



# NAPB Newsletter

November/December 2014

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## President's Comments

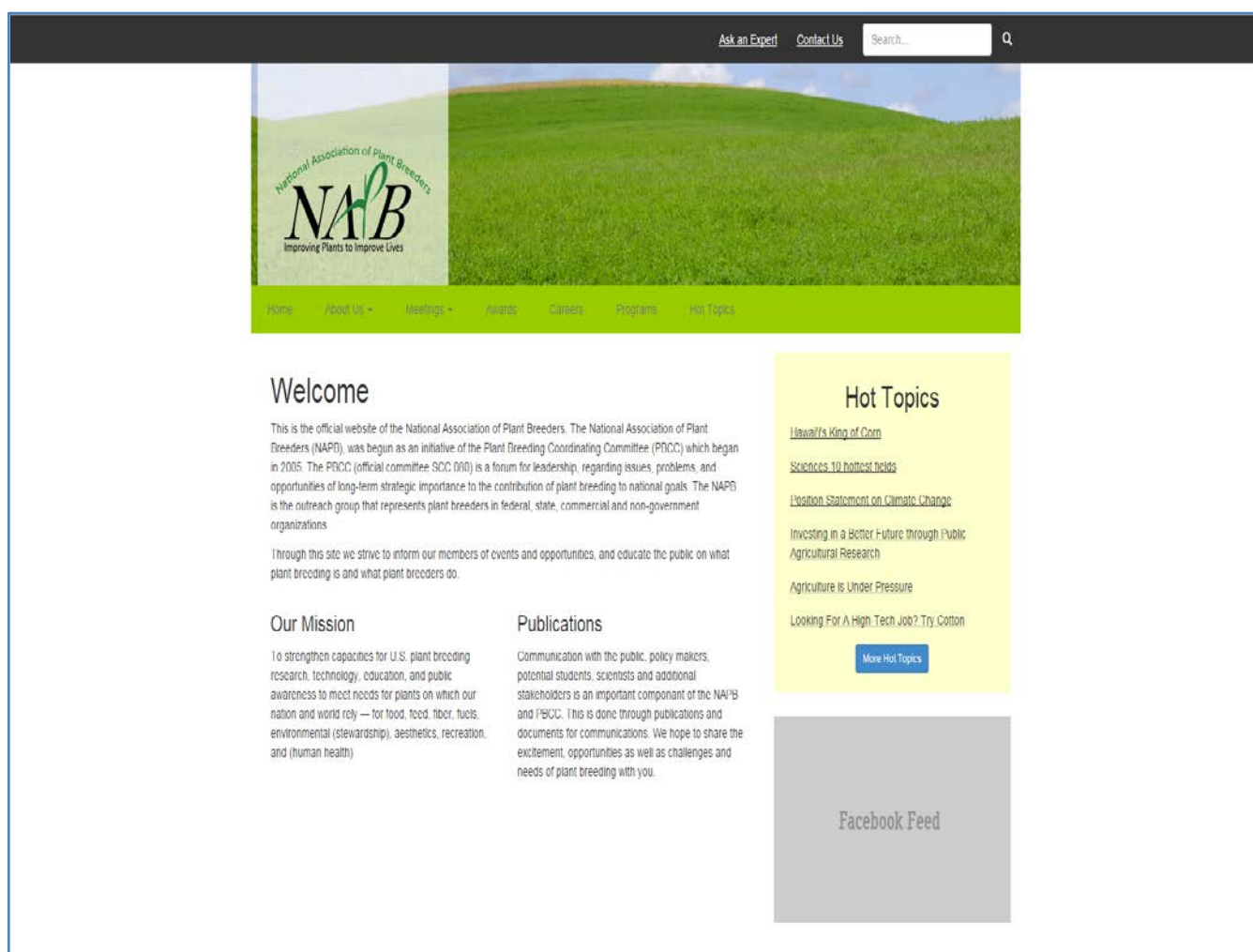
Fellow Plant Breeders,

This is an exciting time for the NAPB! We are growing internally and externally. Internally, we just completed a strategic planning process that resulted in a set of goals and objectives for the next five to ten years. The NAPB committees are very active and are working hard to support plant breeding. We are preparing to launch a new website within a few months that will enable the committees to develop and post content related to their work. Externally, the NAPB is fostering relationships with like-minded groups. Along with several other national plant science organizations, we recently committed to support hiring an executive director of the National Plant Science Council as called for in the document “Unleashing a Decade of Innovation in Plant Science, A Vision for 2015-2025” (<http://plantsummit.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/aspb-final-report-plant-summit-lo-res-web-july-15-2013.pdf>). Our meeting committee is busy planning for the 2015 NAPB annual meeting in Washington. The annual meetings have become a highlight of the year where students and scientists from universities, USDA, and the commercial sector come to interact. Unique to NAPB is the level of public-private interaction. The NAPB benefits from a broad range of public and private members. I believe that the unique perspectives of private and public sector members will foster synergy for the NAPB as we begin to implement our strategic plan. As 2014 comes to a close and we look forward to 2015, make plans to become involved in the NAPB and not just in the annual meeting, but in the governance and mission of the organization. We are the only national scientific organization dedicated solely to the discipline of plant breeding!

Barry Tillman  
NAPB President

## NAPB Website Update

Things are moving forward with the NAPB website redesign. While there are many moving parts, we are able to provide a vision of what the website will look like below. Check back in the next newsletter for more information.



## Strategic Planning Update

The NAPB strategic plan has been under development. Once completed, the strategic plan will outline NAPB's vision, mission and goals. Check in the next newsletter for more information pertaining to NAPB's strategic plan.

## **2014 Committee Updates**

### **Advocacy Committee Update**

The advocacy committee has been inactive as local and national elections were in full swing. Now that we have an understanding of the next congress we will be scheduling committee meetings to discuss strategies. We will be looking to coordinate with ASTA, the tri-societies, ASHS and others.

Bill Tracey  
Advocacy Committee Chair

### **Education Committee Update**

Due to the success of last year's webinar series "How to breed new plant varieties: imagining and engineering crops", the committee has decided to organize another webinar series for early 2015. If you are interested in presenting or have suggestions for a webinar theme please contact Heather Merk at [Heather.Merk@SYNGENTA.COM](mailto:Heather.Merk@SYNGENTA.COM) or Arron Carter at [ahcarter@wsu.edu](mailto:ahcarter@wsu.edu). The committee has also been busy collecting and collating online plant breeding educational resources, job and internship information, and is creating a graduate school best practices document. Collected and created content will be uploaded to the new website when it goes live. For more information regarding the committee, or to get involved, email Shelby Ellison at [slrepinski@wisc.edu](mailto:slrepinski@wisc.edu).

Shelby Ellison  
Education Committee Chair

### **Membership Committee Update**

Current NAPB membership is slightly over 1000, a 54% increase over 2013. Thanks is expressed to Donn Cummings who drove much of this growth. Due to our membership make-up, future growth opportunities should focus on increasing interest in the horticultural and forestry sectors. International members number 13%. A fee based NAPB membership has been approved by the Executive Committee, and the committee continues work to ensure this is successful. Our draft 1-page NAPB brochure has been updated with 2015 Annual Meeting details, 2014 Award winners, and other relevant information. This brochure is also available for further edits. We anxiously wait to see the improved portal to allow NAPB to move forward with a fee based membership.

Don Jones  
Membership Committee Chair

## Meeting Committee Update

Planning is underway for the next NAPB/PBCC annual meeting, based in Pullman WA, 27-30 July 2015. A pre-conference full-day tour to the ARS Central Ferry location and the WSU/ARS Prosser location will provide participants with an opportunity to view breeding programs and production activities for a range of cereal, oilseed, legume, forage and specialty crops. Subsequently, organizational business sessions, technical presentations, graduate student functions and workshops will be held on the Washington State University Pullman campus. A local campus tour will feature cereal and cool season food legume breeding programs. A Local Organizing Committee comprising Kate Evans, Jim McFerson, and Rebecca McGee has met regularly with NAPB/PBCC leadership and is currently finalizing venue and lodging details.

Jim McFerson  
Meeting Committee

## Communications Committee Update

The communications committee has been hard at work on developing the bi-monthly newsletter. In doing such we provide members of NAPB up-to-date information about what's going on in the plant breeding community, events and opportunities, plant breeding success stories and the latest information on the NAPB annual meeting. The mission of the communications committee is timely dissemination of information concerning the activities of the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB). Information will be provided to both members and the general public at large through the use of bi-monthly newsletters, press releases and social media. We are always looking for new content for upcoming newsletters. If you have any news, events, opportunities, or success stories please feel free to email them to Gregory Berger ([gberger06@gmail.com](mailto:gberger06@gmail.com)).

Gregory Berger  
Communications Committee Chair

## Graduate Student Working Group Update

The Graduate Student Working Group (GSWG) has been hard at work with outreach to plant breeding graduate students and increasing the participation in the NAPB annual meetings. Mohan Niroula of GSWG has been recruiting new members and providing an information stream to the current members through the NAPB graduate student Facebook page and other social media platforms. To help improve graduate student attendance to the NAPB annual meetings, GSWG's Leaf Ruff has reached out to the graduate students at Washington State University. They have begun organizing more affordable graduate student housing and graduate student orientated events for next year's meetings. Of these events, brought to our attention by the Meeting Committee, we are most excited to kick off the 2015 conference with local chefs showcasing Washington's delicious crop diversity, from berries to hops. Also, GSWG has been assisting NAPB in helping to host the 2014-2015 webinar series and improving aspects of the annual meetings, such as optimizing the flow of the research sessions.

## Events and Opportunities

**2014 American Seed Trade Association** annual meeting is being held December 8 – 12, 2014 in Chicago, IL. Additional information is available at <http://www.amseed.org/events/asta-css-seed-expo/>. The Corn, Sorghum and Soybean Program Planning Committees of ASTA are hosting a graduate student poster competition at the annual meeting. For more information please contact Jennifer Crouse ([jcrouse@amseed.org](mailto:jcrouse@amseed.org)).

**2015 Beltwide Cotton Conference** will be held January 5-7, 2015 in San Antonio, TX. The pre-registration discount continues until December 15, 2014. Additional information is available at [http://www.cotton.org/beltwide/index.cfm?page=about\\_beltwide](http://www.cotton.org/beltwide/index.cfm?page=about_beltwide)

**2015 Tucson Plant Breeding Institute** in Tucson, AZ will be held January 5-9, 2015. Instructors include Professor Bruce Walsh, Depts. of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Plant Science, Animal Science, Molecular & Cellular Biology, University of Arizona, Professor Michael Gore, Associate Professor of Molecular Breeding and Genetics, Cornell University, and Professor Lucia Gutierrez, Facultad de Agronomia, Universidad de la Republica Montevideo, Uruguay. Additional information is available at <http://www.plantbreedinginstitute.bio5.org>. (For questions, please contact Bruce Walsh ([jbwalsh@u.arizona.edu](mailto:jbwalsh@u.arizona.edu))).

**2015 International Plant and Animal Genome Meeting XXIII** in San Diego, CA will be held January 10-14, 2015. Early registration closes on October 31, 2014. Additional information is available at <http://www.intlpag.org/>

**2015 Annual meeting of the Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy** in Atlanta, GA is being held February 1-3, 2015. Additional information is available at <https://www.agronomy.org/membership/branches/southern>.

### Join the Texas A&M Monthly Plant Breeding Bulletin

Texas A&M distributes a monthly Plant Breeding Bulletin (<http://soilcrop.tamu.edu/media/plant-breeding-bulletin/>). Contact Wayne Smith at [cwsmith@tamu.edu](mailto:cwsmith@tamu.edu) or LeAnn Hague at [Leann.hague@tamu.edu](mailto:Leann.hague@tamu.edu) if you would like to be added to the list serve.

If you have an upcoming event you would like to include in the NAPB newsletter, please send a description and link to any important information to Greg Berger at [gberger06@gmail.com](mailto:gberger06@gmail.com). Information will be included in upcoming newsletters.

## **Success Stories**

Do you have a plant breeding success story that you would like to share? If so, please send a brief description or a link to Greg Berger at [gberger06@gmail.com](mailto:gberger06@gmail.com). Success stories will be shared in upcoming NAPB newsletters.

## **Join NAPB TODAY!**

Would you like to join and support the National Association of Plant Breeders? To join, please go to <http://www.plantbreeding.org/napb/index.htm>, scroll down to “How to join/ Information for new member” and follow the links. Remember that you DO NOT have to be a member of any other professional organization to join NAPB. The tri-societies, ASA-CSSA-SSSA, are handling our membership database and email list server under contract to NAPB.

## Mark Your Calendars!

Join us July 27-31, 2015 for the 5th annual NAPB and 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee being held at Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

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Please direct comments and suggestions about the NAPB Newsletter to:

Gregory Berger  
Chair Communications Committee  
[gberger06@gmail.com](mailto:gberger06@gmail.com)

Todd Campbell  
Vice Chair, Communications Committee  
[todd.campbell@ars.usda.gov](mailto:todd.campbell@ars.usda.gov)

Jane Dever  
Secretary, Communications Committee  
[jdever@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jdever@ag.tamu.edu)

Araby Belcher  
Graduate Student Liaison, Communications Committee  
[araby.belcher@oregonstate.edu](mailto:araby.belcher@oregonstate.edu)

Emily Delorean  
Graduate Student Liaison, Communications Committee  
[emily.delorean@gmail.com](mailto:emily.delorean@gmail.com)