As reported in the November 2014 issue of the Newsletter, the XLVII ONTA Meeting will be conducted along with the International Seminar of Plant Health at the Convention Center ‘Plaza América’, Varadero Cuba. The meeting will be hosted by the National Center for Animal and Plant Health (CENSA), Cuba. The scientific program has been coordinated by Mayra G. Rodríguez, chair of the local arrangement committee (LAC) in cooperation with Alejandro Esquivel, ONTA vice-president, Larry Duncan, ONTA president, and the members of LAC. The scientific topics of the meeting include: 1) Allelopathy and botanical sources (C. Magunacelaya); 2) Educating stakeholders about nematode plant problems and management practices (E McGawley); 3) Entomopathogenic nematodes (R. Campos-Herrera & P. Stock); 4) Host-nematode interactions (P. Abad); 5) Microbial control of nematodes (R. Manzanilla-López); 6) Nematode diversity, identification and taxonomy (W. Decraemer); 7) Nematode management (N. Marbán-Mendoza); 8) Nematode management in protected crops (S. Verdejo-Lucas); 9) Nematodes of economic impact, emergent and re-emergent nematode pests (P. Agudelo); 10) Nematode parasites of tuber crops N. Viana & D. Coyne). 11) Quarantine nematodes, sanitation and exclusionary measures (R. Holgado & R. Inserra).

Mayra Rodríguez informs that 133 persons have registered and have submitted 170 presentations. The participation of American nematologists is complicated by travel restrictions between USA and Cuba. ONTA extends its thanks and appreciation to the LAC members Mayra G. Rodríguez (Chair), Hortensia Gandarilla Basterrechea, Leopoldo Hidalgo Díaz, Ricardo Cuadra Molina, Emilio Fernández Gonzalves, and Ivan Castro Lizazo for organizing this meeting and for their effort in planning this scientific event under difficult circumstances. Information about the meeting is posted on the ONTA’s website (http://www.ontaweb.org).
ONTA NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter editor, Renato Inserra, is pleased to announce that Rosa Manzanilla-López has accepted his invitation to replace him as editor of the Newsletter. Rosa’s appointment to the editorship of the Newsletter will be confirmed by the Executive Committee at the ONA meeting in Varadero, Cuba. Rosa has been a valid contributor to the Newsletter for many years. She will revitalize this ONTA Publication with her editorial experience and skill. The exiting editor will continue to collaborate with her in this difficult task. ONTA Members are invited to provide Rosa with their support and cooperation.

ONTA FOUNDATION INC.

UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE FOUNDATION

ONTA Foundation, Inc. is a separate not-for-profit corporation with objectives that complement and enhance those of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America FL, Inc. The ONTA Foundation, Inc. was established in 1991 from an idea of Jimmy Rich, University of Florida Professor, to provide support for nematologists, students and apprentices to participate in nematological events. The Board of Directors of the Foundation includes: Charles Overstreet (Director & Chair), Janete Brito (Director & Treasurer-Secretary), Larry Duncan (Director), Jimmy Rich (Director), Rod Rodríguez-Kábana (Director) and Lee Simmons (Director).

Objectives of the ONTA Foundation, Inc. include:

- Promote attendance at professional meetings on a global basis where scientists, students, and representatives of agriculturally related industries meet and share recent developments in their areas of expertise
- Provide assistance to students for study, travel, and participation in scientific meetings of nematological nature and enable them to pursue their research goals
- Provide assistance to scientists to encourage creative thought and assist in the development and application of innovations in Nematology
- Promote the planning of workshops on nematological issues to benefit students and scientists
- Sponsor special sessions on specific nematological issues that are relevant to countries holding nematological events

The constitution and bylaws of this corporation have been revised and filed with the state of Florida and the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS), to ensure that the affairs of the ONTA Foundation conform to all legal requirements. It has been a long and hard legal process that Julia Meredith has conducted during the last two years with a lawyer and the cooperation of Jimmy Rich, Larry Duncan, Janete Brito and Renato Inserra.
Ignacio Cid del Prado Vera is a research professor of nematology in the Centro de Fitopatología at the Colegio de Postgraduados in Montecillo, México, where he has taught a wide variety of invertebrate biology and nematology courses for more than four decades. He received a Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis and has conducted numerous collaborative and sabbatical research projects as a visiting scientist at institutions including Rothamsted Research Station and UC, Davis. Dr. Cid del Prado is internationally renowned for his many contributions to nematode taxonomy (parasitic and free living) that are remarkable for their breadth. He has characterized much of the phytoparasitic nematode fauna of Mexico. In addition to his descriptions of 33 nematode species and one genus, he has published extensively on the biology, host-parasite relationships, epidemiology and management of many of these newly discovered species. Recognizing the remarkable economic importance of *Nacobbus aberrans* to major crops in Mexico, Dr. Cid del Prado acquired support from Britain and the EU to assemble an international research team that worked together for seven years to study the nematode, develop methods of management and extend the information to the growers. An important aspect of the project is the substantial inroads that have been made in methods to effectively manage *Nacobbus* and *Meloidogyne* species, without pesticides, through the application of the biological control fungus *Pochonia chlamidospora* in conjunction with biofumigation. Dr. Cid del Prado has written 64 refereed papers, four chapters in books, and he has trained 24 master and Ph.D. nematology students. Most recently, he has organized several nematology workshops to train students in Mexico, Nicaragua and Venezuela. A longtime, active ONTA member, major contributor to Nematropica, and close friend and colleague of nematologists throughout the hemisphere, he looks forward to bringing his ideas and enthusiasm to the ONTA Executive Committee.

Joe Noling, is a professor, research nematologist and extension specialist at the University of Florida. He has worked at the UF-IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center since he received his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Riverside in 1985. Joe, a longtime ONTA member, is nationally and internationally recognized for his expertise in the diagnosis and management of economically important nematode problems of fruit and vegetable crops. He has authored or coauthored over 150 publications and delivered over 200 presentations (often at annual meetings of ONTA). Among his many awards for contributions to pest management research and extension programs are ‘Special Recognition Award’ for outstanding contributions to nematode management (Florida Watermelon Growers Association, 1991), ‘Researcher of the Year’ (Florida Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, 2000) and ‘Public Service Award’ (Florida Strawberry Growers Association in 2005). In 2009, Joe Noling received the “Ozone Protection Award” from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for his role in the development and reduced rate use of alternative fumigants. Since 1994, Joe Noling has maintained a primary leadership role in the statewide coordination of Florida field research efforts to identify, evaluate, and implement alternatives to methyl bromide soil fumigation and to disseminate these research findings on an annual basis to local, state, national, and international agencies and grower organizations.
IN MEMORIAM.....

ANTONIO BELLO PÉREZ (1940-2015)

Antonio Bello Pérez. Professor of the Spanish Higher Scientific Research Council (CSIC), passed away in Madrid on 25 February 2015. Antonio Bello Pérez, was born in San Miguel, Canary Islands. He received his B.S. in Biological Sciences and his M.S. in soil Zoology from Madrid Complutense University. During his B.S. and M.S. studies, in the early 60s, he was interested in acquiring notions in Agricultural Nematology at the National Council of Scientific Investigations (CSIC). He obtained a scholarship that helped to receive training in nematode morphology and taxonomy under the guidance of Prof. L.A P. De Conick, Ghent, Belgium. These studies culminated in his Ph.D. in Nematology, earned in 1967, also from Madrid Complutense University. After a period of teaching assistantships at Madrid and Navarra Universities (1967-1971), he obtained a position as Researcher at CSIC. Soon after he was promoted to Professor and, in 1979, head of the Environmental Biology Unit in the Institute of Environmental and Plant Biology. From 1983 until 1990, he attained the vice and directorship positions until the Institute was renamed Center of Environmental Sciences (CCMA). Afterwards, he continued his investigative work as Chief of the Agro-ecology Department of CCMA. Antonio retired in 2010. His teaching activities include the preparation of invited Nematology courses in Barcelona, Granada, Léon, Madrid, Navarra and Salamanca and also participation in M.S. and Ph.D. committees in Spain and in other countries such as Cuba, Uruguay and UK. His research has focused primarily on the biotic and abiotic factors that influence the dynamics of nematofauna in the soil. He has been the promoter of the exclusion of chemical pesticides from agricultural practices in Spain. In 1995, Antonio became a member of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee. As part of his activity in the Committee, he conducted a series of field trial in Spain in order to obtain non-chemical alternative approaches for nematode management to replace the use of the methyl bromide. The results of his studies were presented in several methyl bromide meetings and received international recognition.

Antonio has authored 200 scientific publications in national and international journals and also 10 books and 100 book chapters. Dr. Bello is well known internationally, and has been hosted as Visiting Scientist in many research institutions in Europe and South America. Dr. Bello has received many awards from many international and national Agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Spanish Association of Scientists for his scientific contributions aiming to the protection of the environment and ecological sites in Spain. He has been a very active member of ONTA serving as President in 2000. He received the ONTA Special Award in 1993 and the Honorary Member Award in 2012. Antonio has promoted ONTA initiatives with dedication and passion. His role in the organization of the 24th Annual Meeting in Lanzarote (Canary Islands), in 1992, and the Fourth International Nematology Congress in Tenerife (Canary Islands), in 2002, was outstanding and very helpful in improving ONTA financial status. ONTA and the Science of Nematology have lost one of the most enthusiastic, committed and active representative.

Rosa Manzanilla-López, Renato N. Inserra and Rod Rodríguez-Kábana
Sue Hockland informs that the Association of Applied Biologists (AAB) UK is holding a conference titled “Advances in Nematology” on 15 December 2015. The conference is an annual one day event at ‘The Linnean Society of London’, one of five learned societies built around the courtyard of Burlington House, located in Piccadilly. This event has been taking place at this prestigious location for many years, and is an excellent one day event run by people with a passion for the field of nematology. The conference provides an excellent opportunity for networking with UK and international nematologists. This conference invites contributions from all areas of nematology, and actively invites students to participate, in both platform and poster presentations. If sufficient student candidates participate, a prize in honour of Prof. Brian Kerry will be presented to the best student platform presentation. Accepted papers from the conference will be published as abstracts and will be available to delegates at the conference. Offers submitted by the 1 June 2015 deadline will be given priority for platform presentations. You can submit your offer using the attached form or online at our web site:

http://www.aab.org.uk

http://www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=183&basket=wwsshowconfdets

During the previous year event (December 2014), 55 delegates from the UK, Europe and North America saw a wide range of talks covering very recent developments in nematology, with excellent presentations from both leading experts and students. Invited speakers, including ONTA members, gave absorbing talks on the management of root-knot nematode in vegetables (Miguel Talavera, Institute for Training in Agriculture and Fisheries of Andalusia, Spain) comparative genomics (David Lunt, University of Hull) and the use of mitogenomes in the study of systematics (Tim Littlewood, Natural History Museum, London), whilst also providing plenty of time for interaction with the audience.

Student participation was also encouraged by the prospect of winning the new Brian Kerry award for the best student platform presentation, which was also accompanied by a copy of ‘Plant Nematology’, kindly donated by CABI Books. Grace Hoysted from the University of Leeds was voted the winner.

Barbara Pembroke presenting Grace Hoysted with the Brian Kerry Prize
News Received from Rosa Manzanilla-López

2015 Nematology forthcoming events agenda

Plant Pathology Joint Meeting
Mexico City 19 – 23 July 2015. Plant Pathology Joint Meeting (American Phytopathological Society-Caribbean Division (APS-CD), ASociación Latinoamericana de Fitopatología (ALF) and Sociedad Mexicana de Fitopatología (SMF)). Scientific activities will include one day nematology workshop and one symposium on nematodes biodiversity.
Organizers: Alejandro Tovar-Soto <alejandrotovars@hotmail.com> and Ángel Ramírez-Suárez <angelrasu75@gmail.com>

SON Annual Meeting at Michigan State University
The 54th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists will be held July 19-24, 2015 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the Michigan State University Campus in East Lansing, Michigan.
https://www.nematologists.org/son_annual_meeting.phpFourth Symposium of Potato Cyst Management (including other nematode parasites on potato). A two day conference at Harper Adams University, Newport, UK 7-8 September 2015.
Matthew Back <mback@harper-adams.ac.uk>

News from our ONTA members

Congratulations to Emma Zavaleta-Mejía, one of our former ONTA Presidents, who presented her first solo exhibition of paintings on 15 January 2015. The exhibition was hosted by the Development of Biotic Products Center (Centro de Desarrollo de Productos Bióticos) of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico in Yatepec, Morelos, Mexico.

Emma standing beside one of her painting
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