

## VARIETY AND NURSERY SECTION

### The Oliver Atkins Award

Any time that I am at a Variety and Nursery Section meeting, or a meeting such as this annual meeting, I feel that the spirit of Oliver Atkins is with us. Oliver was, to me, the epitome of a life well lived. He was always smiling; he was always interested. He had a wealth of knowledge and he was always willing to share it, and to bring other growers along. In that spirit we are making these awards today.

The committee had a difficult time selecting an awardee this year because we decided to take a different approach. We wanted to take a close look at the people who have made contributions behind the scenes; those who have contributed years of dedicated service. This year it made sense to give multiple awards. The Oliver Atkins Award is hereby presented to the foremen of the five avocado nurseries that have been prominent in the progress of the avocado industry. Over one hundred and fifty years of nursery experience is spread among recipients of our award. These men have received no fanfares as they have done their work with cuttings and grafts. Their work is in our groves and their experience has been passed along to our benefit.

Gray Martin, last year's recipient of the Oliver Atkins award, will present the plaques to this year's recipients.

- Rudolfo Barba — introduced by Victor Gonzalez, owner of the Atkins Nursery.
- Carlos Garcia — introduced by the Hank Brokaw of Brokaw Nursery.
- Kim Wilenius — introduced by Mike Cavaletto of C&MNursery.
- Martin Diaz — introduced by Steve Maddock of Maddock Nursery.
- Juan M. Garcia is presented by Don Durling of Durling Nursery

Before you is a fine group of men who have contributed a great deal to our industry.



There are times when you would like to extend special appreciation to an individual that has contributed so much over the years. The Variety and Nursery Section decided to create such an award to be presented only on rare occasions — perhaps only once in ten or fifteen years. We have established today the Award of High Distinction of the Variety and Nursery Committee. It is my pleasure ask Jack Shepherd to come forward and make a few remarks to introduce the recipient of this award.