

NED-APS
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting
October 9, 2008

The 68th annual meeting of the Northeastern Division of The American Phytopathological Society was held October 8-10 in Newport, RI. NED-APS president Daniel Cooley called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm on Oct 9 and welcomed members to the annual meeting. Eighteen members were in attendance. Councilor Rob Wick asked if anyone knew of members who had died in the past year; none were reported.

APS President Report

APS president James Moyer addressed the membership. Given the rapidly changing social and economic climate, he discussed the need for a quicker, more nimble governance of APS, partly through better, quicker communication. He gave both a slide presentation and made additional comments regarding the activities and health of the society.

- ❖ *The APS Vision Statement:* The APS will be a diverse global community of scientists that: provides credible and beneficial information related to plant health; advocates and participates in the exchange of knowledge with the public, policy makers, and the larger scientific community; and promotes and provides opportunities for scientific communication, career preparation and professional development for its members.
- ❖ APS membership reached its highest level ever, just in time for the Centennial Meeting. Today, there are more than 5,200 members worldwide. International membership has increased to 35% of the total and the society endeavors to effectively accommodate this change.
- ❖ The APS goals and priorities are as follows:
 - Promote highest quality research and professional standards
 - Maintain a strong, proactive and united professional organization
 - Be the premiere resource for plant health information and knowledge dissemination
 - Foster professional growth and development
 - Promote understanding and increase awareness of plant pathology and the practice of plant pathology
- ❖ Current APS initiatives are:
 - Education of plant pathologists
 - Value of publications and website
 - International collaborations
 - Plant health education and research funding advocacy
 - Emerging and threatening diseases
 - Governance structure
- ❖ Several Ad Hoc committees (chair) are investigating new directions and activities:
 - International Societal Collaborations (Jan Leach)
 - International Seed Federation (Phyllis Himmel)

- APS Governance Structure (Mike Boehm)
 - Auxiliary Meetings (Gary Bergstrom)
 - Future Education in Plant Pathology (Jim MacDonald)
 - Meeting of the Americas (Lee Calvert)
 - Plant Pathogen Culture Collections (Jeff Jones)
- ❖ Plant Management Network activities are:
 - MOU signed with ASA and CSSA
 - 12 searchable partner journals
 - 34 university partners
 - PMN now part of Access To Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA)
 - Site visits increasing every year
 - Continued efforts to bring PMN to a “break even” point
 - ❖ Changes to the APS website, coming Fall 2009 are:
 - External consultant review
 - Agreed to purchase new Content Management System (CMS)
 - Classify and migrate web pages
 - Increased collaboration
 - ❖ The NRI federal grant program has been officially discontinued and is now called AFRI, which will have six general themes (research areas). RFP’s will be out in mid-February to March. The AFRI is separately funded from the Specialty Crops Grant Program.
 - ❖ “Leadership Forum” group discusses / plans direction for APS
 - ❖ In Fall 2010, APS and European counterparts will host an international meeting titled “Global Climate Change and Plant Disease”. Plans are for the meeting to take place in Portugal.

Councilor’s Report

NED-APS councilor Robert Wick submitted a written report (posted at division’s website). Rob noted that NED members can suggest changes in APS to him for discussion at council. Rob indicated that a “bottom up” approach is acceptable ... doesn’t have to be “top down”.

Approval of Minutes

Vice-President James LaMondia presented the minutes for the 2007 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Frank Caruso, seconded by Wade Elmer, and passed unanimously.

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Membership. Division membership dropped between 2007 and 2008 by seven members. However, examination of membership levels over the last 9 years showed that this difference was within normal fluctuations. Over the this period, the membership ranged from 248 in 2004 to 286 in 2007 with a mean of 271.3 and a standard deviation of 12.5.

Newport Meeting. A total of 54 people registered and attended the meeting. A total of 27 presentations were given, which included 2 for the symposium, 8 for graduate student competition, and 17 contributed papers. Twenty-five abstracts were received / published.

Budget. Total meeting receipts were \$9,450, not including \$1,125 for abstracts publication. Additional monies, estimated at \$3,500, will be received from Nathaniel Mitkowski for the Turfgrass Seminar. Thus, the combined estimated receipts are \$12,950. The pre-meeting account balance carryover from 2007 was \$16,322.96 (as of June 30, 2008). This carryover plus estimated receipts for the meeting total \$29,272.96. Exact meeting expenses, including costs for Hyatt Regency, guest speaker travel, and the graduate student awards, were not known at the time of the business meeting. However, even with a conservative estimate of these costs, it is likely that the account balance will show a gain over the pre-meeting account.

Johnston Travel Award. Given the possibility of an increase in the division's account balance over the previous year, it was recommended that a contribution be made to this award to achieve the \$10,000 level. George Abawi, APS Foundation Board member, indicated that the Foundation will soon be adding funding to all APS awards; he will check on this allocation and report to Norm. (The award received \$1,034.47 from the Foundation, bringing the award endowment to \$7,144.47; thus, a total of \$2,855.53 will be needed to achieve \$10k).

Meeting Advertisement. Norm Lalancette stated that current and past e-mails advertising the annual NED meeting were only be sent to NED membership. However, records from APS headquarters showed that 27% of APS members who reside in the northeast region were not members of NED. Thus, the recommendation was made that future secretaries obtain an e-mail list of APS members in the region rather than only those belonging to the NED. This was acknowledged by the next secretary-treasurer, Russell Tweddell, who also indicated that additional mailings will be sent to Canadian societies for the Quebec Meeting. Furthermore, N. Lalancette stated that a separate list should be created for industry representatives since they often are not APS members or are sometimes outside our region; this list will need to be transferred from secretary to secretary.

Meeting Attendance. President Dan Cooley suggested that the history of NED meeting attendance be examined over the years to look for possible trends. In addition, the possibility of having the NED meeting every other year was suggested. Findings from the ad hoc committee will be discussed next year (see Old Business).

Typically, a motion to accept the Treasurer's report is made, but none was performed at this meeting.

Committee Reports

Local arrangements. President Daniel Cooley thanked local arrangement chair Nathaniel Mitkowski for all his efforts in staging the 2008 meeting. All recognized that Nathaniel was both chair and committee, attending to the majority of duties himself. Special thanks to Nathaniel for setting up the Turfgrass Seminar on Friday afternoon, which provided the latest disease control

strategies to turf management professionals. This extension meeting generated additional income for the division.

Nominations. Norm Lalancette reported that the nomination committee and other members had made nominations for the 2009 secretary-treasurer of the division. A total of 64 ballots were received, with 32 votes for candidate Russell Tweddell and 32 votes for candidate Beth Gugino. This was most likely the first time that a tie has occurred in the NED election. Since membership voted equally for the candidates, Norm suggested a coin flip to determine the winner. However, Margaret McGrath proposed that we accept both candidates and that they serve consecutive terms. All were in agreement with this excellent idea. After some discussion, it was decided that Russell, who will be local arrangements chair for the 2009 meeting in Quebec City, will also be Secretary-Treasurer for 2009. Beth Gugino's term will follow in 2010.

Graduate Student Awards. A total of eight students participated in the graduate student paper competition. Caroline Grégoire of Université Laval, Canada, won the award with her paper titled "Characterization of silicon absorption by *Equisetum arvense*". A runner-up award was also given to Mark Schall of Penn State University for his presentation "New Developments in Epidemiology of Ailanthus Wilt". Thanks to chair David Rosenberger and committee members for their efforts in evaluating the contestants.

Awards. Cheryl Smith reported that solicitations were made for the Early Career and Merit Awards. No nominations were submitted for the Merit Award. A nomination was made for the Early Career Award, but it was received too late for consideration at the 2008 meeting. Cheryl asked the submitter to re-nominate for the 2009 year. President Dan Cooley suggested that the awards committee consist of the last three past presidents, which for 2009 would be himself, Cheryl Smith, and Wade Elmer. Currently, only the immediate past president serves as chair of the committee. Some discussion followed, but no motion was made.

Site Selection. No formal report was given by this committee. However, upcoming local arrangements chair Russell Tweddell reported that the 2009 meeting will be from October 28–30th at the Hotel Palace Royal in Québec City. The 2010 meeting is scheduled to be held in Massachusetts. Location of the 2011 meeting has not been set, although Connecticut appears "next" based on past rotation. Discussion will be needed in Quebec with input from the committee.

Symposium. The symposium, titled "Mineral Nutrition and Plant Disease", opened the 2008 meeting and consisted of two presentations. NED member Wade Elmer, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, presented results of his research titled "The Influence of Nitrogen-form, Chloride, and Manganese in Plant Disease Suppression". Invited speaker Lawrence Datnoff, University of Florida, gave the presentation "Silicon in the Life, Performance and Health of Plants". Both Wade and Lawrence, along with Don Huber, are authors of the recently published APS book "Mineral Nutrition and Plant Disease". Thanks to original symposium organizer Andy Wyenandt and special thanks to Wade for his help in recruiting colleague Datnoff as guest speaker.

In addition to the symposium, a Turfgrass Seminar, titled “Turfgrass Diseases of the Northeast”, (see comments under *local arrangements*) was given to more than 100 turf management professionals. Presentations were given by Drs. James Murphy, Katerina Jordan, Geunhwa Jung, John Kaminski, Nathaniel Mitkowski, and Robert Wick. Thanks to all these speakers and to Nathaniel for registration and arrangements.

Concurrent with Friday’s Turfgrass Seminar, a workshop titled “Diagnosis, Visual Assessment, and Management of Plant-Parasitic Nematodes of Vegetables and Small Fruit in the Northeast” was provided to interested private and public members of the agricultural community. Speakers at this workshop, funded by the Northeast SARE Professional Development Program, were George Abawi, James LaMondia, Deborah Neher, and Beth Gugino. Thanks to these speakers and to Jim and Beth for registration and arrangements.

Extension/Industry. The meeting was convened at 1:30 PM by acting chair Jim LaMondia. Dan Cooley served as acting secretary. A total of 27 people attended the session.

Presentations were made by the following members:

CT - Elmer, Ferrandino

MA - Dicklow, Caruso, Wick

NH - Smith

NJ - Wyenandt

NY - Daughtrey, Rosenberger, Wilcox, McGrath

PA - Gugino

RI - Mitkowski

VT - Hazelrigg

IR-4 - Thompson - slide notes available listing new uses for materials. Discussion of biopesticides. Arista will have new antibiotic available in 2-4 yrs., kasugamycin.

FMC - Cotter (only industry rept.)

Presentations included several interesting reports of plant diseases in the Northeast Division. Of these, most notable were the following, as they were either widespread or new reports:

- Chrysanthemum white rust – possible overwintering;
- Downy mildew on basil widespread in region;
- Blueberry scorch in MA;
- Pepper silvering n NJ, cultivar dependent abiotic sign;
- *P. capsici* problematic around region on solanaceous crops, also green beans (LI);
- Dutch elm on resistant elm (VT);
- "Flesh-eating dollar spot" resistant to most/all fungicides (RI rept., also in other states);
- Nematodes heavy on turf (RI);
- Also, a serious abiotic problem this year was hail, widespread around the region, destroying apples, curcubits and other crops.

Cheryl Smith reported on a project that she and the project leader, Rob Wick, worked on in Bangladesh, providing training to plant diagnosticians in Bangladesh.

Stacy Bonos will be chair next year. Bess Dicklow was elected to be secretary next year.

Old Business

At the 2007 meeting in Cape May, a committee was created consisting of Rob Wick (chair), Dan Cooley, Margery Daughtrey, and a PSU person (to be named later). This ad hoc committee was charged with obtaining feedback, such as from NED department heads, on optimum meeting times and sites. The committee had not yet performed this function, but will do so and report at the next meeting.

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Term: 3Aug06 – 5Aug09

A motion was made to adjourn by Jim LaMondia, seconded by Wade Elmer, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Lalancette

Secretary-Treasurer

NED-APS