

The SS-ASPB



February 2017

TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE THE GROWTH OF AND THE WELFARE AND GOOD FELLOWSHIPS OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS GENERALLY...

Greetings from Dr. Ken Korth 2016-2017 SS-ASPB Chair



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A lot of preparation is going on behind the scenes for the upcoming Southern Section meeting in Orlando. Once again we can look forward to excellent presentations by faculty, post-docs and students talking about their work in the plant sciences. One of the great strengths of our meeting is the student competition, which provides a valuable and rewarding experience for everyone that participates. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please help keep the Southern Section

going strong by spreading the word and encourage any students that you know to attend and participate. Other events at the meeting will include Executive Committee and business meetings of the Southern Section. Among other things, we will be discussing future meeting locations, so if you have suggestions for a meeting locale please contact one of the officers. Our newest section officer will be Dr. Aruna Kilaru from East Tennessee State University, who was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Kilaru has long been active in ASPB and the Southern Section, and I'm sure will do an excellent job. We also want to thank Dr. Magaly Rincón-Zachary of Midwestern State University for accepting a nomination to run for the same office. We greatly appreciate that both candidates were willing to serve the Southern Section and its members. We look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting April 8th-10th, in Orlando, Florida.

SS-ASPB 2017-2018 Election Results



Congratulations to
Dr. Aruna Kilaru,
2017-2018 SS-ASPB
Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Aruna Kilaru is an Associate Professor of Biology at East Tennessee State University. She received her B.Sc. degree in Botany, Zoology and Chemistry from Andhra University, and M.Sc. in Biotechnology from Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, in India. Aruna earned her Ph.D. degree in Environmental and Evolutionary Biology in 2005, from University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL), under the guidance of Prof. Karl Hasenstein. Her doctoral research was focused on understanding host-pathogen interactions between *Theobroma cacao* (The Chocolate Tree) and a basidiomycete, *Moniliophthora perniciosa*. Her subsequent postdoctoral work with Prof. Kent Chapman at the University of North Texas (2005-09) involved deciphering fatty acid ethanolamide-mediated lipid signaling in plants. At Michigan State University (2009-11), she worked with Prof. John Ohlrogge, to identify biochemical regulators for carbon partitioning in seed and nonseed tissues. Dr. Kilaru currently maintains a diverse research group and a host of national and international collaborations. Her current work is funded by National Science Foundation and is primarily focused on understanding the role of small lipid molecules in mediating abiotic stress responses, using moss as a model system. Her team also works on regulation of storage oil biosynthesis in nonseed tissues, such as mesocarp of avocado. Aruna's work led to more than 25 publications in high-impact journals and was recognized with numerous honors and awards including Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research Award (2001, 2005), The Arthur Neish Young Investigator Award from Phytochemical Society for N America (2011), New Faculty Award from College of Arts and Sciences, East Tennessee State University (2014) and Women's Young Investigator Travel Award from American Society for Plant Biologists (2015). Aruna has been an active member of ASPB, including southern section since 2001.

SS-ASPB 2017

April 8-10th

Orlando, Florida

Join us at the Doubletree Hotel Orlando Downtown. In addition to the talks, networking and student competitions, the meeting is an excellent opportunity to take in activities in the Orlando area. Come early or stay late to visit any of the other local attractions. Hope to see you in Florida!



- Papers covering all topics in plant biology are encouraged
- Student competitions at the graduate and undergraduate levels
- Watch your email and www.ss-aspb.org for registration details

A block of affordable rooms has been secured,
so take advantage and **register early!**

For more information visit www.ss-aspb.org or contact Dr. Shahid Mukhtar, Secretary/Treasurer, SS-ASPB, smukhtar@uab.edu, or Dr. Paul Stephenson, Local Site Coordinator, pstephenson@Rollins.edu

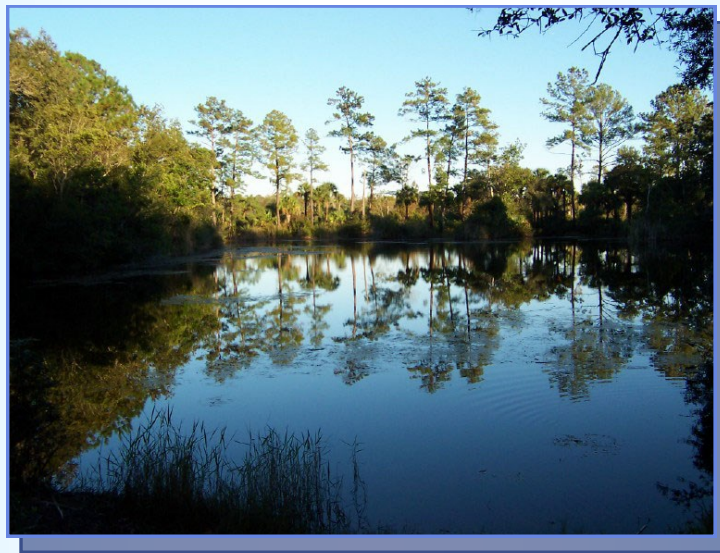
SS-ASPB 2017

Schedule of Events

April 8th: Field trip to Blue Springs State Park
Opening Night Mixer

April 9th: Oral and Poster Presentations
Banquet and Student Awards

April 10th: Kriton Hatzios Symposium
Business Meeting



On Saturday, April 8th, before the meeting begins there will be an optional field trip to Blue Spring State Park. The group will be departing Doubletree hotel at 2:00 p.m. and return between 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. The park covers more than 2,600 acres, including the largest spring on the St. John's River. Blue Spring is a designated manatee refuge and the winter home to a growing population of West Indian Manatees. Participants can walk along the spring run and view the spring's crystal clear, 73-degree, water which flows from the spring at a rate of over 100 cubic feet per second. We will also take a short hike along the Pine Island trail to view some representative Florida ecosystems. There are also opportunities for a self-guided tour inside the historic Thursby house, built at the height of the steamboat era in 1872.

2017 Kriton Hatzios Symposium

Epigenetics in Plant Development and Beyond

Establishment of Heterochromatin: How the cell recognizes and triggers transposable elements for trans-generational silencing

Dr. Keith Slotkin, Ohio State University



Epigenetic regulation of gene expression in maize

Dr. Karen McGinnis, Florida State University

Molecular mechanisms of interplay between ethylene signaling and chromatin regulation in Arabidopsis

Dr. Hong Qiao, University of Texas at Austin



Large-Scale Heterochromatic Remodeling Facilitates DNA Repair

Dr. Scott Michaels, Indiana University

We're on the web!
<http://ss-aspb.org/>



2016-2017 SS-ASPB Officers

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