

J U N E 2 0 1 2

SS-ASPB

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



*From Becca Dickstein, Chair,
SS-ASPB 2011-12*



Dear SS-ASPB Members,

Elections for new SS-ASPB Officers will be held from Aug 15th to 30th. As you will be able to see when you vote, candidates for all posts are running unopposed, although there is an opportunity for you to write-in a candidate, if you choose. The candidates are Rick Turley, who is running for Secretary/Treasurer, Ashlee McCaskill who is running for Vice-Chair and Jay Shockey who is running for Chair, all for the 2013-2014 term.

Serving as an officer is important. As an officer, one has the opportunity to foster research and scholarship and its presentation to the plant science community. Our annual meetings provide a venue for undergraduate and graduate students, post-docs, faculty and plant scientists both in academia and industry to exchange new ideas and innovations. The annual meetings also provide a sense of community, even though our society is so diverse and geographically large, stretching from Virginia to Florida to Oklahoma to South Texas.

If you are interested in serving as an officer, please let me or one of the other officers or board members know. You can find our names and

contact information through the SS-ASPB website, at <http://www.ss-aspb.org/>. Although there is some effort involved, especially in the months leading up to the annual meeting, it is gratifying to come to the annual meeting and interact with the students, faculty, and scientists in industry, learn how each of us is impacting our world, and know your role in making it happen.

Also, if you want an SS-ASPB meeting to come to a venue close to you and are interested in serving as a local host for a future annual meeting, please let one of us know. Our goals are to move the annual meetings from one part of our geographic area to another so that everyone within our Southern Section will have a meeting close to them every second to fourth year. Local hosts interact with the officers and board members to arrange annual meetings.

It's been a pleasure serving as Chair of the Southern Section. I'm turning over the reins to Paul Stephenson as incoming Chair – I know the section will be in good hands!

Cheers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Becca Dickstein".

Report from ASPB Executive Committee and Membership Committee Meetings.

by Dr. Kent Chapman, Southern Section Representative to ASPB

The Executive Committee of the ASPB met at ASPB headquarters in Rockville, MD on Saturday, March 10, 2012, and the Membership Subcommittee met Sunday March 11, 2012. Kent Chapman, serving as Representative from the Southern Section of the ASPB, attended both meetings. Topics of interest include the approval of a recommendation from the Membership Committee to adopt a list of "Rights and Responsibilities between ASPB and its Sections". A document had been circulated and discussed in detail at the SS-ASPB meeting in Myrtle Beach. The document more formally clarifies the relationships and responsibilities between the parent society and its member sections and provides for a formal mechanism to receive financial support from ASPB to hold sectional meetings. The draft document is undergoing minor edits and will likely be finalized at the Executive Committee Meeting on July 19, 2012. SS-ASPB has been proactive in enhancing communication with the ASPB and submitted a report of the SS-ASPB meeting held in Myrtle Beach for inclusion in the ASPB Newsletter, along with providing a formal request for funding and financial report of activities for the meeting in 2012.

Julia Bailey-Seres (Chair of the Program Committee) indicated that plans are being finalized by the program committee for Plant Biology 2012. Members in the Southern Section please make note that Plant Biology 2012 will be held in Austin, TX from July 20-24, 2012, and we encourage your participation. Several workshops are scheduled and will be organized by subcommittees of the ASPB Executive Committee including a "mentorship" workshop by the Women-in Plant-Biology subcommittee, and a "Careers" workshop by the Membership subcommittee. Please consult the Plant Biology 2012 website for more information on this exciting upcoming meeting and potential networking opportunities-- http://my.aspb.org/events/event_details.asp?alias=PlantBiology2012.

Sally MacKenzie, chair of the publications subcommittee, announced that a new Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Michael Blatt, was appointed for Plant Physiology. Blatt is the Regius Professor of Botany and Head of Plant Sciences within the Institute of Molecular, Cell, and Systems Biology at the University of Glasgow. He is a Guggenheim fellow; a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's national academy of sciences; and a fellow of the James Hutton Institute. Please see the press release at <http://my.aspb.org/blogpost/700954/136661/Plant-Physiology-Names-Michael-Blatt-as-Next-Editor?hhSearchTerms=plant+and+physiology+and+editor&terms=> .

Please remember to encourage your colleagues and students to join or renew their memberships with ASPB. Check out the special discounts for student members and the "give your students" roots programs at http://my.aspb.org/?page=M_Index. Membership is important to a healthy professional organization and ASPB has hired a consulting firm to assess and make recommendations for increasing membership. You may have been solicited to participate in a survey by McKinley advisors and this is the first stage of their efforts to help ASPB be as responsive and effective as possible to its membership. ASPB encourages you to respond so that all perspectives are represented in the membership survey.

The Membership Committee reminds you to consider nominating students that would be interested in serving as Ambassadors. The program is explained in detail for this important student liaison role to our parent society. http://my.aspb.org/?page=Member_Ambassador.

Election for next year's officers

Each year we fill four positions on our executive committee and vote for the site of our next year's annual meeting. This year we will also be electing a new sectional rep to ASPB.

The candidates...

Our executive committee nominates a candidate for each position from within the current executive committee. This allows for continuity in these important offices. You can vote for the person that we have nominated or for a write-in candidate of your choice.

For 2013-2014 we are nominating:

- **Dr. Paul Stephenson** to our Executive committee
- **Dr. Jay Shockey** to Chair
- **Dr. Ashlee McCaskill** to Vice Chair

For the position Secretary-Treasurer, we recruit volunteers from the membership at large to serve.

The candidate for Secretary-Treasurer is:

- **Dr. Rick Turley**, USDA-ARS, Stoneville, MS

Dr. Rick Turley



Rick Turley received his B.S. degree in botany with a minor in chemistry from Brigham Young University in 1983. He spent the next two years at Michigan State University studying the biochemistry of plant peroxisomes with Dr. Ed Tolbert. In 1985, he transferred to Dr. Richard Trelease's lab at Arizona State University and investigated the biogenesis of specialized oilseed peroxisomes, called glyoxysomes, with a focus on the enzymes malate synthase and isocitrate lyase.

Rick completed his Ph.D. in 1990 then accepted a position as a Research Physiologist in the Cotton Physiology and Genetics Research Unit (now the Crop Genetics Research Unit) at the USDA-ARS in Stoneville, MS. His primary research interest is focused on understanding the development of cottonseed fibers (trichomes) with an emphasis on fiber initiation. Rick has characterized the genotypes of three different lines of fiberless cotton determining the number of loci in each responsible for fiber initiation. He also evaluated differences in the protein profiles and cell wall complex carbohydrates epitopes during the initiation phase in fiberless and wild-type cottons, and developed the experimental line MD 17, the fifth fiberless seed line reported in the literature. Recently, Rick has established a genetic linkage between the initiation of cotton leaf and cottonseed trichomes. His work is expanding to characterize fuzzless and fiberless diploid mutants. Dr. Turley has provided numerous groups with cotton fiber mutants and is presently collaborating with different groups on mapping and elucidating the transcription factors involved. Dr. Turley has served as an adjunct professor in the Biology Department of Delta State University, Cleveland, MS, and as Assistant Editor of the Journal of Cotton Science. He has been a member of ASPB since 1986.

Site Selection for the 2014 annual meeting



Lexington, KY

It's pretty easy to see why Lexington is a great college town. Nestled in the heart of Kentucky's Bluegrass Region, Lexington has the amenities of bustling city, wrapped in small-town charm and surrounded by rolling hills and beautiful horse farms. Lexington is home to more than 280,000 residents and is also within a day's drive of two-thirds of the country's population, making it an ideal location that's not too far away from anywhere. Blue Grass Airport is serviced by seven major airlines providing 14 non-stop destinations and offering over 86 flights daily, and the city offers a wide range of hotel accommodations to meet all your needs.

The University of Kentucky campus with over 22,000 students is just minutes away from downtown Lexington, where you'll find a variety of restaurants and local eateries specializing in everything from Southern-style home cooking to sushi and all cuisines in-between. The real stars of Lexington, though, are the Kentucky Thoroughbred horses. There's a reason Lexington is known as the horse capital of the world. In 2010, we hosted the World Equestrian Games, and each October and April live racing season at Keeneland Race Course is a favorite pastime for everyone. And if time permits, you can always explore the art and science behind our proud traditions along the Kentucky Bourdon trail, where for more than 200 years legendary distilleries have been crafting the world's finest Bourbon.

Local Host: Dr. Joseph Chappell



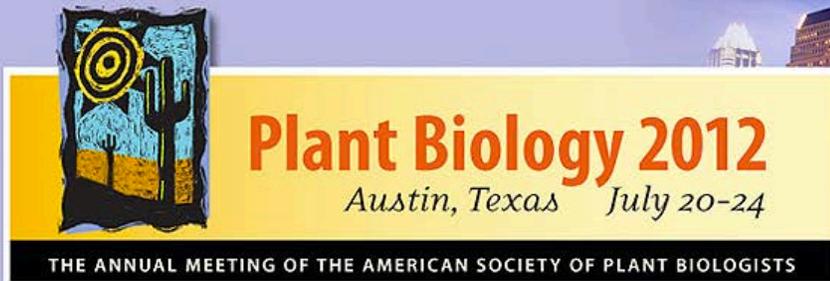
photo by Marsha Wilson



All current members of SS-ASPB can vote for officers and the upcoming meeting site. The voting will be Aug. 15th- Aug 30th. You will receive email instructions that will allow you to vote online.

Our next year's meeting will be held in Little Rock, AR during April 6th- 8th, 2013. Be sure to put the dates on your calendar.

We hope to see you then!



Remember, there's still time to register for the national meeting, which will be held in our region this year

This year's national ASPB meetings are in Austin, TX. (<http://austin2012.aspb.org>)

Symposia planned for this year include...

- *Metabolism and Metabolic Networks, Chair: Mark Stitt*
- *Abiotic Stress: From Sensing to Survival, Chair: Julia Bailey-Serres*
- *Martin Gibbs Medal Symposia: Clock Biology, Chair: Steve Kay*
- *Translational Biology, Chair: Roger Beachy*
- *President's Symposia: Post-translational Modifications Key to Signaling and Metabolism, Chair: Steve Huber*

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