



The SS-ASPB

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

February 2023

TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE THE GROWTH OF AND THE WELFARE AND GOOD FELLOWSHIPS OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS GENERALLY...

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Greetings from Dr. Colleen Doherty 2023-2024 SS-ASPB Chair



Dear SS-ASPB Community Members,

Happy New Year! I hope your 2024 is off to a great start, and if it isn't, you have the worst of the year behind you already.

It's time to register for the meeting!
(Early Bird Deadline March 1)

**Registration is managed through ASPB
you can find registration details and
how to submit an abstract on the
Southern Section's website: <https://southern.aspb.org/>**



This year's meeting will be at the beautiful Dauphin Island Sea Lab. There are plans for some great food from the region - including a low country boil- and, of course, exciting science.

We have decided to try a different format for the meeting this year, starting with an opening session of talks and a mixer on Friday night, March 22, and ending the meeting on Sunday. The decision was made to try a Friday-to-Sunday meeting instead of a Saturday-to-Monday to reduce the conflicts with class schedules. We hope this change will allow more undergraduates and people with teaching obligations to attend. Even if you can't make this year's meeting, if you have an opinion on what schedule works best to enable you to attend the meeting more often, we'd love to hear it (e-mail me cjdohert@ncsu.edu or one of the officers see page 4).

The Dauphin Island Sea lab offers a great opportunity to connect with other researchers while in an amazing environment. If you arrive early or are looking for something to do on Sunday afternoon (besides the beach and great food) Bellingrath Gardens in Mobile is a beautiful place to visit in the spring.



SS-ASPB 2024 Dauphin Island, AL

The 2024 SS-ASPB Meeting will take place at Dauphin Island, AL. Specific details on talk and poster times will be posted on the website after the abstract submission deadline. The tentative schedule is as follows:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

March 22nd

4:00pm-8:00pm: registration (Atrium)
5:30pm-7:00pm: opening session (Main Hall)
7:30pm-9:00pm: welcome mixer (Main Hall)

March 23rd

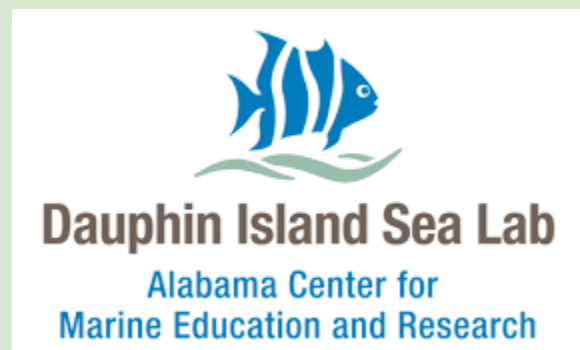
7:30am-9:00am: Continental Breakfast in the Cafeteria
8:00am-4:00pm: Registration (atrium)
8:30am-10:00am: Opening announcements and session 1 (Main Hall)
10:00am-10:30am: Coffee break #1
10:30am-12:00pm: Concurrent session 1 (Main Hall and classroom)
12:00pm-1:00pm: box lunch (Atrium)
1:00pm-2:30pm: Concurrent session #2 (Main Hall and classroom)
2:30pm-3:00pm: Coffee break #2
3:00pm – 4:30pm: Concurrent session #3 (Main Hall and classroom)
5:00pm-6:30pm: Undergraduate poster session
7:00pm – 8:30pm: Low country boil and awards

March 24th

7:30am-9:00am: Continental Breakfast in the Cafeteria
9:00am: Announcements
9:15-Noon: Symposium (w/coffee break)
12pm-1pm: box lunch (Atrium)
12:30pm- business meeting

Currently, the dorms at Dauphin Island Sea Lab are unfortunately under renovation and will not be ready by the time of our meeting. Several nearby hotels have been identified and you can check them out on the meeting webpage. <https://southern.aspb.org/2024-annual-meeting/>

March 22-24 2024
Dauphin Island Sea Lab
101 Bienville Blvd
Dauphin Island, AL 36528



2024 Kriton Hatzios Symposium: Plant Stress Response

This year's Kriton Hatzios Symposium will be on Sunday, March 24, with three outstanding experts in plant stress responses.



Katayoon (Katie) Dehesh, University of California Riverside, seeks to understand how plants respond to environmental stimuli by looking at intracellular communication networks, specifically connections between the chloroplast and the nucleus. The chloroplast, as a metabolic hub of the cell, signals back to the nucleus through a retrograde pathway. The Dehesh lab has elucidated many components and regulatory features of this retrograde pathway.

Jose Dinneny, Stanford University, studies how plants interact with water. His lab examines how plants evolved strategies to deal with limiting water, Earth's most precious resource. Using comparative analysis, his lab investigates how different plants respond to water limitations and how the plants' structure impacts their interaction with water. From these findings, he develops synthetic tools to improve plant growth in limiting water environments.

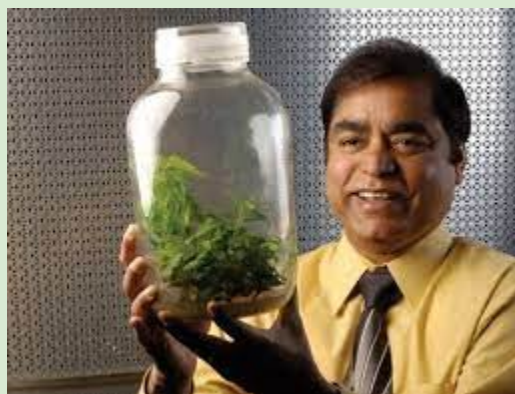


Gloria Muday, Wake Forest University, researches how hormones mediate plant responses to stress. Her lab examines how the hormones auxin and ethylene work together to alter root development and morphology in response to stress. Her lab utilizes transcriptomic approaches to identify the regulatory network controlling stress-responsive root development. In addition, her lab also examines the connections between flavonols and stress responses through reactive oxygen signaling. They are investigating the tight balance between the role of reactive oxygen species as a signaling mechanism at low levels and damage-causing agents at high levels and how flavonols control this balance.

Henry Daniell International Scholar Award

We are thrilled to announce the return of the Henry Daniell International Scholar Award, generously supported by Dr. Henry Daniell himself. This prestigious award recognizes exceptional international plant biology researchers at the graduate and postdoctoral levels, based on their scientific merit.

Dr. Daniell, a renowned plant biologist on the global stage, is the visionary behind this award. His pioneering work in chloroplast genetic engineering paved the way for innovative treatments for metabolic and genetic disorders through oral delivery of biopharmaceuticals.



Nominations:

A nomination (self-nomination is accepted) of a graduate student or postdoc should include the following items: 1-2 page letter of nomination in which are listed the nominee's qualifications. A curriculum vitae or resume, or a short description of the nominee that includes information such as education, positions held, accomplishments, previous honors or awards, past service to the profession, and a list of key publications/patents where appropriate.

Eligibility:

To earn this award, nominees must meet the following criteria: Be born outside the United States and a non-US permanent resident. Maintain membership in the SS-ASPB. Be affiliated with a state within the SS-ASPB service area. No more than five years as a graduate student or postdoc.

Recognition:

Award recipients will be recognized annually during the section's meeting and will receive the following: A commemorative award certificate. \$300 check. Acknowledgment on the Section's website, meeting booklet, and newsletter. An annual meeting ribbon. **Deadline:** All nominations must be submitted electronically. Please submit your nomination **as a single PDF file to apalmer@fit.edu.**

Remembering Southern Section Member: Otto John Schwarz

Please join us in remembering Dr. Otto John Schwarz, a dedicated member of the Southern Section of the American Society of Plant Biologists who passed away last April. Dr. Schwarz was a professor at the University of Tennessee, where he earned tenure and became a director of the Division of Biology. He studied plant biology and biochemistry at the University of Florida and got his doctoral degree from North Carolina State University in the lab of Roger C. Fites. He completed his post-doctoral work with Al H. Haber in the Biology Division at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and then joined the Botany Department at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus. His research spanned studies from peanuts to trees to ferns, working on both basic and applied science. His work that examined how plants accumulate and respond to exogenous molecules, including xenobiotics and herbicides, laid the groundwork for many diverse areas of research including root development and morphology and environmental stress responses. In his 34 years at UT he mentored many undergraduates and graduate students, and fostered campus-wide collaboration with a broad range of colleagues.



SS-ASPB OFFICERS 2023-2024

Chair	Colleen Doherty	North Carolina State University
Vice-chair	Aaron Rashotte	Auburn University
Secretary	Andrew Palmer	Florida Institute of Technology
Treasurer	Jay Shockey	USDA-ARS

Executive Committee

Ashlee McCaskill	University of North Georgia
Aruna Kilaru *Representative to ASPB Council & Membership Committees	East Tennessee State University
Mustafa Morsy	University of West Alabama
Nihal Dharmasiri	Texas State University

Financial Oversight Committee

Ken L. Korth	University of Arkansas
Nihal Dharmasiri	Texas State University

If you are interested in serving on an SS-ASPB Committee or know someone who would be great, please let us know. Nominations will be in Fall 2025.