

SOUTHERN SECTION AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT PHYSIOLOGISTS NEWSLETTER

2001 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's meeting in Raleigh went remarkably well. We extend our thanks to our local hosts **Drs. Kent Burkey, Fitz Booker, and Ed Fiscus** for their efforts both before and during the meeting that helped to make things run so smoothly.

The host hotel, the Velvet Cloak Inn, turned out to be quite a pleasant surprise. The accommodations were reminiscent of the French Quarter of New Orleans and the food was the best in memory for SS-ASPP meetings.

Special thanks to our sponsors: **Phillip Morris, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, North Carolina Biotechnology Center, American Society of Plant Biologists**, for without their generosity this meeting would not have been possible.

Turnout was comparable to that of recent meetings with 69 in attendance and contributing to 16 posters and 13 oral presentations. This is the first time that computer-based presentations have been an option for talks and all but 3 presenters used this format. It was quite a success, and no doubt will become standard fare for future meetings.



SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS:
Andrew Mort, Ronald Sederoff, and Debra Mohnen

We thank **Dr. Jay Mellon** for organizing the excellent symposium on "*Components Involved with Plant Cell Wall Architecture and Integrity: Effects of Abiotic and Biotic Stress*". The speakers (**Dr. Debra Mohnen**, Complex Carbohydrate Res. Center / Univ. of Georgia, "Pectin Biosynthesis and Function"; **Dr. Andrew Mort**, Oklahoma State Univ., "*Pectin Structure and Function in Sickness and in Health?*"; and **Dr.**

Ronald Sederoff, North Carolina State Univ., "*Genomic Approach to Wood Formation in Loblolly Pine*") did a wonderful job of presenting molecular through anatomical aspects of cell wall structure as it responds to internal and external cues.



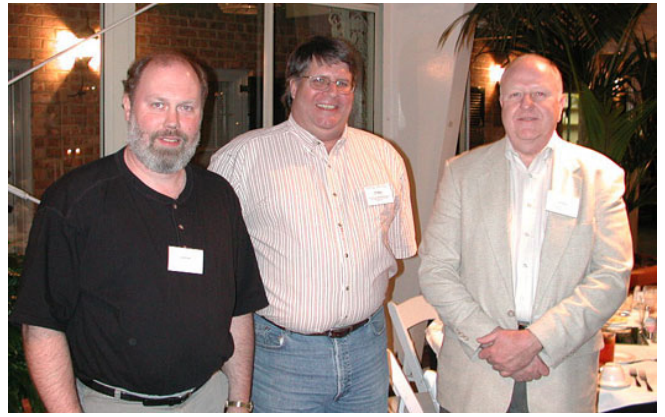
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE:
Marc Cohn
(award presented by Mel Oliver)

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Dr. Marc Cohn** in recognition of his selfless contributions to the Southern Section. It is in large part due to his efforts and guidance that we are financially sound today, thus allowing us to provide such services as covering costs of student making presentations at the meetings. As financial oversight officer for the section he will be continuing in this role. Many thanks Marc!

The quality of student presentations seems to get better every year. This year two awards were presented for graduate student talks. One award went to **Jason Sterling** Univ. of Georgia, (*Identification of a galacturonosyltransferase in Arabidopsis thaliana (var. Columbia): Partial purification and a strategy to isolate the first gene encoding a pectin biosynthetic glycosyltransferase*) and the other was presented to **Michael J. Wheeler** Louisiana State University – Shreveport (*Transgenic expression of yeast casein kinase 1 isoform 2 (YCK2) as a means of conferring salt tolerance to cotton*). We had a number of really impressive posters by undergraduates as well. This year's award for best undergraduate poster went to **Robin Gaines** (*Site-directed mutagenesis in the CP43 protein of*



UNDERGRAD STUDENT AWARDEE
Cindy Putnam-Evans, Robin Gaines, and Caryl Chlan



LOCAL COORDINATORS
Kent Burkey, Fitz Booker, and Ed Fiscus



GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEE
Caryl Chlan, Jason Sterling, & Deb Mohnen



2002 OFFICERS
Chair: Jay Mellon, *Exec. Comm.:* Cindy Putnam-Evns, *Vice-Chair:* Tim Sherman, and *Sec./Treas.:* Ruth Alscher (not shown)



GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD
Caryl Chlan, Stephen Banks, Michael Wheeler, Dalton Gossett



AT THE MIXER
Clanton Black and Ed Etxeberria



POSTERS IN THE ATRIUM

photosystem II alters the chloride requirement for growth and oxygen evolving activity in Synechocystis 6803).

We thank the Student Presentation Judging Committee (**Drs. Caryl Chlan, Ed Etxeberria, and Wayne Barger**) for making the tough calls!

[Pictures of the winners and other events are on the following page]



NATIONAL ASPP NEWS

From Joyce G. Foster, Southern Section Representative

The most noteworthy news from the parental society involves the recent name change from ASPP to ASPB. With this societal name change comes the question as to whether we in the Southern Section should follow suit. It will be our choice as a section. Please think about this and give us your input on this issue. (Please send comments to any of the sectional officers.)

A more detailed report of the most recent ASPB Executive Committee Meeting is posted on our web site (www.ss-aspp.org)

MEETING SITE FOR 2002

After a very close vote, it was determined that this coming year's meeting will be held at the University of Georgia at Athens. The local coordinator will be Dr. Scott Holiday.

In 2002, in addition to providing financial help to students making oral presentations, additional money will be available to minority students to offset costs of attendance. Application for these awards will be available later in the Fall on our web site.

ELECTION RESULTS

Elections results were announced at the General Business meeting at the conclusion of the symposium. **Dr. Jay Mellon** was elected Chair of the Southern Section, **Dr. Tim Sherman** will serve as Vice-Chair, and **Dr. Ruth Alscher** will be our new Secretary-Treasurer for 2001-2002. Our current chair, Dr. Cindy Putnam-Evans has graciously accepted a position on the Executive Committee.

SOUTHERN SECTIONS ARCHIVIST?

Much has happened and many individuals have passed through our sectional rolls since our charter in 1940. We would like to make available information on the history, lists of officers, and award winners for the Southern Section through our website. Traditionally a few individuals have taken an active role in documenting such things, with the last compilation made by Drs. Jim Henderson, Fred Wolf, and Clanton Black about 10 years ago. We are looking for a volunteer to pick up where they left off and to act as *Southern Section Archivist*. If you are interested in aiding the section in this capacity, please contact Dr. Jay Mellon.

THE SS-ASPP WEB SITE

Remember that the web site for the Southern Section is up and running. (www.ss-aspp.org). It also can be accessed via the national ASPB site. The site contains information about meetings (past, present, and future), current officers (contact info, brief bio, and picture), current and past newsletters, news of interest to society members and students, and links to relevant sites (i.e. ASPB, regional university's departments with plant biology programs, etc.). The site was used extensively for registration and title submission for this year's meeting. As mentioned above, we are in the process of adding historical records and we also plan to have provisions for online voting.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OPTION

With the advent of easy electronic publication and widely available access to the Internet, it now seems to be the time to make available the option of having your Southern Section Newsletters and Call for papers delivered to you electronically. This can be done as attachments to your email or via our web site as a download after you are notified by email of its availability. This will allow you to get newsletters sooner than the mailed version and will cut the sections mailing costs. If you are interested in pursuing this option, either email Dr. Tim Sherman with your request (tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu) or fill out the request form on our web site.

2001-2002 SS-ASPP OFFICERS

CHAIR

Dr. Jay Mellon
USDA-ARS/SRRC
POB 19687
New Orleans, LA 70179-0687
Phone: (504) 286-4358
Email: jmellon@commsvr.srrc.usda.gov

VICE-CHAIR

Dr. Tim Sherman
Univ. of South Alabama
Dept. of Biology, LSCB Room 124
Mobile, AL 36688-0002
Phone: (334) 460-7529
Email: tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Dr. Ruth Alscher
Virginia Tech, Plant Pathology Department
Old Glade Rd. Res. Ctr. Room 103
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0331
Phone: (540) 2331-6761
Email: ralscher@vt.edu

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Randall G. Cameron
Email: rcameron@citrus.usda.gov
Dr. Joyce G. Foster
Email: jfoster@asrr.arsusda.gov
Dr. Melvin J. Oliver
Email: moliver@mail.csrl.ars.usda.gov
Dr. Cindy Putnam-Evans
Email: evansc@mail.ecu.edu