

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This year's joint annual meeting of the National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) and Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee was hosted by Syngenta on June 5 through June 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 9 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.

Join us July 27-31, 2015 for the next NAPB meeting being held at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. Visit our website www.plantbreeding.com for updates.

2014 NAPB Awardees

Dr. William (Bill) A. Meyer, Professor and Director of Turfgrass Breeding at Rutgers University was honored with the **2014 NAPB Plant Breeding Impact Award** during their annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN. This annual award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to mankind through the development of new cultivars of crops and/or technology development that resulted in a measurable impact on crop production. The award also recognizes accomplishments in teaching and collaboration. The presentation was made during the NAPB annual meeting held August 5-8 in Minneapolis, MN. Dr. Meyer has released over 400 new and improved turfgrass cultivars that were directly developed or co-developed through his efforts. He has also mentored seven Ph.D. and two M.S. students while at Rutgers University. The success of his students and his numerous awards reflect his contributions to the turfgrass seed industry both domestically and internationally.



Dr. Maria Salas Fernandes, Assistant Professor in the Department of Agronomy at Iowa State University, received the **2014 NAPB Early Career Award**. This award recognizes a young scientist who has established evidence of impacting the science of plant breeding and who received their Ph.D. within 10 years of the award. Maria is a member of the R. F. Baker Center for Plant Breeding at Iowa State University where she teaches an undergraduate course in Genetics, Agriculture and Biotechnology. Prior to her appointment at Iowa State, Maria worked in the private sector in Argentina at the R&D Department of American Cyanamid Company and as a sorghum breeder at Nidera. She initiated and leads a sorghum field breeding program at ISU to develop germplasm for forage and biofuel production adapted to the Midwest. During her career Maria has authored and co-authored 16 refereed journal articles and 14 abstracts; she received the 2013 American Society of Agronomy (ASA) Early Career Professional Award and was granted the prestigious NSF CAREER award for her novel research in photosynthesis and photoprotection.



Dr. Ted Crosbie, Distinguished Fellow in Science Emeritus Monsanto Company (Retired), was honored with the **2014 NAPB Lifetime Achievement Award**. Dr. Crosbie retired in February 2014 as the R&D Lead for Monsanto's Integrated Farming Systems (IFS), which he founded as a member of Monsanto's Global Strategy Group in January of 2010. From 1998 to 2010, he served as Vice President of Global Plant Breeding for Monsanto's Agricultural Sector, where he was responsible for seven crops worldwide. In November of 2005, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack named Dr. Crosbie to the position of Chief Technology Officer for the State of Iowa, and he has served three Governors of Iowa in that position. In February 2011, he was re-appointed as Chief Technology Officer and named the Chair of the Iowa Innovation Council by Governor Terry Branstad. In 2013, Governor Branstad and the Iowa Innovation Corporation recognized him with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to economic development in the State of Iowa.



The Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee serves as a forum regarding issues and opportunities of national and global importance to the public and private sectors of the U.S. national plant breeding effort.

The National Association of Plant Breeders was begun as an initiative of the Plant Breeding Coordinating Committee and is the advocacy group that represents plant breeders in federal, state, commercial, and non-government organizations.

Contact:

Dr. Gregory Berger, Chair of the Communications Committee
National Association of Plant Breeders
Ph: 979-224-7698
Email: gberger06@gmail.com