

Overview

2015 APRES Annual Meeting

July 14-16 * Charleston, SC

The 47th Annual Meeting of the American Peanut Research and Education Society (APRES) was held July 14-16, 2015 at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, SC. Outgoing APRES President Naveen Puppala (New Mexico State University) presided over the very well attended meeting of 370 attendees from every peanut producing state and 16 countries, grouped as 241 registrants, 84 spouses and 45 children.

Technical Program Chairman Ames Herbert (Virginia Tech) arranged 137 presentations/posters from peanut scientists around the world. Highlights of the program included opening addresses by:

Richard Rentz, Chairman, South Carolina Peanut Board; welcomed the crowd to Charleston, stating they were thrilled to host APRES for the first time in the state of South Carolina and that they were pleased many got to see first hand the peanut production and peanut research being conducted by Clemson University the day before on their field tour.

Dr. Joe Culin, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Studies, Clemson University gave an excellent overview of how South Carolina is embracing peanut production in his presentation *Research in South Carolina*. South Carolina produced their first official crop in 2005. The state now has over 100,000 acres in production, yielding on average 3500 lb/ac. In May 2014, Rogers Brothers Farm announced plans to construct the first commercial shelling facility in the state with a capacity of 10 tons per hour. The new plant should be operational in early 2016.

Bob Parker, President and CEO, National Peanut Board, spoke on the Board's *The Perfectly Powerful Peanut* multi-faceted marketing campaign, highlighting their recent popup event in New York City. He shared a beautifully produced video which gave an overview of each approach--digital, print advertising, packaging, product development, social media, public relations, grower communications, events, social media, collaborative industry efforts. As the video related, NPB has shared, tweeted, fed, inspired, educated, facebooked, handed out samples and information, hosted events, engaged 40 foodbloggers, Carla Hall of The Chew, and Chef JJ Johnson of the Cecil Restaurant, and delivered PBJ sandwiches. With over 12 million consumer hits in NYC, NPB repeated this wonderful outreach effort in Chicago, Los Angeles, DC, and Atlanta. Bob closed by saying with all segments of the industry working together... nothing can stop us.

Dr. Penny Kris-Etherton, Distinguished Professor of Nutrition, The Pennsylvania State University, was the keynote speaker. Her presentation, *The Many Health Benefits of Peanuts*, left members of the peanut industry feeling proud of the work they do for such a wonderfully

blessed (in terms of nutrition and health) commodity. Her research and a compilation of statistics provide strong evidence showing the benefits of peanuts and tree nuts on risk of major chronic diseases in the U.S., particularly CVD, diabetes, and overweight/obesity; peanuts confer health benefits on many risk factors for many cardiometabolic diseases; and peanuts improve dietary quality. Given this evidence, dietary guidance recommends a health dietary pattern that includes peanuts and nuts and health fats. This is great news as peanut butter is consumed by 94 percent of the households in the USA; peanuts account for 2/3 of all snack nuts consumed in the USA; and the average American consumes more than 6 pounds of peanuts and peanut butter each year.

Two Symposia on *Peanut Post Harvest Quality*, moderated by Jack Davis, JLA and the *Bayer Excellence in Extension and Extension Techniques*, moderated by Keith Rucker, Bayer CropScience were held.

Breakout Sessions topics included: Entomology, Weed Science & Mycotoxins; Harvesting, Curing, Shelling, Storing & Handling; Processing and Utilization, Economics; Breeding, Biotechnology and Genetics I and II; Plant Pathology and Nematology I and II; Physiology and Seed Technology; Production Technology.

Thirty-eight (38) scientific posters were also displayed.

Another highlight of the APRES meeting is the annual **Joe Sugg Graduate Student Competition**. The largest number of universities (8) and second largest number of participants (19) competed in this year's competition of outstanding presentations. This 2015 winners are: **First Place – Claire Klevorn** (North Carolina State University) (Dr. Lisa Dean, major professor) "*Variation in O/L Ratio Demonstrated among High-Oleic Spanish-type peanuts*" and **Second Place – Jake Fountain**, University of Georgia (Dr. Bob Kemeraït, major professor) "*Potential Roles of Environmental Oxidative Stress in Aflatoxin Production Revealed in the *Aspergillus flavus* Transcriptome*".

During the Annual Meeting, APRES recognized several individuals for their achievements and service to APRES:

The highest honor the Society bestows on an individual, **Fellow of the Society**, was awarded to: Dr. Robert Kemeraït, Jr., University of Georgia.

The **Coyt T. Wilson Award for Distinguished Service** to APRES went to Mr. Howard Valentine of the American Peanut Council and Peanut Foundation.

Dr. Jay Chapin was selected as this year's recipient of the **Dow Agrosciences Award for Education**.

Dr. Charles Simpson of Texas A&M AgriLife Research was selected as this year's recipient of the **Dow Agrosciences Award for Research**.

The **Bailey Award** for the best paper from the 2014 Annual Meeting went to Josh A. Clevenger, University of Georgia (Presenter) and co-authors Drs. Yufang Guo and Peggy Ozias-Akins (UGA) for their paper, “*Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Detection in Cultivated Peanut Using the Diploid Wild Progenitor Reference Genomes*”.

At the conclusion of the meeting, **new officers and directors** for the Society were inducted. Outgoing President, Dr. Naveen Puppala (New Mexico State University), presented the gavel to incoming President, Dr. Tom Stalker (North Carolina State University). President-Elect is Corley Holbrook of USDA-ARS. Newly elected Board of Directors are Wilson Faircloth, Syngenta, Marshall Lamb, USDA/ARS, and Howard Valentine, American Peanut Council. Outgoing Board members Keith Rucker, Bayer CropScience; Noelle Barkley, USDA/ARS, Tim Brenneman, UGA, were recognized for their support and service. The first action of President Stalker’s term was to present Dr. Naveen Puppala (NMSU) with the Past President’s Award.

The 2016 APRES meeting will be held July 12-14 at the Hilton Clearwater Beach in Clearwater, FL.