

Pacific Division News

Winter 2013-Spring 2014

Stay Connected through the APS-Pacific Division 'Field Album' and Collaboration Site

The APS-Pacific Division is launching the Pacific Division Field Album. This will provide our membership the opportunity to share images of disease symptoms/signs encountered during each growing season, starting with the 2013 growing season.

This album will serve as a pictorial educational center through which one can gain insight into disease problems in our region at large.

In order to facilitate this process, a collaboration site for our division has been set up. Many thanks to Cindy Scheller for coordinating the setting up of the site.

If you have any images you would like to share, please log in the Pacific Division Collaboration Site, and upload your annotated pictures in the Photo Library.

For further information see pages 2 and 3.

Soum Sanogo
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Mark Your Calendar to attend the 2014 APS Pacific Division Meeting!

July 9-11, 2014
Bozeman,
Montana



Look for forthcoming information on the meeting venue, lodging, abstract submission and scientific programs at the website of APS-Pacific Division

The APS-Pacific Division 'Field Album': A showcase for disease symptoms

Purpose

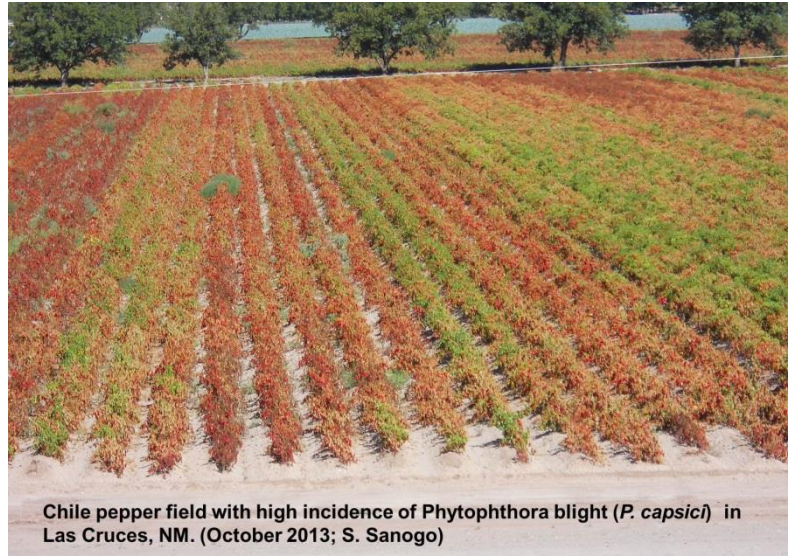
This will provide our membership the opportunity to share images of disease symptoms/signs encountered during each growing season, starting with the 2013 growing season. This album will serve as a pictorial educational center through which one can gain insight into plant diseases in the Western region of the continental U.S., and the Pacific Basin.

Implementation and participation

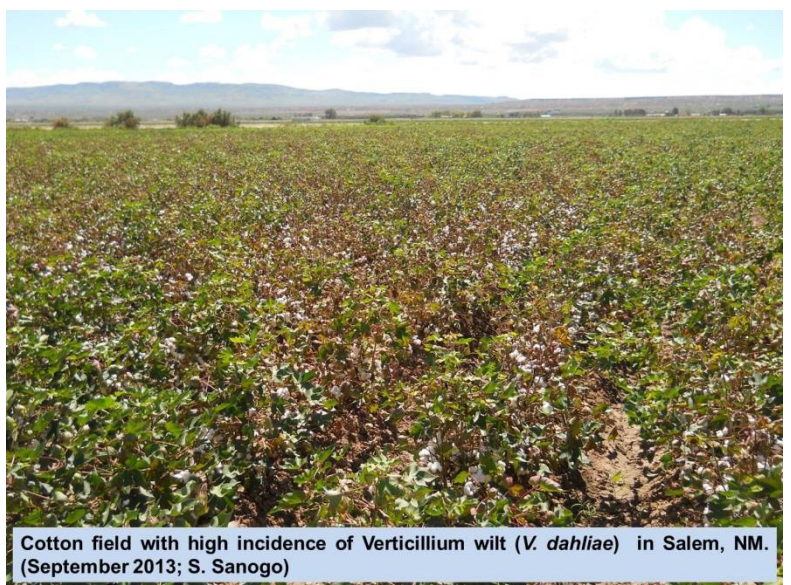
To facilitate this process, a collaboration site for our division has been set up. See page 3 for instruction on accessing and navigating the Collaboration Site.

To share images, please log in the Pacific Division Collaboration Site, and upload your images in the Photo Library.

Images should be in JPEG format, with a caption of no more than 200 characters (including spaces). See the images on the right for examples. Watermark and/or include your name on each image, if desired. Up to **five** images may be submitted by each member **per year**.



Chile pepper field with high incidence of Phytophthora blight (*P. capsici*) in Las Cruces, NM. (October 2013; S. Sanogo)



Cotton field with high incidence of Verticillium wilt (*V. dahliae*) in Salem, NM. (September 2013; S. Sanogo)

Instructions for Accessing APS Division Collaboration Site (By Cindy Scheller, APS Membership Manager; Email: aps@scisoc.org)

- 1) Go to APSnet at <http://www.apsnet.org/Pages/default.aspx> (make sure you are using Internet Explorer as your web browser)
- 2) Click “Log In” at the top left hand side of your screen
- 3) Enter your Username and Password, AND click “Remember me on this computer” (a must do for these collaboration sites) - then click Log In
- 4) Click the “Membership” heading at the top center part of the screen, then choose “Divisions”.
- 5) Click on the division name in which you are a member/officer
- 6) On the left hand side navigation, click on the name of the division collaboration site you would like to enter. Note, only current division officers and members will be able to view/click on these links, and enter the website.
- 7) The collaborative website for the division should appear as follows (the Pacific Division Collaborative Site is used in the example below):

The screenshot shows the APSnet website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Home | Welcome Soumaila Sanogo" and a search bar. Below this, a sidebar on the left contains a menu with categories like Documents, Events & Activities, and Discussions. The main content area displays a breadcrumb trail: "APSnet > Membership > Divisions > Pacific Division > Pacific Division Collaboration Site". The main content features an announcement titled "Launching the Pacific Division Field Album" dated 11/8/2013 12:51 PM, and another announcement titled "Welcome to the Pacific Division Collaboration Website!" dated 11/5/2013 10:30 AM. A right sidebar contains a "Divisions" menu with "Collaboration Site" and "Pacific" options, and a "Links" section with "Pacific Division Website" and "Add new link".

Cont'd from Page 3

- 8)** To add documents , photos, etc, click on the heading and then click new.
(note you must be logged into upload files/documents).
- 9)** To begin a team discussion, click “Team Discussions” under the blue “Discussions” heading on the left side navigation. Note, do not click the blue “Discussions” heading although it is hyperlinked as it will take you to an administrative area that you will not need to use.
- 10)**Click New and enter SUBJECT and BODY of text
- 11)**When finished, click OK
- 12)**To sign up for ALERTS for each specific section (Documents, Lists, Discussions), follow these instructions:
 - Click “Actions” when you are in the section you want to set up alerts for and a drop down menu will appear.
 - Click “Alert Me”
 - Keep the defaults in place for the Team Discussion and Users areas
 - Make your own alert selections under the “Only send me” and “Send me alerts” sections on the right side of the page
 - Click OK to save your changes
 - An e-mail will be sent to you indicating that you signed up for an Alert
- 13)** Proceed with your navigation of the collaboration site or click your name to Log Out.

Awards

NIFA Partnership Award for Innovative Programs and Projects to Debbie Inglis' team

Congratulations are due to **Debbie Inglis**, Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Washington State University, Northwest Research and Extension Center, Mount Vernon, whose team just received a 'NIFA Partnership Award for Innovative Programs and Projects' from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Debbie leads the Biodegradable Mulches for Specialty Crops Produced Under Protective Covers project along with Co-PD **Carol Miles** (Horticulture Dept.) who is also stationed at the Mount Vernon REC. There are several hundred thousand acres of crops grown under plastic in the US to control weeds, conserve soil moisture, increase crop yields, modify soil temperature, and shorten the time to harvest. Production and disposal of the plastic creates significant environmental challenges and development, testing and adoption of alternatives is the focus of the project.

The transdisciplinary project team includes scientists specializing in Biological Systems Engineering, Economics, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Sociology, Soils and Textiles Science, from six institutions in several states. Conception, design and management of these large multidisciplinary projects that include research, extension and outreach requires amazing efforts from faculty members, and we are thrilled to see the success of the project acknowledged by the primary USDA funding agency. This is an exceptional example of what we are trying to achieve in our research and extension efforts at WSU.



Debbie Inglis and **Carol Miles** accepting award from The Honorable **Catherine E. Woteki**, USDA Under Secretary and Chief Scientist, at recent Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU) Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

Awards

Tyler receives the Friendship Award of China

Brett Tyler of Oregon State University received the highest civic award for non-Chinese scientists from The People's Republic of China. In September, at ceremonies in Beijing, he received the Friendship Award of China for a decade of technical assistance and scientific collaboration with researchers at Nanjing Agricultural University, the Northwest Agricultural and Forestry University, Tsinghua University, the Beijing Genome Institute, Shandong Agricultural University and Yangzhou University.

Joint research activities have advanced food production by understanding how plants resist disease. "It's a wonderful bridge across the Pacific with the joint objective of increasing food security," Tyler said.



Tyler, professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, the Stewart Chair in Gene Research, and director of the Center for Genome Research and Biocomputing, coordinates a worldwide research program on destructive oomycete plant pathogens. Plant genes that confer long-term resistance to these pathogens have been identified.

Tyler's Chinese partners have formed a consortium in China to apply their research in soybean and potato breeding. Tyler has developed a similar network involving 19 institutions in the United States. Funded by U.S. and Chinese governments, labs on both sides of the Pacific have hosted exchange students, jointly planned research and shared data.

Genes providing long-term resistance to oomycete diseases are just emerging in commercially available crops. "Resistance genes have been used in breeding for a long time, but many of them have been quickly defeated by the pathogens," said Tyler. "We've uncovered why that happens. The pathogen produces a group of proteins that the plant has learned to detect. Unfortunately, these are proteins that the pathogen can quickly change. Now we have started to identify proteins the pathogen cannot change"

Students

Phillip Lujan receives New Mexico Crop Production Association Scholarship

Phillip Lujan, Graduate Assistant in the Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science at New Mexico State University was selected to receive a \$ 750 scholarship from the New Mexico Crop Production Association (NMCPA). He will attend the NMCPA annual meeting in Ruidoso, NM, in January 2014. Lujan is completing a M.S. degree in Agricultural Biology and conducting research on “Factors Affecting Mycelium Pigmentation and Pathogenicity of *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* on Valencia peanut” under the supervision of Drs. **Soum Sanogo** and **Naveen Puppala**.



Students conduct plant diagnosis for community

Students in the Diagnosing Plant Disorders class at New Mexico State University conducted an outreach event to diagnose plant problems for the community of Las Cruces, NM, on October 28, 2013.

The course is taught by **Soum Sanogo**, Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Weed Science. Other NMSU faculty and staff who participated in the event included **Carol Sutherland**, Extension Entomologist, **Jason French**, Specialist with the NMSU Plant Diagnostic Clinic, and **Geno Picchioni**, Professor and specialist in plant mineral nutrition.

The questions and plant specimens brought by the community participants provided a challenging opportunity to the students for strengthening their skills in plant diagnosis and public communication.



Positions

TITLE: Postdoctoral Scholar
LOCATION: U.C. Davis Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Parlier, CA
SALARY: Commensurate with experience; range begins at \$39,264 a year plus medical insurance
CLOSING DATE: Open until filled (preferred to fill in early 2014)
DURATION: Possible three years with a possibility of extension for one to two additional years depending on funding.

DESCRIPTION: The Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, University of California, Davis is seeking an individual with a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology or related field with research experience in the epidemiology and disease management of foliar and fruit fungal plant pathogens for a postdoctoral scientist position. The individual will be responsible for conducting field and laboratory research on the ecology, epidemiology, and management of *Botryosphaeria* canker and blight of walnut (an ongoing project) caused by species of *Botryosphaeriaceae*.

REQUIREMENTS: Ph.D. in plant pathology or a related field. Knowledge and experience in the ecology, epidemiology of fungal pathogen populations; microbiological techniques used in estimating fungal inoculum density on host surfaces in winter and during the growing season; factors and time affecting infection, disease expression, and development, and disease modeling; management of fungal diseases by chemical, cultural, and biological control approaches; and statistics would be factors in selecting the candidate. Persons with experience in fungal disease development, management, and modeling are encouraged to apply.

TO APPLY: Send CV and research interest statement along with the names and contact information of three references to: **Themis J. Michailides**, Plant Pathologist, University of California at Davis Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 9240 South Riverbend Ave., Parlier, CA 93648. Tel. 559-646-6546; fax 559-646-6593; Mobile: 559-273-8640; E-mail: tjmichailides@ucanr.edu

Meetings

Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens

The **60th Anniversary meeting of the Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens (formerly Soil Fungus Conference)** will be held March 11-13, 2014 at Dominican University in San Rafael, California. The meeting will be held with the California Nematology Workshop and the steering committee of the National Ornamentals Research Site at Dominican University of California, which conducts research on Sudden Oak Death. A field trip will be offered on March 11, and student travel scholarships are available. This meeting was started in 1954 by researchers from the University of California with interests in soilborne fungi and meets annually at locations in the western U.S. This meeting has a relatively informal and highly interactive format that allows for provocative, short oral presentations on research and development discoveries, new or increasing disease problems, new applications, products and equipment, and other subjects. Participants come from universities (research, teaching, extension), USDA, private industry and technical service organizations, private practice/consulting, and county and state agencies. For more information see <http://soilfungus.ars.usda.gov>.

Joint Conference

Genetics of Five-Needle Pines and Rusts in Mountain Landscapes: Conservation, Utilization and Evolution in a Changing Climate

Joint Meeting of **Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines (IUFRO 2.02.15), Rusts of Forest Trees (IUFRO 7.02.05), and Strobosphere**

The joint meeting will be held June 15-20, 2014 in Ft. Collins, Colorado, U.S.A. bringing together scientists working with Genetics and Conservation of White Pine Species (5 needle pines) as well as those working with Rusts of Forest Trees. Information on the three groups convening this conference is available at: <http://www.westernforestry.org/Events/conference/>

Important dates:

Abstract submission: 1 December 2013 – 15 February 2014

Registration opens: 6 January 2014

Conference: 15 June 2014 – 20 June 2014

Upcoming Book

“**Biodiversity Conservation: A Path to a Healthy Afghanistan**“ by Nadir Sidiqi, Agricultural Adviser, President, Organic EcoCare, Inc.

Acknowledgements

Introduction

Chapter 1 What is Biodiversity?

Chapter 2 Biodiversity’s Link to Agriculture

Chapter 3 Biodiversity and Natural Pharmacy

Chapter 4 Biodiversity and Infectious Diseases

Chapter 5 Water and Biodiversity

Chapter 6 Soil and Biodiversity

Chapter 7 Biotic and Abiotic Links to Biodiversity

Chapter 8 Biodiversity, Conservation

and a Challenging Future

Conclusion

References

Reminder!!!

**Mark Your Calendar to attend the 2014 APS
Pacific Division Meeting**

**July 9-11, 2014
Bozeman, Montana**