

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROPAGATORS' SOCIETY SOUTHERN REGION of NORTH AMERICA (SRNA)

46th Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2022

University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel, Athens, Georgia

President Bobby Green called the meeting to order at 9:25 am. Kevin Gantt gave the invocation.

Necrology Report. Cheryl Boyer acknowledged the passing of Julie Schaefer, wife of Milton Shafer on 16 September 2022 in Winchester, Tennessee; Ernest Koone of Pine Mountain, Georgia on 6 January 2022; Paul Saunders of Saunders Brothers Nursery, Piney River, Virginia on 11 March 2022; Karl Wages of Cottage Hill Nursery, Irvington, Alabama; Wilbur Mull of Classic Groundcovers, Inc., Athens, Georgia on 5 December 2021; Sandra Pounders, wife of Cecil Pounders; Linda Gay of Houston, Texas in October 2022; and Mary Shadow, wife of Don Shadow, Shadow Nursery, Winchester, Tennessee in August 2022. Boyer then asked the membership to bow their heads in a moment of silence.

Minutes of 2021 Annual Business Meetings. Editor Fred Davies presented the minutes of the 45th Annual Business meeting of October 27, 2021 in Mobile, Alabama. Davies remarked that an email was sent several weeks prior to Athens and the minutes were available on the SRNA website - so members could come better prepared to the annual business meeting. The SRNA is the most progressive region in the IPPS with all its educational, early career professional travel and professional opportunities. A motion was made by Donna Fare and seconded by Don Covan to accept the minutes, which was unanimously approved. President Green thanked Davies for his report.

Treasurer's Report. Secretary-Treasurer Donna Foster thanked local site chair, Dr. Tim Smalley and his Local Site Committee for the excellent venue, meeting and tours. She thanked the sponsors for their important contributions. She thanked Tom Saunders, Bobby Green, Judson LeCompte, Jeremy Pickens and the local site committee for their help in garnering \$56,657 in sponsorship money! We are on strong financial footing. Foster remarked that when she began as Secretary-Treasurer, our assets were \$34,000. Our 2021-22 total net assets are \$193,105. The support of our sponsors and good governance of the EC are critical for our stability.

She thanked the "4-pack" students [Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work program]: 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. They had an awesome experience and were incredibly helpful for Local Site Chair, Dr. Tim Smalley, and Sec-Tres, Foster - in running this year's meeting. In exchange for their work, they are given free registration and a double occupancy hotel room to share.

The SR-IPPS membership remains steady. For 2022, there are 242 paying members and 19 comped student/ military veterans for a total of 261 members. For 2021, there are 244 paying members and 26 comped student members for a total of 270 members. Prior to Covid, in 2019, there were 245 paying members and 18 student members; compared to 253 members in 2017 and 231 members in 2016. The Student Membership program was started in 2018 and expanded to include recent military veterans. Ideally, each student member is paired with an industry and academic mentor. Foster prefers the quality control of the SRNA Student membership program - where the applicant has to write about themselves, and have a mentor/professor sign for

them. [The key is to get the student to our annual conference so they can see the potential value of IPPS membership!] This year we \$16,472 from the silent and live auctions which is to go towards the SRNA-HRI Educational Endowment Fund.

Foster reported on the SRNA Financial Report from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Foster remarked that we did very well financially during the past year. She then presented the proposed budget for 2022-2023, which is attached. There were 271 registered at the Athens conference. Strong sponsorship and the new SRNA Education Endowment will enable our region to keep annual registration costs as low as possible for members.

Foster thanked Laura Barth and Brie Arthur for the monthly email letter sent to the membership. She remarked that to increase our membership – the personal touch of talking to and asking people to come attend and join is most effective. President Green thanked Foster for her report and acknowledged the tremendous service she does for the organization.

Audit Report. Chair, Brie Arthur reported all financial statements were in order and the SRNA is in good financial shape. She recommended that no financial audit be required this year. She commended Sec-Tres, Donna Foster, for doing an excellent job of keeping the financial records, and sending out monthly reports to the Board. The audit is kept as a line item on the annual budget.

International Director's Report. International Delegate Laura Miller gave the report. She thanked the board for the honor that she and Brie Arthur are given to represent the SRNA. Tom Saunders is serving as International President through the 2023 Durham meeting when the SRNA hosts the International Board.

In most years, the International Delegate's report is the most exciting part of the annual business meeting, featuring beautiful photographs from exotic locations such as New Zealand and South Africa. The 2022 report could feature a screen shot of an online meeting where some participants are bathed in natural daylight while others sit in darkness. I will spare you that image and say that since we have not met in person since 2019, we are all looking forward to the Southern Region hosted International Tour in 2023. Brie will be telling you all more about the tour today, but I do want to remind you that as an IPPS member, you are welcome at meetings on five continents. Perhaps someday that will be six, but I think it is doubtful that there will ever be enough plants on Antarctica to warrant an IPPS Region!

The SRNA has an outstanding International tour committee for 2023, headed by Tom Saunders, Brie Arthur, Laura Miller, Donna Fare, Dennis Niemeyer, and Rick Crowder. The International tour will start on 18 Oct 2023 in Washington, DC and end up in Raleigh/Durham for the 29 Oct – 1 Nov 2023 SR conference. There will be a 10-day and a shorter tour. SRNA members are encouraged to participate on the tour, which is an exceptional opportunity. Brie Arthur will be presenting more information about the tour later this morning.

There are currently eight regions of the IPPS including the Southern, Eastern and Western Regions. Several SRNA members attended the September Eastern Region meeting. Miller will attend the 2023 January Western Region meeting to promote the International tour. Other regions include Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Southern Africa, and Japan. India may soon be organized as a new region. If you attend the Europe meeting next year in Denmark, you will be able to catch up with Louise Heissel [this year's exchange professional from the European Region], who is attending the SRNA from Germany this year.

The Young Professional Exchange goes two ways. Erika Ramos from J. Berry Nursery is currently representing the SRNA in Europe. Several of our Board and Committee members, Judson LeCompte, Brie Arthur, Leanne Kenealy Atkins, Lis Meyer, and Tuesday's speaker Lindsay Day, have participated in the exchange. All new industry professionals are encouraged to apply. Young and old professionals alike will find wonderful plants and kindred spirits if they have an opportunity to travel with IPPS.

IPPS is a federation of regions that each organize their own meetings. As an international board, we maintain a website and publish proceedings together, but each region has its own editor, secretary, and digital communications managers, some paid and some volunteer.

The International website is housed in South Africa and is a constant topic at IPPS International Board meetings, since its inception in 2015. In past years, *the IPPS Combined Proceedings* were primarily printed in the traditional black books. They are now housed online, but are only available to IPPS members as a benefit of membership. The Southern Region of North America strongly supports making the proceedings available to anyone through Open Access which would enhance the visibility and relevance of the IPPS. This would both fulfill our mission to seek and share plant production information and serve as a marketing tool for IPPS.

The hemorrhaging of International membership continues with a -56% loss of members since 2006, when there were 2233 active/paid members. As of June 2022, IPPS worldwide decreased to 996 active/paid members plus 1048 comped student members. The SRNA membership remains steady, and has become the largest international region with 242 active/paid members. Four of the eight regions lost members when compared with 2021.

If you are here in the business meeting and are not a member of IPPS, please join us. Plan to attend the 2023 meeting in Durham and bring a colleague. Take time to meet the members of the International Board who will be joining us. IPPS is a wonderful organization with a great deal to offer anyone who wants to learn and build a professional network. President Green thanked Miller for her report.

Vote on Changes to the SRNA Constitution and Bylaws. President Green remarked that the SRNA Constitution and Bylaws have not been updated since the 1990s. Changes in technology, leadership positions and responsibilities necessitated the update. The SRNA has grown to 20-standing committees to run the organization and its Green Industry educational, outreach activities. He acknowledged Donna Fare for an earlier draft of the document and Fred Davies for editing it into its current form. There are 1-page explanations accompanying both the Constitution and Bylaws to explain and justify changes to the documents.

The summary and rewrite of the Constitution and Bylaws were sent out via email to all members, posted on the webpage and hard-copies passed out at this meeting. A motion was made by Chris Brown and seconded by Rick Crowder that the changes be accepted. Green opened up the floor for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

Long-Range Site Committee Report. Chair, Dr. Jeremy Pickens, gave the report. Pickens thanked Local Site Chair, Dr. Tim Smalley, and his committee and fabulous volunteers for the site selection, meals, and transportation arrangements, and for organizing two days of exciting tours. It was a little over a year ago when the Local Site Chair for Athens resigned to take another position, and Dr. Smalley stepped up to become the chair. He did a magnificent job, along with his committee, of putting together well-executed nursery tours and the meeting venue. Pickens encouraged anyone interested in hosting the SRNA in their area and serving on the local site committee - to please volunteer. President Green thanked Pickens for his report and for all his efforts in serving as Local Site Chair in Mobile in 2021.

The next annual meetings are as follows:

2023 Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina

Meeting in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina, Oct. 28 – Nov. 1, 2021. We will host the International Tour starting in DC and ending in Raleigh, Oct. 18-28, 2023. The Local site committee is led by co-chairs, Elizabeth Riley and

Dana Macey. The 2023 International meeting planning committee is composed of Tom Saunders, Brie Arthur, Laura Miller, Donna Fare, Dennis Niemeyer, and Rick Crowder.

2024 Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Cheryl Boyer is the local site chair. The meeting is at the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa, OK., October 26-30, 2024.

2025 Orlando or Tallahassee

Under consideration.

2026 TX- Houston area

Under consideration.

Membership Committee Report. Chair, Leanne K. Adams reported that for 2022, the SRNA has 242 active members 19 comped student/ veteran members for a total of 261 members. In 2021, there are 244 paying members and 26 comped student members for a total of 270 members. This was an increase from 2020 of 231 active and 20 student members. For 2019, paid membership was 245, plus 18 non-paying student members. In 2018, there were 258 members, plus 13 student members; there were 253 members in 2017, and 225 members in 2014]. It is very import that we attract new industry professionals and students to our conference. The new Margie Jenkins scholarship for practicing green industry professionals attending the SR annual conference for the 1st time - with registration & tour fees comped – should help attract more industry members.

The 25 new SRNA members were: Damon Abdi, Ben Ackerly, Regina Coronado, Jackson Evans, Steven Farrington, Debbie Franco, James Gaston III, Gary Hennen, Aaron Hewlett, Dean Joelson, Danny Lauderdale, William Lewis, Sophia McCusker, John McMakin, Kayla Morrison, Jake Muenniink, Andrew Pulte, Douglas Schamerhorn, Patrick Seal, Jacob Shreckhise, Monty Theiss, Marijke Tromp, Ashley Underwood, Allison Watkins and Jeff Watson.

Unlike some other world regions, the SRNA is maintaining its membership numbers – but there is plenty of room for us to grow. It is important that each of us bring a new person to SRNA meeting every year. President Green thanked Adams for her report, for her time in serving on the EC board, and the option to serve on the EC at a future date.

Membership Communications (Technical Communications) Committee Report. President Green asked Digital Communications Director, Laura Barth to give the report. The Technical Communications Committee was formed when Kevin Gantt was president and was combined in 2022 with the Membership Committee to form the **Membership Communications Committee**, which Barth chairs. This was to better streamline communication with the membership and recruit new members utilizing the SRNA Newsletter, website and social media: YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. Barth has greatly enhanced the visibility and content of the SRNA Newsletter. There are currently 340 SRNA Newsletter subscribers. She encouraged the membership to keep up with the newsletter and to send content, stories, news, jobs, internships, etc. to her to include. The SRNA has 526 Instagram followers and 1435 Facebook followers. Please follow the SRNA on these social media platforms: IPPS_Southern_Region. We share our content – so please “tag us”!

All of the IPPS regions are being combined into one YouTube channel. The SRNA channel is being taken down and combed with the International IPPS YouTube channel. Contact Barth if you would like to share any research information, nursery info, etc. that could be used as IPPS YouTube content. There is now a job and internship board for anyone who wants to post information. The SRNA bought the domain “IPPSouthernRegion.org” as an offshoot website for the SRNA to include anything about our events, etc. There is currently info on the 2022 Athens meeting, which will quickly transition over to promoting the October 2023 International Tour and the 2023 Durham Conference via available on-line brochures, etc.

There will be an email sent out shortly containing program evaluation and suggestions for 2023 speakers at the 2023 Durham conference. President Green thanked Barth for her report.

Student Research Awards. Chair, Mack Thetford reported on the *Charlie Parkerson IPPS Student Research Awards* program. He thanked the EC board for their support of the student programs. This year there were four students participating in the oral presentations and 12 poster presentations by students on their research. There were 13 students who submitted papers in the competition. Our submission process is all online, with consistent deadlines, instructions and examples for students to follow.

There were ten judges who ranked the 13 papers and ten additional judges at this meeting evaluating the four oral research presentations. He thanked the judges for their volunteerism! All papers are blindly ranked without naming the student nor their institution. So, if you receive a request from Thetford to serve as a judge – please do so since he cannot ask a faculty member from a student’s institution to serve as a judge – to avoid conflict of interest.

The top four student oral presenters were recognized at the Tuesday night banquet. They were: **1st place – Vanesa Rostan** – Pesticide Application Method and Timing Influences Contamination of Nectar in *Salvia* Vanesa Rostán, P. Christopher Wilson, and Sandra B. Wilson - University of Florida; **2nd place – Teagan Young** – Effects of Auxin and Taxa on Rooting Performance of Vegetatively Propagated Wild Coffee (*Psychotria* sp.) - Teagan Young, Sandra B. Wilson, and Mack Thetford; **3rd place – Anthony Bowden** – Effect of Cutting Time and Auxin Application Method on Propagation of *Magnolia grandiflora* ‘Southern Charm’ - Anthony T. Bowden, Patricia R. Knight, Jenny B. Ryals, Christine E.H. Coker, Scott A. Langlois, and Eugene K. Blythe - Mississippi State University; **4th place Bin Wu** – High-Efficiency Plant Regeneration via Callus-Induced Organogenesis from leaf explants of Queen's crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) - Bin Wu, Benjamin Dixon, Ivan Sierra, Natalia Mesa, Qiansheng Li, Nicholas Zhang, Mengmeng Gu, Hongmin Qin - Texas A&M University.

President Green thanked Thetford for all of his efforts.

Education Endowment. Kevin Gantt reported on the SRNA Education Endowment, managed by HRI. The Endowment started in 2017 with an initial contribution of \$20K by an anonymous donor. The fund is currently in a restricted temporary account, that allows us to access the corpus if needed. The fund is gaining no interest (nor losing money in the current stock market) - but it is not being charged any management fees. We were advised by HRI to maintain the restricted temporary account until we have a principle of \$150k. The EC Board approved that all of this week’s silent and live action monies (\$16,668) be added to the Endowment, which is now at **\$120,270** in five short years!

The new marketing brochure for the HRI-managed SRNA-Education Endowment (SREE) includes information on legacy gifting. The intent is to accelerate funding of the Endowment. The Education Endowment could really be bumped up with an estate, stock option, required minimum deduction contribution (RMD), etc. Contributions can be paid directly to HRI as a 501(c)3 (for the SREE) - so that donors can receive tax credit. There is a form that can be downloaded electronically from the webpage. All SRNA members will receive the Education Endowment brochure in their membership renewal form in December. The Endowment will continue be promoted through the social media committee. The SRNA outreach education programs currently support Vivian Munday Young Hort Professional Scholarship/Work Program, Early Career International Exchange Program, Charlie Parkerson Student Research Awards Program, and the Margie Jenkins Scholarship for Industry Professionals.

Gantt thanked the membership for their support and encouraged future support of the Endowment. President Green thanked Gantt for his report and willingness to serve in leading the Endowment funding.

Nominating Committee Report. Chair, Dr. David Creech and his committee of Brie Arthur and Elliott Hallum reported that the slate of officers for 2022-2023 was:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Judson LeCompte	President
Dr. Cheryl Boyer	1 st Vice-President
Michael Roe	2 nd Vice-President
Dr. Anthony Witcher	Director (1 yr.)
Matthew Sawyer	Director (1 yr.)
Dr. Jeremy Pickens	Director (2 yrs.)
Richard May	Director (2 yrs.)
Bobby Green	Past President
Tom Saunders	International President
Laura Miller	International Delegate
Brie Arthur	International Alternate Delegate
Donna Foster	Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Fred Davies	Editor
Laura Barth	Digital Communications Director

Appointed Positions

Donna Foster	Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Fred Davies	Editor
Laura Barth	Digital Communications Director

MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Laura Barth	Chair
Dr. Cheryl Boyer	1 st Vice-President
Michael Roe	2 nd Vice-President
Dr. Anthony Witcher	Director (1 yr.)
Matthew Sawyer	Director (1 yr.)
Dr. Jeremy Pickens	Director (2 yrs.)
Richard May	Director (2 yrs.)
Dr. Elizabeth Riley	Local Site Chair (1 yr.)
Brie Arthur	International Alternate Delegate
Donna Foster	Secretary-Treasurer

LONG-RANGE SITE COMMITTEE

Dr. Tim Smalley, Chair	(GA) (1 yr.)
Dr. Elizabeth Riley, Vice-Chair	(NC) (2 yrs.)
Dr. Cheryl Boyer	(OK) (3 yrs.)
Richard May	(FL) (4 yrs.)
Bobby Green	Past President

CHARLIE PARKERSON STUDENT RESEARCH COMPETITION

Dr. Mack Thetford	Chair
Dr. Paul Bartley	Co-Chair

MEADOWS AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

Elliott Hallum	(PPP Pres)	(1 yr.)
Brie Arthur	(PP Pres)	(2 yrs.)
Bobby Green	Past President	(3-yrs.)
Gary Knox	(2020 winner)	(1 yr.)
Tom Saunders	(2021 winner)	(2 yrs.)

EDUCATION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Mack Thetford	(CP Student Res. Chair)
Dr. Fred Davies	(Editor)
Dr. Cheryl Boyer	(1 st Vice-President)
Brie Arthur	(Intl. Alternate Delegate)
Donna Foster	(Sec-Tres)
Kevin Gantt	(Member)

FELLOWS SCREENING COMMITTEE

Dr. Michael Roe, Chair (2 nd VP)	(1 yr.)
Dr. David Creech, 2020 winner	(1 yr.)
Maarten van der Giessen, 2021 winner	(2 yrs.)
Rick Crowder, 2021 winner	(3 yrs.)

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Bobby Green, Chair	(P Pres)	(1 yr.)
Dr. Judson LeCompte	(Pres)	(2 yrs.)
Laura Miller	(Intl. Delegate)	(1 yr.)

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Richard May, Chair	(1 yr.)
Dillon Turk	(2 yrs.)
George Rude	(3 yrs.)

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Elliott Hallum, Chair	(PPP Pres)	(1 yr.)
Brie Arthur	(PP Pres)	(2 yrs.)
Bobby Green	(P Pres)	(3 yrs.)

DR. VIVIAN MUNDAY WORK SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

Dr. Mack Thetford, Chair	
Dr. Allen Owings, Dr. Donna Fare	(2019 Fellows) (1 yr.)
Dr. David Creech	(2020 Fellow) (2 yrs.)
Maarten van der Giessen, Rick Crowder	(2021 Fellows) (3 yr.)

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Michael Roe	Chair (2 nd VP)	(1 yr.)
Dr. Elizabeth Riley	Local Site Chair	(1 yr.)
Dr. Anthony Witcher	1-year Director	(1 yr.)
Matt Sawyer	1-year Director	(1 yr.)

SECRETARY/TREASURER, EDITOR, DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR REVIEW COMMITTEE

Bobby Green, Chair	(P. Pres)
Dr. Jeremy Pickens	(2-yr Director)
Richard May	(2-yr Director)

EXCHANGE PROGRAM SELECTION COMMITTEE

Donna Foster	Secretary-Treasurer
Laura Miller	International Delegate
Brie Arthur	International Alt. Delegate

Creech remarked that the International Delegate, Alternate International Delegate and International President (in those years the SR hosts the International) are voted on by the membership. The elected positions of the EC Board are voted on by the membership – and nominations are always open to the floor. The membership does not vote for the Sec-Tres, Editor, Web Master or Digital Communications Director – who are appointed by the EC. Committee positions are done by SOP. The SR leadership welcomes and encourages anyone wishing to serve in any elected or non-elected position to contact Sec-Tres Donna Foster about their interest. After the slate of nominees was presented and nominations were open to the floor - a motion was made by Donna Fare and seconded by Jim Berry that the slate of candidates be accepted, which was unanimously approved. President Green thanked Creech for his report.

The Resolution Committee Report. Dr. Cheryl Boyer presented the report which is attached. President Green thanked Boyer for her report.

Old Business. President Green asked for old business issues. There was none.

New Business. Tom Saunders asked that the SRNA sponsor the Vince Dooley Student Scholarship. President Green said the EC could review his request at the Post-EC meeting. There was no other new business.

Passing of the Gavel. President Green remarked that it was a humbling experience, honor and privilege to serve as President. He encouraged the membership to become members of the board. You will be deeply rewarded for all the hard work you put in. He remembered his first SRNA meeting, meeting Charlie Parkerson and being challenged: who are you and what do you do? It has been a wonderful experience participating at SRNA meetings and being involved with the leadership. He considered himself a baby boomer sandwiched between two very energetic millennials: Brie Arthur and Judson LeCompte – as the newer generations take over.

He then passed the gavel to incoming new President, Judson LeCompte.

Closing Remarks of new President Judson LeCompte. New President Judson LeCompte presented a plaque to Green in recognition of his outstanding leadership during the year, countless hours of dedication, and for being such a good mentor and President. LeCompte acknowledged all the time and effort that Green did in behalf of the organization.

LeCompte remarked that he attended his first SRNA meeting as a 21-year-old student from Auburn. He and his fellow students were warmly welcomed, and he has never missed a meeting since. He was honored and humbled to step into the role of IPPS Southern Region President, following in the footsteps of so many talented leaders from the nursery industry. He expressed his gratitude for this opportunity and looked forward to serving the SRNA. He then adjourned the meeting at 9:25 am.

The Sidney B. Meadows Award of Merit was presented to Bill Turk, Martins Nursery, Semmes, Alabama on 18 October 2021.

Kevin Gantt, Hefner's Nursery, Conover, North Carolina; and Dr. Jim Robbins, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas became Fellows of the SRNA on 18 October 2022

There was **\$56,657** received in sponsorships.

There was **\$16,472** raised at the silent and live auctions, which was donated to the SR-IPPS Education Endowment.

The SR-IPPS Education Endowment balance is \$120,270 with contributions made at the auction, and through additional contributions to the base donation of \$20,000 in 2017.

Winners of the Charlie Parkerson Student Research Competition: 1st Place Oral presentation winner: **Vanessa Rostan** – Pesticide Application Method and Timing Influences Contamination of Nectar in *Salvia* Vanesa Rostán, P. Christopher Wilson, and Sandra B. Wilson - University of Florida; 2nd Place Oral presentation winner – **Teagan Young** – Effects of Auxin and Taxa on Rooting Performance of Vegetatively Propagated Wild Coffee (*Psychotria* sp.) - Teagan Young, Sandra B. Wilson, and Mack Thetford; 3rd Place Oral presentation winner – **Anthony Bowden** – Effect of Cutting Time and Auxin Application Method on Propagation of *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Southern Charm'- Anthony T. Bowden, Patricia R. Knight, Jenny B. Ryals, Christine E.H. Coker, Scott A. Langlois, and Eugene K. Blythe - Mississippi State University; 4th Place Oral presentation winner **Bin Wu** – High-Efficiency Plant Regeneration via Callus-Induced Organogenesis from leaf explants of Queen's crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*) - Bin Wu, Benjamin Dixon, Ivan Sierra, Natalia Mesa, Qiansheng Li, Nicholas Zhang, Mengmeng Gu, Hongmin Qin -Texas A&M University.

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 attended the SRNA Athens conference – and is being hosted by Brie Arthur visiting the Southern Region green industry after the conference.

This year's "4-pack" work students (*Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work program*) were 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.

There were 271 registered attendees at this year's annual meeting in Athens, Georgia

For 2022, there are 242 paying members and 19 comped student/ military veterans for a total of 261 members. For 2021, there were 244 paying members and 26 comped student members for a total of 270 members. In 2019, there are 245 regular members + 18 student members. This compares to 257 (2018) paid members [plus 13 new Student members = 270 total members]. Regular, paid membership was 253 (2017), 231 (2016), 232 (2015) and 225 (2014).

➤ Minutes submitted by Fred Davies

**IPPS-SOUTHERN REGION NORTH AMERICA
RESOLUTION REPORT
Athens, Georgia
October 16-20, 2022**

Be it resolved that the membership of the International Plant Propagators Society-Southern Region North America recognizes the many hours of work and planning required to organize and execute our meeting, expresses its appreciation and thanks to the following people:

Bobby Green, President, for his guidance and leadership.

Dr. Judson LeCompte, 1st Vice President, for organizing an informative educational program.

Dr. Cheryl Boyer, 2nd Vice President, Sponsorship Chair, Tom Saunders, International Sponsorship Chair, and Dr. Tim Smalley, Local Site Chair, for working to secure our short and long-term financial health.

Dr. Fred Davies, Editor, for his continued dedication to the Society and detailed work on the Organization's proceedings.

Donna Foster, Secretary and Treasurer, for her sustained commitment to the administration of IPPS-SR's organizational and financial health.

Laura Barth, Digital Communications Director, for successful efforts of timely dissemination of information to our membership.

The outstanding local site committee: Dr. Tim Smalley, Dr. Mike Dirr, Marc Griffith, Rhonda Helvick, Justin Schulze, and numerous volunteers for countless hours organizing outstanding tours, meals, transportation, and facilities.

Dr. Mack Thetford for his continued service as the Awards Committee Chair of *The Charlie Parkerson Student Research Awards* program. Additional thanks to members who reviewed student papers, posters, and oral presentations and the talented students who shared their research.

Special thanks to all the moderators and speakers for their willingness to seek and to share a world-class educational program.

Plant Auction Committee, led by Ethan Guthrie, for their work in collecting, describing, displaying, and selling unique plants. Special thanks to all members who donated in the spirit of sharing.

Kevin Gantt for his auctioneering and leadership of the Southern Region IPPS Horticulture Research Institute (HRI) Education Endowment program, and to Dr. Todd Lasseigne for assistance in promoting auction plants during the banquet.

Thanks to all those involved in the following committees for their continued dedication and service:

Audit Committee

Dr. Vivian Munday Young Work/Scholarship Selection Committee

Education Endowment Committee

Exchange Program Selection Committee
 Executive Committee
 Fellows Screening Committee
 Finance Advisory Committee
 International Delegation
 Long Range Site Committee
 Margie Jenkins Scholarship Selection Committee
 Meadows Award Selection Committee
 Membership Communications Committee
 Nomination Committee
 Secretary/Treasurer, Editor, and Digital Communications Director Review Committee
 Sponsorship Committee

Scott Langlois for his professional technical expertise in managing the audio and visual systems during the conference.

Tour Hosts

Classic Groundcovers, University of Georgia State Botanical Garden, Angel Creek Nursery, Griffith Propagation Nursery, Premier Introductions, Dr. Michael Dirr's gardens, Bailey Innovations, James Greenhouses, Moon's Tree Farm, Atlanta Botanical Garden-Gainesville, and the University of Georgia Horticulture Farm for their hospitality and willingness to share.

A special thanks to the Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program participants Teagan Young, Runshi Xie, Kristopher Criscione, and Kaitlin Swiantek.

Great appreciation is extended to Brie Arthur for hosting our IPPS International Exchange Tour participant, Louise Heissel (IPPS Europe), and ensuring she had a well-rounded Southern Region North America horticulture experience.

A distinct recognition to our sponsors for their continued generous support. Thank you:

International: Ball Horticultural Company, Harrell's, and Spring Meadow Nursery

North American: Bailey Nursery, BASF, Bayer, Everris, Nursery Supplies, and Star Roses and Plants

Platinum: Classic Groundcovers (*in-kind tour lunch*) and James Greenhouses (*in-kind tour lunch*)

Gold: Bold Spring Nursery, Corteva, Georgia Green Industry Association, Griffith Propagation Nursery, Haviland Plastic Products, McCorkle Nurseries, Mycorrhizal Applications, North Creek Nurseries, OHP, R.A. Dudley Nurseries, Southeastern Growers, UGA Innovation Gateway, and Wild Heaven Beer (*in-kind*)

Silver: Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association, Cofer's Home and Garden, Gowan USA, Monrovia, Dr. Michael Dirr, and Select Trees Enterprises

Bronze: Dr. Fred Davies, Hackney Nursery, and Nufarm Americas, Inc.

And finally, we thank the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Hotel, our host hotel for 2022.

□ Respectfully submitted by Dr. Cheryl Boyer, 2nd Vice-President