

2020 Fall Newsletter

2020 Meetings Cancelled
Call for Award Nominations



Parent Society



Member SAAS

Southern Region

American Society for Horticultural Science

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85th Year

Southern Region

American Society for Horticultural
Science

101st Year

Horticulture Section

Southern Association of Agricultural
Scientists

2021 MEETINGS CANCELLED

February 4-9

Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas
Irving, TX

Rescheduled for

January 31-February 4, 2025

Next Meeting

2022 Mobile, AL

Message From the President



At our annual meeting in February, we certainly were not imaging the situation in which we now find ourselves.

Much has changed in how we approach our work and collaborations. We have new and creative ways to interact and connect with one another, and I expect we will retain some of these strategies going forward. Indeed, many of these adjustments will be characteristics of our new normal. Navigating a decision on whether or not to hold our 2021 meeting required leadership, support, and input from several colleagues. I want to acknowledge the role that Dr. David Reed, Secretary-Treasurer SRAHS, has played in guiding the society through deliberations and that of Dr. Mark Legendre, Executive Director of SAAS, though financial negotiations. Their leadership along with that of at the SRASHS Executive Committee made it possible to make this difficult decision, but one that I believe is the right one for this year. Realize that SRASHS was not alone in this decision, and that the other regional societies that participate in this meeting via SAAS were in agreement that we should not attempt a meeting in 2021. In spite of this, I trust

SR-ASHS Web Site Address
srashs.org

ASHS Web Site Address
ashs.org

SAAS Web Site Address
saasinc.org

that we will persist as the robust, active, and engaged regional society that we are known to be.

In the meantime, I want to acknowledge the efforts by our instructors, researchers, and extension professionals during this pandemic. We all have had to find new ways of teaching, collaborating on research, and delivering extension programs. These efforts have all required additional work, time, and energy. Likewise, students have found themselves juggling a mix of online and in-person instruction that requires increased focus on scheduling and time management. I trust that at some point, we will reflect on this time and appreciate the innovation, creativity, persistence, and collaboration that carried us through. Thank you all for all you do for our discipline, our industry, our students, and Southern Region ASHS.

About Cancellation of the 2021 Meetings in Irving, TX

Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS)

In spring 2020, Mark Legendre, Executive Director, Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) convened a meeting of all Section organizers to discuss the 2021 meetings as impacted by COVID-19. There was a consensus that it is not certain that the virus will have run its course by the 2021 meetings. Mark had already contacted the hotel relative to the consequences of cancellation, and was told that COVID is not a justification for cancelling. After consulting with planners and lawyers, he was told that appeals were being decided in favor of hotels/conference centers. The estimated cost of cancellation to SRASHS was prorated at approximately \$38,000. All the section organizers did not consider cancellation with a high penalty as a viable option. Mark was asked to work with the hotel/conference center and determine options, such as holding limited face-to-face meetings combined with virtual meetings, move the date later in the year, move the date to later years, etc.

On September 10, Mark convened the group again, and included society officers. He informed the group that the hotel/conference center offered a complete cancellation with no penalty, if SAAS agreed to change to the next available date of 2025. The group unanimously agreed to accept the deal and cancel the 2021 SAAS meetings.

Southern Region ASHS

On September 17 the Executive Committee and Officers of SRASHS meet to discuss options.

Virtual Section and Working Group Sessions

The immediate decision was that we would not hold virtual sessions for Sections and Working Group presentations/meetings.

Student Presentations

The discussion primarily centered on student presentations. Should we hold some type virtual meeting to allow the students the opportunity for presentations, possibly via Zoom or a similar remote video session, or have students present locally and record the presentation, then submit the recording for judging. Questions arose relative to attendance, whether a recorded or virtual presentation rises to the experience of talking to an audience, problems associated with presenting/judging 40 or so oral presentations and a similar number of poster presentations. Also, there was the concern that since travel expenses and travel time is not a concern, we might receive many more titles than usual. Would the number become unmanageable and would we have to screen and select only a certain number. After an hour discussion weighing all the pros, cons, and possible models, the EC and Officers decided to not hold virtual student presentations.

Awards

Member and student awards were discussed and since the award process occurs during the fall and are not dependent on the meetings, travel or face-to-face, it was decided to go forward with the call for student and member awards. Awards can be important in promotions and resume building. We probably will hold some type Zoom presentation of awards in January or February.

Elections

Since none of the elected Officers, Chairs and Committee membership positions have served, it was decided to roll-over all elected positions to next year, and not hold Elections Fall.2020.

Summary

The following motions were passed:

- Cancel in its entirety the 2020 meetings
- Cancel Fall Elections and roll-over all elected positions to 2021-2022.
- Call for Member and Student Awards/

Southern Region Dues

ASHS Headquarters collects and manages dues for the Southern Region. It is recommended to pay your dues with your yearly ASHS membership. If you are not a member of National ASHS, you can pay your dues through the ASHS Online Store at <https://ashs.org/store/ViewProduct.aspx?id=2463036> or at the annual meetings. Dues are \$30. Notice: Dues must be paid to be elected to an office or to receive an award.

Forms – Where to Get

The Southern Region web site:

<http://srashs.org/Forms/forms.html>

- ACB Awards Nomination Forms
- Outstanding Graduate Student Award Nomination form
- Member Awards Nomination Forms
- Submit Paper Titles & Instructions
- Abstract Preparation Instructions
- Instructions to Section Chairs
- Submit Directory Information
- Instructions to Judges

Call for Nominations for Student Awards

Student Paper and Poster Awards

Submit to Chair: Submit paper titles to the respective Chairs in Call for Student Paper Competition Titles

ACB Club and Club Member Awards

Requirements: See below for each award

Submit to Advisor: Mail or e-mail Nominations to the ACB Faculty Advisor listed below.

Nomination Forms: Download award forms from the Southern Region web site: srashs.org

Deadlines: November 15 - Nomination packet submitted to the Chair
December 13 - Chairs submits recipients to Secretary-Treasurer

Norman F. Childers' Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Award is given to the outstanding graduate student in the southern region. The award is \$1,000 funded by the Childers Endowment.

Send nominations to:

Bodie Pennisi, Chair

CAES-Griffin Campus
University of Georgia
1109 Experiment Street
Griffin, GA30223
bpennisi@uga.edu

Assoc. of Collegiate Branch Awards

Outstanding Club Award

Awards are given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ACB Clubs (active dues paid clubs) based on the club's activity record for the previous academic year. The awards are certificates and checks for \$150, \$100 and \$50 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.

Hammett Memorial Award for Outstanding Association of Collegiate Branch Member

The award is given to the student judged to be the Outstanding ACB Club Member. The award consists of a plaque.

Send Nominations to

Nate Phillips Chair

Middle Tennessee State University
Campus Box 5
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
Nate.Phillips@mtsu.edu

Call for Nominations for Member Awards

- Requirements:** See below for each award.
Submit to Chair: Mail or e-mail Nominations to Awards Chair listed below.
Nomination Form: Download Nomination Forms from the Southern Region web site: srashs.org
Deadlines: November 15- Nominations submitted to Award Chairs
 December 13 - Award Chairs submits recipients to Secretary-Treasurer

J. Creighton Miller, Jr. Distinguished Educator Award

The award recognizes outstanding teaching.

Requirements: (1) active member in good standing in SR-ASHS; (2) classroom teaching and advising for 10 or more years, with primary emphasis in undergraduate teaching; (3) substantial portion of effort in teaching regardless of appointment; (4) nominations are limited to one per institution; and (5) not a previous recipient (or of L.M. Ware Teaching Award). The award consists of a plaque and a check for \$200. The award is endowed by Dr. Jeannie P. Miller, wife of Dr. Miller. Formerly (pre-2006) the L.M. Ware Teaching Award.

Send nominations to:

Nate Phillips, Chair

Middle Tennessee State University
 Campus Box 5
 Murfreesboro, TN 37132
 Nate.Phillips@mtsu.edu

Julian C. Miller, Sr. Distinguished Research Award

The award recognizes outstanding research.

Requirements: (1) active member in good standing in SR-ASHS; (2) outstanding record in research on one or more horticultural crops and in one or more areas of horticultural research for a period of 10 or more years; (3) substantial portion of effort in research regardless of appointment; (4) nominations are limited to one per institution; and (5) not a previous recipient (or of L.M. Ware Research Award). The award consists of a plaque and a check for \$200. The award is endowed by Dr. J. Creighton Miller, Jr. in memory of his father. Formerly (pre-2006) the L.M. Ware Research Award.

Send nominations to:

Juan Carlos Diaz-Perez, Chair

Univ. of Georgia
 Dept. of Horticulture
 PO Box 748
 Tifton, GA 31793
 jcdiaz@uga.edu

Krezdorn Award for Excellence in Doctoral Research and Writing

The award is presented in recognition of the best published paper developed from doctoral research.

Requirements: (1) award recipient and/or primary advisor must be active member in good standing in SR-ASHS; (2) submit reprint of paper published in any refereed journal, (3) paper published within calendar year of award due date and the previous calendar year; therefore for this cycle the paper must have been published in calendar year 2017 or 2018, (4) doctoral research must have been completed in horticulture at a university in the Southern Region; (5) one paper per senior author and submitted only once, The award consists of a plaque and a check for \$200. The award was endowed by the late Dr. Alfred Krezdorn.

Send nominations to:

Eugene Blythe, Chair

Auburn University
 101 Funchess Hall
 Auburn, Alabama 36849
 blythek@auburn.edu

Paul Smeal Leadership and Administration Award

The award is presented in recognition of outstanding leadership and administration, which contributes to the progress of professional horticulture.

Requirements: (1) active member in good standing in SR-ASHS; (2) active administrator and leader as Department Chair or Head, or College or University administrator at a University in the Southern Region; or administrators of horticultural units, such as Universities, USDA stations, botanical gardens, arboreta, etc., with a minimum of 6 faculty equivalent positions in horticulture. (3) not a member of the selection committee.

Send nominations to:

Wayne Mackay, Chair

University of Arkansas
 Department of Horticulture
 316A Plant Sciences Bldg

Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701
mackay@uark.edu

Henry M. Covington Extension Award

The award is in recognition of outstanding and valuable contributions to horticulture by an Extension Horticulturist.

Requirements: (1) active member in good standing in SR-ASHS; (2) minimum 5 years' experience as an extension agent or specialist; (3) minimum 60% extension appointment; (4) not a member of the selection committee; (5) not a previous recipient or any other Region award this year. The award is endowed by the late Dr. Henry Covington and his wife. The award consists of a plaque and a check for \$200.

Send nominations to:

Allen Owings, Chair

PO Box 910

Robert, LA 70455

Aowings64@gmail.com

John E. Hutchison Extension Award for Young Professionals

The award is presented in recognition of outstanding service by a young Extension Worker.

Requirements: (1) active member in good standing in SR-ASHS for at least two years; (2) person must be 35 years or younger on December 31 in year of nomination **or** 5 or less years in continuous extension experience; (3) greater than 50 percent extension appointment in horticulture (city, county, area, or state). The award consists of a \$200 award and a plaque. The award is sponsored by the Texas Pecan Growers Association.

Send nominations to:

Michael Schnelle, Chair

Oklahoma State Univ.

Department of Horticulture and L.A.

358 Agriculture Hall

Stillwater, OK 74078

mike.schnelle@okstate.edu

Extension Communications Awards

The award is presented in recognition of outstanding contribution to the understanding of horticultural subjects. Submissions may be circulars, bulletins, tabloids, manuals, newspaper series, fact sheets, video, computer programs, and other methods of electronic delivery.

Requirements: (1) senior author must be active member in good standing in SR-ASHS; (2) one publication per author; (3) entry may be submitted by the author(s) themselves or by SR-ASHS members on behalf of the authors; (3) entry should have been prepared within the past two years; (4) submit three copies (print, electronic or digital) of the entry, and (5) a completed Extension Communication Entry Form. Copies of entries will not be returned, unless arrangements are made with the Chair. The award consists of a Blue Ribbon Certificate.

Send nominations to:

Justine Moss Chair

Oklahoma State Univ.

358 Ag Hall

Dept. of Horticulture

Stillwater, OK 74078

mossjq@okstate.edu

2020-2021 2021-2022 Officers, Chairs and Committees

(Term of office is from end of 2019 meeting through 2022 meeting)

Officers		
President	Amy Wright	awright@auburn.edu
President-Elect	Matt Chappell	hortprod@uga.edu
President-Elect-Elect	to be elected	
Secretary-Treasurer	David Reed	dwreed@tamu.edu
Executive Committee		
Chair or Vice-Chair -need to select	Mengmeng Gu	mgu@tamu.edu
Chair or Vice-Chair -need to select	Jay Spiers	jds0017@auburn.edu
Member	Elina Coneva	edc0001@auburn.edu
Member	Thayne Montague	thayne.montague@ttu.edu
Member	to be elected	
Member	to be elected	
Member, President-Elect	Matt Chappell	hortprod@uga.edu
Nominations Committee		
Chair, Senior Retired President	Eric Stafne	eric.stafne@msstate.edu
Member, Immediate Past President	Bodie Pennisi	bpennisi@uga.edu
Member	Dario Chavez	dchavez@uga.edu
Member	Brian Pearson	bpearson@ufl.edu
Member	to be appointed	
Member	to be appointed	
ACB Officers		
President	Robert Eichas	rce2x@mtmail.mtsu.edu
Vice President	Elizabeth Clippard	elizabeth.clippard@gmail.com
Secretary	Emma Lagerhausen	Emma.lagerhausen@siu.edu
Social Chair	Meg from Murray State	
Treasurer	Max McKeown	tmckeown@uark.edu
Recruitment director	Kevin Burnett	kab0109@auburn.edu
National Chair ACB Rep	Kendal Shaw	kendalljshaw@tamu.edu
ACB Advisor:will to manage judging contest	Nate Philips	nate.phillips@mtsu.edu
Section Chairs		
Education Section	Garry McDonald	gmcdonal@uark.edu
Extension Section	Amanda McWhirt	Amcwhirt@uaex.edu
Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf Section	Genhua Niu	gniu@ag.tamu.edu
Fruit Crops Section	Edgar Vinson	vinsoed@auburn.edu
Postharvest/Biotechnology Section	Savithri Nasmbeesan	sunamb@uga.edu
Vegetables Crops Section	Joe Masabni	jmasabni@tamu.edu
Poster Section	Andre DaSilva	sunamb@uga.edu
Edmond UG Comp. - Collegiate Branch Chair	Jeb Fields	JFields@agcenter.lsu.edu
Childers and Barham Grad Competition	Matt Chappell	hortprod@uga.edu
Working Groups Chairs		
Horticultural Administrators	Leo Lombardini	Lombardini@uga.edu
National Sweet Potato Collaborators	Michelle McHarque	Michelle.McHargue@lambweston.com
Southern Fruit Workers	Rachel Itle	ritle@uga.edu
Watermelon Research Group	Daniel Egel	egel@purdue.edu
Vice-Chair	Matt Kinkade	matt.kinkade@syngenta.com

Awards Committees		
Miller Distinguished Educator, Chair Member Member	Nate Phillips Garry McDonald Brian Jackson	nate.phillips@mtsu.edu gmcdonal@uark.edu brian_jackson@ncsu.edu
Miller Distinguished Researcher, Chair Member Member	Juan Carlos Diaz-Perez Gina Fernandez Dilip Panthee	jc Diaz@uga.edu gina_fernandez@ncsu.edu dilip_panthee@ncsu.edu
Covington Extension Award, Chair Member Member	Michael Schnelle Bodie Pennisi Thomas Yeager	mike.schnelle@okstate.edu bpennisi@uga.edu yeagert@ufl.edu
Hutchison Young Extension , Chair Member Member	Kathryn Karsh Fontenot Amanda McWhirt James DelPrince	kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu Amcwhirt@uaex.edu j.delprince@msstate.edu
Krezdorn Doctoral Writing, Chair Member Member	Eugene Blythe Katherine Jennings Waltram Ravelombola	blythek@auburn.edu katie_jennings@ncsu.edu waltram.ravelombola@ag.tamu.edu
Smeal Leadership, Chair Member Member	Wayne Mackay Dave Reed Janet Cole	mackay@uark.edu dwreed@tamu.edu janet.cole@okstate.edu
Extension Communications, Chair Member Member	Justine Moss Daniel Treadwell Christine Coker	mossjq@okstate.edu ddtreadw@ufl.edu christine.coker@msstate.edu
Childers Outstanding Graduate Student, Chair Member Member	Bodie Pennisi Amy Wright Matt Chappell	bpennisi@uga.edu awright@auburn.edu hortprod@uga.edu
Outstanding ACB Club & Club Member	Nate Phillips	nate.phillips@mtsu.edu