of Ad Hoc Project

March 2005

In April of 2004, at the request of **Dr. Gordon Gordh**, an online Ad Hoc submission website for stakeholders external to CPHST, but internal to PPQ, began to be developed as a one-stop-shop for stakeholders to submit and track their ideas, interact with management, and receive completed reports of their projects. **Laura Duffié** acted as the project

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leader and was responsible for project oversight, management and implementation. **John Hodorowicz**, a programmer at the Center of Integrated Pest Management (CIPM), developed the site according to perceived management needs and continues to improve the site. In September 2004, the site went live. Currently, the Ad Hoc system contains 43 projects, 10 are complete, 6 are in advanced draft, 15 are in progress, 8 are recommended approved, 2 are submitted, 1 redirected, and 1 not accepted. Submissions are entered weekly and products are delivered to stakeholders punctually and regularly.

Vic Harabin, Assistant Regional Director of Eastern Region, submitted an Ad Hoc project, *Citrus Canker Economic Analysis*, with an urgent need to obtain an economic analysis of the cost associated with full eradication, managing the disease, or Federal withdrawal of the Citrus Canker Eradication Project in Florida. A brief interview was conducted with **Vic Harabin** and **Lynn Garrett** to reflect

on their experience of an Ad Hoc project request.

Vic, briefly explain the Citrus Canker Economic Analysis Ad Hoc project you requested.

"USDA is nearing a decision point on the future of the Citrus Canker Eradication Project. It is important to gather basic economic information about Citrus Canker in Florida, the cost of the project to date, and the estimated costs of perusing several options—full eradication, managing the disease, or to withdraw from a Federal role in this project. The recent 2004 hurricanes have spread the disease to new areas, and has made other areas with low level undetected sites to now be detectable. All this raised the issue of whether or not it is practical to proceed with an eradication strategy."

What were the deliverables you requested?

"We requested an economic analysis considering the costs associated with pursuing the options of management, eradication, and Federal withdrawal. More specifically, we needed a list of impacted parties such as businesses, non-commercial interests, etc., the costs of living with the disease, what sectors of the economy are impacted, how foreign agriculture trade will be impacted, and the economic effects felt in other citrus producing States."

Why did you submit an Ad Hoc request?

"We knew that we needed the information quickly, that the project would not

take that long and Lynn Garrett was a strong resource for this type of information."

Was the website and submission application user friendly and efficient?

"The website is easy to use and the application is straight forward with a clear format. It is a good system to capture ad hoc type requests."

Was there communication between you, the CPHST lead scientist, and CPHST management?

"We were able to discuss the project with Lynn prior to the submission and during the process. Overall, the response to the project was very quick."

Did you receive the deliverables you requested?

"With Lynn's knowledge and work experience, he was able to track down a dissertation with all of the information we needed."

How are you using the deliverables you received from your Ad Hoc request?

"This economic analysis is part of the strategic plan for the Citrus Canker Project and determining proper policy decisions. The information was sent up to the Deputy Administrator and other key people in APHIS to help understand the impact of the disease and the positive economic benefit."



Citrus Canker



Submitted by Christina Lohs