

**SORA-CPS**



Southwestern Ontario Regional Association  
Canadian Phytopathological Society

## **Southwestern Ontario Regional Group of the CPS (SORA-CPS): Annual Meeting Report 2015**

On a warm (13 C) November 6, 2015, SORA-CPS held its annual meeting from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at Best Western Stone Ridge Inn & conference Centre, 6675 Burtwistle Lane, London, Ontario. The meeting was attended by over 45 attendees including students, plant pathologists, researchers, extension specialists and industry representatives. The program for the meeting included five invited talks and 10 poster presentations on a wide range of phytopathological topics.

Registration with coffee and cookies started at 9:30 am. Due to a road closure on high-way 401 about half of the delegates travelling from Niagara, Guelph, Hamilton were delayed anywhere from 2-3 hours in arriving at the meeting. We are thankful that all our delegates have arrived safely.

Dr. Ken Conn, Regional Representative of SORA-CPS and CPS Treasurer (2012-) presented opening remarks and welcomed the participants to SORA-CPS annual meeting. Dr. Brent McCallum (CPS President) brought greetings from the CPS Board of Directors and CPS membership to CPS-SORA. He provided an update on national topics. Student members were encouraged to join CPS and some of the benefits include registration fees at 50% of the regular member rate at the CPS annual meetings and also highlighted the student travel awards, etc.

There were five invited talks which provided updates on diseases during the 2015 growing season and possible solutions for control of some of the diseases.

“What’s Up in Field Crops” by **Albert Tenuta**, Field Crops Program Lead, OMAFRA, Ridgetown, ON.

“Findings on the plant health effects of Pyraclostrobin”

Guest Speaker: **Scott Hodgins**, Brand Manager - Horticulture, Professional & Specialty Solutions, BASF, ON

“What are Plant Canada and Global Plant Council” by **Deena Errampalli**, President, Plant Canada, Vineland, ON.

“ILeVO a new soybean seed treatment for the control of SDS” by **Luc Bourgeois**, the Horticulture and Row Crop Research and Development Manager for Bayer CropScience, ON.

"Alterations in disease resistance & defense gene expression in *Agrostis stolonifera* & *Nicotiana benthamiana* by plant defense activators", by **Paul Goodwin**, Professor, SES, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON.

This year there were five student poster presentations:

**Effectiveness of organic fungicides in reducing the prevalence of *Venturia inaequalis* in ‘McIntosh’ apples.** A. HALDAR, C. JACKSON, A. ZWIEP, F. BETANCOURT, L. KRZYWDZINSKI, M. PARCEY, K.

SCHNEIDER AND D. ERRAMPALLI. (D.E.) *London Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) 4902 Victoria Ave. N., Vineland Station, ON LOR 2E0, Canada*

**Identification of boron tolerant canola cultivars and assessment of clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) severity following a drench application of boron.** A. MCLEAN, B.D. GOSSEN AND M.R. MCDONALD. *Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1, Canada; and (B.D.G.) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), 107 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X2, Canada*

**Improved resistance of bentgrasses to *Microdochium nivale* under climate change** S. STRICKER, T. HSIANG AND A. BERTRAND *University of Guelph, Guelph, ON N1G2W1, Canada; and (A. B) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Quebec City, QC G1V 2J3, Canada*

**Soybean root suberin and resistance against the pathogen *Phytophthora sojae*** T.L.A. TULLY, A. BJELICA AND M.A. BERNARDS *Department of Biology, The University of Western Ontario, London, ON Canada*

**Abscisic acid regulation of biosynthesis and deposition of suberin in wound-healing potato.** K.N. WOOLFSON, M. HAGGITT, A. KACHURA, T. ABDALI, A. BJELICA AND M.A. BERNARDS. *Department of Biology, Western University, 1151 Richmond Street, London, ON, N6A 5B7, Canada; and (A.K.) Department of Biology, University of Ottawa, 30 Marie-Curie Private, Ottawa, ON K1N 9B4, Canada*

#### **Student Awards Presentation**

Owen Wally and Amy Shi participated as judges for the student poster presentation competition. Dr. Ken Conn announced the three prizes to Student poster competition winners and presented the awards. The first prize for the best student poster presentation was awarded to Katie Wollfson (supervisor: Mark Bernards), second prize to Trish Tully (supervisor: Mark Bernards), and third prize to Andrew McLean (supervisor: Mary Ruth McDonald).

#### **Business meeting**

Dr. Ken Conn conducted the business meeting following the formal talks and poster presentations. Regional funds are in good shape. The generous sponsorship contributions by BASF and Bayer Crop Science and CPS are gratefully acknowledged. Thanks to the judges of the student poster competition. The Program included one day of research talks and a lunch with texmex style menu. The food was delicious and the fellowship and research discussions during the lunch and the meeting were memorable. Thanks to SORA CPS Local arrangements committee, Drs. Ken Conn, Deena Errampalli, and Albert Tenuta.

Respectfully submitted by:

Deena Errampalli  
Chair, SORA-CPS Local Arrangements Committee and CPS Past President

Ken Conn,  
Regional Representative, SORA-CPS and CPS Treasurer

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