

# Division News

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## Highlights of the 2009 Potomac Division Meeting

The 2009 meeting of the Potomac Division was held March 25–27 at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center in Gettysburg, PA, with attendance at approximately 66 people. Prior to the commencement of the formal program on Wednesday afternoon, a field trip to the American Chestnut Foundation's (ACF's) chestnut breeding plantation at the Thorpewood Retreat was led by **Rob Strasser**, research associate at Hood College. Twelve participants viewed symptoms of chestnut blight on second- and third-generation backcrosses of American-Chinese chestnut hybrid trees and learned about the success of the ACF's breeding program, as well as the programs for at-risk youth conducted at the Thorpewood Retreat.

The formal meeting program began Wednesday afternoon with a welcome by President **David Schmale III**, followed by the Industry-Extension Update, co-chaired by **Steve Rideout** and **Arv Grybauskas**. The first contributed paper session, consisting of six presentations and chaired by **Mary Ann Hansen**, was held on Wednesday evening. Thursday morning's program began with a symposium entitled "Biological control of soil-borne pathogens," chaired by Past-President **Dan Roberts**. A symposium entitled "Integrating IpmPIPE into research, extension, and education," chaired by **Nicholas Dufault**, followed the morning break. At the lunchtime



*Mannon Gallegly is serenaded with the song "Big Spender," sung by Lisa Algazi at the Potomac Division Annual Meeting in March.*

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business meeting, **Boris Vinatzer** was elected secretary-treasurer for 2009–2010. **Kate Everts** presented the Councilor's Report, in which proposed changes to representation on APS Council were discussed. Six students participated in the Graduate Student Paper Competition, which was held after lunch. Following the student competition, APS President **Jim Moyer** gave a presentation entitled "Our changing world—Is APS ready?" in which he described some of the changes currently occurring at APS Headquarters to make APS more transparent to the membership. An early evening poster session/social, sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection, BASF Ag Products, Bayer CropScience, and United Phosphorus, Inc., was followed by a banquet dinner, during which awards were presented. The 2008

Distinguished Service

Award was given to **Bob Davis**, former Potomac Division president, for his exemplary contributions to research on phytoplasmas and for his service to the Potomac Division. The award was accepted by **Rose Hammond** since Davis was unable



*Rose Hammond (right) accepts the APS Potomac Division's Distinguished Service Award for Bob Davis from Past-President Dan Roberts (left).*

to attend the event. **Rachel Melnick**, Penn State University, received the 2009 Memorial Fund Student Travel Award. First place in the Graduate Student Paper Competition was awarded to **Ryan Anderson** from Virginia Tech. Melnick was first runner-up and **Kun Huang**, University of Delaware, received an honorable mention. Following the award announcements, the "Meeting resolutions," composed by **Mannon Gallegly**, **Nina Shishkoff**, and **Erik Stromberg**, were read by Gallegly and the gavel was passed from outgoing President Schmale III to incoming President **Chris Dardick**. Music by the Star Spangled Band was then enjoyed by all, especially Gallegly, who was serenaded with the song "Big Spender" sung by **Lisa Algazi**.

Friday morning's first symposium, entitled "Genomics research in plant pathology," was chaired by Dardick. Following the break, a symposium entitled "Plant disease problems in bioenergy crops" was chaired by **Bingyu Zhao**. Meeting participants dispersed after final comments by Schmale and Dardick. ■

