

Pacific Division News

**Mark Your Calendar to Attend the 2016 APS
Pacific Division Meeting!**

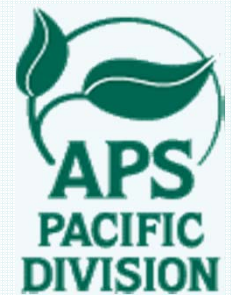


**June 28-30, 2016
La Conner, Washington**

- Field tour of local agriculture and disease issues
- Symposia on timely and relevant issues specific to the Pacific Division Region
- Student presentation competition
- Poster and oral presentations
- Awards and recognition of our members

Visit the APS Pacific Division website for more information and deadlines. **Registration and abstract submission will be open by early May 2016.**

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News from the Pacific Division

Results from the Recent APS Pacific Division Membership Survey

An electronic survey of all Pacific Division members was conducted from 9/16/15 to 10/9/15 to better understand members' views related to divisional meeting content, structure, and function. Below is a summary of the main results of the survey:

- 121 people responded; 18% response rate.
- Respondents rated networking opportunities as the most important factor for creating a positive meeting experience. Opportunities for graduate students and the scientific program (special sessions) were rated the second and third most important factors.
- These factors were especially important for members that attend divisional meetings most regularly.
- The majority of respondents (74%) favored the current practice of holding a joint meeting when the APS annual meeting is held in the Pacific Division. Further, the majority of respondents supported this structure, independent of how regularly they themselves attend divisional meetings.
- There was strong support (92%) for raising annual membership dues if the monies were used for to support increased student travel awards, create more opportunities for undergraduate involvement, and partially defray other meeting expenses. Again, at least 50% of respondents in all attendance groups supported raising dues.

Volunteers Needed



The APS-Pacific Division Executive Committee is seeking volunteers to participate on the following two committees:

- 1) Nominating Committee for Awards. This committee will seek nominations and conduct deliberations for various APS-PD awards.
- 2) Nominating Committee for Officer Selection. This committee will seek nominations and assist in the selection of individuals for to stand in an election President-Elect for 2016-2017.

If you are interested in any of these two committees please contact David Gent (Dave.Gent@ars.usda.gov) or Soum Sanogo (ssanogo@nmsu.edu) before or by February 26, 2016.

Membership News from Around the Pacific Division

Rachel Bomberger joins WSU



Welcome to the new WSU Pullman Plant Diagnostician, Rachel Bomberger! Rachel accepted the diagnostician position in the WSU Pullman Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab, which will re-open on December 1st, 2015. Rachel obtained her M.S. degree in plant pathology from Oregon State University (2013), and then worked for 2 years as a plant diagnostician for the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Lab contact: plant.clinic@wsu.edu or 509-335-0619

Joyce Loper to join OSU

Joyce Loper will be the next Associate Dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences of Oregon State University (OSU) starting May 2016. Joyce is currently a research plant pathologist at the USDA ARS Horticultural Crops Research Unit (HCRU) in Corvallis and a Professor (Courtesy) in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at OSU. Her research interests include genomics of plant-associated bacteria, microbial ecology, biological control of plant disease and secondary metabolism. She has an active research program and has mentored more than 50 undergraduate students and many graduate students and postdocs during her research career. Joyce treasures her affiliation with APS, and has served as Councilor-at Large of the society, Editor-in-Chief of *Phytopathology News*, Senior Editor of APS Press, Secretary of the Pacific Division, and chair or member of many ad-hoc and standing committees. She is a fellow of APS and AAAS. Joyce's leadership positions in USDA-ARS have included Research Leader at the HCRU, Research Leader (Acting) of the Forage Seed and Cereal Research Unit in Corvallis, Assistant Director (Acting) for the Pacific West Area, and Scientific Quality Review Officer. Wish her luck as she begins this new venture!



Membership News from around the Pacific Division

Don Huber Awarded Pioneer Research Award

The Rodale Institute, long recognized for its research on sustainable, agroecological approaches to farming, presented Dr. Don M. Huber, Emeritus Professor of Plant Pathology at Purdue University with its Pioneer Research Award on September 12, 2015 during their annual awards banquet held at the Rodale Institute farm in Kurtztown, PA. Executive Director Jeff Moyer presented the award to Dr. Huber in recognition of his 55 years of research on soil microbiology, the ecology of soil-borne pathogens, and management of nutrition to control plant diseases. Dr. Huber was accompanied by his wife Paula for the ceremony.

Virginia Stockwell joins USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Unit

Dr. Virginia Stockwell has been hired as a Research Plant Pathologist at the USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Unit (HCRU) in Corvallis, Oregon. Her research program will focus on pre- and post-harvest fruit rots that have a significant economic impact on fruit quality of berry crops grown in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Stockwell is an internationally recognized leader in biocontrol of fire blight pear and *Pseudomonas* blight in blueberry. She has research experience in: understanding the mechanisms of host resistance to fungal pathogens, host-pathogen interactions, pathogen detection and genomics. She has received funding from grower organizations and commissions in the Pacific Northwest, USDA-NIFA AFRI, USDA-IPM Program for Crops at Risk, Western Regional IPM, and Northwest Centers for Small Fruit and Nursery Crop Research. She has been active in doing applied research in grower's fields, research blocks and greenhouses as well as basic research to understand mechanisms of biocontrol and host-pathogen interactions. She is also recognized for her expertise on pathogen resistance to antibiotics and copper and how to develop integrated disease control strategies that minimize the risk of pathogens developing resistance.

Welcome aboard Virginia!



Meetings

March 22-24, 2016

Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens

The **62th Annual Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens** will be held March 22-24, 2016 at the University of California, Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Parlier, CA. Come and meet with colleagues from the western U.S. working on various aspects of soilborne fungal pathogens, nematodes and diseases from the molecular to the applied. This meeting is very informal and loosely structured, allowing lots of time for discussions and interactions. We will have a Nematology Extension Day in the morning of Tues. March 22, lunch, and afternoon tour of the Kearney Research Station in Parlier. We will have a social/dinner on the evening of March 22 at the University of California, Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Parlier, CA. Research presentations will be on Weds, March 23 and Thurs., March 24. The California Nematology Workgroup will meet on Tues. March 22. For more information visit <http://soilfungus.wsu.edu>.

May 22-25

Plant and Microbe Adaptation to Cold

Plant and Microbe Adaptation to Cold (<http://cm.wsu.edu/ehome/pmac>) will be held May 22-25, 2016, in Seattle, WA.





Reminder!!!

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