

# SS-ASPB

*Newsletter of the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists*



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## 2007 ANNUAL MEETING

*The SS-ASPB 2007 annual meeting was hosted by the University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL. Tim Sherman (local site coordinator) and Kelly Major (secretary/treasurer) teamed up to organize this year's event at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. The section is especially grateful to Tim for his invaluable assistance. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge our generous sponsors without whom this meeting would not have been possible:*

**Delta and Pine Land Company  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
Department of Biological Sciences and College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Alabama**

*Please see the photogallery posted on our website for a recap of the 2007 annual meeting (<http://www.ss-aspb.org/meetings07.html>)*

## MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting opened with the annual SS-ASPB evening mixer. Dinner included a traditional southern shrimp boil held outside on the patio. It was a great opportunity for old friends and colleagues to discuss the year's news and to meet new attendees. Each year, the Southern Section prides itself in providing a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere that fosters the interaction of fellow scientists and their students. The 2007 meeting was no exception. On Sunday, March 4th, the meeting began at 8:00 am. Attendance was excellent, with 21 oral presentations, 16 of which were given by students (14 graduate; 2 undergraduate). There were six competitors in the Aubrey Naylor undergraduate poster competition and 19 poster presentations in all. The day concluded with a sit-down dinner at the Dauphin Island Estuarium; fabulous catering was provided by Alan Naman's Catering of Mobile. Following the meal, student awards were presented to the winners of the graduate and undergraduate competitions.

*Kelly M. Major*  
Kelly M. Major

## "Best Graduate and Undergraduate Student Oral Presentations"

Judges: Gloria Burow, Cliff Ross, and Chris Tanner

Judges were charged with a very difficult task as student oral presentations were outstanding (and appear to be getting better with each passing year). In fact, this year's committee decided to recognize one graduate and one undergraduate for their excellent presentations. The award winners were: graduate, **James H. Chappell**, from Louisiana State



**James Chappell and mentor, Marc Cohn**

University for his presentation titled "*Is oxidative stress the cause of recalcitrant seed death in Spartina alterniflora?*" and undergraduate, **Molly M. Mintz**, from the University of South Alabama for her presentation titled "*The effects of thermal stress on Chl-a fluorescence and HSP 70 expression in Thalassia testudinum*".



**Kelly Major, Molly Mintz, Anne Boettcher, and Tim Sherman**

## "Aubrey Naylor Award for the Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation"

Judges: Anne Boettcher, Emily Boone, and David Longstreth

This year's undergraduate posters were equally impressive. The 2007 Aubrey Naylor Award winner was **Brooke Roberts** from Rollins College for her poster titled "*The cloning and characterization of a putative bifunctional nuclease in Nepenthes ventricosa*".



**Brooke Roberts with mentor, Paul Stephenson**



**Organizer, Kent Chapman and speakers: John Dyer, Jack Brown, and Tony Kinney**

## 2007 Kriton Hatzios Symposium

The 2007 Kriton Hatzios Symposium was organized by Kent Chapman.

The topic of this year's symposium was "Plant Oils for Enhanced Sustainability". Three exceptional presentations were made by Drs. John M. Dyer, Jack Brown, and Anthony J. Kinney.

The cost of the symposium was underwritten by a generous gift from the Delta and Pine Land Company.

The section extends its many thanks to Kent and the speakers for another excellent and interesting symposium.

### John M. Dyer

Research Scientist, USDA-ARS-Southern Regional Research Center, New Orleans, LA

"Engineering Plant Oils as High Value Industrial Feedstocks for Biorefining"

### Jack Brown

Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

"From Fields to Fuels: Developing a Biodiesel Industry in the USA"

### Anthony J. Kinney

Research Leader, z Pioneer Crop Genetics, DuPont Experimental Station, Wilmington, DE

"Engineering Oilseed Plants to Produce Nutritional Fatty Acids"

### Links to the speakers:

To see recent publications from John Dyer, follow this link:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/people/people.htm?personid=1524>

Jack Brown has information on his program and biofuels at: <http://www.ag.uidaho.edu/brassical>

Tony Kinney spoke recently at Oregon State University in a lecture series entitled "Food for Thought". Links to their site and a related site about his work with omega-3 fatty acids are:

<http://www.data.forestry.oregonstate.edu/orblevents/lectureseries/index.htm>

[http://www.gmofoodforthought.com/2006/08/industry\\_races\\_to\\_get\\_green\\_gm.html](http://www.gmofoodforthought.com/2006/08/industry_races_to_get_green_gm.html)



# Shreveport, LA

*Louisiana State University, Shreveport, was chosen this year's site for the 2008 annual sectional meeting. More information is forthcoming – stay tuned!*

## Election Results 2007

**Chair: Kent Chapman**



Department of Biological Sciences  
Division of Biochem. & Mol. Biol.  
University of North Texas  
Denton, TX 76203  
(940) 565-2969  
[chapman@unt.edu](mailto:chapman@unt.edu)

**Vice Chair: Kelly Major**



Department of Biological Sciences  
University of South Alabama  
Mobile, AL 36688  
(251) 460-7523  
[kmajor@southal.edu](mailto:kmajor@southal.edu)

**Sec.: Stephen Banks**



Department of Biological Sciences  
Louisiana State University at Shreveport  
One University Place  
Shreveport, LA 71115  
Phone: (318)-797-5220  
Fax: (318)-797-5222  
[sbanks@lsus.edu](mailto:sbanks@lsus.edu)

**Exec: Dalton Gossett**



Department of Biological Sciences  
Louisiana State University at Shreveport  
One University Place  
Shreveport, LA 71115  
(318) 797-5085  
[dgossett@pilot.lsus.edu](mailto:dgossett@pilot.lsus.edu)

**Exec: James Mahan**



USDA - Plant Stress and Water Conservation Laboratory  
3810 4th St  
Lubbock TX 79415 USA  
  
(806) 723-5221  
[jmahan@lwk.ars.usda.gov](mailto:jmahan@lwk.ars.usda.gov)

**Exec: Caryl Chlan**



Dept of Biology  
Univ. of SW Louisiana  
PO Box 42451  
Lafayette, LA 70504  
  
(337) 482-5916  
[cchlan@louisiana.edu](mailto:cchlan@louisiana.edu)

*The Southern Section Representative to ASPB remains Dr. Caryl Chlan, [cchlan@louisiana.edu](mailto:cchlan@louisiana.edu)*

*The Southern Section Historian is Dr. Joyce Foster, [joyce.foster@ars.usda.gov](mailto:joyce.foster@ars.usda.gov)*

*The Southern Section Web contact is Dr. Tim Sherman, [tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)*