

Northeastern Division APS
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
(Quebec, October 29, 2009)

The 69th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Division (NED) of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) was held October 28-30 in Quebec City (QC, Canada). NED-APS president James LaMondia called the Annual Business Meeting to order at 5:00 pm on October 29 and welcomed members to the meeting. Twenty members were in attendance.

Moment of Silence in Memory of Deceased Colleagues (NED-APS Councilor, Rob Wick)

Councilor Rob Wick called for a moment of silence to remember those members of the Division who have died since the 2008 meeting.

Comments from APS President (Barbara Christ)

APS President Barbara Christ gave a slide presentation and made additional comments regarding the activities and health of the Society. She presented APS goals (strong leadership, weather economic times, create possibilities for next generation, best serve our members and science, connect with global membership, further grow the Society, create professional and personal relationships) and ad hoc committees (International seed federation, Leadership institute, APS governance structure) investigating new directions and activities. Regarding the APS governance structure, she explained that recommendations encompass the six following focus areas: executive committee, size of council, communication, leadership development, membership and scientific planning board. Final recommendation will be made to Council in 2010 mid-year. She then presented current APS initiatives (future education in plant pathology, review of the annual meeting format, new information delivery products, visioning forum, cash conservation initiative) and invited the members of the NED to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting that will be held August 7-11 in Nashville (TN).

Report of NED-APS Councilor (Rob Wick)

NED-APS councilor Rob Wick submitted a written report (posted at website of the NED) addressing the following points: future Annual Meeting dates and locations, APS website, APS governance, business during the Annual Meeting in Portland (2009). A letter written to Chair John Rupe by NED councilor regarding the change of the regional representation by councilors currently in place was presented in the report.

Presentation and Approval of 2008 Minutes (Norm Lalancette)

Vice President Norm Lalancette presented the minutes of the 2008 meeting. No additions or modifications were requested. A motion to accept the minutes passed unanimously.

Presentation and Approval of Treasurer's Report (Russell Tweddell)

Membership. Division membership dropped between 2008 (275 members) and 2009 (264 members) by eleven members.

Johnston Memorial Travel Award. In order to bring the contributions to the Award to \$10 000, the Division gave \$2 631 to the Foundation. According to the APS foundation guidelines, this will allow the Award to be offered every year starting in 2010.

Meeting Advertisement. As suggested last year, email advertising the Annual Meeting was sent not only to NED members but also to APS members residing in the Northeast region. Moreover, the email was sent to members of the Quebec Society for the Protection of Plant (QSPP).

Division Statements. Division statements were presented to the members. As of 9/30/09, the Division had a balance of \$14 165.72 in the treasury. The members discussed the way the money of the Division is invested by the Society and wondered why the Division is not consulted in this matter. The following motion was accepted unanimously: The parent society (APS) should consult the Division on the choices of the investments.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Local arrangements (Russell Tweddell). A total of 70 registered participants attended the meeting. Nine and 14 persons registered for Old Quebec tour and Forest Pathology tour, respectively. Twenty-six contributed papers were presented including nine entered into the *Graduate Student Competition*. Seven presentations were given by invited speakers (Symposia). Twenty-eight abstracts were submitted for publication to *Phytopathology*. Total meeting receipts were \$7 160 USD, not including payments for banquet and for publication of the abstracts. Meeting expenses (hotel, program, office supplies, APS staff, etc.) are estimated to approximately \$8 779 CDN; several expenses (\$5 195 CDN) were paid by the sponsors. The anticipated account balance is a gain of approximately \$3 576 USD.

Nominations (Wade Elmer). Last year both candidates for secretary-treasurer, Beth Gugino and Russell Tweddell, received the same number of votes. It was then decided that both candidates will be accepted and will serve consecutively. So Russell Tweddell served in 2009 and Beth will serve as secretary-treasurer in 2010. Consequently, no election was conducted this year.

Merit and Early Career Awards (Dan Cooley). Two nominations and one nomination were submitted for the *Award of Merit* and the *Early Career Achievement Award*, respectively. It was decided that both candidates for the *Award of Merit* and the candidate for the *Early Career Achievement Award* will receive the awards. The names of the awardees will be announced during the banquet*.

*During the banquet, the Division presented the *Early Career Achievement Award* to Stacy Bonos (Rutgers University) and the *Award of Merit* to Richard Bélanger (Université Laval) and George Abawi (Cornell University).

Graduate Student Award (Bob Marra). Nine students participated in the *Graduate Student Competition*. The name of the winner** of the "*Graduate Student Presentation Award*" will be announced during the banquet.

**Joseph Roberts (Rutgers University) won the "*Graduate Student Presentation Award*" with his presentation entitled "*Summer N-fertilization effects on annual bluegrass putting green turf*".

Site Selection (Norm Lalancette). The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held October 27-29 at the Hotel Northampton (Northampton, MA) with Rob Wick and Frank Caruso heading the local arrangements committee. Based on past rotation, Connecticut was scheduled for the 2011 meeting. It was however suggested to hold the 2011 meeting at Rutgers University (NJ) (or near the campus) since the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology will be celebrating 100 years of plant pathology at Rutgers in 2011. The suggestion was very well welcomed by the members. A motion to hold the 2011 Annual Meeting at Rutgers University (NJ) passed unanimously. The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held in Connecticut.

Symposium Planning (Andy Wyenandt). Two Symposia were planned for the meeting. The Symposium, titled Plant Defense Mechanisms, opened the meeting on Thursday (October 29) morning. The Symposium, titled Breeding for Improved Disease Resistance in Plants, is scheduled for Friday (October 30) morning. The invited speakers are Richard Bélanger (Université Laval) on “*The mechanisms of silicon-induced disease resistance*”, Kamal Bouarab (Université de Sherbrooke) on “*Elicitation and suppression of plant immunity*”, Armand Séguin (Canadian Forest Service) on “*Will the poplar-rust pathosystem become a model in molecular forest pathology?*”, Danny Rioux (Canadian Forest Service) on “*Structural defense mechanisms in trees: what’s new?*”, Stacy Bonos (Rutgers University) on “*Fifty years of breeding for disease resistance in turfgrasses: Where we’ve been and where we’re going*”, Marie-Josée Mottet (Direction de la recherche forestière, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune) on “*Breeding hybrid poplar to improve resistance to Septoria musiva in Québec*”, and Philippe Tanguay (Canadian Forest Service) on “*Breeding strategy for improving resistance to white pine blister rust (Cronartium ribicola)*”. Thanks to Danny Rioux (local arrangements committee) and Bruce Clarke for their help in recruiting speakers. Thanks to all the speakers.

Extension/Industry Committee (Stacy Bonos). The meeting took place Wednesday October 28 at 1:30 pm. A total of 20 persons attended the meeting presided by Andy Wyenandt. Presentations included several interesting reports of plant diseases in the Northeast.

Old Business

At the 2007 meeting in Cape May, an ad hoc committee (Rob Wick [chair], Dan Cooley, Margery Daughtrey) was charged with obtaining feedback from NED members, on optimum meeting times and sites. Rob Wick presented the results of a survey conducted by the committee in 2009. Different ways to increase the number of attendees were then discussed including the followings: 1) inform people 3-4 months in advance about the program of the meeting, 2) center the meeting around three major departments (Rutgers, Penn State, Cornell) and every fourth year or so go for an other venue (Quebec, Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut...), 3) joint with Potomac Division or with other societies (Entomological Society), and 4) offer attractive symposium.

New Business

Rutgers 100th anniversary (Norm Lalancette). This was addressed under the heading *Site Selection*.

Introduction of NED-APS Officers for 2010

President

Norman Lalancette

Rutgers University

Agricultural Research and Extension Center

121 Northville Road

Bridgeton, NJ 08302-5919

Phone: (856) 455-3100

FAX: (856) 455-3133 Email: lalancette@njaes.rutgers.edu

Term: 29 Oct. 2009 – 28 Oct. 2010

Immediate Past President

James A. LaMondia

Connecticut Agric Exp Station

PO Box 248 - Plant Path Dept

153 Cook Hill Rd - Valley Lab

Windsor, CT 06095-0248

Phone: (860) 683-4982

FAX: (860) 683-4987 Email: james.lamondia@po.state.ct.us

Term: 29 Oct. 2009 – 28 Oct. 2010

Vice President

Russell J. Tweddell

Département de phytologie

Pavillon de l'Environnement

Université Laval

Québec, Canada G1V 0A6

Phone: 418-656-2131 ext. 4553

FAX: 418-656-7871 Email: Russell.Tweddell@fsaa.ulaval.ca

Term: 29 Oct. 2009 – 28 Oct. 2010

Secretary-Treasurer

Beth K. Gugino

The Pennsylvania State University

219 Buckhout Laboratory

University Park, PA 16802-4507

Phone: (814) 865-7328

FAX: 814-863-7217 Email: bkgugino@psu.edu

Term: 29 Oct. 2009 – 28 Oct. 2010

Councilor of the NED

Wade H. Elmer

Connecticut Agric Exp Station

New Haven, CT 06504-1106

Phone: (203) 974-8503

Fax: (203) 974-8502

E-mail: wade.elmer@po.state.ct.us

Term: 2009 – 2012

At 6:15 pm, a motion was made to adjourn and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Tweddell
Secretary-Treasurer
NED-APS