

On an unseasonably cold spring day in April, over sixty ASPB members in the Mid-Atlantic-Section (MAS) gathered in the Nyumburu Cultural Center on the campus of University of Maryland, College Park. The full day program of the MAS-ASPB spring meeting highlighted the diverse research topics and the extraordinary research accomplishments by the plant biologists in the area including Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The meeting participants also enjoyed a lively presentation by the keynote speaker Dr. Mike Blatt from University of Glasgow with a title "Getting around the guard cell - an expanding problem". At the end of the meeting, the Marsho awards were announced; Grant Marshall from Dr. Jon Monroe's lab at the James Madison University and Mandy Reading from Dr. Caren Chang's lab at the University of Maryland were chosen for presenting the best undergraduate and graduate talk, respectively. In addition, members discussed the section business, listened to updates given by the ASPB executive director Crispin Taylor and public affairs director Brian Hyps.



ASPB members Gerry Deitzer (left) and Jon Monroe (center) discussed plant research issues with keynote speaker Mike Blatt (right) at the Mid Atlantic Section (MAS)-ASPB spring meeting.