

Technical Sessions of International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America Annual Meeting

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Summary

The 46th Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America (SRNA) convened at 8:00 am on 18 October 2022 at

the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel, Athens, Georgia, with President Bobby Green presiding.

PRESIDENT BOBBY GREEN

President Green welcomed everyone to Athens, Georgia for the 46th Annual Meeting of the SRNA. It is so awesome to be here in Athens to “seek and share” with one another! The relationships and experiences forged at our meetings are what distinguishes the IPPS.

He thanked Local Site Committee Chair, Dr. Tim Smalley and his committee and volunteers for their outstanding work in arranging the excellent tours, hotel, other planning activities and all their attention to detail. He also thanked Mike and Bonnie Durr for hosting the SRNA at their home and garden. The SRNA remains financially strong, with the due diligence of Sec-Tres, Donna Foster, and is the largest international region with

242 active, paying members, and 19 student/military veteran members for a total of 261 members.

Green thanked the Executive Committee, and the Sponsorship Committee of Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Tom Saunders, Tim Smalley, Leanne Kenealy Atkins and Michael Roe who raised \$56,657 – which is outstanding! Green encouraged the membership to thank, visit and show their support of our sponsors during the meeting. The SRNA is deeply indebted to our loyal sponsors who make our annual meeting financially possible. He encouraged all members to make new members and first-time attendees feel welcome — share with them and seek from them.

Green announced that the SRNA is in its fifth year of the Southern Region Educational Endowment, with a base donation of \$20,000 from an anonymous donor. The Education Endowment balance is now at \$103,000 – and growing. It will greatly enhance our region’s ability to support students and early career professionals – and ensure continued quality of the outstanding educational, out-reach programs our region is known for. All of this year’s contributions to the silent and live auction are to go to the Endowment Fund – so please contribute! He thanked Kevin Gantt for leading the endowment effort.

Two years ago - the SR-IPPS initiated the *Margie Jenkins Industry Scholarship* to support industry professionals attending our conference for the 1st time.

For the *Early-Career IPPS Exchange* program between the SRNA and the European Region, Erika Ramos of J. Berry Nursery, represented the Southern Region at the European Conference and toured some of the European nursery industry. Louise Heissel of the European Region is being hosted by Brie Arthur who will accompany her visiting the Southern Region green industry after the conference.

This is the eleventh year the SRNA is doing the *Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program (formerly Vivian Munday Scholarship)*. We currently have four interns: Kaitlin Swiantek of the University of Georgia, Runshi Xie of Texas A&M University, Teagan Young of the University of Florida and Kristopher Criscione of Louisiana State University. These young professionals are making a strong contribution to this year’s program.

This year the SRNA will vote on its *Constitution and Bylaws*, which are being revised after some 20-plus years. There is also a revised, updated *SRNA Operations Manual* which is posted on the SRNA website. The SRNA has grown to 20 standing committees to run the organization and its Green Industry educational, outreach activities!

Green thanked Program Chair and 1st Vice-President, Dr. Judson LeCompte for the excellent program and incredible group of speakers he assembled!

PROGRAM CHAIR DR. JUDSON LECOMPTE

Program Chair Judson LeCompte welcomed all members, guests and students. He acknowledged President Green for his leadership and very capably serving as President. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve them, and then reviewed the scheduled program. There were thirteen paper submissions for the Charlie Parkerson Student Research Competition which is outstanding. There will be four students competing in the oral competition, and 12 poster presentations for the membership to visit with student presenters during the meeting. The Question Box, scheduled for Tuesday evening, was to be moderated by Michael Roe. He acknowledged Scott Langlois who seamlessly runs the audio-visuals for our speakers and meeting. He then introduced the first moderator, Laura Ney from the University of Georgia.



Figure 1. President Bobby Green (right) with Dr. Judson LeCompte (left), Program Chair of the 2022 Athens, Georgia, 46th annual conference.