

Pacific Division News

Winter 2012-Spring 2013



Themis Michailides-President of PD/APS and his family

President's Message

The June 2012 Annual Meeting of our Division in Sacramento, California, was a major success since we had the greatest ever participation (more than 130 attendees) despite the fact that all of us are hurting due to the financial crisis. We got excellent comments about the meeting. Some of the highlights were the Laboratory and Field Tours at UC Davis/ Department of Plant Pathology, the Verticillium Symposium with six excellent presentations, and the two sessions of Roundtable Discussions, the first one on trees and vines and the second on vegetables and row crops. Following discussions with our industries representatives and cooperative extension personnel, we discovered that they were pleased in learning about emerging plant disease problems in the Pacific Division region and the research pursued at our universities and USDA Research Centers to combat these problems. Some of the industry representatives, however, took the opportunity to express candidly their concerns about the direction of research at land grant universities nowadays.

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Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming



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Representative
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Mark Your Calendar to attend the 2013 APS Pacific Division Meeting!

In 2013, the APS Pacific and Caribbean Divisions will meet jointly in Tucson, Arizona. The meeting will be held June 16–21, 2012, at the Westward Look Hotel (Wyndam) (www.westwardlook.com/) in Tucson, Arizona. The meeting rate is available for the weekend before and after the meeting, respectively (arrivals June 16 and departures June 21). Highlights of the meeting will be symposia on tropical and temperate fruit and nut crops, exotic/invasive pathogens associated with insect vectors, and among others, a Graduate Student Paper Competition hosted by each Division, a special Round Table Session comprising extension, industry, and regulatory panel members, and presentation of awards for each division. **Judith K. Brown, The University of Arizona**, is the local host for the 2013 joint meeting. Visit *APSnet* for information on hotel reservations at <http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/divisionmeetings/Pages/default.aspx>.

Information regarding registering, submission of abstracts, nominations for special awards, and graduate student travel grant applications for each respective Division will also be available at both Caribbean (<http://www.apsnet.org/caribbeandivision>) and Pacific (<http://www.apsnet.org/pacificdivision>) Division websites. For more information, contact **Themis Michailides** (tjmichailides@ucanr.edu), **Akif Eskalen** (akif.eskalen@ucr.edu), **Judith Brown** (jbrown@ag.arizona.edu), and **Ron French** (rdfrench@ag.tamu.edu).



Awards:

The **PNW Vegetable Extension Group** of University of I, OSU, and WSU received WSU's College of Agricultural Human & Natural Resource Sciences' **2012 Interdisciplinary Team award**. Photo from left, Carol Miles (horticulturist), Dan Bernardo (WSU Dean of CAHNRS), Debbie Inglis (plant pathologist), and Lindsey du Toit (plant pathologist).



APLU 2012 Excellence in Extension Awards

On November 11, 2012, the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU) presented the 2012 Excellence in Extension Awards and the 2012 National Diversity Award at the 125th Annual APLU Meeting in Denver. The award recipients were honored for their exceptional work in the Extension field. The National Award for Excellence in Extension is given annually to an Extension professional in each of five regions who excel at programming, provide visionary leadership, and make a positive impact on constituents served. Cooperative Extension and the U.S. Department of



Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture have sponsored the awards since 1991. This year's regional recipients include Professor Mary Burrows, Extension plant pathology specialist at Montana State University, Kevin H. Crenshaw, a legal family educator for the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service (ACES), Professor Tom "Andy" Vestal, Extension specialist and director of homeland security and emergency management for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, Fred Whitford, pesticide specialist for Purdue Cooperative Extension Service (PCES), and Elizabeth L. Andress, Extension food safety specialist in the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia. The 2012 National Extension Diversity Award was presented to Montana State University Extension's Tribal Housing and Environmental Health Program for its outstanding work in creating sustainable programs in health, housing and the environment for Native American communities across the nation.

<http://agisamerica.org/aplu-presents-2012-excellence-in-extension-awards>

Students:

Marianne Powell successfully completed requirements for a M.S. degree in Plant Pathology at Washington State University (WSU) in November 2012 under the supervision of **Debra Ann Inglis**. Her supervisory committee included **Marion Brodhagen**, **Carol Miles**, and **Linda S. Thomashow**. Her thesis was titled "Assessment of tomato and lettuce diseases in organically managed high tunnel cropping systems in western Washington and isolation of soil microbes potentially capable of biodegrading agricultural mulches," and was funded by an SCRI SREP award. Marianne was a recipient of the APS Pacific Division travel award in 2012. She obtained her B.S. in Plant Biology from the University of Washington in June 2010.

President's message cont.

A unique activity of the 2012 meeting was the pre-meeting half-day program for undergraduate students. About 15 students participated in this program where they initially heard and saw powerpoint stories from several faculty and industry individuals about the life journeys that led faculty to plant pathology. Following, the students had a chance to tour research laboratories and experimental fields of the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis. I was particularly impressed by a young student who showed tremendous interest in the science of plant pathology and asked very specific intelligent questions. I believe he is geared now towards studying plant pathology ... or a related microbiological science.

In addition, there were 34 oral presentations/abstracts of current research presented in seven sessions; all sessions, even the very last one of the meeting were attended very well. An effort was made to place all 11 competing graduate paper presentations together to help in a fair and easy judgment of them by the committee. Another highlight of our 2012 meeting was the business meeting where past president Debbie Inglis presented the 2012 Distinguished Service Award to **Doug Gubler** and announced the awards of the competing graduate student papers. The winners for 2012 papers were **Mathew Pye** (UC-Davis)-third place; **Kaitlyn Bissonette** (University of Idaho)-second place; and **Cassandra Sweet** and **Brittany Pierce** (UC-Davis)-tied for first place.

Our Division has the largest number of members and good finances. As in previous years, you can read more about the 2012 Pacific Division meeting at <http://www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/pac/meetings/>

I would like to thank all the members of the executive committee (Jim Adaskaveg, Akif Eskalen, Doug Gubler, Debbie Inglis, and Jay Pscheidt) who contributed a lot of their time to make the 2012 meeting a success. Special thanks go to the past president Dr. Debra Ann Inglis who has kept all the members on our toes and made wise suggestions to make sure this meeting was a success. Surely, I can say "Mission accomplished." However, there is room for even more improvements and we would appreciate any suggestions on how to improve the divisional meeting attendance, format, and the agenda.

I would suggest that all my colleagues encourage their students to participate in the Pacific Division by applying for travel awards and also by participating in the student competition. This is a great opportunity for students to start preparing with their future career after graduation. In addition, awards earned in these student competitions count greatly towards their competitiveness when they apply for faculty or industry jobs.

As you know by now, we will meet in conjunction with the Caribbean Division of APS in Tucson, Arizona in 2013. Please try to attend since we are preparing an exciting agenda. The meeting for 2014 will be in Bozeman, Montana.

Please visit <http://www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/pac/Pages/Awards.aspx> to read more about specific information on this year's divisional meeting and consider to nominate colleagues who deserve an Early Career, Lifetime Achievement or Distinguished Service award. You can submit your nominations to me by April 15, 2013 and I will forward them to this year's awards committee.

All the best for a very successful happy and professionally successful year. I am looking forward to seeing you all in Tucson, Arizona, in June.

New Hires

Post-doc to work on wheat viruses

In the western Great Plains Wheat streak mosaic virus (WSMV), Wheat mosaic virus (WMoV), and Triticum mosaic virus (TriMV) are serious diseases of winter wheat transmitted by the same mite vector, the wheat curl mite. Management of these mite-transmitted diseases relies upon understanding abiotic and biotic factors that drive survival and spread of the vector and pathogen as there are no chemical controls options and multiple non-crop species can serve as reservoirs for vector/virus. Although managing green bridge hosts and planting dates are important tools to mitigate disease risk, the effect of environmental and biological variables on mite and virus population dynamics is inadequately understood; negatively impacting the potential for successful incorporation of these management tools.

We are recruiting candidates for a Post-Doctoral position to quantify risk of disease incidence and severity factors across the biological and environmental variability seen in the Great Plains. Results will improve our understanding on the factors conditioning the spread and impact of vector-transmitted cereal viruses as well as approaches to mitigate them.

Location: Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana. MSU is one of the top mid-sized research institutions located in the heart of the Big Sky country. Bozeman was ranked 5th on Outside magazine's "40 Best College Towns" and the surrounding area offers access to Yellowstone NP and some of the best fly-fishing, hiking, rafting, and skiing in America. For more details visit <http://www.montana.edu/wwwnss/thebest.shtml>.

Successful candidates will be members of a vibrant, interdisciplinary team of researchers on plant pathology and agro-ecology. Candidates must hold an appropriate degree in ecology, agroecology, or plant pathology. Excellent work ethic, team player, and proficiency in English language (written and oral) are required. Submit 1) Name of the position to which you are applying, 2) Letter of application describing career goals and research interests, 3) Resume, transcripts, and 4) Names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of three references. GRE and TOEFL scores (if required) are mandatory.

Electronic applications are accepted. Applications should be sent to:
Dr. Mary Burrows. mburrows@montana.edu. (406) 994-7766

VEGETABLE CROP COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SPECIALIST AND DIRECTOR, DESERT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

The University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) is seeking a Vegetable Crop Cooperative Extension Specialist and Director who can provide leadership and operational management for the Desert Research and Extension Center (DREC) in its mission of conducting research and outreach programs on California's critical issues. The Specialist and Director will have academic programmatic responsibilities to:

-develop an extramurally-funded applied research and extension program in vegetable production and practices and plant pathology, invasive species and food safety in pre- to- post-harvest food production.

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New Hires. Continue from previous page

VEGETABLE CROP COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SPECIALIST AND DIRECTOR, DESERT RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER

- deliver an ongoing extension education program using traditional, contemporary, and emerging tools that address the needs of growers, industry, and other clients and serve as a resource for general public concerns in food safety and security.
- develop partnerships and leverage resources to deliver innovative approaches; participate in regional and statewide ANR committees, workgroups and meetings to ensure strong linkages and effective communications among the REC system, ANR administration and UC campus departments.
- provide leadership to the allocation of financial and human resources; long-range facility planning and development; space use and planning, and lead the research project proposal, review, and resource allocation process.
- complement UC ANR's Strategic Vision, optimizing opportunities for conducting outstanding research and extension programs.

El Centro is located 117 miles east of San Diego in California's Imperial Valley, one of California's most productive farming regions where agriculture represents 48% of all employment. El Centro, "Where the sun spends the winter," offers an arid, desert climate and recreational access to the Algodones Dunes, Salton Sea, and Colorado River.

This is an academic career track appointment; a PhD in plant sciences, plant pathology or a closely related field is required. Extension experience and educational and/or work experience in vegetable crop production and practices, detection and environmentally sound, integrated approaches to management of plant diseases, pathogen biology and disease epidemiology, plant physiology, weed science, entomology, plant pathology, soil science are desirable. View full announcement and application procedures at <http://ucanr.edu/jobs> or contact Karen Ellsworth at ANRacademicsearch@ucop.edu, (530) 752-7532. Refer to position listing **AP#12-15** and apply by January 15, 2013.

CALIFORNIA CITRUS RESEARCH BOARD

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Biological Control Program Supervisor/Entomologist

REPORTS TO: Director of Field Operations,

PAY RANGE: \$56,000 - \$72,000 annualized salary commensurate with experience and qualifications, plus benefits

WORK HOURS: Full time

LOCATION: Citrus Research Board

1201 Research Park Dr. Ste. 500

Riverside, CA 92507

619-259-3139

Send resume, a list of professional references, and cover letter by January 10, 2013 to the above address or to Brian J. Taylor - brian@citrusresearch.org

The incumbent works with State and Federal agencies, University and industry technical personnel as part of the Cooperative Program for Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Control. The incumbent will assist with efforts to envision, develop, and evaluate the field delivery of new eradication, suppression and/or management tools including but not limited to biological control, applications of insecticides and cultural management for control of ACP. The incumbent plays a role in determining the technological needs of programs and plans and executes studies and tests with the goal of improving program effectiveness, efficiency, and acceptance.

REQUIRED EDUCATION:

Possession of a Ph.D. from an accredited institution in the field of entomology or closely related field.

Possession of a Master's degree and a minimum of five years' experience in biological control or insect rearing may be substituted for the above education.

[Continue on next page](#)

New Hires, Continue from previous page.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Assists in managing the development, planning, and prioritization of original, applied and scientific research to develop methods for control of ACP infesting California Citrus.

Assists in organizing, coordinating, and conducting various laboratory, semi-field and large field methods development projects on the production, release and evaluation of ACP biocontrol agents.

Develops, organizes, plans, coordinates, and conducts various laboratory and field projects and work performed by subordinates and cooperators using scientifically sound principles so that results can be used to support actions by the ACP Cooperative Program and in a manner that maximizes output and minimizes expenses.

Plan, organize, supervise, coordinate and evaluate work of subordinates.

Work and oversee projects in various locations.

Develops and tests new technology and techniques for mass-rearing and release of ACP biocontrol agents in laboratory, semi-field and large-scale field tests.

Presents technical results at technical meetings and conferences with program managers, scientists and stakeholders. Results will be presented through publication in technical reports and scientific literature as appropriate.

Maintains continuous contacts and interacts with other scientists and specialists for conducting investigations for development ACP biocontrol methods using new or improved methods and techniques.

Develops and analyzes project data, data provided by other researchers, and from publications and reports to assemble technical reports, presentations and publications.

Performs all duties in a manner which consistently demonstrates fairness, cooperation and respect toward coworkers, office visitors, cooperators and stakeholders in the ACP Program.

Follow safe workplace practices.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITY:

The incumbent must be academically and technically qualified in the field of entomology, and show extensive knowledge of insect biology, behavior, demography and ecology.

Has experience and knowledge of insect rearing.

Has in-depth knowledge of integrated pest management tactics and strategies including combinations of chemical, mechanical, physical, and biologically-based approaches such as biological control or the sterile insect technique, to assist in developing efficient and environmentally conscientious pest management programs.

Incumbent must possess a complete knowledge of scientific method, sampling techniques, experimental design, use of positive and negative controls and statistical procedures used in the execution and analysis of research, including knowledge of scientific and operational equipment that is related to experimental work and pest control.

Incumbent must show good initiative, judgment and originality in implementing research projects, and have the ability to recognize problem areas, initiate and direct tests, and properly analyze results to withstand peer review by world experts.

Ability to accurately evaluate research results (associated with control methods or techniques), in order to identify those tools that could be applicable to the solution of current program problems and in the utilization of these results for further development to solve both immediate and long term program problems.

Ability to record and analyze information on a personal computer using spreadsheets and statistical software.

Adhere to CRB protocols and policies.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

Work may be sedentary or standing, but may also require climbing, lifting, pushing, balancing, kneeling, and considerable walking. The demands are such as to sometimes require extended periods of work in a day, week or month.

Work is performed in an office, meeting room, field (remote and non-remote) or laboratory (formal or temporary) environment. Some work may be performed on, around or near aircraft. Some work may deal with agricultural chemicals. Some work may require the use of four wheel drive trucks, all-terrain vehicles or off road motorcycles. Field work may be conducted in various terrains found in subtropical and temperate areas. Field environmental conditions may include cold, wet or hot and dry semi-arid areas, with high temperatures and with various types of arthropods and reptiles present.

Work environments may require working on uneven and slippery ground and in wet or dusty conditions.

New Hires

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Dr. Mary Burrows. mburrows@montana.edu. (406) 994-7766

2014 Pacific Division Meeting

Mark your calendars now for the 2014 APS PD meeting scheduled, **June 18-20 2014, in Bozeman, MT**. Yellowstone Park is only about an hour away!



Meetings

Meeting of the 59th Annual Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens (formerly Soil Fungus Conference) March 26-28, 2013, Oregon State University, Agricultural and Life Science Building, Room 4001, Corvallis, OR

<http://soilfungus.ars.usda.gov>

Local arrangements: **Jerry Weiland** (weilandj@onid.orst.edu) and **Inga Zasada**

(Inga.Zasada@ars.usda.gov)

Program Chair: **Timothy Paulitz**, USDA-ARS, Pullman, WA. paulitz@wsu.edu

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 field trip on Tues. March 26 to visit local nurseries, berry and fruit producers. We will have a social/wine tasting/ dinner at Lumos Winery in Philomath, OR. Research presentations will be on Weds, March 27 and Thurs., March 28. The focus of the Symposium will be Oomycete Pathogens and Diseases, with talks by Nik Grunwald and Jerry Weiland.

We are also offering three student scholarships for \$500 plus free registration. The details are on the web site.

Early registration deadline is March 1, 2013. Registration and hotel information are on our web site: <http://soilfungus.ars.usda.gov>. Registration includes a social/dinner on Tues. evening and lunch on Weds. You can now pay by credit card at <http://soilfungus2013.eventbrite.com>. The payment will go through Google Checkout, a secure site, but you need to set up a free Google Account to do this. Whatever payment method, please send the registration form to Dr. Timothy Murray, Dept. of Plant Pathology, Rm. 345 Johnson Hall, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-6430 USA, or FAX to [509 335-7674](tel:5093357674), or send scan to paulitz@wsu.edu..

For more information, see <http://soilfungus.ars.usda.gov/>

Hope to see you there-

Timothy Paulitz

Program Chair
