2014 Watermelon Research & Development Working Group Annual Meeting
In Conjunction with the Southern Region of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences Annual Meeting

Friday, January 31, 2014
1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Majestic Room 7
and
Saturday, February 1, 2014
8:30a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sheraton Dallas Hotel
Majestic Room 1
Dallas, TX
Phone: 1-888-627-8191
Web site:
http://www.sheratondallashotel.com/

Agenda: Friday, January 31

1:00 p.m. Welcome: James Brusca, Chair, WRDWG
1:15 p.m. Introductions: All in attendance

Industry Updates

1:45 p.m. Regional Watermelon Production Updates
- California & Arizona – Brenda Lanini
- Carolinas – Gilbert Miller
- DelMarva – Kate Everts
- Georgia – Tim Coolong
- Indiana & Midwest – Shubin Saha
- Texas – Clegg Smith

2:30 p.m. International markets update
- Mexico – Jerome Bernier
- Russia – James Brusca

3:00 p.m. Variety updates from Seed Companies

3:30 p.m. Break

Research Reports:

Variety Trials

4:00 p.m. Texas Statewide Watermelon Trials for 2013. Joseph Masabni1*, Juan Anciso2, Larry Stein3, and Russell Wallace4. Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1College Station, TX 77843-2134, 2Weslaco, TX 78593, 3Uvalde, TX 78802, 4Lubbock, TX 79403. (jmasabni@ag.tamu.edu)

4:20 p.m. Evaluation of Pollenizer Varieties for Triploid Watermelon (Citrullus lanatus) Production in Southwestern Indiana, 2013. Shubin K. Saha1 and Dan Egel2. 1Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Ag Science Building North, N-322C, Lexington, KY 40546-0091, 2Botany and Plant Pathology Department, Purdue University, 4369 N. Purdue Rd., Vincennes, IN 47591. (Shubin.saha@uky.edu)
Evaluation of Triploid Watermelon (Citrullus lanatus) Varieties in Southwestern Indiana, 2013. Shubin K. Saha1 and Larry Sutterer2, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Ag Science Building North, N-322C, Lexington, KY 40546-0091, 2Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Department, Purdue University, 4369 N. Purdue Rd., Vincennes, IN 47591. (Shubin.saha@uky.edu)

4:50 2013 Watermelon Cultigen Yield and Quality Trial Results in North Carolina. Jonathan R. Schultheis and W. Bradford Thompson, Department of Horticultural Science, Kilgore Hall, Box 7609, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609. (jonr@ncsu.edu)

5:10 2013 EREC Watermelon Variety Trials. Gilbert Miller, Clemson University, Edisto Research and Education Center, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817

5:30 Adjourn

Agenda: Saturday, February 1

8:30 a.m. Day 2 Welcome: James Brusca, Chair, WRDWG and additional introductions

Research Reports

Flowering and Pollination

9:00 a.m. Synchronized Flowering of Triploid Watermelon Cultivars and Diploid Pollenizers. Cecilia E. McGregor* and Vickie Waters, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1111 Miller Plant Science Bldg., Athens, GA 30602. (cmcgre1@uga.edu)

9:20 a.m. Pollination, Fruit Development and Hollow Heart Disorder in Watermelon. Gordon C. Johnson* and Donald Seifrit, University of Delaware, Carvel REC, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947, Delaware. (gcjohn@udel.edu)

Grafting

9:40 a.m. Grafted Watermelon Methods: Where Are We Now? Richard L. Hassell* and Shawna Daley, Clemson University, Coastal REC, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414. (r.hassell@clemson.edu)

10:00 a.m. Grafted Watermelon Response to Various Nitrogen Rates. David H. Suchoff1, Jonathan R. Schultheis1*, Christopher C. Gunter1 and Richard L. Hassell2, 1Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609, 2Clemson University, Coastal REC, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414. (jonr@ncsu.edu)

10:20 a.m. Break

10:50 a.m. Grafted Watermelon Root Length Density and Distribution under Different Soil Moisture Treatments. Gilbert Miller1*, Ahmad Khalilian1, Jeffrey W. Adelberg2, Hamid J. Farahani3, Richard L. Hassell4, and Christina E. Wells5; 1Clemson University, Edisto Research and Education Center, 64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817, 2School of Agriculture, Forest, and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, E-143 Poole Agricultural Center, Box 340319, Clemson, SC 29634, 3Water Management Engineer, USDA-NRCS East National Technology Support Center, 2901 E. Lee Street, Suite 2100, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901, 4School of Agriculture, Forest, and Environmental Sciences, Coastal REC, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414, 5Department of Biological Sciences, Clemson University, 150 Long Hall, Clemson, SC 29634. (gmlir@clemson.edu)
11:10 a.m. **Survey of gene sequences present in *Citrullus* sp. but not in cultivated watermelon.** Amnon Levi¹*, Laura Massey¹, Ryan Donahoo¹, Robert Jarret², Zhangjun Fei³, and Pat Wechter³. ¹United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, (USDA, ARS), U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414, ²Plant Genetics Resources Conservation Unit, 1109 Experiment St., Griffin, GA, 30223, ³Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850. (amnon.levi@ars.usda.gov)

11:30 a.m. **Identification and development of multiple disease resistant (fruit rot, powdery mildew) watermelon germplasm.** C.S. Kousik*, J.L. Ikerd, W.P. Wechter, and A. Levi United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, (USDA, ARS), U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414. (shaker.kousik@ars.usda.gov)

Noon Lunch

1:15 p.m. **National Watermelon Promotion Board Update.** Mark Arney, Executive Director.

1:30 p.m. **USVL-360, a *Citrullus lanatus* var. *citroides* tetraploid germplasm line.** Amnon Levi¹*, J.A. Thies¹, P.W. Wechter¹, M. Farnham¹, Y. Weng¹, S. Kousik¹ and R. Hassel². ¹United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, (USDA, ARS), U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414, ²Clemson University, Coastal REC, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414. (amnon.levi@ars.usda.gov)

1:50 p.m. **Development of root-knot nematode resistant rootstocks for watermelon.** Judy A. Thies¹*, Sharon Buckner¹, Richard Hassel², and Amnon Levi¹. ¹U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Charleston, SC, ²Clemson University, CREC, Charleston, SC. (judy.thies@ars.usda.gov)

2:10 p.m. **Evaluation of watermelon plant introductions (PI) for tolerance to postemergence herbicide, halosulfuron.** H.F. Harrison*, Jr., A. Levi and C.S. Kousik, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, (USDA, ARS), U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414. (Howard.Harrison@ars.usda.gov)

2:30 p.m. Break

**Disease**

3:00 p.m. **CGMMV Update.** Eyal Vardi, Origene Seeds, Israel.

3:20 p.m. **Cover Crops Induce General Suppression of Watermelon Fusarium wilt in the Mid-Atlantic.** Jennifer Himmelstein¹ and Kathryne L. Everts². ¹Office of International Research Education and Development, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA, ²27664 Nanticoke Rd., Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, University of Maryland College Park, Salisbury, 21801. (keverts@umd.edu)

3:40 p.m. WRDG Business

**Hot Topics**

**Website**

**Watermelon Top 10 Priorities**

**NWA Update**