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Bio-control Matters

President's Corner

By Richard Ward, President, ANBP


Spring has sprung here in Canada and the BioControl industry along with it.

All insectaries in Canada are busy at this time of year keeping up with demand for product for the greenhouse vegetable industry. However, more and more demand is being brought on our industry for outdoor crops, nurseries and tree farms. This is a very positive sign that the industry as a whole is diversifying and becoming more accepted in these markets. I have long said that if we as an industry can get the consumer to demand not only pesticide free vegetables, but other pesticide free products, then the Big Box stores and retailers in general selling millions of plants per year will be forced to demand this of their suppliers.

Not much has been happening with regards to the border crossing issue. I have been in contact with the USDA about a number of items, but so far there is nothing positive or negative to report on that. Communication is of paramount importance and it is important to maintain relationships built at conferences and meetings. We recently had an issue arise that we were not sure if it fell under USDA or DHS. I was able to pick up the phone and contact Roger West at DHS and get clarification in less than an hour. Further proof that our conferences and meetings are important venues for building trust and cooperation between our industry and the regulatory departments of various countries.

Our new website continues to be upgraded and improved and looks very impressive. Many thanks to Kim for tirelessly working on this. It is interesting to see the whole list of members displayed on our website as it now draws to everyone's attention how we have grown over the years. In addition to the US and Canada, we now have members from Argentina, Belgium, Chile, France, Israel, Mexico, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Tur-

Planning Conference 2006



Lake Tahoe

See Page 4

ANBP's Mission is to address key issues of the biological control industry through advocacy, education, and quality assurance.

ANBP Board:

- Richard Ward, President (Biobest Canada Ltd)
- Kimberly Gallagher, Vice President (Sterling Insectary)
 - Eda Reinot, Secretary (Becker Underwood)
 - Dan Cahn Treasurer (Syngenta Bio-line, Inc.)
 - Andrea Davenport (Koppert Canada Ltd.)
 - Carol Glenister (IPM Laboratories)
 - Angela Hale (Bug Factory)
 - Tom MacDonald (MGS Horticultural Inc.)
 - Brian Spencer (Applied Bio-nomics Ltd)

Contributing Members:

ANBP is pleased to recognize the following members for their interest in biocontrol and their generous support of ANBP's programs and goals.

- **California Avocado Commission**
 - Donald L. Flaherty
 - Sunkist Growers, Inc.
- **The Morning Star Packing Company**

Committees 2006

- **Regulatory:** Cahn (Chair), Glenister, Spencer, Ward
- **Research Liaison:** Hale (Chair), Cahn, Davenport, MacDonald, Reinot
- **Liaison and Education:** Gallagher (Chair), Glenister, Luczynski, Spencer
- **Nominating:** Hale (Chair), all Board members
- **Audit:** Spencer, all Board members
- **Conference:** Glenister, Gallagher (Lead), Hale and Ward Advisors (Program): Board Team
- **Quality Control:** Glenister (Chair), ASTM Working Group members

“Bio-Control Matters” is published by the Association of Natural Bio-control Producers four times per year to provide members with information, thought and opinion on biological control affairs. ***Bio-Control Matters*** advocates the interests of commercial biological control and the public interest of quality agricultural production and environmental protection. ***Bio-Control Matters*** welcomes contributions of comment and opinion, as well as articles of general interest. All contributions must be signed by the contributor. Send contributions for consideration to Maclay Burt, ANBP Executive Director, 2230 Martin Drive, Tustin Ranch CA 92782. Phone/fax (714) 544-8295. (E-mail execdir@anbp.org). Published contributions may not necessarily reflect the views or policy of ANBP.

ANBP was formed in 1990 by commercial insectaries to provide a united voice in regulatory issues facing the industry. ANBP is also dedicated to quality standards and educating the agricultural and academic communities about the importance of biological pest controls for pest management. ANBP membership exceeds 100, including 46 producers and/or suppliers. Through its efforts, ANBP is recognized as ***THE*** spokesman for the commercial biological control industry.

key, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam. To this end I would like to thank all those who continue to encourage membership in our organization and to remind everyone to continue trying to increase our membership.

After three years of conference planning, Angela Hale and I have stepped down for a much needed break and have passed the responsibility to Kim and Carol who are hard at work preparing our 2006 conference which is to be held in Lake Tahoe. This year's conference will be of a different theme in that it will be more of a "Strategic Planning Session" than a true conference.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Lake Tahoe and wishing you all a happy and healthy summer 2006.

News From Canada and NAPPO

Brian Spencer Reports

Yes, Canada is still up there. Ever since the glaciers receded, about 15 years ago, we have seen increasing warmth and a gradual melting of the permafrost. Global warming is a fact.

Throughout April, in every major growing area of Canada, all 300 acres, Thrips have been having a picnic.

The mild winter has left a lot of the established pest populations intact, so we expect a busy year.

The NAPPO Guideline (#26), was completed in Mexico in February by the Biological Control Panel. It is being pushed through for final signing in August of this year. The changes recommended will require policy changes in the three governments, so we won't see an overnight change to the way things get done. The Guideline does, however, provide a simple and clear one page document that identifies Biological Control and confirms its' purity and origin. This document could be used right away by Biological Control producers to assist in exporting their product. For American producers, you may finally have a document that the USDA is prepared to sign for you, that should have some weight with importing countries.

The Guideline should be available for viewing on the NAPPO website; NAPPO.org sometime after June. You should bookmark this site as it has very interesting information and a very current "Pest alert" section.

Bye for now. Time to put away the snowshoes and get out the "Deep Woods Off".

Regulatory News

Dahn Cahn Reports

ANBP member Reed Finrock has been sparring with the California State Board of Equalization over classifying biological controls as agricultural tools or equipment. This would allow sellers to charge a reduced rate of 2.5% sales tax rather than the usual 7.25%. At last notice, the Board has denied the appeal but the issue has made us think. Would the political support exist to support a bill to completely exempt biological controls from sales tax? The 7.25% savings would be significant to our customers, but the total impact on the State treasury would be minor. More importantly it would be a conspicuous and telling statement from the State government in support of biological control.

We intend to schedule some meetings with our local State Assembly members to gauge the interest in such a bill. We will also speak with representatives of the Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Pesticide Regulation to see if they would support us. This is probably not an easy task but worth looking into.

If you have contacts in the State Legislature that might be sympathetic please let me know.

ANBP Website

Kim Gallagher reports

The ANBP Board would like to recognize and again thank Glenn Scriven for getting the ANBP website started and for maintaining the site for many years. The amount of time and effort Glenn put into the site is immeasurable, and we appreciate all he has done for it. To relieve Glenn of this burden, the Board decided to hire a firm, Willis Design to update and maintain the website.

There are some new features on the website, including the ability to begin a new membership, renew your membership, and register for conferences on-line. After filling out the appropriate form, you will be automatically routed to PayPal's secure website to complete the transaction using a credit card. Also, at our members' request, we have expanded the list of ANBP members on the website to include not only Producer and Distributor members, but also Practitioners, Associates, and Contributing members. If you would like your name removed from the website or if you need to change any of your contact information, please email Maclay Burt, Executive Director, at maclayb2@aol.com

Planning Conference 2006



Lake Tahoe

The 2006 meeting will take place at Granlibakken Conference Center and Resort, in beautiful Tahoe City, California. The Strategic Planning Session will start on Saturday morning at 8 AM and will conclude Sunday at noon. Our last formal effort at strategic planning was in Seattle Washington in 1999. We have met many of the goals outlined in 1999 and want to revise and outline ANBP's goals for the future.

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The Annual General Meeting will take place at lunch on Sunday at noon, followed by an ASTM meeting from 1 PM 'til 5 PM and the New Board organizational meeting in the evening.

Themed "Innovation in Commercial Biological Control", the meeting will begin with a brief overview of the types of innovations that have occurred in commercial biological control.

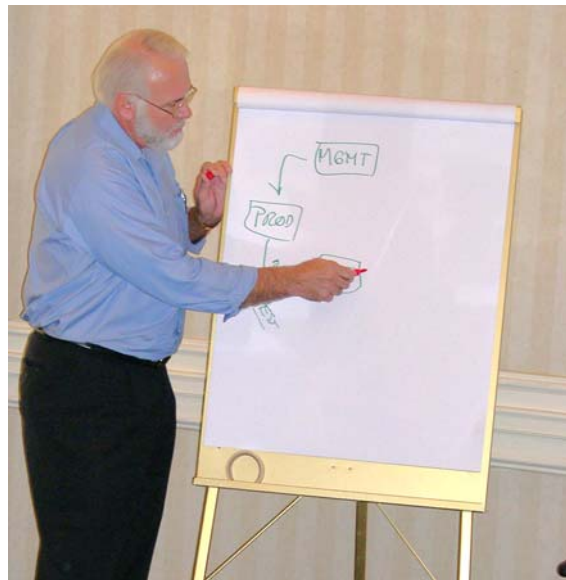
After that, we will follow the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) approach for the Planning Session. Please be sure to think about ideas that can be included in the discussions.

To register for the Strategic Planning meeting, you can go onto the ANBP website, www.anbp.org, and fill out the on-line registration form.

Granlibakken offers an all-inclusive package that includes three nights lodging and three meals per day (breakfast, lunch and dinner). The rates are as follows: single occupancy in a standard room is \$710 or \$865 for a deluxe room; double occupancy in a standard room is \$530 or \$609 for a deluxe room. There is accommodation for government per diem rates; please call Kim Gallagher at 661.201.3677 for more information on per diem rates. Granlibakken has a two-night, a daily rate, and a spouse or guest rate also. The deadline for reservations is August 28. **To make your reservation** or to find out more information, please call 800.543.3221 and say that you are with the Association of Natural Bio-Control Producers. The conference center is on the web at www.granlibakken.com.

ASTM Working Group

University of Florida's Dr. Norman Leppla addresses the working Group in February, 2006



The Working Group's next meeting is Sunday, October 1, 2006 at 1:00PM during the Planning Conference 2006 at Lake Tahoe's Granlibakken Conference Center

***Amblyseius swirskii*, a new predatory mite available in North America**

submitted by Angela Hale, Bug Factory

Earlier this year, American bio-control companies began marketing a new predatory mite, *Amblyseius swirskii* and in April, 2006, import permits were issued in Canada. This generalist mite is produced in Europe and is being marketed for control of western flower thrips (WFT) and greenhouse whitefly (GHWF). *A. swirskii* has been shown to feed on both WFT and GHWF eggs and juveniles. It can establish in the crop on pollen and as a result will work very well in pepper crops. *A. swirskii* is a much more active and mobile searcher than *A. cucumeris* so is assumed to be a better predator in low pest densities and should be better suited for cucumber crops which have large leaf areas and have both target pests present.

Biological control of the tobacco whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) and of western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) with the phytoseiid predatory mite *Amblyseius swirskii* Athias-Henriot, 1962

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Currently, western flower thrips is controlled in greenhouse crops with the phytoseiid predatory mite *Amblyseius cucumeris*. Depending on the crop species also *Orius* spp. and the phytoseiid mite *Iphiseius degenerans* are released. Semi-field and field trials in greenhouse crops with the phytoseiid predatory mite *Amblyseius swirskii* (Athias Henriot) have shown a high efficacy against *Frankliniella occidentalis* and against *Bemisia tabaci* (Gennadius) in sweet peppers. When the predatory mites were released preventively on flowering sweet pepper plants in a greenhouse in the Netherlands in february 2004, the establishment of *Amblyseius swirskii* was successful. The population stabilized at a level of 4-5 mites per leaf and remained constant throughout the growing season, whereas western flower thrips and tobacco whiteflies were hardly found. In cage trials in the Netherlands, with pepper plants infested with western flower thrips, the efficacy of releasing 1 *Amblyseius swirskii* per leaf was similar to releasing 3 times, at weekly intervals, 10 *Amblyseius cucumeris* per leaf. Semi field trials on sweet peppers in Southern Europe have shown that *Amblyseius swirskii* is able to control a *Bemisia tabaci* population. In all trials *Amblyseius swirskii* has shown a very high numerical response to the presence of prey. Koppert BV has developed a novel mass-rearing system which allows to produce large quantities of the phytoseiid predatory mite *Amblyseius swirskii*. Biological control of whiteflies with phytoseiid predatory mites, which can be economically reared in large quantities, might be a major step forwards for biological control, especially in areas with high whitefly and thrips populations such as Southern Europe. It is also expected that *Amblyseius swirskii* will replace the use of *Amblyseius cucumeris* as the standard phytoseiid mite against thrips.

From IPMnet NEWS

ASSESSING BIOCONTROL SUCCESS

The latest edition (February 2006, issue 35) of the "What's New in Biological Control of Weeds" newsletter prepared by scientists at NEW ZEALAND'S landcare research organization addresses the thorny (often literally) issue of evaluating **the impact of biological control agents on targeted weed species**. In the article, "How Successful Will They Be," L. Hayes and S. Fowler consider that often asked question and conclude that short term results are usually no more than an initial indicator, and that assessment of establishment and impact on the targets require patience and a long range view. Inherently, that lack of quick results complicates funding prospects. "The challenge," note the authors, "is for scientists to persuade funders to support the assessment component of projects, and to find quicker and smarter ways to predict and assess success."

L. Hayes, Landcare Research, PO Box 69, Lincoln 8152, NEW ZEALAND. Fax: 64-3-325-2418.
Phone: 64-3-325-6700.

5TH CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE ON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

July 25-27, 2006, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA

Contact: L.M. LeBeck, Ctr. for Biol. Control, Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA.

Mail to: L LeBeck@nature.berkeley.edu. Fax: 1-559-646-6593.

Phone: 1-559-360-7111.

Web: <http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu/biocon/CCBC%20V.htm>.

***** ANBP is awarding two student papers at this Conference for best paper with relevance to the commercial industry.**

Thanks again, IMEX!!!

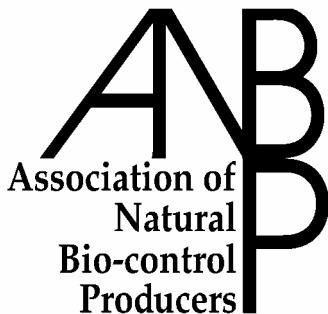


"ANBP President Richard Ward presenting Senor Hugo Hernandez of Distribuciones IMEX with an ANBP Certificate of Thanks for IMEX's outstanding assistance with Conference 2005 in Guadalajara, Mexico".

Upcoming Meetings, Workshops and Events

(Revised 06/01/06)

Date	Title	Location	Contact info
July 25-27, 2006	CCBC V-'Biological Control Programs in California-Citrus to Urban'	Riverside, CA	http://nature.berkeley.edu/biocon/
Aug 21-26, 2006	XIIIth International Congress of Acarology	Amsterdam, NL	www.science.uva.nl/ibed/ica2006
Sept 29- Oct 2, 2006	ANBP Strategic Planning Session and Annual General Meeting	Tahoe City, CA	www.anbp.org
Oct 1, 2006	ASTM Subcommittee E35:30 Workshop	Tahoe City, CA	www.astm.org
Oct 4-5, 2006	Canadian Greenhouse Conference	Toronto, Canada	www.greenhousecanada.com
Oct 23-24, 2006	Lucerne.06 'Inaugural Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting (ABIM)	Lucerne, SWITZ	www.abim-lucerne.ch
Oct31- Nov3 2006	Horti-Fair 2006 (NTV)	Amsterdam, NL	www.hortifair.com



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