President Kevin Gantt called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. Gantt gave the invocation.

**Necrology Report.** Elliott Hallum reported that during the last year there were no SR-IPPS members who passed away. He acknowledged the passing of Fred Cobb and Johnny Wight. Though not a member, Johnny Wight was instrumental in helping to establish the SR-IPPS. President Gantt then asked the membership to bow their heads in a moment of silence.

**Minutes of 2015 Annual Business Meetings.** Editor Fred Davies presented the minutes of the annual business meeting of October 26, 2016 at the Westin, Virginia Beach Town Center, Virginia Beach, VA. Davies remarked that the minutes were sent to the general membership by Sec-Tres Foster via email, so members could come more prepared to the annual business meeting. A motion was made by Don Covan and seconded by Elliot Hallum to accept the minutes, which was unanimously approved. President Gantt thanked Davies for his report.

**Treasurer’s Report.** Secretary-Treasurer Donna Foster thanked local site chair, Benjamin Berry and his committee for the excellent venue, meeting and tours. She thanked the “4-pack” students [Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work program]: Alexis Anthony (Clemson), Connor Ryan (University of Georgia), Carlee Steppe (University of Florida) and Madison Hindsley (North Carolina State University) – who had an awesome experience and were incredibly helpful for Local Site Chair, Benjamin Berry, and Sec-Tres, Foster - in running this year’s meeting. In exchange for their work, they are given free registration and a hotel room to share.

The SR-IPPS had a good year. We have 253 members (231 members in 2016), which is the highest in ten years. We had 36 new members join this year. The sponsorship money received has enabled us to keep the conference costs lower and not raise registration fees. We raised $9,836 from the auction and $39,000 in sponsorship monies. She reported on the IPPS-SRNA Financial Report from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Foster remarked that we did very well financially during the past year. She then presented the proposed budget for 2017-2018, which is attached. There were 212 registered attendees at this year’s annual meeting. Because of better financial footing, this is the fifth year of The Early-Career Propagator Exchange Program program. Sophie Lewis from the European Region was hosted by Judson LeCompte and Charlie Parkerson - taking her to many nurseries and gardens. Lis Meyer was selected from the SRNA for the Early-Career Propagator Exchange Program to visit the industry in Europe. Our region contributes around $12,000 annually in student sponsorship funds. This should be augmented substantially by the new SR-IPPS Education Endowment Fund that is being launched. Strong sponsorship and the new SR Education Endowment will enable the SR to keep annual registration costs as low as possible for members.

We are on firm footing with no debt and have been building up our reserves to an acceptable level. Our current goal to build up one year’s operating expenses in reserve – has been accomplished. We will start to look at more actively managing our investments in the future. The EC Board has made a concerted effort to keep the annual meeting registration as low as possible for the membership, and partially subsidizes the annual meeting registration cost. We raised $39,000 in sponsorship this year - which has been critical for keeping us solvent. She thanked Elliott Hallum for the monthly email letter he sends to the membership. She remarked that to
increase our membership – the personal touch of talking to and asking people to come attend and join is most effective. President Gantt thanked Foster for her report and acknowledged the tremendous service she does for the organization.

**Audit Report.** Chair, Laura Miller acknowledged her committee of Kevin Gantt and Donna Fare. They reported all financial statements were in order and the SR is in good financial shape. They recommended that no financial audit be required this year. She commended Sec-Tres, Donna Foster, for doing an excellent job of keeping the financial records, and sending out monthly reports to the Board. President Gantt thanked Miller for her report.

**International Director’s Report.** International Delegate Donna Fare gave the report. Our society is global and it is interesting to see production in other parts of the world - and experience first-hand the similarities and differences with production issues. There was great representation by the SR-IPPS at the International Meeting and tour that took place at the European Region in Britain, Holland, Belgium and Germany.

Favorite quotes from Int’l tour 2017: 1) If you want cheap labor- get them from another country; 2) If you want to make a small fortune in the nursery business, start with a large fortune; and 3) Going to the IPPS International tour, is like going to a family reunion.

The International Board of Directors is currently made up of eight regions in the World. This year, Peter MacDonald, from the European Region served as the President of the International Board. The President of the Board does not does not have responsibility for leading the International board; rather, he/she organizes the International tour. The International Board has an appointed Chair who runs the organization as the CEO. Currently, Alan Jones of the Eastern Region serves as Chair. The International Board approved Alan to extend his term from 3 years to 4 years, which will end in 2019. This extension will allow the board to have a smooth transition of the new Int’l Editor, continued issues with web site improvements, declining membership - and overseeing the Strategic Plan. Foster served as the Southern Region North American delegate and Bill Turk served as the alternate delegate.

Both China and India are interested in becoming international regions of IPPS. The development of the China region has been approved by the board. With the guidance from the Australian region, the first IPPS meeting in China will take place in Shanghai, April 2019. The Western Region North America is helping India develop as a region. They anticipate having a conference in India in 2020.

IPPS membership in June 2017 was 1329 with an additional 142 students (most students are members of Eastern Region North America). This is slight decrease from the previous year. It is likely that any future increase in membership will come from the infusion of new members from new regions than an increase in any current region’s membership. There is an opportunity to develop Central and South America.

**The IPPS Proceedings.** In 2016, there were 625 ‘black book’ IPPS Proceedings sold and 256 CDs. In 2017, the numbers declined to 445 ‘black book’ IPPS Proceedings sold and 169 CDs. In 2017, Volume 67, will be the last year for the IPPS Proceedings to be sold as a CD, due to the availability of the IPPS Proceedings on the web site. The Board decided that Volume 67, 2017 ‘black book’ Proceedings will be the last year that the IPPS Proceedings will be printed a book. There will be an opportunity for individual regions to re-add the book option if a region wishes to offer their own copies for sale. Individual regions will have to set the price.

A member might ask why these changes?

1) The *IPPS Proceedings* will be available online on the IPPS website for download. Articles can be downloaded individually or by the entire Proceedings.
2) The *IPPS Proceedings* can be easily searched for content.
3) The *IPPS Proceedings* have the ability to include color photos, figures, charts, etc. in the articles.
4) The *IPPS Proceedings* will be more readily available to the membership. The lag time between regional conferences and getting the ‘black book’ Proceedings is often 18 months.

Also, the *IPPS Proceedings* are operating at a loss. This past year the cost of the ‘black book’ was about $9000 over what was budgeted - this is due to a decline in the number of IPPS members and a decline in the number of members ordering the ‘black book’. In 2017, only 34% of the members ordered the book and 12% ordered the CD. In many instances, both the ‘black book’ and CD were purchased by a single member. In the past, there was a revenue stream from the sale of the ‘black book’ but due to the low numbers and the increase cost of publishing the book, there is no longer a profit.

As we move to digital storage of the *IPPS Proceedings* and digital access to all members, then the cost of editing the *IPPS Proceedings*, posting online, and web management will have to be paid by all members. This will probably result in a need to increase the Int’l dues again, possibly as much as $10-12 per year. It will result in a decrease of total fees for SR members who has traditionally purchased the *IPPS Proceedings*.

Another change with the *IPPS Proceedings* is the announcement that Dr. Charles Heuser will retire after the 2017, Volume 67 is completed. He has served the Society as Editor for over 25 years. The Int’l board has recently interviewed four candidates for the Editor’s position and hopes to have an announcement soon as to the new Editor.

**The website.** There are issues with the IPPS website since the rollout in 2015. Some of the issues are directly affecting the operations for the secretaries and some of the issues directly affect the members. This is a website that serves all regions of the world, and is intended to best serve the Society. Hans Sittig, the Int’l web master, has addressed many of the issues, but there is still work to be done and it will be an ongoing process.

- During the first year, after the website went live, there were over 2000 downloads.
- During the second year from Sept 2016 to Sept 2017 there were 4,007 downloads, which is more than twice the previous year.
- From Sept 2016 to Sept 2017, there were 8,400 individual users that logged on. Returning visitors account for 33% of the traffic.
- In the same time period, there were over 131,000 pages viewed and 35,000 actual users of the system.
- The 2015 Proceeding, Volume 65 is now on the website.

**Int’l sponsorships.** It was the intent of the Int’l board to develop sponsorships to support the IPPS website. After the initial review, the sponsorship program as proposed has not received favorable feedback. Regional sponsors value the one-on-one contact with members, but many do not see the value of sponsoring an Int’l website. There have been successful sponsors of the Int’l tour and meeting. More discussion on Int’l sponsorship will take place in the future.

**Regional and Int’l Meetings.** For those interested in Regional or Int’l meetings – The Western Region IPPS will host its annual meeting in Hawaii, July 2018. This Pacific Rim conference may attract some potential members from the Asian and Indonesia regions.

The 2018 Int’l tour will be hosted by Eastern Region US. It will start in New York City on September 11 and end in Wilmington, Delaware. In 2019, the Australian region will host the IPPS tour, May 17-29, starting in Cairns moving down the east coast.
Due to the 2020 Summer Olympics in Japan, the Western Region will host the Int’l tour and conference in 2020 and Japan will host the Int’l meeting in 2021.

The Southern Region will host the International in 2023. We will need to choose an International President to represent our region in 2021.

Fare thanked the Board for the privilege of serving as the International Director. President Gantt thanked Fare for her service. He remarked that the International Delegate and Alt International Delegate positions are open to membership nominations – and if anyone is interested in serving to contact Sec-Tres Foster. SR members are encouraged to attend the International meetings. The SR always has a strong contingent at International meetings and tours.

**Long-Range Site Committee Report.** Laura Miller gave the report for Chair, Matt Sawyer. Miller thanked Benjamin Berry for the superb job they did as the Local Site Chair with the meeting venue, tours, and all his attention to detail. Also thanked were the local Site Committee of Laura Miller, Dave Creech, Eric Hatcher and Bill Barr.

Miller thanked Amy Fulcher, local site chair for her efforts with the 2018 Chattanooga, Tennessee meeting. She thanked her committee of Donna Fare, Elliott Hallum, Adam Blalock. They found a historic hotel, the Read House, in downtown Chattanooga. There will be a Franklin County pre-tour.

The next annual meetings are as follows:

- **2018 Chattanooga, Tennessee**
  Amy Fulcher will be the local site chair. The meeting is at the Read House, in downtown Chattanooga. The meeting is Oct 20-24, 2018.

- **2019 Baton Rouge, Louisiana**
  Allen Owings will be the local site chair. It will be in Baton Rouge at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

- **2020 Tulsa, Oklahoma**
  Todd Lasseigne will be the local site chair.

- **2021 Mobile, Alabama**

- **2022 Open**
  Preferably on the East Coast.

- **2023 North Carolina**
  We will host the International Tour

**Membership Committee Report and Welcoming of New Members.** Chair Cheryl Boyer gave the report. She asked everyone to pay their dues by 31 Dec 2017. This group is about one-on-one: encouraging and engaging potential new members. Everyone learns new things to help their nurseries and for personal development. We currently have 253 members in our region, which is a 10% increase from last year! Boyer thanked her committee: Chris Marble, Brie Arthur, Bobby Green, Jessica Lowery, Michael Roe and Anthony Witcher. She announced that the SR will be implementing Student membership next year - as does the ER, Southern Africa, Australian and New Zealand regions. The free student membership will be for a 2-year period (2-year sun-set clause - with students having the responsibility to reapply if still a student or to become a regular member). It will involve pairing students up with industry and academic mentors to get them involved with the SR. The long-term goal is to cultivate and attract new members to future careers in the green industry. Dr. Sandy Wilson is also helping with the extensive list of colleges and universities teaching plant propagation around the world – so the SR can ultimately build its own data base for students – to direct market to
horticultural professors. After discussion a motion was made by Boyer and seconded by Todd Lasseigne that the SR-IPPS initiate the Student membership program. The motion was unanimously passed.

The 36 new members were recognized during the Monday session were: Whitney Baker, Jared Barnes, Evan Barrington, Benjamin Berry, Renee Bevirt, Jerry Blankenship, Bruce Blevins, Chad Casselman, Yan Chen, Haijie Dou, Nathan Fairclough, Phillip Herd, Terry Hines, James Hu, Lan Huang, David Hughes, Tom Johnson, Laura Kaderabek, Shea Keene, Billy Lucas, Chris Murphy, Elizabeth Page, Jeremy Pickens, Mark Rainey, Cynthia Robinson, Dominic Saether, Chase Smoak, Murphy Stanley, Ling Sun, Amanda Taylor, Arthur Thornton, Raymond Tsao, Dillon Turk, Andrew Wolford, Ping Yu and Martin Zahra.

Five year plaques were given to: Gene Blythe, Andy Cabe, Amy Fulcher-Gene Blythe, LaRue Powell, and Madison Turnblad and Brett Link.

**Recognition of Sponsors.** Earlier in the conference the following companies & individuals were recognized for their sponsorship – which is vital to the operations, education and student research programs of the SRNA. The following sponsors were:

- **Platinum sponsors** – Harrell’s and Winfield United
- **Silver sponsors** – Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association, Transcend Nursery, J Berry Nursery, Texas Nursery and Landscape Assoc. and Nursery Supplies.

**Student Research Awards.** Chair, Mack Thetford reported on the *Charlie Parkerson IPPS Student Research Awards* program. The awards were presented at the Banquet on Monday evening. There were seven students who participated, and an additional two who also presented posters. First Place Oral presentation winner: Debalina Saha for “Mulching for Weed Control: Influence of Type, Depth, Herbicide Formulation, and Activation Moisture on Germination and Growth of Three Container Nursery Weed Species” by Debalina Saha, Chris Marble, Brian J. Pearson, Hector E. Perez, Gregory E. Macdonald, Dennis Odero, and Annette Chandler of the University of Florida; Second Place Oral Presentation winner: Haijie Dou for “Are Cuttings an Alternative to Seeds for Sweet Basil Propagation?” by Haijie Dou, Mengmeng Gu and Genhua Niu of Texas A&M University; and Third Place Oral Presentation winner: James (Tim) Ray for “Safety of Isopropyl Alcohol in Auxin Solutions for Application to Herbaceous Stem Cuttings” by James T. Ray, Eugene K. Blythe, Guihong Bi, Patricia R. Knight, Daniel B. Reynolds and Gary Bachmann. There were 7 students, including the three oral research paper participants who received $500 travel grants. The 3 oral paper awardees also received monetary awards of $1000, $500 and $250, respectively.

Thetford thanked the many judges who participated in the process of reviewing papers and the oral presentations. He is hopeful with the ongoing outreach of the SR that more students will participate in the *Charlie Parkerson IPPS Student Research Awards* program.

Gantt thanked Thetford for all of his efforts.

**Nominating Committee Report.** Chair Buddy Lee and his committee of Maarten van der Giessen and Laura Miller reported that the slate of officers for 2017-2018 were:

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Elected Positions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Dave Creech</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elliott Hallum</td>
<td>1st Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brienne Gluvna Arthur</td>
<td>2nd Vice-President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Green</td>
<td>Director (1 yr.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Chris Marble    Director (1 yr.)
Dr. Christine Coker    Director (2 yrs.)
Mike Roe    Director (2 yrs.)
Kevin Gantt    Past President
Bill Turk    International Delegate
Tom Saunders    International Alternate Delegate

Appointed Positions
Donna Foster    Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Fred Davies    Editor
Stuart Inman    Webmaster
Brienne Gluvna Arthur    Social Media / Facebook Manager

Membership Committee
Dr. Chris Marble – 1-yr Director, Chair (1 yr.)
Bobby Green – 1-yr Director (1 yr.)
Dr. Christine Coker – 2-yr Director (2 yrs.)
Mike Rowe – 2-yr Director (2 yrs.)
Anthony Witcher – 1-yr Director (TN 2018) (1 yr.)
Jason Stagg – 2-yr Director (LA 2019) (2 yrs.)
TBA – 3-yr Director (2020 State) (3 yrs.)
Blane (Brandon) Stokley – 4-yr Director (AL 2021) (4 yrs.)
Cheryl Boyer (student membership guidance)

Long-Range Site Committee
Benjamin Berry, Chair (TX) (1 yr.)
Amy Fulcher (TN) (2 yrs.)
Alan Owings (LA) (3 yrs.)
TBA (4 yrs.)
Bill Turk (AL) (5 yrs.)
Past President – Kevin Gantt

Charlie Parkerson Student Research Competition
Mack Thetford, Chair

Meadows Award Selection Committee
Maarten van der Giessen (PPP Pres) (1 yr.)
Mack Thetford (2016 winner) (1 yr.)
Laura Miller (PP Pres) (2 yrs.)
Dr. Patricia Knight (2017 winner) (2 yrs.)
Kevin Gantt (P Pres) (3 yrs.)

Education Endowment Committee
Dr. Fred Davies (Editor)
Donna Foster (Sec-Tres)
Dr. Mack Thetford (CP Student Res. Chair)
Elliott Hallum (1st Vice-President)
Tom Saunders (Intl. Alternate Delegate)
John Ruter (Recent Fellows Awardee)
Fellows Screening Committee
   Brie Arthur, Chair (2nd VP)  (1 yr.)
   Gene Blythe  (1 yr.)
   Scott Langlois  (2 yrs.)
   Blake Jones  (3 yrs.)

Audit committee
   Kevin Gantt  (P Pres)  (1 yr.)
   Dr. David Creech  (Pres)  (2 yrs.)
   Bill Turk  (Intl. Delegate)  (1 yr.)

Finance Advisory Committee
   Jeff Howell, Chair  (1 yr.)
   Alan Shapiro  (2 yrs.)
   Dr. Jim Robbins  (3 yrs.)

Nomination Committee
   Maarten van der Giessen, Chair  (PPP Pres) (1 yr.)
   Laura Miller  (PP Pres)  (2 yrs.)
   Kevin Gantt  (P Pres)  (3 yrs.)

Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program
Selection Committee
   Mack Thetford (2014 Fellow), Chair  (1 yr.)
   Tom Saunders  (2015 Fellow)  (2 yrs)
   Bob Black  (2015 Fellow)  (2 yrs.)
   John Ruter  (2016 Fellow)  (3 yrs.)

Sponsorship Committee
   Brie Arthur, Chair (2nd VP)  (1 yr.)
   Dr. Amy Fulcher, Local Site Chair  (1 yr.)
   Christine Coker,  1-year Director  (1 yr.)
   Mike Roe,  1-year Director  (1 yr.)

Secretary/Treasurer, Editor Review Committee
   Kevin Gantt, Chair  (P Pres)
   Dr. Christine Coker  (2-yr Director)
   Mike Rowe  (2-yr Director)

President Gantt remarked that the International Delegate, Alternate International Delegate and International President (in those years the SR hosts the International) are voted on by the membership. The elected positions of the EC Board are voted on by the membership – and nominations are always open to the floor. The membership does not vote for the Sec-Tres, Editor, Web Master or Social Media / Facebook Manager – which are appointed by the EC. Committee positions are done by SOP. The SR leadership welcomes and encourages anyone wishing to serve in any elected or non-elected position to contact Sec-Tres Donna Foster about their interest. After the slate of nominees was presented and nominations were open to the floor - a motion was made by Buddy Lee and seconded by Don Covant that the slate of candidates be accepted, which was unanimously approved. President Gantt thanked Lee for his report.
The Resolution Committee Report. Elliott Hallum presented the report which is attached. President Gantt thanked Hallum for his report.

Old Business. President Gantt explained the selection process for the International delegates. The International Delegate, Alternate International Delegate and International President (in those years the SR hosts the International) are voted on by the membership. In 2023, the SR will host the International; hence, we will be selecting the International President that is open to the membership for nomination during 2021. There is not a selection process based on succession per se of who was the most recent International Delegate. However, international experience of having served on the International Board is necessary for International President.

President Gantt asked for any other old business. There was none.

New Business. President Gantt reported on the establishment of the SR-Education Endowment (SREE), which is being managed by HRI. There was an anonymous benefactor who contributed $20,000 towards the endowment. There was an Ad-hoc committee of Fred Davies, Donna Foster, Dave Creech, Bill Turk, Mack Thetford and Kevin Gantt. Gantt complemented the focused effort of the committee in drawing-up an agreement with HRI – and establishing a marketing program in a very brief period - to launch the SR-Education Endowment Fund. There is also an Education Endowment Committee that will make recommendations to HRI – for allocating monies to student/young professional awardees during a given year. The SR will start to use the Education Endowment – starting at the 2018 Chattanooga meeting. The intent of the Education Endowment is for educational out-reach – and also maintaining registration costs of future meetings at affordable levels for our membership (since less educational funds will be drawn from the general budget). There are currently a dozen individuals who are promising to make contributions on line. Gantt was hopeful that the Endowment can be doubled in a short period.

Todd Lasseigne asked if only the interest from the SREE could be spent. The Committee set up the Endowment with HRI so there would be maximum flexibility in using both the principal and interest. There is also a marketing brochure that has been passed out and is available on-line (member section of the SR-IPPS website) – with a description of the Endowment and marketing plan. The donations will be paid directly to HRI as a 501(c)3 (for the SREE) - so that donors can receive tax credit. There is a form that can be downloaded electronically from the webpage. HRI will do a press release after this meeting. All SR members will get the Education Endowment brochure in their membership renewal form in December. The Endowment will also be promoted through the social media committee.

Charlie Parkerson requested arrangements with HRI so we can honor special deceased members with donations that go towards the SR-IPPS Education Endowment. Both President Gantt and Sec-Tres Foster clarified – that if a check is sent to Sec-Tres Donna Foster (made out to HRI for the SR-IPPS Education Endowment) – then thank you notes can be sent from Foster – with the donation honoring an individual to the SR-IPPS Educational Endowment via HRI – i.e. “SR-IPPS member yyyy gives a donation to the HRI-managed, SR-IPPS Education Endowment - in honor of deceased person zzz.”

Parkerson made a motion, seconded by Alan Shapiro that our registration name tags be printed on both sides, and that the individual’s company or institution also be printed with the person’s name. The motion unanimously passed.

President Gantt asked for any other new business. There was none. He then acknowledged and thanked EC members going off of the board with special IPPS vests: Laura Miller, Cheryl Boyer and Dr. Donna Fare.

Gantt mentioned that all three are staying active with continued responsibilities to the IPPS.

Passing of the Gavel. President Gantt remarked that it was a humbling experience, honor and privilege to serve as President. He was thankful for the personal growth and the proactive thinking of the EC Board and membership. He recognized the outstanding contributions of Sec-Tres, Donna Foster and Editor, Fred Davies. Gantt thanked his Uncle Randy Heffner, brother Mark Gantt, wife Susan and three children – for their continued support and encouragement. The SR-IPPS is a very important part of the green industry. He then
passed the gavel to incoming new President, Dr. David Creech.

Closing Remarks of new President Dr. David Creech. New President Creech presented a plaque to Gantt in recognition of his outstanding leadership during the year, countless hours of dedication, and for being such a good mentor and President. Creech acknowledged all the time and effort that Gantt does in behalf of the organization.

Creech remarked that it is a humbling experience, honor and privilege to serve the IPPS-SRNA as President. He acknowledged an excellent EC board to work with and the big shoes to fill – following the footsteps of President Gantt and other past presidents. He remarked that the SR-IPPS and friendships made have been a very important part of his personal and professional life. He welcomed all to attend the 2018 meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

President Creech then called the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

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The Sidney B. Meadows Award of Merit was presented to Dr. Patricia Knight, Mississippi State University, Biloxi, MS on October 30, 2017.

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Buddy Lee became a Fellow of the IPPS-SRNA on October 30, 2017.

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There were 16 sponsors. The sponsorship raised $39,000.

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There was $9836 raised at the auction.

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The SR-IPPS Education Endowment balance is $29,600 after contributions made at the auction and through additional contributions to the base donation of $20,000.

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This is the 2nd year that 3 student oral research presentations were given.


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Lis Meyer was selected from the SRNA for the SR-IPPS Early-Career Exchange Program to visit the industry in Europe, and Sophie Lewis from the European Region, was hosted by Judson LeCompte and Charlie Parkerson in the reciprocal exchange.

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This years “4-pack” work students (Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work program) were Alexis Anthony (Clemson), Connor Ryan (University of Georgia), Carlee Steppe (University of Florida) and Madison Hindsley (North Carolina State University)

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There were 212 registered attendees at this year’s annual meeting.

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Membership increased to 253 (2017), compared to 231 (2016), 232 (2015) and 225 (2014). This is the highest level of SR members in ten years.

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- Minutes submitted by Fred Davies
Be it resolved that the membership of the International Plant Propagators Society-Southern Region North America, recognizes the many hours of work and planning required to plan and execute our meeting, expresses its appreciation and thanks to the following people:

Kevin Gantt President - for his guidance and leadership

David Creech, 1st Vice-President - for organizing an outstanding program.

Elliott Hallum, 2nd Vice-President, Sponsorship Chair - for his success with sponsorships for the meeting.

Fred Davies, Editor - for his continued dedication to this society and for his work on the Proceedings

Donna Foster, Secretary and Treasurer - for her efficient work with the society, including managing budgets and the business of the IPPS-Southern Region with courtesy and kindness.

Stuart Inman, Webmaster - for managing the webpage.

Brie Arthur, Social Media / Facebook Manager - For managing social media.

Moderators, speakers, and poster presenters - for their efforts in educating us and their willingness to share their knowledge with us.

Benjamin Berry, Local Site Committee Chair, Laura Miller and their committee and fabulous volunteers for site selection, meal and transportation arrangements, and for organizing two days of exciting tours.

Mack Thetford- Charlie Parkerson Scholarship and Awards Committee Chairman and his committee members – for his continued dedication in reviewing student papers and posters as well as the student competition selections.

James Hardin, Brie Arthur, Michael Dirr, Mike Merchant, Sandra Wilson, Leanne Kenealy, Fred Davies, Carl Whitcomb, Jim Robbins, Allen Owings, James Wilhite, Mengmeng Gu, David Marks, Richard Olsen, Greg Grant, Natalie Hammill - for speaking at our annual meeting

Andrew King, Mack Thetford, Tim Hartman, Dawn Stover– moderators - for their efforts in educating us and their willingness to share their knowledge with us.

David Creech, Michael Dirr, and Carl Whitcomb - for their efforts in moderating the question box.

Bill Barr and the Plant Auction Committee -for their work in collecting, describing, displaying and selling unique plants. Thanks to all those members who donated in the spirit of sharing.
Thanks to all of those involved with the following committees for their continued dedication and service:
Audit Committee
Executive Committee
Fellows Screening Committee
Finance Advisory Committee
International Delegation
Long Range Site Committee
Membership Committee
Nomination Committee
Sponsorship Committee
Secretary/Treasurer and Editor Review Committee
Vivian Mundy Young Horticultural Professional Selection Committee.

Judson LeCompte and Tim Hartmann - for their technical expertise and continuing dedication in managing the audio and visual systems during the conference.

Tour Hosts: Athens Tree Farm, SFA State University Gardens, J. Berry Nursery, Dallas Arboretum, Southwest Perennials, Green Lake Nursery, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Seville Farms Integrated Botanics.

A special thanks to the Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program – “4-pack” participants: Connor Ryan (UGA), Alexis Anthony (Clemson), Madison Hindsley (NCSU), and Carlee Steppe (University of Florida) for all of their help and contributions.

A special thank you to our sponsors for their generous support:

Platinum sponsors – Harrell’s and Winfield United.


Silver sponsors – Alabama Nursery and Landscape Association, Transcend Nursery, J Berry Nursery, Texas Nursery and Landscape Assoc. and Nursery Supplies

And finally our thanks to the Omni Park West for their southern hospitality throughout the conference. In conclusion, let these efforts be noted with much appreciation.

Respectfully submitted by Elliott Hallum, Second Vice-President