Agenda: Friday, January 30

1:00 p.m. Welcome: James Brusca, Chair, WRDWG

1:15 p.m. Introductions: All in attendance

Industry Updates
1:30 p.m. Regional Watermelon Production Updates
Florida – Josh Freeman
Carolinas – Jonathan Schultheis/Allan Thornton
DelMarva – Gordon Johnson
Georgia – Cecila McGregor
Indiana & Midwest – Dan Egel
California & Arizona – Matt Kinkade

2:15 p.m. Variety updates from Seed Companies

2:45 p.m. Break

Research Reports:

Variety Trials

3:15 p.m. Georgia watermelon trial results from 2014. Timothy Coolong*, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton Campus, Tifton, GA 31793. (tcoolong@uga.edu)

3:30 p.m. 2014 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial Data for South Carolina. Gilbert Miller*. 64 Research Road, Clemson University – EREC, Blackville, SC 29817. (gmllr@clemson.edu)

3:45 p.m. Watermelon Cultivar Yield and Quality Results, North Carolina, 2014. Jonathan R. Schultheis* and William B. Thompson, Dept. Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, 2721 Founders Drive, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609. (jorr@ncsu.edu)

4:00 p.m. Evaluation of Triploid Watermelon (Citrullus lanatus) Varieties in Kentucky, 2014. Shubin K. Saha1* and Lucas Hanks2, 1Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Ag Science Building North, N-322C, Lexington, KY 40546-0091. 2Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Horticulture Research Farm, 4321 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514. (Shubin.saha@uky.edu).
4:15 p.m. **Triploid watermelon variety trial for 2014.** Daniel S. Egel* and Sara Hoke, Southwest Purdue Agricultural Center, 4369 North Purdue Road, Vincennes, IN 47591. (egel@purdue.edu)

4:30 p.m. **Seedless Watermelon Variety Trials Conducted by University of Delaware Cooperative Extension.** Emmalea Ernest* and Gordon Johnson, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Delaware, Elbert N. and Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947. (emmalea@udel.edu)

4:45 p.m. **Managing Root-Knot Nematode in Grafted Watermelon.** J.H. Freeman, University of Florida, North Florida Research and Education Center, 155 Research Road, Quincy, FL 32351. (joshuafr@ufl.edu)

5:00 p.m. **2014 Seedless Watermelon Variety Trial Data for SC, FL, GA and NC and Growers Response.** Gilbert Miller¹*, Josh Freeman², Tim Coolong³, and Jonathan Schultheis⁴.¹ ¯4 Research Road, Clemson University - EREC, Blackville, SC 29817. ²155 Research Road, University of Florida – NFREC, Quincy, FL 32351. ³2360 Rainwater Road, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793-5766. ⁴2721 Founders Drive, Department of Horticulture Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609. (gmillr@clemson.edu)

5:15 p.m. **Discussion about opportunities to further harmonize variety trial design and data collection.**

5:45 p.m. **WRDG Website.** Todd Wehner, Department of Horticulture, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (todd_wehner@ncsu.edu)

6:00 p.m. Adjourn

**Agenda: Saturday, February 1**

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

**Research Reports**

**Grafting**

9:00 a.m. **Different Rootstock Responses to being grafted on to Cultivar Fascination**
Richard L. Hassell, Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC 29414. (rhassel@clemson.edu)

9:20 a.m. **Cultivar Response to Grafting On Interspecific Hybrid Squash Rootstock**
Richard L. Hassell, Clemson University Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC 29414. (rhassel@clemson.edu)

9:40 a.m. **Response to Various Nitrogen Rates in Grafted Watermelon.** David H Suchoff¹*, Jonathan R. Schultheis¹, Christopher C. Gunter¹, Richard L. Hassell¹, ¹Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609, ²Clemson University, Coastal REC, 2700 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29414. (dsuchoff@gmail.com)

**Pollination and Pollenizers**

10:00 a.m. **Pollenizer Effectiveness for Triploid Watermelon Production in Delaware.** Donald Seifrit*, Gordon C. Johnson, and Emmalea Ernest, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Delaware, Elbert N. and Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947. (dseifrit@udel.edu)

10:20 a.m. **Progressive Pollenizer Spacing for Studying Hollow Heart in Triploid Watermelon.** Gordon C. Johnson, Emmalea Ernest*, and Donald Seifrit, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Delaware, Elbert N. and Ann V. Carvel Research and Education Center, 16483 County Seat Highway, Georgetown, DE 19947. (dseifrit@udel.edu)

10:40 a.m. Break
Biotic and Abiotic Stress

11:00 a.m. Tolerance to powdery mildew conferred in susceptible watermelon scion by grafting on resistant rootstocks. C.S. Kousik1*, J. L. Ikerd1 and R. Hassell2, 1U.S. department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC 29414 and 2Coastal Research and Education Center, Clemson University, Charleston, SC 29414. (shaker.kousik@ars.usda.gov)

11:20 a.m. Five Years of Fusarium Wilt: What Did We Learn? Geoffrey Meru and Cecilia E. McGregor*, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1111 Miller Plant Science Bldg., Athens, GA 30602. (cmcgre1@uga.edu)

11:40 a.m. Race relations among strains of Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. niveum from Indiana. Daniel S. Egel, Southwest Purdue Agricultural Center, 4369 North Purdue Road, Vincennes, IN 47591. (egel@purdue.edu)

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Update from NWPB. Mark Arney


2:10 p.m. Evaluation of watermelon plant introductions (PI) in the core collection for tolerance to saline water. S. Hallman1 and C.S. Kousik2, 1Academic Magnet High School, Charleston SC and 2U.S. department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC 29414. (shaker.kousik@ars.usda.gov)

2:30 p.m. The Impact of Growth Habit, Planting Density and Weeding Regime on Watermelon Yield in an Organic System. Suzanne Stone*, George Boyhan, and Ryan McNeill, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30605. (sstone2@uga.edu)

2:50 p.m. Watermelon gene list review. Todd Wehner, Department of Horticulture, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (todd.wehner@ncsu.edu)

3:10 p.m. Watermelon Top Ten R&D Priorities – Survey Review. Shaker Kousik

3:30 p.m. WRDG Business
   Hot Topics
   Website
   NWA Update
   New chair