



NAPB Newsletter September 2014

Contents:

- **President's Comments**
- **2014 NAPB Meeting Summary**
- **Thanks to Our Sponsors**
- **Events and Opportunities**
- **Success Story**
- **How to Become a Member of NAPB**
- **2015 NAPB Meeting Announcement**

President's Comments

By all measures, the 2014 NAPB Annual Meeting was a great success. As we look forward, there is substantial enthusiasm for the coming 12 months. The Meeting Committee is busy preparing for the 2015 annual meeting hosted by Washington State University. It is a great location with a wide diversity of crops and plant breeding programs. I'm excited by the participation of our graduate students at every level of the organization. They are making significant contributions to the NAPB and are the future of the association. The Education Committee is working heavily with our graduate student members and continues to do a great job with poster competitions and providing opportunities for interaction between students and potential employers. The strategic planning process is also an exciting project. Two days prior to the annual meeting, a group of 19 association leaders dedicated about 10 hours to developing the first stages of a strategic plan for the NAPB. The process was very successful and we have decided to engage Ellen Cull, our strategic planning facilitator, to assist with finalizing the plan- possibly by the end of the year. Formalizing our membership is another important and exciting step for the NAPB. Sometime in early 2015, we will implement a modest fee for membership of \$80 for professional members and \$35 for students. The Communications Committee is working hard to launch our new website in

early 2015. It will allow committees to post new information directly and allow for more rapid dissemination of new information. Our Advocacy Committee is developing a strategy to engage with the USDA on programs of vital importance to plant breeding such as the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS) and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). It promises to be an exciting year for the NAPB!

2014 NAPB Meeting Summary

This year's joint annual meeting of the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) and Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee was held on August 5 through August 8 in Minneapolis, MN. The theme of the annual meeting was Breeding for Tolerance to Water Stress, which is an issue for many plant breeders.

In all, 240 registered guests, including professionals and graduate students, attended the meeting. Multiple topic sessions were given by graduate students and breeders. Field tours to the Syngenta Stanton, MN station and University of Minnesota Field Day were attended by many of the participants. Additionally, six graduate students were honored for excellent research contributions and presentation skills.

Three graduate students were selected from submitted abstracts to give oral presentations during a graduate student session. Christine Bradish of North Carolina State University presented her work on phenotypic evaluations of heat tolerance and fruit quality traits in segregating black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis* L.) populations in North Carolina; Sarah Grogan of Colorado State University presented her work on multi-environment analyses of wheat heading dates across the U.S. Great Plains; and Amy Jacobson of the University of Minnesota presented her research on a general combining ability model for genome-wide selection in a biparental cross.

Three graduate students were selected from a poster competition and recognized for their research. Winners were selected on the basis of research, presentation, and the ability to answer questions about their research. Tyler Tiede of University of Minnesota, Jessica Gilbert of the University of Florida, and Jennifer Kimball of North Carolina State University were selected from 69 participants.

Research presentations were given by awardees of the 2013 NAPB Lifetime Achievement Award, Impact Award, and Early Career Award. Dr. Johnie Jenkins, 2013 Lifetime Achievement Awardee, gave his perspective on how cotton breeding has changed during his career, which began in 1961. Dr. Roger Boerma, 2013 Impact Awardee, spoke about ten things a successful plant breeder understands. Dr. Seth Murray, 2013 Early Career Awardee, gave his perspective on plant breeding approaches and technologies for challenges in agriculture.

2014 Sponsor Thank You

Thanks to our sponsors who made the 2014 NPAB meeting possible!

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Events and Opportunities

2014 ASA, CSSA, & SSSA International Annual Meeting will be held November 2-5, 2014 in Long Beach, CA. The September 17 pre-registration deadline for the meeting is fast approaching. Additional information is available at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/>

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)).

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/>

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 (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 (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 9th annual meeting of the Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee being held at Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

Please direct comments and suggestions about the NAPB Newsletter to:

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