PROGRAM

2017 Annual Meeting
February 3-5, 2017
Mobile, AL

81st Year
Southern Region
American Society for Horticultural Science

97th Year
Horticulture Section
Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists
History of the Southern Region of ASHS and the Horticulture Section of SAAS

In 1899, the State Commissioners of Agriculture in several southern states founded “The Cotton States Association of the Commissioners of Agriculture”, which had horticulture involved in its very beginning. This is the founding organization that evolved into the modern day Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS). In 1920, SAAS (which at that time was called Association of Southern Agricultural Works, ASAW) formalized the affiliation with horticulture by founding the Horticulture Section. In 1936, the American Society for Horticultural Sciences approved the Southern States Section, which is now termed the Southern Region of ASHS. In 1937, SAAS accepted the affiliation between the Southern States Section of ASHS with the Horticulture Section of SAAS. Thus, the Southern Region jointly has been a part of both ASHS (with a founding date of 1936) and SAAS (with a founding date 1920). This rich history is detailed in publications by Andy Anderson, 1982, and Paul Smeal, 1999 (available at srashs.org). The Southern Region encompasses the 14 southern states of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Membership varies over the years from about 200 to 500 active members. Membership is composed of professors, research scientists, teachers and extension specialists from Universities, State, Federal and private research organizations, and industry. The Southern Region also contains a student section, the Association of Collegiate Branches, which is composed of student clubs from departments of horticulture and plant science across the region. The main focus of the Southern Region is the Annual Meeting, which is held every February in conjunction with the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS). The Annual Meeting consists of presentations of scientific papers, student papers and judging competition, commodity group meetings, and awards presentations.

Goals:

- Encourage and facilitate the mutual exchange of ideas and information concerning horticultural research, extension, education, and industry in the south.
- Promote stronger bonds among horticulturists throughout the southern regions.
- Encourage participation in the national society of the American Society for Horticultural Science.

Join us and become a part of the Tradition.

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Web Site srashs.org Visit It
# PROGRAM
## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING
### Southern Region
#### American Society for Horticultural Science
Mobile, AL
February 3-5, 2017

**FRIDAY***

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<td>7:00 am - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Hotel Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Pecan Research and Extension Forum</td>
<td>Mobile Bay Ballroom I &amp; II</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Southern Blueberry/Small Fruit Workers</td>
<td>Mobile Bay Ballroom III</td>
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<td>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>National Sweetpotato Collaborators</td>
<td>Schooner Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>ACB Club Share and Networking</td>
<td>Bon Secour I</td>
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<td>1:00 pm- 5:00 pm</td>
<td>ACB Group Activities, Tour, and Meal</td>
<td>Bon Secour I</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Watermelon Research Group</td>
<td>Bon Secour II</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Horticulture Administrators</td>
<td>Jubilee Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Executive Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Jubilee Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>ACB Mixer</td>
<td>Bon Secour I</td>
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**SATURDAY***

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<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Ballrooms Center Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Set-up Posters</td>
<td>Ballrooms Center Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>J. Benton Storey Horticulture Judging Contest Setup</td>
<td>Bon Secour I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>National Sweetpotato Collaborators</td>
<td>Schooner Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Watermelon Research Group</td>
<td>Bon Secour II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am - 10:15 am</td>
<td>Extension Section</td>
<td>Grand Bay Ballroom I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 9:30 am</td>
<td>J. B. Edmond Undergraduate Student Paper Competition.</td>
<td>Clipper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am – 12:00 pm</td>
<td>Vigna Crop Germplasm Committee</td>
<td>Windjammer Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Norman F. Childers M.S. Student</td>
<td>Clipper</td>
</tr>
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</table>
10:30 am - 12:00 am Education Section
Room: Grand Bay Ballroom I

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf Section
Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom I & II

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm Fruit Crops Section
Room: Grand Bay Ballroom I

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm Poster Session Viewing
Room: Ballrooms Center Foyer

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm J. Benton Storey Horticulture Judging Contest
Room: Bon Secour I

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm National Cowpea Improvement Association
Room: Windjammer Suite

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Vegetable Crops
Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom I & II

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Warren S. Barham Ph.D. Student Paper Competition
Room: Clipper

**SUNDAY***
7:00 am - 10:45 am Registration
Room: Ballrooms Center Foyer

8:00 am - 10:45 pm Poster Session Viewing
Room: Ballrooms Center Foyer

8:00 am - 10:45 am Vegetable Crops Section
Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom I & II

8:00 am - 10:45 am Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf Section
Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom III

8:00 am - 10:45 am Fruit Crops Section
Room: Grand Bay Ballroom I

8:00 am - 9:30 am Postharvest & Biotechnology Section
Room: Riverboat Suite

9:00 am - 10:45 am ACB Business Meeting
Room: Bon Secour I

11:00 am - 12:30 pm Annual Business Meeting and Award Program
Room: Bon Secour I

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Poster Session Take Down
Room: Ballrooms Center Foyer

*All SRASHS meeting rooms are in the Riverview Plaza Hotel

**SAAS Program**
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm SAAS Board Meeting
Room: Mobile Convention Center Room 203B

4:00 pm - 4:15 pm SAAS General Business Meeting
Room: Mobile Convention Center Room 203B

**SAAS Super Bowl Party**
4:15 - until Room: Mobile Convention Center East/West Ballroom

**TUESDAY**
7:30 am - 9:30 pm SAAS Board Breakfast Meeting
Room: Riverview Plaza Hotel Riverboat Suite
REGISTRATION
Friday 7:00 am - 6 pm,
Hotel Lobby
Saturday 7:00 am - 6 pm,
Ballroom Central Foyer
Sunday 7:00 am – 10:30 am,
Ballrooms Central Foyer

FRIDAY, February 3, 2017

ACB Activities
Room: Bon Secour I
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Time: 10:00 - 12:00 Club Share
12:00-6:00 Activity/Tour/Meal TBA
Presiding: Andrew Thomas, ACB-President
Jay Spiers, ACB Advisor

SRASHS Executive Committee Meeting
Room: Jubilee Suite
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Time: 5:00 - 6:30
Presiding: Jim Robbins, Chair

Working Groups
Listed at end of program

SATURDAY, February 4, 2017

STUDENT COMPETITIONS

J. BENTON STOREY UNDERGRADUATE JUDGING CONTEST
Room: Bon Secour I
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Time: 8:00 - 12:00 Judging Contest Set-Up
12:00-5:00 Judging Contest
Presiding: Preston Smith, ACB President-Elect
Jay Spiers, ACB Advisor

J. B. EDMOND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION
Room: Clipper
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding: Andrew Thomas, ACB-President,
Moderator
Ed Bush, SRASHS President,
Introduce Session
Chris Marble, Section Chair & Judging Coordinator
Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: marblesc@ufl.edu

8:00 am –9:30 am Order of presentations determined by drawing at beginning of contest.

Efficacy of Growth Regulators on the Prevention of Lodging of Grasses. Nathaniel Turner* and Cynthia B. McKenney, Department of Plant and Soil Science, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-2122. (Nathaniel.Turner@ttu.edu)

Emergence of a New Leaf Spot Disease on Hamelia patens cultivars caused by Xanthomonas sp. Crystal J. Conner*, S. Christopher Marble, Aftab Khan, and David J. Norman. Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Apopka, FL 32703. (c.conner@ufl.edu)

Growth and Physiology of Three Native Landscape Plant Species in Two Southeastern U.S. Soil Types. Avery Lamb1*, Amy Wright2, Raymond Kessler2, Eve Brantley1, and Julie Howe1.
1Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, 2Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (awright@auburn.edu)

Rooting Attempts in Stern’s Medlar Mespilus canescens J.B. Phipps, a Critically Endangered Arkansas Endemic Plant Species. Blake W. Hawkins1* and Garry V. McDonald1, 1316 Plant Science Building, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (gmcDonald@uark.edu)

Texture Evaluations of Southern Highbush and Rabbiteye Blueberry Varieties. Mary K. Sutton*, Rachel A. Ite, and D. Scott NeSmith, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, GA 30223. (ritle@uga.edu)
Room: Clipper
Riverview Plaza Hotel

Presiding: Tim Davis, Chair

Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: t-davis5@tamu.edu

10:00 am – 2:30 pm Order of presentations determined by drawing at beginning of contest.

Bell pepper shoot and root growth responses to humic substances and deficit irrigation in a controlled environment. Kuan Qin* and Daniel I. Leskovar, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, Uvalde, TX 78801.

Cold Hardiness of Peach: Is DTA a Game Changer? Jun Liu*, Orville Lindstrom1, Anish Malladi2, Erick Smith3, Mercy Olmstead4, and Dario Chavez1, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin Campus, Griffin, GA 30223, 2Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, 3Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton Campus, Tifton, GA 31793, 4Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. (jl79606@uga.edu)

Development of a Standardized Phenotyping Protocol for Blackberry and Evaluation of its Effectiveness in Characterizing Seedling Populations. Melinda H. Yin*, Melissa Clark1, Mary Peterson2, Chad E. Finn3, and John R. Clark4, 1316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 2USDA-ARS HCRU, 3420 NW Orchard Ave., Corvallis, OR 97330. (mhyin@email.uark.edu)

Effect of LED Lighting on Growth and Flowering of Greenhouse-Produced Cut Flowers. Taylor Mills* and B.L. Dunn, Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74074. (tsmills@okstate.edu)

Enabling Breeding for Brown Rot (Monilinia spp.) Resistance in Peach. Wanfang Fu*, Ralph Burrell, Ksenija Gasic, Department of Plant & Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29630. (wfu@g.clemson.edu)

Essential Oil Yield and Characterization of Ocimum tenuiflorum Varieties. Noelle Fuller*, D. Berle, R.B. Pegg, Department of Horticultural Sciences, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7274. (njfuller@uga.edu)

Evaluation of Rootstocks for Grafted Plants as a Strategy to Manage Southern Blight in Tomato (Solanum lycopersicum). Roy ‘Langlois1,2*, Joe Kemble1, Elina Coneva1, Edward Sikora2, 101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, 2153 ALFA Services Building, Plant Pathology Extension, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (rwl0011@auburn.edu)

Fruit Bagging for the Production of Peaches in Conventional and Organic Orchards. Jaime Allran1 *, Guido Schnabel, and Juan Carlos Melgar2, 1 Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634. (jallran@g.clemson.edu)

Impact of Harvest Maturity on Consumer Preference, Fruit Quality, and Postharvest Longevity of Two Kiwifruit Cultivars (Actinidia chinensis Planch.), Lingbo Xie1*, James D. Spiers1, Leonard N. Bell2, J. Raymond Kessler, Jr.1, and Floyd M. Woods1, 1Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, 2Department of Food Science, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (lzx0013@auburn.edu)

Microscopic Analysis of Southern Highbush Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum L. interspecific hybrid) Floral Buds from Dormancy to Budswell. Lauren E. Redpath1 *, Erick Smith2, Anish Malladi1, Dario Chavez2, Jeremy Taylor2, Leonard N. Bell2, J. Raymond Kessler, Jr.1, and Floyd M. Woods1, 1Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, 22360 Rainwater Rd. Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, 3Stress Physiology Bldg, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223, 4162 W. Thigpen Ave., University of Georgia Extension, Lakeland, GA 31635, 52135 Fifield Hall, University of Florida, Department of Horticulture, Gainesville, FL, 32611. (redpath.lauren@uga.edu)

Peaches in Georgia: Finding out what Consumer Want. Catherine Belisles1 *, Uyen Thuy Xuan Phan2, Dario J Chavez’, and Koushik Adhikari2, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223, 2Department of Food Science, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223. (cebelisle1@uga.edu)
Performance of the Smart Irrigation App. for Tomato Yield and Quality. Luke Miller*, George Vellidis, Wesley Porter, Erick Smith, and Timothy Coolong. 1 2360 Rainwater Road, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, 2360 Rainwater Road, Crop and Soil Sciences Department, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793. (luke.miller25@uga.edu)

Pinching Effects on Cut Sunflower (Helianthus annuus) Production in East Texas. Rebecca B. Burnett* and M.A. Maurer, Department of Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. (rebeccaburnett3@gmail.com)

Suitability of Pecan Shell Mulch for Rabbiteye Blueberry Establishment. Ashley Hoppers*, J.D. Spiers, J. Raymond Kessler, Jr., A.N. Wright, and A.A. Powell, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849-7350. (aah0020@auburn.edu)

The Effects of Growing Season, Stage of Development, and Media Drench Applications of Paclobutrazol as Compared to a Daminozide Standard on Growth and Flowering of Gerbera jamesonii 'Bright Red with Light Eye'. Yanyu Chen*, J. Raymond Kessler, Jr., G. J. Keever, and G. B. Fain, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849-7350. (yzc0059@auburn.edu)

The Effects of Low Tunnels on Yield and Survival of Swiss Chard (Beta vulgaris var. cicla) Cultivars in East Texas. Chanelle E. Angeny* and Jared Barnes, Department of Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75961. (chanelle.angeny@gmail.com)

Using Sensory Evaluation to Assess Consumer Preferences for Hydroponically-grown Lettuce. Sydney C. Holmes*, Daniel E. Wells, Joseph M. Kemble, Jeremy M. Pickens, Geraldine L. Santos-Norris, S. Jean Weese, 101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. 3260 Lem Morrison Drive, Department of Poultry Science, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (wellsda@auburn.edu)

WARREN S. BARHAM
Ph.D. GRADUATE STUDENT
PAPER COMPETITION

Room: Clipper
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding: Tim Davis, Chair
Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: t-davis5@tamu.edu

3:00-5:00 pm Order of presentations determined by drawing at beginning of contest.

Assessing the Scientific Basis of the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule. Janet A. Gradl*, Michelle R. Worosz, and Patricia A. Curtis. 1 1559 Devall Drive, Food Systems Institute, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, 36832, 2308A Comer Hall, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Auburn, AL, 36849. (mrw0016@auburn.edu)

Early Season Crop Development, Yield, and Fruit Quality of Standard and Mini Watermelons Grafted to Several Cucurbit Rootstocks. Matthew B. Bertucci, Kathryn M. Jennings, Davis W. Monks, Jonathan R. Schulteis, W. Bradford Thompson, Frank M. Louws, David L. Jordan, Nicholas A. Basinger, Stephen C. Smith, Matthew D. Waldschmidt, North Carolina State University, Department of Horticultural Science, Room 227 Kilgore Hall, Box 7609. Raleigh NC 27696. (mattber2c@gmail.com)

Effects of a Single Phosphorus Band Application over Two Growing Seasons in Pecan (Carya illinoensis (Wangenh.) K. Koch) Production. Michael F Polozola II*, Daniel E. Wells, Wheeler G. Foshee, J. Raymond Kessler and Amy N. Wright, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849 (mfp0012@auburn.edu)

Rootstock-imparted Water Use Efficiency in Grafted Heirloom Tomatoes. David H Succhoff*, Frank J. Louws, Jonathan R. Schulteis, Matthew D. Kleinhenz, Christopher C. Gunter, Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Raleigh, NC, 27695, Department of Plant Pathology/NSF CIPM, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 44691. (dhsochof@ncsu.edu)
Sensory and volatile compounds relationship in coffee cup quality (Coffea arabica). Fabian Echeverria1, Seth Murray1, Patricia Klein2, Rhonda Miller3, Chris Kerth3, Leonardo Lombardini2, and Benoit Bertrand4. 1Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, TX 77843, 2Dept. of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, TX 77843; 3Dept. of Animal Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, TX 77843; 4World Coffee Research, College Station, Texas, TX 77845. (fabianeb@tamu.edu)

The Impact of Weeding, Planting Density and Growth Habit on Watermelon Yield in an Organic System. Suzanne Stone1*, George Boyhan1, and W. Carroll Johnson, III2, 1111 Miller Plant Science Bldg., Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, 2 USDA-ARS, Tifton Campus, P.O. Box 748, Tifton, GA 31793-0748. (sstone2@uga.edu)

Weed Management Practices for Tea Production. Judson S. LeCompte1*, Guihong Bi1, Zhi Yu2, Tongyin Li1, 1Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University, Miss. State, MS 39762, 2College of Horticulture and Forestry Sciences, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan City, Hubei, 430070, China. (JSL279@msstate.edu)

SECTION TITLES

EXTENSION SECTION

Room: Grand Bay Ballroom I Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding: Bodie Pennisi, Chair
Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: bpennisi@uga.edu

8:00 Perceived Landscape Benefits Inform Home Irrigation Users’ Water Conservation Behaviors. Laura A. Warner*, Amanda D. Ali, and Anil Kumar Chaudhary, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, 32611. (lsanagorski@ufl.edu)

8:15 Fruits and Berry Nursery Management Training in Central Europe. Dilip Nandwani and Sochinwechi Nwosisi. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209 (dnandwan@Tnstate.edu)

8:30 Working with the Georgia Blueberry Industry. Rachel A. Ite1*, Renée M. Allen2*, and D. Scott NeSmith1, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, GA 30223, 2University of Georgia Extension, 203 South Dixon Street, Suite 3, Alma, GA 31510. (ritle@uga.edu) (reneemh@uga.edu)

8:45 Train-of-Trainers in Agricultural Extension Services Delivery and Monitoring in Nigeria. Dilip Nandwani and Sochinwechi Nwosisi. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209 (dnandwan@Tnstate.edu)

9:00 Break

9:15 Informing Extension Programs Focused on Nursery and Greenhouse Growers’ Adoption of Water Conservation Technologies. Alexa J. Lamm1* & Laura A. Warner2, Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, 1UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education, 2UF/IFAS Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0260. (alamm@ufl.edu)

9:30 Social Media Intervention: Using Facebook as an advertising tool to promote Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station fruit variety videos on YouTube. Lesley Smith1*, Catherine W. Shoulders1, and John R. Clark2, 1205 Agriculture Building, Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701; 2316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (cshoulde@uark.edu)

9:45 It Started in the Garden: The Griffin African American Oral History Project. Ellen M. Bauske1*, J.L. Cruickshank and B.W. Hutcheson. 1*Center for Urban Agriculture, University of Georgia-Griffin Campus, 1109 Experiment St BAE, Griffin GA 30223 (ebauske@uga.edu)

10:00 Critical Evaluation of Green Industry Certification Programs in Georgia. Bodie V. Pennisi1* and Greg Huber2, 1*Department
EDUCATION SECTION

Room: Grand Bay Ballroom I
Riverview Plaza Hotel

Presiding: Garry McDonald, Chair

Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: gmcdonal@uark.edu

10:30 Efficacy of Pre-lab Quizzes in Undergraduate Laboratory Performance. Russell D. Plowman and C.B. McKenney, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-2122. (russell.d.plowman@ttu.edu)

10:45 Increasing Horticulture Enrollment at the University of Arkansas Through Innovative Recruitment and Outreach Activities. Shannon C. Mason¹ and Garry V. McDonald¹*, ¹316 Plant Science Building, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (gmcdonal@uark.edu)

11:00 Outcome Based Student Assessment Development for Horticulture Students at the University of Arkansas. Garry V. McDonald¹*, Shannon C. Mason¹, Douglas E. Karcher¹, Wayne A. Mackey¹, Curt Rom¹, ¹316 Plant Science Building, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (gmcdonal@uark.edu)

11:15 Comparison of Online and Hybrid Woody Plant Identification Classes. Thayne Montague* and Cynthia McKenney, Department of Plant and Soil Science, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-2122. (thayne.montague@ttu.edu)

11:30 A Simple Rain Garden Serves as a Catalyst to Multi-Disciplinary Teaching and Campus Community Engagement. Michael A. Arnold¹*, Galen Newman¹, Jun-Hyun Kim¹, Ming-Han Li², and Kung-Hui Chu¹, ¹Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133, ²Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3137, ³Department of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-3136. (ma-arnold@tamu.edu)

FRUIT CROPS SECTION

Room: Grand Bay Ballroom I
Riverview Plaza Hotel

Presiding: Dario Chavez, Chair

Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: dchavez@uga.edu

1:00 ‘Opportunity’ and ‘Enchantment’, New Wine Grapes from Arkansas. John R. Clark¹ and Renee T. Threlfall², ¹1316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, ²2650 North Young Avenue Institute of Food Science and Engineering, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72704. (jrclark@uark.edu)

1:15 Wine Characteristics and Profiles of ‘Opportunity’ and ‘Enchantment’ Wine Grapes. Renee T. Threlfall² and John R. Clark¹, ¹2650 North Young Avenue Institute of Food Science and Engineering, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72704, ²1316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (rthrelf@uark.edu)

1:30 Crop Forcing of Two Southern Hybrid Grape Cultivars in Mississippi. Eric T. Stafne. Associate Extension and Research Professor, 810 Hwy 26 West, Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, Poplarville, MS 39470. (eric.stafne@msstate.edu)

1:45 Determining How Sweetness and Sourness Perception Impacts Consumer Sensory of Fresh-market Blackberries. Renee T. Threlfall¹*, Daniela M. Segantini², and John R. Clark², ¹2650 North Young Avenue Institute of Food Science and Engineering, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72704, ²1316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (rthrelf@uark.edu)
2:00 Enabling breeding for brown rot resistance in peach. Wanfang Fu, Ralph Burrell and Ksenija Gasic. Department of Plant & Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29630 (wfu@g.clemson.edu)

2:15 Break

2:30 Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) Use for Fruit Set in Rabbiteye Blueberry ‘Premier’. Erick Smith* and James Jacobs1, 2360 Rainwater Rd. Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, 2705 College Ave., Extension, University of Georgia, Blackshear, GA 31516

2:45 Southern Highbush Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum L. interspecific hybrid.) Response to Shading as Fruit Quality and Plant Growth. Erick Smith* and Anish Malladi1, 2360 Rainwater Rd. Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793 1121 Miller Plant Sciences, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602

3:00 Annual Strawberry Cultivar Performance in Central Mississippi. W.B. Evans* and M. Bates. Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station, Truck Crops Branch, P.O. Box 231, Crystal Springs, MS 39059-0231. (bill.evans@msstate.edu)

3:15 Effect of Irrigation Method on Pecan Nut Quality and Growth of Young Trees. Abby M. Biedenbach1, B. Wade Brorsen1, Jon T. Biermacher2 and Charles T. Rohla3, 1308 Agricultural Hall, Department of Agricultural Economics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, 2The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, 2510 Sam Noble Pkway, Ardmore, OK 73401. (ctrohla@noble.org)

3:30 I Have a Drone, Now What? James Robbins, Univ. of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Little Rock, AR 72204. (jrobbins@uaex.edu)

3:45 Southern Living Plant Collection Observations at the LSU AgCenter’s Hammond Research Station. Allen Owings, Hammond Research Station, LSU AgCenter, Hammond, LA 70403 (aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu)

4:00 Evaluation of Phytotoxicity of Preemergent Herbicides in Container Grown Windmill Palm (Trachycarpus fortunei). Jeremy M. Pickens1* and Stephen C. Marble2, 1Auburn University, Ornamental Horticulture Research Center, PO Box 8276, Mobile, AL, 36608, 2University of Florida, Mid Florida REC, 2725 South Benion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703. (pickejm@auburn.edu)

4:15 Nursery Irrigation Application Distribution in Overhead Irrigation. Mark A. Wilson and Edward Bush, Louisiana State University, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 (mwilso7@lsu.edu)

FLORICULTURE, ORNAMENTALS AND TURF SECTION

Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom I & II Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding: Allen Owings, Chair
Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

1:00 Landscape Trials of Crape Myrtle Bark

VEGETABLE CROPS SECTION

Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom I & II Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding: Katie Jennings, Chair
Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: katie_jennings@ncsu.edu
3:00 The Level and Composition of a Liquid Fertility Program Affects Productivity of Bell Pepper. Timothy Coolong1, and Kalen Fleming2, 12360 Rainwater Road, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, 2Agriculture Science Bldg., Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, GA 31793. (tocoolong@uga.edu)

3:15 Performance of the Smart Irrigation App. for Tomato Yield and Quality. Luke Miller1*, George Vellidis2, Wesley Porter2, Erick Smith1, and Timothy Coolong1, 12360 Rainwater Road, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, 2360 Rainwater Road, Crop and Soil Sciences Department, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793. (luke.miller25@uga.edu)

3:30 Trellis and Train Eggplants for Improved Yield in High Tunnel. Sanjun Gu*, John E. Beck and John E. Kimes. Cooperative Extension, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, NC 27410. (sgu@ncat.edu)

3:45 The Future of Applied Research and Extension-Will it Exist in the Future? Lynn Brandenberger, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (lynn.brandenberger@okstate.edu)

4:00 Rootstock-imparted Water Use Efficiency in Grafted Heirloom Tomatoes David H, Suchoff*1, Frank J. Louws2, Jonathan R. Schultheis1, Matthew D. Kleinhenz3, Christopher C. Gunter1, Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Raleigh, NC, 27695, 2Department of Plant Pathology/NSF CIPM, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, 3Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH, 44691. (dhsuchoff@ncsu.edu)

POSTERS
Room: Ballrooms Center Foyer
Presiding: Leo Lombardini, Chair
Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: l-lombardini@tamu.edu
Set-Up: Saturday, 8:00 am – noon

Poster Viewing:
Saturday noon to 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00-10:45 am

Authors at their poster:
Saturday, 1:00-2:30 pm even numbered posters
Saturday, 2:30-4:00 pm odd numbered posters
Take-down: Sunday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Student Poster Competition
UG = Indicates undergraduate poster titles
G = Indicates graduate poster titles

Fruit Crops

1UG) Cutting Propagation of Softwood and Semi-Hardwood Vitis Aestivalis ‘Norton / Cynthia’ Grapevines. Andrew Thomas*, Nathan Phillips, and Song Cui. School of Agribusiness and Agriscience, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. (nate.phillips@mtsu.edu)

2G) Blackberry Red Drupelet Incidence After Cold Storage and Associated Fruit Quality Implications. Melinda H. Yin1*, Bethany M. Sebesta1, Renee T. Threlfall2, and John R. Clark1, 1316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 2Department of Food Science, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704. (mhyin@email.uark.edu)

3) Activation Efficacy of Preemergence Herbicide Flumioxazin Under Three Different Irrigation Systems in Blueberry (Vaccinium spp.) Planted in Pine Bark Culture. Erick Smith1* and Mark Czarnota1, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793 2Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223 (ericks@uga.edu)

4) Descriptive Sensory Attributes of Arkansas Fresh-market Blackberry Cultivars Harvested Multiple Years. Renee T. Threlfall1*, Daniela M. Segantini2, and John R. Clark2, 12650 North Young Avenue Institute of Food Science and Engineering, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72704. 21316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (rthrelf@uark.edu)

5UG) Pitaya Floral and Fruit Development in the Virgin Islands. Samuel Joseph*, Thomas W. Zimmermann. University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station, RR#1 Box
6G) Effects of Phosphorus Rate on Pecan (Carya illinoinsenis (Wangenh.) K. Koch) Seedling Development. Michael F. Polozola II*, Daniel E. Wells, Wheeler G. Goshee, J. Raymond Kessler and Amy N. Wright, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849 (mfpolozola@auburn.edu)

7) Effects of Auxin Concentration on Rooting of Semi-hardwood Cuttings of Select Cultivars of Kiwifruit (Actinidia chinensis Planch. and A. delicosa A. Chev.). D.L. Brown, A.R. King*, and T.P. Hartmann, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133 (aking@tamu.edu)

8) Evaluation of Selected Pluot Cultivars for Alabama: Preliminary Results. Elina Coneva*, A. Svyantek, E. Vinson, and J. Pitts, 101, Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (edc0001@auburn.edu)

9G) Effects of Rootstock Species and Propagation Method Vigor Potential and Precocity in Kiwifruit (Actinidia delicosa A. Chev. and A. chinensis Planch.). Timothy P. Hartmann*, 2Larry A. Stein, 3James D. Spiers, 4David L. Creech, and 1Justin J. Scheiner, 1Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, 2Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, Uvalde, TX 78802, 3Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn AL 36849, 4Department of Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. (t-hartmann@tamu.edu)

10) Preliminary Report on Biofilm Technology use in Rabbits Eye Blueberry (Vaccinium virgatum Aiton syn. ashei) Applied Preharvest in Relation to Packout and Fruit Quality. Erick Smith* and William Lovett1, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, 2Extension, University of Georgia, Alma, GA 31510 (ericksmith@uga.edu)

11G) Microscopic Analysis of Cold Hardiness in Southern Highbush Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum L. interspecific hybrid) Floral Buds. Lauren E. Redpath1*, Erick Smith3, Anish Malladi4, Dario Chavez5, Jeremy Taylor6, Mercy Olmstead6, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, 2Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, 3Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA, 30223, 4University of Georgia Extension, Lakeland, GA, 31635, 5University of Florida, Department of Horticulture, Gainesville, FL, 32611. (redpath.lauren@uga.edu)

12) Phytochemical Contents Impacted by Post-harvest Storage and Harvest Season of Primmocane Blackberry Genotypes. Daniela M. Segantini1*, Renee T. Threlfall2, John R. Clark1, Luke R. Howard2, Cindi R. Brownmiler2, 1316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 2650 North Young Avenue Institute of Food Science and Engineering, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72704. (dani_segantini@hotmail.com)

13) Observations of White Drupelets on Three Blackberry Cultivars in South Mississippi. Eric T. Stafne1*, Melinda Miller-Butler2, and Barbara Smith3, 1Associate Extension and Research Professor, 810 Hwy 26 West, Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, Poplarville, MS 39470, 2Biological Science Lab Technician, USDA-ARS Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory, Poplarville, MS 39470, 3Research Plant Pathologist, USDA-ARS Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory, Poplarville, MS 39470. (eric.stafne@msstate.edu)

14G) Peaches in Georgia: Finding out what consumer want. Catherine Belisle1*, Uyen Thuy Xuan Phan1, Dario J Chavez1, and Koushik Adhikari2, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223, 2Department of Food Science, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223. (cabelisle1@uga.edu)

15G) Sensory and volatile compounds relationship in coffee cup quality (Coffee arabica). Fabian Echeverria1, Seth Murray1, Patricia Klein2, Rhonda Miller3, Chris Kerth3, Leonardo Lombardini2, and Benoit Bertrand4, 1Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, TX 77843, 4Dept. of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M...
Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf

17) Effect of N Fertilization Rate and Foliar Urea Application on Plant Growth and Nutrient Status of Encore Azalea ‘Chiffon’. Tongyin Li*, Guihong Bi, Eugene K. Blythe, Richard L. Harkess, and Xiaojie Zhao, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762. (gbi@pss.msstate.edu)

18G) Effect of zinc fertilizer on celesia plant growth and leaf nutrition. Olukunle Kolade*, and Derald A. Harp. School of Agriculture, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Commerce, TX 75429 (OKolade@leomail.tamuc.edu)

19) Effects of Biochar, Vermicompost, Sulfur and Fertilization on Petunia (Petunia hybrida) Growth in Container. Xiuli Liu*, Chunling Zhou, Meiping Cai†, Sara Mellard* and Mengmeng Gu*. School of Landscape Architecture, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing Key Laboratory of Ornamental Plants Germplasm Innovation and Molecular Breeding, National Engineering Research Center for Floriculture, Beijing Laboratory of Urban and Rural Ecology Environment, Beijing 100083, 1School of Landscape and Forestry, Qingdao Agriculture University, Qingdao 266109, 2Department of Horticulture, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Fuzhou 350002, 3Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, College Station, TX 77843. (mgu@tamu.edu)

20) Growth and development of eleven double flowering Oriental lilium in East Texas. M.A. Maurer*, R. Burnett and B. I. Chema. Department of Agriculture, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, P.O. Box 13000, Nacogdoches, TX 75962.

21G) Effects of Silica Supplementation on Well-watered and Water-Stressed Greenhouse Produced Cut Flowers. Taylor Mills* and B.L. Dunn, Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74074. (tsmills@okstate.edu)

22) High Tunnel Season Extension for Fall Zinnia Cut Flower Production in south Mississippi. Gary R. Bachman*, James M. DelPrince, Christine E.H. Coker, Patricia R. Knight and Scott Langlois. Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, 1815 Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 38532 (gary.bachman@msstate.edu)

23) Influence of Seeding Date on Efficacy of Granular Preemergence Herbicides for the Control of Two Common Container-Nursery Weed Species. Chris Marble*, Debalina Saha, Cody Stewart, and Annette Chandler. Department of Environmental Horticulture, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Apopka, FL 32703. (marblesc@ufl.edu).

24G) Safety of Alcohol in Auxin Solutions Applied to Stem Cuttings of African Wormwood (Artemisia afra Jacq. ex Willd.). James T. Ray1,2*, Eugene K. Blythe1, Guihong Bi2, Daniel B. Reynolds3, Patricia R. Knight1, and Gary R. Bachman1, 1Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, Biloxi, MS 39532, 2Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762. (ray@msstate.edu)

25) Long-term performance of cool-season annuals fertilized with slow release fertilizer or compost. Derald A. Harp1, Todd Williams2, Aimee Sandifer3, and Steve George3. 1School of Agriculture, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Commerce, TX 75429, 2Rockwall County Extension Service, Rockwall, TX 75087, 3Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Dallas, TX 75252 (derald.harp@tamu.edu)

26) Micropropagation Protocol Development for Pearlbush. Guochen Yang* and Zhongge (Cindy) Lu, Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Design, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC 27411. (yangg@ncat.edu).

27G) Temperature, moisture content, CO₂ assimilation and stomatal conductance in leaf black damaged rose leaves. Harp, Derald A.¹, Chie Hosotani², Kevin Cretien¹*+, David Zlesak¹ and Steve George.¹ School of Agriculture, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Commerce, TX 75429, ²Kagawa University, Takamatsu City, Kagawa 760-8521, Japan, ³University of Wisconsin – River Falls, Department of Plant and Earth Science, River Falls, WI, 54022, and ¼ Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Dallas, TX 75252 (KChretien@leomail.tamuc.edu)

28) Six-plant species response to salt-water inundation and remediation. M.A. Maurel¹*, Rebecca Burnett¹, D. L. Creel¹ and Yuhong Zheng².¹ Department of Agriculture, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, P.O. Box 13000, Nacogdoches, TX 75962, ² Institute of Botany, Jiangsu Province & Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanjing, China 210014. (maurerm@sfasu.edu)

Vegetable Crops

29) Allelopathic Impact of Sugarcane Residue on Vegetable Seed Germination. Charles L. Webber III¹*, Paul M. White Jr.¹, Derek S. Landrum¹, and James W. Shrefler².¹ USDA, Agriculture Research Service, Sugarcane Research Unit, Houma, LA 70360, ²Oklahoma State University, Division of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Durant, OK 74702. (Chuck.Webber@ars.usda.gov)

30G) Effects of Increased Nutrient Solution Temperature on Lettuce (Lactuca sativa L. ‘Rex’) Grown Using Nutrient Film Technique. Erin T. Landers, Daniel E. Wells, and Jeremy M. Pickens. Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (etl0002@auburn.edu)

31UG) Evaluation of 21 Cucumber Varieties for Downy Mildew Resistance in the Virgin Islands. Augustus Laurencin Jr.*, Stafford M.A. Crossman, Thomas W. Zimmerman, University of the Virgin Islands Cooperative Extension Service, RR1 Box 10,000 Kingshill, VI 00850 (tzimmer@uvi.edu)

32) Bell Pepper Fruit Yield as Affected by Colored Shade Nets. Juan Carlos Díaz-Perez¹* and Kelly St. John-Pickel¹.¹ Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, ²Trellis Growing Systems LLC, Fort Wayne, IN 46804. (jcdiaz@uga.edu)

33) Carotenoid Accumulation in Peel and Pulp Tissues of Genomically Diverse Banana Cultivated in Southeastern United States. Mahnaz Kargar¹*, Floyd M. Woods¹, Marisa M. Wall², E. Greg Fonsah³, Suzanne Sanxter³, J. Raymond Kessler¹, Kalidas Shetty³, Dipayan Sarkar³, Curtis Jolly³, Ramesh B. Jeganathan⁴ and Nicholas Larsen⁷.¹ Dept. of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849; ²USDA-ARS, US Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center, Hilo, HI 96720; ³Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793; ⁴Dept. of Plant Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58108; ⁵Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849; ⁶ Dept. of Nutrition, Dietetics, & Hospitality Management, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849; ⁷University of Florida, Everglades Research & Education Center, Belle Glade, FL 33430. (mzk0049@tigermail.auburn.edu)

34) Cucurbitacins in Citrullus Species. P. Perkins-Veazie¹, Guoying Ma¹, Marlee Trandel¹*, Amnon Levi².¹ Department of Horticulture Science, Plants for Human Health Institute, North Carolina State University, Kannapolis, NC. ²USDA-ARS, US Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC. (matrande@ncsu.edu)

35) Fungicides and Resistance in Pumpkin Cultivars Maintain Yield and Provide Effective Control of Powdery Mildew. T. Casey Barickman*, Thomas E. Horgan, and Jeff C. Wilson, Mississippi State University, North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Verona, MS, 38879. (t.c.barickman@msstate.edu)

36) Heirloom Tomato Fruit Yield under Organic, Conventional and No-Till Production Systems. Juan Carlos Díaz-Perez,¹ Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793. (jcdiaz@uga.edu)

37) High Tunnel Specialty Crops Survey in North Carolina. Sanjun Gu¹*, and Zhifeng
Gao², ¹Cooperative Extension, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, Greensboro, NC 27410. ²Food and Resource Economics Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0240. (sgu@ncat.edu)

38) **Impact of Mustard Meal Application on Cucurbit Establishment.** Charles L. Webber III¹*, Paul M. White Jr.¹, and James W. Shrefler². ¹USDA, Agriculture Research Service, Sugarcane Research Unit, Houma, LA 70360, ²Oklahoma State University, Division of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Durant, OK 74702. (Chuck.Webber@ars.usda.gov)

39) **Kale Cultivar Evaluation in Organic High Tunnels.** James W. Shrefler*, Lynn P. Brandenberger and Hailin Zhang, Oklahoma State University, Division of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Durant, OK 74702. (Jim.Shrefler@okstate.edu)

40) **Low tunnels increased growth and spring production of cucumbers in Virginia.** Ramón A. Arancibia and James Jenrette, Eastern Shore AREC, Virginia Tech, Painter, VA 23420, (raran@vt.edu)

41) **Organic Onion Transplant Production in High Tunnels.** James W. Shrefler¹* and Charles L. Webber III². ¹Oklahoma State University, Division of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Durant, OK 74702 and ²USDA, Agriculture Research Service, Sugarcane Research Unit, Houma, LA 70360. (Jim.Shrefler@okstate.edu)

42) **Organic Watermelon Variety Trial.** George E. Boyhan* and Suzanne P. Stone, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1111 Miller Plant Science Bldg., Athens, GA 30602 (gboyhan@uga.edu)

43) **Protein Variability in Seeds from the Vigna unguiculata (L.) Walp. Core Collection.** Bradley Morris*, Ming Li Wang, and Brandon Tonnis, USDA, ARS, Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Unit, Griffin, GA 30223. (Brad.Morris@ars.usda.gov)

44) **Sugarcane Bagasse Ash as an Amendment for Greenhouse Seedling Media.** Charles L. Webber III¹*, Paul M. White Jr.¹, Eric C. Petrie¹, and James W. Shrefler². ¹USDA, Agriculture Research Service, Sugarcane Research Unit, Houma, LA 70360, ²Oklahoma State University, Division of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Durant, OK 74702. (Chuck.Webber@ars.usda.gov)

45) **Variety Performance and Impact of Harvest Date on Marketable Yield of Snap Bean.** Timothy Coolong¹*, Jennifer Miller² and Brooke Jeffries³, ¹Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, ²Jeff Davis Co. Extension Service, Hazlehurst, GA 31539, ³Wheeler Co. Extension Service, Alamo, GA 30411. (tcooolong@uga.edu)

46G) **Enhancing onion seed germination and root traits by plant growth regulators, Maria Andrea Macías* and Daniel I. Leskovar, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, Uvalde, TX 78801 (Daniel.Leskovar@ag.tamu.edu)

47) **Yield and quality response of butternut cultigens in NC.** Travis E. Birdsell¹, Jonathan R. Schultheis², and Penelope Perkins-Veazie². ¹North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center, North Carolina State University, 134 Government Circle, Suite 202, Jefferson, NC 28640 USA, ² Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, 2721 Founders Drive, 264 Kilgore, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609 USA, ³ Plants for Human Health Institute, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina Research Campus, North Carolina State University, Kannapolis, NC 28081 USA

**Addendum**

48) **Screening and Testing for Heritability for Anthracnose Susceptibility in Southern Highbush Blueberry Cultivars.** Doug Phillips, Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611. (dal64372@ufl.edu)

49) **Repatriation of the Carolina African Runner Peanut, Comparative Yields and Emerging Specialty Markets.** Ward K. Ward¹* and Richard L. Hassell. ¹Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC 29414. (bw@clemson.edu)
Sunday, February 5, 2017

ACB BUSINESS MEETING
Room:  Bon Secour I
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Time:  9:00 – 10:45
Presiding:  Andrew Thomas, President

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS PROGRAM
Room:  Bon Secour I
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Time:  11:00 – 12:30
Presiding:  Ed Bush, President

POSTER VIEWING & TAKE-DOWN
Room:  Ballrooms Center Foyer
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding:  Leo Lombardini, Chair
Abstracts:  To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: l-lombardini@tamu.edu
Poster Viewing:  Sunday 8:00-10:45
Poster Take-down:  Sunday, 1:00 – 3:00

SECTION TITLES

VEGETABLE CROPS SECTION
Room:  Mobile Bay Ballroom I & II
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding:  Katie Jennings, Chair
Abstracts:  To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: katie_jennings@ncsu.edu

8:00  Low Tunnels Increased Vegetative Growth in Lettuce and Shortened the Time to Harvest in Virginia. Ramón A. Arancibia and James Jenrette, Eastern Shore AREC, Virginia Tech, Painter, VA 23420, (raran@vt.edu)

8:15  Timing of Palmer amaranth Control on Sweetpotato Yield and Quality. Stephen Smith*, Katie Jennings, and David Monks, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC 27695. (scsmith7@ncsu.edu)

8:30  Fall Broccoli Cultivar Performance in Central Mississippi. W.B. Evans* and M. Bates. Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station, Truck Crops Branch, P.O. Box 231, Crystal Springs, MS 39059-0231. (bill.evans@msstate.edu)

8:45  Pre- and Post-Harvest Evaluation of Processing Tomato Cultivars in North Carolina. Courtney DeKalb, Nicole Sanchez1, Penelope Perkins-Vezie2, and Chris Gunter1, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC 27695, 2Plants for Human Health Institute, North Carolina State University, Kannapolis NC 28081 (penelope.perkins@ncsu.edu)

9:00  Metribuzin Herbicide and its Potential for Use as a Layby Application in Sweetpotato Weed Management Systems. Stephen L. Meyers* and Mark W. Shankle, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences/North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863. (stephen.meyers@msstate.edu)

9:15  Shading Affects Bell Pepper Plant Growth and Soil-Borne Diseases in Bell Pepper (Capsicum annuum L.). Mohammad Yamin Kabir1*, Juan Carlos Diaz-Pérez2, Savithri Nambeesan1, and Bhabesh Dutta3, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7273, 2Department of Horticulture and 3Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793. (myk82754@uga.edu)

9:30  Break

9:45  Zucchini (Cucurbita pepo) Fruit Yield as Affected by Organic Fertilization Rate. Juan Carlos Diaz-Perez1* and Gabriel Diaz-Saavedra2, 12360 Rainwater Road, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, 2Perdue AgriRecycle. (jcdiaz@uga.edu)
10:00 Evaluation of Rhizome Size, Planting Date, and Mycorrhiza on Yield of Ginger (Zingiber officinale) in Texas. Joseph Masabni*, Genhua Niu, and Youping Sun.  
1Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1701 FM 3053 N, Overton, TX 75684, 2Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center. 1380 A and M Circle, El Paso, TX 79927. (jmasabni@ag.tamu.edu)

10:15 Effects of Different Replenish Solutions on the Growth of Leaf Vegetables in Hydroponics. Lifei Chen, Youping Sun, Qiang Liu, Genhua Niu, and Youping Sun, 1Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79927, USA. 2Jilin Agricultural University, Changchun, Jilin 130118, China, 3Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Changsha, Hunan 410004, China. (gni@ag.tamu.edu)

10:30 Efficacy and Crop Safety of Bicyclopyrone Herbicide in Sweetpotato. Katherine M. Jennings, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC 27695. (katie_jennings@ncsu.edu)

FLORICULTURE, ORNAMENTALS AND TURF SECTION

Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom III Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding: Allen Owings, Chair
Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: aowings@agcenter.lsu.edu

8:00 Potential of Virginia Mountain Mint (Pycnanthemum virginicum L.) to Enhance Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Visitation. Bethany A. Harris and Bodie V. Pennisi, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1109 Experiment St., Griffin, GA 30223. (bah5191@uga.edu)

8:15 Effect of Soil Amendment, Water Content, and Nitrogen Fertilizer on Decomposition of Biodegradable Paper Pot. Bethany A. Harris, Mussie Y. Habteslassie, and Bodie V. Pennisi, Department of Horticulture and Crop and Soil Sciences, University of Georgia, 1109 Experiment St., Griffin GA 30223. (bah5191@uga.edu)

8:30 Integrating socioeconomic, ecosystem engineering, and horticulture research to Clean WaterR. Sarah A. White, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, E-143 Poole Ag Center, Clemson, SC 29634. (swhite4@clemson.edu)

8:45 Battling Rose Rosette Disease in the State of Oklahoma. Michael A. Schnelle and Jennifer Olson, 1358 Agriculture Hall, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, 127 Noble Research Center, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (mike.schnelle@okstate.edu)

9:00 Relative Salt Tolerance of Eight Barberry Cultivars. Youping Sun, Qiang Liu, Lifei Chen, Genhua Niu, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center, El Paso, TX 79927, Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Changsha, Hunan 410004, China, Jilin Agricultural University, Changchun, Jilin 130118, China. (gni@ag.tamu.edu)

9:15 Break

9:30 Woody Ornamental Plant Establishment Studies on a Salt-affected Soil, Galveston Island, Texas. David Creech, Kenneth Farrish, and Elaine Harris, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. (dcreech@sfasu.edu)

9:45 Crape Myrtle Bark Scale Management with Insect Growth Regulators and Other Chemicals. Yan Chen, Michelle Samuel-Foo, and Joey Quebedeaux. Hammond Research Station, LSU AgCenter, Hammond, LA 70403. (yachen@agcenter.lsu.edu)

10:00 Culture, Cultivation, and Collaboration - What We Learned from A Scientific Exchange Program on Tea in China. Yan Chen, Jeff Beaasley, Jason Stagg, Brent Pemberton, Donglin Zhang and Jason McDonald, Hammond Research Station, LSU AgCenter, Hammond, LA 70403, School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, Texas A&M University Agri-Life Research and Extension Center, Overton, TX 75684, Department of Horticulture, University of
Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, and Great Mississippi Tea Company, Brookhaven, MS 39601. (yachen@agcenter.lsu.edu)

10:15 Performance of Black Diamond™ Crepe Myrtles (Lagerstroemia indica L.) in Northeast Texas. Kevin Chretien* and Derald A. Harp, School of Agriculture, Texas A&M University – Commerce, Commerce, TX 75429 (derald.harp@tamuc.edu)

FRUIT CROPS SECTION

Room: Grand Bay Ballroom I Riverview Plaza Hotel
Presiding: Dario Chavez, Chair
Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: dchavez@uga.edu

8:00 Feeding Preference of Popillia japonica in Banana Leaf Herbivory. Edgar Vinson 1,*, David Held1, and Elina Coneva2, 1 101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, AL 36849, 2 301 Funchess Hall, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Auburn University, AL 36849. (vinsoed@auburn.edu)

8:15 Seed and Fiber Content of Southern Highbush and Rabbiteye Blueberry Varieties. Rachel A. Itle* and D. Scott NeSmith, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, GA 30223. (ritle@uga.edu)

8:30 Fruit bagging for the production of peaches in conventional and organic orchards. Jaine Allran1,*, Guido Schnabel1, and Juan Carlos Melgar1, 1 Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634 (jallran@g.clemson.edu)

8:45 Estimating Peach Maturity Dates from Ovule Benchmarks and Growing Degree Days in South Carolina. Gregory L. Reighard*, Juan Carlos Melgar1, R. Trey Burrell1, Filipe Bittencourt1 and Ksenija Gasic1. 1 Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Clemson, SC 29634; 2 Department of Agriculture, University of Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil 37200. (grghrd@clemson.edu)

9:00 Golden Kiwifruit (Actinidia chinensis Planch.) as a New Potential Specialty Crop for Texas. Timothy P. Hartmann1,* and David L. Creech2, 1 12134 Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, 2 3000 Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. (t-hartmann@tamu.edu)

9:15 Break

9:30 Preliminary Assessment of Selected Grape Rootstocks for Sustainable Viticultural Production in Alabama. Andrej Svyantek, Elina Coneva*, Raymond Kessler Jr., and James Pitts, 101, Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (edc0001@auburn.edu)

9:45 Assessing Secondary Bud Fruitfulness of Two Vitis Cultivars Grown on the Texas High Plains. Thayne Montague*, Edward Hellman, and Emily Graff. Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Lubbock, TX 79403-6603. Department of Plant and Soil Science, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-2122. (thayne.montague@ttu.edu)

10:00 Partnerships to improve sustainable citrus production in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Catherine Simpson1,*, Sri Lakshmi Telagamsetty1, Julian Gonzalez III1, Juan Carlos Melgar2, Shad D. Nelson1, and Mamoudou Setamou11 312 N International Blvd, Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness and Environmental Sciences, TAMU-Kingsville Citrus Center, Weslaco, TX 78596; 2 Clemson University, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, SC 29634. (Catherine.simpson@tamuk.edu)

10:15 Use of gibberellin (GA) and aminoethoxyvinylglycine (AVG) in Georgia peaches. Dario J. Chavez* and Jeff Cook1, 1 1109 Experiment Street, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin Campus, Griffin, GA 30223; 2 Ivy Street Butler, Taylor County Extension Office, GA 31006. (dchavez@uga.edu)

10:30 Observations of winter damage on Georgia peach trees and lessons for the future. Dario J. Chavez* 1109 Experiment Street, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin Campus, Griffin, GA 30223. (dchavez@uga.edu)
## POSTHARVEST AND BIOTECHNOLOGY SECTION

**Room:** Riverboat Suite  
Riverview Plaza Hotel  
**Presiding:** Cecilia McGregor, Chair  
**Abstracts:** To publish abstract in *HortScience*, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: cmcgre1@uga.edu.

### 8:00 Physiochemical Attributes Impacted by Post-harvest Storage and Harvest Season of Primocane Blackberry Genotypes

Daniela M. Segantini1*, Renee T. Threlfall2, and John R. Clark1, 1316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, 2650 North Young Avenue Institute of Food Science and Engineering, University of Arkansas Fayetteville, AR 72704. (dani_segantini@hotmail.com)

### 8:15 Using Centromeric Histone 3 Sequence Variance to Build Phylogenies in Penstemon

Xin Ye1* and Shaun R. Broderick2, 1Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS 39059, 2Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Truck Crops Branch, Crystal Springs, MS 39056. (srb559@msstate.edu)

### 8:30 Factors influencing postharvest fruit quality in blueberries

Savithri U. Nambeesan1*, Yi-Wen Wang1, John W. Doyle1, Scott D. NeSmith2, 1111 Miller Plant Sciences, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, 21109 Experiment Street, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223. (sunamb@uga.edu)

### 8:45 Genetic control of rind thickness in watermelon

Cecilia McGregor*, 1111 Miller Plant Sciences, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. (cmcgre1@uga.edu)

### 9:00 Yield response of four sweetpotato (Ipomea batatas) clones to in-row spacing and length of growing season

Jonathan R. Schultheis1*, Luis Duque3, Keith D. Starke4, Kenneth V. Pecota1, and Craig Yencho3. 1Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

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### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS PROGRAM

**Room:** Bon Secour I  
Riverview Plaza Hotel  
**Time:** 11:00 – 12:30  
**Presiding:** Ed Bush, President

### SAAS General Business Meeting

**Room:** Mobile Convention Center Room 203B  
**Time:** 4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

### SAAS Social/Super Bowl Party

**Room:** Mobile Convention Center East/West Ballroom  
**Time:** 4:15 PM – until
WORKING GROUPS
(Contact Chairs for Agenda and order of presentations if not given)

National Sweetpotato Collaborators

Presiding: Melanie Filotas, Chair
Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Room: Schooner
Riverview Plaza Hotel

Physiology, Breeding and Genetics

An Optimized Genotyping-By-Sequencing Protocol and SNP Calling Pipeline in Diploid and Hexaploid Ipomoea sp. Bode A. Olukolu1, Awaç M. Khan2, Zhao-Bang Zeng3, Lachlan J. Coin4, Zhangjun Fei5, Robin Buell5, Guilherme Da Silva Pereira1, Chenxi Zhou5, Dorcus C. Gemener2, Shan Wu2, Honghe Sun5, Marcelo Mollinari1, G. Craig Yencho1, 1Dept. of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Raleigh NC 27695-7609, 2International Potato Center, P.O. Box 1558, Lima 12, Peru, 3Bioinformatics Research Center, Dept. of Statistics, NC State University, Raleigh NC 27695-7566, 4Institute for Molecular Bioscience, The University of Queensland, 306 Carmody Road, St Lucia, QLD 4072, Brisbane, Australia, 5Boye Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Tower Rd, Ithaca, NY, 14853, 6Department of Plant Biology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. (baolukol@ncsu.edu)

Genetic Mapping in Sweetpotato Using Genotyping-By-Sequencing. Valerio Primomo*, Travis W. Banks, Joseph O’Neill, and Jaelyn Prystupa, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Vineland Station, Ontario, Canada, L0R 2E0. (valerio.primomo@vinelandresearch.com)

Phosphorus Availability and Mechanical Impedance Alter Sweetpotato Storage Root Length. A.Q. Villordon*, M. Selvaraj2, A. Khan3, and D. LaBonte4, 1LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324, 2CIAT, Cali, Colombia, 3Cornell University, Geneva, New York (formerly with CIP, Lima, Peru), 4School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (AVillordon@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Plant and Slip Production

Status of Jamaica’s Clean Seed Programme Initiative. P. Chang*, I Chambers, A. Reid, and L. Myers-Morgan, Research & Development Division, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAF). Jamaica, West Indies. (pgschang@hotmail.com)

Sulfur Fertilizer on North Mississippi Sweetpotatoes 2016. Jeff Main*, Stephen Meyers, and Mark Shankle, Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863. (JLM3@msstate.edu)

Yield Response of Four Sweetpotato (Ipomea batatas) Clones to In-Row Spacing and Length of Growing Season. Jonathan R. Schultheis1, Luis Duque2, Keith D. Starke1, Kenneth V. Pecota1, and Craig Yencho1, 1Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, 2Penn State University, Headhouse 1, Room 107, University Park, PA 16802. (jonathan_schultheis@ncsu.edu)

Sweetpotato Cultivar Responses to Interactive Effects of Temperature, Drought, and Carbon Dioxide. Shasthree Taduri1, Ajaz A. Lone1, Stephen Meyers2, Mark Shankle2, and K. Raja Reddy1*, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS and Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, 8320, Hwy 15 South, Pontotoc, MS. (krreddy@pss.msstate.edu)

Insect, Disease and Weed Management

Evaluation of Herbicides for Sweetpotatoes in Ontario, Canada. Melanie Filotas, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, OMAFRA-Simcoe Resource Centre, Simcoe, Ontario, N3Y 4K3. (melanie.filotas@ontario.ca)

Weed Management in Sweetpotato. Mark Shankle*, Stephen Meyers, Trevor Garrett, and Jeff Main, Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762. (mark.shankle@msstate.edu)

Herbicide Efficacy Trials in California Sweetpotatoes. C. Scott Stoddard*, University of California Cooperative Extension, 2145 Wardrobe Ave, Merced, CA 95341-6445. (csstoddard@ucanr.edu)

Management of Soil Insects in Sweetpotato in Louisiana. T.P. Smith*, J.M. Beuzelin2, T.F. Arnold1 and D.M. May2, LSU Agricultural Center Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324,
Comparison of Yield and Quality of Conventional Versus Organic Sweetpotato in Charleston South Carolina. Brian K. Ward, Phillip Wadl, and Livy Williams. Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center, 2700 Savannah Hwy., Charleston, SC 29414, USDA-ARS US Vegetable Lab., 2700 Savannah

Development and Application of Novel Biotechnological Approaches for Sweetpotato (Ipomoea batatas) Virus Resistance in Mississippi. Chunquan Zhang, Yan Meng, Kyler Holmes, Rita Okoro, and Victor Njiti. Department of Agriculture, Center for Biotechnology, Alcorn State University, Lorman, Mississippi, MS 39096.

Is Sweetpotato Leaf Curl Virus Really Seed Transmitted in Sweetpotato? Kai-Shu Ling, Phillip Wadl, Livy Williams, Alvin Simmons, and D. Michael Jackson, USDA-ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC, 29414. (Kai.Ling@ARS.USDA.GOV)

Sweetpotato and the Disease Triangle: I. Russet crack. C.A. Clark, Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Evaluation of Resistance to Post-Harvest Fungal Pathogens in Sweetpotato (Ipomoea batatas). Edwin R. Palencia and Lina M. Quesada-Ocampo, Department of Entomology Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7601. (erpalenc@ncsu.edu)

Postharvest, Processing and Marketing

Biomass Studies of Ten Sweetpotato Varieties in the Virgin Islands. Thomas W. Zimmerman, Carlos Montilla, University of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Experiment Station, RR#1 Box 10,000, Kingshill, VI 00850. (tzimmer@uvi.edu)

Using a Low-Cost 3D Scanner for Non-destructive Measurement of Surface Area and Volume of Storage Roots in Post Harvest Research. A. Villordon and D. Labonte. LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324, LSU AgCenter School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (AVillordon@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Variation in Beta-Carotene and Phenolics Levels in In-House Hybrids During Storage and Processing. Ananda Nanjundaswamy, Lydia Batey, Victor Njiti, Qun Xia and Franklin Chukwuma, Department of Agriculture, Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS 390

Sweetpotato Skinning Injury Influences Consumer Willingness-to-Pay. Alba J. Collart, Stephen L. Meyers, and Jason W. Ward. Department of Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

Sweetpotato Genotypes and Textural Characteristics of French Fries. Ai Sato, Van-Den Truong, Rong Reynolds, Suzanne Johanningsmeier, Kenneth Pecota, Craig Yencho. Department of Food, Bioprocessing and Nutrition Sciences, USDA-ARS, SEA Food Science Research Unit, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (Den.Truong@ARS.USDA.GOV)

Fifty Shades of Orange: Sensory and Consumer Evaluation of Sweetpotato Products. Valerio Primomo, Amy Bowen, Amy Blake, and Jessica Turecek, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Vineland Station, Ontario, Canada, L0R 2E0. (valerio.primomo@vinelandresearch.com)

Getting to Know Your Sweetpotato Fans. Michael Boyette. Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (boyette@ncsu.edu)

Graduate Student Presentations

PhD Students


On-field Sweetpotato Skin Strength Enhancement as a Result of Main Stem -- Root Separation by the Harvest-Assist Vine Puller-Chopper Machine. Anirudh Akula*, J.A. Macialek and M.D.
Evaluation of Dry Matter, Starch, Sugar, β-Carotene Content and Amylase Activities in the TB Mapping Population. Victor A. Amankwaah, Bonny M. Oloka, Ragy Ibrahem, Sharon Williamson, Ken Pecota, Bode Olukolu, Van-Den Truong, and Craig Yencho, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (vamankw@ncsu.edu)

Evaluating the Effects of the Environment on Physiological Properties of Sweetpotato (Ipomoea batatas). T. F. Arnold, A. Q. Villordon, T. P. Smith, D. R. LaBonte, and D. H. Picha, LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324. (tarnold@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Viral Distribution Titers of SPVG, SPVC, SPFMV and SPV2 (Potyviridae) in ‘Beauregard’ Sweetpotato (Ipomoea batatas). Herrera Favio and C. A. Clark, Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (FEguez@agcenter.lsu.edu)

M.S. Students
Evaluating The Shape and Size Characteristics of Sweetpotatoes Using Laser Image Analysis. Amber Tsirnikas and Michael D. Boyette, P.E., Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (atsirni@ncsu.edu)

Interactive Effects of Nitrogen Nutrition and Ultraviolet-B Radiation on Sweetpotato Growth and Development. Zigeng Chen, Shasthree Taduri, Mark Shankle, Wei Gao and K. Raja Reddy, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS, 39762. (zigengchen1@gmail.com)

Impact of Palmer Amaranth (Amaranthus palmeri) Removal on Sweetpotato Yield and Quality. Stephen Smith, Katie Jennings, and David Monks, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (scsmith7@ncsu.edu)

Remote Sensing and Management of Drip Irrigation in Sweetpotato Research Plots in Louisiana: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward. J. Gregorie and A. Villordon, LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station Chase, LA 71324. (AVillordon@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Watermelon Research Group

Presiding: Shaker Kousik, Chair
Friday: 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
Room: Bon Secour II Riverview Plaza Hotel

Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: shaker.kousik@ars.usda.gov

Friday, February 4, 2017, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
1:00 Welcome: Shaker Kousik, Chair, WRDG, incoming Chair: Jerome Bernier
1:10 Introductions: All in attendance

Industry updates and presentations
1:30 Watermelon Industry in India. Sonali Mookerjee, HM. Clause, 9241 Mace Blvd, Davis, CA 95618 (sonali.mookerjee@hmclause.com)
1:45 Update from NWA. Bob Morrissey, Executive Director, National Watermelon Association. 190 Fitzgerald Road, Suite 3, Lakeland, FL 33813 (bobm@nwawatermelon.com)
2:00 Regional Watermelon Production Updates Florida Carolinas DelMarVa Georgia Indiana & Midwest
2:30 Variety updates from Seed Companies

Variety Trial Reports:

3:00 Watermelon Variety Trial Results from Georgia in 2016. Timothy Coolong, 1* 2360 Rainwater Road, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793 (tcoolong@uga.edu)

3:15 Kentucky Seedless Watermelon (Citrullus lanatus) Variety Trial, 2016. Shubin K. Saha, 1* John Snyder, and John Walsh, 1 Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Ag Science Building North, N-318, Lexington, KY 40546-0091. 2 Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Horticulture Research Farm, 4321 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514. (Shubin.saha@uky.edu).

3:30 Break

4:00 Fruit Yield and Quality of Heirloom Watermelon Cultivars. Juan Carlos Díaz-Pérez, 1* and Jesús Bautista, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793-5766. (jcdiaz@uga.edu).

4:15 Watermelon Variety Trial Results from the SE U.S. Timothy Coolong, 1* Gilbert Miller, 1 Joshua Freeman, 1 and Jonathan Schultheis, 1 2360 Rainwater Road, Department of Horticulture, Tifton, GA 31793, 264 Research Road, Edisto Research and Education Center, Blackville, SC 29817, 3 155 Research Road, North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy, Fl 32531, 4 264 Kilgore Hall, Department of Horticulture, Raleigh, NC 27695. (tcoolong@uga.edu)

4:30 Tri-State Variety Trial for Seedless Watermelon for Kentucky, Indiana, and Delaware, 2016. Shubin K. Saha, 1* Wenjing Guan, 2 Gordon Johnson, 1 John Snyder, 1 and John Walsh, 1 Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Ag Science Building North, N-318, Lexington, KY 40546-0091. 2 Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Purdue University, Southwest Purdue Agriculture Center, 4369 N. Purdue Rd, Vincennes, Indiana, 47591, 3 Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Delaware, Carvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE, 19947, 4 Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Horticulture Research Farm, 4321 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514. (Shubin.saha@uky.edu).

4:45 Watermelon (Citrullus lanatus) yield and quality response to grafted versus non-grafted plants, 2016. Keith D. Starke, 1* and Jonathan R. Schultheis. Department of Horticultural Science, 2721 Founders Drive, 264 Kilgore, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609 (jonathan_schultheis@ncsu.edu)

5:00 Early Season Crop Development, Yield, and Fruit Quality of Standard and Mini Watermelons Grafted to Several Cucurbit Rootstocks. Matthew B. Bertucci, 1* Kathryn M. Jeninnings, 1 Davis W. Monks, 1 Jonathan R. Schultheis, 1 W. Bradford Thompson, 1 Frank M. Louws, 1 David L. Jordan, 1 Nicholas A. Basinger, 1 Stephen C. Smith, 1 Matthew D. Waldschmidt, 1 Department of Horticultural Science, 2 Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, 3 Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27606. (mbbertuc@ncsu.edu)

5:15 Yield and Fruit Quality of Grafted Watermelons Grown with Different Planting Densities in Fusarium Wilt Naturally Infested Field. Wenjing Guan, 1 Daniel S. Egel, and Dennis Nowaskie, Southwest Purdue Agricultural Center, Vincennes, IN, 47591. (guan40@purdue.edu)

5:30 Southern Root-Knot Nematode (Meloidogyne incognita) Resistance/Tolerance, Watermelon Fruit Yield and Quality in Four Grafted Watermelon Rootstocks and One Non-grafted Watermelon. Gilbert Miller, Edisto Research and Education Center, Clemson University, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817. (gmllr@clemson.edu)

5:45 Comparison of Grafted Versus Ungrafted Organic Diploid and Triploid Watermelon Yield and Quality Under Enhanced Native Pollinator Habitat. Brian K. Ward, 1* Richard L. Hassell, 1 Mimi M. Jenkins, 1 B. Merle Shepard, 1 Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center., 2700 Savannah Hwy., Charleston, SC 29414, (bw@clemson.edu)

6:00 Adjourn
Saturday, February 4, 2017, 8:00 am to 5:45 pm

8:00 Welcome and additional introductions: Shaker Kousik, Chair, WRDG

Grafting Session (continued from Day 1)

8:15 Potential Rootstocks for Watermelon Grafting. Richard L. Hassell, Clemson University CREC, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, South Carolina 29414. (rhasssel@clemson.edu)

8:30 New Developments in Watermelon Grafting. Richard L. Hassell1*, Pat Wechter2, Amnon Levi2, 1Clemson University CREC, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, South Carolina 29414, 2USDA-ARS, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, South Carolina 29414. (rhasssel@clemson.edu)

Pollinizers

8:45 Pollenizer placement considerations effects on watermelon (Citrullus lanatus) yield and quality. Jonathan R. Schultheis* and Keith D. Starke. Department of Horticultural Science, 2721 Founders Drive, 264 Kilgore, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609 (jonathan_schultheis@ncsu.edu)

Watermelon Growth and Development

9:00 Regulation of Citrulline metabolism in Watermelons. Vijay Joshi*, Diwas Silwal, Daniel Leskovar. Texas AgriLife Research, Texas A&M system. 1619 Garner Field Rd, Uvalde, Texas 78801 (Vijay.Joshi@tamu.edu)

9:15 1H NMR and HPLC-based metabolite profiling of watermelon varieties. Mihir K Mandal1,2, Jennifer Ikerd1, Swikriti Shrestha1, Amari Battiste1, Arezue Boroujerdi1, Brian Ward1, Shaker Kousik2. 1ORISE participant sponsored by U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, USDA, ARS, 2U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, USDA, ARS, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414, 3Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC. 4Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC 29414 (shaker.kousik@ars.usda.gov)

9:30 An overall small root system in watermelon cultivars indicates a need to improve their lateral fibrous root capacity. Amnon Levi1*, Shelby Steck1, Matt Horry2, Robert L. Jarret1, Patrick Wechter1, Shaker Kousik1, Brian Ward2, Gilbert Miller3, Richard Hassell2, and Anthony Keinath3. 1USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, South Carolina 29414; 2Clemson University, Coastal Research and Education Center, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, South Carolina 29414; 3USDA, ARS, Plant Genetic Resources and Conservation Unit, 1109 Experiment St., Griffin, GA 30223; 4Clemson University, Edisto Research & Education Center, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817.

9:45 Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy reveals wide variation in root metabolites of watermelon accessions and cultivars. Mihail Kantor1*, Arezue Boroujerdi1, Camelia Kantor1 and Amnon Levi2. 1Claflin University, 400 Magnolia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115; 2USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414 (Amnon.levi@ars.usda.gov)

10:00 Break

Watermelon Breeding and Genetics

10:30 Candidate Genes Regulating Watermelon Fruit Size and Shape. Reeve Legendre1* and Cecilia McGregor, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602 (reeve.legendre@uga.edu)

10:45 Towards the identification of quantitative trait loci and development of molecular markers linked to Fusarium wilt resistance in watermelon. W. Patrick Wechter1, Sandra E. Branham1, Shaunese Lambel2, Nihat Guner3, and Amnon Levi1*. 1USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory Charleston, South Carolina 29414; 2HM.CLAUSE Seed Company, 9241 Mace Blvd, Davis, California 95618; 3Sakata Seed America, 20900 FL-82, Fort Myers, Florida 33913 (Amnon.levi@ars.usda.gov)

11:00 Narrow-sense heritability of citrulline, arginine, and lycopene in two diverse watermelon populations. Jordan L. Hartman1, Penelope Perkins-Vezzie2, Todd C. Wehner1. 1Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609, 2Plants for Human Health Institute, North Carolina State University, Kannapolis, NC 28083. (jlhartm3@ncsu.edu)

11:30 Update from NWPB. Mark Arney. Executive Director/CEO, National Watermelon Promotion Board. 1321 Sundial Point Winter Springs, FL32708 (info@watermelon.org)

12:30 Lunch Break

Biotic and Abiotic Stress

1:30 Evaluation of a new fungicide for management of Fusarium wilt of watermelon. Nathan Miller1,*, Mike Adams1, and Lina M. Quesada-Ocampo1,1. Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695 (nmillle2@ncsu.edu).

1:45 Evidence for secondary spread of Fusarium wilt of watermelon in transplant trays. Daniel S. Egel1, Judith Santini2, Curtis Marchino1. Department of Botany and Plant Pathology1 and Department of Agronomy2, Purdue University, 915 W. State St., West Lafayette, IN, 47907. (egel@purdue.edu)

2:00 Assessment of Watermelon Rootstock Resistance to Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. niveum when Subjected to Meloidogyne incognita. Cody L. Smith, Joshua H. Freeman*, North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida, 155 Research Road, Quincy, FL 32351 (joshuafr@ufl.edu).

2:15 Cucurbit Leaf Crumple Virus and Potential Impacts on Watermelon Fruit Quality in north Florida and South Georgia. Joshua H. Freeman*, Mathews L. Paret, and Binoy Babu. North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida, 155 Research Road, Quincy, FL 32351. (joshuafr@ufl.edu)

2:30 Development of microsatellites and population analyses of Phytophthora capsici infecting vegetable crops. Camilo H. Parada-Rojas and Lina Quesada-Ocampo, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7616. (chparada@ncsu.edu)

2:45 Development of Phytophthora crown rot (Phytophthora capsici) resistant rootstocks of Cucurbita maxima and C. moschata for watermelon grafting. Kristie Mantoosh1,*, Jennifer Ikerd1, Mihir Mandal2, Richard Hassell2 and Shaker Kousik1. 1U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, USDA, ARS, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414. 2ORISE participant sponsored by U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, USDA, ARS. 3Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC 29414. (shaker.kousik@ars.usda.gov)

3:00 Break

3:30 Progress towards the understanding of seed infection in Acidovorax citrulli-watermelon pathosystem. Bhabesh Dutta* Ron Walcott, and Ron Gitaitis, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Tifton, 31793. (bhabesh@uga.edu)

3:45 Occurrence of foliar pathogens of watermelon on commercial farms in South Carolina - Field survey results from three seasons in 2015 and 2016. Gabriel Rennberger1,*, Anthony P. Keinath1, and Patrick Gerard2, Coastal Research and Education Center, Clemson University, Charleston, SC 29414, 2 Department of Mathematical Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634. (grenhbe@clemson.edu)

4:00 Examining host susceptibility and fungicide resistance of Colletotrichum orbiculare infecting cucurbits in the Southeastern United States. Nicholas Noël* and Lina Quesada-Ocampo. Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, 27695. (nnoel@ncsu.edu)

4:15 Screening Cucurbit Rootstocks for Varietal Resistance to Meloidogyne incognita and Rotylenchulus reniformis. Cody L. Smith1,*, Joshua H. Freeman1, Nancy Kokalis-Burelle2, William P. Wechter3, 1 North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida, 155 Research Road, Quincy, FL 32351, 2 USDA-ARS Horticultural Research Laboratory, 2001 South Rock Road, Ft. Pierce, FL 34945, 3 USDA-ARS Vegetable Laboratory, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC, 29414 (cstaxidermy@ufl.edu)

Weed Control
4:30 Influence of Grafting on the Critical Period for Weed Control in Watermelon. Matthew B. Bertucci1*, Kathryn M. Jeninngs1, Davis W. Monks1, Jonathan R. Schultheis1, Frank M. Louws2, David L. Jordan3, Nicholas A. Basinger1, Stephen C. Smith1, Matthew D. Waldschmidt1, 1Department of Horticultural Science, 2Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, 3Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27606. (mbbertuc@ncsu.edu)

4:45 Evaluation of Chateau (Flumioxazin) for Weed Control in Seedless Watermelons. Wenjing Guan1*, Daniel S. Egel1, Stephen C. Weller2, and Dennis Nowaskie1, 1Southwest Purdue Agricultural Center, Vincennes, IN 47591, 2Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, West Lafayette, IN 47907. (guan40@purdue.edu)

5:00 Strip Tillage Improves Soil Biological Activity, Fruit Yield and Sugar Content of Triploid Watermelon. Daniel Leskovar*, Yahia Othman, and Xuejun Dong, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Texas A&M University, 1619 Garner Field Rd., Uvalde, TX 78801. (d-leskovar@tamu.edu)

5:15 WRDG Business
   New Vice-Chair election
   Hot Topics
   CGC-Update
   Website
   Other topics??
   2018 WRDG meeting

5:45 pm Adjourn

Southern Blueberry/Small Fruit Workers
Presiding: Eric Stafne, Chair
(erics.tafne@msstate.edu)
Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom III
Riverview Plaza Hotel

Horticulture Administrators
Presiding: Janet Cole, Chair
(janet.cole@okstate.edu)
Friday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Room: Jubilee Suite
Riverview Plaza Hotel

Vigna Crop Germplasm Committee
Presiding: Blair Buckley, Chair
(bbuckley@agctr.lsu.edu)
Saturday: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Room: Windjammer Suite
Riverview Plaza Hotel

National Cowpea Improvement Association
Presiding: Blair Buckley, Chair
Saturday: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Room: Windjammer Suite
Riverview Plaza Hotel

Abstracts: To publish abstract in HortScience, see instructions at end of program. Submit on disk at meeting or email to Chair: bbuckley@agctr.lsu.edu

Pecan Research and Extension Forum
Presiding: Lenny Wells, Chair
(lwells@uga.edu)
Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Room: Mobile Bay Ballroom I & II
Riverview Plaza Hotel
Instructions for Submission of Abstracts for Publication in *HortScience*

1) One of the authors must be registered for the conference.
2) The title of the abstract must appear in the published conference program.
3) The abstract must be submitted as a document file in the proper format.
4) The abstract must be submitted to the Chair of the session by the deadline.

**Submission of Abstract**

**File Format:** Each abstracts must be submitted as a separate Word (.doc) file. If you use another word processing language, submit abstract in rich text format (.rtf).

**Deadline:**
1) At meeting: Give disk with file to the Chair of the session.
2) Email abstracts as an attached file to the Chair of the session before the meeting or within a few days after the meeting. See the Section Program for the Chair’s email address.

**Abstract Format**

**Length:** Limit the abstract body to about 2000 characters.

**Font:** 12 point, Times New Roman or similar

**Format:** Format abstract as below. Asterisk denotes presenting author.

**Example Format**

**Molecular Marker-Derived Genetic Similarity Analysis of a Segregating Blackberry Population**

Eric T. Stafne*¹, John R. Clark¹, and Kim S. Lewers²

¹316 Plant Sciences, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, ²USDA-ARS Fruit Lab, 10300 Baltimore Ave., BARC-West Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705

A tetraploid blackberry population that segregates for two important morphological traits, thornlessness and primocane fruiting, was tested with molecular marker analysis. Both randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) and simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers were used to screen a population of 98 genotypes within the population plus the two parents, ‘Arapaho’ and ‘Prime-Jim’® (APF-12). RAPD analysis averaged 3.4 markers per primer, whereas SSR analysis yielded 3.0 markers per primer pair. Similarity coefficient derived from the Dice index averaged over all individuals was 63% for RAPD markers, 73% for SSR markers, and 66% for RAPD and SSR markers together. The average similarity coefficients ranged from a high of 72% to a low of 38% for RAPD markers, 80% to 57% for SSR markers, and 73% to 55% for both. Comparison of the parents indicated a similarity of 67% for RAPD markers, 62% for SSR markers, and 67% for both. This is similar to a previous study that reported the similarity coefficient at 66%. Although inbreeding exists within the population, the level of heterozygosity is high. Also, evidence of tetrasomic inheritance was uncovered within the molecular marker analysis. This population will be used to identify potential markers linked to both morphological traits of interest. Further genetic linkage analysis and mapping is needed to identify any putative markers.
Meeting Room Locations
Riverview Plaza Hotel
### 2017 Program at a Glance

#### Friday, February 3

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