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Selected Publications of Mike Villani

- Villani, M.G., Allee, L.L., Preston-Wilsey, L., Consolie, N., Xia, Y., Brandenburg, R.L. Use of radiography and tunnel castings for observing mole cricket behavior in soil. American Entomologist.
- Fergusson-Kolmes, L., Fry, R.C., and Villani, M.G. Investigations of the virulence of *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Deuteromycetes) against two scarab species: Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica* Newman), and Cranberry root grubs (*Lichnanthe vulpina* Hentz). J. Environ. Entomol.
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- Portillo-Aguilar, C., Villani, M.G., Tauber, M., Tauber, C., and Nyrop, J.P. 1999. Movement and infectivity of three entomopathogenic nematode species (Rhabditida: *Heterorhabditidae* and *Steinernematidae*). Effect of soil texture and bulk density. Environ. Entomol. 28: 1021-1035.
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- Cowles, R.S. and M.G. Villani. 1996. Susceptibility of Japanese beetle, Oriental beetle, and European chafer (Coleoptera: *Scarabaeidae*) to Halofenozide, an insect growth regulator. J. Econ. Entomol. 89:1556-1565.
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Scanning the Journals

Mike's publications record demonstrates his commitment to collaborations. Note his involvement in areas outside of turf, especially basic research with soil insect behavior.



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Mike authored over 40 scientific publications with over 50 scientists. The Villani Soil Insect Laboratory at Cornell's Ag Experiment Station in Geneva continues to interact with scientists interested in exploring soil insect research techniques.

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Scanning the Journals

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Tribute

Our own families were important to Mike, and that endeared him to us. On numerous occasions he would say that difficulties we might be facing at home were more important than any problems we might have at work and that home issues should be dealt with first so that we could approach our research in the lab with the right attitude.

No job in the lab was too menial for Mike. He would pitch in to do whatever was required at the moment. Mike used to say that once you had dug ditches for sewer lines by hand (one of his summer jobs as a student) it was hard to think of yourself in an exalted manner. This attitude spilled over in his dealings with everyone he encountered. Even as a student at North

Citation of Merit Award

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Mike has made major contributions to the turfgrass industry, publishing excellent reference materials. These include research publications, technical and extension articles, and two important entomology references. The first book, *The ESA Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests* was coedited with Dr. Rick Brandenburg. Most recently, he helped to revise the classic book *Turfgrass Insects of the United States and Canada*,

Management. In: Handbook of Pest Management in Agriculture 2nd edition, Vol. 1. (pp. 237-255) D. Pimentel (ed.). CRC Press.

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- Villani, M.G., and R.J. Wright. 1989. Managing the scarab grub complex in turfgrass: Some ecological considerations. In: Integrated Pest Management for Turfgrass and Ornamentals.
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Carolina State University Mike never maintained a mental hierarchy of people; he never treated people by what he thought they could do for him or how important they thought they were. He was present to the situation wherever he was and people felt that.

In my own situation, he was the person responsible for my beginning Graduate School at Cornell University in the Employee Degree Program to pursue a Ph.D. In 1993, he urged me to begin and then gave me the latitude to do what I needed to do to pursue my project.

Because of Mike, I've trapped beetles on cranberry bogs in Massachusetts, dug grubs in Honduras and Nicaragua, and roller-bladed on Venice Beach in California. He was a great encourager and an asker of hard questions about my research that made sometimes squirm. He loved a good discussion and was always ready to sit down and talk about ecology and behavior or the meaning of life. One of my most treasured memories of Mike is him walking off the elevator in the morning towards my corner office saying, "What's it all mean, Paul?".

Nancy and I are better people because of him We miss him greatly.

with Dr. Patricia Vittum. and Dr. Haruo Tashiro.

In 1997, Mike was awarded the Entomology Society of America Recognition Award in Urban Entomology. Earlier this year, Cornell promoted him to the rank of full professor.

We are proud to have Michael working for us and our industry here in New York State, and it is my pleasure to grant him our highest honor, the Citation of Merit Award.



Mike's scientific contributions are his professional legacy. You can help sustain this legacy by contributing to The Mike Villani Graduate Student Research Fund in Entomology being established at the Geneva Station. Further details are on page 2.

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