

Technical Sessions[©]

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MONDAY MORNING, 4 NOVEMBER, 2013

The 38th Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America convened at 7:45 am at the University of Georgia Hotel and Conference Center, Athens, Georgia with President Tom Saunders presiding.

PRESIDENT TOM SAUNDERS

President Saunders welcomed everyone to Athens, Georgia, for the 38th Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America. He thanked Local Site Committee Chair, Matt Chappell and his committee and volunteers for the long hours in arranging the excellent tours, hotel, other planning activities and all their attention to detail. He welcomed students, first time attendees and new members, asking them to stand and be recognized. Saunders thanked the Executive Committee, and Maarten van der Giessen's Sponsorship Committee, which raised \$42,000 in cash sponsorships; this was outstanding with the challenging economic times. He asked sponsors to please stand and be recognized for their support. Saunders encouraged the membership to visit and show their support of our sponsors during the meeting. He encouraged all members to make new members and first-time attendees feel welcome — share with them and seek from them. He encouraged good questions and enthusiastic participation at the Tuesday night question box. He requested members to fill out the membership questionnaire to help improve the IPPS-SRNA. Saunders announced that this year we participated with Great Britain & Ireland in the *Young Propagator Exchange* program between the two regions. He asked Josie Leech from Great Britain & Ireland (GB&I) who visited our region and was hosted by Lancaster Farms, and Judson Lecompte from the Southern Region of North America who was our designee to GB&I to stand and be recognized. Both of these young professionals had an incredible exchange experience in our respective regions. This is the first year we are doing the Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program. We currently have a "4-pack" of four young professionals (Ben Ford, Seth Allen, Diana Cochran, and Jeremiah Devore) who are making a strong contribution to this year's program. Saunders thanked Program Chair and 1st Vice-President, Buddy Lee, for the excellent program and slate of speakers he assembled.

PROGRAM CHAIR BUDDY LEE

Program Chair Buddy Lee welcomed all members, guests and students. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve them, and then reviewed the scheduled program. The Question Box, scheduled for Tuesday evening, was to be co-chaired by Jeff Howell and Bob Black. He then introduced the first moderator, Barbara Stump.

