

ONTA NEWSLETTER

Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America

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**Hilton Colon Quito Hotel (above) and the
Papallcta-Hotsprings (bottom), Ecuador.**

ONTA 2010 MEETING

October 3-8, 2010 ~ Quito, Ecuador

The preparation of the 42nd ONTA Annual Meeting at the **Hilton Colon Quito Hotel, Quito, Ecuador**, is progressing. There are changes in the number of symposia planned for the scientific program due to schedule conflicts with some of the conveners.

The following symposia are confirmed:

- 1) Detection and management of nematodes in summer flowers and roses, chaired by **Rosa Manzanilla-López**.
- 2) Ecology and management of nematodes on vegetables, chaired by **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana**.
- 3) Damage and management of nematodes on fruit trees, chaired by **Carmen Triviño**.
- 4) Biological control of phytonematodes, chaired by **Donald W. Dickson**.
- 5) Entomopathogenic nematodes and pest control practices, chaired by **Patricia S. Stock**.
- 6) Nematode-microbe interactions, chaired by **Deborah Neher**.

Other important events include:

- 1) a short-course on entomophilic and entomopathogenic nematodes organized by Patricia Stock;
- 2) a field tour of the ornamental nurseries and areas of production of roses and
- 3) the student poster competition.

The entire scientific program of the Meeting is available online at www.ontaweb.org.

ONTA extends its thanks and appreciation to **Jenny Escobar**, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee and her collaborators **Carmen Triviño**, **Betty Tello**, **Tarcisio Mosquera** and **Pedro Asanza** for making this meeting possible. More information about the meeting, special rates for accommodation and post meeting tours to Galapagos and Amazon is available on the website.

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ONTA STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION

The **Student Poster Competition** is one of ONTA's activities that encourage students to excel in nematological research. In 2009, the competition was held in Maceió, Alagoas, Brazil during the Second International Congress of Tropical Nematology, and was sponsored by the ONTA Foundation through a generous gift from **Rodrigo Rodríguez Kábana**. The competition in Brazil was further enriched by the support of **Brill Academic Publishers**, Leiden, The Netherlands and **David Hunt**, Editor-in-Chief of Nematology, who donated two excellent books to the winners of the competition. The books were titled *Pratylenchus* (Nematoda: Pratylenchidae): Diagnosis, Biology, Pathogenicity and Management, by P. Castillo and N. Vovlas (D.J. Hunt and R. N. Perry eds.) Brill (2007), and Aphelenchida, Longidoridae and Trichodoridae, Their systematics and bionomics, by D.J. Hunt, CAB International (1993). The involvement of **Brill** and **David Hunt** in this scientific event is greatly appreciated by ONTA.

Charles Overstreet, chair of the ONTA Foundation reports that students attending the next **ONTA Meeting (Quito, Ecuador)** can participate in this **Student Poster Competition**. Students will compete for two cash awards, first and second place. Students interested in competing should indicate so on their registration form when registering for the meeting.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS (2010)

Jenny Escobar chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, invites ONTA members to submit nominations of candidates for the bestowal of ONTA awards. The nominations of candidates qualified for ONTA awards should be submitted to **Jenny Escobar** at jenny.escobar@bayercropscience.com and should contain a short biography. **The deadline for submission is August 31st.**

ONTA TRAVEL AWARDS

Jim Rich, Treasurer of the ONTA Foundation Committee has announced that travel awards have been made available by the ONTA Foundation through generous gifts from **Rodrigo Rodríguez Kábana** and **Charles Overstreet**.

The ONTA Foundation is once again requesting applications for **four** graduate student travel awards to attend the **ONTA XLI Annual Meeting held October 3-8, 2010, in Quito, Ecuador**. Each of the awards will be in the amount of \$500 (USD).

To be eligible for these awards, an individual must present an oral presentation or be part of the Student Poster competition, submit an abstract, and a one page biographical sketch along with a statement of financial need from the major professor. ONTA membership is encouraged.

To apply for this Travel Award, please submit the requested information (abstract, biographical sketch, and statement of need) to:

coverstreet@agctr.lsu.edu

Although email would be the preferred method of application due to the short time frame, if you are unable to send by email, **then please send via Express Mail to:** Dr. Charles Overstreet
Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, 302 Life Science Building
Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Please submit applications in English or Spanish as soon as possible to allow the ONTA Foundation committee sufficient time to make the award announcements. Submissions must be received by August 10, 2010. The selections will be made by August 15, 2010.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Patrick Quénehervé, Chair of the Nominations Committee informs that two candidates, **Erwin Aballay Espinoza** (Chile) and **Charles Overstreet** (U.S.A) have accepted to compete for the election to ONTA Vice-Presidency (see their profiles on pages 3 and 4). The ballots for their election have been sent by ONTA Secretary **Paola Lax**. ONTA members are invited to send their vote by e-mail to **Paola** as soon as possible.

CANDIDATE PROFILES ONTA VICE-PRESIDENT



ERWIN ABALLAY ESPINOZA

Espinoza graduated in Agronomy in 1985 at the Faculty of Agronomical Sciences of the University of Chile. After his graduation he obtained a teaching faculty position at the same University, where he gives courses in Agricultural Nematology and Crop Protection. In the 1990s, Espinoza initiated a Master of Science Program at the Department of Ecology and Crop Production Science, University of Agricultural Sciences (Uppsala, Sweden) where he conducted studies on the taxonomy of the family Trichodoridae obtaining a MS degree in 2001. At present, he is studying the effect of rhizobacteria associated to *Vitis vinifera* roots on the dagger nematode, *Xiphinema index*, and also on the root growth of grapes. **Espinoza** has cooperated with nematologists in many research institutions in Chile and also abroad. His research activity includes projects dealing with applied nematology. He has been involved as main and co-researcher in several studies on the plant response to the infection of plant parasitic

nematodes. He has also carried out extensive field trials to assess the effectiveness of nematode management strategies in perennial and annual crops, including grapevines and vegetables in glasshouses. His expertise on nematode management is documented by his publications concerning the evaluation of chemical and non-chemical management practices including the use of fumigant and non-fumigant nematicides, resistant rootstocks, soil solarization, organic amendments and botanical compounds extracted from the Chilean native flora. Espinoza has authored or co-authored 40 research papers and over 40 extension publications. He is member of several scientific Chilean and International societies. He is also consultant for government institutions and private companies. **Espinoza** has been a very active ONTA member. He is serving in the ONTA Executive Committee and in the editorial board of *Nematropica*. **Espinoza** organized the 37th ONTA meeting held in Viña del Mar, Chile, in 2005.

CANDIDATE PROFILES ONTA VICE-PRESIDENT



CHARLES OVERSTREET

Overstreet joined the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service on December 1, 1978 as an Extension Assistant to operate the Nematode Advisory Service. He has spent his entire career there with the Extension Service, working up through the ranks after finishing his Ph.D. at LSU. He currently is a Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology at Louisiana State University and handles Extension responsibilities for nematode problems on all crops. He holds a bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, a master's degree from North Carolina State University in Botany and Plant Pathology, and a Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology from Louisiana State University. **Overstreet's** dissertation research was with nematode/fungal interactions on soybean. His current Extension responsibilities include working with nematode diseases on major crops such as cotton, soybean, vegetables, ornamentals, and turfgrass. He also is involved in evaluating new nematicides, different methodologies for applications of new or existing nematicides, and development of management strategies to reduce losses. He has been working with some of the new GIS technologies during the last several years to bring site-specific application of nematicides to cotton. He was recognized along

with others on the Precision Agriculture team for some of his work in this area last year as a recipient of the Tipton Team Research Award in recognition of excellence in research by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. The numerous producer meetings, news articles, workshops, and field days that he has conducted have contributed greatly to the understanding and implementation of management strategies to nematode problems by the people of Louisiana. Additionally, his research has contributed greatly to fellow nematologists particularly in the area of applied nematology and site-specific application of nematicides. **Overstreet** is involved with a number of national and international organizations that work with nematode problems on plants, serving on various committees, has held several officer positions within the Louisiana Plant Protection Association, and serves as an editorial reviewer for three journals. He is currently the chairman of the ONTA Foundation. **Overstreet** is an avid gardener growing a wide range of flowers and vegetables. His specialty is temperate and subtropical fruits of which he has over 50 different types. He is married to the former **Karen Sue Behm** who is the Director and Professor in the School of Human Ecology at LSU.

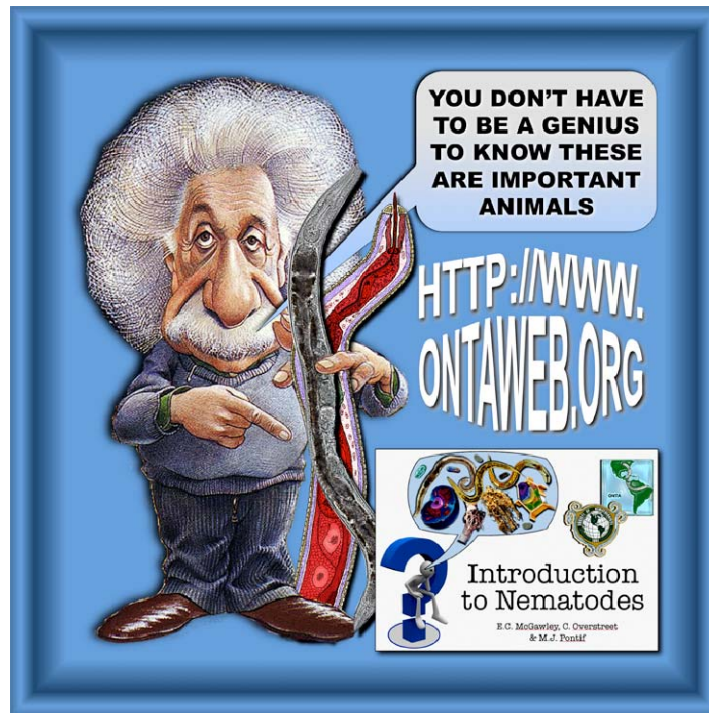
The Future of *Nematropica* as an On-Line Journal

Patricia Stock, ONTA President, invited the members of the Executive Committee and the Editorial Committee of *Nematropica* to discuss logistics of transforming *Nematropica* from a printed journal into an online journal, as previously voted upon by ONTA Members in 2009. The discussion was held on August 10, 2010. The participants in this teleconference were: **Janete Brito, Larry Duncan, Renato Inserra, Jimmy Rich, Rodrigo Rodriguez-Kabana, Kathy Lawrence** and **Patricia Stock**. The major issues discussed were:

- 1) **Financial advantages of the online version versus the printed version.** During the discussion on this issue it was emphasized that the online version requires production costs even if they are considerably less than those of the printed version. The costs of the online version will be covered only by ONTA dues since no page charges will be requested to the authors publishing online in *Nematropica*.
- 2) **Membership.** The fact that the publication of *Nematropica* online should rely only on ONTA dues caused serious concern of the participants, because according to **Janete Brito** (Business Manager) and **Larry Duncan** (Editor of the online version) only 34% of the members pay their annual dues in a timely manner (60% from U.S.A. and 22% from other countries). **Janete Brito** added that the international members prefer paying their dues in cash at the Annual Meetings in order to avoid the fees charged by the credit cards and banks for exchange currency or bank checks. The need to revamp ONTA membership and recruit Sustaining Members was emphasized by **Patricia Stock**, since the Sustaining Membership is the main source of income of any Professional Society.
- 3) **Potential risks by publishing *Nematropica* online.** **Larry Duncan** and **Janete Brito** pointed out that the publication of *Nematropica* online may cause a decline of membership. However, it was noted that to publish in *Nematropica*, one author must be a member of ONTA.
- 4) **The suggested actions to limit the decline in membership were:**
 - A) **Inclusion of membership fees in the registration for the annual meetings.**
 - B) **Option for long-term (3-5 years) membership.**
 - C) **Publication fees for online papers.** **Jim Rich** proposed to charge a \$100 fee per paper to the authors of the publications during the transition phase from the printed versus the online version of *Nematropica*. This proposal, however, did not encounter unanimous consensus.
 - D) **Block the access to the latest issues of the Journal to non-members.** This proposal also did not receive unanimous consensus.
 - E) **Impress computer disks of each *Nematropica* volume for libraries.** **Janete Brito** suggested to offer Libraries and Agencies an impress disk of each volume (2 issues) of *Nematropica* and to increase if necessary their dues from \$60 in order to cover the cost of the disk and mailing.

At the end of the teleconference, the participants asked **Larry Duncan** to initiate the online version of *Nematropica* soon after the publication of the December 2010 issue and to implement any of the suggested actions when necessary. A letter to inform Libraries and Agencies about the change in the format of *Nematropica* is going to be sent by **Janete Brito**.

INTRODUCTION TO NEMATODES PRESENTATION AVAILABLE ONLINE



As announced in the November 2009 issue of the Newsletter, the presentation entitled “Introduction to Nematodes” by E.C. McGawley, C. Overstreet and M.J. Pontif, nematologists at LSU AgCenter in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is accessible online from the ONTA website (www.ontaweb.org). This powerhouse presentation offers students, teachers, and even nematologists a fascinating overview of nematodes. Quicktime movies can be played at whatever speed you need providing either intense or cursory study. The movie is packed with hundreds of images as well as numerous video clips and drawings. ONTA members are invited to send their comments about to the presentation to Ed McGawley (EMcgawley@agcenter.lsu.edu).

NEMATOLOGICAL GAME

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López, Jean Devonshire (Bioimaging) and **Penny R. Hirsch** (Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Rothamsted Research, Harpenden, Herts., UK) have prepared a very interesting game of a nematological nature for the Summer science exhibition, 2010: ‘Journey to the center of the earth: the first 23 cm’ held in London by the Royal Society of London for the Improvement of Natural Knowledge, as part of the activities to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the inception of the Royal Society. The purpose of this work was to promote the interest of young students and other persons with different scientific backgrounds for Nematology and it was sponsored by the UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). **Rosa, Jean** and **Penny** are sharing their experience with ONTA members by including their game in the ONTA Newsletter. The involvement of these scientists in ONTA activities is greatly appreciated. To download the game board and instructions, go to www.ontaweb.org, then select the Photos & Links/Nematology Presentations tab.

IN MEMORIAM...

ARMAND RICHARD MAGGENTI (1933-2010)



Dr. Armand Richard Maggenti died in Davis, California, USA on June 11, 2010, at the age of 77. He is remembered internationally as an educator and philosopher with a detailed appreciation of the breadth, diversity and relationships within the phylum Nemata (his preferred terminology).

Born on February 15, 1933 in San Jose, California, Dr. Maggenti attended the prestigious St. Mary's College High School and, during those years, he achieved the Eagle Scout ranks of the Boy Scouts of America. He obtained a B.S. degree in Entomology and Parasitology at the University of California, Berkeley in 1954 and continued at the same institution to complete his PhD in Entomology in 1958. Maggenti's Ph.D. studies, conducted under the guidance of Dr. Merlin Allen, were on the biology, morphology and taxonomy of the genus *Plectus*. Immediately after his Ph.D. dissertation was submitted and accepted, Maggenti was appointed by Dr. Dewey Raski to the position of Lecturer and Assistant Nematologist in the newly formed Department of Nematology at the University of California, Davis, where he served the remainder of his professional career. He chaired the department from 1973 to 1978 and was Associate Dean of Student Affairs between 1982 and 1987. He retired in 1993 and was appointed Emeritus Professor of Nematology.

Dr. Maggenti was an outstanding and popular teacher who effortlessly drew on his breadth of knowledge of the organisms of the phylum to illustrate principles of biology, ecology and parasitology. His lectures were enriched by anecdotes of the activities of his mentors and colleagues and of his personal research experiences. His Nematology 110 class, *Introduction to Nematology*, was especially popular with

undergraduate students, despite the fact that it was an elective and had an undesirable 8 am starting time. Dr. Maggenti's reputation as a teacher was such that enrollment in the class regularly approached 100 students. Twenty years after he last taught the class, former students regularly visit Department of Nematology exhibits at the annual UC Davis "Picnic Day" open house to enquire about Dr. Maggenti and to introduce spouses and children to the world of nematodes.

Maggenti was a respected and valued mentor of graduate students; former students and visiting scientists frequently recall protracted discussions around the mid-morning coffee pot. For varying periods throughout his career, Dr. Maggenti taught *Nematode Taxonomy and Comparative Morphology* and a separate class on *Principles and Techniques of Taxonomy and Morphology*, as well as a significant portion of a class on the *Biology of Parasitism*. During his career he received several awards for teaching excellence, including the James H. Meyer Distinguished Achievement Award and the Magnar Ronning Award.

Significant throughout Armand Maggenti's career is the impact of the many nematological luminaries with whom he had the opportunity to collaborate and interact. Those interactions were reflected in his teaching and his writing. Besides Drs. Allen and Raski, both Honorary Members and founder members of the Society of Nematologists, Maggenti's early career development was strongly influenced during his graduate studies by Dr. Benjamin Chitwood who was working with E.C. Dougherty at the nearby Kaiser Institute in Richmond. His interactions with Chitwood included many late night discussions on all aspects of the evolution, systematics and biology of nematodes. In addition to the mentored projects of his several graduate students, Armand Maggenti published with Drs. Dougherty, Chitwood, Timm, and Croll. He collaborated with Drs. Fortuner, Geraert, Luc and Raski in the important 1987 and 1988 revisions of the suborder Tylenchina.

Besides his contributions to our theories and understanding of nematode phylogeny and the evolution of parasitism in the phylum, Dr. Maggenti worked on the control of plant-parasitic nematodes in strawberry and ornamental plant production. His book entitled "General Nematology", published in 1981, has been particularly useful for reference and teaching purposes; it is an excellent resource on the anatomy, morphology, life cycles and classification of the phylum. With his first wife MaryAnn Basinger Maggenti, who died in 2001, Armand co-authored the extensive "Dictionary of Invertebrate Zoology", which is now published online.

Dr. Maggenti was elected Fellow of the Society of Nematologists in 1990.

Armand Maggenti was an avid outdoorsman; a hunter and an accomplished fly fisherman. He is survived by his wife Joan, his sister, his sons Timothy and Peter and their respective families. Colleagues and former students, and indeed the discipline of Nematology, will sorely miss his insights, breadth of knowledge and enthusiasm.

HOWARD FERRIS, *Professor*
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The editor of the Newsletter would like to add that many ONTA members, such as **Ignacio Cid del Prado** were trained by **Armand Maggenti**, whose teaching, training and research legacy has molded modern Nematology.



An Introduction to Entomophilic and Entomopathogenic Nematodes

**Short Course
Quito, Ecuador
October 4 and 6, 2010**

**Lectured by:
S. Patricia Stock
Department of Entomology
University of Arizona**

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