

Technical Sessions[©]

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MONDAY MORNING, 15 October, 2012

The 37th Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America convened at 7:45 am at the Hotel at Auburn University and Conference Center, Auburn, Alabama, with President Bob Black presiding.

PRESIDENT BOB BLACK

President Black welcomed everyone to Auburn, Alabama, for the 37th Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America. He thanked Local Site Committee Chair, Glenn Fain, and Co-Chairs Anna-Marie Murphy, Charles Gilliam, Jeff Sibley, Bill Cook, Bob Moore, Guy Hood, Greg Young, John Olive, Brian Brown, Heath Hoffman, Carolyn Robinson and their committee and volunteers for the long hours in arranging the excellent tours, hotel, other planning activities and all their attention to detail. He welcomed the first time attendees and new members, asking them to stand and be recognized. Black thanked the Executive Committee, and Buddy Lee's Sponsorship Committee, which raised \$32,300 in cash sponsorships; this was outstanding with the challenging economic times. He asked sponsors to please stand and be recognized for their support. Black encouraged the membership to visit and show their support of our sponsors during the meeting. He encouraged all members to make new members and first-time attendees feel welcome – share with them and seek from them. He invited the group to join the new members' reception to be held during the evening before the banquet and auction. Last year we raised \$6600 at the plant auction – and he encouraged everyone to help set a new level of contributions to help support students and the annual meeting. He praised John Olive, the Plant Auction Committee Chair, and Ethan Guthrie for all of their hard work. He encouraged good questions and enthusiastic participation at the Tuesday night question box. He requested members to fill out the membership questionnaire to help improve the IPPS-SRNA. Black announced that the Executive Committee approved our participation with the Great Britain & Ireland in the *Young Propagator Exchange* program between the two regions, which will start next year in Athens, Georgia. Black also thanked Program Chair and 1st Vice-President, Tom Saunders, for the excellent program and slate of speakers he assembled.

PROGRAM CHAIR TOM SAUNDERS

Program Chair Tom Saunders welcomed all members, guests and students. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve them, and then reviewed the scheduled program. There are moderators from six different states to go with the excellent group of speakers. The Question Box, scheduled for Tuesday evening, was to be co-chaired by Dr. Cheryl Boyer and Blake Jones. He then introduced the first moderator, Dr. Amy Wright.

