



Nematology Newsletter

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From President Niblack



Fellow SON Members:

One of the several organizations of which the Society of Nematologists is a member is the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM; <http://www.cofarm.org/>). Our official organizational representative and steering committee member is David Chitwood, who does a wonderful and valuable job in participating in CoFARM meetings and reporting to us on its activities. One of the activities in which we have not participated previously is the biannual Congressional Visits Day, which David is prevented from participating in due to USDA-ARS ethics rules. These are held in Washington DC in the fall and spring as part of a larger activity involving several hundred scientists from many diverse disciplines under the auspices of the Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America (ASTRA; <http://www.aboutastra.org/>) and the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC; <http://www.esa.org/besc/>). Congressional Visits Days are essentially a means of educating scientists about the legislative process, making sure congressional staffers know whom to contact for expert opinions, and providing members of Congress with information

regarding our agenda.*

This year, because of the rumors we've all been reading and hearing about regarding formula funding and possible significant changes in the scope and level of funding for the USDA-CSREES NRI (USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, National Research Initiative; <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/fundview.cfm?fonum=1112>), I decided to represent SON on the Hill this year. The program was 2 days long, including a full day of speakers from the White House Office of Management and Budget, the National Science Foundation, USDA-CSREES, the House Science Committee, and more intimate meetings with CoFARM members and staffers from congressional agriculture and appropriations committees. On the second day, I met with Illinois Representative Tim Johnson and agriculture liaison staff members from Senators Dick Durbin and Barack Obama. These meetings were fascinating, both from what I learned about how members of Congress approach agricultural research funding, and from what I heard about members' views on the current issues. In this letter, I don't intend to go into long, boring detail about my experiences and opinions (although I'll be happy to do that when I see you at the meeting!); suffice it to say that I was convinced that as long as CoFARM and/or BESC coordinate these activities, we should make it a point to see that SON is represented physically, if not by our president, then by a member who is interested in seeing how we fit in the big picture.

This is my last NNL column as President of our wonderful small society. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to serve. Please think about what you can do to increase membership and member participation – every little bit helps!

*The CoFARM agenda for the Hill visits

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was as follows:

- Support the President's FY2006 proposed \$250 million for the NRI, but not at the expense of existing programs. This level would meet the National Academy of Science's recommendation that total competitive grants be increased to, and sustained at, 20-30% of USDA's total research portfolio.
- Allow the Secretary of Agriculture to apply up to 30% of funding to conduct integrated research, education, and extension.
- Eliminate the indirect cost cap on NRI.
- Support the request of \$30 million for the Homeland Security Program.
- Proceed judiciously in making significant changes in allocation of formula funds.

Minutes from Estes Park, Colorado

The minutes from the First and Second Executive Board Meetings (August 2004) and the SON Business Meeting are in 'Supplement-M' of the June 2005 NNL (online at <http://www.nematologists.org/>).

SON Memorabilia Needed

The SON Archives is in search of the following meeting gifts:

1962 Corvallis, OR
1963 Amherst, MA
1964 Boulder, CO
1965 Urbana, IL
1966 Daytona Beach, FL
1967 Washington, DC
1968 Columbus, OH
1969 San Francisco, CA
1970 Washington, DC
1971 Ottawa, Canada
1972 Raleigh, NC
1974 Riverside, CA
1976 Daytona Beach, FL
1977 E. Lansing, MI
1978 Hot Springs, AR

1979 Salt Lake City, UT
1980 New Orleans, LA
1983 Ames, IA
1984 Guelph, Canada
1985 Atlantic City, NJ
1999 Monterey, CA
2000 Quebec City, Canada

If you would like to donate an item or items, please contact the SON Business Office at 660-256-3252 or son@mcmsys.com. All items received will be placed in the SON Archives. Thank you.

Please visit the SON Archive Committee display of meeting gifts at the 44th Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

The History of SON

The Society of Nematologists is in the process of writing a history of the Society. We are looking for pictures of past meetings, past officers and executive boards. If you would like to donate any pictures, please contact the SON Business Office at 660-256-3252 or son@mcmsys.com. All pictures received will be placed in the SON Archives unless otherwise indicated. Thank you.



H. Hirschmann

A. C. Triantaphyllou

Bob Jenkins

Bringing the Public to Nematodes



NNL has had various items about the need to raise public awareness of nematodes. In March 2005 there was a 24-hour, 3 pm to 3 pm, 'BioBlitz' held on the Auckland Domain, a 75 ha central city park in New Zealand's largest city. Some 50 biologists, based in a marque, scoured the Domain, recording everything they found, dead or alive: from plants to fungi to fish to animals, diurnal and nocturnal. The public were invited, with over 2000 visiting to watch scientists identifying material found, or going out collecting material for identification.

Auckland city had had a very dry summer and, without irrigation, topsoil samples collected from the Domain were very dry. While this underlay the recording of 'only' 51 nematode species compared with a projected 100 species, interaction with the public took a lot of my time.

Stereomicroscope facilities were supplied by an entomologist and had only incident lighting. By arranging the fibre optic light source to shine horizontally through a solid watch glass, the public microscope showed ghostly nematodes swimming against a black background. This portrayal had a great 'wow' impact

(even from the Mayor) and only a few 'yuks'. About 50 'groups' were interested in a discussion of nematodes and went away more informed about the abundance, diversity and importance of these animals that they do not normally see. They were 'blown away' to know that nematodes represent about 80% of all individual animals on the earth. Some knew of 'pin worms' and *Ascaris*, a few of cyst or root-knot nematodes, but had never realised their common links.

The single A4 sheet summarising and illustrating nematodes was eagerly collected by school teachers and others.

At least 2,000 members of the public visited BioBlitz – some coming back with family on the second day. They were enthusiastic and surprised about what was found, with 1,575 nominal species of organisms being recorded. Some came only to see the trees, birds and insects and were amazed to learn that smaller organisms, including nematodes, exist and can be observed. If any other SON members take the opportunity to spend a day at such a public event, I am sure that they, and nematology, will be richly rewarded.

Gregor Yeates

Potpourri of Nematological Methods and Techniques

The computer program 'A Potpourri of Nematological Methods and Techniques' is continually being updated as additional publications, both new and old, are investigated. Several abstracts dealing with molecular biology have been added. The abstracts currently available in the program (1,181 as of 1 May 2005) are being added to continually. The work can be accessed at website: <http://nemamethods.ifas.ufl.edu/>



KEITH DAVIES

Keith grew up in a suburb of Rochdale, an industrial town on the outskirts of Manchester England. Suburbia can have a pejorative connotation, a bourgeois place for the middle classes, neither rural nor urban - a wasteland. But the bottom of the road where he lived fell away into a river valley, at the bottom of which ran the industrially polluted River Roch. The town Rochdale, named after the river, has one of the broadest bridges in the world, the reason - it was the way the town dealt with its pollution problem at the beginning of the twentieth century, they just covered it up! Keith therefore grew up and played, caught between a rural ideal - the valley and an industrial sewer - the river.

The start of his formal biological education was at school in the 1970s, where Keith's biology teacher, John Williams, introduced him to books like John Maynard Smith's *The Theory of Evolution*, Meadows and Meadows *The Limits to Growth* and articles from *The Ecologist* like *The Blueprint for Survival*. Around the same time the BBC ran Jacob Bronowski's celebrated series *The Ascent of Man*. It was perhaps not surprising that he chose to read biology as an undergraduate at Hatfield Polytechnic, now the University of Hertfordshire, where he would focus on ecology. It was then one of the few, if not the only course in the UK, offering ecology as a specific specialisation.

Life at Hatfield ran between lectures, practicals, and tutorials and a broad series of core modules that included as much chemistry as biology. Keith did not get along too well with chemistry and found the organic laboratory a nightmare; he even set fire to himself during a reflux experiment with acetone much to the amusement of his colleagues. In the second year, the chemistry had changed to biochemistry, microbiology and ecology and this he found much more to his liking, although he still failed his end of year microbiology exam and had to re-sit. Perhaps his academic pursuits suffered because he spent too much time being captain

Member Profiles

of the ski club and engaging in all sorts of extramural activities from parachuting to skin diving.

The course Keith had chosen was a *sandwich* course, and this resulted in him having to undertake two 'industrial' placements. Therefore he spent some six months at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Edinburgh researching ecto-trophic mycorrhizae with Philip Mason, and six months doing field trials at Ciba Geigy Agrochemicals just outside Cambridge. It was the former placement that whetted his appetite for research and motivated him to focus on studies on soil and plant microbiology for his final year. By the time he graduated he had two offers for research posts, one to undertake a Ph.D. on ecto-trophic mycorrhizae and the other to work as a plant pathologist on a World Bank project in Africa under the auspices of VSO (the British Equivalent of The Peace Corps). His itchy feet led him to spend the next two years undertaking several ICRISAT disease nursery trials in Malawi where he was told to forget about all that biological control nonsense he had heard about in lectures, and that African soils should be treated like a hydroponic system.

Being stubborn, Keith thought that there must be a more environmentally sustainable approach to crop production and protection, and while in Africa he started to search for a Ph.D. program. He eventually chose the *University of Wales*, Bangor, where he had been in correspondence with Bob Whitbread, who had been doing a sabbatical with Milton Schroth at Berkeley on fluorescent *Pseudomonads*. He persuaded Keith that mycorrhizae had had their day and that rhizobacteria was where the future lay. He then spent the next three years dedicated to *Pseudomonas fluorescence* - investigating the biotic and abiotic factors contributing to their ability to colonise root systems. During this time Keith was encouraged to broaden his scientific outlook, and was privileged to attend John Harper's Lectures on *The Population Biology of Plants*. The problem with this was that John was such an engaging lecturer that Keith's notes were absolutely useless.

Science, however, was not Keith's only academic pursuit. He took to heart his supervisor's encouragement to broaden his scientific outlook and enrolled in the Arts' Faculty to study the philosophy of science. This he found wanting, as it was really the philosophy of physics and had nothing to do with biology. Luckily this was around the time that Ernst Mayr's *The Growth of Biological Thought* was published and Keith found that Mayr's treatment of biology brought some much needed balance to the philosophy of science; especially his stressing the revolutionary importance of Darwin's

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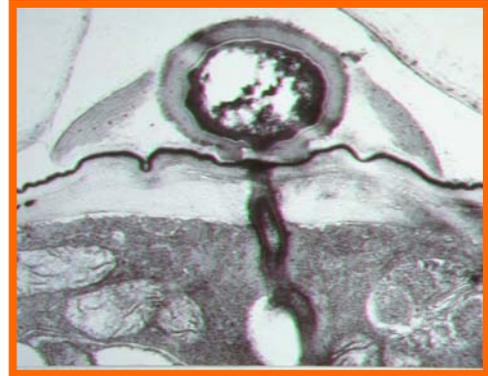
population thinking versus the essentialism of Plato and Aristotle that had dominated Western thinking since the Greeks.

Keith was awarded a Ph.D. in 1986 and started looking around for a post-doc position. He had become frustrated with all the variation he encountered working on rhizobacteria and wanted a more robust area of research. This was a time when large economic cuts were hitting science on a yearly basis in the UK and the political pressure was for science to jump into bed with industry. Hence his first post-doc position was funded through the Agricultural Genetics Company, one of the new breed of bio-tech companies that were proliferating at this time. It was through them that he learned that Brian Kerry, at Rothamsted, was looking for a post-doc to work on *Pasteuria penetrans*.

The *Pasteuria* project was like manna from heaven - being an obligate parasite, it was a robust system, perhaps too robust because of the difficulty of culturing the organism *in vitro*. The other problem associated with *Pasteuria* is that their endospores will attach to and infect one population of nematode but not another. During this period Keith had been collaborating with Dave Ellar and a group in the biochemistry department at Cambridge. They had made the first polyclonal antibodies to *Pasteuria* endospores. Keith had no previous experience in using immunological techniques, but he understood the power of monoclonal antibodies for molecular recognition, as well as their utility as tools to investigate the biochemistry of endospore attachment. Keith therefore started adopting these techniques, but unfortunately the *Pasteuria* project had run its course and there were no further funds to continue.

Around this time it had been decided to build a monoclonal laboratory at Rothamsted and Keith was the first to exploit this technology, *in house*, and produced the first monoclonals at Rothamsted. This project, funded by the Natural Resources Institute, was aimed at developing a simple immuno-diagnostic kit to identify root-knot nematodes and became his second post-doc position for a further three years. Although, he could produce monoclonal antibodies that distinguished between species using glasshouse populations of *Meloidogyne* spp., this could never be transferred to field populations. Because Keith was the only person on site that could produce monoclonals, he was made a permanent staff scientist in 1992.

Life as a permanent member of staff got Keith involved with a whole host of different projects exploiting his immunological skills but his heart was set on trying to understand the mechanism by which *Pasteuria* endospores attached to the cuticle of nematodes. Using monoclonals, Keith was able to show that variation on the surface of the endospore related to the population of nematodes to which *Pasteuria* adhered. Paul O'Shea, a



Pasteuria penetrans (R.M. Sayre)

protein biochemist interested in microbial adhesion, came to Rothamsted to give a talk and this set off a collaboration on the role of fibronectin. Over the next several years, Keith was able to show that the gelatine binding domain of fibronectin bound to endospores and inhibited attachment. He guessed that fibronectin, or something similar, was present on the nematode cuticle and, although he was sure he was onto something, the latest research from the *C. elegans* community suggests that fibronectin is not present in the nematode cuticle.

It was then that Brian Kerry had acted as a catalyst to get Charlie Opperman appointed at Rothamsted as a Lawes Trust Fellow. Charlie and Keith spent many a happy lunchtime and evening in *The Silver Cup*, the local pub, talking *Pasteuria*. It was during these discussions that they decided to have a go at surveying the *Pasteuria* genome sequence. To do this, Keith would have to transform a bacterium with DNA from *Pasteuria*, and it was just at this time that Prince Charles focused his attention on GMOs, in particular GM crops, in his final Reith Lecture of 2000. This piqued Keith and he wrote an essay, which was published in *Nature*. The essay was built on and highlighted the differences between the essentialist thinking of the Greeks and the population thinking of Darwin that he had studied earlier. On the back of this essay, he was awarded a grant by the BBSRC to bring an artist in residence, Tina Bolyos, to Rothamsted to use art as a method to open up a dialog between science and the general public. Although the resulting exhibition, *Zones of Inhibition*, has certainly met with success, Keith now believes that it will take more than increasing the dialog between the public and scientists to heal the rift that presently exists between science and society.

Keith believes that the present political pressure in the UK for science to be purely the foundation of wealth creation is mistaken, and the public's disenchantment with science is a disenchantment with its governance. What is needed is a sense of scientific citizenship. He argues that scientific citizenship is a broad concept that recognizes conflicts of interest and is built on the

intentions of various stakeholders; it bridges the intentions of individual researchers through the organizations to which they belong and out into the local and global communities. As a Trades Union representative, Keith finds it increasingly difficult in the present political climate to attract members. He is also an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Nematology*; undertaking such duties are, he feels, increasingly frowned upon by management and earn no brownie points, and yet they make up the very infra-structure of science. If these contributions are not supported, the whole integrity of science will fall apart.

Two years ago, Keith was lucky enough to have been awarded a travel grant to spend time in Charlie Opperman's laboratory in North Carolina to see what could be learned from the sequencing of *Pasteuria*. The sabbatical in Charlie's lab was extremely productive and

several *Pasteuria* manuscripts are presently being written; these range from the life-cycle, though phylogenetics, and *in vitro* culture. Keith is excited because he is in the process of drafting a paper which he believes will bring him close to his goal of understanding the mechanism of endospore attachment.

Keith remains optimistic about the future – “there remains much to be discovered, as scientists we are lucky to live an adventure on the edge of uncertainty.” Last year when he happened to be visiting his old home town Rochdale, a teenaged boy was busy fishing in the River Roch where it flows out from under the bridge. “I would never have believed it possible... fish in the River Roch!” Thirty years ago when he left home, it would have been the environmental equivalent of the Berlin Wall coming down.



TOM FORGE

Tom grew up in small towns in North Dakota and Kansas, where he was surrounded by agriculture and developed an early interest in agroecology. As an undergraduate student in the Department of Biology at Kansas State University (1981-1985), Tom worked as an undergraduate research assistant in the Department of Plant Pathology. It was there that he was introduced to the wonderful world of nematology by Tim Todd (blame it on Tim!). Tom's early curiosity and enthusiasm about nematodes led him to work with an equally enthusiastic nematologist, Ann MacGuidwin, in the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin-Madison. He credits Ann with giving him ample freedom to explore

many facets of nematology and soil ecology besides his thesis topic, which was cold/freezing tolerance of *Meloidogyne hapla*.

After finishing his Ph.D. in 1990, Tom moved to the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland, where he performed post-doctoral research on the effects of heavy metals on soil protozoa. He returned to plant nematology in 1991 when he took a post-doctoral position at the Pacific Forestry Centre (Forestry Canada) in Victoria, British Columbia. There, he worked on population growth of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in conifers native to the Pacific Northwest. From 1993 through 1995 Tom was a post-doctoral research associate with Russ Ingham at Oregon State University, where he studied the use of pre-plant winter cover crops for management of *Pratylenchus penetrans*, and population dynamics of *P. penetrans* and *Mesocriconema xenoplax* in cherry orchards and vineyards, respectively. While at OSU, Tom also collaborated with Jack Pinkerton (USDA-HCRL), surveying and characterizing nematode problems in Oregon vineyards.

In 1996 Tom returned to British Columbia, where he worked for 5 years as a research affiliate at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre-Summerland. While at PARC-Summerland, his research efforts were split between projects on forest soil ecology, the use of nematode community attributes as indicators of soil fertility in forests and orchards, and management of *Pratylenchus penetrans* affecting apple. In 2001, Tom formally joined the staff of AAFC and moved yet again, to Agassiz, BC, where the mandate of his research program is the environmentally sound

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utilization of organic wastes in agriculture. His research team is currently working on several related projects, including: (1) the impacts of municipal biosolids on indicators of soil quality/soil health (including soil nematode diversity/community structure); (2) influences of organic mulches on nutrient fluxes and population dynamics of *P. penetrans* in the root zone of apple and raspberry; (3) long-term impacts of dairy slurry and fertilizer on nutrient fluxes and nematode community dynamics in forage production systems; and (4) comparative effects of manures and composts on phosphorus cycling.

While the focus of Tom's research has shifted from nematology towards soil nutrient/organic matter management in recent years, he remains concerned about the lack of awareness of, and support for, basic plant nematology in Canada. Tom laments that nematology seems to be a very obscure and specialized field to many non-nematologists, and he likes to use his

own diversity of projects to show that nematology can also be viewed as a unique tool that can be applied to a wide range of problems in plant and soil science.

Tom has been an active member of the Society of Nematologists, Canadian Society for Soil Science, and the Canadian Phytopathological Society. He reviews manuscripts for the *Journal of Nematology*, *Canadian Journal of Soil Science*, *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology*, *Canadian Journal of Microbiology*, *Phytoprotection*, and *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, and functioned as guest associate editor for the *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*. He also reviews proposals for AAFC, NSERC, the BC Investment Ag Foundation, and the USDA. Tom has an adjunct appointment with the faculty of Agroecology at the University of British Columbia, and in keeping with his interests in applied and field-oriented research, he also stays very active with extension activities.

Nematode Biological Control Images Competition

The Biological Control Committee wants to remind members that are interested in participating in the Nematode Biological Control Images Competition during the upcoming SON annual meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL to submit their images by **24 June 2005**. Images qualified for competition should include natural enemies or biocontrol agents of nematodes. Digital images are encouraged (PowerPoint format is ok). We have decided to display digital images instead of hard copies since the last announcement. Please mail in advance to Koon-Hui Wang. Information needed along with your image(s) are: 1)

your name and e-mail address, 2) description of your image(s), 3) digital format of image(s). Three awards (products from the society) will be given to best three presenters selected by the committee. The images submitted could be included on the Society's biocontrol website.

Mailing address: Koon-Hui Wang, University of Florida, Department of Entomology and Nematology, P.O. Box 110620, Gainesville, FL 32611-0620. or koonhui@ufl.edu



News From the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA)

The 37th ONTA Annual Meeting will be held in Viña del Mar, Chile on October 17-21, 2005. The contact for the meeting is: erwinaba@uchile.cl Detailed information about this scientific event is also posted on the ONTA website <http://www.ontaweb.org>

Obituary Maynard Ramsay

From the New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/10/obituaries/10ramsay.html?>

Dr. Ramsay may not have been a member of SON; however, he played an instrumental role in reducing the spread of *Globodera rostochiensis* in the United States.

Dr. Maynard J. Ramsay, an entomologist noted for his efforts to track and eradicate exotic parasites carried in flowers, fruits and other cargoes arriving from overseas, died on March 20 at a nursing home in Silver Spring, Md. He was 90.

The cause was pneumonia, his family said.

During the 1940's, 50's and 60's, Dr. Ramsay lived on Staten Island while working in Manhattan for the Department of Agriculture.

An expert investigator of a variety of insects, Dr. Ramsay was widely known for his research on a potato parasite - the golden nematode, or eelworm. In the late 1940's, the worm was discovered on lily of the valley plants then being imported from Holland. Dr. Ramsay helped trace the worm to infested flower fields in Germany that had been converted for potato growing during World War II.

Inspectors from the Department of Agriculture began testing cargoes of lilies in Hamburg, and initially slowed the golden nematode's crossing of the Atlantic. The worm was first reported in the 1930's in potato fields in New York, the only state where it has established a foothold.

Dr. Ramsay also studied Dutch elm disease, termite infestations in Puerto Rico, and Mexican bean beetles in

New York State, and he helped develop methods for estimating losses from the parasites. He later trained inspectors from Japan, El Salvador, Jordan and Indonesia in an effort to identify infested crops before they reached American shores. When those crops were found, agriculture officials usually ordered the cargoes to be dumped at sea and the ships to be fumigated.

Raymond F. Bednar, a former director of the federal Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in New York, recalled that Dr. Ramsay "always saw the new pest coming down the pike."

Maynard Jack Ramsay was born in Buffalo on Nov. 22, 1914. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Buffalo and a doctorate in entomology from Cornell in 1941.

He joined the agriculture department in 1943 and served as a port entomologist in Manhattan from 1950 to 1956. After working as a training officer, he was appointed to the department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in 1967. He retired in 1977.

He was a former president of the Insecticide Society of Washington.

Dr. Ramsay's wife, the former Alberta Wentworth, died in 2003. The couple had resided in Bowie, Md.

He is survived by four sons, Bruce, of Takoma Park, Md.; Craig, of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Leigh, of Poway, Calif.; and Paul, of Manassas, Va.; a daughter, Carolyn Sue Bly of Arkport, N.Y.; 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Submitted by David Chitwood

The Golden Nematode
(*Globodera rostochiensis*)



News from the Membership

Gainesville, Florida

Roi Levin received his M.S. in Nematology from the University of Florida in May, 2005. His thesis title was "Reproduction and Identification of Root-Knot Nematodes on Perennial Ornamental Plants in Florida" under the direction of Dr. Billy Crow. Roi is now a Head Grower with Mercer Botanicals Inc., in Apopka, FL.



Roi Levin and Nematology friends (left to right): Janete Brito, Don Dickson, Frank Woods, Ramazan Cetintas, Johanna Welch, Heather Smith, Roi Levin, Matthew Coon, Jamila Canty, Billy Crow, Pauric McGroary, Jon Hamill.

Prosser, Washington

Katerina Riga has two new students joining her laboratory at Washington State University: Catalina Leger is working on a Master's degree and Donna Henderson is working on a Ph.D. degree.

In July, just prior to the SON meeting, Katerina will be organizing a workshop at WSU-Prosser. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Roy Neilson from SCRI, UK. The workshop will be on free-living nematodes and viruliferous nematodes.

Member on the Move

Bob Bolla will be moving to Bradley University as Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School.

Contact info (as of June 1)

Dr. Robert I. Bolla,
Vice Provost, Research/Dean Graduate School
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home e-mail bolla1@mindspring.com
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work phones 309 677-3877 or 309 677-3997.

Home address:
7651 W. Chestnut Ln.
Edwards, IL 65128
Home phone 1-309-632-0811

International Barcode Conference

On 7-9 February 2005, 220 participants from 44 countries gathered at The Natural History Museum, London, for the first International Barcode Conference (http://barcoding.si.edu/index_detail.htm). The conference was organized under the auspices of the Consortium for the Barcode of Life and was supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Natural History Museum, London. Nematologists attending were from Left to Right: Paul DeLey, David Lunt, Birgit Meldal, John Lamshead, Robin Floyd, Kelly Thomas, Tom Powers, Deb Neher, Punyasloke Bhadury, and Gary Carvalho. Not in photo: Mark Blaxter.



Position Announcements

Seeking Graduate Students

Program: M.Sc. and /or Ph.D. (starting in September or earlier)

Location : Macdonald Campus of McGill University

Research area: Signal transduction in insect blood cells. We are determining the types of receptors on insect blood cells (hemocytes) that bind to specified antigens from Gram- positive and -negative bacteria and the mechanisms by which this binding triggers immediate innate antibacterial responses. The insects used are the economic pests *Galleria mellonella* (the greater wax moth) and *Malacosoma disstria* (the forest tent caterpillar). The bacteria studied are *Xenorhabdus nematophila*, *Photorhabdus spp* and *Bacillus subtilis* (a non pathogen). The former two bacteria are virulent

insect pathogens that are symbionts of the insect pathogenic nematodes *Steinernema carpocapsae* and *Heterorhabditis spp*.

Experience required: Animal physiology or cell biology.

Stipend: Minimum \$ 15,000

Canadian Citizens and Landed Immigrants preferred.

Contact: Gary Dunphy,
Department of Natural Resource Sciences,
Macdonald Campus of McGill University,
21,111 Lakeshore Road,
Ste Anne de Bellevue,
Quebec, Canada. H9X3V9.

E-mail: Dunphy@nrs.mcgill.ca

Telephone: 514-398-7993

Postdoctoral Researcher (Anticipated)

(This is a grant-funded, non-tenure track position.

Continuation will be dependent on funding, job performance, and continued need for the appointment.)

Location: LSU AgCenter, Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Duties and Responsibilities: A postdoctoral researcher is being sought to participate in ongoing research with the reniform nematode, *Rotylenchulus reniformis*. The successful candidate will conduct research to document and explore the factor(s) responsible for differences in reproduction and pathogenicity among populations of this nematode. Approaches to this project will include infectivity, egg-biology and host range studies, as well as any molecular expertise that the experience of the candidate may lend to the project.

Qualification Requirements: Ph.D. in Plant Nematology and experience and interest in conducting laboratory, field and greenhouse investigations.

Salary and Benefits: Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The LSU AgCenter has an attractive benefits package with a wide variety of benefit options. Current benefits offered include retirement, multiple medical insurance options, supplemental

insurances (dental, life, long-term disability, accident, vision, long-term care, etc.), Tax Saver Flexible Benefits Plan (saves tax dollars on some child care and medical expenses), university holidays (14 per year, typically includes a week off at Christmas), generous annual (vacation) and sick leave benefits, Employee Assistance Program, and possible educational leave and tuition exemption for coursework at campuses of the LSU System. Specific benefits depend on job category, percent of full-time and length of employment.

Date Available: Upon completion of interview process.

Application Deadline: September 1, 2005 or until an acceptable applicant is found.

Application Procedure: Send a hard copy of your application containing a cover letter, CV, list of publications, official transcripts, and reprints along with a list of contact addresses for three references to:

Dr. Edward C. McGawley
Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology
Louisiana State University
302 Life Sciences Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803 or
emcgawley@agctr.lsu.edu
Phone: (225) 578-1387 Office; (225) 578-7145 Lab;
Fax: (225) 578-1415
Web site: www.lsuagcenter.com

Society of Nematologists

Nematology Newsletter

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P. Timper, Editor

**Deadline for
submission of
items for inclusion
in a given issue
(published in
March, June,
September, and
December) is the
25th of the month
prior to the month
of publication.**

We're on the Web!

<http://www.nematologists.org/>

Officers

Society of Nematologists

President: Terry Niblack
President-Elect: Saad L. Hafez
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