

SWSS Representative to WSSA Report

2021 Officers

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Activities of the Southern Weed Science Society, including the 2020 student Weed Contest and student enrichments were cancelled in 2020 due to travel restrictions and precautions against “pandemic COVID.”

The 2021 Annual Meeting that had been planned for January 24-27 in Knoxville, TN was reorganized as a virtual meeting hosted on Zoom. For the 2021 meeting, the board met virtually January 20, concurrent live M.S. and Ph.D. student oral presentations were made January 25, with General Session, Business meeting, and Awards made January 26 afternoon. Posters were available for viewing January 22 through January 29. Number of student contestants increased compared to 2020 annual meeting: Poster M.S. 22, Ph.D. 24, Oral M.S. 28, Ph.D. 34. Judges reported the Google spreadsheet scoring method was much easier compared to traditional paper scoresheets, plus there were no miscalculations due to adding errors nor did chairs of the contest have to hunt down judges to obtain evaluation sheets. The number of registrants for the 2021 Annual Meeting was 6 fewer than the 2020 meeting. Membership in SWSS continues in a downward trend, however, number of student participants was highest since 2015. Registration fees for the Annual Meeting were not reduced, so despite reduced attendance net income was positive. A total of 160 oral and poster presentations for the 2021 meeting.

Future annual meeting locations, hotels, dates:

2022, Diamond Jubilee 75th Annual Meeting, AT&T Education and Conference Center, Austin, TX, January 23-27

2023, Renaissance Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA, January 22-26

2024, Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk joint with WSSA, dates TBD

Plans to have 2021 Weed Contest at the Corteva Research Farm in Greenville, MS on August 3. However, both state, county and Corteva policy regarding gatherings prior to and on August 3 will dictate.