



Society of Nematologists

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Nematology Newsletter

Kerry Receives Prestigious MBE

Professor Brian R. Kerry, Head of the Nematode Interactions Unit, Rothamsted Research has been awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the New Years Honours List in recognition of his services to science.

Professor Brian Kerry joined Rothamsted in 1973, where he has included different leading positions during his research career. He is currently science director of the Institute's Centre for Soils and Ecosystem Function.

His research has been dedicated to the development of sustainable methods for the management of nematode pests.

(See AWARD on page 4.)



Brian Kerry (L) and Queen Elizabeth II in Buckingham Palace on May 7.

Reuters Reports On Devastation Of Portuguese Pines By Nematodes

HENRIQUE ALMEIDA

Reuters

April 23, 2008 at 2:04 PM EDT

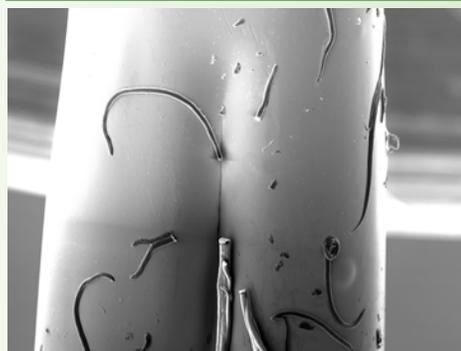
LISBON — Portugal is struggling to contain a new outbreak of nematodes, microscopic worm-like organisms that are killing wild pine trees and threaten to spread abroad despite drastic measures to stop their advance.

The government cut a 430-kilometre corridor through Portugal's southern forests last year to contain the pine wilt nematode within a 10,000-square-kilometre area, about one-ninth of Portugal's forested land.

The nematodes – first detected in Portugal in 1999 – have spread at an alarming rate, prompting the European Union to offer Portugal some €8-million (\$13-million Canadian) to control the plague in recent years. There is no cure for the infestation.

(See PORTUGUESE PINES on page 3.)

What is this?



No, it is not John Radewald in the shower.

Go ahead and give your best guess as to what exactly is pictured in the image above.

The answer is revealed on page 7 of this issue of the Nematology Newsletter.

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News from the President

The annual Congressional Visits Day co-sponsored by the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM) and the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) was held on April 9, 2008, and it was my pleasure to represent the Society of Nematologists at this event. This annual "Hill Event" provides an opportunity for scientists and representatives of public research in the agricultural and biological sciences to visit the offices of legislators in Washington DC to discuss and educate them on the value and continued need for federal funding programs in these research areas. The programs that were supported are primary foundations of public support for research to members of our Society.

Administrators and staff at the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) served as the primary organizers and envoys of CoFARM and BESC representatives in this event, and the participants were grouped on a regional basis to align member constituencies with their appropriate representatives in the U.S. Senate and Congress. I was teamed with a delegation from my home state to meet with science policy staff in the offices of U.S. Senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr and U.S. Representatives Brad Miller, Walter Jones, and David Price from North Carolina. No matter the origin of the delegation, our common goal was to encourage our legislators to support increased funding levels for competitive grants programs within the Biology (BIO) directorate of the National Science Foundation and in life science and agricultural research programs within the National Research Initiative (NRI) of the USDA. The America COMPETES Act, passed in 2007 by an overwhelming majority in the U.S.



President Rick Davis

House and Senate (including all of the legislators visited by our delegation), has confirmed the global solidarity of our representatives with the scientific research community; however, a greater emphasis placed in support of the physical sciences has limited similar support for biological and agricultural research. All CoFARM/BESC delegations proposed a FY2009 19% increase in the BIO directorate of NSF, consistent with America COMPETES, and a 10% increase in the FY2009 budget of NRI. Legislative staff were very keen to the status and significance of these programs and receptive of the proposal while acknowledging the realities of a slow economy and an election year. All agreed that the issues, proposals, and information presented by the delegates provided valuable ammunition for legislators in support of these programs both now and in the future.

The morning of the Hill Event began with a breakfast sponsored by the USDA that included presentations by USDA REE Deputy Undersecretary Merle Piesron, ARS Associate Administrator Toni Betschart, ARS Budget Assistant Michael Arnold, CSREES Associate Administrator Ralph Otto, REE Acting Director of Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs Rob

Hedberg, and the Administrator of the Economic Research Service (ERS) Kitty Smith. All the USDA administrators provided valuable data to support our visits to legislators later that day, particularly the ERS Administrator. Not only does USDA ERS provide a wealth of information related to agricultural productivity, programs, and technology, but they have developed rather extensive analyses of the benefits of

investment in agricultural and biological research by both public and private interests. For example, a multi-study analysis derived a median estimate of 45% "social rate" of return (in economy-wide benefits from higher agricultural productivity) on agricultural research investment. More striking was an estimated 153% professional return on investment (in research publications, intellectual property,

leveraged funding, etc.) from agricultural research that, as suggested by ERS Administrator Smith, represents a significant underinvestment in agricultural research based on rate of return. These are themes that Society members know all too well and that events like the CoFARM/BESC Congressional Visits Day strive to improve.

Portuguese Pines

Continued from Page 1

The new outbreak was detected recently in central Portugal when the organisms began to spread in the warm spring weather.

"The government measures managed to control the nematode in the southern region of Setubal," Agriculture Ministry spokesman Mario Ribeiro said on Wednesday. "But ... in one of our routine analyses, we found a new outbreak in two areas in the centre of the country."

The ministry said the affected areas were in the Arganil and Lousa municipalities, in one of Portugal's largest wild pine forest regions.

It said in a statement that it would take measures to fight the infestation in an area totalling 6,500 hectares and would ask landowners to destroy any infected trees to stop it from spreading further.

"The nematode has no cure so we are doing what experts told us to. We are carrying out analysis and asking landowners to take down the trees if they are infected," Mr. Ribeiro said.

Asked if there was a risk of the organisms spreading to neighbouring Spain, Mr. Ribeiro replied: "There is no answer for that. Everything that is agreed to be done is being done."

Portugal informed the European Union of the new outbreak last week, Mr. Ribeiro said. The EU has not taken any measures that would affect Portugal's timber industry exports, he added.

Portuguese exports of cork, pulp and pine wood are worth about €2.5-billion a year. About half a million pine trees were felled when the forest corridor was cleared last year.

Recent droughts in Portugal are believed to have weakened the trees' natural defences against the nematodes.

Heads Up!

Haven't had a chance to go to a SON Meeting?

Plan on it now!

Society of Nematologists Meeting Dates:

2009: Saturday, July 11 to Wednesday, the 15th

2010: Saturday, July 10 to Thursday, the 15th

50th Anniversary of SON:

2011: Sunday, July 17th to Thursday, the 21st

(Suggestions for our Golden Jubilee Celebration are welcome!)



Award

Continued from Page 1

Working on nematode pests of cereals, Brian's research team was the first to demonstrate that these pests could be controlled biologically by natural enemies that build up in soil in cereal monocultures in Europe. He has worked for the past decade in collaboration with Dr Leopoldo Hidalgo Diaz, a Rothamsted International Fellow from Cuba. Their work has led to the development of a biological control product, Klamic, based on the fungus *Pochonia chlamydosporia*, that can be used in conventional and organic farming systems for the control of root-knot nematodes on vegetable crops in the tropics.

Brian currently also coordinates a major initiative in eastern and southern Africa where there is a need to increase research capacity in plant nematology to help control these pests. Way to go Brian! Your recognition goes a long way to promote the utility of our discipline to a larger audience.

60th Symposium on Crop Protection in Ghent, Belgium

The annual Crop Protection conference at Ghent University celebrated its 60th meeting on May 20th 2008, with over 250 delegates attending. The plenary session was followed by eight concurrent sessions, including Nematology, Entomology, Phytopathology and Biological Control, and a lunchtime poster session.

Richard Sikora and Roland Perry chaired the Nematology session. It was encouraging for the future of Nematology that of the 12 papers, six were from PhD students. Sam Mitchinson, working at Rothamsted, presented her work on cereal cyst nematodes in the UK and Le Huong, working in Richard Sikora's group at Bonn, was senior author on a paper discussing the activity of fungal endophytes towards *Meloidogyne graminicola*. Annelies Haegeman, from Godlieve Gheysen's group at Ghent University, gave a talk on cell wall degrading enzymes in

Radopholus similis. There were three papers from PhD students who had previously completed the MSc Nematology course at Ghent University: John Mukuka, working on desiccation tolerance of *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, with Ralf Ehlers in Germany, Diana Londono, studying tolerance of chrysanthemum to *Meloidogyne hapla* with Corrie Schomaker and Thomas Been in The Netherlands, and Yirina Valdes, now with Maurice Moens and Nicole Viaene at Merelbeke Belgium, who presented her MSc work on the effects of seaweed based plant growth products on *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*. In addition to the PhD students, Bart Vandebossche, currently a student on the MSc Nematology course, presented his work on nematodes on golf greens and football pitches.

Richard Sikora presented a paper from his group on nematode communities in reclaimed land and Leendert Molendijk discussed work from The Netherlands on the use of biofumigation crops to control *Pratylenchus penetrans*. As in past years, the Nematology session was enhanced by papers from outside Europe. David Bird and Charlie Opperman, from the USA, each gave a paper on different aspects of the *Meloidogyne* genome project at NC State University and the final paper in the session was an entertaining exposition from Guy Bélair on the problems caused by *Globodera* spp. in Canada.

The day ended with the traditional banquet at the historic Het Pand in Ghent, with several Nematology delegates progressing to the Jenever bar afterwards. The day was a great success, not only for Nematology but also for the Crop Protection conference as a whole. Details of the Crop Protection meetings can be found on www.iscp.ugent.be



The attendees of the annual Crop Protection conference gather just outside Ghent University on May 20th for a quick shot.

SON Recognizes Two New Fellows and One Syngenta



Dr. Andrea Skantar - Syngenta

Dr. Andrea Skantar was born and raised in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, PA. In 1984, Andrea earned a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the Pennsylvania State University. She was awarded an NIH training grant to pursue graduate studies in Biochemistry at Duke University where she analyzed the structure and function of the RNA polymerase II transcription complex in *Drosophila melanogaster* under the guidance of Arno Greenleaf. After completing her Ph.D. in 1993, Andrea sought to apply her molecular skills to agricultural research, which took her to North Carolina State University, where she worked as a Postdoctoral Research Associate with Dr. Charlie Opperman. During the next two years, she performed research to bioengineer resistance to root-knot nematode in tobacco via expression of the cellular toxin barnase driven by the nematode-inducible promoter TobRB7.



Dr. Larry Duncan -
Fellow

Dr. Larry Duncan is originally from Clarkston, Michigan. After obtaining his B.S. in Psychology from Michigan State University, Larry traveled throughout Europe, Africa, and India. It was during these travels that Larry acquired an interest in international work. After his travels, he obtained his M.S. degree in Plant Protection and Pest Management from the University of Georgia. He then went on to the University of California, Riverside and received a Ph.D. under the direction of Dr. Howard Ferris. Larry returned to Africa following his Ph.D. and spent a year in Senegal working with plant-parasitic nematodes. He joined the faculty of the University of Florida in 1985 and currently holds the rank of Professor in the Department of Entomology and Nematology.



Dr. Graham Stirling - Fellow

Dr. Graham Stirling was raised on a wheat and sheep farm on Kangaroo Island, Australia. He completed his B.Sc. (Honors) and M.S. degrees at the University of Adelaide, where John Fisher introduced him to the fascinating world of nematodes. Graham began his professional career as a Nematologist with the South Australian Department of Agriculture at Loxton in 1970 where he worked with *Meloidogyne* spp. on grapevine. Graham was awarded a CSIRO Post-Graduate Studentship in 1975, which allowed him to move to the University of California, Riverside. There he began a lifelong interest in biological control of nematodes, working with Ron Mankau. Graham discovered a new parasite of root-knot nematode eggs (*Dactylella oviparasitica*) and demonstrated the importance of biological control in suppression of nematode populations in some Californian peach orchards. He was awarded his Ph.D for that work in 1978.

TCN Life stages

Preparasitic stage



Vermiform (J2)



Swollen (J3)



Pyriform (J4)



Adult

Parasitic stages

Interesting Tidbit

Tobacco cyst nematode (*Globodera tabacum solanacearum*), left, a major nematode pest in Southern Piedmont regions of Virginia flue-cured tobacco fields. A typical life cycle (left) consists of the egg, four juvenile stages, and an adult; under normal conditions the entire life cycle takes about 30 days. Crop losses can range from 15% to total crop failure. In some cases, disease complexes with fungal and bacterial pathogens were also reported. Submitted by Venkat Parkunan

Cost 872 - Genomics and Plant-Nematode Interactions

Plant parasitic nematodes cause damage to crops grown in the EU and throughout the world. The costs of this damage have been calculated to be worth in excess of 70 billion US dollars each year. The most economically important plant parasitic nematodes are the sedentary endoparasites, in particular the root-knot (*Meloidogyne* spp.) and the cyst forming nematodes (including *Heterodera* and *Globodera* spp). After hatching from eggs in soil, the nematodes migrate through plant tissues, secreting a cocktail of enzymes that degrade the plant cell wall to facilitate their progress. The nematodes then induce the formation of specialized feeding structures in the host tissue by altering the development of the root cells surrounding them. In a resistant plant, the nematode or developing feeding site is detected by the plant and defense responses are invoked.

“Understanding the molecular bases of these susceptible and resistant responses is a major goal for researchers so that novel strategies for management of nematodes can be developed.”

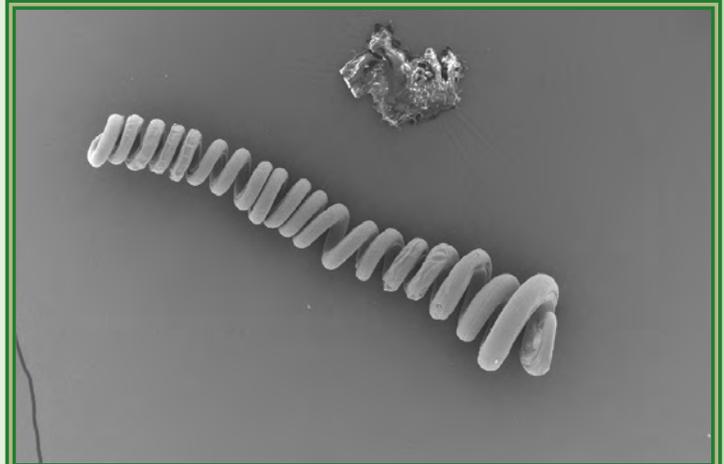
Genome sequences have been available for selected model plant and animal species for some years. In recent years costs of sequencing have come down and genome sequences and/or comprehensive databases of expressed sequence tags are becoming available for plant parasitic nematodes and crops. Techniques for functional analysis of individual genes (e.g RNAi) and at the level of the entire transcriptome (e.g microarrays) are available (or will become available) for crop-nematode pathosystems. The availability of this data and these novel techniques offer an opportunity for rapid scientific advances to be made and for a step change in the way that control of nematodes is approached.



ONTA Award

Dr. Greg Noel, left, nematologist and professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, received the Honorary Member award from the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America. (ONTA.) The awards ceremony was held last November in Villa Carlos Paz, Argentina.

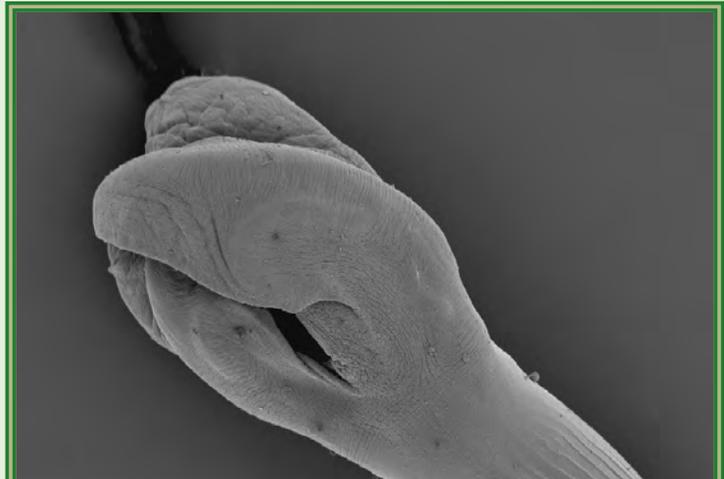
Nematode Photo Shoot



The nematode parasite *Heligmosomoides polygygus*, a gastrointestinal parasite.



The adult mouth. This parasite is often used in the laboratory to study chronic infectious diseases.



A good shot of the copulatory bursa.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Bath, Asst. Prof., Concordia College.

Learning from the Past

A Look at History

What follows is an October, 1950 statement by C.E.K. Mees who was Director of research for the Eastman Kodak Company:

"Research is a gamble. It cannot be conducted according to the rules of efficiency engineering. Research must be lavish of ideas, money and time.

The best advice I can give is (1) don't quit easily, (2) don't trust anyone's judgement but your own, (3) don't take any advice from a commercial person or financial expert, and finally (4) if you really don't know what to do, match for it.

The best person to decide what research should be done is the man who is doing the research. The next best is the head of the department. After that you leave the field of best persons and meet increasingly worse groups. The first of these is the research director, who probably is wrong more than half the time. Then comes a committee which is wrong most of the time. Finally comes a committee of vice presidents, which is wrong all of the time!"

source: Charles Edward Kenneth Mees. 1882-1960, by Walter Clark: Biographical Memoirs of Fellows of the Royal Society, Vol. 7, (Nov., 1961), pp. 173-197

Inspirational Quote

Writer Elbert Hubbard once wrote:

"If you work for a man, in Heaven's name WORK for him. If you receive wages which supply you with food --- speak well of him, stand by him as well as the institution he represents.

"If put to a pinch, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness! BUT, if you must vilify, condemn and disparage -- resign your position. When you are outside you can damn to your heart's content but as long as you are part of that institution, do not condemn it. If you do that, you are loosening the tendrils which hold you to that institution and at the first high wind that comes along, you will be uprooted and blown away and probably never know the reason why."

-A Look at History, Inspirational Quote, and Humor submitted by Charlie Tarjan.-

Meloidogyne exigua

By invitation of the Imperial Government of Brazil, Emil August Göldi (1859-1917), a naturalist from Switzerland, investigated the decline of coffee trees growing in the so-called Província of Rio de Janeiro during the years 1886 and 1887.

Local coffee producers, known as "coffee barons", had alerted the Emperor to their problem several years ago and, actually, Clément Jobert, a French researcher, had already published (1878) a brief note dealing with the possible causal agent of the disease, speculating that it might be a nematode belonging to the genus *Anguillula*.

Göldi made field observations and collected soil and root samples in many infested areas to provide that his subsequent laboratory actions could lead to accurate results and conclusions. After 14 months, at the end of 1887, he finally submitted for publication a document entitled "Relatório sobre a moléstia do cafeeiro na Província do Rio de Janeiro" as a technical report (120 pages, illustrated) to the Archives of the National Museum of Rio de Janeiro. In addition to a detailed description of the symptoms occurring in the attacked plants, he demonstrated that a whitish, rounded worm found in large numbers within abnormally enlarged areas of the roots was the causal agent of the disease.

Eggs, juveniles and male/female adults of the nematode were illustrated and some basic measurements included. The parasite was named as *Meloidogyne exigua*, representing the type species of the group that is currently referred to as 'root-knot nematodes'. Other relevant questions were also issued in the paper, in particular the control measures recommended to the growers, some of which yet are largely used nowadays.

-Article submitted by Luiz Carlos Ferraz of Brasil.-

Humor

"Four oldtimers are discussing the difficulties of old age and agree that forgetfulness is the most disturbing.

The first couldn't remember names. The second couldn't remember faces. The third admitted that he was afraid of forgetting to pull up the zipper on his trousers after relieving himself. The fourth admitted he was afraid that he would forget to pull the zipper down."



Society of Nematologists

Minutes of the 46th Annual Business Meeting
The Town and Country Resort
San Diego, CA
31 July 2007

1. Call to Order: President MacGuidwin called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.
2. Appointment of Parliamentarian: President MacGuidwin appointed D. P. Schmitt parliamentarian.
3. Agenda approval:
A motion was made by J. Starr and seconded by R. Huettel to approve the agenda. The motion passed.
4. Minutes of the 45th Annual Business Meeting:
A motion to accept the minutes of the 45th Annual Business Meeting was made by B. Sipes, seconded by E. Davis, and passed.
5. Recognition of Deceased Members and Friends: President MacGuidwin called for a moment of silence to remember Walter J. Apt, David Dwinell, Usha Kirtilal Mehto, Don C. Norton, and Charles E. Taylor. Past-President Hafez asked that the name of B. A. Oteifa be included as well.
6. Officer Reports: (Expanded versions of reports are included in the 2007 minutes of the 1st Executive Board meeting.)
 - a. President An MacGuidwin: President MacGuidwin carried out the duties of her office as outlined in the SON Manual of Operations. She investigated how best to facilitate the actions of committee officers and committee members who serve SON, and how to increase the face of SON in public policy and to the public in general. President MacGuidwin believes that the engine to drive many of these needed changes will be a revamping of the SON website.
 - b. President-Elect Eric Davis: The primary responsibility of President-Elect Davis was to organize the scientific program for the SON joint meeting with the American Phytopathological Society. He expressed his appreciation for the fabulous coordination provided by the Local Arrangements group at the University of California – Riverside. During the past year he also worked to update SON committee assignments.
 - c. Vice President Robin Huettel: This year Vice President Huettel devoted her efforts primarily to working with the Program Committee for the upcoming 5th International Congress of Nematology with which SON will meet in 2008.
 - d. Secretary Stephen Thomas prepared the minutes of the Executive Board meetings and Annual SON Business Meeting for 2006 (available on the SON website) and minutes of the 2006-2007 electronic meeting of the Executive Board. He thanked members for providing nominations of candidates for the offices of Treasurer and Vice President, and for excellent participation in the voting process. He expressed special thanks to SON members Haddish Melakeberhan, Russell Ingham, Salliana Stetina, and Brent Sipes for agreeing to run for office within the Society.
 - e. Treasurer Russell Ingham expressed gratitude to the SON Business Office for their excellent work maintaining the Society's financial records. Over the past three years he has worked to make the SON budget much more itemized, thereby making it easier to see where the Society's money comes from and where it goes. He developed summary columns to track and compare income and expenditures, leading to the following conclusions: 1) most SON money comes from the Journal of Nematology, annual meetings, and membership dues (which, of the three sources, provided the lowest amount of income); 2) the SON Business Office costs the Society only 6% of total expenditures; 3) membership dues are apportioned such that 51% are applied to the cost of the Journal of Nematology, 1% support the Nematology Newsletter, 6% are required to pay annual SON affiliations with other professional organizations, and 36% support functions provided by the Business Office. Annual SON operation requires 112% of our current dues to break even, so profit from past annual meetings is what has allowed the Society to avoid a deficit in recent years. This scenario exists in a period of highly fiscally conservative decisions on the part of the SON Executive Board (deferring matching contributions historically provided to the N. A. Cobb Nematology Foundation, and decisions not to fund many new projects). Ultimately, SON needs to consider raising dues in the future.

7. Editor-in-Chief David Bird informed SON members that all information needed to prepare and submit a manuscript to the Journal of Nematology is now available on the SON website. Throughout the past year he has continued to implement electronic submission of papers for review, and has made the Journal of Nematology Style Manual available in electronic format on the website. Another important accomplishment has been to get the Journal of Nematology listed in PubMed, and available on-line immediately upon publication – thereby significantly increasing the visibility of manuscripts published in the Journal. Lastly, the speed with which manuscripts are published continues to improve – now averaging three months from the time of submission.
8. Nematology Newsletter Editor Byron Adams: No oral report presented.
9. Public Relations Director Ernie Bernard: No oral report presented.
10. Past-President Saad Hafez announced that the 2010 SON Annual Meeting will be held in Boise, ID.
11. Web Editor D. P. Schmitt: Report deferred until later in the meeting.
12. N.A. Cobb Foundation: Chairman Greg Noel thanked members for the excellent participation in the recent election of Robin Giblin-Davis as in-coming Chair, and Patricia Timper as in-coming Vice-Chair. The Cobb Foundation presented the following four student travel awards (responsible endowment in parentheses) to persons attending the San Diego meeting: Jinya Qui and Jianli Xiao (N. A. Cobb Fund); Donna Henderson (Economic Nematology Endowment); Jing Jin (J. M. Webster Outstanding Student Award).
13. Reports from Representatives to Affiliated Organizations:
 - a. American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS): Representative Steve Nadler reported that AIBS is a member of the Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science (COPUS) which is a group of organizations that strive to increase national awareness of the sciences. The second matter discussed was how SON can insure that AIBS gains open access to information presented in the Journal of Nematology.
 - b. Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST): Representative Jon Eisenback reported on the recent activities being undertaken by CAST, and encouraged SON members to visit the CAST website (<http://www.cast-science.org>) to learn more about the resources provided by this organization. CAST Executive Board member Judy Theis reminded SON members of visit the CAST booth in the Exhibit Hall for additional information.
 - c. Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM): Representative David Chitwood discussed the committee's activity as a liaison to effectively educate policy makers about the value and importance of public investment in agricultural research, and to help focus the USDA research budget on agricultural investments that will enhance the quality of life for Americans and increase U.S. competitiveness in expanding world markets.
 - d. Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA): Representative Zafar Handoo discussed the value to SON of continued participation in NSCA. He also inquired whether other SON members are interested in participating in the organization.
14. Standing Committee Reports: (*President MacGuidwin has requested that all in-coming committee members, chairs, and vice-chairs serve 2-year terms, because normal committee activity will be difficult to achieve at the 2008 5th International Congress of Nematology. Expanded versions of reports are included in the 2007 minutes of the 1st Executive Board meeting.)
 - a. Archives: Archivist Don Schmitt discussed the recently-published volume *Agriculture, Nematology and the Society of Nematologists*, authored by D. P. Schmitt and J. M. P. Schmitt. The book provides a succinct explanation of the role of nematology in agriculture and the history and contributions of the Society of Nematologists to the discipline. Don also announced that he will be retiring from the position of Archivist.
 - b. Biocontrol: Vice-Chair Tom Forge summarized committee activity, in the absence of Chair Susan Meyer. No funding is requested by the committee at this time.
 - c. Ecology: Members of the committee are very excited about the opportunities associated with the joint meeting of SON with the Soil Ecology Society in 2009.
 - d. Education: The educational slide set that originally provided photographic images of nematodes and plant-parasitic nematode injury to crops is now available in digital format through a link on the SON website. The committee is also looking at how best to increase the visibility of SON other groups, such as those who work with *Caenorhabditis elegans*.



- e. Entomopathogenic Nematology: No oral report presented.
- f. Extension: The principle project underway is to determine how best to make extension nematology publications accessible through the SON website.
- g. Finance Advisory: No oral report presented.
- h. Honors and Awards: The committee awarded four Dow AgroScience Student Travel Awards to students attending the San Diego meeting. The student paper competition organized and judged by the committee at the 46th Annual Meeting was very successful. The committee challenged the SON membership to nominate members for Society Awards, following a lack of response to the call for nominations in 2007.
- i. Industry: The committee is planning a symposium addressing the role of products for nematode management in the global marketplace at the 5th International Congress of Nematology.
- j. Local Arrangements Committee: Chair Jim Baldwin reported that SON received excellent industry support for the San Diego meeting, thanks in large part to the efforts of President-Elect Eric Davis. Although total SON attendance at this year's joint meeting is not known due to mixed membership information for attendees belonging to both SON and the American Phytopathological Society, all indications are that the meeting will generate a positive cash flow.
- k. Long Range Planning: Past-President Saad Hafez reported that the committee met once, and discussed changes in the voting structure among members of the Executive Board.
- l. Meeting Site Selection: Vice-President Robin Huettel reminded members that meeting requests should be presented to the Site Selection Committee, which will evaluate requests and make recommendations to the SON Executive Board. The Board then votes to approve future meeting sites.
- m. Membership: Chair Xuebiao Gao announced that SON membership has increased 10% since 2002, and now totals 642 members.
- n. Plant Resistance: Chair Pat Donald reported that the committee is working toward adding descriptions of techniques for screening for resistance to economically-important nematodes to the SON website.
- o. Regulatory: No oral report presented.
- p. Systematic Resources: The committee sponsored the Tree of Life symposium at the 2007 joint Annual Meeting, which was the only joint taxonomic symposium presented.

15. Ad hoc Committee Reports:

- a. Student Committee: President MacGuidwin and Executive Board liaison Andrea Skantar commented on the enthusiasm and creativity of the members of this group. Members are very eager to participate in future SON meetings, and need and deserve encouragement from the SON membership as a whole.
- b. Soybean Cyst Nematode Variability Committee: Chair Terry Niblack asked that this ad hoc committee be disbanded.
- c. 2007 Meeting Program: Chair Eric Davis reported that the results of the committee's activities during the past year are evident in the successful program experienced at this year's meeting.
- d. 2008 Meeting Program: Representative Robin Huettel announced that the Program Committee for the 5th International Congress of Nematology, which will be held July 13-18 2008 in Brisbane, Australia, held several electronic meetings during the past year. The program will include four plenary sessions and 30 symposia. Topics will be broad, inclusive, and presented by over 230 invited speakers. All orally presented papers will be by invitation, with other attendees having the opportunity to submit poster presentations. Dr. Mike Hodda from the Organizing Committee presented an overview of the upcoming 5th International Congress, reiterating the inclusiveness of the program. He announced that special rates and accommodations will be available for student attendees. As a venue, Brisbane is a very safe, subtropical city that is home to approximately 1,000,000 people. The meeting will include field trip options to a northern tropical research station or to a southern caldera and rain forest site. Registration will open in September 2007. The website currently has an "intent to attend" field where those likely to attend can express interest, which will assist those planning the meeting in finalizing arrangements.
- e. 2009 Meeting Program: The meeting will be held jointly with the Soil Ecology Society in Burlington, VT, in mid-July. Deborah Neher will serve as the Local Arrangements Chair.
- f. 2010 Meeting: The meeting will be held in Boise, ID. Saad Hafez announced that the Local Arrangements Committee will try to plan a river trip as part of venue, along with field trips to visit aspects of the Idaho potato industry. Hotel and other costs associated with the meeting should be very reasonable.
- g. 2011 Meeting: Russ Ingham announced that the 50th anniversary meeting of SON will be held in Corvallis, OR at Oregon State University. Accommodations will include hotel and student residence hall options, as desired. A new campus convention center will be available to facilitate the meeting. Temperatures should be mild during the anticipated mid-July meeting period, with little rain. Russ also presented information regarding surrounding attractions and possible tours that might be of interest to attendees.



16. Old Business:
 - a. Composition of the Executive Board: At the suggestion of the Long Range Planning Committee, SON is considering reducing the number of voting members on the Executive Board. The Board is currently comprised of 13 members, seven of which are appointed rather than elected by the SON membership, with the intent being that future voting members (with the exception of the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Nematology) should be elected to the Board. Any change to voting status of Executive Board members will require amendment of the SON constitution.
 - b. Revision of the SON Website: The intended outcome of revising the SON website is to have the site become a "one-stop shop" for both SON and those interested in nematology in general. The website should be the engine with which SON reaches wider audiences. Once the website is revamped and running, it will be necessary to identify working groups within SON that will determine how and what additional material will be added to the website.
 - c. SON Committee Structure: Work is underway to determine if changes in committee structure or function, in conjunction with revision of the website, could better serve SON members. Any such changes would again require amendment of the SON constitution.
 - d. Appreciation of Service to SON: President MacGuidwin recognized and expressed her gratitude for service to the Society by the following outgoing SON officers: Past-President Saad Hafez; Treasurer Russ Ingham; Executive Board member Sally Schneider.
17. Installation of New Officers: President MacGuidwin introduced newly-elected Treasurer Brent Sipes and Vice-President Russell Ingham. Robin Huettel assumed the office of President-Elect, and Eric Davis assumed the office of President, receiving the gavel from An MacGuidwin.
18. New Business: President Davis presented Past-President MacGuidwin with a plaque in appreciation for her service. He and the SON membership thanked her for her efforts during the past year.
19. Adjournment:

A motion for adjournment was made by Eric Davis, seconded by Robin Huettel, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Thomas

Secretary

Society of Nematologists

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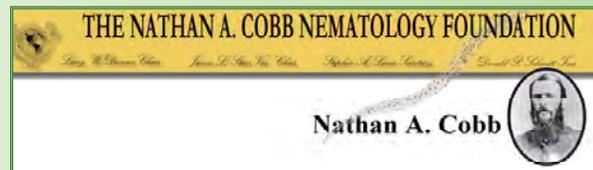
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