

APS North Central Division Meets at the University of Minnesota—

Submitted
7/1/04

There were 114 registered attendees at the St. Paul Campus Continuing Education and Conference Center for the 56th annual meeting of the North Central Division of APS. A symposium entitled “Deliberate Strangers: Detection and Movement of Plant Pathogens” was held which featured presentations from Dr. Ray Hammerschmidt, “The National Plant Diagnostic Network at Age Two; Nina Shishkoff, USDA-ARS, “Invasive Species: The View From a Containment Facility and Les Szabo, USDA-ARS “Rust Fungi-Shift Pathogens: Molecular Methods for Rapid Detection and Identification”. Eighteen oral and twenty-four poster presentations as well as tours of the Dept. of Plant Pathology’s field plots, the new Cargill Building – Plant Genomics Facility, and the new plant growth facilities (including BL-2 biocontainment building) on the St. Paul campus comprised the remainder of the day.

The meeting highlight was the awards banquet where Dr. Craig Grau, Professor, University of Wisconsin was awarded the Divisions Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Grau has a three-way appointment with research / teaching / extension and his work is focused on diseases of important agronomic crops in the upper Midwest. He has taught several different classes over his career, to almost 1100 students, including Introductory Plant Pathology and Diseases of Economic Plants. During his career he has mentored 25 graduate students, 14 post-doctoral research associates, published almost 100 journal articles and 15 book chapters. He has been a regular attendee of the NC:APS meetings including serving as President twice. His extension program on diseases of alfalfa, small grains, corn, and soybean, has been a hallmark for growers in his state and region.

Nine students received awards for oral and poster presentations at the evening banquet. Two third place awards (\$50) for oral presentations were given to **Angie Ambourn**, J. Juzwik, and R.D. Mood, Use of force of infection to determine relative importance of two sap beetle species in the overland transmission of *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. University of Minnesota; and **Ian Thompson**, J.R. Xu, D.M. Huber and D.G. Schulze. Investigations of manganese oxidation by two plant pathogenic fungi. Purdue University. Second place (\$125) was awarded to **Ryan Bounds** and M.K. Hausbeck. Evaluation of disease predictors and scheduling the first fungicide spray for managing late blight of celery. Michigan State University. And first place (\$200) was awarded to **Dimitri Moolov**, D.C. Hane and C.A. Thill, PVY^{OC&N} expression in advanced potato breeding lines. University of Minnesota.

There were three third place awards given for poster presentations: **Marcelis Acevedo**, C. Jochua, C.M. Araya and J.R. Steadman. Origin of virulence diversity in plant pathogen populations: bean rust as a case study, University of Nebraska and **Shaunta.N. Hill** and M. Hausbeck. Characterization of *Phytophthora cactorum* isolated from American ginseng. Michigan State University; and **Angie Ambourn**, J. Juzwik and J. Eggers. Relative importance of small oak bark beetle, in the overland transmission of *Ceratocystis fagacearum* in Minnesota. USDA Forest Service and University of Minnesota. Second Place (\$125) was awarded to **Haiyan Jia** and J.E. Kurle, Screening

for resistance to *Phytophthora sojae* in early maturing soybean plant introductions from the USDA soybean germ plasm collection. University of Minnesota and First Place (\$200) was awarded to **Celestina N. Jochua** and J.R. Steadman. Pathogenic variability of populations of bean rust pathogen within individual bean fields. University of Nebraska.

The next meeting of the North Central Division will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Phytopathological Society Ontario Region on June 29, 30 and July 1 in Windsor, Ontario.

Tentative plans include a bus tour of vegetable/ornamental greenhouse production facilities in Leamington, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Harrow Research Station, the long-term *Phytophthora sojae* nursery in Woodslee, a vineyard and other stops on June 29. Two "mini-symposiums" are also planned whose themes are "Taking Diagnostics Too The Field" and "Getting An Industry Perspective" on future disease management needs and are APS/CPS members meeting these needs? As always, poster session, contributed papers and student competitions will be in addition to the invited speakers. Arrangements are being coordinated by Albert Tenuta (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food), Terry Anderson (Agriculture Canada), Dean Malvick (North Central APS Division President) and Mary Ruth McDonald (CPS Ontario Regional Chair).

So get out your calendars or Palm Pilots and mark done June 29, 30 and July 1, 2005! This special APS North Central Division and CPS Ontario Region Joint meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to highlight research programs, meet old friends or potential supervisors and initiate new projects.