



Nancy Collins Johnson

Candidate for Vice-President

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Candidate statement

Mycorrhizal symbioses have captured my attention since 1983. Since then, I have witnessed mycorrhizal science grow and become integrated into multiple disciplines within the biological and earth sciences. I have participated in the evolution of ideas and knowledge about mycorrhizal symbioses and watched our field develop from descriptions to predictions and finally to applications. I have had the good fortune to join the early gatherings of mycorrhizal researchers, initially at the North American Conferences on Mycorrhizae, including the renowned roast-counter-roast between Jim Trappe and Sir David Read on a mountain top in Snowbird Utah. I observed the union of the European and North American Conferences at the First International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM) in Berkeley California USA in 1996. This year marks the 13th ICOM in Cairns Australia, and I have attended them all, including hosting the 8th ICOM in Flagstaff Arizona USA in 2015. I often joke that mycorrhizal researchers are connected by a hyphal network and once you are in the mycelium you are infected for life. The International Mycorrhiza Society (IMS) gives our evolving network of friends and collaborators a name. The society also gives us credibility and responsibility during the Information Age. Now, more than ever, it is incumbent on IMS to frame the global dialog about mycorrhizal symbioses. We must nurture active and open dialogue among scientists. We must actively promote research directions that explore hard questions and illuminate the integral roles of mycorrhizal interactions in our constantly changing world. And we must support outreach to growers, farmers, foresters, restorationists, and anyone else who is interested in learning more about the fascinating interactions between plants and mycorrhizal fungi. It would be my honor to assume a leadership role as IMS Vice President to help us achieve these goals.

