

Peter Wood Honored with 2009 Geddes Award



Chair of the Board Bernie Bruinsma congratulates 2009 William F. Geddes Memorial Award recipient Peter Wood of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada.

This year, AACC International honored Peter Wood, with Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, with the William F. Geddes Memorial Award. Wood, who has been a member of AACC Intl. for more than 30 years, has dedicated his career to the cereal science field, focusing on oats, specifically beta glucans.

An active member of AACC Intl., Wood has previously served as chair of the Publications Panel Committee, and as chair and member of the Barley and Oat Products and the Approved Methods Technical Committees. Additionally, he chaired the Awards Committee and served on the Fellows

Committee. He also served on the *Cereal Chemistry* Editorial Board as an associate and then as a senior editor. He was chair of the Carbohydrate Division and in 1996 was named a fellow of AACC Intl. Additionally, Wood served as an editor of the critically praised AACC INTERNATIONAL PRESS monograph *Oat Bran* and is coeditor of the forthcoming *Oats: Chemistry and Technology, Second Edition*. He also coauthored more than two dozen *Cereal Chemistry* research articles, and has contributed chapters to a number of AACC INTL. PRESS books.

Wood has been a devoted member, attending every annual meeting but one since 1977. In addition to his near flawless attendance record, Wood is also known for his now infamous suit, purchased for the 1977 meeting and since worn annually to every Carbohydrate Division dinner.

Each year, the Geddes Memorial Award is given in recognition of the leadership and dedication of the late William F. Geddes who served AACC Intl. as president and vice president, and served *Cereal Chemistry* as editor-in-chief. Created to honor the zeal and unselfish industry of an individual member and to emphasize the importance of his or her contributions to the work of the society, the award acknowledges a member whose work and commitment to the association are extraordinary.

Upon learning that he had been named this year's recipient, Wood noted that he was overwhelmed. He humbly remarked that he felt he has received much more from the association than he has given. As chair of the Geddes Memorial Award Committee, Bill Atwell said that selecting Wood for the award in 2009 was an "easy" choice with his long and dedicated service to the association. Atwell went on to mention that Wood is "world renowned for his research and also for his gentle delivery style and very distinctive accent." On a lighter note, he also mentioned that "Peter's delivery of the words beta glucan (he says 'beeta glewcanne') when he is discussing his research is unforgettable and all that know and love him try to imitate him."

AACC Intl. is proud to honor Wood as the 46th recipient of this award for his outstanding contributions and his dedication to the association over the years.

Canadian Prairie Section Honors Ton van Vliet

The Canadian Prairie Section of AACC Intl. recently completed its 2008–2009 program with a visit from eminent scientist and rheologist, Ton van Vliet, from Wageningen University, the Netherlands. van Vliet is the 2009 recipient of the Carl Wilhelm Brabender Award, an award that honors van Vliet's distinguished contributions to the application of rheology in milling and baking. He visited Winnipeg, Canada, as part of his travels to cereal research laboratories in other parts of the world. In Winnipeg, van Vliet presented a lecture entitled "Rheological properties of bread dough as an indicator of bread making performance" at the Canadian Grain Commission and then over the next two days he toured the cereal research facilities of the Canadian International Grains Institute, the Grain Research Laboratory, the University of Manitoba, and the Cereal Research Centre.



Ton van Vliet (second from left) with Canadian Prairie Section executive members Mingwei Wang, Martin Scanlon, Aaron MacLeod, and Dagmara Head.

OBITUARIES



Norman Ernest Borlaug

Norman Ernest Borlaug, known as the "father of the green revolution," truly demonstrated the meaning of humanity and what a profound impact the dedication and passion of one scientist can have on the

world. An honorary member of AACC Intl., he will be remembered by the society for his perseverance and innovation as an agricultural scientist.

Born on March 25, 1914, Borlaug is known for developing disease-resistant, high-yielding varieties of wheat and is credited with saving billions of lives throughout developing countries. According to *The New York Times* (1), "Largely because of his work, countries that had been food deficient, like Mexico and India, became self-sufficient in producing cereal grains."

His humble beginnings on a farm in northeastern Iowa initiated his fascination with agriculture. He attended the University of Minnesota, where he earned B.S. (1937), M.S. (1940), and Ph.D. (1942) degrees in plant pathology and genetics. He then began work at DuPont as a microbiologist. Soon after, Borlaug joined the Rockefeller Foundation's Mexican hunger project. There, his initial goal was to create rust-resistant wheat varieties adapted to Mexico's climate. By the 1960s, Borlaug helped double Mexico's wheat yield, and with his assistants, created 6,000 individual crossings of wheat. This same concept was later applied to rice, helping increase yield to feed nearly half of the world's population. In 1964, he established the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre. In 1970, he received the Noble Peace Prize for his contributions to curbing world hunger. "More than any other single person of his age, he has helped to provide bread for a hungry world," stated the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in presenting the award to Borlaug. "We have made this choice in the hope that providing bread will also give the world peace (1)." In 2007, Borlaug received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor of the United States. He remained active into his 90s, serving for many years on the faculty of Texas A&M University—where he joined in 1984 and served as Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture in soil and crop sciences—and continuing to

do vital agricultural work. In 1986, he established the World Food Prize, which recognizes individuals who have improved the quality, quantity, or availability of food around the globe. Over the course of his life, Borlaug was the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees.

1. Gillis, J. Norman Borlaug, Plant scientist who fought famine, dies at 95. *The New York Times*. Published online at www.nytimes.com/2009/09/14/business/energy-environment/14borlaug.html.

J. Murray Grob passed away on August 26, 2009. He was 83 years old. Grob was president of Caravan Products (now Caravan Ingredients) from 1994 to 2000.

Grob served in the U.S. Air Force as a radio operator on a B-17 during World War II. He subsequently worked with his father at Ira Grob Inc., which was acquired by Caravan Products in the late 1950s.

While at Caravan, Grob was a sales representative and vice president of sales, and eventually was named president in 1994. After retiring in 2000, he continued to serve the company as a consultant.

In addition to his work at caravan, Grob was active in several industry groups, including the American Society of Baking, the American Bakers Association, and the National Association of Flour Distributors.

Survivors include his wife, Judy Grob; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Jacqueline Grob; a daughter and son-in-law, Lori and James Lipkis; three step-sons, Elliot, David, and Matthew; a step-daughter, Carolyn; and three grandchildren.

George Y. Jones, a longtime baking executive, died August 29, 2009, in Austin, TX, U.S.A. He was 83.

A native of Little Rock, AR, U.S.A., Jones moved to Waco, TX, U.S.A., as an infant and attended Texas A&M University after graduating from high school. In college, Jones studied food chemistry and marketing, which led to a lengthy career in the baking industry with companies such as Continental Baking Co. and American Bakeries Co. In later years, he was a consultant and executive for Perfection Bakeries, Inc., Fort Wayne, IN, U.S.A. There, he headed sales and marketing from 1989 until 1992 and was a consultant through 2004.

He was given the J. B. Franke Founders Award in 2002, which has only been given to two people in Perfection Bakeries' history. He was known as a pioneer in the computerization of administrative and production functions of baking companies.

While working as a baking plant manager, Jones met his wife, Mary Renzulli, a Philadelphia, PA, U.S.A., native. Renzulli had been sent by International Business Machines Corp. to install a computer system in the large baking plant he managed in Atlanta, GA, U.S.A. The couple later established the computer software company J-2, which served route distribution industries. He dissolved the company and moved to Austin, TX, U.S.A., in 1997 after his wife's death.

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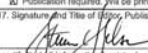
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