2013 Watermelon Research & Development Working Group Annual Meeting  
In Conjunction with the Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 3, 2013  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Wyndham Orlando Resort  
Lime Room  
Orlando, FL  
Phone: 407-351-24200  

Agenda:  Morning Program

8:00 a.m.  Welcome: Jonathan Schultheis, Chair, WRDWG

8:10 a.m.  Introductions: All in attendance

Regional Watermelon Production Updates

8:20 a.m.  California & Arizona – James Brusca  
Carolinias – Allan Thornton and/or Gilbert Miller  
DelMarva – Gordon Johnson  
Georgia – George Boyhan  
Indiana & Midwest – Shubin Saha  
Texas – Juan Ansico

International Updates from Seed Company Representatives

8:50 a.m.  Snapshot of the Australian watermelon industry. Jérôme Bernier, Watermelon Breeder, Monsanto Vegetable Seeds, Woodland, CA

Israel’s Watermelon Market. Eyal Vardi, CEO, Origene Seeds, Ltd., Rehovot, Israel

A Perspective on Turkey’s Watermelon Market, Nihat Guner, Watermelon Breeder, Sakata Seed Co., Lehigh Acres, FL,

Updates from Seed Companies

9:20 a.m.  agroGene – Peter Mes

Monsanto – Jerome Bernier

Syngenta – James Brusca

Update on Issues Affecting the National Watermelon Industry

9:50 a.m.  Bob Morrissey, National Watermelon Association, Executive Director, Lakeland, FL

>Funding

>Immigration Reform

>New Farm Bill

>Other NWA Activities

Hot Topic Issues

10:10 a.m.  Shaker Kousik, Research Scientist, USDA, Charleston, SC
10:25 a.m.  Break

Research Reports:

Cultivar Considerations
10:45 a.m.  **Texas Statewide Watermelon Trials for 2012.** Juan R. Anciso1*, Larry Stein2, Joseph Masabni, and Russ Wallace4, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1 Weslaco TX, 2 Uvalde TX, 3 College Station TX, 4 Lubbock TX.  (j-anciso@tamu.edu)

11:00 a.m.  **Delaware Triploid Watermelon Cultivar Evaluations.** Gordon C. Johnson and Emmalea G. Ernest*, University of Delaware, Carvel REC, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947 (emmalea@udel.edu)

11:15 a.m.  **2012 Evaluation of Triploid Watermelon Varieties in Southwestern Indiana.** Shubin K. Saha* and Larry Sutterer, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department, Southwest Purdue Ag Program, Purdue University, Vincennes, IN 47591. (ssaha@purdue.edu)

11:30 a.m.  **Comparison of staminate flower production and Fusarium wilt reaction in diploid cultivars used as pollenizers for triploid watermelon.** Chris Gunter1* and Daniel S. Egel2, 1 Department of Horticultural Science, 230 Kilgore Hall, Box 7609, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609 (chris_gunter@ncsu.edu), 2 Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, 4369 North Purdue Road, Purdue University, Vincennes, IN 47591 (egel@purdue.edu)

11:45 p.m.  LUNCH BREAK

Agenda: Afternoon Program

1:00 p.m.  **Update on promotion activities from the National Watermelon Promotion Board in 2012**
Mark Arney, Executive Director, Orlando, FL

Research Reports (continued)

Flowering and Pollination
1:15 p.m.  **Flowering Time in Watermelon.** Cecilia McGregor* and V. Waters, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. (cmcgre1@uga.edu)

1:30 p.m.  **Evaluation of Pollenizer Varieties for Triploid Watermelon (Citrus lanatus) Production in Southwestern Indiana.** Shubin K. Saha1* and Dan Egel2, 1 Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department, 2 Botany and Plant Pathology Department, Southwest Purdue Ag Program, Purdue University, Vincennes, IN 47591. (ssaha@purdue.edu)

Disease
1:45 p.m.  **North Carolina Triploid Watermelon Cultigen Evaluations for 2012.** Jonathan R. Schultheis* and Bradfred Thompson, Dept. of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Box 7609, 2721 Founders Drive, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609. (jonathan_schultheis@ncsu.edu)

2:00 p.m.  **Use of SqVYV resistant germplasm line 39291-VDR as a pollenizer for managing watermelon vine decline in Florida.** C.S. Kousik1*, S. Adkins2, W.W. Turechek2, C. G. Webster1 and P.D. Roberts3, 1 U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, USDA, ARS, 700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414, USA, 2 U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Fort Pierce, FL 34945, 3 SWFREC, University of Florida, Immokalee, FL 34142 (Shaker.Kousik@ars.usda.gov)
2:15 p.m. **Exploiting genetic resources of *Citrullus* spp. to enhance disease or pest resistance in watermelon cultivars.** A. Levi*, J. A. Thies, W. P. Wechter, H. Harrison, A. Simmons, K. Ling, and C. Kousik. USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, South Carolina 29414, USA. (Amnon.Levi@ARS.USDA.GOV)

2:30 p.m. **Response of *Citrullus lanatus* var. *citroides* Rootstocks for Grafted Watermelon to Root-knot Nematodes.** Judy A. Thies¹, Sharon Buckner¹, Richard Hassell², and Amnon Levi¹. ¹US. Vegetable Laboratory, USDA, ARS, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC, 29414-5334; ²Clemson University, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC, 29414-5334 (Judy.Thies@ARS.USDA.GOV)

2:45 p.m. **MelCast Fungicide Application Scheduling for mid-Atlantic Watermelons: A Re-evaluation.** Kathryn L. Everts* and Mason J. Newark, Department of Plant Science and LARC, University of Maryland College Park, LESREC- Salisbury, 21801 (keverts@umd.edu)

3:05 p.m. **Break**

**Hot Topic Issues**

3:30 p.m. Shaker Kousik, Research Scientist, USDA, Charleston, SC

**Research Reports (continued)**

3:45 p.m. **Research Methods and Cultural Management**

3:45 p.m. **Optimum Plot Size and Number of Replications for Watermelon Trials and 2012 Watermelon Trial Results.** George E. Boyhan*, Suzzanne C. Tate, and Ryan D. McNeil, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1111 Miller Plant Science Bldg., Athens, GA 30602. (gboyhan@uga.edu)

4:00 p.m. **Grafting Methods: What Makes Each Acceptable and Unacceptable.** Richard L. Hassell, Clemson University CREC, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC (rassel@clemson.edu)

4:15 p.m. **The Effect of Particle Films, Growth Regulators, and a Bacterial Inoculant on Stress Indicators, Fruit Yield, and Fruit Quality in Triploid Watermelons.** Gordon C. Johnson*, Emmalea G. Ernest, and D. Janine Sherrier University of Delaware, Carvel REC, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947 (gcjohn@udel.edu)

4:30 p.m. **Health Comparison of Watermelon and Gatorade on Exercise-Induced Oxidative Stress, Inflammation, and Immune Dysfunction in Masters Cyclists.** Penelope Perkins-Veazie*, Plants for Human Health Institute, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Kannapolis, NC 28081 and R. Andrew Shanley, Human Performance Laboratory, Appalachian State University, North Carolina Research Campus, Kannapolis, NC 28081 (penelope_perkins@ncsu.edu)

4:45 p.m. Watermelon Group Business

5:00 p.m. Adjourn