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Since 1939

# OSCIA NEWS

A NEWSLETTER TO UPDATE  
OSCIA MEMBERS, PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES,  
TREASURERS, DIRECTORS,  
AND OMAFRA AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT  
CONTACTS

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[www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)



### Message from the President - Max Kaiser



Greetings from your President...

Crazy weather! I mean the whole year! Even now it seems to be warmer than normal. At least so far. It usually snows by November 15<sup>th</sup> (Dad's birthday) around here, but that doesn't seem likely given current temps and forecasts. So, I will be brief as I have been busy

trying to get done what was delayed from the start!

Networking and communication. I have talked about these things previously. We are seeing some growth and evolution here. Recently, a professor representing the U. of Guelph attended an executive committee meeting. This begins a new relationship of information sharing with the intent being to build a bridge of awareness between research and production in agriculture. We are certainly excited about this.

The Outdoor Farm Show happened in September and while we weren't able to replace Bayer's sponsorship to provide Free Tickets, we were pleased to have begun a new partnership with Syngenta. They sponsored breakfast for many farmers and our members were able to register to get online tickets. The number of people taking part in breakfast exceeded our original provision for 900, yet Syngenta welcomed all on the two days and over 1000 ended up getting fed. The online tickets were a new direction for us, and despite a few hiccups, it is a direction we will continue in the future. So, make sure you get your email addresses up to date and share them with your local secretaries!

With the final year for cost share associated with EFP at hand, applications have been taken fully committing the available funds. Talks are beginning

to happen around the nature of programs to begin in 2013. I am sure we all know the success of these programs: \$1 of government funding results in approximately \$3 of private money invested. But, we also know demand for programs exceeds the dollars available from government, so take every opportunity to thank your federal MP for the support to date, and encourage them to continue investing in agriculture.

Finally, congratulations to all Forage Masters winners. This program has had another successful year. Thanks to the sponsors, Pickseed Canada, SGS Agri-Food Laboratories, and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair who provide prizes for our winners. Good luck to our finalists who will travel to Guelph for judging on November 8<sup>th</sup> and to the Royal Agricultural Fair in Toronto on November 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a great event for one of Ontario's leading crops!

So, this weekend looks good for getting some field work done. Perhaps, it will finish harvest for some of us!! Perhaps not! Either way, make the best of it and remember: driving tractors is one of our greatest joys; don't be in a rush, do it right, slow down and enjoy it!

*Max*

### **Seed Bytes - Gene Pools, Biological Diversity & International Sharing of Genetic Resources**

Germination' magazine provides an analysis of both the 'International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture' and 'The Convention on Biological Diversity' (CBD). Read all about it at: [http://www.germination.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=311:sept2011-sharing-genetics&catid=62](http://www.germination.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=311:sept2011-sharing-genetics&catid=62)

The Nagoya Protocol, adopted in October, 2010, by 193 countries, is a transparent legal framework to effectively implement one of the objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources: <http://www.cbd.int/abs/about/>

Where does Canada stand on the Nagoya Protocol? Canada was one of the 193 to adopt the Nagoya protocol but has recently conducted a consultation before considering whether to sign this new international treaty. The deadline for countries to sign the Protocol is February 1, 2012. Signature indicates the intent to consider ratification at a later date. Review Canada's discussion paper at:

[http://www.cen-rce.org/eng/consultations/comment\\_calls/documents/managing\\_genetic\\_resources.pdf](http://www.cen-rce.org/eng/consultations/comment_calls/documents/managing_genetic_resources.pdf)

Harold Rudy, Secretary-Manager, Ontario Seed Growers' Association



### **Local Annual Meetings Update**

Need a gift for your local annual meeting? What about our OSCIA vests and matching hats?



Double-sided fleece vests with the OSCIA logo embroidered, and embroidered OSCIA hats are available for your local association to use at upcoming winter meetings as gifts for a special member or speaker, or as fundraising items at upcoming local annual meetings.

Also available are OSCIA member gate signs, Tru-Chek rain gauges & OSCIA Rain gauges.

These items are available to local and regional associations on a cost-recovery basis by contacting the provincial office. ◆

### **Benefits for OSCIA Members Update**

In response to the recommendation by the OSCIA Membership Committee, the board passed a motion of support for their proposal to increase the

membership fee per member from \$5 to \$7.50. This motion was voted on and passed during the February 2011 Annual meeting and was set in place for the 2012 OSCIA year, which began on October 1, 2011.

The benefits to members are many, and local associations are asked to reflect on these benefits.

A few of the benefits to members are:

- \*Discounts to selected agricultural conferences & shows
- \*Use of Grant dollars for on-farm demonstrations & trials, educations & innovation
- \*Receive a quarterly newsletter
- \*Option to participate in the Ontario Forage Masters Program
- \*Access to trial results for Soil & Crop Management across Ontario
- \*Network with other progressive farmers in your area at meetings, on bus tour & twilight tours
- \*Bring local views to the annual meeting to give the association direction
- \*Opportunities to contribute as a leader at the local, regional or provincial association level
- \*OSCIA has farmer representation on 15 Ontario Agricultural Research Committees & 2 Coalitions

Suggestions for future opportunities to support the local associations and members will be most welcome.



### ATTENTION SEED GROWERS

Watch for the notice of the OSGA Annual Meeting coming to your door in November.

The meeting is taking place on Tuesday, December 7 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in London.

### Ontario Regional Biomass Tours Breed Interest

Ontario Regional Biomass Tours, held this fall, illustrate producer and industry demand for more information-sharing events.

As a means to highlight the diverse activities occurring in the biomass industry across Ontario, OSCIA, in conjunction with OMAFRA, OFA, & U of Guelph members, biomass producers, and industrial leaders, held Ontario Biomass Regional Tours from September 26-October 3.

Each day of the tour was organized to explore various aspects of the biomass value chain with sites including everything from new field plantings to on-farm, end-use injection moulding facilities. The Ontario Biomass Regional Tour was a free event organized by the Ontario Field-Scale Agricultural

Biomass Project. Starting in Leamington on day 1 and ending in Prince Edward county on day 6, each day lead registrants to different regions, highlighting the diversity of biomass industry across the province with 22 different stops.

Participants were primarily producers already growing purpose-grown biomass or interested in growing it, provided an end market was demonstrated. Government, university researchers, and ag-industry organizations were also present. 61% of the registrants completed an online evaluation with very positive feedback; 100% were “extremely” (63%), or “moderately” (37%) satisfied with the tours.

Additional comments after the event illustrated the overwhelming desire for producers and industry end-users to learn more about ongoing operations and research across the province.

OSCIA, OMAFRA, OFA & U of Guelph is moving forward to organize more interactive forums for interested producers, hopefully starting this winter, as well as striving to raise the profile of agricultural biomass at major farm events, including Growing the Margins and Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show. Current planning is underway for a 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Regional Biomass Tour in early September, 2012, with increased publicity and hard literature for hand-outs. Details will be made available as soon as possible.

Please direct any inquiries to Nick Betts, Outreach Coordinator [nick.betts@ontariosoilcrop.org](mailto:nick.betts@ontariosoilcrop.org) | 519.826.4219.



## OSCIA 2012 ANNUAL MEETING

February 7 & 8, 2012

Best Western Lamplighter Inn & Conference Centre

591 Wellington Road South  
London, ON N6C 4R3

A Highlight of Key Speakers:

1. John Heard, Soil Fertility Specialist
2. Dr. Bill Tierney, Economist Ag. Resource
3. Dr. Joe Schwarcz, Director of McGill University, office for Science & Society