



CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

November 2007



President's Message

I would like to start my first message as President by expressing deep appreciation to Yousef Papadopoulos for the strong leadership provided to the Society. Working with him on the executive committee over the past two years, I've been inspired by his enthusiasm. Many of the initiatives linking to other organizations—American Society of Agronomy, Agricultural Institute of Canada, Canadian Journal of Plant Science—continue to benefit from his encouragement.

I'm happy to be working with a great group of people serving on the executive (see the list on the back page). They are all committed to investing their time and effort to achieve the goals of our Society: facilitating networking, recognizing achievement and ensuring that science gets applied in the field.

In my role with the International Plant Nutrition Institute, I participate in many conferences. One of the highlights of my summer was the Plant Canada conference held in Saskatoon this past June. It provided an excellent opportunity for agronomists to learn from and share with people in other plant science disciplines. It was great to see the level of participation in our Society's informal discussion session and the Annual General Meeting. Input received from those sessions helped determine themes for future conferences and the agenda for executive meetings.

For our 2008 conference, we are working jointly with the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science and the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy. "Plants and Soils: Montreal '08" is scheduled for 13-16 July at the downtown McGill campus. The theme, "Ecological Intensification, Biofuels and Bioproducts", covers global issues highly relevant to the Canadian crop producer. I'd like to encourage you to start making plans to participate. Plans for a joint conference with the Canadian Society of Soil Science in June 2009 in Guelph, Ontario are also underway.

While economics have dramatically improved in the past year, Canadian crop producers face daunting pressures: to be productive enough to feed a growing global demand, to be ecologically responsible enough to protect the environment, to sustainably preserve resources and to remain profitable doing so. Consumers need to know how well all this is being done. Agronomists have a huge role in this, furnishing the science and the scientific principles for best management practices. We need to be putting ourselves forward to enhance public recognition of this role. We also need to do whatever we can to ensure we are engaging the practitioners of our science. I'd like to encourage each of you to participate in local Certified Crop Adviser conferences and activities—see the list below for further information.

Your executive is open to your input on how the Society can better support agronomy. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us, with any ideas you may have on enhancing service to the science.

Tom Bruulsema
President

From Head Office

The major news from the CSA Office is that we will have an upgrade in our on-line membership renewal (and voting) system. The previous company (SPORG, which used BeanStream as its credit card linkage) has been bought out, and now 'Active Networks' will carry the service. We've signed a contract, and will pay for set-up once again (a bit annoying but still seems the best alternative). This change should be transparent to members, except that the on-line forms will change, and should be better than they were. We still need to work out how we will manage the membership files, but that should be a simple problem once we are underway.

Membership renewals will start soon. Note that we have new reduced rates for retired and emeritus members, and have plans afoot to lower fees for undergrad students and post doctoral fellows in 2009. Journal subscription fees are up a bit, but so is everything. The Agriweek fees are up quite a bit, I guess we did not sell enough to warrant the level of discount we were getting.

We have a slight realignment of duties in our office. Cindy Otto will continue to do most of the Society book keeping, and Barb Sanipelli will take up some of the more urgent issues. Best is still to email me (sheppards@ecomatters.com).

Steve Sheppard

Agrologist Club

Canadian Society of Agronomy in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrology are sponsoring a new club formed at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. The Agrology Club, is a student based club, where prospective interests are pursued by the students. The initial meeting was held on September 11th; Yousef Papadopolous on behalf of CSA, and Audrie-Jo M^cConkey on behalf of NSIA, outlined the mandates and provided a description of the societies.

There has been a positive response to the club and as more students are becoming aware of the club goals and objectives, there has been an increase in interest by the student body. Current club members consist of both graduate and undergraduate students, primarily in their 3rd and 4th year. Students have shown enthusiasm towards the club, "I'm really excited that the students of the AC have an opportunity to interact with the P.Ag.s on this level. This something that I personally can benefit from, as well as the rest of the student population.", Crystal Whitney, M.Sc. Candidate. NSIA will have an opportunity to meet club members at the up-coming fall tour.

Many thanks to Dale McIsaac, Amy Sangster, and in particular Yousef Papadopolous for their sincere commitment in initiating the club. It is promising to have so many keen students interested in the agricultural sector!

Audrie-Jo M^cConkey and Bill Thomas

THE ATLANTIC AGRONOMY WORKSHOP
Rodd Charlottetown Hotel, Charlottetown, PEI
January 15 -16, 2008

The Canadian Society of Agronomy is excited to invite our members from Eastern Canada to the 4th biennial Workshop in the Atlantic Region. As we have done in the past this meeting is aimed at both researchers/graduate students and crop advisers, is planned to provide a forum for presentation of new information and discussion on all aspects of agronomic crop production in Eastern Canada. One of the major sessions in the workshop this year will cover two topics that are linked around: 1) Whole farm nutrient management models; and 2) Novel crop rotations. Organizers are planning presentations by invited guest speakers about “Nitrogen cycling: Reducing losses from agricultural systems” and “Short-term and long term effects of applying manure and fertilizers on crop production and soil nutrient shifts.”. Selected voluntary presentations around these would be included in the sessions. Abstracts of all papers/posters will be published in a volume of *Canadian Journal of Plant Science*.

The deadline for offering a paper is December 14, 2007 and submitting an abstract is January 4, 2008. A prize will be offered for the best paper and poster presented by a graduate student. This initiative is spear headed by Yousef Papadopoulos and Jerry Ivany. An ad hoc organizing committee was assembled; additional help will be recruited to help with additional organization needs.

For more details, please visit the CSA Website: www.agronomycanada.com or contact:

Yousef A. Papadopoulos, (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, PO Box 550, Truro, NS, Canada B2N 5E3; Tel: 902-896-2452;

Email: Papadopoulosy@agr.gc.ca.) or

Jerry A. Ivany (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Crops and Livestock Research Centre,

440 University Ave., Charlottetown, PE, C1A 4N6; Tel: 902-566-6835;

Email: IvanyJ@agr.gc.ca).

The organizing committee welcomes ideas for the other session themes. If you have suggestions and/or would like to chair a session please contact the above workshop co-chairs.

Plants & Soils—Montreal '08

Mark your calendars! A joint conference between

The Canadian Society of Agronomy

&

The Canadian Society of Horticultural Science

&

The Northeastern Branch of
The American Society of Agronomy
Crop Science Society of America
Soil Science Society of America

is planned for

13-16 July 2008

hosted by McGill University at the downtown campus

Featuring a plenary symposium on
"Biofuels, BioProducts and Ecological Intensification"

Invited speakers include:

Prof. Kenneth G. Cassman, University of Nebraska – Ecological Intensification

Prof. Calvin B. DeWitt, University of Wisconsin – Science applied to Ecology

Prof. Donald L. Smith, McGill University – Green Crop Network

Dr. Thomas M. Powers, University of Delaware – Ethics

Call for papers coming soon. For more information, see **www.montreal08.org**

Joint steering committee includes:

Donald Smith, Philippe Seguin, Joann Whalen, Magali Merckx – McGill University

Dick Weismiller (U MD), Sid Bosworth (U VT), Dave Hansen (U DE) – Northeast Branch

Shahrokh Khanizadeh, David Percival, Denis Charlebois – Canadian Society of Horticultural Science

Tom Bruulsema (chair) – Canadian Society of Agronomy

Additional volunteers welcome! Contact tom.bruulsema@ipni.net

Invitation to be a book chapter contributor

Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) is in its early stage of publishing a book with the tentative title of “Agronomy Research Methodology”. You are invited to be one of the authors or Editors for this exciting book.

The main focus of the book is to deal with research methodology and specific procedures that have been developed and used by professionals in the areas of agronomy. The chapters will include, but not limited to, the methodology in the areas of seed vigour tests, crop growth and development assessment, water and fertilizer use efficiency, abiotic stress, root morphology and determination, symbiotic association and N-fixation, plant-pathogen association, crop-weed competition, long-term and on-farm studies, grazing and feeding studies, fundamentals for statistical experiment design, etc. There are many other types of books available in market place dealing with various aspects of agronomy issues but in our knowledge, none of the published books deals with detailed research methodology.

CSA feels that to publish such a book is very exciting. Excitement comes with the fact that agronomy research has been, and is still one of the core issues of our time, that of the world food supply, the production of materials for various industrial uses, and the products for bio-economy development.

This book is to be written with a broad perspective for a broad audience. It will appeal to (i) research scientists interested in agronomy-related research with more standard methodology, (ii) graduate students interested in production, crop physiology, ecology, soil science, and seed and other industrial aspects, (iii) instructors at both the diploma and degree levels, and (iv) the members of CCA and extension specialists.

CSA expects that many promising methodologies will be gathered in this book which would stimulate professionals in agronomy fields to new heights in their particular research of interest. Also, CSA expects that some scientific journals such as Crop Science, Agronomy Journal, Canadian J. Plant Science, Canadian J. Soil Science, etc, would consider the methodologies cited from this book be their standard methods for agronomy research, in determining acceptance of manuscripts submitted to these journals.

Professionals who are leaders in their fields have a need, if not an obligation, to share their expertise and experience with others, and also to educate young professionals. CSA thinks that publishing books is one of the most effective and efficient ways of communicating with a large number of people quickly.

Thank you, CSA

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the CSA and especially to those who took the time and effort to nominate me for the CSA Fellow award I received at the 2007 CSA annual meeting in Saskatoon. The receipt of such an award from one's national peers is truly humbling, exciting and invigorating. Needless to say, those of us who are fortunate enough to be nominated for and receive such recognition know only too well that, while we are being recognized individually, that recognition comes primarily from the great collaborations we have with other colleagues and the effort of many other individuals, especially at the technical level, that have helped us as we make our small mark in science and on the world around us.

Thanks again to all

Brian Rossnagel

CSA Awards Presented in Saskatoon



CSA Fellow Award
for 2007 presented to
Brian Rossnagel in
Saskatoon



CSA Fellow Award for
2007 presented to Rick
Holm.



Jia Xie,
Saskatoon



Stephanie Kosinski,
University of Alberta



Charles Bird,
University of Calgary



Sumithira Naguleswaran,
University of Manitoba



Sushmita Mitra,
University of Saskatche-
wan.



The Canadian Society of
Agronomy **Pest Manage-
ment Research Graduate
Student Award** presented to
Rana Sarfraz

News from New Orleans -- International Collaboration

On November 7 in New Orleans, CSA President Tom Bruulsema and President-elect Shabtai Bittman had an extended lunch meeting with the leadership of the American Society of Agronomy--Jerry Hatfield, Ken Moore, and Mark Alley. Two important emerging ideas were discussed, and they hold exciting opportunities for agronomy. The first is an initiative to develop verification protocols for carbon emissions credit trading. The second is to enhance the profile of agronomy at the international level, starting with contacts to each country in the western hemisphere and hopefully leading to something similar to an International Congress for agronomy. CSA members with interest in helping to lead these two initiatives are encouraged to contact either Shabtai or myself.

Tom Bruulsema

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