Message from the President

Greetings and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. As we begin the New Year we are excited about new opportunities and challenges. The challenge for the ISA Board this year is to increase the involvement of the Association’s membership. The purpose of the any Association is to represent and support its membership. The most effective way to do that is by active involvement of the membership. ISA has a number of committees each year and we are strongly encouraging you to participate. The committees are: membership, golf, legislative, convention/education and scholarship. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Joan O’Brien at 1-800-383-1682 or myself (Mike Bielenberg) at 515-239-3504.

In addition to asking for your involvement in committees, we are also very interested in your thoughts about the annual convention. Again, call myself or your association office if you have comments or suggestions.

Best regards,

Mike Bielenberg
ISA President
Syngenta Seeds

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Todd Cogdill, Landon Ries, Katie Petersen, Heather Hall, Eric Peterson, Eric Pitzen, Cody Cline, Jessica Kluver, Nichole Schneider and Emily Hoffmann, who were all honored with scholarships from the ISA Endowed Scholarship fund at ISU. The students were present at the President’s breakfast during the 103rd Annual Iowa Seed Association Convention in November, in Ames. Each student received a $1,000 scholarship for the 2005-2006 school year.

2006 ISA Membership Directory

We are in the process of updating the ISA Membership Directory in anticipation of publishing our directory in 2006. Please review your membership information in the 2005 directory and let us know if you have any changes or corrections.

2006 Committee & Chairs

Iowa Seed Association
900 Des Moines Street
Des Moines, Iowa  50309
Telephone: 800.383.1682 or 515.262.8323
Fax: 515.262.8960
E-mail: joano@agribiz.org

Mike Bielenberg .......... President
Jim Groepper .......... First Vice President
Dave Treinen .......... Second Vice President
Joan O’Brien .......... Executive Vice President

Conventions/Event Committee
Mike Bielenberg (chair)
Tim Barry
Pat Foley
Del Koch
Tim Johnson
David Thompson
Dean Hamer
Manjit Misra
Dave Tierney

Scholarship Committee
Jim Groepper (co-chairs)
Mike Bielenberg (chair)
John Latham
Manjit Misra
Dave Tierney

Membership Committee
Jim Groepper (chair)
Dave Treinen
Dave Kennedy
Wade Jensen
Mark Terpstra
Mitch Christensen

Golf Committee
Dave Kennedy (chair)
John Latham
Rhonda Birchmeier
Mitch Quin

Legislative Committee
Steve Worning (chair)
John Latham
Dave Tierney
Greg Lamka

Nominating Committee
John Latham (past-past president)
Greg Lamka (past-president)
Mike Bielenberg (current president)
Congratulations to

Dr. Denis McGee

of

Iowa State University

for being named

ISA’s 2005 Honorary Member

at the ISA Annual Convention

During the ISA convention held on November 1 & 2, 2005, President Lamka announced Dr. Denis McGee as the latest recipient of its highest honor, the Honorary Member Award. Dr. McGee was recognized for his contributions during the ISA’s annual convention held in Ames, Iowa.

The Honorary Member award began in 1949 and is presented to a person who has had a significant impact on the seed industry and who has served as part of the ISA with distinction. Dr. McGee served as a long time supporter of the Iowa seed industry.

Dr. McGee earned a B.S. degree in Botany in 1964 and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology in 1967, from the University of Edinburgh. After receiving his Ph.D., he then earned his post-doctoral study at the University of Minnesota. In 1978 he joined the Department of Plant Pathology and the Seed Science Center at ISU and was promoted to Professor in 1984. Dr. McGee has written two books on seed diseases of corn and soybeans, published in 1988 and 1992. He also played a central role in the development of a comprehensive database on Seedborne Diseases. In recent years, Dr. McGee has worked on national and international phytosanitary issues and has been part of a committee that works with industry, government and regulatory agencies.

Congratulations

Dr. McGee!
Biotechnology Update

Biosciences Alliance of Iowa Funds ISU Research

The Biosciences Alliance of Iowa (BAI) has awarded funding to two projects at Iowa State University that are designed to advance the state’s bioscience industry. BAI was formed by the Iowa Department of Economic Development to enhance the state’s effort in key agricultural and medical areas. BAI awarded $700,000 to Iowa State to establish the Human Nutrition Wellness Research Center. The center will evaluate the safety and efficacy of new foods, food ingredients or dietary supplements developed by Iowa-based companies. Funding will be used to purchase equipment and complete minor renovations to a building in the ISU Research Park.

ISU Scientists Share in $29.5 Million Project to Sequence Maize Genome

Iowa State University is one of four institutions on the team selected for a $29.5 million, three-year project to sequence the maize (corn) genome, the most complex genome to be sequenced to date. Sequencing a genome reveals an organism’s genetic blueprint and opens the door for researchers to discover the role each gene plays in the life of the organism. Completion of the corn genome will allow scientists to more efficiently develop corn varieties for specific conditions and uses.

LaVigne tapped to lead American Seed Trade Association

The Board of Directors of the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) is pleased to announce the election of Andrew W. LaVigne as the organization’s new President and CEO. LaVigne replaces and outgoing President and CEO Dick Crowder, who was recently confirmed as the new Chief Agriculture Negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

“LaVigne has been the Executive Director and CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual for the past seven years. Prior to joining Mutual, LaVigne was the Executive Director of the Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association for over four years. He also spent a decade in Washington, D.C. working in Congress and at USDA.

ASTA, founded in 1993, is one of the oldest trade organizations in the United States. Its membership consists of about 850 companies involved in seed production, distribution, plant breeding and related industries in North America. As an authority in plant germplasm, ASTA advocates science and policy issues on industry-wide importance.

LaVigne will assume the President and CEO duties at the beginning of February 2006.

ISA 2005 Nominating Report

During the 2005 ISA convention, Chair John Latham presented the following slate: It was reported that the committee had recommended the following individuals for positions on the ISA Board of Directors.

President
Mike Bielenberg, Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

First Vice President
Jim Groepper, AgVenture, Inc.

Second Vice President
Dave Treinen, Corn States Hybrid Service

Past President
Greg Lamka, Pioneer Hi-Bred (A Dupont Company)

Secretary/Treasurer
Joan O’Brien, ISA

Director (2006)
Wade Jensen, Remington Seed Company

Director (2008)
Tim Barry, Channel Bio Corporation

Director (2008)
Steve Werning, Monsanto

Director (2006)
Manjit Misra, ISU Seed Science Center

These new board members will join the other board members listed below:

Dean Hamer, Sansgaard Seed Farms, Inc.
Dave Kennedy, Bayer Crop Science
David Thompson, Stine Seed Company
ISA Board of Directors will host a luncheon for the Iowa Legislators House and Senate Ag Committees. The luncheon will be held at the ISA office in Des Moines on February 9, 2006. If you are interested in attending, please call the ISA office at 515.262.8323.

ASTA Upcoming Events

February 28-March 1 ASTA/USDA Conservation Workshop
USDA Headquarters
1400 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC

July 8 - 12 Joint ASTA-CSTA Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL

December 6 - 8 60th Corn & Sorghum Seed Research Conference
35th Soybean Seed Research Conference Seed Expo
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL

Iowa State University
Seed Science Center, Ames, Iowa

Upcoming Workshops

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