

# Division News

## Potomac Division Gathers in Winchester, VA, for 68th Annual Meeting



*Eleven posters were presented during the 2012 meeting of the APS Potomac Division.*

The 2012 meeting of the Potomac Division was held March 14–16, 2012, at the Hampton Inn Winchester. The local arrangements committee was chaired by **Mizuho Nita** and **Keith Yoder**. The Executive Committee consisted of President **Boris Vinatzer**, Immediate Past President **Mary Ann Hansen**, Vice President **Yilmaz Balci**, and Secretary-Treasurer **Bingyu Zhao**.

Eighty-two colleagues attended the annual meeting. A field trip to Linden Vineyards, Linden, VA, occurred prior to the beginning of the program. Twenty-four people attended the tour and discussed grape diseases and their control with the owner of the Linden Vineyard, **Jim Law**. This year's meeting began with the industry-extension update meeting, chaired by **Chuck Johnson**, followed by two symposia and two contributed paper sessions. **Caitilyn Allen** from the University of Wisconsin at Madison gave this year's plenary talk about *Ralstonia solanacearum*'s adaptation to life in the xylem. The first symposium on March 15 was entitled "Plant Pathogens in National and International Trade" and was chaired by Balci. The second symposium, entitled "What We Can Learn from Research with Model Species," was chaired by Vinatzer. During the meeting, **Ann Lichens Park** (NIFA) discussed the present and future of NIFA funding for plant pathology for students, post-docs, and PIs. **Carol Ishimaru**, APS president, gave a presentation to update the membership on APS activities. During the banquet, **Rick Fell** (emeritus professor, Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech) gave an informative and at the same time entertaining talk entitled "Sex in the Garden," and we all enjoyed the fun 68th Annual Meeting resolutions presented by **Mannon Gallegly**.

This year, nine graduate students competed for the Graduate Research Award. **Taylor Jones** (Virginia Tech) received first place and **Jessica Cooper** (Virginia Tech) received second place. One student travel award was given to **Megan McConnell** (University of Maryland), and the first-place winner of the Graduate Research Award, Jones, was also given a travel award to support his participation in the APS Annual Meeting in Rhode Island this summer.

Eleven posters were presented and included three undergraduate students' research. **Patrick Di Bello** from the University of Maryland won the undergraduate research poster competition. **Daniel P. Roberts** (USDA ARS) was given the Distinguished Service Award for his excellent contributions to the Potomac Division. The division also welcomes **Nicole Donofrio** (University of Delaware), who was elected secretary-treasurer!



*APS Potomac Division members visited the Linden Vineyards and discussed grape diseases and their control with Jim Law, owner of the vineyard.*



*Boris Vinatzer presenting the Distinguished Service Award to Daniel P. Roberts (USDA ARS) for his excellent contributions to the Potomac Division.*

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We would like to thank our sponsors who supported the 2012 meeting: BASF Corp., Acadian Sea Plants LLC, Syngenta Crop Protection, Walz USA, DuPont, Dow AgroSciences LLC, AgraQuest Inc., and Marrone Bio Innovations.

Overall, the 68th Potomac Division Annual Meeting was very successful. Our colleagues are looking forward to the 69th Annual Meeting to be held in Shepherdstown, WV! ■