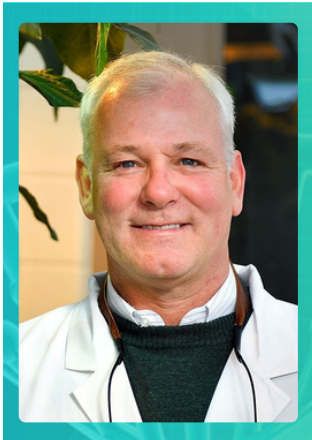


# President-Elect

## Candidate Statement



### Kent Chapman

The prospect of becoming ASPB President is daunting. The roles and responsibilities are many and extend for three years as President-elect, President and Immediate Past President. As ASPB president I will be committed to serving our mission to the best of my ability--“to promote the growth and development of plant biology, to encourage and publish research in plant biology, and to promote the interests, growth, and education of plant scientists in general.” Although the elements of this mission are as relevant today as they were when the society was founded 100 years ago, the plant biology ecosystem and the ways in which we do almost everything have dramatically expanded. My vision for ASPB is one of a professional society that relies on the strength of its foundation and embraces the future with the collective inspiration and efforts of its members. If elected, I will do my best to continue recent efforts by leadership to promote and grow a diverse and inclusive membership. It has been especially satisfying to see many early-career scientists become involved in essentially all aspects of society activities. And although there is still much to do in the areas of equity and inclusion, it also is heartening to see ASPB’s commitment through the NSF-funded LEAPs program- “Root and Shoot”- as an important driver for cultural change in our professional society. I am eager to see future progress on a strategic plan where all members see a place that they can contribute to ASPB’s mission.

ASPB is fortunate to be on a firm financial footing that enables the numerous activities of the society. There are, however, challenges and headwinds that threaten our ability to sustain these activities. The major revenue stream for the society, historically, has been its journals, and the upcoming open-access mandates create uncertainty about this important source of funding for the society. Also, in recent years, expenses for the annual meeting have substantially exceeded revenue expectations, and along with other current expenditures of the society, important decisions and creative solutions will be necessary to provide long-term, sustainable solutions to fund the priorities of ASPB members. In the coming years, ASPB leadership and staff will need to prioritize programming to meet these fiscal realities. Some activities that have “always be done this way” may have to be scrutinized for their impact to the mission and alignment with goals, especially as new initiatives are proposed. I see efforts to match budgets to strategic priorities as an important focus for a new president, the collective ASPB governance and the ASPB staff. One bright spot in recent years has been a substantial fundraising effort, initially by founding members of the ASPB Legacy Society, and more recently through

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### Kent Chapman (continued)

an ASPB Pioneers program and other initiatives of the Centennial Challenge Committee as a run-up to the 2024 annual meeting. These efforts have raised a remarkable amount-- nearly \$3M-- an indication of the generous support that exists for ASPB professional development activities. These fundraising successes point to potential new ways in which the society may be able to support some of its most cherished programs.

There are some 27,000 followers of Plantae on Twitter/X (and 73,000 followers on Facebook), and yet the membership of ASPB is less than 3,000. The content that is accessible in Plantae is outstanding, and continues to be enhanced through the efforts of staff, editors, and fellows.

Somehow this digital platform, with its many users and extensive ASPB resources, needs to translate more in the way of new ASPB members. My goal as incoming ASPB President will be to leverage the efforts of the membership committee, Plantae, and other resources across the ASPB enterprise to double the membership of ASPB by 2027. A growing membership is reflective of a healthy professional society where members see value in their professional affiliation, and will be future contributors to a common mission.

ASPB (previously ASPP) has been my professional home for more than 35 years. Actually, as an undergraduate student at a small liberal arts college in north-central Pennsylvania, it was a visiting professor and ASPP member that first introduced me to experimental research. In graduate school, I attended my first ASPP annual meeting in St. Louis to present my work, and I have been a member of the society ever since. Over the years, I have served in several leadership positions in the Southern section of the ASPB, including Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-Chair, Chair, and Section Representative to the Executive Committee of ASPB (now the ASPB Council). More recently, I served as a member of the ASPB Board of Trustees, and was appointed and served a 4-year term as Treasurer and Chair of the Board of Trustees. In that role I also served on the Board of Directors, the ASPB Council, and participated in fundraising efforts as part of the Legacy Society Leadership Committee and the Centennial Challenge Committee. I am a reviewing editor for *The Plant Cell* (since 2015), and have supported all of the ASPB journals through research contributions and reviewer assignments. Currently I am Regents Professor of Biochemistry at the University of North Texas, where I have worked for many years to expand plant science research. I also have served for six years as Director of the BioDiscovery Institute, one of four Institutes of Research Excellence at UNT. Research in my lab has been funded by several federal and private agencies and is focused around the theme of plant lipid metabolism, especially in the areas of signaling enzymes, organelle biogenesis, metabolic pathway engineering, and lipid imaging technologies. I have been fortunate to have been surrounded by many talented students, post docs and collaborators. In 2021, I was named ASPB Fellow; I believe it is important to give back to the society that has done so much to support my own professional development. I look forward to serving the society as ASPB President, and with help, to bring to bear the many resources at ASPB in service of its members and the plant science community.