

2022 Pre-Conference Newsletter





Parent Society **American Society for Horticultural Science** **Member SAAS**

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experience giving scientific presentations to expert audiences.

The impact of oral and poster presentations is also notable for graduate students. For M.S. students, this may be their first attempt at such a presentation and could lead them to a job in industry or into a Ph.D. program. For Ph.D. students, they are building their professional and academic reputation, and this exposure could lead to that first faculty position or a prestigious research position in industry.

No matter what stage in their education, student participation depends heavily on faculty direction and support. Please encourage students at all levels to participate in the conference. Our sessions provide a rigorous yet supportive way to expose students to the programs of their peers and future colleagues alike. I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Amy

Message From the President



Having missed some of our normally in-person events over the last year and half has no doubt made us eager to see those return. While I am

impressed by the adjustments and accommodations we've been able to make, there is still no substitute for the unplanned in-person interactions that occur during our professional conferences. And, while that is certainly true for faculty members and industry professionals, it is particularly true for our students.

Undergraduate students who compete in the judging contests get to interact with teams from other universities. Similarly, in the undergraduate oral session, they can see their peers present research results, and they and gain

About the Annual Meeting

2022 Annual Conference
February 11-13, 2022
New Orleans, Louisiana

SRASHS will meet in conjunction with the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientist (SAAS) in New Orleans, LA. Lodging will be available at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel on Canal Street just on the edge of the French Quarter.

Tentative Program Schedule

See the draft program schedule at the end of the newsletter. Notice that the meetings are Friday through Sunday and there is no programming after the business meeting on Sunday.

Pre-Registration and Registration Information

The cost of Registration is:

\$110 Members, Faculty, and Industry

\$40 Graduate student

\$20 Undergraduate student

\$20 ACB Club registration.

Pre-registration online prior to the meeting and registration at the meeting are the same rate. Pre-registration is fully refunded if you cancel at any time and for any reason. Therefore, everyone is **strongly encouraged** to pre-register online. If you pre-register online, cancellation refunds will be credited to your credit card.

Pre-Registration Online (Strongly encouraged)

Deadline: Prior to and through the meeting.

Go to the following URL to access the Southern Region ASHS Registration Site:

<https://ashs.org/events/register.aspx?id=1580519>

There are registration options for both members and non-members of ASHS. If you are an ASHS member, click on "Sign In". If you are NOT a member of ASHS, click on "Continue as Guest". You can enter multiple registrations through the "Save & Add Another Attendee".

We would like to thank Mike Neff and ASHS Headquarters for supplying the online registration service.

Registration at the Meeting

On-site registration will be available at the meeting both online and by check or cash for you "dinosaurs" that do not have a credit card.

Payment: Check (personal, institutional, organization, foundation) or cash.
Credit card only by onsite online registration.

Hotel Information and Reservations

This is a very reasonable rate for a hotel directly in the French Quarter on Canal Street during Mardi Gras season. The room allotment could fill quickly, so it might be a good idea to reserve your room early. Notice the rate is good for 3 days prior and after the meetings.

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel

500 Canal Street,

New Orleans, LA 70130

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/msyis-sheraton-new-orleans-hotel/>

RESERVATIONS: For lodging reservations, click on this link which is specific for our SAAS conference:

<https://book.passkey.com/event/50200467/owner/111/landing>

Or call the Sheraton 888-627-7033. Be sure to ask for the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists group rate.

RATES: Single/Double/Triple/Quad \$159 +tax
Group Rate will be honored for 3 days before and 3 days after conference dates of Feb. 10-15 for visiting/sightseeing, if available.

Deadline: Thursday, January 20, 2022, 11:59 PM CST.

CHECK IN: 4:00 pm

CHECK OUT: 11:00 am

AIRPORT: Hotel is approx.15 miles (approx. 27 minutes) from Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY).

Hotel does not provide shuttle service to and from the airport. [Click here for further information.](#)

PARKING: On-site parking, fee: \$35 USD daily; Valet \$48.

AMENITIES: Complimentary Wi-Fi in sleeping and meeting rooms. (The minimum bandwidth for complimentary in guest rooms is 7 Mbps for basic level.) Complimentary access to 24-hour Sheraton Fitness Center

SHIPPING AND STORAGE: Please call the Sheraton at 504-525-2500 and ask for specifics. Be sure to mention you are with Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS).

SAAS Web Site

<https://www.saasinc.org/>

Contains additional information about restaurants, things to do, weather and airport information.

Notes to Paper Presenters

Oral Paper Presentation Format:

Presenters must bring their presentation(s) as a PowerPoint presentation saved on a USB memory device. It is advisable to bring your presentation on at least two storage devices for redundancy. If you would like to bring your presentation on any other storage form, check with the Chair ahead of time to make sure their computer will accept that form.

Poster Preparation Instructions

Size, Format and Font. Poster presentations must fit with a 48" x 48" size. Abstract titles, names, and affiliations should appear on the top of the poster. A

simple sans serif-face font (e.g., Helvetica) should be used. Lettering for the title should be at least one inch tall. Lettering for text and illustrations should range in size between 6 mm and 12 mm. The authors' names and affiliations may be somewhat smaller. Authors are urged to include photographs to assist in author identification.

Content. Do not prepare a poster as if it were a manuscript. Primarily, use tables and figures and use limited verbiage. Details of the work can be provided in discussions with interested parties.

Display. Mount your poster on the poster board that has the same number as your title in the program. Pushpins or Velcro buttons may be used to hang posters. Pins/Velcro must be supplied by presenter—they will not be available on-site.

Poster Competition. Undergraduate and graduate students wishing to participate in the poster judging competition should indicate their intent to the Chair of the Poster Section when they submit their poster title. Limited numbers may be accepted at the meeting; check with the registration table.

Abstract Preparation Instructions:

In order to publish abstracts: 1) one of the authors must be registered for the SRASHS conference (or one of the other SAAS groups), 2) the paper or poster must be presented in a conference session, and 3) the title must appear in the Conference Program. Prepare abstracts according to the "Instructions for Submission of Abstracts for Publication by ASHS" form at the end of the Newsletter. Each abstract must be submitted as a separate Word (.doc) file. If you use another word processing language, save and submit the abstract as a rich text format (.rtf) file. Email your abstract to the Chair before the meeting or you may submit the abstract in a file format to the Chair at the meeting. The Chair may give a few days grace period to send the abstract by email after the meeting. To be published, all abstracts must be formatted properly.

Notes to Section Chairs and Judges

Section Chairs:

The Section Chairs are responsible for bringing a laptop computer and projector for their Section. If this is a problem, there will be

two projectors and one laptop that can be checked-out at the registration desk – first come first serve.

Judges:

ACB Advisor: Arranges judges for the J. Benton Storey Judging Contest.

Collegiate Branch Section Chair: Arranges judges for the Edmund Undergraduate oral presentations.

Poster Section Chair: Arranges judges for the undergraduate and graduate National Cowpea Poster judging.

President-Elect: Arranges judges for the Childers Masters and Barham PhD graduate oral presentations.

Chairs collect abstracts:

All Chairs collect abstracts at the meeting or give the presenters a few days to submit abstracts to the Chair by email. The Chair sends abstracts to Sylvia DeMar (sdemar@ashs.org) by mid-February. In order for an abstract to be published:

- The abstract title must appear in the Conference Program.
- The paper must have been presented orally or as a poster at the meeting. "No shows" are not published.
- One of the authors must be registered for the conference (Horticulture or any other SAAS sections).
- The abstract must be formatted properly.

Southern Region Dues and Membership

Dues are paid through the ASHS web site. Southern Region-ASHS membership is separate from ASHS membership. If you want to pay dues and join the Southern Region-ASHS go to:

(<https://www.ashs.org/store/ListProducts.aspx?catid=294320>)

If you are an ASHS member, you can check your SR-ASHS dues status in your member record under Invoicing, Payments, and History in your Profile. If absolutely necessary, dues can also be paid at the annual meetings. Dues are \$30. Notice: Dues must be paid to vote, be elected to an office or to receive an award.

Future Meetings Sites

2023 – Oklahoma City, OK, Feb 2-8

2024 – Atlanta, GA, Feb 1-6

2025 – Irving, TX Jan 30-Feb 5

Fall 2021 Election Results

Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected in the Fall 2021 Elections.

PRESIDENT-ELECT-ELECT

(will preside over 2024 meeting)

Elina Coneva, Auburn University

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(will serve starting with 2022 meeting)

Christine Coker, Mississippi State University

Kathryn Fontenot, Louisiana State University

SECTION CHAIRS-ELECT

(will coordinate Section for 2023 meeting)

Education Section

Rachel Itle, University of Georgia

Extension Section

Juan Carlos Melgar, Clemson University

Floriculture, Ornamentals & Turf Section

Anthony Witcher, Tennessee State University

Fruit Crops Section

Melba Salazar-Gutierrez, Auburn University

Vegetable Crops Section

Heather Kirk-Ballard, Louisiana State

University

Postharvest & Biotechnology Section

Renee Threlfall, University of Arkansas

Poster Section

Justin Scheiner, Texas A&M University

Collegiate Branch (Edmond Paper Competition)

Catherine Simpson, Texas Tech University

2020-21 and 2021-22 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	chappell@vt.edu
President-Elect-Elect	Elina Coneva	edc0001@auburn.edu
Secretary-Treasurer	David Reed	dwreed@tamu.edu
Executive Committee		
Chair	Mengmeng Gu	mgu@tamu.edu
Vice-Chair	Jay Spiers	jds0017@auburn.edu
Member	Elina Coneva	edc0001@auburn.edu
Member	Thayne Montague	thayne.montague@ttu.edu
Member	Kathryn Fontenot	kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu
Member	Christine Coker	christine.coker@msstate.edu
Member, President-Elect	Matt Chappell	chappell@vt.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 - for 2020-21		
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 manage judging contest	Nate Philips	nate.phillips@mtsu.edu
Section Chairs		
Education Section	Garry McDonald	gmcdonal@uark.edu
Extension Section	Amanda McWhirt	amcwhirt@uada.edu
Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf Section	Genhua Niu	genhua.niu@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	azb0207@auburn.edu
Edmond UG Comp. - Collegiate Branch Chair	Jeb Fields	JFields@agcenter.lsu.edu
Childers and Barham Grad Competition	Matt Chappell	chappell@vt.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
Co-Chair	Amanda McWhirt	amcwhirt@uada.edu
Watermelon Research Group	Daniel Egel	egel@purdue.edu

Vice-Chair	Melissa Acevedi	melissa.acevedo@hmclause.com
Awards Committees		
Miller Distinguished Educator, Chair Member Member	Garry McDonald Brian Jackson Carolyn Robinson	gmcdonal@uark.edu brian_jackson@ncsu.edu cwrobinson@auburn.edu
Miller Distinguished Researcher, Chair Member Member	Gina Fernandez Dilip Panthee Eric Stafne	gina_fernandez@ncsu.edu dilip_panthee@ncsu.edu eric.stafne@msstate.edu
Covington Extension Award, Chair Member Member	Bodie Pennisi Thomas Yeager Gary Bachman	bpennisi@uga.edu yeagert@ufl.edu gary.bachman@msstate.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	Katherine Jennings Waltram Ravelombola Cristine Coker	katie_jennings@ncsu.edu waltram.ravelombola@ag.tamu.edu christine.coker@msstate.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	Daniel Treadwell Cristine Coker Sheri Dorn	ddtreadw@ufl.edu christine.coker@msstate.edu sdorn@uga.edu
Childers Outstanding Graduate Stu., Chair Member Member	Bodie Pennisi Amy Wright Matt Chappell	bpennisi@uga.edu awright@auburn.edu chappell@vt.edu
Outstanding ACB Club & Club Member	Nate Philips	nate.phillips@mtsu.edu

Instructions for Submission of Abstracts for Publication by ASHS

To Publish Your Abstract in *HortScience*:

- The abstract title must appear in the Program.
- The paper must have been presented orally or as a poster at the meeting.
- One of the authors must be registered for the conference.
- The abstract must be formatted properly.

Submission of Abstract

- File Format:** Each abstract must be submitted as a separate Word (.doc) file. If you use another word processing language, submit abstract in rich text format (.rtf).
- Deadline:**
- 1) At meeting: Give disk with file to the Chair of the session.
 - 2) Email abstracts as an attached file to the Chair of the session prior to the meeting or within a few days after the meeting. See the Program for the Chair's email address.

Abstract Format

- Length:** Limit the abstract body to about 2000 characters.
- Font:** 12 point, Times New Roman or similar
- Format:** Format abstract as below. Asterisk denotes presenting author.

Example Format

Molecular Marker-Derived Genetic Similarity Analysis of a Segregating Blackberry Population

Eric T. Stafne*¹, John R. Clark¹, and Kim S. Lewers²

¹316 Plant Sciences, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, ²USDA-ARS Fruit Lab, 10300 Baltimore Ave., BARC-West Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705

A tetraploid blackberry population that segregates for two important morphological traits, thornlessness and primocane fruiting, was tested with molecular marker analysis. Both randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) and simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers were used to screen a population of 98 genotypes within the population plus the two parents, 'Arapaho' and 'Prime-Jim'[®] (APF-12). RAPD analysis averaged 3.4 markers per primer, whereas SSR analysis yielded 3.0 markers per primer pair. Similarity coefficient derived from the Dice index averaged over all individuals was 63% for RAPD markers, 73% for SSR markers, and 66% for RAPD and SSR markers together. The average similarity coefficients ranged from a high of 72% to a low of 38% for RAPD markers, 80% to 57% for SSR markers, and 73% to 55% for both. Comparison of the parents indicated a similarity of 67% for RAPD markers, 62% for SSR markers, and 67% for both. This is similar to a previous study that reported the similarity coefficient at 66%. Although inbreeding exists within the population, the level of heterozygosity is high. Also, evidence of tetrasomic inheritance was uncovered within the molecular marker analysis. This population will be used to identify potential markers linked to both morphological traits of interest. Further genetic linkage analysis and mapping is needed to identify any putative markers.

Tentative Program

2022 Program at a Glance

		8:00		9:00		10:00		11:00		12:00		1:00		2:00		3:00		4:00		5:00	
Friday, February 11																					
Hotel Lobby	7:00 open	Registration																			
Napoleon B2		Southern Fruit Workers																			
Napoleon B3		National Sweet Potato Collaborators																			
Napoleon A 2/3		Watermelon Research Group																			
Poydras		Horticulture Administrators																			
Napoleon C2		ACB Club Share and Networking									ACB Activities, Tour, Meal or TBA									Executive Com.	
Napoleon B1		National ASHS Board of Directors																			
Saturday, February 12																					
Napoleon Foyer	7:00 open	Registration																			
Napoleon Foyer		Poster Set-Up				Authors Pin-Up Posters				Poster Session				Author at Poster Even Number				Author at Poster Odd Number			
Napoleon C3		Judging Contest Set-Up									J. Benton Storey Horticulture Judging Contest									ACB Scoring	
Napoleon B3		National Sweet Potato Collaborators																			
Napoleon A 2/3		Watermelon Research Group																			
Napoleon C2		Extension Section																			
Napoleon B1		Education Section									Overflow for Vegetables, Fruit Crops or Floriculture, Ornamental and Turf if needed										
Napoleon C1		Edmond UG Oral Paper Competition				Childers M.S. Oral Paper Competition									Barham Ph.D. Oral Paper Competition						
Napoleon D2		Overflow for Student Oral Competitions if needed																			
Sunday, February 13																					
Napoleon Foyer	7:00 open	Registration																			
Napoleon Foyer		Poster Session Viewing										Poster Take down									
Borgne		ACB Business Meeting								Business Meeting/Awards Prog.											
Oakley		Vegetable Crops Section																			
Edgewood A/B		Floriculture, Ornamentals & Turf Section																			
Estherwood		Fruit Crops Section																			
Napoleon A1		Postharvest & Biotechnology Section																			
Borgne														SAAS Board Mtg.				SAAS Bus.Mtg			
Armstrong Ballroom, Sheraton		Super Bowl Party																			