

APS Foundation Growth Continues

A. R. Chase, Chase Research Horticultural Research, archase@chaseresearch.net



Ann R. Chase

One of the best parts of serving as chair of the APS Foundation is getting to know the dedicated and talented staff at APS headquarters. Without them, very little would get done on time if at all. **Michelle Bjerkness**, our staff liaison for APS Foundation, did a little background check for us this summer and I thought you might be interested in seeing some of the history behind this board. In 1984, APS established the “Endowment” Committee, which recommended establishment of APS Foundation in 1986. In August 1986, constitutional amendments were presented to APS Council and approved, and by October of the same year, the members voted overwhelmingly to establish the APS Foundation. The first meeting of the APS Foundation Board was held in November of the same year, with the first awards made at the Cincinnati meeting in 1987.

We have grown dramatically in the ensuing 20 years, with more than 42 named awards and a variety of special awards for teaching, international travel, and other innovative ways to serve the needs of our society.

In 2007, the “100 for the 100th” campaign continued to grow. With completion planned right after the 100-year anniversary meeting in Minneapolis, MN, this year, we are hoping to meet all of our goals to increase all student travel awards to \$600 and bring each fund up to a minimum of \$10,000, which will allow an award of the fund to be made at each annual meeting.

The APS Foundation is pleased to see continued interest in starting new named student travel funds, established in 2006–2007. The **William M. Brown, Jr. Student Travel Fund**, the **Landis International Student Travel Fund**, the **Milt and Nancy Schroth Student Travel Fund**, the **George Herman Starr Student Travel Fund**, and the **John (Jack) F. Schafer Student Travel Fund** were each started in 2007. The first four had their first awards made at our annual meeting in San Diego, CA, and the final fund will be awarded at the 100th APS anniversary meeting in Minneapolis.

Our meeting in San Diego was a great success, with a total of \$16,545 raised. The “Spin to Win” wheel was a big attraction, as was the bowl of pistachios on our booth counter. We saw a lot of activity, with most donors enjoying the change of pace.

We also find ourselves with a real opportunity to grow with APS as a whole and perhaps even lead in some areas of funding opportunities. There is quite a bit of interest from outside and inside our board to move ahead and consider more ambitious funding campaigns that would allow us to accomplish more. Look for some real changes in the next few years and please let me know what your ideas might be. ■



APS Foundation Board member Cleo D'Arcy at the new “Spin to Win” wheel for donor prizes.