Poster Awardees:

1st Place - Tyler Tiede, University of Minnesota

     Tyler is a Ph.D. student in Plant Breeding and Molecular Genetics at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities working under the advisement of Dr. Kevin Smith. Tyler grew up in Little Chute, WI, and attended Little Chute High School before earning his B.S. in Biology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and M.S. in Plant Breeding and Genetics at Purdue University. The bulk of his thesis research focuses on evaluating and improving upon statistical procedures that are used to predict the performance of a plant, specifically barley, from its genomic information. At the National Association of Plant Breeder's 4th annual meeting held in Bloomington, MN, Tyler presented on a computer-based packaged that he has developed that provides users an experimental design that is compatible with a suite of data correction procedures.

     Outside of his graduate school work Tyler enjoys spending time with his soon-to-be wife, Lizzie Machurick, and their dog, Guinness. The couple enjoys cycling, brewing beer, and experiencing the various activities the Twin Cities has to offer.

2nd Place – Jessica Gilbert, University of Florida

Jessica L. Gilbert is a Ph.D. candidate in the Plant Molecular Breeding Program through the Horticultural Sciences Department at the University of Florida. She previously received her B.S. degree in Microbiology & Cell Science from the University of Florida in 2011. Currently, she is working with Drs. Jim Olmstead and Dave Clark to identify specific biochemical breeding targets that constitute desirable blueberry fruit flavor, which involves searching for relationships between biochemical components and perceived sensory aspects. Upon finishing her degree, Jessica hopes to pursue a career in the plant breeding industry.

3rd Place – Jennifer Kimball, North Carolina State University

Jennifer Kimball is a PhD candidate with the Turfgrass Breeding and Genetics program in the Department of Crop Science at North Carolina State University, studying under Dr. Susana Milla-Lewis. This programs' research includes the generation of genomic information for warm-season grasses with the goal of improving the efficiency of breeding efforts in these species. Originally from Corning, NY, Jennifer received a BA in Biology from Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY in 2005 and MS in Crop Science from NC State University in 2012. Prior to her graduate school endeavors, she worked as a research assistant and lab manager in a rice breeding program at Cornell University. Her PhD research focuses on improving cold tolerance in St. Augustinegrass through both conventional and molecular breeding methods. The goal of her research is to increase and better the use of this grass species throughout North Carolina. Jennifer is also heavily involved in undergraduate instruction and has participated in various university-level teaching training programs.