

## Technical Sessions of International Plant Propagators' Society- Southern Region of North America Annual Meeting

Elliott Hallum

Mountain Creek Nursery, 941 Scenic Hills Drive, McMinnville, TN 37110, USA

[ehallum@gmail.com](mailto:ehallum@gmail.com)

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### SUMMARY

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America (SRNA) convened at 7:30 am on 14 October 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with President Elliott Hallum presiding.

### PRESIDENT ELLIOTT HALLUM

President Hallum welcomed everyone to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the SRNA. He thanked Local Site Committee Chair, Allen Owings and his committee and volunteers for the long hours in arranging the excellent tours, hotel, other planning activities and all their attention to detail. There are 230 registered for this conference, which is great!

He welcomed students, first time attendees and new members, asking them to stand and be recognized. Hallum thanked the Executive Committee, and Bobby Green's Sponsorship Committee, which raised

\$50,650 in cash and \$10,000 in-kind sponsorships; this was outstanding! Hallum 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 called for good questions and enthusiastic participation at the Tuesday night question box.

Hallum announced that the SRNA is in its third year of the Southern Region Educational Endowment, which will be discussed in greater detail later in the meeting. With a base donation of \$20,000 from an anonymous donor. The Education Endowment balance is now \$70,057 – and growing. It will greatly enhance our region's ability to support students and early career professionals – and ensure continued quality of the outstanding educational programs our region is known for. He thanked Kevin Gantt for leading the endowment. Charlie Parkerson challenged

the membership to match his \$4400 (\$100 for each year he has been at a SR-IPPS meeting) for the Endowment. Hallum encouraged attendees to contribute to the challenge – and move the Endowment forward.

Hallum announced that this is the seventh year the SRNA has participated with the European Region in the Early-Career Propagator Exchange program between the two regions. He recognized Vicki Enderby from the European Region, who was hosted by Christine Coker and Patricia Knight of the SRNA. Shea Keene of the SRNA was our designee to the European Region. Both of these early-career professionals had an incredible exchange experience in our respective regions.

This is the eighth year for the Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program (Vivian Munday Scholarship). We currently have four young professionals: Yongjun Yue (University of Georgia), Julia Rycyna (University of Florida), Gabriel Campbell (University of Florida) and Jordan Baylor (University of Georgia) - who are making a strong contribution to this year's program.

Hallum recognized the new members and asked them to come forward to be recognized. Hallum thanked Program Chair and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Brie Arthur, for the excellent program and slate of speakers she assembled (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** President Elliott Hallum (right) with Brie Arthur (left), Program Chair of the 2019 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 44th annual conference.

#### **PROGRAM CHAIR BRIE ARTHUR**

Program Chair Brie Arthur welcomed all members, guests and students. She thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve them, and then reviewed the scheduled program. The Question Box, scheduled for Tuesday evening, was to be moderated by Drs. Judson LeCompte and Sandy Wilson. She then introduced the first moderator, Siddhi Jadhav from Greenleaf Nursery.