

Division News

APS Northeastern Division Meets in New Jersey to Help Celebrate 100 Years of Plant Pathology at Rutgers University

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The 71st Annual Meeting of the APS Northeastern Division was held at the Heldrich Hotel in New Brunswick, NJ, October 12–14, 2011, to help celebrate the centennial anniversary of the plant pathology program at Rutgers University. The annual meeting was attended by more than 80 members and guests and highlighted by the symposium “The Oomycetes: Current and Future Challenges.” Presentations were made by invited speakers **André Lévesque**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; **Gary Moorman**, Penn State University (PSU); and **Robert Marra**, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. Before the meeting officially kicked off, participants had the option to participate in a cranberry harvest tour or an ornamental, turf, and nut tree tour at the Rutgers Horticultural Research Farm. The annual extension/industry meeting took place on Wednesday afternoon and provided researchers and industry representatives the opportunity to report on findings and observations from this past season. On Thursday, 15 graduate students participated in the student competition with the winner **Anwar Bin-Umer** from Rutgers University who presented “Trichothecene

mycotoxins inhibit mitochondrial translation—Implication for the mechanism of toxicity.” Later in the evening, banquet attendees were addressed by APS President **Carol Ishimaru** (University of Minnesota) and Northeastern Division President **Russell Tweddell** (Université Laval). Northeastern Division Vice President **Beth K. Gugino** (PSU) was awarded the Early Career Achievement Award, and **Bruce B. Clarke** (Rutgers University) was awarded the prestigious Award of Merit for his dedication and significant contribution to turfgrass pathology. The banquet came to a close with the passing of the American chestnut gavel from outgoing President Tweddell to Vice President Gugino.

On Friday, more than 100 members and invited guests attended two symposia entitled “The Changing Landscape of Plant Pathology” and

“Plant Pathology in the 21st Century: Advances in Plant and Human Health,” which were held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary celebration. At the anniversary banquet on Friday evening, Clarke presented a lively and fun-filled history of the plant pathology program at the university to more than 160 attendees. In addition APS President Ishimaru and Gugino presented plaques to **James F. White** and the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology on behalf of APS and the Northeastern Division in recognition of excellence and service to the field of plant pathology over the past 100 years. In addition, **Debora A. Esposito** and **Lisa A. Beirn** received awards for their excellence in graduate research, and **Gene H. Varney** received the Lifetime Service Award from the New Jersey Mycological Association. A special thanks goes out to Clark and the rest of the Local Arrangements Committee for all their efforts in organizing and coordinating such a spectacular event!



Bruce B. Clarke (left) was awarded the prestigious Award of Merit for his dedication and significant contribution to turfgrass pathology.



Northeastern Division Vice President Beth K. Gugino (left) was presented with the Early Career Achievement Award from Norman Lalancette.

The 2012 meeting of the Northeastern Division will be held in conjunction with the APS Annual Meeting in Providence, RI. The Northeastern Division officers for 2011–2012 are Gugino, president; **Andy Wyenandt** (Rutgers University), vice president; **Dave Thompson** (Rutgers University), secretary-treasurer; **Wade Elmer** (The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station), Divisional Forum representative; and Tweddell, immediate past president.

We wish to thank the corporate sponsors for their support of this year's meeting: Syngenta, Bayer CropScience, FMC, New Jersey Gold Course Superintendents Association, New Jersey Turfgrass Association, Sciessent, AgraQuest, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont Crop Protection, New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association, and United Phosphorus, Inc.

To see the complete program, visit the APS Northeastern Division website at www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/ne. ■

