



CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

March 2018



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow CSA members,

I'm writing the spring newsletter after a heavy snowfall in March across the prairies, and looking forward to springtime when the quiescence of winter is replaced by returning winter migrants and the fresh bloom of the grasslands. The main focus of my letter is to apprise the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) members of the Joint ASA-CSSA-CSA conference *Enhancing Productivity in a Changing Climate* in Baltimore, Maryland, USA from November 4-7, 2018. The CSA will host a symposium entitled *Germplasm exchange and the future of plant breeding*. Invited speakers include Tom Michaels, Professor, Department of Horticultural Sciences, University of Minnesota; Anthony Parker, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Commissioner of Plant Breeder's Rights; Brad Fradleigh, Director, Multilateral Science Relations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; and Kofi Agblor, Managing Director, Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan. Another speaker related to policy outcomes is planned. This symposium addresses many plant breeders' questions around intellectual property (IP) considerations under UPOV '91, an agreement that does not mention germplasm sharing as such and is more about granting royalties; however, the one impacts the other, especially at the institutional level and above.

Moreover, the CSA will also host a session of rapid oral presentations (5 minutes in length) with a focus on Canadian content. The CSA awards and recognition luncheon and annual general meeting will be held during the conference. Outstanding scientific oral and poster presentations will be recognized by the CSA Graduate Student Oral and Poster Awards Program. The Video Awards Program for University Students will be hosted for a second time at the joint conference this year (rules are posted on the CSA web site). Graduate student members are encouraged to submit their abstracts for consideration for these awards to the most appropriate ASA, CSSA, or CSA session. Please note that abstract submission opens on March 13th, 2018. The program is still in flux until it is finalized in June. The preliminary program is available by clicking the "Program" tab at acsmeeting.org.

On another note, the CSA is seeking to fill positions for an Executive Director (ED) and staff as our long-time ED Steve Sheppard and Barb Sanipelli retire this year. The job descriptions and how to apply for these positions are included in this newsletter. I wish to include a request to members to pass this advertisement around.

Helen Booker, President



Reduced registration fees at the Baltimore meeting for CSA members:

To get the reduced fees you need to use a 'promotion code'. The registration page can be found at: <https://www.acsmeetings.org/register> The registration promo codes for the Canadian Society of Agronomy members are as follows.

Choose the 2018 Full Registration option and at checkout apply the appropriate promo code:

Professionals – CSA_PRO

Grad/Emeritus – CSA_GR_EM

New in 2018: 5-minute Rapid Session at the ASA-CSSA-CSA joint annual meeting

The Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) is hosting a 5-minute rapid presentation session at the ASA-CSSA-CSA joint annual meeting held in Baltimore, MD held November 4-7, 2018. This session is entitled "Innovation in the Canadian Context". This session will provide opportunity for researchers working in the Canadian context to highlight their work in a quick five minute oral format.

The benefits of a 5 minute rapid session include:

- Brevity creates excitement. Be prepared for robust discussion about your research after the session is over.
- Combine with a poster presentation, and the 5-minute talk becomes your "advertisement" for the poster session.
- Experience with being concise gives you tools to communicate effectively with the public, funders, and other audiences.

Most importantly, you will learn to tell your story in a clear, succinct manner. In a world on information overload, we are truly successful only when we help others see why our work is important in a short, impactful way.

5 Minute Rapid Format:

There will be three slides per talk. An optional template is downloadable at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/submit/rapidfire>, and a 5-minute training video gives examples of how to get to three slides within a 5-minute presentation.

1. Title slide (six words)—uses the question as the title and lists authors/co-authors and their respective institutions.
2. Results—one slide, including figure/table. Use SI units in text, figures, and tables.
3. Recommendations/summary slide.

2018 Graduate Student Oral and Poster Competitions at the ASA-CSSA-CSA joint annual meeting

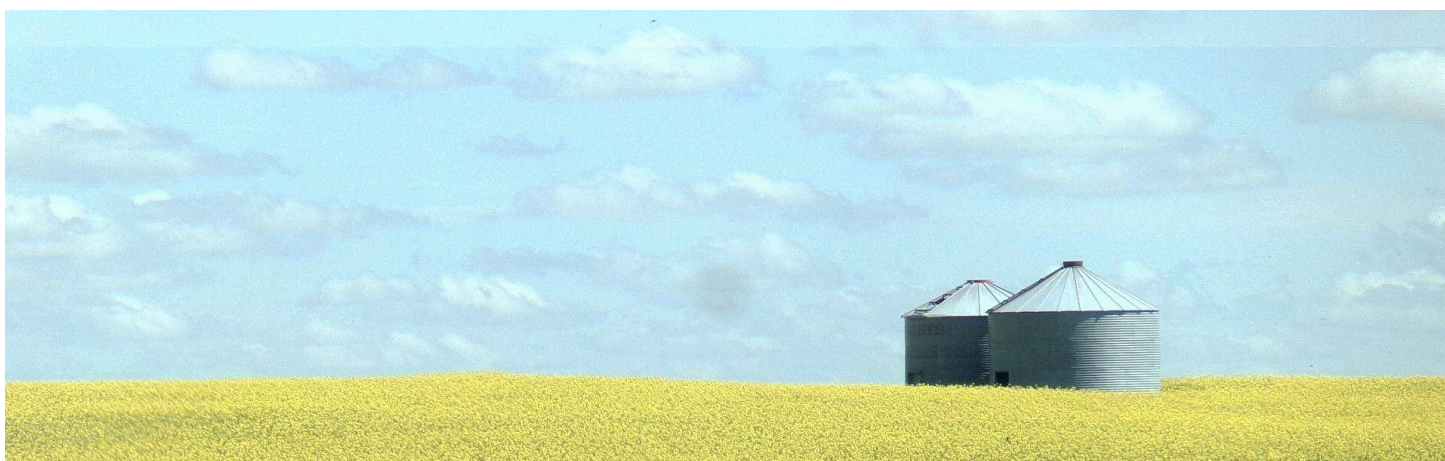
The Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) executive would like to encourage graduate students to present their research at the ASA-CSSA-CSA joint annual meeting held in Baltimore, MD held November 4-7, 2018. This international conference will give students an excellent opportunity to present their research to a large and diverse audience. Below are details on the graduate student poster and oral competitions being held in Baltimore, MD.

Poster Session:

The purpose of the CSA Graduate Student Poster Awards Program is to recognize outstanding scientific poster contributions presented by CSA graduate students at the Annual Meeting. Students are asked to submit their poster to the most appropriate ASA or CSSA sessions. The CSA will then ensure that judges will be at the necessary sessions for judging. Judging guidelines are available from previous years. Posters will be judged by a committee of at least 3 CSA members. Judges will visit and score each eligible poster as they are presented. Scores will be summarized and discussed by the committee to determine award recipients. Up to three awards will be presented based on the top three scores determined by the judges. The outstanding posters and authors will be recognized during the Canadian Society of Agronomy Business Meeting held at the ASA-CSSA-CSA joint annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland and/or via email to the CSA membership after the annual meeting. A monetary award and a certificate will be presented to each one of the winners. All award payments will be processed after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Oral Session:

The purpose of the CSA Graduate Student Oral Awards Program is to recognize outstanding scientific oral presentations made by CSA graduate students at the Annual Meeting. Students are asked to submit their poster to the most appropriate ASA or CSSA sessions. The CSA will then ensure that judges will be at the necessary sessions for judging. Judging guidelines are available from previous years. Oral presentations will be judged by a committee of at least 3 CSA members. Judges will attend and score each eligible oral presentation as they are presented. Scores will be summarized and discussed by the committee to determine award recipients. Up to three awards will be presented based on the top three scores determined by the judges. The outstanding oral presentations and authors will be recognized during the Canadian Society of Agronomy Business Meeting held at the ASA-CSSA-CSA joint annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland and/or via email to the CSA membership after the annual meeting. A monetary award and a certificate will be presented to each one of the winners. All award payments will be processed after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.



Positions Available: CSA Office Management

Job Description: Office management for Can. Soc. Agronomy

Starting in about June 2018, CSA is in need of a new contractor to complete the roles of Executive Director, Registrar and Book Keeper. The present work load is about 150 hours per year. The contract is annual but preference is for those who can undertake this for at least 2-5 years. Payment is quarterly at a fixed rate. An individual may apply, but it is essential there is a backup person.

The job entails:

- keeping a schedule of major activities;
- maintenance of membership records;
- soliciting membership renewals with an on-line system;
- managing funds from membership renewals and journal subscription sales;
- preparation of ~10 invoices per year;
- writing and obtaining signatures for about 30 cheques per year;
- semi-annual financial reporting and budget preparation;
- updating of web site 2-4 times per year;
- preparation of 3 newsletters per year;
- distribution of materials by way of an email list server 2-3 times per week;
- taking and distributing minutes of about 10 meetings per year;
- and about once a year conduct on line voting for Executive positions or on other issues.

From time to time there may be special projects that will involve the contractor. The contractor answers to the Executive committee, but most specifically to the President, who changes annually, and the Secretary/Treasurer, who changes ever 2-4 years.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Steve Sheppard at sheppards@ecomatters.com before April 12. Applications should include a short resume and statement of qualifications for this role, no longer than 1 page.

.





8th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Plant Breeders

August 7-10, 2018

Hosted by the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

The National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) strengthens plant breeding to promote food security, quality of life, and a sustainable future (www.plantbreeding.org).

The NAPB annual meeting provides opportunities for private and public plant breeders and students from North America and around the world to network and build professional relationships.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR OF THE VINELAND RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTRE
- FIELD TOUR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH ELORA RESEARCH STATION
- EXCITING LINE UP OF SPEAKERS
- STUDENT POSTER SESSIONS AND 1-MINUTE POSTER INTRODUCTIONS



Early Bird Registration Cutoff: May 18, 2018
Abstract Submission Deadline: May 18, 2018
Final Registration Deadline: July 27, 2018



<https://www.plant.uoguelph.ca/napb2018>

Nominations for CSA Executive - needed by April

Nominations are needed for President-Elect, Eastern Director, Western Director and Student Representative. For positions starting November 2019 running to July 2020. Why the rush? So the new Executive members have the opportunity to register for the conference and attend the AGM. Think about serving CSA. The contacts are interesting and it is an opportunity to advance Agronomy outside your normal work. Volunteer, or nominate someone else. Nominations should go to Ali Navabi anavabi@uoguelph.ca or Steve Sheppard sheppards@ecomatters.com. The job descriptions are on line, especially at http://agronomycanada.com/about-the-canadian-society-of-agronomy/society-rules_docn/.

CSA EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Helen Booker

University of Saskatchewan
51 Campus Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A8
Phone: 306-966-5878
Fax: 306-966-5015
helen.booker@usask.ca

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Steve Sheppard

P.O. Box 637
Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0
Phone: (204) 753-2747
Fax: 204-753-8478
sheppards@ecomatters.com

PAST-PRESIDENT

Alireza Navabi

University of Guelph
Crop Science Building
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1
Phone: 5198244120 ext. 56829
Fax: 5198244120
anavabi@uoguelph.ca

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jaswinder Singh

McGill University
21111 lakeshore Rd
St Anne de Bellevue, QC H9X3V9
Phone: 514-398-7906
jaswinder.singh@mcgill.ca

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Douglas Cattani

University of Manitoba
66 Dafoe Road
Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
Phone: 2044746071
Doug.Cattani@umanitoba.ca

WESTERN DIRECTORS

Harpinder Randhawa

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
5403 1 Ave S
Lethbridge, AB T1J 4B1
Phone: 403-317-2238
Harpinder.Randhawa@agr.gc.ca

Sheri Strydhorst

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
6203-49th Street, 2nd Floor
Barrhead, AB T7N 1A4
Phone: 780-674-8248
sheri.strydhorst@gov.ab.ca

EASTERN DIRECTORS

David Hooker

University of Guelph
Ridgetown Campus
120 Main St
Ridgetown, ON N0P2C0
Phone: 5196741500 ext. 63559
cropdoc2@gmail.com

Mumtaz Cheema

Grenfell Campus Memorial University
Corner Brook, NL A2H 5G4
Phone: 709-639-6533 ext 6533
cheemamumtaz@gmail.com

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Gurcharn Singh Brar

University of Saskatchewan
51 Campus Dr.
Saskatoon, SK
S7N 1M4
Phone: 306-203-1496
gurcharn.brar@usask.ca

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Steve Sheppard, Executive Director

P.O. Box 637, Pinawa, Manitoba, R0E 1L0
Ph: 204-753-8225
E-mail: sheppards@ecomatters.com
Website: www.agronomycanada.com