Greetings from Texas: The 88th Southern Division Meeting

The 88th meeting of the APS Southern Division was held February 6–7, 2011, at the Omni Hotel Bayfront Tower in Corpus Christi, TX, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists. President-Elect David Langston coordinated the meeting program and local arrangements. Standing in for weather-delayed President Boyd Padgett, Langston welcomed the group of 69 attendees (30 of whom were students) who contributed 39 presentations to the program.

The meeting kicked off on Super Bowl Sunday with a symposium entitled “The fat and skinny on nematodes eating plants,” presided over by Langston. Outstanding presentations were made by the invited speakers, who included Don Dickson, University of Florida; Richard Davis, USDA-ARS; Brenda Ortiz, Auburn University; and Bob Kemerait, University of Georgia (UGA).

The symposium was followed by a graduate student paper competition presided over by Past President Bob Kemerait, who was joined on the judging panel by John Damicone, Augusto Joao, Kenny Seebold, and Jason Woodward. Sixteen students took part in this year’s competition, with participants representing Louisiana State University (LSU), Mississippi State University, Oklahoma State University (OSU), Tarleton State University (TSU), Texas A&M University, the University of Arkansas, the University of Florida, and UGA. Bhabesh Dutta (UGA; advisor, Ron Wolcott) won first place for his presentation “Infestation of ovules by Acidovorax citrulli during pistil and pericarp invasion in developing watermelon fruit.”

We wish to thank the corporate sponsors for their support of this year’s meeting: AgraQuest, AMVAC, BASF, Brandt Consolidated, Dow AgroSciences, Gowan, Syngenta Crop Protection, United Phosphorous, Inc., and Valent U.S.A.

The officers for the Southern Division for 2011-2012 are Langston, UGA, president; Schneider, LSU AgCenter, president-elect; Woodward, Texas Tech University & Texas AgriLife Research and Extension, vice president; Padgett, LSU AgCenter, immediate past president; Brenneman, UGA, Southern Division Divisional Forum representative; and Ferrin, LSU AgCenter, secretary-treasurer.

To see the complete program, visit the Southern Division’s website at www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/south/Pages/default.aspx.

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