

Division News

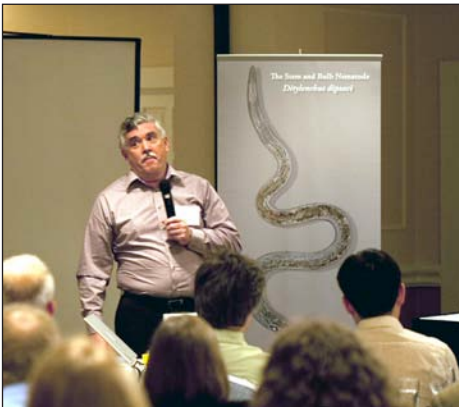
Potomac Division Gathers in Ocean City for 66th Annual Meeting

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The 2010 meeting of the APS Potomac Division was held March 24–26 at the Carousel Resort Hotel in Ocean City, MD. The Local Arrangements Committee was chaired by **Jeri Cook**, **Nikki O’Neil**, **Julie Wolf**, **Arv Grybauskas**, and **Yilmaz Balci**. The Executive Committee consisted of **Kate Everts**, President **Chris Dardick**, Immediate Past President **David Schmale III**, Vice President **Mary Ann Hansen**, and Secretary-Treasurer **Boris Vinatzer**. Attendance was approximately 77.

Prior to the beginning of the program on Wednesday afternoon, an eco-tour of the Assateague Island National Seashore (AINS) was attended by approximately 25 people. AINS is located eight miles south of Ocean Beach and was established in 1962 for the purpose of protecting Assateague Island in the states of Virginia and Maryland. The formal program began Wednesday afternoon with a welcome by Dardick, Potomac Division president, followed by the industry-extension update, chaired by **Eric Stromberg**, Virginia Tech. In the evening, a vendor show and social at the hotel was well attended, providing a good opportunity for everyone to socialize.

Two symposia and two contributed paper sessions were held on Thursday and Friday. The first symposium, Commercialization of GE crops with pathogen-derived resistance, was chaired by **Bingyu Zhao** (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA) and a total of four papers were presented by **Ralph Scorza** (USDA-ARS,



Jon Eisenback entertains meeting participants at the banquet dinner with a humorous talk about the history of art, photography, microscopy, and nematology.



Vice President Mary Ann Hansen congratulates Matthew Kasson, first-place winner of this year's Graduate Student Research Award.

Kearneysville, WV), **Nicole Juba** (Virginia Tech), **Shiv Kale** (Virginia Bioinformatics Institute [VBI], Blacksburg, VA), and **Margaret J. Jones** (USDA-APHIS, Riverdale, MD). The second symposium was chaired by Vinatzer (Virginia Tech), and three papers were presented by **Joao Setubal** (VBI), **Erin Schuenzel** (USDA ARS, Fort Detrick, Frederick, MD), and Vinatzer.

Ten students participated in this year's student paper competition. The excellence of the student presentations was noted by all in attendance. **Matthew Kasson** (Penn State University) received first place, **Leigh Ann Harrison** (Virginia Tech) received second place, and **Matthew Cutulle** (Virginia Tech) and **Sridhara Kunjeti** (University of Delaware) both received an honorable mention. The student paper competition was followed by a presentation by APS President **Barbara Christ**, giving an update on our society at the national level.

At the banquet dinner, the Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Ethel Dutky** by Schmale, immediate past president of the Potomac Division. Dutky made outstanding contributions to plant pathology and the Potomac Division. For example, she only recently retired from the position of director of the University of Maryland Plant Diagnostic Laboratory where she has diagnosed about 30,000 diseases, insects, and weeds on all crops. She has long been an active member of the Potomac Division, serving as vice president and president in 1995 and 1996, respectively. Moreover, she established the APS Diagnostics Committee and served as its first chair. Kunjeti

and **Jennifer Himmelstein** (University of Maryland) both received a Student Travel Award. The meeting resolutions, composed by **Mannon Gallegly** and Stromberg, were read by Gallegly and the gavel was passed from outgoing President Dardick to incoming President Hansen. A humorous presentation by **Jon Eisenback** about the history of art,



Immediate Past President David Schmale III congratulates Ethel Dutky, the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award.