

# THE CONNECTICUT ARBORIST

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Connecticut Tree Protective Association, Inc.

Spring-Summer 2017

# **CTPA Summer Meeting - July 20th**

Summertime in tree care. The leaves are out, the world is green and there is time and opportunity to look at trees, see how they are growing, what the various insects are up to along with the other agents in the trees' world; when it is just good to be outside, for yourself and your clients.

Also, it is the time for CTPA's Summer Meeting.

This year, the Summer Meeting will be held on July 20th, at the Farmington Club. Once again, the CTPA Board has put together what promises to be a great event, with a strong educational program, an extensive tradeshow, lots of fellow arborists and tree care enthusiasts and, not the least, the outstanding hospitality of the Farmington Club itself.

#### The Educational Program

The educational programs are the centerpiece of the CTPA Summer Meeting. This year, the programs are set into two tracks. Leading off the first track is Eric Larson, Manager of Yale University's Marsh Gardens. Eric will be speaking at 9:00 am, with his talk repeated at 1:00 pm. His talk is on "A History of Oaks and Their Morphology". Eric is a botanist with a vast knowledge of plants and plant characteristics, including trees. Eric will be talking about oaks – their long history, how humans have put them to use and the specific characteristics of oaks that make them such an important tree. He will also speak about the reasons for the differences, from a biologist's perspective, between the

way white oaks and red oaks do things. Eric Larson has been with Yale's Marsh Botanical Gardens since April 1, 2003. He earned his undergraduate degree in American Studies came at Skidmore College. His horticultural training began at Philadelphia's Longwood Gardens, in their Professional Gardeners Training Program. From there, he developed an interest in the complex relationships between gardening, plants and human culture. The response of local plant communities to climate change also holds his attention.

In that same track, at 10:30 am and again at 2:30 pm, Dr. Richard Cowles of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station will speak on the "Real Facts About Climate Change: How Should We Prepare?" The evidence is in; the climate is changing. But in what ways will these changes effect arboriculture? Rich will give his views on this topic in a talk that is sure to be specific, practical and straight-forward. Attendees can be sure that there will be much to talk about following this talk.

The second track will begin at 9:00 am with John Terault and Todd Martencheck, speaking on "Tree Work Zone Set-up and Roadside Safety". Both work for Asplundh Tree Expert Company. John is Asplundh's Field Supervisor for Connecticut. He is ISA and MAA certified as an arborist, is a

continued on page 4



The Summer Meeting is for learning new things and having questions answered. Yonghao Li, scientist at CAES, addresses a question on plant disease for an attendee.

CTPA Summer Meeting, July 20, 2017 - The Farmington Club, Farmington, CT

# **Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition 2017**

On May 6th, the 13th Annual Connecticut Climbing Competition was held at Harrybrooke Park in New Milford. 24 Climbers took part – 3 women and 21 men.

There are always two impossible-to-miss features to the Climbing Competition: the camaraderie and the competition. The camaraderie is the glue that holds the day together as it defines the spirit of the day. People are there – whether they are climbing, volunteering or spectating – because they enjoy climbing, they

CONNECTICUT TREE
PROTECTIVE
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 1946 Wallingford, CT 06492 203-484-2512 fax: 203-793-7824

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VICE PRESIDENT

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see the personal challenge involved, and they want everyone to bring forward their best effort. It is for that reason that you see climbers sharing tips and cheering each other on, and friends and family watching each climber with shouts and cheers of encouragement.

The competition, though, is the spice that livens up the day. The State of Connecticut is fortunate have some very good climbers. Each vear. people want to know who it is that is going to be on the top of their game during this year's event. At Harrybrooke Park, Tim Reynolds was in the lead in the men's division coming out of the morning preliminary rounds. He, his brother Matt and Kyle Donaldson were then invited, as the three top Connecticut finishers, to compete in the men's Master's Challenge.

The Master's Challenge was held in a great American sycamore in the center of the park. The competition was tight with three very good climbs. The winner was not determined until all of the points were counted, with Matt Reynolds coming out ahead, by a narrow 5.57 points over 2nd place Kyle Donaldson.

Because there were no female climbers who are residents of Connecticut, the women's Master Challenge was not held this year.

#### **Appreciation All Around**

Many people are deserving of special thanks for this great CTPA tradition. Bud Neal, most of all, as the main organizer and helmsman throughout, but also Charlie Iselin, Sandy Ingellis, Cathy Dvorsky and all of the individuals who served on the organizer committee and/or participated as volunteers. The day cannot work without planning; nor can it work without judges, timers, score-keepers, the registration table, the logistics team and more. For

participate each year, somewhere between 25 to 35 volunteers are needed. Volunteer duties range from the jobs of Head Judge and Head Technician (Bruce Duffy and Danny Rodriguez, respectively, this year), to the individuals who order the food and make sure the tents get set-up properly (mostly Sandy and Cathy). The sponsors, of course, provide the financial backing that is needed to purchase new ropes, rent equipment and all of those details that the day depends upon. The sponsors fall into 3 classes. The Gold Sponsors donate \$500 towards the event and. in return, get their logo placed on the climbers' and volunteers' t-shirts. Silver Sponsors donate \$100 and are noted as the sponsor of one of the climbing events. Bronze Sponsors donate \$50 and are listed in the CTCC program booklet, along with

the approximately 25 climbers who

Harrybrooke Park is a beautiful, private park that provided a fantastic location for this event. CTPA thanks Billy Mo Buckbee, Executive Director of Harrybrooke Park, who was unfailingly supportive and helpful throughout. **CTPA** also thanks Sean Emmons, the home town hero who, through his tree care company, Emmons Tree and Landscaping Service of New Milford, helped make the park ready and otherwise contributed significantly to the success of the day.

all of the other sponsors. All are

appreciated deeply.

The generosity and enthusiasm of so many people is a large part of what makes the CTCC such a great event. We are happy to take a moment to thank them for all that they contribute.

More details on the 2017 CTCC are available on the CTPA web site - look under 'Recent Updates'.

## **Scenes from the Connecticut Tree Climbing Competition 2017**



The Top 3 Women Climbers: Becky Aurell, Bear LeVangie and Maria Tranguch. Becky came from Canada for the event.



The Top 3 Men Climbers: Tim Reynolds, Kyle Donaldson and Matt Reynolds. Matt holds the Championship Cup.

## **Connecticut's 2017 Legislative Session**

Connecticut's legislative session came to an end recently, with one bill passed out of the many proposed that would have made changes of interest to arborists, tree wardens or roadside tree managers. First, a quick review of the bills proposed before a closer look at the bill that passed. It must be understood that, at the start of the session, there will be many bills proposed, a good many of which will not get beyond being listed as a title and a bill number. What the legislator is doing is reserving a spot for a more detailed bill that the legislator is contemplating or a constituent has suggested. Many times, the more detailed version does not get developed and so that bill ends up as nothing more than an empty placeholder and a non-starter, come the real work of the legislature.

Most of the work of the legislature in the early part of the session is done in committees. Most of the bills of interest to those in tree care originate in the Environment Committee. One exception in this session is House Bill 5655, which was raised in the Judiciary Committee. The title of this bill is "An Act Concerning a Property Owner's Liability for the Expenses of Removing a Fallen Tree or Limb". Those who follow legislation will recognize this as bill that has been raised in previous legislative sessions. In the 2014 session, a version of this bill passed, only to be vetoed by the Governor. This bill would establish the conditions by which an individual property owner could claim compensation from a neighbor for the clean-up of a fallen tree or tree limb. This year it passed the House but failed to get a vote in the Senate.

Other bills, raised in the Environment Committee, that were of interest in this year's session include Senate Bill 507, which would have allowed certified foresters to serve as qualified tree wardens, HB 6314, an act concerning the public notice of municipal tree removal and SB 754, a

bill concerning herbicide use on state highways. SB 507 stumbled badly out of the gate, when the drafted language of the bill differed sharply from that sought by the bill's proponents, after which it gained no support and died quietly. HB 6314 was one of those placeholder bills that never got to the point of actual drafting and so never even made it to a public hearing.

SB 754 has a more detailed story. This bill was followed by CT-EC, the Connecticut Environmental Council, of which CTPA is a member. Originally, this bill was proposed as a complete ban on the use of herbicides along state highways. Despite many opponents, it moved forward with the strong support of certain members of the Environment Committee. However, once it reached the Senate floor, the bill was modified by amendment, to instead allow the application of herbicides along state highways, but only after 48 hours notice by the DOT. In this form, the bill passed the Senate. In the end, though, it died as this year's legislative session concluded, by not being brought up for a vote by the House.

Another bill involving the Department of Transportation also looked to have a good chance of passage before ultimately failing. HB 6123 would have required DOT to "develop guidelines governing the management of vegetation and tree removal along state highways" with the further requirement that "such guidelines concerning vegetation management shall be reviewed and approved by a licensed arborist if the services of such a licensed arborist are available from a licensed arborist who is employed at either the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or the Department of Transportation". This bill made it through the House but failed to get a vote in the Senate.

continued on page 4

#### **Legislation (continued)**

It is worth taking note that both HB 5655 and HB 6123 made specific mention of the services of a licensed arborist. In HB 5655, one of the conditions for a property owner to claim payment from a neighbor is that the tree had been inspected by an arborist, who had documented the likelihood of the tree or its limb to fail. These two bills can be taken as clear indications that the legislature places value on the arborist license.

The bill that succeeded in passing through the legislature is HB 6356, "An Act Concerning Public Notice of Tree Removal on Municipal Property". This bill largely serves to extend the provisions in the existing statute Sec. 23-65 regarding a tree warden's responsibility. The statute in prior form gives the tree warden the ability to establish a permit process for the removal of any tree on "any public way or grounds". In the updated bill, trees "on any municipal property" are also included. In addition, the new legislation clarifies some of the details in Sec. 16-234 regarding the notice that must be given to property owners in situations relating to utility tree work along public roads.

Because this bill passed both houses it is now known as Public Act 17-117. At the time of this writing, it is not yet law, as the Governor has not signed it. Given that the bill passed overwhelmingly in both houses, it is very likely that it will proceed on and become law.

Finally, there is the interesting story of SB 836. CTPA leadership chose to testify on this bill before the Environment Committee, as it, it its initial form, would have changed the Arborist Law (CGS 23-61a-m).

SB 836 was largely proposed by DEEP to clarify and streamline certain provisions relating to fines that DEEP is responsible for. This bill caught the attention of CTPA's board, as it would have changed the fines for those practicing arboriculture without a license from a range between \$1,000 to \$2,500 per day to a maximum total of \$1,000, plus \$100 per day of occurrence. At first, the board opposed this change out of concern that it would weaken enforcement of the Arborist Law. However, conversations with DEEP staff convinced the board that the opposite was true; that the lower fines would allow DEEP to do more to enforce the law, as the lower fines would give DEEP greater flexibility to act without having to go through the more cumbersome procedures that are triggered elsewhere under state policies by the higher fines.

CTPA President Bud Neal and Past-President Charlie Iselin in their testimony expressed to the Environment Committee the importance of the Arborist Law to arborists and the need for practical and effective enforcement efforts. In the end, their testimony proved moot, as the final version of the bill did not include reference to the Arborist Law. As a result, the Arborist Law remains unchanged.

### **CTPA Summer Meeting (continued)**

past president of the Massachusetts Arborist Association and former member of the ANZI Z133.1 Committee. He is also a member of the CTPA Safety Committee. Todd is Asplundh's Regional Safety Supervisor, covering Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. He has 20 years of experience in line clearance work, is a Certified Tree Care Professional and active with the National Safety Council. Both men are passionate about safety in tree work.

John and Todd's commitment is reflective of the importance Asplundh places on safety. As a large and successful tree care company, Asplundh is in position of influence within the world of tree care. On their web page, at the very top, the company lays out their commitment to safety through a Statement of Principles (*see below*).

The talk on Tree Work Zone Set-up and Roadside Safety will be repeated at 2:30 pm.

The second talk in the second track will be led by Dr. Vicki Smith, Deputy State Entomologist at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Vicki will lead a discussion on Forest Health.

In discussing the health of the trees and forests in Connecticut, where does one begin? There are gypsy moths, the recent drought and its ongoing effects on trees, winter moth, emerald ash borer, concerns about

continued on page 5

#### **Asplundh's Safety Principles**

The following Safety Principles are from the Asplundh Tree Expert Company's website. They are included here to get people thinking about the need for safety and to help prepare them for the talk on safety to be given at the CTPA Summer Meeting.

Every employee, from a newly-hired groundperson to a top-level manager, must agree to be guided by the following principles:

- All injuries are preventable.
- No job or activity is worth risking injury.
- Working safely is a condition of employment.
- Management is responsible for providing the environment for everyone to work safely.
- Each individual shares in the responsibility for the safety of themselves and others.
- We believe prevention of injuries is good business.
- We promote off-the-job safety for our employees.
- Safety is led by senior management, implemented by line management, with each level accountable to the one above and responsible for the one below.
- We design and integrate safety into our management decisions.

# CTPA Summer Meeting (continued)

oak wilt and thousand cankers disease — and the list is just beginning. Fortunately for folks in tree care, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station keeps up on such issues as a key part of its core duties. This is not just so that the scientists and researchers at the Station can be informed themselves, but also for the benefit of everyone who needs the information throughout the state. As the Station's motto says, they are "Putting Science to Work for Society".

Vicki has worked closely with the CTPA often, over a number of years. She and her co-workers lead the monitoring efforts regarding the spread of insects and diseases throughout the state's forests, including recording where defoliations and mortality are occurring and documenting the causes. She and her inspectors have flown in planes, tromped through the woods and stood in the middle of streams, making observations and collecting data, all in the effort to discover the latest plot twists in the ongoing story of nature in Connecticut. They also work hard to ensure that this story is being told to those whose livelihoods depend upon knowing it. This includes anyone in tree care, as this information is vital to us.

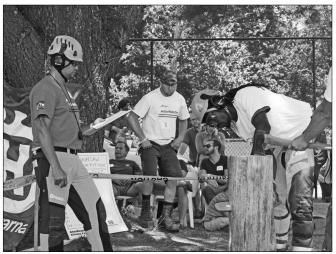
Dr. Smith earned her PhD at North Carolina State, after getting her bachelor's degree from Ohio Northern and her Master's from Ohio State. In addition to being Deputy State Entomologist, Vicki has a background in plant pathology, with an expertise in diseases of landscape and bedding plants, as well as knowledge of invasive insects. Among the insects and diseases she has researched are boxwood blight, Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, light brown apple moth, chrysanthemum white rust, and *Phytophthora ramorum*.

Please Note—because of the track approach that is being used this year in organizing the educational sessions, it is important that you go to the second session in the same track as that of the first session you attended, if you wish to attend all four sessions.

For example, if you participate in the "History of Oaks" session first, then you should attend the "Real Facts on Climate Change" second. Likewise, if you attend "Work Zone Safety" first, you should attend the "Forest Health" session second. Otherwise, you will not have the opportunity to hear all four of the educational sessions. This is because the afternoon sessions are not going to be given in the same order as the morning sessions.

#### **Also Happening**

Included in the day's program as well is the Chainsaw Cutting Competition, hosted by ArborMaster Training. To start off this competition, the ArborMaster trainers will discuss, demonstrate and then give detailed explanations as to the proper way to handle a chainsaw to achieve precise



How is the notch coming? A participant in the Chainsaw Cutting Competition looks to get the angle right, as a second competitor looks on. This event will be held again this year.

results. A select group of attendees will then be given the opportunity to show how well they have absorbed these lessons by participating in a chainsaw precision cutting competition.

This is a fun event with a serious educational purpose behind it. Attendees and competitors alike will have lots to cheer about as they become drawn into the proceedings. They will also come away with a better understanding of the right way to use a chainsaw, to achieve results and for the sake of safety.

Of course, this is not all that will be happening at the CTPA Summer Meeting! For many people, the highlight of the day is the many exhibitors who will be there, in either of the two exhibit areas. In the exhibit area under the tent, adjacent to the food court, several dozen vendors. service providers, non-profit organizations and other go-to resources will have booths set up for attendees to visit. The wealth of knowledge and breadth of information that gets exchanged across these tables during the course of a single Summer Meeting is staggering to contemplate. In the field past the meeting buildings is the outdoor exhibit area. This, too, will be a busy place. Here, exhibitors with larger trucks, lift devices, merchandise trailers and more will be gathered. This will be another great place to either kick the tires or kick the bull, as the moment would have it.

And, in addition to all of this, there is the food. The Farmington Club is famous for the variety and the quality of the food that they provide throughout the full length of the Summer Meeting. This includes the chili and clam chowder in the morning through to the hot dogs, hamburgers and ice cream at the end of the day – but we don't want to leave out mentioning the steamship round of

continued on page 7

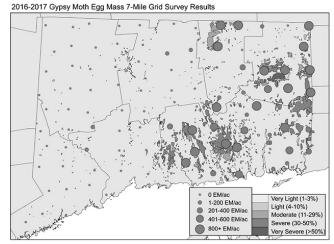
# The Gypsy Moths - Rough Notes 2017

The following rough notes are meant to encourage discussion at the CTPA Summer Meeting. They are comments jotted down in early June, during the height of the gypsy moth infestation. They are intended, in part, to help those in areas of Connecticut (outside of eastern and central Connecticut) not hard hit by the insects.

- 1) The number of egg masses readily observable in parts of the state in the second half of 2016 indicated that there was going to be a huge hatch in 2017. The CT Agricultural Experiment Station assessed some sites with over 800 egg masses per acre. Assuming 100 viable caterpillars per egg mass (a conservative estimate), this translates to over 80,000 caterpillars per acre, or a staggering 51 million plus caterpillars per square mile. This assumes, of course, that the square mile was completely infested throughout.
- 2) While people expected that the maimaiga fungus would kick in if we had a wet spring, the fungus usually does not become active until about the 3rd or 4th instar. That means that there would be a lot of caterpillars doing a lot of feeding in heavily infested areas before the fungus becomes active.
- 3) In addition to the gypsy moth defoliation of the prior year, there was the drought of 2015 and 2016. Individually, either of these factors alone would be enough to stress trees. Put together, it says that a lot of trees were already vulnerable, even without the additional stress of this year's defoliation.
- 4) The spring of 2017 was, for the most part, cool as well as wet. This cooler weather may have led to a staggered hatch and/or variable rates of growth for the caterpillars. As a result, there seems to be a wider variation in size of larvae than is usual.
- 5) Despite plenty of rain, the fungus has been slow to kick in. This might be be because of the cool weather slowing the caterpillars' growth. In order for the spread of the fungus to be initiated, the caterpillars need to come out of the tree and down into the soil, where they contact the fungus. Besides slowing their growth, the cool weather may have reduced the caterpillars inclination to come out of the trees. Part of the reason for the caterpillars leaving the crowns of trees is to avoid the hotter parts of the day.
- 6) In the previous two years (2015 and 2016), the moths seemed to be doing much of their feeding on a wider range of species, including maples. However, in 2017, oaks, white oaks in particular, are the clear feeding preference, with many oaks nearly or completely defoliated by the early days of June.
- 7) Witch hazel appears to be a very acceptable understory food source for the gypsy moth.

- 8) Towards the end of the second week of June, scattered dead caterpillars could be observed in the canopy if not on the trunks of trees.
- 9) What does all of this mean in the context of a decision as to whether to spray?
  - a. If a decision is made to spray, it is better to make that decision early. The flexibility one has decreases rapidly once the infestation is underway.
  - b. Timing of the sprays may depend upon the hatch. Should late hatches have an influence on the gypsy moth spray schedule?
  - c. At a certain point in the season, the question needs to be raised is the spraying being done to reduce defoliation in the current year, the nuisance level fo the insects, or the number of egg masses to be produced next year?
  - d. How should one consider stress on a tree when making a determination as to whether to spray or not?
- 10) It will be important to monitor the trees most heavily infested this year, to be prepared for effects from stress on these trees that will appear next year.

- compiled by Chris Donnelly



CAES's map showing the number of egg masses in locations throughout the state. Visit www.ct.gov/caes/gypsymoth.



## **CTPA Summer Meeting (continued)**

roast beef, the chicken or the ham, or any of the vegetables and salads that the chefs at the Club do such a good job providing for us every year. One could spend the whole day eating if there were not so much else to do.

Among the other things to do is the opportunity to catch up and share stories with old friends and new. CTPA likes to bill this meeting and the Annual Meeting as the premier one-day gatherings of arborists and those active in tree care in the country, if not in the world.

Because of the quality of the meeting, the quality of the people who attend is extraordinary. Typical attendance is in the range of 600-700 people. This is an excellent opportunity to share notes and swap comments with people

from throughout the field who share your experience, as well as with those who perhaps see it from a slightly different angle but are just as dedicated to trees. The fellowship and interaction within the meeting is, arguably, the best part of the whole day.

Registration remains open through the CTPA web site – www.CTPA.org. Walk-in registration will also be available on the day of the meeting. Registration before July 13th is \$70 for members and \$95 for non-members. On or after the 13th and at the door, registration is \$10 more per person.

CEU's will be available.

See you there!

## The Presentation of the CTPA Arborist Scholarship

At this year's Summer Meeting, CTPA will present its Annual Arborist Scholarship to Chris Panullo. Normally, this award is given at the Annual Meeting in January. However, Chris was not able to attend that meeting. As a result, CTPA President Bud Neal will make the presentation on July 20th, at noon time.

This presentation takes on additional significance, as the funding for this year's scholarship was raised to honor of the memory of Mike LeBlanc, who past away last year. Mike was a dedicated arborist who believed deeply in his profession. It was Mike's family who suggested that a scholarship to a young person just starting his or her career is a fitting way to remember Mike. The CTPA Board is in wholehearted agreement.

The Arborist Scholarship is a \$2,000 award that is funded through the Oscar P. Stone Research Trust Fund, which in turn draws most of its funding from the sale of raffle tickets at the Summer and the Annual Meeting.

Members of the LeBlanc family have been invited to attend the Summer Meeting, to meet Chris.

## The CT Agricultural Experiment Station Releasing BioControls - EAB and HWA



Bolts containing the EAB parasitoid T. planipennisi, about to be attached to ash trees. Photo courtesy of Aspetuck Land Trust.

Recently, as part of the effort to control the emerald ash borer, Dr. Claire Rutledge began releases of a small wasp, *Tetrastichus planipennisi*, in Weston, within the Trout Brook Valley Conservation Area. Releases of a similar, parasitoid, *Oobius agrili*, will begin later this summer.

This release was at the request of the Aspetuck Land Trust. *T. planipennisi* parasitizes EAB's larvae, while *O. agrili* feeds on its eggs.

Dr. Rutledge has also released these parasitoids in Sherman, Hamden, Middlebury, Prospect, Plymouth, Litchfield, Simsbury, East Windsor, East Haddam and Cromwell. The parasitoids were produced and supplied by the USDA EAB Parasitoid Rearing Facility in Brighton, MI.

Also, earlier this year, Dr. Carole Cheah of CAES released

approximately 2,000 beetles that are predatory on the hemlock woolly adelgid. These beetles, *Sasajiscymnus tsugae*, were released in 4 different State Forests. The *S. tsugae* were a kind donation from Tree-Savers in Greentown, PA. Tree-Savers is the only commercial rearer of *S. tsugae*.

With these biocontrols, the goal is to provide a check on the ability of the invasive insects to reach outbreak status. As they limit the explosive growth of the invasive insects, these deliberately-introduced insects will allow the native trees a chance to regrow and, it is hoped, find a balance that includes the continued survival of the tree. As part of that scenario, some numbers of both the harmful insect and the introduced control insect will remain.

# **CTPA Celebrates Arbor Day in Windsor**



CTPA celebrated Arbor Day by planting an American hophornbeam tree at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Valley Lab in Windsor. The event also marked the honoring of the fifth-grade artists who created posters for Arbor Day, illustrating their favorite tree.

Dr. Jim LaMondia, Director of the Valley Lab, hosted the event and also showed the students around the Station. Arbor Day Committee Chair Sean Redding organized the celebration and served as MC. As described by CTPA's Executive Secretary Cathy Dvorsky, "The Arbor Day Celebration was a huge success. It was good to see all the students help plant the tree and be so engaged in the station tour. The bugs were a huge hit!"

Save the date - October 26, 2017 - CTPA's Electrical Hazard Awareness Training to be held in Berlin.



#### **More Scenes from Last Year's Summer Meeting!**



A reunion of two of UConn's arborists, as Leo Kelly looks on.



Rich Herfurth, speaking last year on "Emergency Preparedness".