

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

47th Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

**DoubleTree Hotel, Raleigh-Durham Airport Research Triangle Park
Durham, North Carolina**

President Dr. Judson LeCompte called the meeting to order at 9:25 am He acknowledged students at Sandhills Community College, Pinehurst, North Carolina, for their help with the auction. He also acknowledged Dr. Liz Riley and Dana Massey for the superb job they did as local site chairs – and keeping the nursery tours on time. Jim Berry then gave the invocation.

Necrology Report. Michael Roe acknowledged the passing of SRNA Members: Dr. Charles Gilliam Auburn University, Beauregard Community, AL, September 19, 2023; Adolph “Sam” Laiche, Jr., Mississippi State University, September 20, 2023; Non-Members: William (Bill) Edward Dutcher, Monrovia/Watkins Nursery/Hanover Farms/Colesville Nursery, October 20, 2022; Coach Vincent Joseph Dooley, University of Georgia, October 28, 2022; John L. Machen Sr., Mobjack Nursery, June 19, 2023; Lawson ‘Buddy’ Motley, Flowerwood Nursery/Windmill Nursery, Bay St. Louis, MS, July 16, 2023; and Adam Turtle, Our Bamboo Nursery, Summertown, TN, October 5, 2023. Roe then asked the membership to bow their heads in a moment of silence. President LeCompte thanked Roe for his report.

Minutes of 2022 Annual Business Meetings. Editor Fred Davies presented the minutes of the 46th Annual Business meeting of October 20, 2022 in Athens, Georgia. Davies remarked that the minutes are 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 Judson LeCompte and seconded by Don Covan to accept the minutes, which was unanimously approved. President LeCompte thanked Davies for his report.

Treasurer’s Report. Secretary-Treasurer Donna Foster thanked local site committee: Liz Riley, Dana Massey, Hillary Blevins and their Local Site Committee for the excellent venue, meeting and tours. She thanked the sponsors for their important contributions. She thanked Michael Roe, Tom Saunders, and the local site committee for their help in garnering \$56,667 in sponsorship money! Foster remarked that when she began as Secretary-Treasurer, our assets were \$34,000. The 2022-23 total assets on 30 June 2023 were \$345,163, from which \$93,000 will be deducted to pay International Tour Expenses.

She thanked the “4-pack” students [Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work program]: Jerry Yu of North Carolina State University, Grace Carapezza of the University of Florida, Katelyn Reffler of Stephen F. Austin State University, and Kaitlyn Swaintek of the University of Georgia. They had an awesome experience and were incredibly helpful for Local Site Chairs, Liz Riley and Dana Massey, 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. She recognized the 2023 Vince Dooley scholarship recipient: Kayla Morrison. This a new scholarship program – and the 5th sponsored by the SRNA.

There were 277 registered at the Durham conference – compared to 271, last year, in Athens, Georgia.

The SR-IPPS membership remains steady. For 2023 there were 245 paying members, 67 comped student/military veterans for a total of 312. So, we are holding our own compared to previous years. [For 2022, there was 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. 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 the silent and live auctions netted \$11,079. After hotel expenses, the remainder will go towards the SRNA-HRI Educational Endowment Fund – subject to approval of the EC.

Foster reported on the SRNA Financial Report from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Foster remarked that we did very well financially during the past year. We should make money at the Durham conference – and dues notices will be mailed in December. She then presented the proposed budget for 2023-2024, which is attached. Strong sponsorship and the new SRNA Education Endowment will enable our region to keep annual registration costs as low as possible for members. A motion was made by Don Covan and seconded by Laura Miller to accept the proposed budget, which unanimously passed.

President LeCompte thanked Foster for her report and acknowledged the tremendous service she does for the organization. This is Foster's 14th year as Sec-Tres.

Audit Report. President LeCompte reported for Chair, Bobby Green that all financial statements were in order and the SRNA 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. The audit is kept as a line item on the annual budget.

International Director's Report. International Delegate Laura Miller gave the International Delegate presentation earlier in the program. President LeCompte thanked Miler for her presentation. Dr. Donna Fare of the SRNA received the International Award of Honor on 28 October 2023.

Long-Range Site Committee Report. Donna Foster gave the report for Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Riley. Foster thanked Local Site Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Riley and Co-chair Danna Massey and their committee and fabulous volunteers for the site selection, meals, and transportation arrangements, and for organizing two days of exciting tours. Foster encouraged anyone interested in hosting the SRNA in their area and serving on the local site committee - to please volunteer. President LeCompte thanked Foster for her report.

The next annual meetings are as follows:

2024	Tulsa, Oklahoma.	President Cheryl Boyer is the local site chair. The meeting is at the Hyatt Regency in Tulsa, OK, October 26-30, 2024.
2025	Orlando, Florida	Todd Gentry is the local site chair. The meeting is at the DoubleTree Orlando at SeaWorld, October 19-23, 2025.
2026	Houston, Texas	Paul Winski is the local site chair. Hotel and dates TBD.
2027	OPEN	TBD.

Membership Committee & Technical Communications Report. Chair, Laura Barth reported for 2023 there were 245 paying members, 67 comped student/military veterans for a total of 312; see Sec-Tres Report. 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 36 new SRNA members introduced earlier in the conference were: Brad Abrameit, Matthew Boyd, Andrew Bunting, Dr. Hsuan Chen, Chester Ross, Brian Chojnacki, Christopher Dowdy, Johnson Gainous Marilyn Grist, Maureen Hammond, Davis Harmon, William Cody Herbert, Timothy Hinton, Mark Jones, Timonthy Marchlik, Julie Marik, Keith Mearns, Dwayne Moon, Matthew Nagle, Andra Nus, Lindsay Opie, Seth Peed, Amanda Ramos, Michael Royal, Chris Rumph, Trent Salmon, Hunter Scarbrough, Brandy Umbrello, Jared Valaquez, Aramis Vincente, Bin Wu, Samantha Young, Meghan Epperly, David Walmer, Brian Jernigan, and Pin Yu.

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.

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 is a 50% opening rate of Newsletter subscribers, compared to the 20% average of other industry educational groups. She encouraged the membership to keep up with the newsletter and to send content, stories, news, jobs, internships, etc. to her to include. All of the IPPS regions are being combined into one YouTube channel. Please follow the SRNA on these social media platforms: IPPS_Southern_Region. We share our content – so please “tag us”!

The SRNA bought the domain “IPPSSouthernRegion.org” as an offshoot website for the SRNA to include anything about our events, etc. President LeCompte thanked Barth for her report.

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

On Monday night, the top four student oral presenters were recognized at the social. They were: **1st place – Zachary Hutzell** – “*Myrica rubra*, a New Ornamental with Edible Fruit and its Propagation Challenges”, University of Georgia; **2nd place – Amanda Mizell** – “Evaluation of Sawdust Derived from Three Different Softwood Tree Species as Substrate Amendments”, Louisiana State University; **3rd place – Melanie Hill** – “Cultivating Sustainability: Biodegradable Containers in Horticulture Production”, Auburn University; **4th place Joanna Jaramillo** – “Landscape Performance of Native and Non-Native Ornamentals Grown Under Two Different Irrigation Regimes in North and Northcentral Florida”, University of Florida.

Nominating Committee Report. Brie Aruthur remarked that she was the last International Tour Committee member – still standing - from start to finish - after a wonderful, well-planned, Covid-challenged tour, hosted by the SRNA. The 2023 International tour was planned three years out. She remarked on the importance of strategically planning and informing potential candidates the time commitment and obligations - including the next cycle when the SRNA will again host the International, with an International President/ tour organizer from our region.

Arthur recognized all of the effort of the Local Site Committee and had Dr. Elizabeth Riley, Danna Massey and Hillary Blevins. She called them up to the podium to be recognized. She also recognized students from Sandhills Community College who greatly helped run the auction.

Arthur then reported for Chair, Dr. Elliott Hallum and his committee of Arthur and Bobby Green that the slate of officers for 2023-2024 was:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Cheryl Boyer	President
Michael Roe	1 st Vice-President
Dr. Anthony Witcher	2 nd Vice-President
Dr. Jeremy Pickens	Director (1 yr.)
Richard May	Director (1 yr.)
Rhonda Helvick	Director (2 yrs.)
Dr. Kevin Parris	Director (2 yrs.)
Dr. Judson LeCompte	Past 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
Michael Roe	1 st Vice-President
Dr. Anthony Witcher	2 nd Vice-President
Richard May	Director (1 yr.)
Dr. Jeremy Pickens	Director (1 yr.)
Dr. Kevin Parris	Director (2 yrs.)
Rhonda Helvick	Director (2 yrs.)
Dr. Cheryl Boyer	Local Site Chair (1 yr.)
Brie Arthur	International Alternate Delegate
Donna Foster	Secretary-Treasurer

LONG-RANGE SITE COMMITTEE

Dr. Elizabeth Riley, Chair	(NC) (1 yr.)
Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Vice-Chair	(OK) (2 yrs.)
Todd Gentry	(FL) (3 yrs.)
Paul Winski	(TX) (4 yrs.)
Richard May	(FL) (5 yrs.)
Dr. Judson LeCompte	Past-President

CHARLIE PARKERSON STUDENT RESEARCH COMPETITION

Dr. Mack Thetford	Chair
Dr. Sandy Wilson	Co-Chair

MEADOWS AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

Brie Arthur	(PPP Pres)	(1 yr.)
Bobby Green	(PP Pres)	(2 yrs.)
Dr. Judson LeCompte	(Past President)	(3-yrs.)
Tom Saunders	(2021 winner)	(1 yr.)
Bill Turk	(2022 winner)	(2 yrs.)

EDUCATION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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

FELLOWS SCREENING COMMITTEE

Dr. Anthony Witcher, Chair (2 nd VP)	(1 yr.)
Maarten van der Giessen, 2021 winner	(1 yr.)
Rick Crowder, 2021 winner	(2 yrs.)
Dr. James Robbins, 2022 winner	(3 yrs.)

AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dillon Turk, Chair	(1 yr.)
George Rude	(2 yrs.)
Matt Sawyer	(3 yrs.)

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Brie Arthur, Chair (PPP Pres)	(1 yr.)
Bobby Green (PP Pres)	(2 yrs.)
Dr. Judson LeCompte (P Pres)	(3 yrs.)

DR. VIVIAN MUNDAY WORK SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

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

COACH VINCE DOOLEY SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION COMMITTEE

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

EARLY-CAREER, INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM SELECTION COMMITTEE

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

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Dr. Anthony Witcher, Chair (2 nd VP)	(1 yr.)
Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Local Site Chair	(1 yr.)

Dr. Jeremy Pickens	1-year Director	(1 yr.)
Richard May	1-year Director	(1 yr.)

**SECRETARY/TREASURER, EDITOR, DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Judson LeCompte, Chair	(P. Pres)
Dr. Kevin Parris	(2-yr Director)
Rhonda Helvick	(2-yr Director)

Arthur remarked that the International Delegate and Alternate International Delegate 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 Jim VanAntwerp and seconded by Richard May that the slate of candidates be accepted, which was unanimously approved. President LeCompte thanked Arthur for her report.

The Resolution Committee Report. Michael Roe presented the report which is attached. President LeCompte thanked Roe for his report. He also acknowledged Laura Miller and Dr. Anthony Witcher for taking up the slack and capably handling the audio-visual of the conference.

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

New Business. President LeCompte asked for any new business issues. There was none.

Passing of the Gavel. President LeCompte remarked that it was a humbling experience, honor and privilege to have served 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 then passed the gavel to incoming new President, Dr. Cheryl Boyer.

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

Boyer remarked that it is an honor and privilege to take the helm as President. She also has the dual challenge of also serving as the Local Site Chair at the 2024 Tulsa annual conference – and invited all to come. She thanked everyone – and remarked the SRNA is run as a strong team. She was excited about the strategic planning taking place in mid-June 2024 for the SRNA to set 5-year strategic goals. We will be reaching out to the membership for ideas and suggestions moving forward – to seek and share. She then then adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am.

Dr. Donna Fare, USDA Floral & Nursery Crop Research, McMinnville, Tennessee received the International Award of Merit on 28 October 2023

The Sidney B. Meadows Award of Merit was presented to Dennis Niemeyer, Carlton Plants, Saluda, North

Carolina on 30 October 2023.

John Hoffman, Hoffman Nursery, Rougemont, North Carolina became a Fellow of the SRNA on 30 October 2023.

There was \$56,667 received in sponsorships.

There was \$11,079 raised at the silent and live auctions.

The SR-IPPS Education Endowment balance is \$127,020 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 were: **1st place – Zachary Hutzell** – “*Myrica rubra*, a New Ornamental with Edible Fruit and its Propagation Challenges”, University of Georgia; **2nd place – Amanda Mizell** – “Evaluation of Sawdust Derived from Three Different Softwood Tree Species as Substrate Amendments”, Louisiana State University; **3rd place – Melanie Hill** – “Cultivating Sustainability: Biodegradable Containers in Horticulture Production”, Auburn University; **4th place Joanna Jaramillo** – “Landscape Performance of Native and Non-Native Ornamentals Grown Under Two Different Irrigation Regimes in North and Northcentral Florida”, University of Florida.

For the *Early-Career IPPS Exchange* program between the SRNA and the European Region, Teagan Young, University of Florida, represented the Southern Region at the European Conference and toured some of the European nursery industry. Thomas McDonald of the European Region participated on the International Tour, hosted by the SRNA, and attended the Durham conference.

This year’s “4-pack” work students (*Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work program*) were Jerry Yu of North Carolina State University, Grace Carapezza of the University of Florida, Katelyn Reffler of Stephen F. Austin State University, and Kaitlyn Swaintek of the University of Georgia.

Emily Ellis was the recipient of the 2023 Margie Jenkins Industry Scholarship.

Kayla Morrison was the recipient of the 2023 Vince Dooley Scholarship.

There were 273 registered attendees at this year’s annual meeting in Durham, North Carolina.

For 2023 there were 245 paying members, 67 comped student/military veterans for a total of 312. In 2022, there are 242 paying members and 19 comped student/ military veterans for a total of 261 members. In 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
Durham, North Carolina
28 October – 1 November, 2023**

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:

Dr. Judson LeCompte, President, for his guidance and leadership.

Dr. Cheryl Boyer, 1st Vice President, for organizing an informative educational program.

Michael Roe, 2nd Vice President, Sponsorship Chair, Tom Saunders, International Sponsorship Chair, and Dr. Elizabeth Riley and Dana Massey, Local Site Chairs, 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. She never gets enough credit for all that she does; she truly is our anchor!

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

The outstanding local site committee: Dr. Liz Riley and Dana Massey, 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, for their work in collecting, describing, displaying and selling unique plants. Special thanks to all members who donated in the spirit of sharing. The assistance of the students from Sandhills Community College was greatly appreciated

Special thanks to Rufus Lige Edmisten, former North Carolina Secretary of State, and co-host of the popular radio program Weekend Gardener on WPTF in Raleigh, NC. - for his auctioneering; and to Dr. Dr. Todd Lasseigne for assistance in promoting auction plants during the social.

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

Thanks to Anthony Witcher and Laura Miller for their stepping in and offering their technical expertise in managing the audio and visual systems during the conference.

Tour Hosts

Adcock's Nursery, Pender Nursery, Plant Delights Nursery, JC Raulston Arboretum, Hoffman Nursery, Homewood Nursery and Garden Center, Plantworks Nursery, and Pacific Organics for their hospitality and willingness to share.

A special thanks to the Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program participants: Jerry Yu of North Carolina State University, Grace Carapezza of the University of Florida, Katelyn Reffler of Stephen F. Austin State University, and Kaitlyn Swaintek of the University of Georgia.

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

International: Bailey Nurseries, Harrell's, and Spring Meadow Nursery

North American, Platinum: BioWorks, ICL Growing Solutions, Nursery Supplies, Inc., and Star Roses and Plants

Gold: BASF, BWI Companies, Gowan USA, Haviland Plastic Products, Howard Fertilizer, Legacy Labor, Inc., MAS Labor, Nufarm Americas, OHP, Plant Development Services International, Plantworks Nursery, and Taylor's Nursery Inc.,

Silver: Dr. Michael & Bonnie Dirr, Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association, Buds and Blooms, Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association, and Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association

Bronze: Dr. Fred Davies, ENVU, Fair View Nursery Inc., Hoffman Nursery, Inc., Johnson Nursery, North Carolina Nursery and Landscape Association, Regal Chemical company, and Worthington Farms, Inc.

And finally, we thank the DoubleTree Raleigh-Durham Airport Research Triangle Park, our host hotel for 2023.

- Respectfully submitted by Michael Roe, 2nd Vice-President