



SOUTHERN SECTION

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

2004 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists will be held at the Hotel Acadiana in Lafayette, LA. during March 6-8, 2004. Lafayette is the home of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

You can find information and updates concerning the meeting by visiting: <http://www.ss-aspb.org/>

This year's local coordinator is Dr. Caryl Chlan (cchlan@louisiana.edu)

2004 KRITON HATZIOS SYMPOSIUM

This year's symposium on "Cotton Biotechnology" will be held during the morning of Monday, March 8th.

Speakers will include:

Thea Wilkins, (Professor, Department of Agronomy and Range Science at the UC Davis) "*Cotton Fiber Genomics: Manipulating the Fiber Transcriptome*".

Randy Allen, (Professor of Biological Sciences and Co-Director, Texas Tech Center for Biotechnology & Genomics, Texas Tech University): "*Strategies for modification of fiber quality and abiotic stress tolerance in cotton*".

Candace Haigler, (Professor of Crop Science and Botany North Carolina State University): "*Biotechnological improvement of cotton fiber maturity*".

Dr. Caryl Chlan has organized the symposium.

CALL FOR PAPERS

This is the first and only call for papers! Submit online at our website or complete and return the Paper Title Submission Form (which is at the end of the newsletter) as soon as possible. (Whether you register via mail, fax

or electronically at the web site, but you must mail in payment to the address listed below.) Note that the presenting author must be specified. Forms must arrive no later than February 8, 2004. Meeting programs will be available at the SS-ASPB web site and at the registration desk.

Forms should be mailed or faxed to:

James R. Mahan
SS-ASPB Secretary/treasurer
3810 4th St.
Lubbock, TX 79415

The Annual Meeting will accommodate both oral and poster presentations. However, for consideration for the "**Best Graduate Student Paper**", the presentation must be oral. Oral presentations will be limited to 15 minutes, including discussion. Students participating in the "**Best Graduate Student Paper**" competition should be aware that a high quality presentation and strict adherence to time guidelines are important considerations. A carousel and slide projector will be provided for those giving oral presentations, but presentations via Microsoft PowerPoint (PC-compatible!), are preferred. Students are required to hand in their presentations (slides, zip disk or CD-ROM) to Dr. Mahan at the door of the mixer on Saturday evening. Details about requirements for PowerPoint presentations are available at our web site. Student participants in the competition must submit an abstract (not to exceed 250 words) for use by the judging committee only. Abstracts should accompany the Paper Title Submission Form and Registration Form and arrive by the **February 8th deadline**.

We will also hold a competition for "**Best Undergraduate Student Poster**". Undergraduates should also submit an abstract (as above). Winners of both student competitions will receive a framed certificate and cash award. The American Society of Plant Biologists provides financial support for these competitions. Meeting registration and banquet fees are waived for all students presenting papers (see Conference Registration below).

Dimensions for the poster presentations will be 4 x 4 ft. Participants should provide their own pins for mounting posters. Posters will be displayed throughout the meeting (Sunday March 7th and Monday, March 8th). Author attendance times will be announced in the meeting program.

UNDERGRADUATE MINORITY PARTICIPATION AWARD

Minority undergraduate students are invited to attend and participate in the annual meeting of the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists (SS-ASPB). With the co-operation of the national society, we are pleased to provide as many as 5 travel awards to further stimulate such participation and encourages all eligible students to apply for these funds. Travel grants will be awarded on the basis of application contents, which will be reviewed by the SS-ASPP Executive Committee. Accompaniment of the student to the Annual Meeting by the sponsoring mentor will be considered a positive attribute.

The cash value of the award will be determined by actual travel expenses (ground/mileage) incurred by the student, two nights lodging at the host hotel, \$25/day per diem for meals and incidental expenses, registration fee for the meeting and a ticket to attend the meeting Banquet.

Applications should follow the guidelines outlined below and be sufficiently in-depth to allow the Committee to make an informed decision. Please provide the following information.

Your name, academic address and contact numbers, name of academic mentor, list of plant science courses, list of related biology courses completed, statement of career goals, your perception of how you will benefit by participating in the meeting.

In addition, a supporting letter submitted by your academic mentor must be received by the application deadline. Applicants should also indicate whether or not they will be presenting their research and participating in the Undergraduate Poster Competition. **Application Deadline: February 8th 2004**

Mail to:

Dr. Ruth Grene
Virginia Tech, Plant Pathology Department
Old Glade Rd. Res. Ctr. Room 103
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0331

Phone: (540) 231-6761
Fax: (540) 231-5755
Email: grene@vt.edu

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please register for the Annual Meeting by filling out the Conference Registration Form (found at the end of the newsletter) and sending it along with your payment to **James Mahan, Secretary/Treasurer SS-ASPB** at the address given on the form. (As mentioned above, you can also register electronically at our web site, but you must mail in payments.) The registration fee is \$40.00 and covers the cost of the meeting and symposium program, the Saturday Mixer, and refreshment breaks (Sun./Mon.).

If you are presenting a paper in the student competitions, your registration fee and banquet fee will be waived, but you must still submit a registration form, and you must still pay the SS-ASPB dues (\$5.00). Fees are due by Feb. 8, 2004.

As an incentive to students from nearby universities who might be interested in listening to some or all of the scientific presentations, there will be no charge to attend the talks, posters, and symposium. This applies to graduate or undergraduates students. We request only that interested students submit a registration form indicating that they will attend the "talks only". This will allow us more accurately gauge the quantity of refreshments needed during the breaks. Students (attendee basis only) who want to attend the mixer and banquet may also do so, but will pay the full cost for those functions, just as a "guest".

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The meeting will be held in Lafayette Louisiana at the **Hotel Acadiana**. Twenty rooms have been "blocked" for the meeting. The cost is \$65/night (single, double, triple, quad you decide). Call 337-233-8210 or for booking. (The rooms are held under our reservation number 103773 or you should be able to find them under "Society of Plant Biologists.") **Reservations should be made on or before February 5, 2004.** After this date, any unused rooms in the block will be released to the general public and the special conference rate might not be available. Please make your reservation as soon as your plans are finalized.

TRAVEL

Lafayette is easy to reach by car. It is just south of I-10, about 50 miles west of Baton Rouge and about 120 miles from the New Orleans Airport. Lafayette also has its own regional airport that is serviced by Continental, Northwest, and Delta Airlines. Dr. Caryl Chlan will coordinate the local arrangements.

Directions to the meeting site are available at:
<http://book.bestwestern.com/bestwestern/productInfo.do?propertyCode=19060>

ACTIVITIES...

FIELD TRIP

This year we are planning a field trip to Lake Martin, Louisiana which is about a 20 minute drive from the Hotel Acadiana. It is world famous as one of the largest nesting areas for wading birds in the US and the Audubon Society has rated Lake Martin as one of the top ten bird watching spots in the country. Even though birding is best early in the morning, it is likely that we will see some of the egrets (white, snowy or cattle) little blue herons, night herons, ibis and possibly even roseate spoonbills that visit Lake Martin. If you come back sometime in the summer, you can see Barred and Great Horned Owls, Downy, Hairy, Pileated and Red-Bellied Woodpeckers, and several types of warblers.

As plant biologists you will appreciate Lake Martin's Cypress and Tupelo trees as well as its old-growth live oak ridges. It is one of the best sections of bottomland hardwood forest that remain in the lower Mississippi valley. If you would like to experience the Louisiana swampland, Lake Martin is a great place to visit. In addition to all the wading birds, warblers and unique forest, you will also have a chance to spot nutria and alligators! There is a road that parallels the lake, and we will park and walk along the lake and on a trail. There are no facilities at Lake Martin, so we will be roughing it for about an hour or so.

After our trip to Lake Martin, we plan to stop by the UL Lafayette Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology to view a variety of ongoing research projects including a prairie restoration study site. As we head back to the Hotel Acadiana, we will stop briefly on the UL Campus for a mini-tour and an opportunity to view our unique campus swamp (a great photo opportunity).

The field trip is being sponsored by the UL Lafayette College of Sciences (it's free). We will leave the Hotel Acadiana at 2 pm and should be back at the hotel between 5 and 6 pm.

OPENING MIXER

Our traditional mixer is an opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones. It is scheduled for Saturday evening, **March 6th from 7 - 9 p.m.** Hors d'oeuvres and two beverages will be provided (cost is included in the registration fee). For those not registered for the meeting, the cost of attending the mixer is \$25.00 (includes 2 drinks).

SUNDAY BANQUET

The annual banquet (**March 7th, 6:30-9:00 p.m.**) will follow Sunday's talks and posters. A French Theme Buffet will be available, with several meat and

fish choices of entrée. If you wish to have a vegetarian meal, please tell the hotel when you register. The cost will be \$25. For those wishing to purchase other alcoholic beverages, a cash bar will be located in the banquet area from 6:00-6:45. If a student, friend or spouse not registered for the meeting wishes to attend the banquet, the price will be \$25 for each additional person.

As an added incentive for attendance, the winners of the student presentation competitions will be announced at the banquet.

2003 - 2004 SS-ASPB OFFICERS

Chair

Dr. Ruth Grene

Virginia Tech, Plant Pathology Department
435 Old Glade Rd. Res. Ctr. Room 103
Blacksburg, VA 24061-0330

(540) 231-6761, grene@vt.edu

Vice-Chair

Dr. Caryl Chlan

UL Lafayette, Dept of Biology
PO Box 42451
Lafayette, LA 70504

(337) 482-5916, cchlan@louisiana.edu

Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. James Mahan

USDA/ARS
3810 4th Street
Lubbock, TX 79415-000

(806) 749-5560, jmahan@lbk.ars.usda.gov

Executive Committee Members

Dr. Jay Mellon:

jmellon@srrc.ars.usda.gov

Dr. Melvin J. Oliver:

moliver@lbk.ars.usda.gov

Dr. Tim Sherman:

tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

**FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLANT BIOLOGISTS (SS-ASPB)
2004 ANNUAL MEETING**

Society of Plant Biologists will be held at the Hotel Acadiana in Lafayette La. during March 6-8, 2004. Lafayette is the home of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. This year's local coordinator is: Dr. Caryl Chlan.

Please print or type-complete a separate form for each participant

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone No. _____ Fax No. _____

E-mail _____

_____ Check here if you are a student and will attend only the talks, posters, or symposium (There is no charge for this.) If you would like to attend the mixer or banquet, however, please enclose payment at the "guest" rates.

Participant Registration fee: Please return or fax before February 26, 2001.

_____ \$40.00 per person - [includes meetings on Sunday and Monday and Saturday's Mixer (with tickets for 2 drinks)]

_____ \$25.00 per person - Sunday Banquet

_____ ** Check here if you are presenting a paper in one of the student competitions.

_____ \$5.00 per person - SS-ASPB Dues (if not paid previously) *This fee is not required for students who will only attend talks.*

Will a guest be accompanying you at the mixer or banquet? Guest fees:

_____ \$25.00 per person - Saturday Mixer (includes 2 drinks)

_____ \$25.00 per person - Sunday Banquet

Spouse or Guest Name: _____

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed

Make check payable to: **SS-ASPB**

Mail checks to: James R. Mahan
SS-ASPB Secretary/Treasurer
3810 4th St.
Lubbock, TX 79415
806-723-5221 806-723-5272(fax)
jmahan@lbk.ars.usda.gov

PAPER TITLE SUBMISSION FORM

Completed forms should arrive no later than February 8, 2004.

Dues (\$5.00) must be current through 2003 in order to present a paper at the meeting. This requirement also holds for students participating in the "Best Graduate Student Paper" or the "Best Undergraduate Student Poster" competitions. Membership in the American Society of Plant Physiologists does not constitute membership in the Southern Section. Use the attached registration form to make dues payments to SS-ASPB (if you did not pay when you sent in your national dues).

Type of Presentation: Oral _____ Poster _____

Graduate Student Competition Presentation*: Yes _____ No _____

Undergraduate Student Poster Competition* Yes _____ No _____

Key Words (subject area):

Projection equipment required: 35 mm Slides _____ Overheads _____ PowerPoint projector _____

Title of Presentation:

Author(s) (give full names):

Affiliations(s) and address(es):

Name, Phone Number, and email of Presenting Author:

Mail, fax or email all information to:

Dr. James R. Mahan
SS-ASPB Secretary/treasurer
3810 4th St.
Lubbock, TX 79415
806-723-5221 806-723-5272(fax)
jmahan@lbk.ars.usda.gov

* Abstract must be received by the deadline for competition.