



SOUTHERN SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

From the Chair: Caryl Chlan

As chair of the Southern Section of the American Association of Plant Biologists, I would like to take this opportunity to consider the value of sectional scientific societies in general, and the SSASPB in particular. While the larger national and international meetings provide excellent opportunities to hear about the most recent advances, the size and pace of these meetings can be bewildering to young scientists. There may be little time to foster the scientific interactions that are so essential for the development of new scientists, research programs, and ideas.

In contrast, sectional meetings provide an excellent opportunity for scientists to network with colleagues in their region, for graduate students to interact with their peers from other institutions, and for undergraduate students to be introduced to the scientific community. In contrast to the "standing room only" events at big meetings, symposia at sectional meetings intimate and conducive to interactions between the speakers and the audience.

If you go to the SSASPB home page on the web, you will see the phrase "to encourage and promote the growth of plant biology and the welfare and good fellowships of plant biologists generally". The SSASPB has always focused on nurturing interactions between all scientists, and specifically on fostering the development of young scientists. Our sectional meeting has a single session format that showcases student and post-doctoral presentations. In addition, our annual symposia bring top scientists to present their latest findings. Symposium speakers are available throughout the sessions, breaks and banquets, and everyone has a chance to interact with them. This format along with the commitment of the members of the SSASPB to contribute to the growth of new scientists, and their willingness to share ideas and

develop new collaborations provides a fertile environment for scientific discussion and growth.

Everyone has limited time and travel funds, but I encourage you to seriously consider attending the SSASPB annual meetings. The science is high quality and it is a good opportunity to develop new collaborations and to recruit future graduate students or postdoctoral associates. The 2005 meeting will be held at East Carolina University, and I look forward to seeing everyone there.



National ASPP News

Report on the ASPB Executive Committee Meeting July 2004 in Orlando:

Mel Oliver, Southern Section Representative

Members attending: Mary Lou Guerinot (President), Roger Hangarter (President-Elect), Daniel Bush (Immediate Past President), Edgar Spalding (Secretary), Mark Brodl (Treasurer), Louis Sherman (chair, Board of Trustees), Robertson McClung (chair, Publications Committee), Mary Tierny (chair, Women in Plant Biology Committee), Regina McClinton (chair, Committee on Minority Affairs), Lawrence Griffing (chair, Education Committee), Linda Walling (Elected Member), Nicholas Carpita (Elected Member), Allan Showalter (Midwest Section representative), Rakesh Minocha (Northeastern Section representative), Mel Oliver (Southern Section representative), Jonathan Monroe (Mid-Atlantic Section representative), Dina Mandoli (Western Section representative), Crispin Taylor (ASPB Executive Director, member ex officio).

Staff in attendance: Nancy Winchester, Beth Staehle, Kim Snell, Brian Hysps, Jean Rosenberg

Guests: Michael Tomashaw (Thursday only),
Bonnie Bartel (Tuesday only)

Highlights of President's Report: The President, Mary Lou Guerinot reported the initiation of a search for an "Executive Director" for the Education Foundation to shape the future of this body. She also reported on the results of the call for proposals relating to education activities, stating that the following proposals were selected for funding (a total of \$60,289).

- 1) Roger Hangarter, Indiana University: Slowlife: a traveling exhibit of plant science and art
- 2) Charles & Georgeann Stinemetz, Rhodes College & Lausanne Collegiate High School: The expansion of GMO markets as a model for teaching the formulation of responsible public policy.
- 3) Peggy Lemaux & Alan McHughen, University of California (Berkeley & Riverside): Enabling academic scientists' participation in public dialog about plant science and biotechnology.

Highlights of Executive Director's Report: Crispin joined ASPB in mid-April, three days later Susan Rosenberry Chambers resigned as Director of Finance and Marketing. Susan's resignation was not related to Crispin's appointment rather it was to take advantage of an opportunity to start her own business. Crispin used the opportunity to split Susan's duties (which were enormous) between an Associate Director, promoting Kim Snell, and our newly-hired Director of Meetings, Marketing and Membership, Jean Rosenberg. Crispin also reported we are searching for two Managing Editor positions for Plant Cell and Plant Physiology and the initiation of the recruitment for an Editor-in-Chief for Plant Physiology.

Highlights of Action Items:

Request for support for an ASPB Education booth at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) National Convention in Dallas, March 31-April 3, 2005 was presented and approved.

ASPB Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURFs) Renewal for a further one year period was approved.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Burroughs Wellcome Fund contacted Crispin Taylor to invite ASPB to apply to participate in the 2005 version of a course designed to impart on new faculty or postdocs in the job market the skills needed for success in managing a laboratory (grant writing, personnel management, budget management, etc.) If an application by ASPB were approved, a representative, probably Mary Tierny, would attend the 2005 version of the course with all expenses paid by HHMI/BWF. However, this participation is contingent on ASPB committing to staging its own version of the course at some future date. In essence, HHMI/BWF will provide materials and training to enable ASPB to offer its version of the course at some later date. The wording of the motion was changed by friendly amendment to specify 2007 instead of 2006 or 2007 because contracts for space and other facilities for the 2006 meeting have already been signed. The motion to stage a two-day lab leadership workshop held in conjunction with the 2007 annual meeting was passed unanimously.

Funding For Minority Affairs Committee Recognition Travel Awards passed unanimously. MAC was also approved to receive funds to bring minority faculty or faculty at MSIs to the annual meeting and to print new brochures. The annual MAC budget is to be increased to fund representatives' attendance at ABRCMS and SACNAS meetings.

ASPB to meet jointly with BSA in 2007

The 2005 Budget as presented by Lou Sherman, Chair of Board of Trustees, was approved.

Committee appointees, made by Roger Hangarter:

Danny Schnell - Board of Trustees
Sally MacKenzie – Publications
Joe Chappell and Stan Roux – Constitution and Bylaws

A proposal to establish Fellows of ASPB Awards was also discussed and will be brought up again for discussion in February.

The rest of the exec meeting was taken up with discussions of the various staff reports that were part of my report from February.

The Society is in great shape and is making major contributions to the development of funding increases and new funding initiatives for plant research in and out of Congress. Your continued participation within and support of our parent society is crucial for the health of our field – Thanks to you all in the Southern Section, Mel Oliver



Other news...

By Dalton Gossett, Secretary/Treasurer

2004 Southern Section Meeting to be held in Greenville, North Carolina

March 12-14, 2005

Schedule of events

- March 12 Mixer
- March 13 Student Paper Competition and Contributed Papers*
- March 14 Kriton Hatzios Symposium

* The society pays registration and banquet fee for students who participate in the paper or poster competition.

The 2005 Kriton Hatzios Symposium will have the theme "**Whole Plant Physiology; The forgotten perspective**".

In the course of discussions with physiologists over the past few years I have heard concerns about the decline of whole plant physiological perspectives in plant research. The intent, with this symposium, is to provide a forum to reinforce the need for and value of whole plant approaches in plant biological research and to gain some insight into how to "remember" whole plant physiology.

Following the formal presentations there will be a panel discussion of whole plant physiology in terms of its past, current status and future. Topics to be addressed will include; What sort of training is useful and who should offer it within a given

university? What can be done to enhance cooperation among whole plant physiologists and molecularly inclined researchers? What are future career opportunities for scientists in whole plant studies?

It is hoped the symposium will provide the audience (students in particular) with an increased awareness of the usefulness of whole plant studies and encourage the inclusion of broad physiological perspectives in their research and training.

Invited speakers will include

Tom Kirby – Delta Pine & Land Company

Tom Sinclair – University of Florida

Robert Sharp – University of Missouri

Titles will be posted on our website in December and will appear in the next newsletter.

The meeting will be held in Greenville, North Carolina. Greenville, a city of 60,000 people located in the coastal plain of North Carolina, is home to East Carolina University. ECU has grown to become an emerging, national research university with an enrollment of more than 20,000. East Carolina is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina and offers more than 100 bachelor's degree programs, nearly 80 master's degree programs and 13 doctoral programs. The Department of Biology (40 faculty) conducts plant research in the following areas: photosynthesis; drought stress; conifer transformation (plant biotechnology); self-incompatibility; evolution of red algae; and ecology of rare plant species.

Greenville has a wealth of amenities in a pleasant southern atmosphere. You can dine at a trendy bistro, enjoy a relaxing man at an outdoor café, or feast on what this area is known for – Eastern North Carolina barbecue. Greenville has several challenging golf courses and over 20 public parks. You can spend time in local art galleries, museums, and antique shops. Atlantic Beach, Historic Fort Macon, and the NC Aquarium are an easy drive (1.5 hours), as is the quaint, seaside town of Beaufort, home to the NC Maritime Museum.

Pitt/Greenville Regional Airport is serviced by U.S. Airways. Greenville is located approximately 80 miles from Raleigh/Durham International Airport. Amtrak stations are located close by in Wilson (35 miles) and Rocky Mount (45 miles).

The meeting will be held in Greenville, North Carolina at the Greenville Hilton. Fifteen rooms have been “blocked” for the meeting. The cost is \$94/night (single, double, triple, or quad – you decide). Rooms not reserved by February 10, 2005, will be released. Call 252-353-3046 for booking (refer to Southern Section ASPB for the blocked rooms).

The Greenville Hilton is a full service hotel catering to the sophisticated, corporate, and leisure traveler alike. The hotel offers over-sized deluxe rooms. The Greenville Hilton offers two restaurants (one voted the best the Greenville). The hotel is located at 207 Southwest Greenville Boulevard.



NOMINEES FOR SS-ASPB OFFICES AND 2006 MEETING SITE

Candidates for the Position of Secretary/Treasurer

We have two excellent candidates for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. In the past, electronic voting has been so successful, that will be standard method from now on. You will be receiving and email with the URL for the electronic ballot sometime in the first week of November. Please read the following descriptions, and remember to **vote** for the candidate of your choice.

Kent D. Chapman

Kent Chapman earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology in 1986 from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA. He completed a Ph.D. degree in Botany in 1991 under the direction of Richard N. Trelease at Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ, and conducted postdoctoral studies (NSF fellow) in phospholipid biochemistry until 1993 under the supervision of Thomas S. Moore, Jr., at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. In 1993, he accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Biochemistry in the Department of Biological

Sciences at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX, and in 1998 was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. He served as Director for the Division of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UNT from 1998 until 2004. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2003, and in the same year became the first Director of the newly-established, UNT-Center for Plant Lipid Research. His research on lipid metabolism in plants has been funded by USDA-NRI Competitive Grants Programs in plant growth and development, plant biochemistry and value-added products, and in recent years by the NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Current research interests include the genetic manipulation of fatty acid metabolism in cottonseed, the identification of novel, bioactive plant lipids and their effects on human health, and the action of lipid signaling pathways in plant growth and development. Chapman’s teaching activities include Cell Biology at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and Plant Biochemistry at the graduate level. He is active in the National Plant Lipid Cooperative, an international network of scientists with interests in the biochemistry, molecular biology, and biotechnology of plant acyl lipids. Dr. Chapman has been a member of ASPP/ASPB since 1987, and served as local host for the Southern Section’s Annual Meeting in Denton, TX in 2003.

Kelly Major

Dr. Major received her B.A. in Biology and Education (minor Botany) from Elmira College, Elmira, NY in 1990 and Ph.D. in Biology with a concentration in algal physiological ecology from the University of Maine, Orono in 1995. After graduating from the University of Maine, she worked as a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute (1996-1999) and Oklahoma State University (2000). In 2001, she joined the Biology faculty as an Assistant Professor at the University of South Alabama. Past research endeavors have included investigations into the characterization and mechanisms of thermal- and photoacclimation in algae and seagrasses, as well as, salinity and temperature tolerance in stress-tolerant green algae. At present, research

in her laboratory focuses on aquatic plant and algal physiology and ecology. These studies include investigations into: tolerance to salinity and herbicide exposure in algae and aquatic plants, impacts of exotic/invasive organisms on native plant communities, physiological adaptations of exotic/invasive plants and the use of biological indicators to assess aquatic ecosystem health. She has been an active member of the American Society of Plant Biologists – Southern Section since 2001.

CANDIDATES FOR OTHER OFFICERS POSITIONS:

Candidate for Chair of SSASPB

Dr. James Mahan (current Vice-Chair)

Candidate for Vice-Chair

Dr. Dalton Gossett (current Sec. /Treas.)

Candidate for Southern Section Exec. Committee

Dr. Caryl Chlan (current Chair)

SITE CHOICES FOR THE 2006 MEETINGS:

Mobile Alabama, Local host: Kelly Major

The meeting will be held near the waterfront in the downtown area of Mobile. Mobile is located at the intersection of I-65 and I-10. Four airlines (Continental, Delta, Northwest, U.S. Airways) service Mobile via the Mobile Regional Airport and offer non-stop jet service to Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Memphis, and Charlotte.

Mobile has a metro-area population of 400,000 and is home to the University of South Alabama, fourth largest university in the state with a student population of about 13,000. Mobile itself was founded in 1702 as the original capital of the Louisiana Territory. The correct pronunciation of the city's name is "Mo-beel", given the soft emphasis on the second syllable by its French founders. It came from the Maubilla Indians. Mobile is the Azalea Capital of the World, thanks to Fifise Langlois who first brought the bright pink blossoms here from his father's garden in Toulouse, France in 1754. Blooms peak in late March. Mobile is also home to the original Mardi Gras in this country, instituted in 1704, sixty-two years before New Orleans adopted the celebration. Mobile Bay was the first body of water in the New World to be accurately charted. This was done by the Spanish explorer Pineda in 1519.

Nearby attractions:

Estuarium at Dauphin Island Sea Lab – this facility features exciting interactive and visual displays on the animals, plants, resources, and ecology of the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, Mobile Bay, its Barrier Islands, and the Gulf of Mexico. After touring the Estuarium, you can walk the trails of the 164-acre Audubon Bird Sanctuary or visit historic Fort Gaines.

Bellingrath Gardens - Surround yourself with beauty, history and ecology in a year-round floral paradise with 65 landscaped acres within a 905-acre semitropical forest.

Boat Tours - Mobile is also home to five boat tours: Alabama Cruises-Southern Belle, Tensaw Eco-Tours: Delta Outdoor Guide Service, Cotton Blossom, Delta Explorer and Wildland Expeditions. Each boat tour provides informative sightseeing and discovery cruises. Swamp tours offer a view of the unique natural resources of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, where you can learn about the more than 250 species of birds, 230 species of fish, alligator, bald eagle, black bear, and other wildlife inhabiting this area.

Daytona Florida, Local hosts: Bala Rathinasabapathi and Bill Gurley

A second proposed site for the 2006 Southern Sectional Society – ASPB is the Adam's Mark Daytona Beach Resort (100 N. Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32118). The Adam's Mark Resort is a deluxe hotel located 7 miles from the Daytona International airport. This venue has excellent meeting facilities, fine rooms at reasonable rates and a catering service. The attendees will be within a few minutes walk to one of the most enchanting beaches in the world. The hotel has business center and facilities, room service and ocean view rooms. More information about the hotel can be found at this webpage: <http://www.hotels.com> We believe Daytona Beach venue will also attract a number of active ASPB members from Florida's major universities including University of Florida, Florida State University, Florida International University, University of Central Florida and the USDA laboratories.

2004-2005 SS-ASPB Officer

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Ballot

You can either vote online (you will receive a URL to do so via email) or you can mail a printout of this completed ballot to:

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Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer

Please vote for one

Kent Chapman -----
Kelly Major -----

Candidates for Vice Chair

Please vote for one

Dalton Gossett -----
Write-in -----

Candidates for Chair

Please vote for one

James Mahan -----
Write-in -----

Candidates for SS-ASPB Executive Committee

Please vote for one

Caryl Chlan -----
Write-in -----

Location for the 2003 meeting

Please vote for one

Mobile, AL – Local Coordinator, Kelly Major -----
Dayton Beach, FL – Local Coordinators, Bala Rathinasabapathi and Bill Gurley -----