

Avninder Kaur, ASPB Ambassador

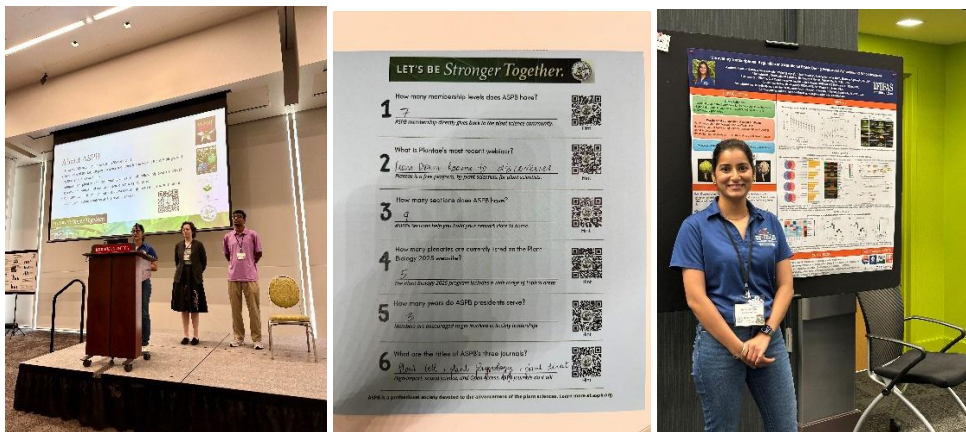
2025 End of the year report

Okay to share publicly

I am sincerely honored to be part of the ASPB community and grateful for the opportunity to serve as an ASPB Ambassador in 2025. I deeply appreciate the registration waiver and Ambassador travel award, which enabled me to attend the 2025 Southern Section Plant Biology meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina, an enriching experience for both my scientific and professional growth. I am a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Florida. My research focuses on understanding the physiological and molecular mechanisms underlying adaptation, productivity, and quality of globe artichoke, with the goal of developing it as a viable winter crop for subtropical environments.

This was my first time attending ASPB meeting and an ambassador in 2025.

- I, with Audrey and Rezwan, gave introductory presentation to the audience highlighting ASPB and its contribution to plant science community. We shared how ASPB supports plant scientists through conferences, publications, professional development programs, and outreach initiatives.
- I contributed by working at the ASPB table, where I assisted participants with registration and helped guide them through the meeting schedule, which gave me opportunity to engage directly with attendees and address their questions.
- As ambassadors, we helped run the ASPB Website Scavenger Hunt, guiding participants through the activity, and supporting engagement throughout the event.
- I presented my research poster as a participant and got the opportunity to attend talks from wonderful scientists focusing the theme 'Gravitropism' especially Simon Gilroy and Sarah Wyatt.
- I have participated in online group meetings discussing strategies to enhance Plant Biology conferences, sharing perspectives on strengthening ASPB's mission and expanding its visibility among graduate students.



Overall, being an ASPB member and Ambassador for the first time, has been a valuable experience that strengthened my sense of connection to the plant science community. It provided opportunities to engage with researchers across disciplines, especially being a student, developing leadership and communication skills. I am excited to continue serving as an ASPB Ambassador and to further support and strengthen the Society's mission and goals through continued engagement, outreach, and service.