



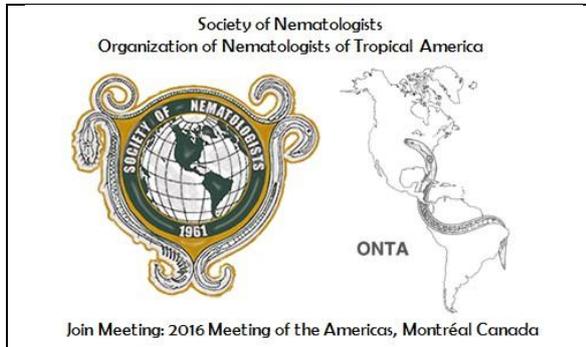
ORGANIZATION OF NEMATOLOGISTS OF TROPICAL AMERICAS ONTA NEWSLETTER

<http://www.ontaweb.org/>

November 2015

MEETING OF THE AMERICAS

SON-ONTA Montreal



The Society of Nematologists and Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America will be hosting a joint meeting during the week of 17-21 July 2016. The Local arrangements committee is planning a great conference in Montreal Canada, fitting for the 'Meeting of the Americas'. The meeting kicks off with registration and social on 17 July, followed by two days of technical program, 1 day tour, and finally a one day technical program and banquet on 21 July.

Local Arrangements Committee

The Local Arrangement Committee is co-chaired by Benjamin Mimeé, Agriculture



Meeting of the Americas

and Agri-Food Canada, Quebec (benjamin.mimee@agr.gc.ca); Guy Belair, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Quebec (guy.belair@agr.gc.ca); and Mario Tenuta, University of Manitoba (mario.tenuta@umanitoba.ca). The conference event and lodging is the **Montréal Marriott Château Champlain** (1 Place du Canada, Montreal, QC Canada H3B 4C9). The hotel is centrally located in vibrant downtown Montreal, serviced by the Metro and within walking distance of Old Montreal and Port, Mount Royal, Museums, restaurants and night life. Please visit the meeting websites regularly for updated information: <http://soilecology.ca/SONONTA2016/Program/index.html> and <http://www.ontaweb.org/>

Technical Program Committee

The Chair of the Technical Program Committee is headed by Patricia Timper (patricia.timper@ars.usda.gov) for SON and Ignacio Cid del Prado-Vera (icid@colpos.mx) for ONTA. The technical program planning has already started and information will be posted regularly on both ONTA and SON websites.



Montreal (17-21 July 2016)

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Get busy! ONTA Foundation, Inc. status is clear and high. Open your wings and take a flight!

Julia Meredith reported on 12 August that after reviewing the Foundation’s records and petition for tax exempt status, the USA Internal Revenue Service (ISR) has granted the ONTA Foundation exemption from federal

income taxes under section 501 (c) (3), which gives the **ONTA Foundation full status as a public charity**, and it may accept donations of any kind: money, goods, stocks, property, etc.

ONTA Foundation is ready for a campaign to request donations and expand its contributor base in a big way. ONTA Foundation can receive funds through several means: 1) checks made out to the ONTA Foundation and mailed to Janete Brito; 2) credit card, same information required as for membership payment; 3) wire transfer. Janete Brito and Renato Inserra have full codes for wiring if requested.

Julia thanks everyone who has worked with her on this lengthy and complicated task.

The Foundation’s Board of Directors and Officers stand as:

- Registered Agent (RA) – Janete Brito
- Director, Chairperson/President (DCP) – Charles Overstreet
- Director, Treasurer-Secretary (DTS) – Janete Brito
- Director (D) – Jimmy Rich
- Director (D) – Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana
- Director (D) – Larry Duncan
- Director (D) – Lee Simmons

From the Newsletter Editor

Dear ONTA Member,

It is a great pleasure having the opportunity to share news and other relevant developments to ONTA and the nematology world. I feel very honored in having this opportunity to serve ONTA. I would also like to thank Dr Renato N. Inserra, former ONTA Newsletter Editor, for his long term in the job and for inspiring dedication.

Kind regards,

Rosa



Julia Meredith, Rosa Manzanilla and Renato Inserra (Former Editor ONTA Newsletter)

XLVII Annual Meeting in Varadero (Cuba 18-22 May)

The XLVII Annual Meeting of ONTA was hosted by Cuba's 'Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria' (CENSA) [National Center for Animal and Plant Health]. The meeting of the Local Arrangements Committee was coordinated by Mayra Rodríguez, Belkis Peteira and Leopoldo Hidalgo who worked in close collaboration with ONTA Vice-President (Alejandro Esquivel) and President (Larry Duncan). The ONTA meeting was part of the II International Seminar of Plant and Animal Sanitation: 'Advances and Challenges on Animal and Plant Health in the XXI Century', Varadero (Cuba), 18-22 May 2015. Symposia and posters sessions took place in the facilities of the Convention Center 'Plaza América'.

Most ONTA delegates stayed at 'Arenas Doradas Hotel'. All inclusive hotel and transport arrangements facilitated other activities for ONTA delegates such as web netting, interchanges of experiences, meeting old friends or making new friends, all of them carried out in a very relaxing environment with a beautiful beach nearby.



Sunset at Varadero beach

Review and highlights

Dr Ondina León Díaz (CENSA) gave the opening Seminar speech, and Dr Oriela Pino the presentation of the scientific program. Relevant topics to this joint meeting theme were introduced by two key note presentations: 'Sustainable intensification and food and plant health' (Dr Theodor Friedrich, FAO Delegate to Cuba), and 'Challenges to science facing the challenges of 'one health' (Dr Agustín Laje, General Director of the Molecular Immunology Centre, Cuba).

The ONTA meeting started on 18 May (8:00 am) with two key note presentations: 'Perspectives in nematology research, crop protection and food security' by Aurelio Ciancio (Istituto per la Protezione Sostenibile delle Piante, Italy) and 'Nematode communities as ecological indicators of ecosystems health' by Deborah A. Neher (University of Vermont, USA). During the four days a total of 11 symposia were held and chaired by experienced nematologists, covering a broad spectrum of important

nematological topics such as: Nematode diversity, identification and taxonomy (Frieda Decraemer); Host-nematode interactions (Pierre Abad); Quarantine nematodes, sanitation and risk reduction (Ricardo Holgado and Renato Inserra); Microbial control of nematodes (Rosa H. Manzanilla-López and Luis V. Lopez-Llorca); Nematode management (Nahum Marbán-Mendoza); Allelopathy and botanical sources for nematode management (Juan C. Magunacelaya); Insect pathogenic and parasitic nematodes in complex systems: discovering interactions and new applications (Raquel Campos-Herrera); Root and tuber crops: plant-parasitic nematodes and their management for food security (Nicole Viaene and Danny Coyne); Nematodes of economic impact, emergent and pre-emergent pests (Paula Agudelo); nematode management in protected crops (Soledad Verdejo-Lucas); and Educating stakeholders for nematode diagnosis and management (Edward McGawley and Charles Overstreet). The program also included six oral presentations and one poster session.

The scientific program was enriched by the attendance and participation of worldwide experts in nematology, some of them ONTA regulars, and we also had the pleasure of welcoming new colleagues for whom this was their first ONTA meeting. The attendance of our ONTA colleagues from the USA was highly appreciated and we thank them for their great effort to join us in this meeting, which was historic for various reasons.

Twenty five delegates participated from different countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, UK, USA, Switzerland, Venezuela and our host country Cuba.

Local Organizers wanted ONTA delegates to enjoy their first-hand experience of Cuba, and the opportunity to watch ongoing collaborative research projects carried out

jointly between small producers and scientists in ‘Fincas’ (states). After the visit of two ‘Fincas’, while enjoying traditional Cuban Music, delegates had lunch followed by a short visit to ‘Old Havana’.

The closing lecture of the meeting: ‘Considerations on globalization, food production and nematology – where we are and what we need to do’ was given by Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana. Rodrigo also gave us a hearty welcome to Cuba, his native country. At the ONTA closing ceremony, the local organizers acknowledged Rodrigo’s long and continuous support to Cuban nematologists and presented him with an old edition of two volumes of ‘Old Havana’ lithographs. Many of us felt very emotional but also happy to know that during this meeting a new era in nematology collaborations between Cuba and USA was about to start.

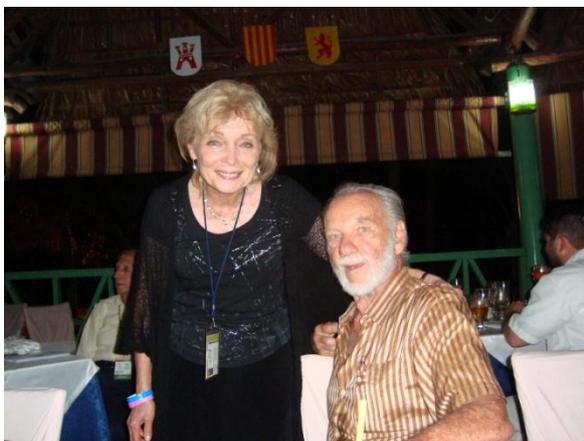
ONTA Awards

One core aspect of ONTA meetings is having the opportunity to come together and encourage not only the new, early- and mid-career nematologists, but also to acknowledge those who have opened horizons in nematology and created opportunities for those willing to follow. ONTA distinctions include the Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana award (student’s best poster competition), ONTA Foundation travel awards, and other awards that are given to recognize colleagues work on nematology and officers who have served ONTA with outstanding dedication and selflessness. Congratulations to all of them.

ONTA Awardees

This year the ONTA awardees were Eliseo Chaves (Special Award), Aurelio Ciancio (Honorary Member), Marcelo Doucet (Honorary Member), Renato Inserra (Extraordinary Services), Julia Meredith (Extraordinary Services), Mayra G. Rodríguez (Services Award) for organizing the 47th ONTA meeting, and Larry Duncan (Past

President Award). A citation of special recognition was presented to Ron Mankau for his long standing contribution and support of ONTA since the inception of the organization. The great job made by Nahum Marbán-Mendoza (Chair of the ONTA Awards) was also acknowledged.



Julia Meredith and Ron Mankau during the award ceremony

ONTA Student's best poster competition Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana award

First Prize: Nathan Redding (Clemson University, USA).

Second Prize: Breann Elizabeth Bender (University of Wisconsin, USA).

Third Prize: Daine Hernández-Ochandía (Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria, Cuba)

ONTA Travel Awards

Breann Elizabeth Bender (University of Wisconsin, USA), Alcides Sánchez-Monge (Ghent University, Belgium), Nathan Redding (Clemson University, USA), Anselmo Jesús Cabrera Hidalgo (Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Mexico).



Left to right: Alcides, Breann, Nathan, Charles and Anselmo

Closing remarks

At the awards ceremony closing remarks Larry Duncan thanked the local arrangements committee for giving ONTA this wonderful meeting, and that every day we spent there was 'like being in paradise'.

Executive Members Reports XLVII ONTA

ONTA's Executive Committee meeting and the Business meeting were held at the Conventions Center, Plaza América (Varadero, Cuba) on 18 and 21 May, respectively. Minutes for both meetings were taken by Paula Agudelo in the absence of Paola Lax (ONTA Secretary). Reports in full can be accessed and downloaded from the ONTA website.

Minutes of the XLVII ONTA Annual Meeting as taken by Paula Agudelo

ONTA Executive Committee Meeting

Plaza de las Américas. Varadero, Cuba
47th Annual Meeting of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America
18 May 2015

In attendance: Larry Duncan (President), Alejandro Esquivel (Vice-president), Paula Agudelo (past President), Renato Inserra

(Treasurer), Erwin Aballay (member at large), Charles Overstreet (ONTA Foundation), Julia Meredith (Honors and Awards), Nahum Marbán (Honors and Awards), Benjamin Mimeé (Local Organizing Committee 2016 ONTA Annual meeting), Rosa Manzanilla (incoming newsletter editor).

Meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting.

Copies of the minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and printed copies were provided at the meeting. Charles Overstreet moved to approve the past meeting minutes as posted. Renato Inserra seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Annual reports. Reports (2014-2015) from EC members and Committees were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Because of time constraints, the president decided to focus the meeting on the main new business items on the agenda.

Renato Inserra thanked L. Duncan for his leadership and for improving ONTA finances, especially by obtaining sustaining member contributions from Industry. In turn, Duncan thanked Inserra for his service as treasurer and summarized the changing income situation for ONTA, especially regarding publications and membership fees. He emphasized the importance of having a solid Sustaining Membership committee. People in this committee who can be more successful are those with close relationships with Industry. Duncan said it will be the new president's responsibility to appoint the members to the committee. He suggested that A. Esquivel solicit recommendations from other EC members, like C. Overstreet. The possibility of looking into contributions from the banana industry in Costa Rica, for example, was mentioned.

New Business:

Renato Inserra reported on the process to register the ONTA Foundation as a tax-exempt organization. After two years and over \$5,000 in lawyer fees, ONTA is expected to be recognized as tax-exempt as of June 2015. Once the final decision letter from the IRS arrives, the ONTA Foundation will have a new number for tax identification purposes. Julia Meredith elaborated on the benefits of the tax-exempt status: more freedom on the types of contributions that the Foundation can solicit and receive, and incentive to donors by allowing contributions to be tax-deductible. She explained that tax-deductibility is applicable to contributions from other countries. She added that once Foundation finances are improved, it would be desirable to extend support to matters other than student travel to meetings (i.e. invited speakers). Meredith also explained that the Foundation bylaws have been updated to reflect the change in status of the organization, and indicated that it is advisable to update ONTA bylaws as well. Duncan expressed deep gratitude for all the time and effort that J. Meredith and R. Inserra invested into getting this accomplished.

2016 ONTA Meeting. Benjamin Mimeé addressed the EC about the plans for the ONTA Annual meeting in Montréal (joint with SON). The meeting will be held 17-22 July 2016 in the Marriott hotel, a very central location. The hotel has been already booked, and a very good rate (\$115/night) has been negotiated for participants. Tour options have not been finalized, but Mimeé mentioned they want to offer more than one option and that they would like to include an Organic Production tour. Duncan suggested involving P. Grewal, if there was an urban agricultural interest. Mimeé asked the Board to provide him with room and scheduling needs for ONTA EC and Business meetings. Inserra said that ONTA would be flexible and would plan official meetings around the convenience of

the local arrangements and program. Ignacio Cid del Prado is the vice-president elect and will be in charge of the scientific program for ONTA. He will have to coordinate with Patricia Timper from the Society of Nematologists and the local arrangements committee. Rosa Manzanilla commented that she would like to see more advertisement of the meeting. Mimeé informed her that the website was active and that ONTA could now direct its members to the information available. Overstreet added that he will contact SON officials to coordinate student competitions. Mimeé requested that financial responsibilities from ONTA and SON be very clear. Duncan volunteered to communicate with Steve Thomas, president of SON, to clarify all financial responsibilities.

Nematopica. Larry Duncan wanted clarification on the ability to waive publication fees for non-members. Overstreet recommended that it be very limited. A short discussion followed and the decision was made to enforce the policy of no longer accepting manuscript submissions unless one author is a member of ONTA. Duncan will inform Terry Kirkpatrick, EIC of *Nematopica*, that there will be no waiving of fees for non-members. Duncan expressed appreciation for the work of Terry Kirkpatrick and urged the EC to think of possible people who can follow him in this position. He highlighted how difficult and time-consuming this job is. He added that *Nematopica* is being archived.

Newsletter. Duncan thanked Inserra for being in charge of a well-written, timely and well-produced newsletter for such a long time. Meredith added that the newsletter is extremely important because it is a valuable form of historical record and archiving for the organization. Duncan added that we need to verify that these newsletters are adequately archived. Meredith noted that Jimmy Rich has all the issues. Inserra asked to be relieved of the duty of Newsletter Editor. Rosa

Manzanilla agreed to take over this responsibility.

IFNS council. Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana informed Duncan that he wishes to step down as IFNS council member. Duncan asked for input from the EC to appoint a new member and added that it needs to be someone who can speak for ONTA, especially now that the new bids for the international meeting are being solicited. Manzanilla volunteered to be the new council member for ONTA. Esquivel expressed support for this and she will be appointed. Regarding bids, Duncan asked the EC to think about possibilities for an ONTA-sponsored 2020 meeting. Brazil was proposed as a possibility worth exploring further. Bids are due December 2015.

ONTA Flag. Esquivel proposed having a competition to design a flag for ONTA. He said that it would be important to enrich the image of the organization and to use the flag as a symbol in official ceremonies (for example, as a way to indicate the handing of responsibility from outgoing president to incoming president). The EC was unanimous in their support of this idea.

Website. Duncan is of the opinion that we need to consider hiring a professional to maintain the website. It would be someone who would charge by the hour, and expenses are not expected to be high. He explained that this is necessary because website maintenance is too much of an imposition on members that do this work on a voluntary basis. Inserra added that the Foundation could share the website (and website maintenance costs) with ONTA.

Alejandro Esquivel expressed he was honored and grateful to have served as vice-president for ONTA this past year and that he looks forward to serving as president. He mentioned he welcomes advice from other EC members.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Agudelo (for Paola Lax, ONTA Secretary).

ONTA Business Meeting

Plaza América, Sala B. Varadero, Cuba,
47th Annual Meeting of the Organization of
Nematologists of Tropical America
21 May, 2015.

In attendance: Larry Duncan (President), Alejandro Esquivel (Vice-president), Paula Agudelo (Past-President), Charles Overstreet (ONTA Foundation), Julia Meredith (Honors and Awards), Aurelio Ciancio (ONTA representative to IFNS), Benjamin Mimeé (Local Organizing Committee 2016 ONTA Annual meeting), Isabel Abrantes (Local Organizing Committee 2016 ESN Annual meeting), other members of ONTA.

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and printed copies were posted at the meeting. Aurelio Ciancio moved to approve the past minutes as posted. Julia Meredith seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted and posted.

Future meeting sites.

2016 Montréal, Canada: Larry Duncan invited Benjamin Mimeé to talk about the plans in Montreal for the joint meeting with SON. Mimeé gave a presentation and delivered an invitation to the members. The meeting will be held 17-22 July 2016 in the Marriott hotel, a very central location. It is a secure location with very easy access. Families are welcome. He informed the attendees that the website was up and had all the necessary

information. Duncan asked about registration costs and Mimeé said the exact figure is not available yet, but costs will be similar to this years SON meeting.

ESN 2016 Braga, Portugal: Larry Duncan invited Isabel Abrantes to talk about the plans for the next European Society of Nematologists meeting. Abrantes gave a presentation and delivered an invitation to the members. The meeting will be held 28 August - 1 September, 2016 in Universidade do Minho in Braga, Portugal.

Remembrance of Antonio Bello

Larry Duncan asked the members to observe a moment of silence to remember and honor Antonio Bello, who passed away recently and who was a dear friend of ONTA.

Highlights of reports. Because of time constraints, the president suggested focusing the meeting on a few main points of the officer reports.

President's report: In order to improve ONTA's financial situation, membership fees were raised and sustaining member contributions were solicited. It is critical that members stay current on their fees and that we have an active sustaining membership committee. Duncan recognized the work of Kim Rowe in updating and maintaining the website. He added that we are exploring the possibility of hiring professional support for the website. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve ONTA as president this past year. He thanked Renato Inserra and Julia Meredith, and other Executive Committee members Paola Lax, Erwin Aballay, Regina Carneiro, Alejandro Esquivel, and Paula Agudelo. He thanked the chair of local arrangements, Mayra Rodríguez and commended Alejandro Esquivel on an excellent scientific program.

Treasurer's report: ONTA is in the black. Renato Inserra asked members to thank Larry Duncan for his leadership in soliciting and obtaining sustaining member contributions without which ONTA would not be in the black.

Newsletter: Duncan thanked Renato Inserra for so many years of service as Newsletter editor, and highlighted the importance of archiving these newsletters. Rosa Manzanilla has agreed to be the new editor.

Honors and Awards committee: Nahum Marbán was in charge of preparing the slate of nominees and of processing plaques.

Nematropica: Terry Kirkpatrick, EIC, has recruited two new associate editors, Steve Koenning from North Carolina State University and Travis Faske from University of Arkansas. This will improve the quality and efficiency of manuscript processing.

Vice-president election: The secretary Paola Lax prepared the ballots, and collected and counted votes for the vice-president election. Ignacio Cid del Prado was elected as our new VP. Ignacio asked to say a few words. He expressed that ONTA has the responsibility to lead the efforts in educating the new generation of nematologists. He proposed having an education contact in every country that has ONTA members.

Local arrangements: Duncan reported that there were over 120 delegates from 25 countries attending the meeting in Cuba. He commended the organizers for a first rate scientific program. He thanked Mayra Rodríguez, and all involved in organizing the meeting, for the hospitality and friendship we were offered. He said all problems, big and

small, were solved quickly and with much grace. He said in Varadero, "every day is another day in paradise". Larry Duncan introduced and welcomed our new president, Alejandro Esquivel. Esquivel expressed gratitude and enthusiasm for the opportunity to serve ONTA.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Agudelo (for Paola Lax, ONTA Secretary).

ONTA Officers Facing New Duties

Thanks to Larry Duncan, ONTA Past-President, for his continuous effort and hard work on behalf of ONTA. Congratulations to Alejandro Esquivel, new ONTA President, and Ignacio Cid del Prado for becoming ONTA's new Vice-President. Both of them send the following messages to ONTA members.



Alejandro, Ignacio, and Larry

From the President



*Soledad Verdejo, Juan Carlos Magunacelaya
and Alejandro Esquivel*

Dear ONTA members,

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as ONTA president during this year. My special thanks to the Executive Committee; they are a wonderful team who deserves our recognition; their guidance and permanent advice has been essential for me. I also want to thank all other ONTA committees, who are working selflessly for our beloved organization.

In May 2015, we had a meeting in Varadero, Cuba. The organization, scientific program, the friendly people and the beautiful place, gave us all the conditions necessary for an unforgettable experience. The participation was more than expected (**128 experts from 25 countries**), so there is no doubt that the meeting was a complete success. My congratulations to Mayra Rodriguez, coordinator and visible face of the local committee, I know she worked very hard before and during the meeting to ensure that everything worked perfectly.

Our annual meeting represents an opportunity to exchange experiences, to be updated in the field of nematology and to strengthen working relationships with experts from around the world. We have the responsibility to support ONTA through an active participation. Supporting and motivating students and young nematologists is an important goal to keep the soul of our organization alive. There is too much to be discovered and too much to be solved. An innovative attitude is essential in order to face the new nematology challenge. We need to leave our laboratories and bring our findings to the field in order improve human life and the quality of agroecosystems.

The field trip in CUBA was amazing, the close relationship between academy, institutes and local growers was a lesson that many of us must learn. It's not surprising the Cubans have solved many of their agricultural problems in spite of their economic limitations.

A new challenge is coming; ONTA 2016 will be a joint meeting with the American Society of Nematologists (SON). This meeting will be held in Montreal, Canada, 17-21 July. I would like to motivate all of you to attend this meeting next year. I'm sure we'll have an attractive scientific program and also it will be an important opportunity to meet leader nematologists to exchange experiences in our beloved field.

Sincerely yours,
M.Sc. Alejandro Esquivel
ONTA President

From the Vice-President



Conchita and Ignacio

Dear ONTA members,

I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as ONTA Vice-President during 2015-2016. My special thanks go to the persons that nominated me as a candidate; it is a wonderful opportunity for me to be part of the leadership team of our Organization. I appreciate the efforts of the Executive Committee members who are working to organize our Annual Meeting and other ONTA activities.

It has given me a great pleasure to have once again the opportunity to greet and met nematologists who have transcended with their work, and to see them again and share my own research experiences with them gives me a great happiness. It is both an honor and a great opportunity to be part of this important group of nematologists and to support their efforts in furthering the understanding of plant- and insect-parasitic nematodes. We

share common goals in generating information, providing information and advice to our colleagues, and in fostering and encouraging future generations of nematologists to continue the tasks.

The challenge ahead for ONTA nematologists is to develop research teams that work together, share knowledge and experiences, and collaboratively generate new mechanisms of control of nematodes that avoid the contamination of the environment. This same collaboration is necessary and important in the training of new nematologist generations. A well-educated and informed cadre of nematologists will continue to be necessary to guide agricultural production in tropical areas of the world; ONTA must be prepared to be part of this challenge.

During our Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada, I hope to motivate our ONTA organization to develop concrete proposals and actions for research, extension and teaching priorities. I am sure that we will have many opportunities to contribute ideas and exchange experiences.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Ignacio Cid del Prado-Vera
ONTA Vice-President



ONTA delegates



Finca grower



Eliseo Chaves



Renato Inserra and Aurelio Ciancio



Saroj Mankau



Ed McGawley and Danny Coyne



Luis Pocasangre



Mayra, Belkis and Rosa

ONTA's day out: visit to the fincas, lunch and 'Old Havana' tour

Flashback from the SON 2015 Meeting at Michigan State University and Looking Forward to Better Participation in Montreal in 2016

It was an honor and pure joy hosting the society in our beautiful campus surrounded by easily accessible socializing places last year. Enough cannot be said about the quality and breadth and depth of the scientific program, which among other things, included a high tech workshop that kept everybody fully engaged. Credit goes to program chair, Byron Adams.

It was not all city stuff, we had two field tours as well. For some unknown reasons, the research and winery tour had the more attendance than the agricultural and small town tour! Both enjoyed the research and grower demonstrations and dined together in Grand Rapids.

One of the many highlights for me was to see John Webster, my Ph.D. advisor, hand the award that bears his name in person.



Horacio Lopez-Nicora (right) as the John M. Webster Outstanding Student Award

Let's remember that today's best is tomorrow's better and focus on Montreal. We had expected around 150 registrants and got over 220 from as far south as Down Under, Brasil and South Africa to as far east as Japan. Thanks to our industry partners' support, attendees included 38 students. Given the efforts of our 2106 organizers and with continued industry support, I have no doubt that everybody else's and student attendance at the joint SON-ONTA meeting in Montreal will be more than at SON 2015.

See you all in Montreal!

Haddish Melakeberhan



Look for more pictures at:

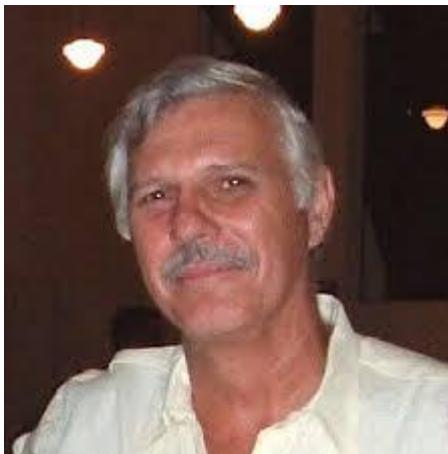
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u0uye3m34va8yuf/AAA-o9FKj3SoKf9mvtZuyu7ea?dl=0>

Pictures courtesy of J. Eisenback

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS

In memoriam

Dr Wilson Roberto Trevisan Novaretti



Dr Novaretti (born 1951) passed away on 9 October 2015. He graduated from Escola Superior de Agricultura Luiz de Queiroz/Universidade de São Paulo, Piracicaba, São Paulo State, Brazil in 1973, with a B.Sc. in Plant Protection; he got a M.Sc. degree with Dr Luiz G. E. Lordello and completed his doctorate in Entomology at the same institution with Dr Ailton R. Monteiro.

Dr Novaretti began working in a private company (Coopersucar) in late 1973 conducting research studies that dealt mostly with nematode integrated management on sugarcane. In the early 1990s, he became a private consultant with expertise on nematological and entomological problems on coffee and sugarcane. Through his extraordinary capacity to pass on knowledge he fulfilled a prominent role in the Brazilian Agribusiness and Nematologist communities. He attended many nematological events organized by IFNS, ONTA and BNS (Brazilian Nematological Society). In a partnership with his wife, Ana Augusta, Dr Novaretti significantly contributed to the BNS for 13 years as its Treasurer.

Luiz Ferras

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (CONT.)

CUBA

Auburn University College of Agriculture and Cuba sign academic exchange treaty

Auburn University College of Agriculture has entered into historic partnership with the Agrarian University of Havana and the Cuban National Center for Animal and Plant Health (CENSA) that paves the way for faculty and student exchange programs and collaborative research efforts between Auburn agriculture and the Cuban institutions. The five-year international academic interchange agreement was formally signed on 21 May in Varadero, Cuba. Activities include faculty, staff and student exchange programs; joint research, teaching and extension projects; graduate and undergraduate coursework at both universities; special short-term courses; and cultural exchange undertakings.

Attending the signing ceremony were Henry Fadamiro (Assistant Dean and Office Global Programs Director), associate professor Brenda Ortiz of Cuba Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, and Cuban native Rodrigo Rodriguez-Kabana, distinguished university professor emeritus of plant pathology, who was key to the success of the agreement. Rodrigo was also in Varadero for the 47th annual meeting of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America. Rodrigo was the invited speaker in the scientific meeting's closing session, and following his remarks, the Cuban Nematological Society presented the 75-year-old Auburn nematologist a special award for his ongoing efforts over the past 30 years to foster relations between the USA and Cuba.



Presentation to Rodrigo by Local Organizers

Reference:

<http://agriculture.auburn.edu/news/college-of-agriculture-signs-academic-exchange-pact-with-cuba/>

COSTA RICA

Nematode Ecology at Universidad Nacional of Costa Rica

For a second year the master's program in organic farming at the Universidad Nacional of Costa Rica (UNA), offered the course "Nematode Ecology, ecosystem services and soil health" given by Dr Howard Ferris, California University (USA), and Dr Ignacio Cid del Prado of Colegio de Postgraduados, Mexico. The UNA has equipped laboratories for teaching and research in nematology field. The course was supported with funding of the Faculty Earth and Sea, and the course was assisted by teachers M.Sc. Alejandro Esquivel, M.Sc. Walter Peraza and M.Sc. Gabriela Soto of Escuela de Ciencias Agrarias (UNA). On this opportunity we had the participation of 19 students. Course details are available on the <http://plpnemweb.ucdavis.edu/nemaplex/> (Nemaplex, curso español, 2015).

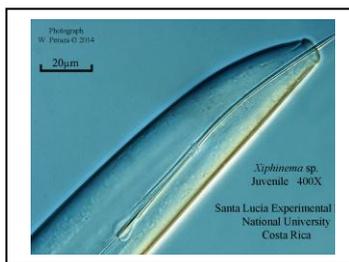


Ecology course participants



Nematology laboratory of the National University of Costa Rica

Longidorid Research at the Nematology Laboratory of the National University of Costa Rica



Nematodes of the Longidoridae and Xiphinematinae are being investigated at the Nematology Laboratory of the National University of Costa Rica. For the first time the project focus is on virus vector nematodes and their importance in virus transmission into tropical crops. Knowledge about this nematode group in Costa Rica is scarce; a comprehensive research from the taxonomical perspective (morphological, morphometrics and photomicrographs) and molecular analyses (PCR, RFLP and sequencing) are being performed with the cooperation of Dr Pablo Castillo from Institute of Sustainable Agriculture (IAS) in Cordoba, Spain. It is a three years project coordinated by M.Sc. Walter Peraza Padilla. Samples are being collected from different agricultural areas and crops of Costa Rica. We expect to have at the end of the project valuable information of the virus vector nematodes in Costa Rica.

Walter Peraza Padilla

FLORIDA (USA)

Cuban Scientists Visit of Florida Research Facilities

The University of Florida (UF), the University of Havana and Cuba's Research Institute for Plant Protection (*Instituto de Investigaciones de Sanidad Vegetal*, or INISAV) are planning a collaborative research project that will examine a broad range of agricultural and pest and disease issues that will be of common interest.

As an early activity in this project, INISAV has sent 5 scientists to visit the UF main campus and selected Experiment Research Stations during the last two weeks of October, 2015. The visit included also a meeting with scientists of Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), DPI, in Gainesville. This preliminary interaction between Cuban scientists and those of UF and FDACS may result in cooperative research programs between Cuban and Florida Scientists. The Cuban delegation included the nematologist Emilio Fernández a longstanding ONTA member.

This preliminary visit was coordinated by Frederick Royce and William (Bill) Messina (UF).

Janete Brito and Renato Inserra



First row from left: Janete Brito (FDACS), Berta Lina Muiño (INISAV), Qiu Sai (UF), Gloria González (INISAV), Elisa Javer (INISAV), Emilio Fernández (INISAV), Renato Inserra (FDACS), Jason Stanley (FDACS). Second row from left: William Messina (UF), Donald Dickson (UF), Frederick Royce (UF), Gary Steck (FDACS)

MEXICO

‘Emerging phytoparasitic nematodes’ Pre-Congress workshop (19 July 2005 Mexico City)

Alejandro Tovar Soto and Ángel Ramírez Suárez organized a Pre-Congress workshop on



Workshop participants

‘Emerging phytoparasitic nematodes’, which was held on 19 July in Mexico City as part of the XVII International Congress of the Mexican Plant Phytopathology Society /XLII Congreso Nacional de la Sociedad Mexicana de Fitopatología. This was a joint meeting with the Latin American Society of Phytopathology (ALF) and the American Plant Pathology Society Caribbean Division (APSCD). The workshop was focused on nematode species that are increasingly becoming a threat for commodities. Fifty delegates from private and public diagnostic laboratories from Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Spain and France attended the workshop. Key note speakers included Luc Villain (CIRAD, France), Rafael Jordán Ramírez (Bayer CropSciences Vegetable Seeds-México), Gabriela Medina (Biological Sciences School, National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico [IPN]) and Beatriz Xoconostle Cázares (CINVESTAV-IPN).

Alejandro Tovar-Soto



Left to right (front row): Gaby Medina, Alejandro Tovar, Beatriz Xoconostle, Ángel Ramírez. Back row: Luc Villain and Rafael Jordán

Mexico's National Phytosanitation Prize

Congratulations to Emma Zavaleta-Mejía on being awarded the National Prize of Phytosanitation by the National Service of Sanitation, Food and Safety Quality (SENASICA) Mexico for her outstanding contributions to prevention, control and eradication of crop pests and diseases in Mexico. Emma has been a pioneer in developing bacterization, mulching, organic amendments made of crucifers, vermicompost, Mexican marigold (*Tagetes erecta*), legumes (*Crotalaria longirostrata*), solarization, etc., to control soil-borne pathogens including major nematode pests such as *Meloidogyne* spp. and *Nacobbus aberrans*. The Prize was presented to Emma on 11 November 2015 by Dr Javier Trujillo Arriaga in a ceremony held at the Postgraduates' College (Montecillo, Mexico). Emma has been also ONTA President (2010) and awarded the ONTA 'Bayer CropScience Award' (2009).



Emma Zavaleta (center)

Across the Atlantic

4th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management (including other nematode parasites of potatoes) 7-8 September, Harper Adams University, UK

In the advent of diminishing pesticide options and tightening legislation, new developments in PCN management are in high demand by industry. With this in mind the 4th Symposium

of Potato Cyst Nematode Management took place providing a fitting forum for researchers, crop managers, agronomists, plant breeders and industry representatives to meet and discuss future research. The scope of this symposium was widened to include other important nematode parasites of potatoes. During the course of this two day event, the contributors covered a plethora of topics including cultivar resistance, biofumigation, modeling of populations and legislation. It was particularly useful to hear about the experiences of pest management in different countries, which instigated some lively, yet constructive discussions. In the afternoon of the first day, the delegates were taken to a field site at the University where a series of demonstrations took place on biofumigation, variety choice and nematicide incorporation. After the demonstration we all enjoyed a barbecue in the late summer sunshine! During the symposium, we took time to remember Pat Haydock (a former ONTA member) who founded the Nematology Group at HAU and initiated this symposium series. Prizes (Pat Haydock Award) for the best Ph.D. student platform and poster presentation were awarded in his name. After some careful deliberation by a panel of judges, Arohi Shrivastava from the University of Hertfordshire and Jamie Orr from the James Hutton Institute were awarded prizes for the best presentation and poster respectively. The symposium was attended by 66 delegates from a wide range of countries including the USA, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Norway, India and the UK. Proceedings can be ordered from 'Aspects in Applied Biology' <http://www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=378>

Matthew Back and Ivan Grove (Conference Organizers)



Participants at the 4th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management

ONTA'S NOTICE BOARD

Please note ONTA's Membership new fees

At the last ONTA business meeting it was approved to raise ONTA membership fees from US\$30.00 to US\$40.00

Nematology Agenda

Nematology course (7-11 December 2015), Culiacan, Sinaloa (Mexico). The course will cover novel strategies to manage galling nematodes. Organized by Howard Ferris, Antoon Ploeg (University of California, USA) and Ignacio Cid del Prado (Colegio de Postgraduados, Mexico).

2016 ESN Meeting

The website of the ESN Symposium in Braga (Portugal) and registration are open. The link is: www.esn2016braga.com/



Rectoria Minho Universidade

Seventh International Congress of Nematology

Larry Duncan (IFNS President) asked the ONTA Executive Committee to think about possibilities for an ONTA-sponsored 2020 meeting. The Brazilian Nematology Society will participate along with SON, ESN, the Nematological Society of India and the Chinese Society of Nematologists in the bidding to host the Seventh International Congress of Nematology.

IFNS has opened a twitter account [[@nematologists](https://twitter.com/nematologists)] and Ernesto San Blas (IFNS Vice-President) extends nematologists an invitation to share and post information. If you are interested, please contact Ernesto (esanblas@yahoo.com).

PUT COLOR TO OUR ONTA FLAG

Dear ONTA members,

At the recent ONTA meeting in Varadero, Cuba, the executive committee approved a motion to create a flag to give identity to our organization. For the first time, ONTA will have a visible symbol that will highlight our identity in all official activities, especially in the opening and closing ceremony of regular meetings. The flag will also be a symbol of commitment by future host countries to organize the annual meeting.

We request your ideas in the development of the flag. We are confident that some excellent, innovative proposals will be received for evaluation by the Executive Committee. The person submitting the winning design will receive a plaque at the next meeting of ONTA in Montreal Canada. The deadline for submission of designs is **30 March 2016**.



Hurry-up to put color to our flag!

ONTA NEWSLETTER INVITATION

Dear ONTA member,

Do you have a passion for nematodes and nematology? Would you like to share nematology news with our ONTA members? If so, welcome aboard!

We would like to extend to you a warm invitation to send or share information for our next ONTA Newsletter issue.

Please contact us. We are looking forward to hearing from you and to learn of your local nematology events and news.

Kind regards,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
ONTA Newsletter Editor

NEMATOTOLOGY NEW BOOKS

General and Applied Agricultural Nematology. (*Nematologia Agraria generale e applicata*)

Laura Ambrogioni, Francesco Paolo d'Errico, Nicola Greco, Anna Marinari Palmisano, and Pio Federico Roversi (Eds). Italian Society of Nematology (SIN), Italy, 2014.

Color soft cover; XXII + 482 pages; 98 color and 136 B&W figures; cm 24 × cm 17

Language: Italian; **price:** €95

Nematologia Agraria Generale e Applicata is published by the Italian Society of Nematology (S.I.N.) and is a landmark publication of nematology applied to agriculture and horticulture useful for students in zoology, entomology and agricultural sciences, phytopathology officers, nematology laboratories and practitioners. It can be used as a reference and as a general textbook.

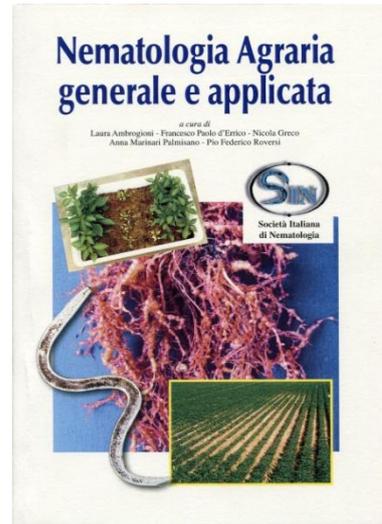
The book is composed of 18 chapters, 9 on general nematology and 9 on applied nematology authored by 31 specialists from Italy (27) and abroad (4). The chapters on general nematology cover: history of nematology and agriculture nematology; anatomy and physiology of nematodes; nematode taxonomy and classification; techniques for preparation, observation and identification of nematodes; interactions of nematodes with other micro-organisms; nematode-plant interaction and type of parasitism; biology, ecology and dynamics of nematodes; nematodes in different ecosystems; extraction, rearing and storing of nematodes. The chapters on applied nematology deal with: control of nematodes; nematodes of aerial plant parts and of mushrooms; ecto-parasitic nematodes; sedentary endo-parasitic nematodes: Heteroderinae; sedentary endo-parasitic nematodes: Meloidogyninae; root lesion nematodes: Pratylenchidae; semi-endoparasitic nematodes; virus vector nematodes;

entomopathogenic nematodes. The book ends with an index and a list of crops of importance in Europe and Mediterranean countries and nematodes for which they are host.

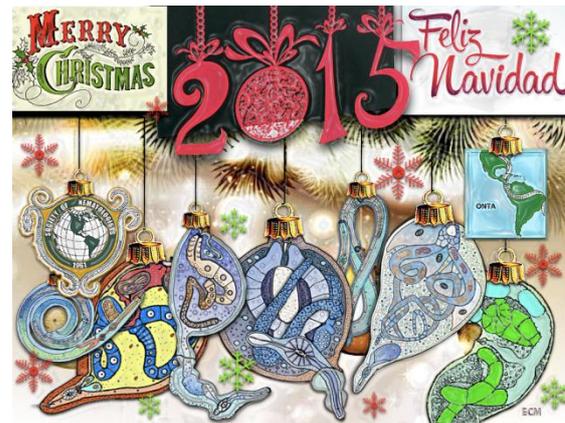
The most common extraction methods and nematodes that are or that can be of importance for Europe and the Mediterranean area are discussed in detail. The classification emphasis is on morphological characters of major taxonomic divisions, "spot characters" for the recognition of Families, and the life histories, damage symptoms, economic importance of the various pest species and their most appropriate methods of control. Where appropriate, the most advanced biochemical and molecular techniques are also described.

The book is beautifully illustrated with color and figures, including SEM and TEM photographs, showing both the organisms and the damage caused to plants, with diagnostic characters indicated by arrows. Coverage is world-wide and includes much material stemming from the vast personal experience of the authors. Coverage is designed to keep readers up to date with important developments in pests affecting field and protected crops, forest trees and plant products. Also covered are general aspects of control, biological control, Integrated Pest Management, such as legislation and safety, and non-target effects on other organisms and the environment.

More details and updated information can be obtained at www.nematologia.it



We join Ed McGawley (Louisiana State University), who prepared the following holiday card, in wishing all ONTA members a happy and productive 2016.



ONTA Sustaining Members

ONTA gratefully recognizes the support received during 2015 from the following sustaining members: **DuPont, E-nema, Koppert Biological Systems, Syngenta** and **SynTech Research**. Recently, **CORBANA** became an additional sustaining member of the organization. ONTA members welcome this new member and appreciate its support.



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