

Acknowledgments

The Editor and the Board of Directors of the Southern Nursery Association wish to express their sincere appreciation to Glenn Fain, Raul Cabrera, David Held, Robert Trigiano, Benedict Posadas, Sandra Reed, Cecil Pounders, James Altland, Luke Case, Christine Coker, Thomas Ranney, Milton Taylor, Charles Hall, James Gibson and Steven Carver for the fine job they did as Section Editors and Moderators. Our special thanks go to Sandra Wilson for her efforts in selecting and instructing judges and moderating the Bryson L. James Student Research Competition and to Chris Catanzaro for organizing the Poster Section. Thanks, also, to Nick Gawel and Holly Hodges who spent many hours helping the Editor organize the program and compile the manuscripts for publication.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the researchers and nurserymen who attended the 51st Annual SNA Research Conference and/or contributed to these *Proceedings*. You make this annual event a success with international recognition.

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Using Research Data Safely And Effectively

Good research is conducted under an exact set of controlled conditions, varying only the specific treatments which are to be evaluated. Results from the specific treatments are directly applicable to your operations only if all the conditions in your operation are controlled the same as in the research. Unfortunately, this seldom happens. However, this does not mean that you cannot benefit from the research. What it does mean is that you should use the research information on a trial basis if your plant species, soil type, watering method, size and age of plant, climatic region, etc. is different than that described by the researcher.

What an alert grower should expect to gain from these research reports is ideas – ideas as to the best control for insects, disease, nematodes and weeds – labor saving ideas such as chemical pruning and using growth regulators to minimize maintenance. Also, ideas on water management, nutrition, alternative growing media, new plants for landscaping and guides for improving profits and marketing skills can also be found.

Should you desire additional information on any report, please write to the author. We would like to extend an invitation to you to attend all sessions of the SNA Research Conference held in Atlanta each year in conjunction with *The World's Showcase of Horticulture*®.



51st Annual
Southern Nursery Association

Research Conference Proceedings 2006

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Proceedings of the SNA Research Conference are published annually by the Southern Nursery Association. One electronic copy (CD) is provided at no charge to all SNA members, horticultural libraries and contributing authors. The SNA Research Proceedings from 1990-present is also available for purchase on CD-Rom.

It is the fine men and women in horticultural research that we, the Southern Nursery Association, pledge our continued support and gratitude for their tireless efforts in the pursuit of the advancement of our industry.

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SNA Members	\$15.00*
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© Published October, 2006

Tom Ranney Receives SNA Porter Henegar Memorial Award



*Tom Ranney (left)
Richard Beeson (right).*

The Southern Nursery Association (SNA) awarded Dr. Tom Ranney, Professor of Horticultural Science at North Carolina State University, the Porter Henegar Memorial Award during the 51st Annual SNA Research Conference held in conjunction with the SNA's Annual Convention and Trade Show in Atlanta, Ga. Dr. Richard Beeson, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC) at the University of Florida and winner of the award in 2005, made the presentation to Dr. Ranney during the SNA Research Conference.

Originally known as the Research Award of Merit, the award was created in 1968 to honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to ornamental horticulture research. In 1972, the award was renamed the Porter Henegar Memorial Award in honor of one of SNA's former Executive Secretaries. SNA's Director of Research Dr. Bryson L. James and past award winners make nominations each year.

Dr. Ranney has been the Professor of Horticultural Sciences at North Carolina State since 1989. He lives in the mountains of Western North Carolina and leads a research program at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Fletcher, N.C. His program focuses on the evaluation, selection and development of new landscape plants. These efforts have involved travels throughout the world in search of new plants that provide economic opportunities for the nursery industry and a foundation for further plant breeding. Recent plant developments from his program include new hybrid *Calycanthus*, *xSchimlinia floribunda* and *xGordlinia grandiflora*.

He has published more than 100 research and popular articles on diverse horticultural topics. He has served on the Editorial Review Board for Tree Physiology and as an Associate Editor for the Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science. Dr. Ranney's recent awards included the Publication Award, Extension Education Aids Award and Distinguished Achievement Award for Nursery Crops from the American Society for Horticultural Science and the Research Friend of Extension Award from North Carolina State University.

Dr. Ranney has served on boards of the North Carolina Urban Forest Council, the Metropolitan Tree Improvement Alliance and the Landscape Plant Development Center. He has advised and served on committees of 22 graduate students and works with exceptional faculty and staff and North Carolina State University.

He has been actively involved in the Southern Nursery Association (SNA) for the last 17 years. He continues to serve as an Editor for the SNA Research Conference and has co-authored more than 55 papers at the Research Conference in diverse fields, including propagation, entomology, pathology, landscape management and plant breeding and evaluation.

The Bryson L. James Student Research Competition 2006 Awards

This long-standing program was renamed in August 1989, in honor of Dr. Bryson L. James, Director of Horticultural Research for the Southern Nursery Association. As Dr. James has been an active participant and leader in the annual Research Conference for more than 40 years, the award, named in his honor, is a tribute to his tireless efforts on behalf of the researchers, the association and the industry. Listed below are guidelines for the Student Competition as well as this year's winners:

1. Any student of a university or a college having researchers that participate in the Southern Nursery Association Research Conference, are not more than one (1) academic year removed from graduation and whose research was completed prior to graduation are eligible to compete.
2. Research is to be that of the presenter and a part of his/her educational studies. Contract work, unless a part of a thesis or classroom report (credit given), is not acceptable, as it may provide unlimited funding and an unfair advantage.
3. The number of student papers from a single university or college may be limited, should time restraints dictate.
4. The student must have submitted a title to the SNA Conference Editor by the deadline specified in the Call For Titles. The paper should then be submitted both to the Section Editor for the Student Competition and to the appropriate "topic" Section Editor no later than the specified deadline.
5. The paper must follow the guidelines for format and subject matter as stated in the Call For Titles for the SNA Research Conference.
6. Student and advisor should be listed as co-authors.
7. Oral presentation must be limited to seven (7) minutes. An additional three (3) minutes will be allotted for questions. A penalty of two (2) points per minute or part thereof for every minute over seven (7) minutes will be assessed.
8. Judging shall be based on preparation of the paper (50 points) and oral presentation (100 points) for a total of 150 points.

2006 Bryson L. James Student Competition Award Winners

B.S. Candidates

1st Place	-	\$600	Kristen N. Walton, North Carolina State University
2nd Place	-	\$400	Matthew Cousins, Clemson University
3rd Place	-	\$300	Thomas Saunders, Virginia Tech

M.S. Candidates

1st Place	-	\$600	Daniel S. Norden, North Carolina State University
2nd Place	-	\$400	Julie L. Guckenberger, Auburn University
3rd Place	-	\$300	Amy Poston, University of Kentucky

Ph.D. Candidates

1st Place	-	\$600	Cheryl R. Boyer, Auburn University
2nd Place	-	\$400	Brian Jackson, Virginia Tech
3rd Place	-	\$300	Michelle S. McGinnis, North Carolina State University

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