

# NAPB NEWSLETTER

*September 2011*

## Editors' notes

I found this shocking set of statistics the other day while getting ready for my undergrad class. In Canada food purchases represent only 12% of total disposal income. Canadian farmers receive only about 19% of the average retail price of food. The average Canadian earns enough to pay the farmers' share of annual food purchases by January 9<sup>th</sup> of each year. – [Grain Farmers of Ontario Report](#)

### **NAPB and Plant Breeding in the news:**

From the New York Times – [Peach Rivalry Becomes War Between the Tastes](#)

From [Germination](#), July 2011 issue – *Emphasis on Plant Breeding*

“There needs to be a sense of urgency around plant breeding as an important contributor to managing all kinds of global change, which is coming to us with increasing velocity. Experts believe we need to grow as much food in the next 50 years as we have in the past 10,000 years combined, if we are to sustain our planet’s projected population growth. If that isn’t sobering enough by itself, then add that we have to do it without much, if any, increase in cropland. And, do this with declining availability of inputs. While these challenges are daunting and complex, agricultural innovation, delivered with the aid of plant breeding innovation, remains central to our well-being.” — Donn Cummings, global breeder sourcing lead for Monsanto, speaking at the joint annual meeting of the Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee and the National Association of Plant Breeders held at Texas A&M University in College Station, May 23-25, 2011

From [SeedWorld](#), September 2011 issue – Highlights of the NAPB 2011 meetings at Texas A&M University.

From the New York Times, August 18, 2011 – Nina Fedoroff’s op-ed piece entitled “[Engineering Food for All](#)”. Nina was the former science advisor to the Secretary of State from 2007-10 and is currently a professor of biology at Penn State.

From the Globe and Mail, September 21, 2011 – “[Canola, Western Canada’s other oil boom](#)”. Not bad for a crop that did not even exist a few decades ago, eh?

**PBCC position paper** entitled “*Plant breeding for harmony between agriculture and the environment*” is now “ahead of print”. Authored by our very own NAPB sub-committee:

E. Charles Brummer, Wesley T. Barber, Sarah M. Collier, Thomas S. Cox, Randy Johnson, Seth C. Murray, Richard T. Olsen, Richard C. Pratt and Ann Marie Thro. It will be in [Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment](#) (which has an impact factor of 8.8, by the way).

**DELPHI study** entitled “*Plant breeding graduate education: opinions about critical knowledge, experience, and skill requirements from public and private stakeholders worldwide*” is now published. Authored by our very own NAPB members: *Shelby L. Repinski, Kathryn N. Hayes, Jamie K. Miller, Cary J. Trexler, and Fredrick A. Bliss*. It will be in the Nov-Dec 2011 issue of Crop Science, but it is an open-access publication that is already available [online](#).

**NAPB on YouTube**, believe it or not! Videos featuring NAPB members are now blasting around cyberspace. And, there will be more to come. So check them out!

**Joe Bouton:**

- [On what regional breeding activities are going on in response to climate change as well as why keeping a regional focus is important](#)
- [How bioenergy crops play a role in responding to the effects of climate change](#)
- [Challenges climate change is bringing to plant breeding](#)
- [Why plant breeding is so critical when it comes to the future and climate change](#)

**Rita Mumm:**

- [How the Illinois Plant Breeding Center is helping to answer the plant breeding shortage](#)
- [Talks about why the NAPB is focusing on IP protection](#)
- [NAPB's goals for the future](#)
- [How education costs for graduate students in plant breeding are being addressed](#)
- [The role and function of NAPB](#)

**Erich Veitenheimer:**

- [On how he became a IP lawyer](#)
- [How IP ties in with plant breeding](#)
- [Shares his advice for plant breeders and seed companies on protecting IP rights](#)
- [How his background in plant breeding allows him to help other plant breeders](#)

**Todd Wehner:**

- [Research projects involving watermelon he's currently working on, and the impact they'll have on the industry](#)
- [Shares his advice for young people interested in plant breeding](#)
- [Discusses the challenges facing public plant breeders today](#)
- [Talks about why more funding is critical moving forward](#)

**Allen Van Deynze:**

- [Why partnerships within the seed industry are crucial for the future of plant breeding](#)
- [Current status of funding for plant breeding research projects](#)
- [How long-term funding is critical for plant breeding and how this funding can be obtained](#)
- [Pepper research he's working on and how it will impact the industry](#)
- [More about the UC Davis Plant Breeding Academy](#)
- [Why the education of students is critical for the future of plant breeding](#)

- [Elizabeth Lee](#), NAPB Secretary
- [Patrick Byrne](#), Communication Sub-Committee Chair

## NAPB on the web

Keep an eye on our web site, <http://www.plantbreeding.org/napb>. We are constantly adding to and updating the site. Full sets of minutes from the monthly NAPB/PBCC joint teleconferences and links to position papers can be found there. The web site is getting about 1000 hits and 134 unique visitors each day.

Oh, and we have a [Facebook](#) page, too. So please “like” us!

## NAPB Logo and Slogan Contest Reminder

The Awards Panel along with the Outreach and Communications Sub-Committee are holding a NAPB **logo** and **slogan** contest. The contest is only open to graduate students, with the winners receiving \$100 for their winning logo and slogan. The deadline for submission is **November 1, 2011**. Please send them to either [Pat Byrne](#) or [Brooks Blanche](#). For more detail please see the [logo contest info](#) on the web page.

We have an entry from someone who is no longer a graduate student and therefore will not be considered. Actually it has been a few years since Jules Janick has been in grad school. For those of you that may have forgotten, Jules was awarded our 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award.

*From Jules:* “With the help of my graphics colleague David Barbarash, I have mocked up and attached a potential logo for NAPB, which includes a slogan (For Genetic Improvement). Since I am not a graduate student I do not want it be part of the contest. I would hope the logo would be self-explanatory but there were three concepts I wished to explore:

1. The shattering and non-shattering head of einkorn wheat represents one of the great genetic improvements in agriculture, which made agriculture possible and represents the gains that can be made by plant breeding in its broadest sense.
2. The “X” represents the plant breeding symbol for crossing (sexual hybridization).

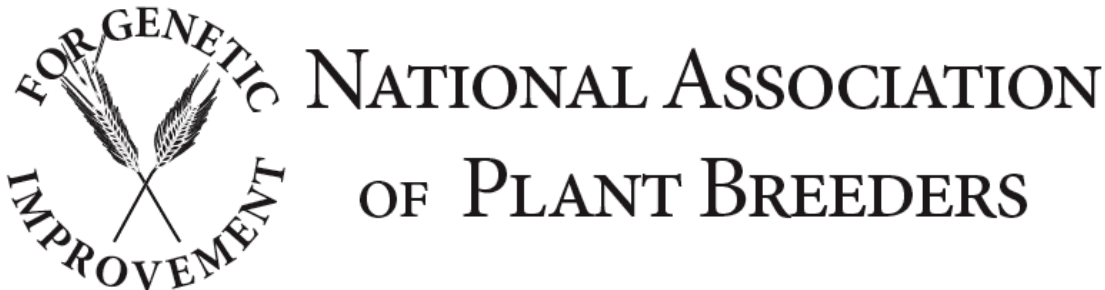
3. The two heads might suggest the 'two blades of grass instead of one' concept in two famous quotes:

Abraham Lincoln (1859): Every blade of grass is a study and to produce two, where there was but one, is both a profit and a pleasure.

Jonathan Swift: Whoever makes two ears of corn, or two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before deserves better of mankind, and does more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.

I have put the logo in four different modes, one in black and white and three in different formats with color." – Jules Janick, July 25, 2011

Here is the first version of Jules' logo:



So all you graduate students out there, the gauntlet has been thrown down. I am sure that you are all up for the challenge.

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### **Meeting Announcements**

Save the date, the **2012 NAPB annual meeting** will be held **August 5-8<sup>th</sup>** (Mon-Wed). Dow AgroSciences is the meeting coordinator/host, and while they have not finalized the hotel/conference arrangements at this time, they will be held at the hotel conference centre on the north side of **Indianapolis, IN**. Watch the web site for more detail.

If you have a potential speaker name for the NAPB 2012 meeting or topic that you would like to see addressed, please send an email to me and I will pass the information onto the speaker/meeting committee.

### **Other meetings of potential interest**

[ASTA](#) affiliated meetings:

- Farm & Lawn Seed Conference – Nov. 6-7, 2011, Kansas City, MO
- Corn & Sorghum and Soybean Seed Research Conference – Dec. 6-9, 2011, Chicago
- 51<sup>st</sup> Vegetable & Flower Seed Conference – Jan. 21-24, 2012, Tampa
- 129<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention – June 20-23, 2012, Washington D.C.

ASA-CSSA-SSSA affiliated meetings:

- [ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meetings](#) – Oct. 16-19, 2011, San Antonio, TX
- [6th International Crop Science Congress](#) – Aug. 6-10, 2012, Bento Goncalves-Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil

ASHS affiliated meetings:

- [Annual Conference](#) – Sept. 25-28, 2011, Waikoloa, Hawaii

[Plant and Animal Genome XX Conference](#) – Jan. 14-18, 2012, San Diego, CA

Maize associated meetings:

- NCCC-167 Corn Breeding and Quantitative Genetics – March 14-15, 2012, Portland, OR
- [48<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Corn Breeders' School](#) – March 5-6, 2012, Champaign-Urbana, IL
- [54<sup>th</sup> Annual Maize Genetics Meetings](#) – March 15-28, 2012, Portland, OR

Canadian meetings:

- [CSTA](#) Semi-Annual Meeting – Nov. 15-17, 2011, Toronto, ON
- CSTA 89th Annual Meeting – July 15-18, 2012, Charlottetown, PE
- CSTA Semi-Annual Meeting – Nov. 12-14, 2012, Ottawa
- CSTA 90th Annual Meeting – July 14-17, 2013, Quebec City
- [CSGA](#) 108th Annual General Meeting – July 2012, Calgary
- [CSA/Plant Canada](#) 2012 – t.b.a.

[International Seed Federation](#) (ISF) meetings:

- [2011 ISF calendar of events](#)
- ISF: World Seed Congress – May 28-30, 2012, Rio de Janeiro, BR

[Eucarpia](#) meetings:

- [19<sup>th</sup> Eucarpia General Conference](#) – May 21-24, Budapest \*\*Note that the overall conference theme is “Plant Breeding for Future Generations”
- [EUCARPIA Leafy Vegetables Meeting](#) – Aug. 24–26, 2011 Université Lille Nord de France Villeneuve d'Ascq, France
- EUCARPIA 29th Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses Section Meeting – Sept. 4-8, 2011, Dublin, Ireland
- [XIII Eucarpia Symposium on Fruit Breeding and Genetics](#) – Sept. 11-15, 2011, Warsaw, Poland
- EWAC-EUCARPIA Cereals Section Conference – Nov. 7-11, 2011, Novi Sad, Serbia
- [Xth EUCARPIA Meeting on Genetics and Breeding of Cucurbitaceae](#) – Oct. 15-18, 2012, Antalya, Turkey

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## Sub-Committee Chair Reminder

Chairs, the sub-committee reports need to be posted on the web! If you have not done so already, please get them to Seth Murray for posting.

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## NAPB/PBCC Liaison Reminder

Please forward all relevant meeting information to [Liz Lee](#) so that we can incorporate it into the newsletter.

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## **Changes to our Bylaws**

As mentioned in the Summer Newsletter, the Executive Committee has decided to change the status of the Awards Sub-Committee to the Awards Panel. As this involves changes to our bylaws, these changes must be put in front of the NAPB membership for comment and will be ratified at the 2012 NAPB Annual Meetings. The changes are in red below and are also posted on the web in red.

The proposed changes would separate the Awards Panel from the Subcommittees bylaws in Section 2.7, 2.8, and 2.9 (for the full set of bylaws, go to our webpage):

2.10 The Awards Panel works to recognize outstanding plant breeding accomplishments made by graduate students and practicing or retired plant breeders in the public and private sector. This Panel will consist of: a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, and 6 additional voting members. Each year, the current NAPB chair will appoint 3 new members to the Panel for 3-year terms. From the pool of new members, an incoming Secretary will be elected. The Panel Chair works with NAPB/PBCC leadership and provides feedback to the NAPB Executive Committee and is responsible for compiling the nomination packets and distribution to the voting members. The Vice-Chair assists with accomplishing the work plan, serves as the 2nd point of contact for nomination packets, and becomes Chair after 1 year. The Secretary records meeting minutes and other significant discussions and becomes Vice-Chair the following year. The Annual Meeting will be held adjunct to the NAPB Annual Conference.

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## **Mission Statements**

NAPB and PBCC have developed mission statements accepted by the Executive Committees (September meeting), which the membership will be asked to ratify them at the 2012 NAPB Annual meetings.

### **NAPB's mission statement:**

To strengthen capacities for U.S. plant breeding research, technology, education, and public awareness to meet needs for plants on which our nation and world rely -- for food, feed, fiber, fuels, environmental stewardship, aesthetics, recreation, and human health.

### **PBCC's mission statement:**

To provide a forum for leadership on issues and opportunities of strategic importance to national core competency in crop improvement, plant breeding research and education.

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## **Lobbying Efforts**

Mike Havey and Allen Van Deynze are working with ASTA on developing a common voice and message to take to Washington, D.C. This coming winter Allen and a NAPB executive will accompany ASTA lobbyists to Washington. More updates on this in future newsletters. Capital Hill here we come...

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## **Updates from Monthly NAPB/PBCC Executive Teleconferences**

Teleconferences are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month. If there is an issue or concern that you would like the NAPB/PBCC to discuss at their monthly meetings, please contact either [Rita Mumm](#) or [Mike Havey](#).

The minutes from both the joint NAPB and PBCC teleconferences are [posted on the web page](#). The following is a synopsis of the NAPB/PBCC joint teleconferences from August and September.

### **From the August meeting:**

- Regarding 'front office support', which was mentioned in the Summer Newsletter, after exploring our options with the ASTA and the ASCESS (ASA/CSSA/SSSA and the ASF) the executive has decided to use the services of the ASCESS for 'front office support'. Rita was given the mandate to finalize these terms (see Sept. meeting notes).
- The Monsanto Fellows program will be funding students to attend the NAPB meetings via a charitable donation to NAPB.
- We need to become a legal entity with non-profit status (5013C organizational structure). This became apparent in the discussions regarding 'front office support' and in enabling charitable donations to NAPB. Currently Rita is discussing with ASCESS how to proceed in becoming incorporated as a non-profit (see Sept. meeting notes).

### **From the September meeting:**

- We finalized both the PBCC and NAPB mission statements (see section above).
- There was unanimous approval to set up the contract with ASCESS for 'front office support'. For a yearly fee of \$4,000 ASCESS will provide accounting services, meeting set up, and processing for one meeting per year. This includes importing of NAPB members into a database, setting up a web page for the meeting, processing meeting registration online, managing of cash receipts, and processing invoices and issuing checks after approval of NAPB treasurer.
- In addition to these packaged services, we will utilize ASCESS expertise to:
  - Incorporate as a non-profit organization in the State of Wisconsin exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3).
  - Maintain a registered agent in the State of Wisconsin whose address may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office of the Corporation, NAPB.
  - Acquire Federal and State tax ID numbers.
  - Write or create NAPB bylaws from existing NAPB documents and use ASCESS legal resources to complete the process.
  - Filing of annual NAPB tax returns form 990 when incorporated.

- Obtain liability insurance for the officers and for the annual meeting.
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