Southern Plant Board

President, Christel Harden, South Carolina (864) 646-2135
Vice President, Mike Evans, Georgia (404) 586-1140
Secretary-Treasurer, Terry Walker, Arkansas (501) 225-1598

Contact Address: Department of Plant Industry
Clemson University
511 Westinghouse Road
Pendleton, SC 29670

Bonjour From Louisiana!

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Horticulture and Quarantine Programs Division will be hosting the 2013 annual meeting of the Southern Plant Board in New Orleans on April 21-24, 2013. Need we say more?

Registration

If you received this correspondence via e-mail, a registration form is attached. Please complete the form and mail it, along with your payment, to the address noted. Or... go to http://nationalplantboard.org/region/southern.html and download the form.

Please note the registration deadlines. Early registration saves you money (and really helps out the hosting state!). So **register early** and don't forget to include your check!

Accommodations

We will be meeting at a lovely hotel in New Orleans' famous French Quarter:

Omni Royal Orleans Hotel
621 St. Louis St.
New Orleans, LA 70140
Reservations: (800) 578-0500
www.omniroyalorleans.com

Join us for a stay in this four-diamond hotel that is home to the Zagat-rated Rib Room Rotisserie Extraordinaire and promises a visit filled with graceful Southern elegance.

Meeting attendees will need to make their own room reservations by calling the Omni Royal Orleans Reservations at (800) 578-0500. Ask for the Southern Plant Board rate. Room rates are $135.00 plus 13% tax and a $2.00 room charge per night. Reservations must be made by March 22, 2013 to obtain the SPB group rate. Check in time is 4:00 PM; check out time is 12:00 noon.

Parking: $24.00 plus tax per vehicle per night for overnight parking; $10.00 for daily parking if you choose to park in the hotel parking facility. Valet parking.

Please see the registration form for reservation information and contacts.

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Transportation

Please see the Omni Royal Orleans directions / airport transportation sheet below.

Lagniappe

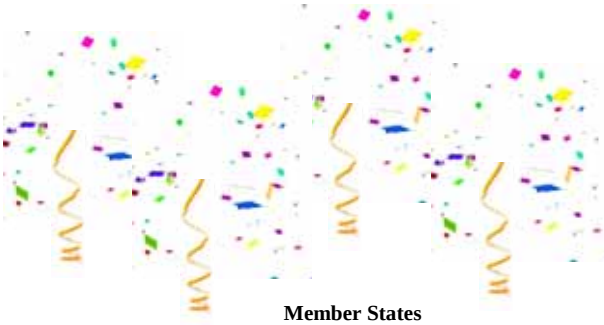
Our Tuesday afternoon excursion begins with a bus ride down river to the Woodland Plantation home for lunch, followed by a gracious tour of Saxon Becnel & Sons citrus nursery. Evenings will be yours to enjoy: walking in the French Quarter, taking in the sites and activities of Greater New Orleans, or just visiting with colleagues each night in our Hospitality Suite.

The climate in New Orleans in mid-April is very nice. Average highs are 78 F and average lows are 59 F. And of course, rain is always a possibility in South Louisiana! So plan to dress however you are comfortable. Just come with a good appetite and a relaxed attitude!

Below are a few online sites you might wish to visit for more information on things to do in the New Orleans area. A Visitor Guide awaits you at the hotel upon arrival!

Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!
(Let the Good Times Roll!)

Things To Do in New Orleans: http://www.neworleanscvb.com/things-to-do/
New Orleans FAQs: http://www.neworleanscvb.com/visit/faq/
Tours in the New Orleans Area: http://www.neworleanscvb.com/things-to-do/tours/
Food & Fun: http://www.neworleanscvb.com/things-to-do/dining-entertainment/
Jazz & Heritage Festival April 2013: http://www.nojazzfest.com/
All Things French Quarter: http://www.neworleansonline.com/neworleans/fq/
April 2013 Calendar of Events in New Orleans:
http://www.neworleanscvb.com/calendar-events/?e_ViewBy=month&e_sDate=04-14-2013&e_sortBy=eventDate#events



Member States
Alabama – Arkansas – Florida – Georgia – Kentucky – Louisiana – Mississippi
North Carolina – Oklahoma – Puerto Rico – South Carolina – Tennessee – Texas – Virginia

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OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS

621 Saint Louis Street · New Orleans, LA 70140
Phone: (504) 529-5333 · Fax: (504) 529-7089
Visit us on the Web at www.omniroyalorleans.com

DIRECTIONS TO OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS VIA I-10 EASTBOUND:

From the west (Baton Rouge, Metairie, New Orleans International Airport ,etc.), take I-10 East to New Orleans Business District. Remain in the lanes designated as I-10 East / Slidell. Continue on I-10 to Poydras Street (1st exit on left). Continue on Poydras Street to Camp Street, cross Canal Street and the street becomes Chartres Street upon entering French Quarter. Continue on Chartres Street, (4) blocks to St. Louis Street (hotel is on the corner) and proceed through stop sign to the Omni Royal Orleans Garage immediately on the left side of the street.

DIRECTIONS TO OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS VIA I-10 WESTBOUND:

From the east (Biloxi, Slidell, etc.), take I-10 West to Orleans Avenue/Vieux Carré Exit; turn left at bottom of ramp onto Orleans Avenue which turns into Basin Street. Continue on Basin Street to Conti Street and turn left. Take Conti Street for (6) blocks to Chartres Street. Turn left on Chartres, one block to St. Louis (hotel is on the corner) and continue on Chartres to enter Omni Royal Orleans Garage immediately on the left side of the street.

AIRPORT TRANSPORATION OPTIONS

Shuttle Service: *Tickets for Airport Shuttle may be purchased in the Baggage Claim lobby at the airport at a cost of $13.00 per person (one-way). Reserve your return trip seat with our Concierge at the hotel. Note that the shuttle service makes frequent stops.*

Taxi Service: *Taxis are dispatched as needed from outside of the Baggage Claim lobby at the airport. The cost is based on a flat, one-way fare of $28.00 for (1) or (2) passengers. The fare for (3) or more passengers is $12.00 per person, up to the maximum number of passengers that the vehicle may accommodate. Taxis for your return trip to the airport are hailed as needed by the Doorman at the hotel.*