

APS Northeast Division Gathers in Massachusetts for 70th Annual Meeting

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The Northeastern Division of APS held its 70th annual meeting October 27–29, 2010, at Hotel Northampton, Northampton, MA. **Robert Wick**, University of Massachusetts, assisted by **Frank Caruso**, University of Massachusetts, handled local arrangements for a meeting that hosted 63 attendees who contributed a total of 39 presentations to the program. Before the meeting officially kicked off, attendees had the option of hiking up to Mt. Holyoke on what turned out to be a very rainy Wednesday



Nicholas Brazee (left) receives the Graduate Student Presentation Award from Beth Gugino.

morning. Fortunately for the group, the weather broke just long enough to keep the adventurous hikers mostly dry! Wednesday afternoon was reserved for the annual extension/industry meeting presided by Northeastern Division President **Norman Lalancette**, Rutgers University, that provides researchers and industry representatives an opportunity for an informal discussion about applied plant pathology. The evening social focused around a cocktail and music performed by several of our own very talented division members.

The meeting kicked off on Thursday morning with a symposium entitled, “Challenges and perspectives of plant-parasitic and beneficial nematodes in plant production,” presided over by Wick. Presentations were made by the invited speakers, who included **George Abawi**, Cornell University; **Don Dickson**, University



Andy Wyenandt (right) receives the Early Career Achievement Award from Jim LaMondia.

of Florida; **Jim LaMondia**, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; and **Parwinder Grewal**, The Ohio State University. Symposium organizers capitalized on the fact that the invited speakers were already in town attending the Northeast Regional NE-171 nematology project meeting held during the two days prior to the division meeting. The morning was concluded by the first contributed paper session presided over by **Geunhwa Jung**, University of Massachusetts.

Thursday afternoon, the Graduate Student Presentation Competition took place, presided over by Secretary-Treasurer **Beth Gugino**, who was joined on the judging panel by **Margery Daughtrey**, **Andy Wyenandt**, and **Gaston Laflamme**. Thirteen students participated in this year's competition with participants representing Brock University, Cornell University, Rutgers University, The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), Université Laval, University of Massachusetts, University of New Hampshire, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. **Nicholas Brazee** (University of Massachusetts; advisor, Wick) won the competition for his presentation entitled, “*Armillaria* species distribution and site relationships in *Pinus* and *Tsuga*-dominated



Gaston Laflamme (right) receives the Award of Merit from Jim LaMondia.

forests in Massachusetts.” He received year-long memberships to both APS and the Northeastern Division, a one-year subscription to the APS journal of his choice, a \$500 toward travel to an APS scientific meeting in the upcoming year, as well as an engraved plaque.

On Thursday evening, banquet attendees were addressed by APS President **John Sherwood**, University of Georgia, and Lalancette. During the banquet, the division presented the Award of Merit to Laflamme, Canadian Forest Service), and the Early Career Achievement Award to **Andy Wyenandt**, Rutgers University, and announced Brazee as the Graduate Student Presentation Competition winner. Gaston was honored for his outstanding contributions to



Norman Lalancette (left) passes the gavel to Russell Tweddell.

forestry research and the scientific community in addition to his seemingly limitless enthusiasm and devotion to the science of plant pathology. Wyenandt was honored for his significant contributions as a young scientist to vegetable pathology and his service to both APS and the Northeastern Division. The banquet came to a close with the passing of the American chestnut gavel from outgoing President Lalancette to Vice President **Russell Tweddell**, Université Laval.

The program on Friday began with a second symposium entitled, “Emerging trends in plant health management,” presided over by **Danny Rioux**, Canadian Forest Service. Presentations were made by four invited speakers, including **Bruce Clarke**, **Bingru Huang**, and **Don Kobayashi**, Rutgers University; and **John Kaminski**, PSU. The symposium concluded with a panel discussion that included all symposium speakers in addition to **David Rosenberger** and Daughtrey (Cornell University) and Wyenandt. The meeting was concluded by a second session of contributed papers presided over by **Jon Hulvey**, University of Massachusetts.



(left to right) Northeastern Division Divisional Forum Representative Wade Elmer, APS President John Sherwood, Northeastern Division President Russell Tweddell, Vice President Beth Gugino, Secretary-Treasurer Andy Wyenandt, and Immediate Past President Norman Lalancette.