

CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

February 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Out of the Fry Pan and Into the Fire!

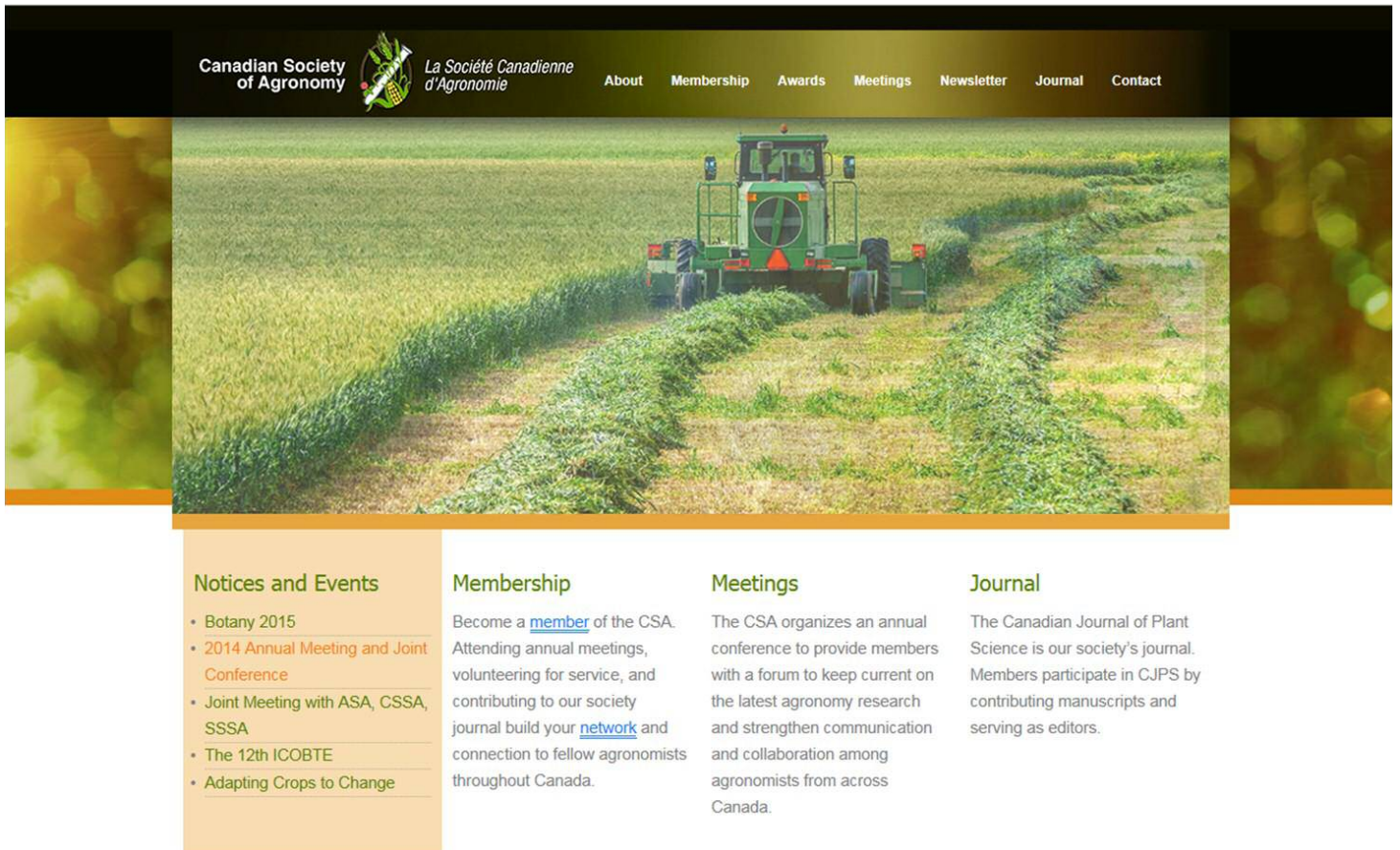
Last spring, I was asked to let my name stand for President-Elect, which was quite an honour. The timing appeared to be alright as I was completing my tenure as Chair of the Prairie Recommending Committee for Wheat, Rye, and Triticale, which ended up being quite intensive as Minister Ritz requested a major review to modernize the variety registration system. I was reassured by some members who will remain anonymous to expect nothing too onerous as President of CSA, which I interpreted as an Executive role largely accomplished while on autopilot as we have an excellent Executive Director in Dr. Steve Sheppard. Well, shortly thereafter we received notice that, without any consultation, our society journal, the Canadian Journal of Plant Science, was being offered up for sale by the Agricultural Institute of Canada (Please refer to my memo of 25 September for a full summary). We were then notified during a conference call with Canadian Science Publishing on 7 October that certain conditions needed to be met by 10 October or the offer to AIC would be withdrawn. The consensus among all societies concerned was that we could not oblige over a 3 to 4 day period, particularly since we were not included in any aspect of the sale. As the details unfolded it underscored the importance of open transparency to membership and that we need to conduct our own thorough due diligence in relation to our Society sponsored journal. We have since had face to face meetings with AIC over the matter during the annual editorial board meeting on January 13th. These meetings were productive and were an opportunity for all parties to reengage. We are committed to making thoughtful, principled decisions about our Journal and will seek membership ratification on major decisions – we do not want to look back a decade or more from now with regret over our actions. We have included in this year's membership renewal a survey about the Journal so please take the time to renew and provide us with your feedback. I will advise you as events unfold.

I would like to thank all members for your support of the Society and I look forward to working with your CSA Executive. We have already held discussions about engagement with current and prospective members. Dr. Yvonne Lawley will be leading a website overhaul so I encourage you to contact Yvonne if you would like to provide input. Ms. Rosalie Madden is our very keen student rep and she has some great ideas around attracting more agronomy students into CSA. We have many prospective members across Canada and beyond, so I encourage you to recruit one or two colleagues this year; and let this serve as notice to many of my colleagues that I will be calling on you to step up and become members of CSA! While we face some immediate challenges we have tremendous potential to do good things now and well into the future - I relish being along for part of the ride!

Brian L. Beres
President



New CSA Website



New CSA Web Page

The CSA web page has had a major regeneration! With the help of a Web Designer and a Graphics Artist, the new web site looks much more modern (hope you agree, see the screen shot of the new home page ↑).

More importantly, we are now using web content software that will make updates easier and will help eliminate redundancies. Additionally, we have established an oversight protocol that should keep the content fresh. Please note that there still is some old and outdated content – the first test of the new software (and us) is to bring it all up to 2015. Ideas for content are most welcome.

The website is still: <http://agronomycanada.com/>

RENEW YOUR CSA MEMBERSHIP

If you have not already done so, please remember to renew your CSA membership for 2015, and include your opinions about CJPS during the process. The link to the online registration form is: <https://www.regonline.ca/csamembership2015>.

\$3000 in prize money
available to CSA student members!
Split among the 3 top oral and 3 top poster
agronomy presentations
at the conference in Edmonton.
Co-sponsored by SeCan and CSA



CSA Awards—Nominate a Colleague

It is that time of the year to reflect on the performance of your students and colleagues. The Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) awards are listed below with links to more information and applications procedures on the CSA web site (<http://agronomycanada.com/>). We are fortunate to have outstanding researchers in the society and in Canada. Please consider nominating one of them for a CSA award. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2015.

- **Pest Management Research Award:** is made available annually to qualified graduate students enrolled in any aspect of pest management related to agronomic research at Canadian universities.
- **Early-Career Agronomist Award:** is presented each year to a scientist under 40 years of age who has demonstrated exceptional service to agronomy since the start of their career.
- **Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy:** A maximum of three Fellows are conferred each year on those members who have made a significant contribution to agronomy in Canada and to the Society over a period of at least ten years.
- **Distinguished Agronomist Award:** is presented to members who have made a significant lifetime contribution to agronomy in Canada and to the Society.

For more information, contact Derek Lynch (2014-15 CSA Past President, Derek.lynch@dal.ca) or Steve Sheppard (CSA Executive Director, sheppards@ecomatters.com)



Student Travel to CSA Annual Meeting

“Botany 2015 – Science for Plants and People” will be held in Edmonton, Alberta on July 25-29, 2015. This is a joint meeting between the 6 Plant Canada Societies and the Botanical Society of America. **CSA Student Travel Awards** were established in 2013 to encourage student attendance at the CSA Annual Meetings and is available to any graduate student CSA member. The Student Travel Award is **\$500** with a maximum of 3 awarded annually.

1. Awards are based on the following criteria:
Is the student a member of CSA? (Students must be CSA members to apply)
2. Will the student be presenting an oral paper or poster? (Applicants must be planning to give either an oral or a poster presentation).
3. Is the research summary reasonable (objectives, methods, progress) and clearly written?
4. Distance travelling to attend the annual conference.
5. Has the student received a previous travel award from CSA? (Preference will be given to students who have not previously received a travel award).
6. Has the student informed his/her supervisor or department chair and had their application form signed?

Please send a completed [application form](#) (MS Word Document) by April 13, 2015 to:

Alison Nelson

Chair, Student travel awards sub-committee

Western Director, Canadian Society of Agronomy

E-Mail: [Alison.nelson\(at\)AGR.GC.CA](mailto:Alison.nelson(at)AGR.GC.CA) [please replace (at) with @ - this is to prevent spam.]

Your Canadian Society of Agronomy Elections!!

It is that time of the year, when the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) is looking for individuals to stand for positions on the CSA executive. The CSA is a volunteer organisation which depends on participation of its membership to ensure its ongoing activities, including its annual conference and awards.

The executive positions that need to be filled for 2015-16 are:

- **President-Elect:** This position is for one year and leads to the position of President in 2016 and Past President in 2017. The position of president-elect assists the CSA President and learns about the operations and running of the society.
- **Eastern Director:** This position has a two-year term (2015-2017). This position is often filled by someone who is new to the CSA executive. The Eastern Director represents CSA members from Ontario to Atlantic Canada. This position is critical to ensure the needs and views of the eastern membership are brought to CSA executive meetings.
- **Western Director:** This position has a two-year term (2015-2017). This position is often filled by someone who is new to the CSA executive. The Western Director represents CSA members from Manitoba to British Columbia. As with their eastern counterpart, the Western Director ensures the requirements and opinions of the western membership are represented at CSA executive meetings and activities.
- **CSA Student Representative:** This position on the CSA executive was established in 2012. The position has a one-year term (2015-2016). The student representative attends executive meetings and participates in society activities to ensure the student perspective is represented and give input on initiatives that are designed to increase support for agronomy students.

Please submit your nominations to **Derek Lynch** (2014-15 CSA Past President, Derek.lynch@dal.ca) or **Steve Sheppard** (CSA Executive Director, sheppards@ecomatters.com) by May 1, 2015.

Rules and Guidelines Document

You will probably recall all the fuss we had last year to get the CSA By Laws approved and registered with Corporations Canada. We made the deadline and CSA is happily and legally an entity! Thanks for voting.

In the process, we had removed a number of things that were in the previous By Laws that were not legally required and had more to do with year to year operations. Because they were in the By Laws, it was really difficult to change these things. So we created a Rules and Guidelines Document to capture all these things we want to do on a regular basis. The idea is that this document is updated as needed and approved annually by a vote among the new Executive at one of their first meetings after taking office. That should keep it fresh and relevant.

The first version was approved by the Executive in January, and is now posted on the web site. We already have a few things to add to the next version, but the concept is established. Your comments most welcome, this should be an evolving `live` document that will keep pace with CSA and be fully transparent.

The web address for the Rules and Guidelines will be available at:

<http://agronomycanada.com/about-the-canadian-society-of-agronomy/society-rulebook/>

Botany 2015

Science and Plants for People

July 25 - 29, 2015
The Shaw Conference Centre
Edmonton, Alberta - Canada

Conference 'Botany 2015, Science and Plants for People'

Keep your calendar open for our annual conference **July 25-29** in **Edmonton**. It is called 'Botany 2015' because this is a big all-encompassing conference that includes the **Botanical Society of America** and **Plant Canada**, and under these two umbrella organizations are almost all the plant related societies in North America. The registration and abstract submissions will open this month. Please identify your submissions as related to CSA, so we can compile sessions focussed on agronomy in Canada. There will be topical reviews in our sessions, and then lots of volunteer papers.

CSA Student Award Winners for 2014



Sarah Anderson

University of Saskatchewan
1st Place, Oral Competition



Mehdi Farid

University of Guelph
2nd Place, Oral Competition



Jia Sun

University of Saskatchewan
3rd Place, Oral Competition



Elliot Hildebrand

University of Saskatchewan
1st Place, Poster Competition



Jonathan Reich

University of Lethbridge
2nd Place, Poster Competition



Rosalie Madden

Dalhousie University
3rd Place, Poster Competition

New Position at University of Saskatchewan

The Crop Development Centre (CDC) and the Department of Plant Sciences, in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, at the University of Saskatchewan are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Bill Biligetu as Assistant Professorship position in Forage Crop Breeding with the Crop Development Centre.

Dr. Biligetu completed a Bachelor of Science in Grassland Sciences and a M.Sc. in Rangeland Management from the Inner Mongolia Agriculture University, Inner Mongolia, China. He then moved to Saskatchewan and obtained his Ph.D in Perennial Forage Management and Physiology from the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Biligetu joins the Crop Development Centre and brings with him a great deal of knowledge about the forage industry. As a Regional forage specialist with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture at Moose Jaw, SK., Dr. Biligetu delivered forage extension service to producers through the various extension events offered by the Ministry.

Dr. Biligetu began his new position in the Crop Development Centre on May 1, 2014. The position is a component of the Ministry of Agriculture's Strategic Research Program. It will fulfill the need to work with Saskatchewan forage producers to improve important forage species for livestock feed, as well as to initiate a research program that focuses on the breeding and genetics of forage crops that are adapted to the prairie region of western Canada.

Canadian Federation of Independent Business Report

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business conducted a survey, *The State of Canadian Agriculture*. The results are discussed in the paper listed below.

Realities of Agriculture in Canada: A sector of innovation and growth
<http://www.cfib-fcei.ca/cfib-documents/5590.pdf>

CSA EXECUTIVE

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Canadian Society of Agronomy

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