

Technical sessions, Monday morning, 30 October 2017[©]

K. Gantt^a

Hefner's Nursery, 4135 Springs Road, Conover, North Carolina 28613, USA.

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America convened at 7:30 am at the Omni Park West Hotel, Dallas, Texas with President Kevin Gantt presiding.

PRESIDENT KEVIN GANTT

President Gantt welcomed everyone to Dallas, Texas for the 42nd Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America (SRNA). He thanked Local Site Committee Chair, Benjamin Berry 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. Gantt thanked the Executive Committee, and Elliott Hallum's Sponsorship Committee, which raised \$39,000 in cash sponsorships - which was outstanding. Gantt 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 called for good questions and enthusiastic participation at the Tuesday night question box.

Gantt announced that the SRNA has just initiated the Southern Region Educational Endowment, which will be discussed in greater detail later in the program. It will greatly enhance our region's ability to support students and early career professionals – and ensure continued quality of the outstanding educational programs our region is known for.

Gantt announced that this is the fifth year our region has participated with the European Region in the *Early-Career Propagator Exchange* program between the two regions. He recognized Sophie Lewis from Great Britain (European Region), who was hosted by Judson LeCompte, Charles Parkerson and the SRNA. Lis Meyer of the SRNA was our designee to the European Region. Both of these early-career professionals had an incredible exchange experience in our respective regions. This is the sixth year we are doing the *Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program (Vivian Munday Scholarship)*. We currently have four young professionals: Alexis Anthony (Clemson), Connor Ryan (University of Georgia), Carlee Steppe (University of Florida) and Madison Hindsley (North Carolina State University)—who are making a strong contribution to this year's program. Gantt thanked Program Chair and 1st Vice-President, Dr. David Creech, for the excellent program and slate of speakers he assembled.

PROGRAM CHAIR DR. DAVID CREECH

Program Chair Dr. David Creech 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 chaired by Three Wise Old Men on Stools: Drs. Mike Dirr, Carl Whitcomb and David Creech. He then introduced the first moderator, Dr. Andrew King.

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