

NAPB Commercial Plant Breeding Committee Newsletter

Highlights from the Breeding Bash on the Bay and Speaker Session



We are excited to share an update from the recent National Association of Plant Breeders (NAPB) Annual Conference!

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This year, the NAPB Commercial Plant Breeding Committee hosted its inaugural industry mixer event, "Breeding Bash on the Bay." The event was a tremendous success, boasting a large turnout and fostering valuable interactions among attendees. It provided an excellent opportunity for networking and collaboration within the private sector plant breeding community. We would like to thank our generous event sponsors: Bayer, Corteva, Driscoll's, and Syngenta.

In addition to the mixer, the committee facilitated informative sessions and a panel discussion at the conference. The "Breeding Beyond Yield" speaker session featured insightful presentations from distinguished speakers, including:

- **Natalie Kaiser:** "Building a Consumer Differentiated Portfolio of Products"
- **Deb Menicos:** "Breeding Only the Finest Berries"
- **Sarah Evanega:** "Arctic® Apples and Beyond"

Furthermore, we were privileged to host the Hawai'i Industry Panel, which included contributions from:

- **Nathan Trump:** Macadamia Nut Growers
- **Ryan Domingo:** Papaya
- **Theodore Radovich:** Vegetable Production
- **Tyler Jones:** Tree Crops

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sara Larsson and Samantha McConaughy for their exceptional organization and efforts in making these events successful.

Exciting Updates on Our Leadership Team and Committee Format

We are thrilled to announce some significant updates regarding our leadership team and the structure of our committee! With the aim of enhancing our engagement and collaboration, we have made some strategic changes that we believe will greatly benefit all members.

New Leadership Team



Brian Pfeiffer
Chair
Innovative Seed Solutions



Ammani Kyanam
Vice-Chair
Syngenta



Samanta McCaungahy
Secretary
Bayer Crop Science

We are pleased to introduce our new leadership team:

- **Chair:** Brian Pfeiffer, Innovative Seed Solutions
- **Vice-Chair:** Ammani Kyanam, Syngenta
- **Secretary:** Samantha McConaughy, Bayer Crop Science

Under their guidance, we have revisited and updated the purpose of our committee to better serve our members and the industry at large. Our key objectives now include:

- Advocating for industry-based plant breeders within NAPB
- Increasing private sector engagement in NAPB
- Promoting knowledge sharing, professional growth, and public-private collaboration
- Building connections among members

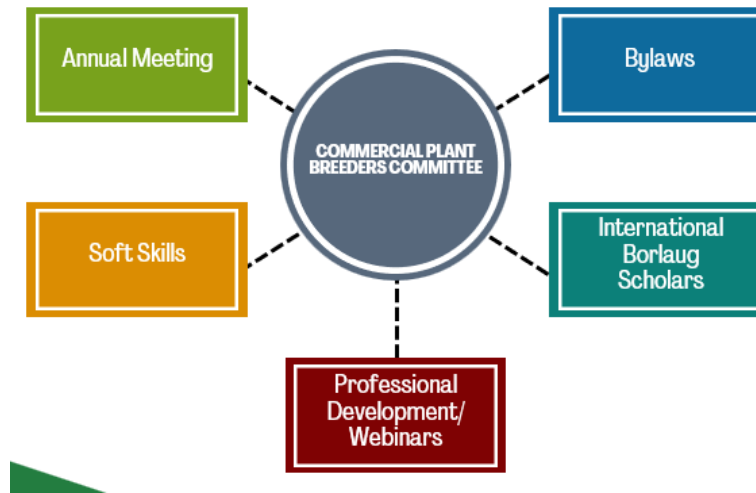
Restructured Monthly Meetings

In our commitment to foster a more inclusive and engaging environment, we have restructured our monthly meetings. Each meeting will now feature:

- A warm welcome for new members
- A team-building activity, known as the "Question of the Day"
- Updates from other leaders within NAPB
- Insights from our newly formed subcommittees within the commercial plant breeding committee

We are excited to announce the formation of four subcommittees, each focusing on vital areas of our mission:

SUBCOMMITTEES



1. **Annual Meeting Subcommittee:** Help shape the highlight of the year! This committee will plan the industry-focused portion of our annual conference. Members of this subcommittee\ will play a key role in selecting dynamic speakers, organizing our signature networking mixer—the Breeders' Bash—and brainstorming engaging group activities, such as a charity 5K. This committee is led by Ammani Kyanam.
2. **Soft Skills Subcommittee:** The Soft Skills Subcommittee to help shape workshops and resources on essential professional tools that every plant breeder needs but rarely receives formal training in. We'll focus on campus visits and developing digital content that covers everything from communication and teamwork to leadership and career navigation. If you're passionate about supporting the next generation, we'd love your voice on this team! This committee is led by Samantha McConaughy.
3. **Professional Development & Webinar Subcommittee:** We're looking to launch informal coffee chats, skill-sharing webinars, and other outreach efforts to connect and grow the broader plant breeding community. If you've got ideas or want to help build the system from scratch, we'd love to have you! This committee is led by Sara Larsson.
4. **International Borlaug Scholars Subcommittee:** This committee aims to continue building the International Borlaug Scholars program. It is led by Donn Cummings and Klaus Koehler.

New Responsibilities for the Leadership Team

In addition to their current roles, we have added new responsibilities to the leadership team. The Vice-Chair will now oversee orientation efforts for new members, ensuring active participation and a smooth onboarding process into the committee.

We believe these updates will enhance our committee's effectiveness and foster a vibrant community of plant breeders. We are excited about the future and look forward to your active participation!

Warm regards,

-The CPBC