

Minutes, C-2 Business Meeting, Wednesday, October 19, 2011, San Antonio, TX

Notes taken by J.W. White and M.B. Kirkham

The meeting was called to order by Maria Balota, Chair of C-2, at 11:00 a.m. (Maria's e-mail number is mbalota@vt.edu). She introduced the officers:

Jeffrey ("Jeff") W. White (Jeffrey.White@ars.usda.gov), 2012 C-2 Chair.

Hugh Earl, C-2 Chair Elect

Randy Wells, Div. C-2 Board rep

Minutes of the 2010 meeting were reviewed briefly and approved.

Crop Science. Shawn Kaeppler, the new editor for CS, reported that the journal received about 600 papers last year and had a 50% acceptance rate. The Impact Factor has increased from 1.7 to 2.2, attributed in part to more review and interpretation articles. People should continue to think of options for such publications. A question was raised as to why we are not listed with PubMed. This is being investigated.

A new initiative relating to publications involves creating a completely integrated digital library. The work is headed by Mark Mandelbaum, a recent hire with experience from another professional society. Besides making all publications (journals, books and abstracts) available to members electronically, this would allow us to market products to libraries, foundations or other organizations, increasing publication-related income.

Program Planning: Jeffrey ("Jeff") J. Volenec of Purdue, incoming President of CSSA, reviewed the status of the program enhancement funds. Each section receives \$1000 plus an additional part based on the number of posters and papers given at the annual meetings. These can be spent on symposium speakers, business meeting snacks, graduate student awards, etc. Another option for symposia is the Z-series. These can receive up to \$15,000-\$20,000 in support. The topic must have broad interest and should involve more than one society. In 2011, the bulk of C-2 funds went to the graduate student awards (see below). Invited speakers were either sponsored by industry or paid their own way.

Jeff outlined plans for 2012 and asked for feedback on the 2011 program. Specific questions to C-2 included:

- Did people use the SmartPhone app and have feedback?
- How do people rate the 4' x 4' poster format? In response to a query as to why we don't use more poster boards, Jeff noted that board rental is approximately \$135 per week.

Other feedback was that scheduling a symposium for Sunday PM was unexpected and may have reduced attendance. Earlier and more targeted communication of this shift in scheduling might improve attendance.

A reminder was given that the societies should have first refusal on publication of symposia papers.

Before departing, Jeff presented Maria with a certificate recognizing her for her service as 2011 C-2 chair.

This year Maria Balota worked with David Warner with Pioneer and Tom Ruff with Monsanto. Graeme Hammer, who spoke at the symposium "Roles of Root Biology In Sustainable Crop Production and Changing Environments" was supported by Dow.

Graduate Student Competitions: Sarah Lingle chaired a committee to review the graduate

student competition rules. A key objective was to ensure that students only entered one category. This year, we had one student enter two posters in the competition (she was asked to select one during the judging). We need to communicate the rules clearly to students and their supervisors, as well as ensure that during the abstract submission process, any possible dual submissions are dealt with.

Oral award winners

- Honorable mention: Emily Merewitz: “Elevated cytokinin content in creeping bentgrass may promote drought tolerance by regulation of the metabolite profile”
- Honorable mention: Raymond Mutava: “Evaluating variability in water use efficiency of some selected sorghum genotypes”
- 3rd place: Julie Rothe: “Physiological traits affecting the acquisition and utilization of phosphorus by cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* L. Walp.) over plant development”
- 2nd place: Ratnaprabha Ratnaprabha: “Enhanced molybdenum uptake in rice”
- 1st place: Maninder Singh: “Physiological consequences of late leaf spot on peanut cultivars of differing resistances”

Poster award winners

- Honorable mention: George Mahama "Nitrogen use efficiency in grain sorghum genotypes"
- 3rd place : Laila Puntel "Improved characterization of photosynthetic parameters of maize grown under different N fertility rates based on field light response curves"
- 2nd place: Jason Lessl: A novel phytase with increased tolerance to arsenate in *Pteris vittata*"
- 1st place : Felipe Barrios-Masias "Alternate furrow irrigation reduces water application without yield reduction in California processing tomatoes"

Our thanks to the judges (oral: Hugh Earl, Susana Goggi, and Felix Fritschi; poster: Maria Balota, Sarah Lingle, Randy Wells, Jeff White).

Board report: The CSSA has identified “grand challenges” which should be considered when organizing symposia or sessions (www.crops.org/science-policy/grand-challenges):

- #1) Crop adaptation to climate change - Increase the speed with which agriculture can adapt to climate change by using crop science to address abiotic stresses such as drought and heat.
- #2) Resistance to biotic stresses - Increase durability of resistance to biotic stresses that threaten food security in major crops.
- #3) Management for resource limited systems - Create novel crop varieties and management approaches designed for problem soils and low-input farming to increase economic prosperity for farmers and overcome world hunger.
- #4) Crop management systems - Create novel crop management systems that are resilient in the face of changes in climate and rural demographics.
- #5) Biofuels - Develop sustainable biofuel feedstock cropping systems that require minimal land area, optimize production, and improve the environment.
- #6) Bioresources - Genotype the major crop germplasm collections to facilitate identification of gene treasures for breeding and genetics research and deployment of superior genes into adapted germplasm around the globe.

Membership is about the same. Projected revenues are roughly \$2M, an increase of 6.3%, but with increased expenses, the expected surplus is only \$20,000. The journal generates about \$300,000 per year.

We had 117 oral and poster presentations. We also hosted the Martin & Ruth Massengale Lectureship for 2011 plus two symposia.

Division web site: Maria noted that the C-2 web site needs updating

(www.crops.org/membership/divisions/c02). The suggestion was made to recruit graduate students, who may be more familiar with web design. The incoming chair will investigate options and possibly ask for volunteers to form a committee.

History of C-2:

Howard Skinner maintains historical records for C-2 symposia, co-sponsors of symposia, and officers, with help from Greg McMaster. The records indicate that paper numbers have increased in recent years.

New business: Maria then turned the meeting over to Jeff White, the new Chair. He thanked Maria for her service and then briefly listed topics suggested for the 2012 symposia:

- Crop responses to interactive effects of CO₂, temperature and water. This might be run in parallel with an ASA session on modeling the responses. The suggestion arises from a planned AgMIP workshop in March/April. The topic also might make a good Z-session.
- The physiological basis of heterosis. Steve Goff (iPlant) published a paper proposing a unified theory (New Phytologist 189:923-937).
- (Field-based high throughput phenotyping -- This wasn't mentioned but in other discussions, phenotyping was clearly of interest.)

A note will be circulated via the C-2 e-mail list to solicit more suggestions.

Jeff adjourned the meeting just past noon. A sheet was passed around at the business meeting for people to sign and give their e-mail, so they could get e-mails about Division C-2.