

# SS-ASPB

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

Fall 2006



## 2007 Annual Meeting

*Call for Papers & registration*

## 2007 Symposium

*"Plant Oils for Enhanced Sustainability"*

## Nominees for offices and 2008 meeting site

*Get ready to vote*



## Letter from the Chair:



The 2007 meeting of the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists (SSASPB) will be held on March 3-5, 2007 in Mobile, Alabama. As chair of the SS-ASPb, I would like to take this opportunity to

invite you to the 2007 meeting. I would also like to take this opportunity to point out the value of attending the meetings of sectional scientific societies such as SSASPB. The larger national and international meetings provide excellent opportunities to hear about the most recent advances, but the size and pace of these meetings can be bewildering to young scientists and there may be little time to foster the scientific interactions that are so essential for the development of new scientists, research programs, and ideas.

On the other hand, sectional meetings provide an excellent opportunity for scientists to network with colleagues in their region. Graduate students can interact with their peers from other institutions, and undergraduate students can be introduced to the scientific community. While "standing room only" events may be commonplace at big meetings, symposia at sectional meetings are intimate and conducive to interactions between the speakers and the audience.

The SSASPB home page on the web (at [www.ss-aspb.org](http://www.ss-aspb.org)), features the phrase "to encourage and promote the growth of plant biology and the welfare and good fellowships of plant biologists generally". The SS-ASPb has always focused on nurturing interactions between all scientists, but we have particularly focused on fostering the development of young scientists. While our annual symposia bring top scientists to present their latest findings, our sectional

meeting has a single session format that showcases student and post-doctoral presentations. Throughout the sessions, breaks and banquets, symposium speakers are available in order that everyone has a chance to interact with them. This format along with the commitment of the members of the SSASPB to contribute to the growth of new scientists, and their willingness to share ideas and develop new collaborations provides a fertile environment for scientific discussion and growth.

I realize that time and travel funds are limited, but I encourage you to seriously consider attending the 2007 SSASPB annual meetings. The science is high quality and it is a good opportunity to develop new collaborations and to recruit future graduate students or postdoctoral associates. I look forward to seeing many of you in Mobil.

**Dalton Gossett**  
2006-2007 Chair

## 2007 Southern Section Meeting to be held Mar 3-5, 2007 in Mobile, AL

Schedule of events:

- Opening night mixer, Sat, Mar 3rd
- Oral and poster presentations\*, Sun, Mar 4th
- Banquet with Student Awards, Sun, Mar 4th
- Featured Symposium on Signaling Mechanisms in Plant Physiology, Mon, Mar 5th

\*The section pays registration and banquet fee for students who presenting a paper or poster as first author. Also, this year student presenters will have their lodging paid for!



Mobile has a metro-area population of 400,000 and is home to the University of South Alabama, fourth largest university in the state with a student population of about 13,000. Mobile itself was founded in 1702 as the original capital of the Louisiana Territory. The correct pronunciation of the city's name is "Mo-beel", given the soft emphasis on the second syllable by its French founders. It came from the Maubilla Indians. Mobile is the Azalea Capital of the World, thanks to Fifise Langlois who first brought the bright pink blossoms here from his father's garden in Toulouse, France in 1754. Blooms peak in late March. Mobile is also home to the original Mardi Gras in this country, instituted in 1704, sixty-two years before New Orleans adopted the celebration. Mobile Bay was the first body of water in the New World to be accurately charted. This was done by the Spanish explorer Pineda in 1519. Mobile is located at the intersection of I-65 and I-10. Four airlines (Continental, Delta, Northwest, U.S. Airways) service Mobile via the Mobile Regional Airport and offer non-stop jet service to Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Memphis, and Charlotte.

The actual site of our meeting will be on east end of Dauphin Island AL. This is about 34 miles south of Mobile on the Gulf Coast. The meeting will be hosted by Dauphin Island Sea Lab. They routinely host educational and scientific functions and should make for a good site for our meeting this year.

## The 2007 Kriton Hatzios Symposium will have the theme "Plant Oils for Enhanced Sustainability"

Kent Chapman has organized a great symposium this year. Invited speakers include:

**"Engineering Plant Oils as High Value Industrial Feedstocks for Biorefining"** Dr. John M. Dyer, Research Scientist, USDA-ARS-Southern Regional Research Center, New Orleans, LA

**"From Fields to Fuels: Developing a Biodiesel Industry in the USA"** Dr. Jack Brown, Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

**"Engineering Oilseed Plants to Produce Nutritional Fatty Acids"** Dr. Anthony J. Kinney, Research Leader, Pioneer Crop Genetics, DuPont Experimental Station, Wilmington, DE

*This symposium is generously sponsored by Delta and Pine Land Co.*

### Details about the meeting events

This location will allow for a different formatting for costs to attend the meeting than we've used in recent years. Because of the location, this year we will be able to stay in the dorms that they have on the DISL campus. As a result of this type of housing and the reduced cost for facilities, the cost of attendance will be dramatically lower than that of recent meetings. **There will be single charge of \$100 to attend the meeting.** This will cover the costs of registration, housing, the mixer, the banquet, and breaks. Students who are presenting (as first authors) will have costs of attendance covered by the section. Registration information and call for papers is post on our web site ([www.ss-aspb.org/meetings.html](http://www.ss-aspb.org/meetings.html)).

### Field trip?

We can take a field trip to Bellingrath Gardens on Saturday afternoon. This nationally famous 65 acre garden estate has something bloom throughout the year. At the time of our meetings we will be in the overlap between the camellias of the winter and the azaleas of the spring. With acidic soil and plenty of rainfall, Mobile has ideal growing conditions for azaleas. They should be at the onset of their bloom in early March. Even if we are a bit early for them, there will also be countless other things in bloom.



Have a look at the gardens website. <http://www.bellingrath.org>

If there is enough interest, we will coordinate a trip to the garden. Please either contact Tim Sherman ([tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)) directly or go to our website and click the button on our meetings page to indicate you would like to attend. There will be a \$10 admission charge that can be paid at the entrance to the garden.

**NOMINEES FOR THE SS-ASPB OFFICERS AND 2008 MEETING SITE****Candidates for the Position of Secretary/Treasurer**

We have two excellent candidates for the position of Secretary / Treasurer. You will be receiving an email with the URL for the electronic ballot very soon. Please read the following descriptions, and remember to vote for the candidate of your choice.

**Stephen Banks (LSU - Shreveport)**

Steve Banks graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science with Honors in Plant Biology from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K in 1976. He received his Master of Science degree from the University of Reading U.K. in 1977 and completed his Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Science at the University of Nottingham, U.K in 1982. His thesis revealed the biosynthetic pathway to the 6a-hydroxypterocarpan phytoalexins synthesized in pea plants and soybeans. The major professor for his doctoral work was Dr. Paul M. Dewick and the external examiner was the late Professor Jeffrey B. Harborne FRS. Following post-doctoral work in fungal pathology at the University of Kentucky and on the *Agrobacterium* system at the University of Toledo, OH, he was appointed to the faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences at the Louisiana State University, Shreveport in 1992. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1997 and Professor in 2002. Since 1992 Dr. Banks has been a member of the LSUS Cotton Stress Physiology Research Team led by Dr. Dalton R. Gossett. Funded by the Louisiana Board of Regents Industrial Ties Program, this team has worked for the last fourteen years on the physiology and biochemistry of the salt-induced oxidative stress response in cotton. The team has involved numerous undergraduate students in their research, graduated fifteen students with their masters degrees and published ten papers in refereed journals. Dr. Banks has taught twenty six different courses at the undergraduate and graduate level at LSUS, and is the faculty advisor for Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa.

**Dr. Paxton Payton (USDA/ARS Lubbock TX)**

My current position is at the USDA Cropping Systems Research Lab in Lubbock, Texas. I am also a member of the graduate faculty in the departments of Biology and Plant and Soil Sciences at Texas Tech University. My current research involves physiological and molecular responses to abiotic stress. This work primarily involves responses to water-deficit stress in cotton and peanut and the effects of water-deficit on fruit maturity and yield. I hold a B.A. in Biology from The University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in Biology from Texas Tech University. I worked on ethylene signal transduction and tomato fruit ripening as a post-doctoral researcher for James Giovannoni at Texas A&M University and later, the Boyce Thompson Institute at Cornell University.

**Candidates for other Officers' Positions****Candidate for Chair of SS-ASPB**

**Dr. Kent Chapman** (current Vice-Chair)

**Candidate for Vice-Chair**

**Dr. Kelly Major** (current Secretary / Treasurer)

**Candidate for Southern Section Executive Committee**

**Dr. Dalton Gossett** (current Chair)

**Site Choices for the 2008 Meetings:****Shreveport, LA**

Shreveport Louisiana is centrally located in the southern states. It is well served by the following airlines, Delta, Continental, Northwest AirlinK, American Eagle, American Connection, ASA and Continental Express. By road, Shreveport is on Interstate 20 (East-West) and Interstate 49 (North-South). Shreveport has a downtown area containing casino's which are on boats on the Red River, night clubs and numerous other attractions.

Local coordinator: Dalton Gossett - LSU Shreveport

**Lubbock, TX**

Way out west (at least for the SSASPB). Lubbock with a population of 200,000, is the center of commerce and education for the Southern High Plains of Texas. Lubbock is the home of Texas Tech University with approximately 30,000 students. Culturally diverse with both country and western music, Lubbock is also the home of Buddy Holly and Prairie Dog Town. The Preston Smith International Airport in Lubbock is serviced by Southwest, Continental and American airlines. Drive times from other major cities vary from 5 hours (Dallas), 6 hours (Austin/San Antonio/ El Paso to 9 hours (Houston). Weather in the Spring could vary from snowy to balmy, but almost always sunny.

Local coordinator: Dennis Gitz - USDA/ARS Lubbock, TX

**MEETING REGISTRATION FORM**  
**FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF**  
**PLANT BIOLOGIST (SS-ASPB)**

The Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologist will be held at the Mobile, AL at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab during March 3-5, 2007. Mobile is the home of University of South Alabama. This year's local coordinator is: Dr. Tim Sherman.

Please print or type. Complete a separate form for each participant.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you are a student and will attend 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 of fax before February 16, 2005.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 per person – [includes meetings on Sunday and Monday, Saturday's mixer (with tickets for two drinks), Sunday's Banquet, refreshment breaks, and dorm room housing]

\_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Check here if you are presenting a paper in one of the student competitions your registration fee will be waived.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$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 of banquet? Guest Fees:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 per person – Saturday Mixer (includes 2 drinks)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 per person – Sunday Banquet

Spouse or Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Amount Enclosed**

**Make Check Payable to SS-ASPB**

Mail Checks to: Dr. Kelly Major  
 SS-ASPB Secretary/Treasurer  
 Univ. Of South Alabama  
 307 University Blvd. N., LSCB 124  
 Mobile, AL 36688

## PAPER TITLE SUBMISSION FORM

**Completed forms should arrive no later than January 15, 2007.** Dues (\$5.00) must be current through 2007 in order to present a paper at the meeting. This requirement also holds for students participating in the "Best Graduate Student Presentation" or the "Aubrey Naylor Best Undergraduate Student Presentation" 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\*: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate Student Competition\* Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Key Words (subject area) \_\_\_\_\_

Projector equipment required: Power Point Projector \_\_\_\_\_ 35 mm Slides \_\_\_\_\_ Overheads \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Presentation:

\_\_\_\_\_

Author(s) (give full names):

\_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation(s) Address(es):

\_\_\_\_\_

Name, Phone Number, and e-mail of Presenting Author:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail abstracts for students in the competitions to:

Dr. Kelly Major  
 SS-ASPB Secretary/Treasurer  
 Univ. Of South Alabama  
 307 University Blvd. N., LSCB 124  
 Mobile, AL 36688

\*Abstracts must be received by deadline for competition.

## 2006-2007 SS-ASPB OFFICERS

**Chair**

**Dr. Dalton R. Gossett**  
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**Vice-Chair**

**Dr. Kent Chapman**  
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**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Dr. Kelly Major**  
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**Executive Committee Members**

**Dr. Caryl Chlan**  
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**Dr. Tim Sherman**  
[tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:tsherman@jaguar1.usouthal.edu)  
**Dr. James Mahan**  
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**Southern Section Representative to ASPB**

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**Southern Section Historian**

**Dr. Joyce Foster:**  
[joyce.foster@ars.usda.gov](mailto:joyce.foster@ars.usda.gov)