

PROCEEDINGS OF



RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Fifty-Fourth Annual Report

2009

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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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We extend our gratitude to all the researchers and nurserymen who attended the 54th 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 contact the author.

THE PORTER HENEGAR MEMORIAL AWARD
for
HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH



The Southern Nursery Association (SNA) has honored Dr. Alan S. Windham, a faculty member at the University of Tennessee with the Porter Henegar Memorial Award during the 54th Annual SNA Research Conference held in conjunction with SNA's Annual Meeting and Convention in Marietta, GA. Dr. Mark Windham, a past winner of the award, made the presentation to his brother, Alan, during the SNA Research Conference.

Originally known as the Research Award of Merit, the recognition was created in 1968 to honor those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to ornamental horticulture research and specifically to members of the association. In 1972, the award was renamed the Porter Henegar Memorial Award in honor of one of SNA's former Executive Secretaries. Nominations are made each year by the SNA's Director of Research and past award winners.

Dr. Windham is a Professor of Plant Pathology for diseases affecting ornamental plants and turfgrass in the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department at the University of Tennessee. He completed his Ph.D in Plant Pathology with a minor in Soil Science at North Carolina State University at Raleigh in 1985.

Dr. Windham has conducted educational programs and consulted with nursery, greenhouse and turf industries nationally and internationally. He has published over 100 research papers, book chapters and popular press articles. He has lectured in many undergraduate/graduate courses in plant pathology, mycology, floriculture, nursery and turfgrass management. He teaches a graduate level course in disease diagnosis. His current research interests include the diagnosis and management of emerging plant diseases of ornamental plants and turf and the development of disease resistant ornamental plants.

Dr. Windham is a member of the American Phytopathological Society and was inducted into the honorary societies Gamma Sigma Delta and Sigma Xi. In 2000, received the Gamma Sigma Delta Award of Merit for his work with the UT Dogwood Working Group. In 2002, he was awarded the American Society for Horticultural Science Extension Publication Award for *Dogwoods for American Gardens*. In 2007, he was awarded two plant patents for new disease resistant flowering dogwoods. Also, in 2007 he was named Turfgrass Professional of the Year by the Tennessee Turfgrass Association.

**The Bryson L. James
Student Research Competition
2009 Awards**

This long-standing program was renamed in August 1989, in honor of Dr. Bryson L. James, longtime 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 50 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.

2009 Bryson L. James Student Competition Award Winners

B.S. Candidates

1 st Place	Anna-Marie Murphy	Auburn University
2 nd Place	Christina Twardowski	Virginia Tech
3 rd Place	Theo Steele	University of Kentucky

M.S. Candidates

1 st Place	Elisabeth Meyer	North Carolina State University
2 nd Place	Carey Hebert	North Carolina State University
3 rd Place	Chris Marble	North Carolina State University

Ph.D. Candidates

1 st Place	J. Kevin Parris	Clemson University
2 nd Place	Anthony Witcher	University of Southern Mississippi
3 rd Place	Paul Jackson	Auburn University