

**Western Plant Diagnostic Network  
Regional Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2007  
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Rick Bostock welcomed all the members of the Western Plant Diagnostic Network and gave an introduction as to the mission and successes of the WPDN. He provided a brief overview of the budget to date, including the one year extension and the new 5 year plan.

Dick Hoenisch gave a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the immense size of the WPDN, including crop, cultural, and geographic diversity. He demonstrated ways to tailor the First Detector training to suit the various states and territories, as well as address various agricultural segments and pest concerns. Dick also distributed a handout with the highlights of the WPDN in 2006. Dick also wants to have a quarterly conference call with the WPDN First Detector (FD) trainers.



**Andrew Coggeshall, WPDN IT Manager, Casey Estep, CDFA IT Manager, and Mike Hill, NPDN Database Analyst, members of the Epidemiology and IT Committees.**

American Samoa with Fred Brooks said that there were 8 FDs trained, 20 formal diagnostic submissions made. He reported that the Erythrina Gall Wasp (*Quadrasticus erythrinae*) has reached AS. Entomologist Mark Schmaedick made the ID. They also found a new rust on Polynesian chestnut.

Michele Hebert from Alaska reported on the Alaska FD-FDE training on 16 June 2006, training 16 participants. She also noted that it was - 60 F in Fairbanks on this day.

Arizona reported in with Dave Mills and Barry Pryor. Dave Mills thanked the WPDN for improvements to the AZ Dept of Ag lab including an ultra cold freezer. He has been processing many SOD samples in his diagnostic lab. He said an AZ Citrus Greening

Exercise is planned. Dave said the main goal of the AZ DA lab was to improve DNA diagnostic capabilities.



**Barry Pryor delivering an update from AZPDN**

Barry said that there are 15 diagnostic labs in AZ. Eight of these 15 labs use the PDIS system for reporting. Barry spoke about the AZ PDN that has enabled the various state and university staff and USDA personnel to get to know each other and communicate. Judy Brown of the U of AZ spoke about the plant virus situation in AZ and migratory insect vectors transmitting vegetable crop virus diseases from Mexico. Barry indicated that Mary Olsen trained 265 FD in 2006.

Tim Tidwell spoke for California Department of Food and Agriculture. They have uploaded nearly 10,000 positive sample diagnoses. They also have provided diagnostic support for any WPDN lab that requested it.

Guam spokesman, Aubrey Moore, said that the WPDN Guam contingent used 90% of their WPDN allotment for travel. He said that Guam uses the PIDDRS system (Pacific Islands Distance Diagnostics and Recommendation System). *Phytophthora spp.*, from imported Thai orchids has become a very big problem in Guam. Nine FDs were trained in 2006. Gillian Watson at California Dept of Food and Ag Plant Pest Diagnostic Center diagnosed mealy bugs on Cycad - *Cycas micronesica* for Guam. Dick Tseuda is assisting in some other diagnoses.



**Bernarr Kumashiro, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Rick Bostock, Director, WPDN and Aubrey Moore, University of Guam**

Anne Alvarez from the University of Hawaii spoke about the Pineapple Heart Rot caused by the bacterium, *Erwinia chrysanthemi*. Hawaii is only growing for the fresh pineapple trade and this disease is threatening to do away with this last remnant of the pineapple industry. Bernarr Kumashiro from the HDOA discussed the detection of the Asian Citrus Psyllid in Hawaii. The HDOA has been sending citrus samples to the USDA to monitor for Citrus Greening bacterium (candidate *Liberobacter spp.*). He also described the disastrous results of the Erythrina Gall Wasp invasion of the Hawaiian Islands. Mark Wright from the U of Hawaii has found 3 potential predators in eastern Africa.



**Anne Alvarez and Barry Brennan  
University of Hawaii**



**Ram Sampagni, University of Idaho, giving an  
update**

Ram Sampagni from University of Idaho said that 8 FDs were trained in 2006. He said they are re-planning an exercise for 2007. Their 2006 exercise was cancelled due to the real detection of Potato Cyst Nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*).

Shouwah Wang said Nevada trained 20 FDs in Reno and 39 in Las Vegas in 2006. He said he has improved the diagnostic capability of his lab with WPDN funding.

Natalie Goldberg from New Mexico State University said there was a very successful Border Governors Agriculture worktable exercise involving 6 Mexican and 4 US states. The goal of her lab in 2007 is to institute a Pierce's Disease survey for grapes in NM. Natalie trained 38 FD's in 2006.

Rick Melnicoe gave an overview of the Western IPM center and demonstrated where to find info on the newly redesigned site.

Melodie Putnam of OSU briefly discussed the Alaska training that she conducted with Carla Thomas. Shawn Ming with the Oregon Dept of Agriculture discussed the Potato Cyst Nematode survey in Oregon. There are 2,715 acres of seed potatoes and 35,000 acres of potatoes from production, mostly along the Columbia River.

Kent Evans from Utah noted that they had a Japanese beetle detection in Orem, Utah in July 2006 and it has become established in Utah. He asked for help in beginning the First Detector training program. Rick, Carla, and Dick from UC Davis all said they would go to Utah to help him get started. Marion Murray from Utah State IPM described the UTAHPESTS website ( <http://extension.usu.edu/> ).



Norm Dart (**pictured above**) from Washington State University demonstrated by PowerPoint the various First Detector stations in WA. He unveiled a SOD training module in Spanish that is available on the internet. He also said he had trained 447 FDs in 2006.

In the afternoon session, Rick talked about WPDN budget expenditures. He said that 57% of the budget is allocated to 18 full or partial salaries. Then the group had an open forum discussion period. The value of learning the incident command system and participating in exercises was discussed. Mike Stubbs, APHIS-PPQ Western Region Emergency Coordinator, offered to provide training CD's to anyone who would like one and invited all to participate in the APHIS full scale exercises for ICS. It was also suggested that it would be good to have a web-based forum for posting and discussions. Several people would like more information on how the PIPE sentinel system relates to NPDN and how the expansion to virus detection would be implemented.



**What a good lookin' group!**