

Northeastern Division Meets in the Heart of the Finger Lakes



The Northeastern Division's annual meeting was held in Ithaca, NY, in the heart of the state's Finger Lakes region, from October 17 to 21, 2016. The conference

had an unusually high turnout of more than 100 registrants and 47 paper presentations.

Joining this year's Northeastern Division meeting were Division Forum representatives **Ashok Chanda** (North Central Division), **Albert Culbreath** (Southern Division), **Ron French-Monar** (Interim Caribbean Division), **Natalie Goldberg** (Pacific Division), **Jim LaMondia** (Northeastern Division), Forum Councilor **Jay Pscheidt**, and Forum Chair **Nicole Donofrio** (Potomac Division).

The week kicked off with three field trips, beginning with the Northeast Forest Pathology Workshop on Tuesday, October 17, organized by **Nick Brazee** and **Bob Marra**, and hosted locally by Cornell University's

(CU's) forest entomologist, **Mark Whitmore**. The group of 22 attendees visited with state foresters in two of the region's state forests to investigate mature Norway spruce plantations exhibiting signs of decline and death. The day concluded in the Cornell Arboretum with a demonstration by Brazee and Marra of sonic and electrical-resistance tomography on an Arboretum oak.

The following day began with two morning field trips. **Chris Becker** led a group of 18 to the BAAR Applied Agricultural Research Farm, where he conducts about 40 contract experiments each year testing products on vegetable, fruit, and ornamental crops. Challenges and successes of applied pathology research were discussed while examining research plants. The tour was followed by a visit to a Finger Lakes winery. Closer to home, **Gary Bergstrom** led a group of 28 on a tour of the greenhouses and research facilities of the School of Integrative Plant Sciences, starting

off with a reception and visit with the Plant Pathology Department.

That afternoon, the division held its industry/extension meeting, chaired by Brazee, with approximately 40 in attendance. A common issue, based on reports contributed by four states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York), was the drought affecting nearly the entire Northeast. It was fortuitous, therefore, to have insights on drought management contributed by Division Forum Representative French-Monar from Texas. Additional topics that generated discussion were the April freeze that injured ornamentals, particularly those in the Rosaceae; *Dickeya* on potatoes; and white pine decline. Concurrent with the industry/extension meeting, seven graduate students had the opportunity to attend the 2016 Northeast Division Career Skills workshops, led by **Erika Salaa-Rojas**. These workshops consisted of in-depth presentations and



MEG MCGRATH

A visit with Chris Becker to the BAAR Applied Agricultural Research facility.



LINDSAY TRIPLETT

Field trip participants visited Norway spruce plantations with state foresters to investigate a phenomenon called "death circles."



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NEDAPS Executive Committee Bob Marra (secretary-treasurer), Meg McGrath (vice president), Jim LaMondia (Divisional Forum representative), Frank Ferrandino (immediate past president), and Steve Johnson (president).



MEG MCGRATH

Graduate student award competition winner Laura Morales (center) with judges (left to right) Jim LaMondia, Bob Marra, Jianjun Hao, Morales, Beth Gugino, Carolee Bull, and Nick Brazee (missing from photo: Rob Wick).