

SPECIAL EVENTS

Room numbers correspond with the floors they are located on in the Convention Center.

FRIDAY, August 4

Fast Plants in Your Class

9:00 am – noon
in Room 303

Join Paul Williams, the father of Fast Plants, and selected K-12 teachers in a 4-hour workshop on growing and using Fast Plants, rapid-cycling Brassicas, in your classroom. This hands-on workshop will introduce you to the latest growing methods and genetic stocks for investigating growth, development and reproduction, nutrition, Mendelian and non-Mendelian and quantitative genetics, physiology, tropisms, growth regulators, and photosynthesis. K-12 teachers attending the workshop will provide perspectives on what works and what is needed for plant science in their classroom. All resources used in the workshop will be referenced to www.fastplants.org. The workshop is by reservation only, including invited teachers.

SATURDAY, August 5

Undergraduate Networking Poster Session

11:00 – 12:00 noon
in Room 313

Undergraduate attendees are encouraged to attend and display their posters. Students will be free to mingle with each other, various Society leaders, and other meeting participants to share their research, network, and learn how to get the most out of the meeting. A special panel of graduate ASPB Ambassadors will be presenting as well. Students may take their posters to the main poster area marked for undergraduate posters after the event.

Boston Tea Party – ASPB Section Reception and New Member/Attendee Welcome

11:00 - 12:00 noon
in Room 310

A complimentary reception sponsored by ASPB Sections – Meet the Editor of Plant Physiology, Don Ort – All ASPB members are invited to attend the networking reception where all sections of the society will be represented. Learn more about the sectional societies of ASPB and meet their officers. **New ASPB members and first time attendees will be given a chance to enter a drawing for some great prizes.**

Perspectives of Science Leaders

7:30 - 8:30 pm
in Room 302

Dr. Mary E. Clutter will receive the 2006 ASPB Leadership in Science Public Service Award 7:30 p.m. Saturday, August 5. Immediately following the award presentation, Dr. Clutter will present the Perspectives of Science Leaders talk. Dr. Clutter is the former Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Biological Sciences Directorate that supports all major areas of fundamental research in biology. During her tenure at NSF, Dr. Clutter served as U.S. Chair of the U.S.-European Commission Task Force on Biotechnology Research, Chair of the Biotechnology Subcommittee of the Committee on Science of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), co-chair of the NSTC Committee on Science's Interagency Working Group on Plant Genomes and on the National Interagency Genomics Sciences Coordinating Committee. She is a recipient of numerous Senior Executive Service Awards including the Meritorious and Distinguished Executive Presidential rank awards from President Ronald Reagan, President George Bush and President William Clinton; the NSF Distinguished Service Award; and a tribute in the Congressional Record on July 29, 2005.

Plant Biology 2006 Opening Reception and Mixer

8:30 - 10:30 pm
in Auditorium and Exhibit Hall C

Open to all meeting registrants, this welcoming event in the Exhibit Hall is a perfect way to reconnect with old friends, meet new people, and network with other meeting participants.

SPECIAL EVENTS *(continued)*

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SUNDAY, August 6

Small Colleges/PUI Networking Breakfast 7:00 - 8:30 am in Room 313

This annual event serves as an opportunity to bring people from PUIs together to network, share information on strategies for teaching and research in plant biology, and explore other opportunities. This event requires a pre-purchased ticket.

Minority Affairs Committee Sponsored Speaker and Luncheon 12:00 - 2:00 pm in Room 306

Featuring Alfred C. Johnson, PhD, Assistant Director of the NIH Office of Intramural Research at the NIH. He will speak on "Career Development for Minority Scientists: New Challenges in the Midst of Changing Realities." This annual luncheon is sponsored by the ASPB Committee on Minority Affairs for meeting attendees. This event requires a pre-purchased ticket.

Exclusive Poster & Exhibit Session 5:10 - 7:10 pm in Auditorium and Exhibit Hall C

Visit exhibitors and view posters while enjoying snacks and beverages during this exclusive session. All even-number abstracts - 5:10 - 6:10 pm; all odd-number abstracts - 6:10 - 7:10 pm

Postdoc Reception Hosted by The Noble Foundation and Ceres, Inc. 7:10 - 9:00 PM in the Hilton

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and Ceres, Inc. will co-host a reception for current and prospective post-doctoral fellows. Representatives from Noble and Ceres will be present to describe available employment and research positions, including research opportunities for the development of advanced biomass crops and agronomic systems for biofuel production and related biomass conversion technologies.

Career Workshop I - Where the Other Jobs Are 7:10 - 11:00 pm in Room 309

Speakers from industry (Mark Cigan, Pioneer), academia (Carolyn Wetzel, Smith College), government labs (Mel Oliver, USDA), publishing (Susanna Brink, Trends in Plant Science), public policy (Melissa Ho, Senate staff), and NGOs (Ivan Ingelbrecht, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture) have agreed to give brief presentations about opportunities in their fields. If you're thinking about pursuing a career outside, as well as in academia, you won't want to miss this workshop! Food and beverages will be served. This event requires a pre-purchased ticket.

Career Workshop II - Getting and Keeping a Job 7:10 - 11:00 pm in Room 310

This program combines the best of two former workshops: "How to Get a Job" and "How to Keep a Job." Speakers will present their views, experiences, and advice about balancing teaching and research (Allan Showalter, Ohio University), networking and seeking opportunities (Magdalena Bezanilla, Univ. of Massachusetts) writing application letters and CVs (Jose Arguello, Worcester Polytechnic Institute), seminar

presentation skills (Bethany Zolman, Univ. of Missouri, St. Louis), how to interview (Marianne Laporte, Eastern Michigan University), and, negotiating skills (Danny Schnell, Univ. of Massachusetts). Food and beverages will be served. This event requires a pre-purchased ticket.

USDA Reception 7:30 - 8:30 pm in Room 308

All employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are invited to attend this annual reception. Enjoy the opportunity to share a beverage and mingle with this diverse group.

Broader Impact and Beyond Education Workshop 7:30 - 10:00 pm in Room 311

Scientists are under increasing pressure to pursue cutting-edge research (which is growing evermore expensive and complex), while at the same time justifying these activities to a lay population that is increasingly uneducated about what science is, how it is carried out, and how it contributes to the greater good of society. Scientific progress provides the underpinnings of technological advances, and it is essential that the public be educated to appreciate, if not understand, how science is done and how it can provide answers to the myriad of problems facing today's society. The problem is particularly important when one considers the importance of motivating today's youth to become the scientists of tomorrow. Active researchers are faced with tremendous demands on their time, and simply asking people to do more, while maintaining excellence in their research endeavors, is not a sustainable solution. To both advance and communicate scientific knowledge to society, efforts are underway to rethink the traditional paradigm of teaching and research as separate activities. Strategies are needed to help researchers better integrate their research, teaching, and outreach efforts. The ASPB is joining forces with the Botanical Society of America to formulate strategies that members of both societies can use to promote their research to a broader audience. This workshop will provide an opportunity to hear about success stories for integrating research and teaching and to learn more about the work that the ASPB and BSA is doing to promote these efforts.

Digital Art Workshop: How to Prepare Print-Quality Digital Images 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm in Room 313

In this age of electronic content, the processes for submitting and publishing papers have never been faster or more convenient. However, constantly changing information, software, and file formats make the preparation of digital images evermore challenging. In response, ASPB is offering its third digital art workshop to address the latest developments affecting our authors. The workshop will be hosted by Michael Hepp, Technology Manager for Dartmouth Journal Services, which produces Plant Physiology and The Plant Cell. The session will include real-world examples of figure processing, including building multi-panel figures, proper settings for image compression, and handling of figures created in Office applications. New this year will be a discussion of image fraud and methods being developed to detect manipulation of images that could potentially misrepresent science. Bring your questions! There will be plenty of time to share your own experiences creating digital art.

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MONDAY, August 7

Women in Plant Biology Committee Sponsored Speaker and Luncheon

12:00 – 2:00 pm
in Room 306

Our speaker this year, Dr. Wendy F. Boss, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Botany at North Carolina State University, will reflect on what it means to be a scientist, in a talk entitled, "Tapping on the Puzzle Piece." Come and enjoy excellent food, network with fellow students and professionals, meet members of the Women in Plant Biology Committee, and hear from one of today's leading women in science. *Sponsored by Monsanto*

TAIR Workshop I: Introduction to TAIR

12:30 - 2:00 pm
in Room 313

This workshop presents an introduction to TAIR for people who are infrequent or new users of the database. We will cover basics such as registration and ordering, simple searching and a general orientation about the contents of the database. *Sponsored by Monsanto*

Minority Affairs Symposium: Medicinal Plants and Ethnobotany

2:00 – 3:40 pm
in Room 312

For many centuries indigenous cultures have treated ailments using a cornucopia of plants with medicinal value. These medicinal properties are often due to a unique chemistry produced in plants as a mechanism to survive biotic and abiotic stresses. Novel chemistry corresponds to an underlying genome, which if further investigated would reveal yet-to-be discovered drugs for daunting diseases, novel enzymes for industrial applications, and corresponding genes with metabolic engineering potential in agriculture and medicine. The field of ethnobotany explores the use of plants for medicinal or economic value and thereby provides clues for new areas of promise in plant research as the field moves beyond model organisms.

SPEAKERS: Eloy Rodriguez, *Cornell University*; Alfredo Gomez-Beloz, *Center for World Indigenous Studies*; Camille Tipton, *City University of New York and The New York Botanical Garden*; Kevin Walker, *Michigan State University*; Jill Chavez, *Cornell University*

Grantsmanship Workshop

7:00 - 8:30 pm
in Room 313

Federal Grant Opportunities and Grantsmanship: A session on federal plant research and education programs to learn about new directions in funding, new priorities within current programs, and how to get these good ideas into well-written, appealing programs. Both research- and education-centered opportunities will be explored.

Case Studies in the Classroom Education Workshop

7:00 – 8:30 pm
in Room 309

Using Case Studies to Augment Science Teaching

Susannah Gal Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, Binghamton University, New York

Much of scientific classroom material is presented to students without providing them ways of seeing the applicability of the material to their every day life. Case studies are a way to cover content and put a personal spin on the topic to make the learning fun and personally rewarding. A group at SUNY Buffalo has collected a large number of these cases useable in many different scientific courses including plant biology, biotechnology, molecular biology and biochemistry (see <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/projects/cases/case.html>). This workshop will introduce participants to these cases by having them go through one as a student. This active learning approach will be discussed with regard to the other cases available at SUNY-Buffalo so that participants can consider incorporating one or more in future classes. Susannah Gal has written two cases for the SUNY-Buffalo collection. She has used these cases in molecular biology and cell biology classes for 5 years and feels they are a great way to engage the students in learning the course material. This workshop has been made possible with support from the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0341279. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the workshop leader and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Application of Protoplast Systems

7:00 – 8:30 pm
in room 310

Cell-based molecular, genetic and genomic analyses provide versatile and powerful possibilities and solutions to modern research in plant biology. The Sheen Lab in Boston has been engaged in the development, improvement and application of plant protoplast systems using two genetic model plants, maize and Arabidopsis, for nearly two decades. Reporter genes and physiological assays have been established to use protoplast systems to study the dynamic and complex gene regulation mechanisms and diverse signal transduction pathways at the molecular, biochemical and cellular level. The protoplast systems are also valuable for new experiments in cell biology, physiology and innate immunity in plants. The cell-based systems complement the more traditional whole plant studies and will become more useful tools for high-throughput functional genomic analysis as more plant genome sequences are scheduled to complete in the near future. At this workshop, we will bring live plants and share detailed technical experience from plant growth, protoplast preparation, DNA transfection, assay design, to trouble-shooting tips, as well as pain and joy. The workshop will start with an overview lecture offering historical background, examples for applications and limitations, and step-by-step protoplast techniques. There will be an open discussion session and live plant demonstration of the Arabidopsis protoplast system. Bring your questions, concerns and an open and creative mind.

Exclusive Poster & Exhibit Session

8:30 - 11:00 pm
in Auditorium and Exhibit Hall C

Visit exhibitors and view posters while enjoying snacks and beverages during this exclusive session. All odd-number abstracts - 9:00 - 10:00 pm; all even-number abstracts - 10:00 - 11:00 pm.

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TUESDAY, August 8

Plant Runners Stampede, 5K Fun Run 6:00 - 7:45 am

Off-site around the Charles River, busses will pick up at 5:45 am at the Hynes Center. This event requires a pre-purchased ticket.

TAIR Workshop II: 12:30 - 2:00 pm
Making the Most of Plant Metabolic in Room 313
Pathway Databases and Functional Annotation

The first part of the workshop will present an overview of MetaCyc, a curated biochemical pathway database, and AraCyc, a pathway database for *Arabidopsis thaliana*. We will describe how species-specific metabolic databases can be generated using the reference database MetaCyc using the creation of AraCyc as an example. Demos will be given to explain how to access and query the databases information as well as to superimpose large scale 'omics' data onto AraCyc metabolic pathways. The second part of the workshop will demonstrate how to access functional annotation data for *Arabidopsis* and how it can be utilized for data integration, hypothesis generation and classification of high throughput data from microarray experiments.

Final Party – Disco Night 7:00 - 11:00 pm
in Ballrooms A, B & C

Party like its 1975 – and dress like it too!! This event will be one of the social highlights at Plant Biology 2006. Get down and groovy the last night of the meeting. There will be good fun, music, dancing, food and great conversation.