



The SS-ASPB

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

September 2024

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

Inside This Issue:	
<i>Greetings from the Chair</i>	
<i>SS-ASPB 2025</i>	2
<i>2024 Award Winners</i>	3/4
<i>Community Announcements</i>	5
<i>SS-ASPB Officer Listing</i>	5

Greetings from Dr. 2024-2025 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 Hope that you are all starting to settle into the Fall Semester. I am still waiting for the temperatures to drop to enjoyable levels, but it does feel that we have turned the corner and the worst of the Summer heat is over. It was great to see many of you again at our annual meeting last Spring at Dauphin Island, AL, where there were great presentations of posters and



talks at every level from Undergraduates to Professors. Our three Kriton Hatzios symposium speakers were engaged with members throughout the meeting, which is what we always want and really gave excellent talks. Of course I might be a bit biased on that, since I did select the speakers. One of the big highlights was the Saturday evening community dinner as a low country boil of crawfish, sausage, potatoes, corn, and of course the spicy seasoning. Thanks once again to Tim Sherman for helping us pull off this wonderful dinner and many other aspects of the Dauphin Island Meeting!



Believe it or not we are already working on the planning of next year's (2025) annual SS-ASPB meeting, that will be Raleigh, NC to make it even better. **Please Save the Date of March 28-30** as we want to see you there. The flyer for this is up at our website <https://southern.aspb.org/> and we will continue to post new information there as it becomes available.

The 2025 SS-ASPB Meeting will take place at NC State University, Raleigh, NC.
Details about Registration, Abstract submissions, and Hotels will be posted on the website
<https://southern.aspb.org>

HIGH LEVEL TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

March 28th

5:30pm-9:00pm: Opening session & Welcome Mixer

March 29th

8:30am-6:30 pm: Main Sessions, Concurrent Sessions, Undergraduate and Graduate Poster Sessions

7:00pm Dinner

March 24th

8:30am- 12:00 pm: Main Sessions



Save the date

@Duke Energy Hall
NCSU Centennial Campus
James B Hunt Jr Library

**SS-ASPB Meeting
March 28-30, 2025
Raleigh, NC**

The 85th annual Southern Section ASPB meeting was held March 22-24th at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama. Over the course of that Saturday (March 23rd), a total of 49 students from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas presented their research at the event. Graduate students (26) primarily gave talks throughout the day, while undergraduates (23) presented their research during a particularly busy poster session. A special thanks to the 14 faculty and postdocs who worked together to determine this year's winners for best presentations. In addition to presentation awards, 4 participants received travel awards to help offset costs to attend the event. Thanks to his continuing contribution, we were also able to present the Henry Daniell award to a deserving international graduate student. We'll see everyone at ssASPB 2025! Awardees shown here alongside Section Chair Colleen Doherty (left), Section Secretary Andrew Palmer (right, black top) or lead undergraduate poster session judge and incoming ssASPB Secretary Amanda Storm (right, teal top).

Cotton Inc. Graduate Oral Presentation Award Winners

1st Place: TIE!

Malsha Thennakoon,
Auburn University
Risheek Khanna,
Auburn University



2nd Place: Samuel Hoggard, University of Central Arkansas

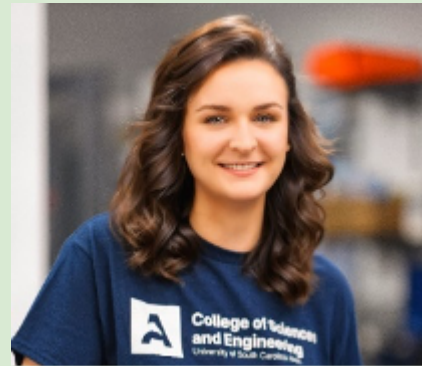
3rd Place: Sergio Solano,
Florida Institute of Technology



Community Announcements

Cotton Inc. Undergraduate Poster Presentation Award Winners

1st Place: Madison Zimmerman,
University of South Carolina - Aiken



2nd Place: TIE!

Morgan E. Wynn, Valdosta State University

Megan Collins, University of South Carolina, Aiken (Pictured Below)

3rd Place: TIE!!

Kara Smoak & Aiden Kelly, Florida Institute of Technology

Kaili Renken, University of South Carolina, Aiken (Pictured Below)



The Hancock Lab Winners,
Madison, Megan, and Kaili

Kentucky Climate Symposium September 26, 2024

Registration is now open!

The Inaugural Kentucky Climate Symposium will be held on September 26, 2024, at the University of Kentucky Gatton Student Center in Lexington, Kentucky. The day-long symposium brings together students and experts from higher education, government, industry, media, and communities to share information and resources on climate change. The Symposium features moderated panel conversations, networking opportunities, and a student art competition. Attendees will join a multisector, interdisciplinary, statewide community that emphasizes climate change solutions.

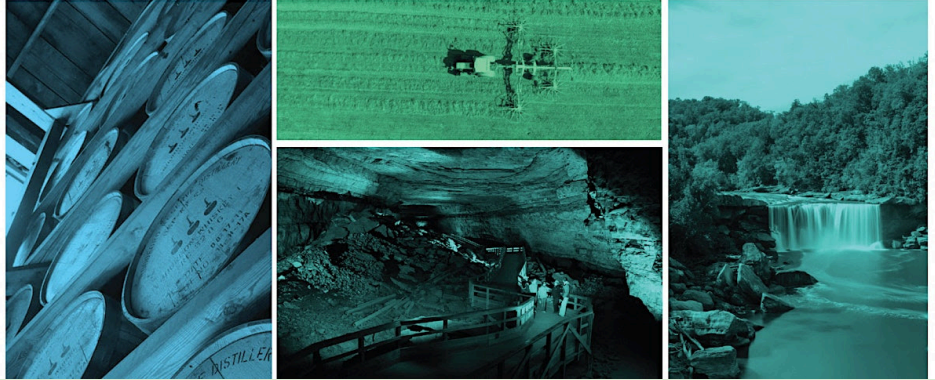
Conference registration fees are kept low with the generous support of our sponsors, and include free registration for students and no-questions-asked fee waivers for any attendees.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your registration, please contact Gail Wallace with the Kentucky Climate Consortium (gailwallace@uky.edu).

Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kentucky-climate-symposium-tickets-974264821307?aff=oddtcreator>

CLIMATE IS A KENTUCKY PROBLEM. KENTUCKIANS ARE THE SOLUTION.



KIETS Climate Leaders Fall Symposium

Our 2024 symposium will highlight climate mitigation and adaptation solutions. Join us for engaging speakers, panel discussions, poster presentations, showcase of innovations and networking opportunities.

There is no cost to attend this symposium.

Location: Hunt Library NC State University Raleigh, NC

More Information: <https://climateleaders.kenan.ncsu.edu/symposium/>

Botanical Society of America Virtual Climate Summit



Plant Resilience and Conservation for a Changing Climate

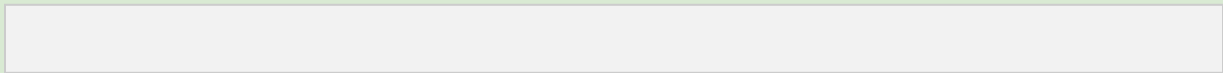
BSA Virtual Climate Symposium
November 14-15, 2024, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET

November 14-15

Abstract Submission September 15th

More Information:

<https://climatesymposium.botany.org/plant-resilience-and-conservation-for-a-changing-climate>



Chair	Aaron Rashotte	Auburn University
Vice-chair	Andrew Palmer	Florida Institute of Technology
Secretary	Amanda Storm	Western Carolina Univeristy
Treasurer	Ana Alonso	University of North Texas

Executive Committee

Ashlee McCaskill	University of North Georgia
Aruna Kilaru *Representative to ASPB Council & Membership Committees	East Tennessee State University
Colleen Doherty	North Carolina State University
Nihal Dharmasiri	Texas State University

Financial Oversight Committee

Nihal Dharmasiri	Texas State University
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If you are interested in serving on an SS-ASPB Committee or know someone who would be great, please let us know. Now Welcoming Nominations.