

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

## **45th Annual Business Meeting** **Wednesday, October 27, 2021**

### **Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel** **Mobile, Alabama**

President Brie Arthur called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. Jeff Powell gave the invocation.

**Necrology Report.** Judson LeCompte gave the report. He acknowledged the passing of Ms. Margie Jenkins of Jenkins Nursery; Helen Gilbert, wife of James Gilbert of Gilbert's Nursery, Chesnee, SC; James was SR president and International President; Larry Pickens, father of Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Spanish Fort, AL; and Dr. Janet Cole, Professor & Dept Head of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Oklahoma State University. LeCompte then asked the membership to bow their heads in a moment of silence.

**Minutes of 2018 Annual Business Meetings.** Editor Fred Davies presented the minutes of the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Business meeting of October 16, 2019 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Davies remarked that the minutes were emailed several weeks and that the minutes were available on the SR-IPPS website - so members could come better prepared to the annual business meeting. The SR is the most progressive region in the IPPS with all its educational, early career professional travel and professional opportunities. A motion was made by Kevin Gantt and seconded by Rick Crowder to accept the minutes, which was unanimously approved. President Arthur thanked Davies for his report.

**Treasurer's Report.** Secretary-Treasurer Donna Foster thanked local site chair, Dr. Jeremy Pickens 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 \$54,500 in sponsorship money! We are on strong financial footing. Foster remarked that when she began as Secretary-Treasurer, our assets were \$34,000. Our 2020-21 total assets are \$256,806 (7/21/2021). The support of our sponsors and good governance of the EC are critical for our stability.

She thanked the "2-pack" students [Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work program]: Kayla Morrison of Oklahoma State University and Teagan Young of the University of Florida. They had an awesome experience and were incredibly helpful for Local Site Chair, Dr. Jeremy Pickens, 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. Next year, we will resume the participation of "4-pack" students with no Covid restrictions.

Despite the challenges of the past two Covid-years, the SR-IPPS has done well. For 2021, there are 244 paying members and 26 comped student members for a total of 270 members. At our last business meeting in 2019, there are 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. Each student member is paired with an industry and academic mentor. Foster prefers the quality control of the SR 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 raised \$16,865 from the silent and live auctions, which is to go towards the SR Educational Endowment Fund.

Foster reported on the IPPS-SRNA Financial Report from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Foster remarked that we did very well financially during the past year. She then presented the proposed budget for

2021-2022, which is attached. There were 161 registered for them Mobile conference, which was limited to 150 because of the conference hotel's covid-restrictions. Those who tried to register late, were eventually worked in as others cancelled. Strong sponsorship and the new SR Education Endowment will enable the SR to keep annual registration costs as low as possible for members.

Foster thanked Brie Arthur & Laura Barth 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. Arthur thanked Foster for her report and acknowledged the tremendous service she does for the organization.

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

**International Director's Report.** International Delegate Tom Saunders gave the report. He thanked the board for the honor that he and Laura Miller are given to represent the SR- IPPS.

- Saunders was frustrated that the brand-refresh to **IPPS: International Plant Production Society** was not embraced by the International leadership and fell short with 63% of international members voting in favor, with a 67% 2/3rds majority needed. At the 2019 business meeting the SR voted unanimously 60-0 in favor of the brand refresh. The brand refresh is critical for growing the membership, garnering industry support and sponsorship. We have to stop losing international membership and improve the IPPS messaging to attract new, vibrant members. The IPPS has evolved to more than a “propagators” society. We need the IPPS brand refresh to attract much needed international sponsorship. We have to sell the brand refresh to ourselves, and we have to sell it to other regions.
- Declining International membership is still an issue. *The 2021 International membership is 1000*, which was a 14% loss - 1159 members in 2020, and a 55% loss - 2223 members in 2006. The SR-IPPS is now the largest region with 231 members in 2021 [at the 2021 Mobile conference, there were 240 paid members], which is a 20% increase since 2006 (192 members). The 2<sup>nd</sup> largest region is New Zealand (186 members in 2021) – which up to now, was not impacted by Covid-19.
- The new International Website is finally up, so please give Digital Communications Director, Laura Barth, input on changes needed.
- The International is on firm footing. There is around \$275K in the International Treasury. This was compared to \$248K in 2020.
- The number of International Committees has been reduced.
- The South African region will not be hosting the International in 2023 because of civil unrest and public health issues with Covid-19. Hence, the Southern Region of North America stepped up to host the International in 2023; 2019 was the last year the International met in Australia; subsequent International meetings were canceled starting with the host Western Region of North America because of Covid in 2020. Hence, in 2023, the SR will be hosting the International in Raleigh/Durham, NC. The registration of the International delegation is to be comped by the International's budget and not the SR.
- The SR has an outstanding International tour committee for 2023, headed by 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. Saunders encouraged SR members to also participate on the tour, which is an exceptional opportunity.
  - The China Region is not moving forward as a new region; the India Region (they are not a formal region yet) will be having a virtual conference.
  - Saunders also chairs the international sponsorship. There are 2 new levels of sponsorship: 1) North American Sponsorship and 2) International Sponsorship.
  - Saunders who is also the International Treasurer is being recommended by the SR- Executive Committee to become the new International President – to serve through 2023.
- President Brie Arthur called for any other nominees from the floor for International President. There were none. A motion was made by Eelco Tinga and seconded by Don Covan that Tom Saunders become the new International President, which unanimously passed.

President Arthur thanked Saunders for his report and his willingness to serve as International Treasurer and International President.

**Long-Range Site Committee Report.** President Arthur gave the report for Chair, Allen Ownings. Arthur thanked Local Site Chair, Dr. Jeremy Pickens, and his committee and fabulous volunteers for the site selection, meals, and transportation arrangements, and for organizing two days of exciting tours.

The next annual meetings are as follows:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>2022 Athens, Georgia</b>                | Tim Smalley (coordinating), John Ruter, Rhonda Helvick and Justin Schulze are the local site co-chairs. Meeting at the University of Georgia Hotel-Conference Center. Monday 17 – Thursday 20 Oct 2022.   |
| <b>2023 Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina</b> | Meeting in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina, Oct. 29 – Nov. 1, 2021. We will host the International Tour starting in DC and ending in Raleigh, Oct. 18-28, 2023. The local site committee co-chairs are Elizabeth Riley and Dana Massey. The 2023 International meeting planning committee is composed Tom Saunders, Brie Arthur and Laura Miller; they are currently meeting and planning. |
| <b>2024 Tulsa, Oklahoma.</b>               | Cheryl Boyer is the local site chair. The meeting is at the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa, OK., October 26-30, 2024.   |
| <b>2025. Central/Northern Florida</b>      | Under consideration.  |

**Membership Committee Report.** Chair, Judson LeCompte reported that the new members were previously recognized on Monday at the banquet.

For 2021, the SR now has **244 active members, 26 comped student members for a total of 270 members.** We picked up 13 new active members during a pandemic year with no 2020 annual conference. 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 students to our conference. The new Margie Jenkins scholarship for practicing green industry professionals attending the SR annual conference for the 1<sup>st</sup> time - with registration & tour fees comped – should help attract more industry members. President Arthur thanked LeCompte for his report.

The SR is maintaining its membership numbers – unlike most other world regions.

There are 52 new members since the 2019 Meeting in Baton Rouge. This includes 38 regular/active members: Kari Ruder, Donnie Fuller, Ronald Hooper, Jay Coke, Clint Cotton, Rhonda Helvick, Bruce Dunn, Erin Alvarez, Kata Kress, Brian Kirkland, Justin Schulze, Maxine Marvosa, Laura Del Vecchio, Cody Pavovick, Sam Bahr, Dr. Holly Scoggins, David Storer, Dee Johnson, Shelby Spittler, Cedar Stevens, Trevor Hilburn, Davis Upchurch, Dominic Gillooly, Will Glenn, Cameron Morgan, Heather Kirk-Ballard, Lori Fry, Hsuan Chen, Matthew Lollar, Jennifer Buckner, Eileen Vogel, Erika Ramos, Matthew Graham, Dale Skaggs, Carol Seadale, Scott Payne and Lee Rouse

There were 15 student/ comped members: Nicholas Lazio – student, Maxwell Cavassa – student, Chad Bosch -student, Heather Conkle -student. John A. Thompson – student, Rebecca Inman – student, Olivia Terrell – student, Natalie Perkins -student, Christina Jennings – student, Julian Ginori – student, Heather Jones – student, Robert Earl McCombs, IV -student, Devin Lyons -student, Kelly Thomas -student, and Max McKeown - student

President Arthur thanked LeCompte for his efforts and report.

**Technical Communications Report.** President Arthur reported for Digital Communications Director, Laura Barth. The Technical Communications Committee was formed when Kevin Gantt was president. This was to streamline communication with the membership including the SR Newsletter, website and social media: YouTube, Instagram and Facebook. The new International website has been launched. It is more attractive but still very difficult to navigate. She asked for the feedback of the membership for improving the website and social communications. Send your requests to Laura Barth or Brie Arthur. One of the goals of the SR Newsletter is provide membership with the links needed to better navigate the International website. Barth has been struggling with the new International website and does not have the necessary control to easily improve it. *We can't find the link for free student membership, nor the link to IPPS member addresses/contacts, etc.* We need to change the International website management from South Africa, which has been problematic for years, to U.S. website management. *We still do not know how much money has been spent on the international website management.*

The Technical Communications Committee and Membership Committee have monthly joint meetings to enhance communication to the membership via information in the monthly SR Newsletter. It has been a dedicated group of people have met monthly for the past 24 months. Since 2014, Arthur has chaired the group, set the agenda, and is looking forward to Laura Barth taking on more leadership responsibilities with the Newsletter and social media - with her promotion to Digital Communications Director. There are currently 324 subscribers to the Newsletter. But only 23% of the subscribers regularly read the Newsletter, which comes out the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month. The SR participation needs to be improved. We also need greater membership participation on our social media sites. We upgraded our Mailchimp account to enhance formatting. There is currently \$120/year budgeted for the Newsletter and \$100 for social media. The SR has 1031 followers on Facebook. The SR started Instagram in 2019, and has 500 followers. Regular information is presented to the SR membership via our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Arthur thanked the membership – and encouraged greater participation.

**Student Research Awards.** Chair, Mack Thetford reported on the *Charlie Parkerson IPPS Student Research Awards* program. Thetford remarked on the challenging past 2-years, dealing with Covid – with the SR pivoting to adapt to virtual competitions, since students could not travel in person. He acknowledged Cheryl Boyer, Laura Barth, Brie Arthur and Donna Foster for all their efforts in making the zoom competition a success. All of the presentations are available via YouTube. Thetford thanked all the volunteers who helped in evaluating the student research awards: reading their papers and evaluating the oral presentations. Thetford asked for more volunteers, since the program is growing. The virtual student research presentations and competition were on 8 October 2021. The top three students gave 20-minute presentations, and there were also three shorter 5-minute oral “poster presentations”. There were 7 students who submitted papers this year. Participation of students has been low because of zoom for the past two years. In 2022, the competition will return to live presentations in Athens – and participation is expected to increase. *Many students are reluctant to enter the competition because their perception is that IPPS is a propagators’ society, and their research is not on plant propagation.* Hence, the importance of the brand refresh: IPPS – International Plant Production Society.

The awards were presented at the Banquet on Monday evening. The winners were: 1st Place Oral presentation winner: Bin Wu of Texas A&M University for “To Eat, or Not to Eat, that is the Question. Answered by Real-Time Monitoring Techniques Combining with Computational Analysis for Feeding Behavior Study of Crapemyrtle Bark Scale (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*)”, by Bin Wu, Elizabeth Chun, Runshi Xie, Gary W. Knox, Mengmeng Gu and Hongmin Qin; 2nd Place Oral Presentation winner: Anthony T. Bowden of Mississippi State University for “Evaluation of Surfactants for Use in One-Time Foliar Auxin Applications in the Propagation of Woody Ornamentals”, by Anthony T. Bowden, Patricia R. Knight, Christine E.H. Coker, Jenny B. Ryals, Scott A. Langlois, Shaun R. Broderick, Eugene K. Blythe, Hamidou F. Sakhanokho, and Ebrahiem M. Babiker; 3rd Place Oral Presentation winner: Yuvraj Khamare of the University of Florida for “Growth of Liverwort (*Marchantia polymorpha*) and Spotted Spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*) Decreases with Substrate Stratification and Strategic Fertilizer Placement”, by Yuvraj Khamare, S. Christopher Marble, James E Altland, and Annette Chandler.

Thetford thanked the many judges who participated in the process of reviewing papers and the oral presentations. He is hopeful with the ongoing outreach of the SR that more students will participate in the *Charlie Parkerson IPPS Student Research* program.

Arthur thanked Thetford for all of his efforts.

**Education Endowment.** Kevin Gantt reported on the SR-IPPS Education Endowment (SREE), 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 not generating any interest, 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 \$100k. In four, short years the Endowment has grown to \$96,250, which includes the \$16,865 generated from this week’s silent and live action monies.

The new marketing brochure for the HRI-managed SR-Education Endowment includes information on legacy gifting. The intent is to accelerate funding of the Endowment. The SREE 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 SR members will receive the Education Endowment brochure in their membership renewal form in December. The Endowment will continue to be promoted through the social media committee. The SR 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 newly created Margie Jenkins Industry Scholarship for Industry Professionals. Gantt thanked the membership and encouraged future support of the Endowment. President Arthur thanked Gantt for his report and willingness to serve in leading the Endowment funding.

**Nominating Committee Report.** Chair, Kevin Gantt and his committee of David Creech Elliott Hallum reported that the slate of officers for 2021-2022 were:

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Elected Positions**

Bobby Green	President
Dr. Judson LeCompte	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President
Dr. Cheryl Boyer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Leanne Kenealy	Director (1 yr.)
Michael Roe	Director (1 yr.)
Dr. Anthony Witcher	Director (2 yrs.)
Matthew Sawyer	Director (2 yrs.)
Brie Arthur	Past President
Tom Saunders	International President
Laura Miller	International Delegate
Brie Arthur	International Alternate Delegate

### **Appointed Positions**

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

### **Membership Committee**

Leanne Kenealy	Chair, 1-yr Director	(1 yr.)
Michael Roe	1-yr Director	(1 yr.)
Dr. Anthony Witcher	2-yrs Director	(2 yrs.)
Matthew Sawyer	2-yrs Director	(2 yrs.)
Justin Schultz	3-yrs Director (GA)	(3 yr.)
Rhonda Helvick	4-yrs Director (GA)	(4 yrs.)

### **Long-Range Site Committee**

Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Chair	(AL) (1 yr.)
Dr. Tim Smalley, Vice-Chair	(GA) (2 yrs.)
Dr. Elizabeth Riley	(NC) (3 yrs.)
Dr. Cheryl Boyer	(OK) (4 yrs.)
TBA	(5 yrs.)
Past President – Brie Arthur	

### **Charlie Parkerson Student Research Competition**

Dr. Mack Thetford, Chair

### **Meadows Award Selection Committee**

Dr. David Creech	(PPPP Pres)	(1 yr.)
Bob Black	(2019 winner)	(1 yr.)
Elliott Hallum	(PPP Pres)	(2 yrs.)

Gary Knox (2020 winner) (2 yrs.)  
 Brie Arthur Past President

#### **Education Endowment Committee**

Dr. Fred Davies (Editor)  
 Donna Foster (Sec-Tres)  
 Dr. Mack Thetford (CP Student Res. Chair)  
 Dr. Judson LeCompte (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President)  
 Brie Arthur (Intl. Alternate Delegate)  
 Dr. Gary Knox (Recent Meadows Awardee)  
 Dr. Allen Owings

#### **Fellows Screening Committee**

Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Chair (2<sup>nd</sup> VP) (1 yr.)  
 Dr. Mengmeng Gu (1 yr.)  
 Dr. Lee Ivy (2 yrs.)  
 Shea Keene (3 yrs.)

#### **Audit committee**

Brie Arthur (P Pres) (1 yr.)  
 Bobby Green (Pres) (2 yrs.)  
 Laura Miller (Intl. Delegate) (1 yr.)

#### **Finance Advisory Committee**

Blake Jones, Chair (1 yr.)  
 Richard May (2 yrs.)  
 Maarten van der Giessen (3 yrs.)

#### **Nomination Committee**

Dr. Dave Creech, Chair (PPP Pres) (1 yr.)  
 Elliott Hallum (PP Pres) (2 yrs.)  
 Brie Arthur (P Pres) (3 yrs.)

#### **Vivian Munday Work Scholarship Selection Committee (Dr. Mack Thetford, facilitator)**

Buddy Lee (2017 Fellow) (1 yr.)  
 Dr. Sandy Wilson & Dennis Niemeyer (2018 Fellows) (2 yrs.)  
 Dr. Alan Owings, Dr. Donna Fare (2019 Fellows) (3 yr.)

#### **Sponsorship Committee**

Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Chair (2<sup>nd</sup> VP) (1 yr.)  
 Dr. Tim Smalley, Local Site Chair (1 yr.)  
 Michael Roe, 1-year Director (1 yr.)  
 Leanne Kenealy, 1-year Director (1 yr.)

#### **Secretary/Treasurer, Editor, Digital Communications**

##### **Director Review Committee**

Brie Arthur, Chair (P. Pres)  
 Dr. Anthony Witcher (2-yr Director)  
 Matthew Sawyer (2-yr Director)

### **Communications Committee**

Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Chair	(2 <sup>nd</sup> VP)
Brie Arthur	(International Alt. Delegate)
Matthew Sawyer	(2-year Director)
Dr. Anthony Witcher	(2-year Director)
Eric Shealy	(Member at Large)
Laura Barth	(Digital Communications Director)
Donna Foster	(Sec-Tres)

Gantt 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 Kevin Gantt and seconded by Rick Crowder that the slate of candidates be accepted, which was unanimously approved. President Arthur thanked Gantt for his report.

**The Resolution Committee Report.** Judson LeCompte presented the report which is attached. President Arthur thanked LeCompte for his report.

**Old Business.** President Arthur asked for old business issues. Chris Brown asked for a clarification on how close the International vote was on the brand refresh to the IPPS – International Plant Production Society. Fred Davies remarked that we were very close, missing the 2/3rds majority of international membership by half a dozen votes: 63% in favor compared to the 67% approval needed. At the 2022 meeting in Athens, the brand refresh will be brought up again and voted on at the Annual Business meeting to start the ball rolling with the other international regions – and have the other international regions vote on it. Two years ago in Baton Rouge, the SR vote 60-0 approval at the business meeting. The SR is currently the largest international region – and the most progressive. The brand refresh will help tremendously with gaining new membership, sponsorship and staying relevant to the needs of the green industry.

**New Business.** President Arthur remarked that the IPPS-SR developed several policies that have since been adapted by the International, which is important for the protection of the IPPS and individuals. These SR-IPPS Policies include: 1) IPPS-SR Conflicts of Interest Policy, 2) IPPS-SR Ethics Policy, 3) IPPS-SR Non-Discrimination and Inclusion Policy, and 4) IPPS SR Anti-harassment Policy and Complaint Procedure. These **need to be reposted on the revamped International Website.**

Donna Foster remarked that the SR-IPPS is deeply indebted to the service of Cheryl Boyer who made the on-line 2020 North American IPPS Conference and the 2021 Charlie Parkerson Student Research program possible. Boyer has also agreed to become the 2021- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President and the 2023 Local Site Chair in Tulsa, Oklahoma. So please thank her!

There was no other new business.

**Passing of the Gavel.** President Arthur remarked that it was a humbling experience, honor and privilege to serve as President. She was indebted to Tom Saunders encouraging her to join the IPPS-SR – and is extremely grateful of the professional development opportunities garnered at the IPPS. This has been a surreal two years: dealing with the Covid pandemic, canceling the 2020 Tulsa meeting, replacing the annual meeting



which the SRNA successfully led, planned and executed 3-day North American Virtual Summit (NAVS); and finally having an onsite meeting in Mobile, despite the uncertainty and resurgence of the pandemic. She was thankful for the personal and professional growth - and the proactive thinking of the EC Board and membership. She remarked on the importance of her many IPPS friends and the opportunity to visit some really cool nurseries – of all different sizes. She then passed the gavel to incoming new President, Bobby Green.

**Closing Remarks of new President Bobby Green.** New President Bobby Green presented a plaque to Arthur in recognition of his outstanding leadership during the year, countless hours of dedication, and for being such a good mentor and President. Green acknowledged all the time and effort that Arthur did in behalf of the organization – for the past two years as President.

Green remarked that 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 SR.

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The Sidney B. Meadows Award of Merit was presented to Tom Saunders, Saunders Brothers Nursery, Piney River, VA on 25 October 2021.

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Rick Crowder, Hawksridge Nursery, Hickory, NC; and Maarten Van der Giessen, Van der Giessen Nursery, Semmes, AL became Fellows of the IPPS-SRNA on October 14, 2019

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There were 32 cash sponsors. There was \$54,500 received in sponsorships, plus 2 in-kind lunch sponsors.

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There was \$16,865 raised at the silent and live auctions, which went to support of the SR-IPPS Education Endowment.

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The SR-IPPS Education Endowment balance is \$96,250, with contributions made at the auction, and through additional contributions to the base donation of \$20,000.

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Winners of the Charlie Parkerson Student Research Competition: 1st Place Oral presentation winner: Bin Wu of Texas A&M University for “To Eat, or Not to Eat, That is the Question. Answered by Real-Time Monitoring Techniques Combining with Computational Analysis for Feeding Behavior Study of Crape Myrtle Bark Scale (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*)”, by Bin Wu, Elizabeth Chun, Runshi Xie, Gary W. Knox, Mengmeng Gu and Hongmin Qin; 2nd Place Oral Presentation winner: Anthony T. Bowden of Mississippi State University for “Evaluation of Surfactants for Use in One-Time Foliar Auxin Applications in the Propagation of Woody Ornamentals”, by Anthony T. Bowden, Patricia R. Knight, Christine E.H. Coker, Jenny B. Ryals, Scott A. Langlois, Shaun R. Broderick, Eugene K. Blythe, Hamidou F. Sakhanokho, and Ebrahiem M. Babiker; 3rd Place Oral Presentation winner: Yuvraj Khamare of the University of Florida for “Growth of Liverwort (*Marchantia polymorpha*) and Spotted Spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*) Decreases with Substrate Stratification and Strategic Fertilizer Placement”, by Yuvraj Khamare, S. Christopher Marble, James E Altland, and Annette Chandler.

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This year’s “2-pack” work students (*Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work program*) were Kayla Morrison and Teagan Young.

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There were 163 registered attendees at this year’s annual meeting [Because of Covid the Hotel limited registration to 150 participants].

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For 2021, there are 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) members [plus 13 new Student members = 270 total members]. Regular membership was 253 (2017), 231 (2016), 232 (2015) and 225 (2014).

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- Minutes submitted by Fred Davies

**IPPS-SRNA  
RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REPORT  
Mobile, Alabama  
October 12-27, 2021**

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:

Brie Arthur, President-for her guidance and leadership.

Bobby Green, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-for organizing an informative educational program.

Dr. Judson LeCompte, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Sponsorship Chair and Tom Saunders- 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 organizations' proceedings.

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

Laura Barth, Webmaster- for successful efforts of timely dissemination of information to our membership.

The outstanding local site committee Dr. Jeremy Pickens, Bobby Green, Bill Turk, Billy Lucas, Dillon Turk, Flint Johnson, Maarten van der Giessen, Kyle Owsley, and Russell Blackwell and numerous volunteers for countless hours organizing outstanding tours, meals, transportation, and facilities. Additional thanks to Russell Wood and Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association for continued support and organization of bus captains.

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 as well as the talented students who shared their research.

Dr. Cheryl Boyer for her technical assistance with remote audio and visual.

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

Plant Auction Committee Maarten van der Giessen, Billy Lucas, Kyle Owsley, and Jacob Kelley 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 SR-HRI-Education Endowment program.

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

Audit Committee  
 Executive Committee  
 Fellows Screening Committee  
 Meadows Awards Committee  
 International Delegation  
 Long Range Site Committee  
 Membership Committee  
 Nomination Committee  
 Sponsorship Committee  
 Secretary/Treasurer and Editor Review Committee  
 Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Selection Committee

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

#### Tour Hosts

Stokley Nursery, SuperRon Nursery, Fernwood Nursery, Martin's Nursery, Van der Giessen Nursery, Tom Dodd Nursery, Mobile Botanical Garden, The USS Alabama, Flowerwood Nursery, Bellingrath Gardens, Waters Nursery, Plant Development Services Inc., and Splinter Hill Bog for their hospitality and willingness to share.

A special thanks to the Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program- participants Kayla Morrison and Teagan Young.

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

**International:** Ball Seed, Harrells

**North American:** Bailey Nurseries, Bayer, ICL/Everris, Nursery Supply Inc., Spring Meadow Nursery, Star Roses and Plants.

**Gold Sponsors:** Alabama Nursery and Landscape Assoc., BASF, BioWorks, Dramm, Everris NA Inc., Greenleaf Nursery Company, Gowan Company, Haviland Plastics Products, Martin's Nursery Inc., OHP Inc., Plant Development Services Inc.

**Silver Sponsors:** BWI, Bracy's Nursery LLC, Fernwood Nursery, Greenpoint AG, Hawksridge Farm, Hip Label LLC, Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Association, Louisiana Nursery & Landscape Foundation for Scholarship and Research, Plants Nouveau, Tom Dodd Nursery, Stokley Nursery, Valent BioSciences/Mycorrhizal Applications, Van der Giessen Nursery, Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association.

**Bronze Sponsors:** Dr. Allen D. Owings, Regal Chemical

**Copper Sponsors:** Azalea Society of America-Louisiana Chapter

And finally, our thanks to the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, our host hotel for 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Judson LeCompte, Second Vice-President.