

PROCEEDINGS OF



RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Fifty-Second Annual Report

2007

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We extend our gratitude to all the researchers and nurserymen who attended the 52nd 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.

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*®.

52nd Annual
Southern Nursery Association

Research Conference Proceedings 2007

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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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THE PORTER HENEGAR MEMORIAL AWARD
for
HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH

Gary J. Keever



The Southern Nursery Association honored Dr. Gary J. Keever with the Porter Henegar Memorial Award during the 52nd Annual 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. Gary J. Keever, grew up in Rock Hill, SC. Keever and earned his BS in Ornamental Horticulture at Clemson University in 1977, followed by a MS (1979) and PhD in Horticulture from Cornell University in 1982. Dr. Keever joined the Department of Horticulture at Auburn University in 1982 and retired as the Thomas H. Dodd, Jr. Endowed Professor of Horticulture at Auburn University after a noteworthy 35-year career. Dr. Keever published over 150 refereed research articles, 75 research conference and symposia publications and served as major professor or committee member of over 50 graduate students.

Dr. Keever served as the Graduate Program Officer in the Department of Horticulture for 16 years, taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses, and helped form the Urban Forestry curriculum at Auburn.

In 2004, Dr. Keever was the recipient of the American Nursery & Landscape Association's Norman Jay Coleman Award, a national award based on noteworthy nursery research contributions. He served as an associate editor of the Journal of Environmental Horticulture for decades. He was a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science, the Azalea Society of America, the Alabama Nurserymen's Association, the Plant Growth Regulation Society of America, and the International Plant Propagators Society.

Keever's research work focused on growth regulation of woody and herbaceous landscape plants, innovative approaches in the use of outdoor night-interrupted lighting to promote earlier flowering of herbaceous perennials, and nontraditional uses of woody plants including work to identify and promote superior azaleas.

**The Bryson L. James
Student Research Competition
2007 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 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.

2007 Bryson L. James Student Competition Award Winners

B.S. Candidates

1st Place	\$500	Michelle Leonard	University of Florida
2nd Place	\$300	Cherrie M. Tchir	North Carolina State University
3rd Place	\$200	Irene Palmer	North Carolina State University

M.S. Candidates

1st Place	\$500	Jeff R. Jones	North Carolina State University
2nd Place	\$300	John M. Wooldridge	North Carolina State University
3rd Place	\$200	Sara R. Tanis	Michigan State University

Ph.D. Candidates

1st Place	\$500	Brian Jackson	Virginia Tech
2nd Place	\$300	Sarah White	Clemson University
3rd Place	\$200	Matthew D. Taylor	North Carolina State University

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