Message from the President

As we start to wrap up 2015 I want to encourage you to make plans to attend the Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science meeting in San Antonio, TX. We continue the Friday through Sunday scheduling to encourage greater participation from both students and faculty.

It’s an opportunity to learn the latest research results from around the southeast and take advantage of the collegial atmosphere. Also, the faculty from across the southeast are readily available and welcome the chance to interact with both undergraduate and graduate students. Each day after the meetings are finished the San Antonio Riverwalk offers many opportunities to continue discussions in the various dining and entertainment venues.

This meeting was the first professional meeting I attended as an undergraduate and has always been one of my favorites with its welcoming and supportive structure for students.

I’d also like to invite you to wear your favorite Hawaiian shirts; you know I’ll be wearing mine. I hope to see you in San Antonio. Gary

About the 2016 Annual Meeting
San Antonio, TX
February 5-7, 2016

SRASHS will meet in conjunction with the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientist (SAAS) in San Antonio, TX. Lodging and meetings will be available at Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk. For more information go to: http://saasinc.org/2016-SanAntonio/Welcome_page.asp

Program Schedule Notes
See the program schedule at the end of the newsletter. Notice that the meetings are Friday through Sunday and there is no programing after the business meeting on Sunday.

Pre-Registration and Registration Information

The cost of Registration is $110 for Members, Faculty and Industry, $40 for graduate students, $20 for undergraduate students, and $30 for ACB Club registration and dues. Pre-registration online prior to the meeting and registration at the meeting are the same rate. Pre-registration is fully refunded if you cancel at any time and for any reason. Therefore, everyone is strongly encouraged to pre-register online. If you pre-register online, your cancellation refunds will be credited to your credit card.
Pre-Registration Online
(strongly encouraged)
**Deadline:** Prior to and through the meeting.
Go to the following URL to access the Southern Region ASHS Registration Site:
https://www.eventville.com/catalog/eventregistration1.asp?eventid=1011758
We would like to thank Mike Neff and ASHS Headquarters for supplying the online registration service.

Registration at the Meeting
On-site registration will be available at the meeting.

**Payment:** Credit card via onsite online registration, check (personal, institutional, organization, foundation), or cash.

Hotel Registration Information

**Conference Site**
**Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk**
123 Losoya Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
Phone: 210.222.1234
Fax: 210.451.6162

**Deadline:** Friday, January 22 (for conference rate).

**Rates:**
- Single/Double $139/night
- Triple/Quad $139/night

**SAAS rate includes:** No resort fee, no fee for Health Club or pool usage, 50% discount on self-parking fees, complimentary Internet in guest rooms for up to one device, complimentary use of electrical outlets in meeting rooms for presenters only, and complimentary room sets to include chairs, tables, podium, projector table, easels, risers, water stations, pen, and paper.

**Check in:** 3:00 pm  **Check out:** Noon

**Reservations** can be made online at: https://resweb.passkey.com/go/SAAS2016 or by calling 1-888-421-1442 and refer to the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS) group block at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk. If rooms are available, reservations can be made for 3 days ahead and/or 3 days after the meeting dates at the discounted group rate if you would like to come early or stay longer for sightseeing.

**Early Departure Fee:** Hyatt has an early departure fee of a full night's room and tax. Departure dates are reconfirmed at check-in and are subject to a fee if changed after the check-in process is complete.

**Airport Information**
The San Antonio International Airport (SAT), located at 9800 Airport Boulevard, San Antonio, TX 78216, is approximately 15 miles from the conference hotel.

Hotel does not have shuttle service

**Alternate Overflow Hotel**
**Omni La Mansion del Rio Riverwalk**
112 College Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
(one block off the Riverwalk)
Phone: 210-518-1000
Rate: $139

Due to a shortage of double rooms at the Hyatt, SAAS is contracting with the Omni to be an alternate hotel site. The contract is pending, but should be finalized the week of December 14; check the SAAS web site (saasinc.org) for group rate registration details.

Notes to Paper Presenters

**Oral Paper Presentation Format:**
Presenters must bring their presentation(s) as a PowerPoint presentation saved on a USB memory device. It is advisable to bring your presentation on at least two storage devices for redundancy. If you would like to bring your presentation on any other storage form, check with the Chair ahead of time to make sure their computer will accept that form.

**Poster Preparation Instructions**

**Size, Format and Font.** Poster presentations must fit with a 48” x 48” size. Abstract titles, names, and affiliations should appear on the top of the poster. A simple sans serif-face font (e.g., Helvetica) should be used. Lettering for the title should be at least one inch tall. Lettering for text and illustrations should range in size between 6 mm and 12 mm. The authors’ names and affiliations may be somewhat smaller. Authors are urged to include photographs to assist in author identification.

**Content.** Do not prepare a poster as if it were a manuscript. Primarily, use tables and figures and use limited verbiage. Details of the work can be provided in discussions with interested parties.

**Display.** Mount your poster on the poster board that has the same number as your title in the program. Push-pins or Velcro buttons may be used to hang posters. Pins/Velcro must be supplied by presenter—they will not be available on-site.
Poster Competition. Undergraduate and graduate students wishing to participate in the poster judging competition should indicate their intent to the Chair of the Poster Section when they submit their poster title. Limited numbers may be accepted at the meeting; check with the registration table.

Abstract Preparation Instructions:
In order to publish abstracts: 1) one of the authors must be registered for the SRASHS conference (or one of the other SAAS groups), 2) the paper or poster must be presented in a conference session, and 3) the title must appear in the Conference Program. Prepare abstracts according to the “Instructions for Submission of Abstracts for Publication by ASHS” form at the end of the Newsletter. Each abstract must be submitted as a separate Word (.doc) file. If you use another word processing language, save and submit the abstract as a rich text format (.rtf) file.

Email your abstract to the Chair before the meeting or you may submit the abstract in a file format to the Chair at the meeting. The Chair may give a few days grace period to send the abstract by email after the meeting. To be published, all abstracts must be formatted properly.

Notes to Section Chairs and Judges
Section Chairs: The Section Chairs are responsible for bringing a laptop computer and projector for their Sections. If this is a problem, there will be two projectors and one laptop that can be checked-out at the registration desk.

Judges:
ACB Advisor: Arranges judges for the J. Benton Storey Judging Contest.
Collegiate Branch Section Chair: Arranges judges for the Edmund Undergraduate oral presentations.
Poster Section Chair: Arranges judges for the undergraduate and graduate National Cowpea Poster judging.
President-Elect: Arranges judges for the Childers Masters and Barham PhD graduate oral presentations.

Chairs collect abstracts:
All Chairs collect abstracts at the meeting or give the presenters a few days to submit abstracts to the Chair by email. The Chair sends abstracts to Sylvia DeMar (sdemar@ashs.org) by mid-February. In order for an abstract to be published:

- The abstract title must appear in the Conference Program.
- The paper must have been presented orally or as a poster at the meeting. “No shows” are not published.
- One of the authors must be registered for the conference.
- The abstract must be formatted properly.

Fall 2015 Election Results
Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected in the Fall 2015 Elections.

President-Elect
(Tim Davis, Texas A&M University)

Executive Committee
(Richelle Stafne, USDA)

SECTION CHAIRS-ELECT

Education Section
(Garry McDonald, University of Arkansas)

Extension Section
(Bodie Pennisi, University of Georgia)

Floriculture, Ornamentals & Turf Section
(Allen Owings, Louisiana State University)

Fruit Crops Section
(Dario Chavez, University of Georgia)

Vegetable Crops Section
(Katie Jennings, North Carolina State Univ.)

Postharvest & Biotechnology Section
(Cecelia McGregor, University of Georgia)

Poster Section
(Leo Lombardini, Texas A&M University)

Collegiate Branch (Edmond Paper Competition)
(Chris Marble, University of Florida)

Southern Region Dues and Membership
ASHS Headquarters collects and manages dues for the Southern Region. It is recommended that ASHS members pay their dues with their yearly ASHS membership. Non-ASHS members should pay their dues through the ASHS Online Store at: https://ashs-site-ym.com/store/ViewProduct.aspx?ID=2463036
If absolutely necessary, dues can also be paid at the annual meetings. Dues are $30. Notice: Dues must be paid to be elected to an office or to receive an award.

Future Meetings Sites
2017 Mobile, AL (Feb 4-7, 2017)
2018 Jacksonville, FL (Feb 3-6, 2018)
### 2015-2016 Officers, Chairs and Committees
*(Term of office is from end of 2015 meeting through 2016 meeting)*

**Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Science**

#### Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Gary Bachman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gary.bachman@msstate.edu">gary.bachman@msstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Ed Bush</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ebush@agctr.lsu.edu">ebush@agctr.lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect-Elect</td>
<td>Tim Davis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:t-davis5@exchange.tamu.edu">t-davis5@exchange.tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>David Wm. Reed</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwreed@tamu.edu">dwreed@tamu.edu</a></td>
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#### Executive Committee

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>David Hensley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dhensley@uark.edu">dhensley@uark.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-Chair</td>
<td>Pat Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pecbaw@gmail.com">pecbaw@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Guihong Bi</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gbi@pss.msstate.edu">gbi@pss.msstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Jim Robbins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrobbins@uaex.edu">jrobbins@uaex.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Amy Wright</td>
<td><a href="mailto:awright@auburn.edu">awright@auburn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Sarah White</td>
<td><a href="mailto:swhite4@clemson.edu">swhite4@clemson.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member, President-Elect</td>
<td>Ed Bush</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ebush@agctr.lsu.edu">ebush@agctr.lsu.edu</a></td>
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#### ACB Officers

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kaitlin Ziesmer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kziesmer@murraystate.edu">kziesmer@murraystate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Andrew Thomas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:awt2r@mtmail.mtsu.edu">awt2r@mtmail.mtsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Auston Holland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alh0080@auburn.edu">alh0080@auburn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Loren Anthony</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmanthon@uark.edu">lmanthon@uark.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACB Rep</td>
<td>Christine Jackson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:soccerchick11@gmail.com">soccerchick11@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities Chair</td>
<td>Meghan Peoples</td>
<td><a href="mailto:meghanpeoples@gmail.com">meghanpeoples@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment Chair</td>
<td>Stephanie Stoner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephanie.stoner@okstate.edu">stephanie.stoner@okstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACB Advisor</td>
<td>Jay Spiers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jds0017@auburn.edu">jds0017@auburn.edu</a></td>
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#### Section Chairs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
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<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Section</td>
<td>Carolyn Robinson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cwrobinson@auburn.edu">cwrobinson@auburn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extension Section</td>
<td>Jim Robbins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jrobbins@uaex.edu">jrobbins@uaex.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf Section</td>
<td>MengMeng Gu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MGu@tamu.edu">MGu@tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Crops Section</td>
<td>Elina Coneva</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edc0001@auburn.edu">edc0001@auburn.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster Section</td>
<td>Michael Maurer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maurerma@sfasu.edu">maurerma@sfasu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postharvest/Biotechnology Section</td>
<td>Penny Perkins-Veazie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:penelope_perkins@ncsu.edu">penelope_perkins@ncsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables Crops Section</td>
<td>Casey Barickman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cb2407@msstate.edu">cb2407@msstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collegiate Branch Chair</td>
<td>Dario Chavez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dchavez@uga.edu">dchavez@uga.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childers and Barham Grad Competition</td>
<td>Ed Bush</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ebush@agctr.lsu.edu">ebush@agctr.lsu.edu</a></td>
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#### Working Groups Chairs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Groups Chairs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horticultural Administrators</td>
<td>Wayne Mackay</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mackay@uark.edu">mackay@uark.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Cowpea Improvement Assoc.</td>
<td>Blair Buckley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bbuckley@agctr.lsu.edu">bbuckley@agctr.lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Sweet Potato Collaborators</td>
<td>Ken Pecota</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ken_pecota@ncsu.edu">ken_pecota@ncsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecan Research &amp; Extension Forum</td>
<td>Lenny Wells</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lwells@uga.edu">lwells@uga.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Blueberry/Small Fruit Workers</td>
<td>Eric Stafne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eric.stafne@msstate.edu">eric.stafne@msstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vigna Crop Germplasm Committee</td>
<td>Blair Buckley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bbuckley@agctr.lsu.edu">bbuckley@agctr.lsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watermelon Research Group</td>
<td>Shaker Kouisk</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shaker.kousik@ars.usda.gov">shaker.kousik@ars.usda.gov</a></td>
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## Nominations Committee

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair, Senior Retired President</td>
<td>Curt Rom</td>
<td><a href="mailto:crom@uark.edu">crom@uark.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member, Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Wayne Mackay</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mackay@uark.edu">mackay@uark.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Brian Jackson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brian_jackson@ncsu.edu">brian_jackson@ncsu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Matthew Chappell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hortprod@uga.edu">hortprod@uga.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Christine Coker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.coker@msstate.edu">christine.coker@msstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Awards Committees

### Miller Distinguished Educator, Chair
- **Chair** Cynthia McKenney, cynthia.mckenney@ttu.edu
- **Member** Shad Nelson, shad.nelson@tamuk.edu
- **Member** Helen Kraus, helen_kraus@ncsu.edu

### Miller Distinguished Researcher, Chair
- **Chair** Don Labonte (sub), dlabonte@agcenter.lsu.edu
- **Member** Thomas Ranney, tom_ranney@ncsu.edu
- **Member** Arthur Villordon, avillordon@agcenter.lsu.edu

### Covington Extension Award, Chair
- **Chair** Chris Gunter, cgunter@ncsu.edu
- **Member** Lucy Bradley, lucy_bradley@ncsu.edu
- **Member** Elina Coneva, edc0001@auburn.edu

### Hutchinson Young Extension
- **Chair** Mengmeng Gu, MGu@tamu.edu
- **Member** Cheryl Boyer, crboyer@ksu.edu
- **Member** Peter Dittmar, pdittmar@ufl.edu

### Krezdon Doctoral Writing, Chair
- **Chair** Ramon Arancibia, raran@vt.edu
- **Member** Jim Robbins, jrobbins@uaex.edu
- **Member** Richard Harkess, richard.harkess@msstate.edu

### Smeal Leadership, Chair
- **Chair** David Creech, dcreech@sfasu.edu
- **Member** Curt Rom, crom@uark.edu
- **Member** Wayne Mackay, mackay@uark.edu

### Extension Communications, Chair
- **Chair** James Robbins, jrobbins@uaex.edu
- **Member** Tim Coolong, tcoolong@uga.edu
- **Member** Sarah White, swhite4@clemson.edu

### Childers Outstanding Graduate Stu., Chair
- **Chair** Wayne Mackay, mackay@uark.edu
- **Member** Gary Bachman, gbachman@ext.msstate.edu
- **Member** Ed Bush, ebush@agctr.lsu.edu

### Outstanding ACB Club & Club Member
- **Chair** Jay Spiers, jds0017@auburn.edu
Instructions for Submission of Abstracts for Publication by ASHS

To Publish Your Abstract in HortScience:

- The abstract title must appear in the Program.
- The paper must have been presented orally or as a poster at the meeting.
- One of the authors must be registered for the conference.
- The abstract must be formatted properly.

Submission of Abstract

File Format: Each abstract 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 prior to the meeting or within a few days after the meeting. See the 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.
### Tentative 2016 Program at a Glance

#### Friday, February 5

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<td>Pecan Research &amp; Extension Forum</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Nueces/Frio</td>
<td>Directors</td>
<td>South Texas Blueberry/Southern Fruit Workers</td>
<td>Horticulture Administrators</td>
<td>Watermelon Research Group</td>
<td>Directors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>Mesquite</td>
<td>Directors</td>
<td>Live Oak</td>
<td>Sweetpotato Collaborators</td>
<td>Chula Vista</td>
<td>ACB Club Share and Networking</td>
<td>ACB Activities, Tour, Meal</td>
<td>ACB Mixer</td>
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#### Saturday, February 6

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<td>Poster Session Set-Up</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom Center East</td>
<td>Judging Contest Set-Up</td>
<td>Poster Session Viewing, Authors at Posters &amp; Judging</td>
<td>Watermelon Research Group</td>
<td>National Cowpea Improvement Association</td>
<td>Sweetpotato Collaborators</td>
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<td>Llano/Pecos</td>
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<td>Watermelon Research Group</td>
<td>Regency Center West</td>
<td>Vigna Crop Germplasm Committee</td>
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<td>Sweetpotato Collaborators</td>
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<td>Nueces/Frio</td>
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<td>A&amp;M N. Texas Paper Comp.</td>
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<th>5:00</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom Foyer</td>
<td>7:00 open</td>
<td>Poster Session Set-Up</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Regency Center West</td>
<td>Poster Session Viewing</td>
<td>ACB Business Meeting</td>
<td>Business Meeting/Awards Prog.</td>
<td>Poster Take down</td>
<td>Super Bowl Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>Rio Grande Ballroom East</td>
<td>Directors</td>
<td>Nueces/Frio</td>
<td>Vegetable Crops Section</td>
<td>Poster Session Viewing</td>
<td>ACB Business Meeting</td>
<td>Business Meeting/Awards Prog.</td>
<td>Poster Take down</td>
<td>Super Bowl Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>Bowie AB</td>
<td>Floriculture, Ornamentals &amp; Turf Section</td>
<td>Nueces/Frio</td>
<td>Fruit Crops Section</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>Maverick A</td>
<td>Fruit Crops Section</td>
<td>Directors</td>
<td>Postharvest &amp; Biotechnology Section</td>
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