

## TECHNICAL SESSIONS®

### MONDAY MORNING, 24 OCTOBER, 2011

The 36th Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America convened at 7:45 AM at the Rainwater Conference Center, Valdosta, Georgia, with President Donna Fare presiding.

#### PRESIDENT DONNA FARE

President Fare welcomed everyone to Valdosta, Georgia, for the 36th Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America. She thanked Local Site Committee Chair, Stewart Chandler, and Co-chairs Kay Phelps and Fred May, and their committee for the long hours in arranging the excellent tours, hotel, and other planning activities and all their attention to detail. Dr. Fare thanked the Executive Committee and Tom Saunder's Sponsorship Committee, which raised \$27,850 in cash sponsorships, which was outstanding with the challenging economic times. She encouraged all members to make new members and attendees feel welcome — share with them and seek from them. She asked for all first-time attendees, new members, and students to stand and be recognized. She then asked attendees to stand and be recognized who have been here 5 years, then 10 years, then 20 years, 30 years, 35 years — and who were original members of the IPPS-SRNA. She acknowledged and congratulated Charles Parkerson, Bill Barr, and Dick Marshall as IPPS members for 36 years. Fare also thanked Program Chair and 1st Vice-President, Bob Black, for the excellent program and slate of speakers he assembled. She mentioned that on Wednesday at the annual business meeting, we will be voting on changes in the proposed international bylaws, which was previously emailed to all members, and hard copies are available at the registration desk.

#### LOCAL SITE CHAIR STEWART CHANDLER

Local Site Chair, Stewart Chandler welcomed everyone to Valdosta. He then recognized the Co-chairs, Kay Phelps and Fred May, and his committee members for all of their efforts. Chandler remarked that this was a 6-year planning process for the site and tours. He commented on the nursery tours and having access to the new Rainwater Conference Center, which is a wonderful facility with adjacent hotels.

#### PROGRAM CHAIR BOB BLACK

Program Chair Bob Black welcomed all members, guests, and students. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve them, and then reviewed the scheduled program, including the silent and live auction, new comers' reception, and banquet. The Question Box scheduled for Tuesday evening was to be tri-chaired by Dr. Cheryl Boyer, Dr. Christine Coker, and Jeff Howell. He thanked Scott Langlois for his work setting up the audiovisual. He thanked Dr. Gary Knox for his leadership and dedication in setting up the auction. He then introduced the first moderator, Dr. Cheryl Boyer.