

## ***Quebec City Greets PGRSA 2006 with Charm and Great Weather!***

The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Plant Growth Regulation Society of America was held from July 9-13 at the Hilton Quebec, in beautiful Quebec City. Over 120 scientists and accompanying friends and family members were able to take part.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Andre Gosselin, past Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Science at Laval University and currently Professor at the Horticultural Research Center (CRH) opened the conference with insight on how to effectively foster Industry-Government-University research ties. Past success at Laval hinged on patience, practicality and willingness by all to work in the best interests of developing mutually beneficial projects. In addition to the keynote address, four symposia, a poster session and an Industry Update session highlighted the formal agenda.

Symposia were held on PGR-Producing Micro-organisms (moderator: Dr. Jeff Norrie), Advances in Hormone Mode-of-Action (Dr. Ron Smith), PGR Use in Turf and Ornamental Horticulture (Dr. Gary Custis) as well as in Tree and Vine Crops (Dr. Thomas Chao). The contributed papers and poster sessions highlighted a wide variety of topics in plant growth and developmental regulation. The Industry Update session (Dr. John Immaraju) was well attended and bridged fundamental research with commercial research interests.

All of the European charm and beauty of Old Quebec City was on display during a pre-conference tour and the Festival d'Été served as a musical backdrop for the duration of the conference. Over 80 persons attended the Opening PGRSA Reception in a panoramic setting at the top of the Hilton, overlooking Quebec City, the Plains of Abraham, L'Isle d'Orléans and the St-Lawrence River. The Sustaining Member's breakfast was held on Tuesday morning for about 25 participants underscoring the valuable role Industry partners play in our society. The poster reception (moderator: Bob Beede) welcomed about 75 people on the Tuesday night, after which many strolled through downtown Quebec and took in some of the festivities.

The Business Luncheon greeted about 80 persons while the closing event welcomed over 90 for a night-time dinner-cruise aboard the Louis Joliette along the St-Lawrence waterway. The following day, about 55 people took part in the post-conference tour of Laval's Horticultural Research Center (CRH), the Ven den Hende botanical gardens, Quebec Multiplant's plant propagation facilities and turfgrass fields. We ended our post-conference tour with a picnic lunch and walk-about at the touristy Les Chutes de la Chaudière, on the east side of the St-Lawrence.

We hope everyone had a special time in Quebec City with lots of science and a splash of French-Canadian culture. Please join us next year for our joint meeting with the International Plant Growth Substances Association in Mexico being organized by Gary Custis, PGRSA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Program Chairman, from July 21-25, 2007.

So, put away your French-English dictionary and pick up your Spanish-English dictionary! We'll see you in Puerto Vallarta. À bientôt and hasta luego !!!