

Statewide California Nematology Workshop

The Statewide California Nematology Workshop met this year with the Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens (CSPP) on March 20-22 at Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA. Both organizations have long and illustrious histories, dating back to 1968 and 1954, respectively. About 80 participants came from universities, State agencies, crop commodities, agrochemical and biocontrol industries as well as technical service organizations, private consulting, crop production, nurseries and other areas. In addition, students and visiting scientists from as far as Brazil, Mozambique, China, Taiwan, Germany and Vietnam added international flair to the friendly, informal atmosphere of the meeting. Program Chair Tim Paulitz (Dept. Plant Pathology, Washington State University) and local organizers Antoon Ploeg and Ole Becker (Dept. Nematology, UC Riverside) arranged the 2 1/2 day meeting at Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, one of the world's premier cultural, research, and educational centers. The meeting started with an enjoyable tour through the gardens, led by Plant Pathology Professor emeritus Martin Stoner and Jerry Turney, Plant Pathologist for the Los Angeles County Agricultural Department. The tour was filled with botanical and plant pathological information as well as entertaining anecdotes about this extraordinary institution. Some of us even crawled on hands and knees through the bushes, following Prof. Stoner in search of fungal fruiting bodies. The afternoon was devoted to the annual California Nematology Workgroup meeting comprised of UC, CDFA, USDA, industry and commodity personnel who share a com-

mon interest in nematodes. We were honored by the presence and advice of Emeritus Professor, Dean and Honorary SON member Seymour Van Gundy. UC Riverside's Nematology Department Chair Philip Roberts, UC Davis Nematologist Becky Westerdahl and the CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostics Branch Senior Plant Nematologist John Chitambar gave brief overviews of the situation at their respective institutions. Reports from other university and industry groups as well as presentations by students and visiting scientists generated lively discussions. The following day continued with a Symposium on Ornamental and Landscape Diseases presented by Akif Escalen (Dept. Plant Pathology, UC Riverside), Jim Downer (UC Cooperative Extension Ventura County), and Antoon Ploeg. Four Student Scholarship Awards were given to Renuka Attanayake (Washington State University), Eric Carr (Cornell University), Helen Jiang (Michigan State University) and Hannes Witte (University of California, Riverside). Five consecutive sessions completed the meeting with brief talks about new discoveries, bio-based disease management strategies, chemical controls, ornamental and horticultural diseases and a potpourri. The organizers and participants appreciated the outstanding hospitality and staff support of the Huntington host institution as well as the financial support of our corporate sponsors Syngenta, Arysta LifeSciences, Monsanto, Marrone Bio Innovations, and Harris Moran Seeds.

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Public and private sector researchers came together for the Statewide California Nematology Workshop.

