

Southern Region – IPPS Opening Presentation

David Creech

Stephen F. Austin State University Arboretum, P.O. Box 13000,
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962, USA

Email: dcreech@sfasu.edu

Keywords: Annual Meeting, Southern Region of North America (SRNA)

INTRODUCTION

President Creech welcomed everyone to Chattanooga, Tennessee for the 43rd Annual Meeting of the International Plant Propagators' Society-Southern Region of North America (SRNA). He thanked Local Site Committee Chair, Amy Fulcher and her committee and volunteers for the long hours in arranging the excellent tours, hotel, other planning activities and all their attention to detail.

He welcomed students, first time attendees and new members, asking them to stand and be recognized. Creech thanked the Executive Committee, and Brie Arthur's Sponsorship Committee, which raised \$41,500 in cash and \$8,000 in-kind sponsorships - which was outstanding. Creech encouraged the membership to visit and show their support of our sponsors during the meeting. He encouraged all members to make new members and first-time attendees feel welcome — share with them and seek

from them. He called for good questions and enthusiastic participation at the Tuesday night question box.

Creech announced that the SRNA is in its second year of the Southern Region Educational Endowment, which will be discussed in greater detail later in the meeting. With a base donation of \$20,000 from an anonymous donor, the Education Endowment balance is now \$40,512 – and growing. It will greatly enhance our region's ability to support students and early career professionals – and ensure continued quality of the outstanding educational programs our region is known for.

Creech announced that this is the sixth year the SRNA has participated with the European Region in the *Early-Career Propagator Exchange* program between the two regions. He recognized Jasper Schermer from the European Region, who was hosted by Judson LeCompte and J. Berry Nursery of the SRNA. Lindsay Day of the SRNA was our designee to the European Region. Both of these early-career professionals had an incredible exchange experience in our respective regions.

This is the seventh year we are doing the Vivian Munday Young Horticultural Professional Scholarship Work Program (Vivian Munday Scholarship).

We currently have four young professionals: George Grant (University of Florida), Kaitlin Barrios (University of Georgia), Nastaran Basiri Johromi

(University of Tennessee) and John Nix (North Carolina State University) - who are making a strong contribution to this year's program. Creech thanked Program Chair and 1st Vice-President, Elliott Hallum, for the excellent program and slate of speakers he assembled (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. President David Creech (left) with Elliott Hallum (right), program chair of the 2018 Chattanooga, Tennessee 43rd annual conference.