

# PROGRAM



**2025 Annual Meeting**

**January 31 -February 1-2, 2025**

**Irving, TX**

**89<sup>th</sup> Year**

**Southern Region**

**American Society for Horticultural Science**

**105<sup>th</sup> Year**

**Horticulture Section**

**Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists**

## **History of the Southern Region of ASHS and the Horticulture Section of SAAS**

In 1899, the State Commissioners of Agriculture in several southern states founded “The Cotton States Association of the Commissioners of Agriculture”, which had horticulture involved in its very beginning. This is the founding organization that evolved into the modern-day Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS). In 1920, SAAS (which at that time was called Association of Southern Agricultural Works, ASAW) formalized the affiliation with horticulture by founding the Horticulture Section. In 1936, the American Society for Horticultural Sciences approved the Southern States Section, which is now termed the Southern Region of ASHS. In 1937, SAAS accepted the affiliation between the Southern States Section of ASHS with the Horticulture Section of SAAS. Thus, the Southern Region jointly has been a part of both ASHS (with a founding date of 1936) and SAAS (with a founding date 1920). This rich history is detailed in publications by Andy Anderson, 1982, and Paul Seal, 1999 (available at [srashs.org](http://srashs.org)). The Southern Region encompasses the 14 southern states of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Membership varies over the years from about 200 to 500 active members. Membership is composed of professors, research scientists, teachers and extension specialists from Universities, State, Federal and private research organizations, and industry. The Southern Region also contains a student section, the Association of Collegiate Branches, which is composed of student clubs from departments of horticulture and plant science across the region. The focus of the Southern Region is the Annual Meeting, which is held every February in conjunction with the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS). The Annual Meeting consists of presentations of scientific papers, student papers and judging competition, commodity group meetings, and awards presentations.

### **Goals:**

- **Encourage and facilitate the mutual exchange of ideas and information concerning horticultural research, extension, education, and industry in the south.**
- **Promote stronger bonds among horticulturists throughout the southern regions.**
- **Encourage participation in the national society of the American Society for Horticultural Science.**

**Join us and become a part of the Tradition.**

#### **President**

**Christine Coker**

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#### **Secretary-Treasurer**

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# PROGRAM

## 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

### Southern Region

#### American Society for Horticultural Science

#### January 31-February 1-2, 2025

#### Irving, TX

#### FRIDAY

7:00 am - 6:00 pm	<b>Registration</b> Prefunction Area
	<b>Posters – NOTICE posters start on Friday</b> Prefunction Area
8:00 am – 10:00 pm	<b>Poster room - Set Up</b>
10:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Authors Mount Posters</b>
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Poster Section Viewing</b>
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	<b>National Sweetpotato Collaborators</b> Harmony A
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	<b>Southern Fruit Workers</b> Melody 2
9:00 am - 5:00 pm	<b>ASHS Board of Directors</b> Harmony D
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>ACB Club Share and Networking</b> Harmony B
12:00 pm- 5:00 pm	<b>ACB Group Activities, Tour, and Meal</b> TBA
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Horticulture Administrators</b> Rhythm Ballroom
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	<b>Executive Committee Meeting</b> Rhythm Ballroom
5:00 pm or TBA	<b>ACB Mixer TBA</b> Harmony B or TBA

#### SATURDAY

7:00 am - 6:00 pm	<b>Registration</b> Prefunction Area
	<b>Posters</b> Prefunction Area
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	<b>Poster Section Viewing</b>
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Poster Judging - Author at Even Number Posters</b>
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Poster Judging - Author at Odd Number Posters</b>
After 5:00 pm	<b>Authors remove posters</b>
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>ACB Judging Contest Set Up</b> Harmony E/F
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	<b>National Sweetpotato Collaborators</b> Harmony A

8:00 am –	10:30 am	<b>J. B. Edmond Undergraduate Student Paper Competition.</b> Melody 1
8:00 am -	3:30 pm	<b>Norman F. Childers M.S. Graduate Student Paper Competition</b> Melody 2
8:00 pm -	12:15 pm	<b>Fruit Crops Section</b> Harmony D
8:00 am -	9:15 am	<b>Education Section</b> Harmony B
9:30 am -	12:30 pm	<b>Extension Section</b> Harmony B
9:30 am -	5:00 pm	<b>Watermelon Research Group</b> Melody 3
12:00 pm -	5:00 pm	<b>J. Benton Storey Horticulture Judging Contest</b> Harmony E/F
11:00 pm -	4:15 pm	<b>Warren S. Barham Ph.D. Student Paper Competition</b> Melody 1
1:00 pm -	3:30 pm	<b>Vegetable Crops Section</b> Harmony D
1:00 pm -	3:00 am	<b>Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf Section</b> Harmony B

## **SUNDAY**

7:00 am -	10:45 am	<b>Registration</b> SAAS Registration Desk
8:00 am -	11:00 am	<b>Vegetable Crops Section</b> Meeting Room 1
8:00 am -	10:30 am	<b>Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf Section</b> Meeting Room 2
8:00 am -	11:00 am	<b>Fruit Crops Section</b> Meeting Room 4
8:00 am -	10:15 am	<b>Postharvest &amp; Biotechnology Section</b> Meeting Room 3
9:00 am -	10:45am	<b>ACB Business Meeting</b> Junior Ballroom B
11:00 am -	12:30 pm	<b>Annual Business Meeting and Award Program</b> Junior Ballroom B

## **SAAS Program**

2:30 pm -	3:30 pm	<b>SAAS Board Meeting</b> Junior Ballroom B
4:00 pm -	5:00 pm	<b>SAAS General Business Meeting</b> Junior Ballroom B

## **SAAS Social**

5:00		Grand Loft (Southern Exchange)
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## REGISTRATION

**Friday** 7:00 am - 6 pm  
Prefunction Area  
**Saturday** 7:00 am - 6 pm  
Prefunction Area  
**Sunday** register for SRASHS at SAAS  
registration desk.

## Friday, January 31

### POSTERS

**Room:** Prefunction Area  
**Set-Up Room:** Friday, 8:00-10:00  
**Mount Posters:** Friday 10:00

#### Poster Viewing

Friday: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am to-5:00 pm

#### Poster Judging and Authors at their poster:

Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm even numbered posters  
Saturday, 3:00-5:00 pm odd numbered posters  
**Take-down:** Saturday after 5 pm

### ACB Activities

**Room:** Harmony B  
**Time:** 10:00 - 12:00 Club Share and  
Networking  
12:00-5:00 Activity/Tour TBA  
5:00 – Mixer exact time/place TBA  
**Presiding:** Madison Goepfinger, ACB-Pres  
Gerald Burgner, ACB Advisor

### SRASHS Executive Committee

**Room:** Rhythm Boardroom  
**Time:** 5:00 - 6:30  
**Presiding:** Julie Campbell, Chair

### ASHS Board of Directors

**Room:** Harmony D  
**Time:** 9:00 - 5:00  
**Presiding:** Tracy Shawn, Coordinator

## WORKING GROUPS

Detailed Programs Listed at end of program

### National Sweet Potato Collaborators

**Room:** Harmony A  
**Time:** Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
**Presiding:** Tristan Watson, Chair  
twatson@agcenter.lsu.edu

### Watermelon Research Group

**Room:** Melody 3  
**Time:** Friday 9:30 am – 5:00 pm  
**Presiding:** Brian Ward  
bw@clemson.edu

### Southern Fruit Workers

**Room:** Melody 2  
**Time:** Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
**Presiding:** Rachel Ittle  
ritle@uga.edu

### Horticulture Administrators

**Room:** Rhythm Ballroom  
**Time:** Friday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
**Presiding:** Chris Gunter, Chair  
cc.gunter@ufl.edu

## SATURDAY, February 1

### J. BENTON STOREY UNDERGRADUATE JUDGING CONTEST

**Room:** Harmony E/F  
**Time:** 8:00 - 12:00 Contest Set-Up  
12:00-5:00 Judging Contest  
5:00 -until Scoring contest  
**Presiding:** Aidan Souder, ACB President-Elect  
Gerald Burgner, ACB Advisor

**J. B. EDMOND**  
**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT**  
**PAPER COMPETITION**

**Room:** Melody 1  
**Presiding:** Madison Goepfinger  
 ACB-President, Moderator  
**Christine Coker** SRASHS President  
 Courtesy Welcome  
**Carolyn Robinson** Chair & Judging Coordinator  
 cwr0001@auburn.edu

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to the meetings or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**8:00-10:30 - Order of presentations roughly at 15 min intervals**

1. **Drying Danger: Evaluating Microbial Safety of Freeze-Dried vs. Conventionally Dried Strawberries (*Fragaria ananassa*).** Tyler Davis<sup>1\*</sup>, Charles Fontanier<sup>2</sup>, William McGlynn<sup>2</sup>, Ravi Jadjea<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>310 N Monroe St, Department of Animal & Food Sciences, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078, <sup>2</sup>164 N Monroe St, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (tyler.w.davis@okstate.edu)
2. **Effects of Different Stem Colors on the Plant Growth, Nutrient Uptake, and Vitamin A Content of Hydroponically Grown Swiss Chard.** Madeline Mocio\*, Bruce L. Dunn, Charles Fontanier, and Lu Zhang, 164 N Monroe St, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (madeline.mocio@okstate.com)
3. **Effects of Fungicide on Mycorrhizal Root Colonization and Soil Health.** Andrew Shepard\* and B. Bachelot, 301 Physical Science, Department of Plant Biology, Ecology and Evolution, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 74078. (anshepa@okstate.edu)
4. **Evaluating Efficiency and Accuracy of Three Texture Analysis Methods for Blackberry Fruit.** Rhys Brock\*, Carmen Johns, Katelyn Lust-Moore, and Margaret Worthington, 316 Plant Science Bldg., Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (rhysb@uark.edu)
5. **Evaluating Nursery Production of Coastal Grass Propagated in Recycled Glass Medium.** Allison Huddleston\* and Ed Bush, 137 J.C. Miller Hall, LSU School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (ahuddl8@lsu.edu)
6. **Examining Various Eastern Red Cedar Biochar Particle Sizes and Incorporation Rates to Produce Potted Begonias.** Rebekah Harmon\*, Bruce Dunn, and Charles Fontanier, 164 N Monroe St, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (bekah.harmon@okstate.edu)
7. **Impact of Different Soilless Media on Kale Microgreens Growth and Quality.** Morgan Mosby<sup>1\*</sup>, Shivani Kathi<sup>2</sup>, Tyler Mason<sup>2</sup>, and Charles Fontanier<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup> 46 Old Bully Blvd, Department of Agricultural Science and Plant Protection, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS 39762, <sup>2</sup>164 N Monroe St, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (Shivani.kathi@okstate.edu)
8. **The Influence of Commercial Mycorrhizae Products on Basil Growth in Controlled Environments,** Jacob McNew\*, Shivani Kathi, and Charles Fontanier, 164 N Monroe St, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (Shivani.kathi@okstate.edu)
9. **Transferability of Bermudagrass Simple Sequence Repeat Markers in Nimbewill.** Madeline Mocio<sup>1\*</sup>, Charles Fontanier<sup>1</sup>, Nicholas Boerman<sup>2</sup>, Yanqi Wu<sup>3</sup>, Dennis Martin<sup>1</sup>, and Shuhao Yu<sup>1</sup>, <sup>2</sup>164 N Monroe St, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, <sup>2</sup>2000 18<sup>th</sup> Street,



USDA-ARS Oklahoma and Central Plains Agricultural Research Center - Livestock, Forages, and Pasture Management Research Unit, Woodward, OK 73801, <sup>3</sup>20 Agriculture Hall, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (madeline.mocio@okstate.edu)

10. **Understanding Nutrient Dynamics of Peach Trees during Leaf Senescence.** Victoria Harrison\* and Juan Carlos Melgar, 171 Poole Agriculture Center, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634. (vaharri@clemson.edu)

## NORMAN F. CHILDERS M.S. GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

**Room:** Melody 2

**Presiding:** Sarah White, Chair  
swhite4@clemson.edu

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to the meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**8:00 – 3:30 Order of presentations roughly at 15 min intervals**

1. **Assessing the Impact of Plant Hormone on *Osmanthus fragrans* Cuttings Propagation.** Yulong Chen<sup>1\*</sup>, Lilin Chen<sup>1</sup>, Ping Yu<sup>1</sup>, and Donglin Zhang<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>1109 Experiment Street, Horticulture Department, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223, <sup>2</sup> 1111 Plant Sciences, 120 Carlton Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. (yulong.chen@uga.edu)
2. **Assessment of New Perfect-flowered Muscadine Grape (*Vitis rotundifolia* Michx.) Cultivars Under Alabama Conditions.** Jagjit Singh\*, E. Coneva, M. Trandel-Hayse, M.R. Salazar-Gutierrez, and E.L. Vinson, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (edc0001@auburn.edu)
3. **Bed Architecture and Fumigation Strategies for Tomatoes in Eastern NC.** Josue Alarcon Mendoza<sup>1\*</sup>, Lorena Lopez<sup>2</sup>, and Emmanuel

Torres<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, 2721 Founders Dr, Raleigh, NC 27607, <sup>2</sup>Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, 2731 Pillsbury Cir, Raleigh, NC 27607. (jaalarco@ncsu.edu)

4. **Brassinosteroids and Cold Stress Mitigation in Citrus: Evaluating Foliar Application Effectiveness.** Charles C. Nauck\*, and Muhammad A. Shahid, Horticultural Science Department, North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida/IFAS, Quincy, FL, 32351, USA (mshahid@ufl.edu).
5. **Canary Melon Yield and Exterior and Internal Quality Results, 2024.** Jonathan R. Schultheis,<sup>1</sup> Baker E. Stickle<sup>1</sup>, Stuart W. Michel<sup>1\*</sup>, Brandon K. Parker<sup>1</sup>, Matthew C. Allan<sup>2</sup>, Suzanne D. Johanningsmeier<sup>2</sup>, and Penny M. Perkins-Veazie<sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC, 27695. <sup>2</sup>Food Science and Market Quality and Handling Research Unit, United States Department of Agriculture, Raleigh NC, 27695. <sup>3</sup>Department of Horticultural Science, Plants for Human Health Institute, NC Research Campus, Kannapolis NC, 28081. (bestickl@ncsu.edu)
6. **Challenges of organic production in vegetable crops: the initial years of transition.** Luan Alves de Oliveira<sup>\*1</sup>, Austin Dorminey<sup>1</sup>, Timothy Coolong<sup>2</sup>, Andre Luiz Bisciaia Ribeiro da Silva<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup> 101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36830, <sup>2</sup> 1111 Miller Plant Sciences, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602 (azb0207@auburn.edu)
7. **Cold Acclimation Induced Physiological and Biochemical Changes in Valencia Orange.** Alaiha Asif<sup>1\*</sup>, Matt Mattia<sup>2</sup>, John M. Chater<sup>3</sup>, Fernando Alferes<sup>4</sup> and Muhammad A. Shahid<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Horticultural Science Department, North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida/IFAS, Quincy, FL, 32351, USA, <sup>2</sup>United States Horticultural Research Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, 2001 South Rock Road, Ft. Pierce, FL, 34945, USA, <sup>3</sup>Horticultural Science Department, Citrus Research and Education Center, University of Florida/IFAS, Lake Alfred, FL, 33850, USA, <sup>4</sup>Horticultural Science Department, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida/IFAS,

- Immokalee, FL, 34142, USA (mshahid@ufl.edu).
8. **Comparison of Rabbiteye to Southern Highbush Blueberry Quality, Flavor, and Sensory Analysis.** Clarisse Cochran-Chipura<sup>1\*</sup>, Sushan Ru<sup>1</sup>, Elaina Coneva<sup>1</sup>, Sungeun Cho<sup>2</sup> and Marlee Trandel-Hayse<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn AL, 36849 <sup>2</sup>Department of Poultry Science, Auburn University, 201 Poultry Science Building, Auburn AL 36849. (czc0258@auburn.edu)
  9. **Cultivating Sustainability: Plasticulture Mulch Management for Increased Profitability in Vegetable Production.** Melanie C. Hill<sup>1\*</sup>, Wheeler G. Foshee<sup>1</sup>, Andre L.B.R. da Silva<sup>1</sup>, Robert Harriman<sup>2</sup>, Paul C. Bartley III<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>2</sup>Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210. (mch0097@auburn.edu)
  10. **Cutting Edge Technologies: Assessing ROI of Autonomous Mowers.** Landon Erbrick\*, Joshua Fain, and Paul Bartley, 101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (lbe0008@auburn.edu)
  11. **Effect of biochar on the growth and development of Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) under saline condition.** Lilin Chen\*, Yulong Chen, and Ping Yu, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, GA 30223. (lilin.chen@uga.edu)
  12. **Enhancing Bell Pepper Production: Exploring the Effects of AMF Application Methods on Bell Pepper Performance.** Brooke Matusko<sup>1\*</sup>, Emmanuel Torres Quezada<sup>1</sup>, Shuijin Hu<sup>2</sup>, Ricardo Hernandez<sup>1</sup>, and Amanda Cardoso<sup>3</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, 2721 Founders Dr, Raleigh, NC 27607 <sup>2</sup>Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, 1575 Varsity Drive, Raleigh, NC 27695 <sup>3</sup>Department of Crop & Soil Sciences, North Carolina State University, 101 Derieux Pl., Raleigh, NC 27607. (bematusk@ncsu.edu)
  13. **Evaluating Blended Bioreactor Media for Nutrient Remediation and Seedling Establishment.** Brianna Slade<sup>1\*</sup>, Damon E. Abdi<sup>1</sup>, Jeb S. Fields<sup>1</sup>, M.P. Hayes<sup>2</sup>, Mysha Ahmed<sup>2</sup>, Jeffrey Beasley<sup>3</sup>, and Jeff Kuehny<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403, <sup>2</sup>Louisiana State University School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, 219 Sturgis Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, University of North Carolina Pembroke, 1403 Old Main Rd., Pembroke, NC 28372, <sup>4</sup>Louisiana State University School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, 137 Sturgis Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (dabdi@agcenter.lsu.edu)
  14. **Evaluating Spray Efficiency and Quality of Agricultural Sprayer Drones on Tomato Crop.** Thiago Bento Caputti<sup>1\*</sup>, Luan Alves de Oliveira<sup>2</sup>, Camila Rodrigues<sup>1</sup>, Wheeler Foshee<sup>1</sup>, Andre Luiz Biscaia Ribeiro da Silva<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup> 101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36830, <sup>2</sup> 136 Engineering Building, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA, 31793 (azb0207@auburn.edu)
  15. **Evaluating the Weeding Performance of an Unmanned Ground Vehicle on Direct Seeded Sweetcorn (*Zea mays* L.).** Claire E. Plassmeyer<sup>1\*</sup>, Matt B. Bertucci<sup>1</sup>, Rachel C. Woody-Pumford<sup>1</sup>, Thierry E. Besançon<sup>2</sup>, Wesley M. Bouchelle<sup>2</sup>, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, Department of Plant Biology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901. (clairep@uark.edu)
  16. **Evaluation of narrowband supplemental lighting and nitrogen concentrations on physiology, growth, and yield of hydroponic lettuce.** Joshua Osuch\* and Desire Djidonou, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX 75428. (josuch@leomail.tamuc.edu)
  17. **Evaluation of Sweetpotato Transplant Orientation Methods and their Effects on Yield and Root Shape.** Brandon K. Parker\* and Jonathan R. Schultheis, Department of Horticulture Science, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27606, (bkparker@ncsu.edu)
  18. **Horticulture Extension Use and Preferences of Midwestern United States Landscape Professionals.** Alexander C. Stanton\*, Ross C. Braun, Steven J. Keeley, Cheryl R. Boyer, and J. Cody Domenghini, Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources, Kansas State University, 1712 Claflin Rd., Manhattan, KS 66506. (acstanton@ksu.edu)



19. **Impact of Location on Yield and Fruit Quality of Aronia Berry in Georgia.** Taiwo Adesiyani\* and Bodie Pennisi, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin Campus, 1109 Experiments St., Griffin, GA 30223 (taiwo.adesiyani@uga.edu)
20. **Influence of Shade on Blackberry Cultivar Performance.** Elizabeth S. Neal<sup>1\*</sup>, James D. Spiers<sup>1</sup>, Marlee A. Trandel-Hayse<sup>1</sup>, and Edgar L. Vinson<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, 36849, <sup>2</sup>Chilton Research and Extension Center, 120 County Road 756, Clanton, AL 36804. (esn0005@auburn.edu)
21. **Inventory of Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) pollinators.** Subas Thapa Magar\*, Jeremiah D. Lowe, Sheri B. Crabtree, and Kirk W. Pomper, Land Grant Program, College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601-2334. (Subas.ThapaMagar@kysu.edu)
22. **Partial root-zone drying irrigation and grafting: Techniques to improve fruit quality of tomato.** Asmita Sharma<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Chungkeun Lee<sup>1,2</sup> and Daniel I. Leskovar<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup> Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Uvalde, TX 78801, <sup>2</sup> Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77840 (daniel.leskovar@ag.tamu.edu)
23. **Plant Growth Regulator Influence on Sweetpotato Slip Propagation.** Kerington Bass\*, Lorin Harvey, Bi Guihong, Richard Harkess, Kelsey Harvey Department of Plant and Soil Science, Mississippi State University, MS, 39762 (kb3270@msstate.edu)
24. **Screening Texas A&M Potato Breeding Germplasm for Resistance to *Potato Virus Y*.** MichaelAnne L. Roach\*, Jeewan Pandey, Stephany E. Toinga-Villafuerte, Joshua R. Johnson, and M. Isabel Vales, Department of Horticulture Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133. (michaelanne.roach@tamu.edu)
25. **Stratifying biochar derived from sugarcane bagasse can improve substrate nutrient retention and fertilizer efficiency in container-grown *Petunia*.** Megan Gibb\*, Jeb S. Fields, and Damon Abdi, Louisiana State University AgCenter Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403 (JFields@agcenter.lsu.edu)
26. **Target genotyping using Capture-Seq technology to characterize the population structure and phylogenetic relationships of peaches from Australia and other parts of the world.** McCann, C.<sup>1</sup>, J.X. Chaparro<sup>4</sup>, Bruce Topp<sup>3</sup>, Dougal M. Russell<sup>2</sup>, Jeekin Lau<sup>3</sup>, Jordan Knapp-Wilson<sup>1</sup>, Rachel Itle<sup>6</sup>, and D.J. Chavez<sup>1,6</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics, and Genomics. University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223, <sup>2</sup> Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Queensland), Mineral House, 41, George St, Brisbane City QLD 4000, Australia, <sup>3</sup> Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, The University of Queensland, 306/306 Carmody Rd, St Lucia QLD 4067, Australia, <sup>4</sup>Horticultural Sciences Department. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, <sup>5</sup>Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory. USDA-ARS, Byron, GA 31008, <sup>6</sup>Department of Horticulture. University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223. (Caitlin.mccann@uga.edu)
27. **The effects of substrates for tomato production in the hydroponic Dutch bucket system.** Cristian Camacho and Desire Djidonou, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX 75248. (ccamacho9@leomail.tamuc.edu)
28. **Validation of Diagnostic Markers for Seedlessness and Flower Sex in Diverse *Muscadinia* and *Vitis* Grape.** Isabella Vaughn<sup>1\*</sup>, Cheng Zou<sup>2</sup>, Qi Sun<sup>2</sup>, Carmen Johns<sup>1</sup>, Lacy Nelson<sup>1</sup>, Lance Cadle-Davidson<sup>3</sup>, Peter Cousins<sup>4</sup>, Clair Heinitz<sup>5</sup>, and Margaret Worthington<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>2</sup>Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850, <sup>3</sup>USDA-ARS Grape Genetics Research Unit, Geneva, NY 14456, <sup>4</sup>E & J Gallo Winery Modesto, CA 95354, <sup>5</sup>USDA-ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Davis, CA 95616. (ignorswo@uark.edu)
29. **Yield Response of Three Sweetpotato Clones to Variable Nitrogen Rates.** Baker Stickley\*, Jonathan R. Schultheis, Brandon Parker, Stuart Michel, Department of Horticultural Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609. (bestick1@ncsu.edu)

**WARREN S. BARHAM**  
**Ph.D. GRADUATE STUDENT**  
**PAPER COMPETITION**

**Room:** Melody 1

**Presiding:** Sarah White, Chair

swhite4@clemson.edu

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**11:00 – 4:30 Order of Presentations roughly at 15 min intervals**

1. **Assessing Postharvest Texture Variations in Rabbiteye and Southern Highbush Blueberries Grown in Alabama.** Peter Ephraim<sup>1\*</sup>, Camilla Rodrigues<sup>1</sup>, Sushan Ru<sup>1</sup>, Mike Miller<sup>2</sup>, Suzanne Johanningsmeier<sup>4</sup>, and Marlee Trandel-Hayse<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, 101 Funches Hall, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>2</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, CASIC Building, Auburn, AL 36832, <sup>3</sup>Auburn University, Department of Biological Sciences, 101 Rouse Life Sciences Building, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>4</sup>United States Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Services (USDA-ARS), Food Science and Market Quality & Handling Research Unit, Raleigh, NC 27606. ([pze0011@auburn.edu](mailto:pze0011@auburn.edu))
2. **Associations Between Early Berry Color and Final Anthocyanin Content in Blackberry.** Katelyn Lust-Moore<sup>1\*</sup>, Scott Lafontaine<sup>2</sup>, Renee Threlfall<sup>2</sup>, Samuel Fernandes<sup>3</sup>, Jackie Lee<sup>4</sup>, Margaret Worthington<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>2</sup>Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>3</sup>Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>4</sup>Fruit Research Station, UADA, Clarksville, AR 72830. ([kes056@uark.edu](mailto:kes056@uark.edu))
3. **Changes in Color and Phenolics During Storage of Wines Produced from Co-fermentation of Noble (*Vitis rotundifolia*) and Merlot (*Vitis vinifera*) Grapes.** Amanda J. Fleming\* and Renee T. Threlfall, 2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704. ([ajflemin@uark.edu](mailto:ajflemin@uark.edu))
4. **Comparative Yield Analysis of 8 Hop Cultivars (*Humulus lupulus* L.) in North Central Oklahoma After Three Growing Seasons.** Katie Stenmark\*, Charles Fontanier, Niels Maness, and Bruce Dunn, Department of Horticultural and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Agriculture Hall, Stillwater OK 74075. ([katie.stenmark@okstate.edu](mailto:katie.stenmark@okstate.edu))
5. **Comparing the Effects of Soil-Applied and Topdressed Organic Amendments to Inorganic Fertilizer in Home Lawns.** Ashton Franks\*, Manuel Chavarria, Benjamin Wherley, Kavin McInnes, and Tony Provin., Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. ([Ashton.franks@tamu.edu](mailto:Ashton.franks@tamu.edu))
6. **Differential Responses of Specialty Pepper Genotypes to Microbial Inoculant and Water Stress.** Asmita Nagila<sup>1\*</sup>, Kevin M. Crosby<sup>1</sup>, and Daniel I. Leskovar<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>2133 TAMU, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, <sup>2</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1619 Garner Field Rd., Uvalde, TX 78801. ([anagila@tamu.edu](mailto:anagila@tamu.edu))
7. **Effect of Chelated Iron as a Safener to Various Herbicide Treatments on ‘Covington’ Sweetpotato.** Keith D. Starke<sup>1\*</sup>, Katherine M. Jennings<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan R. Schultheis<sup>1</sup>, David W. Monks<sup>1</sup>, and David L. Jordan<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA; <sup>2</sup>Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA ([Kdstarke@ncsu.edu](mailto:Kdstarke@ncsu.edu))
8. **Evaluating the Performance of Three Parthenocarpic Zucchini Cultivars Across Different Substrate Types Under CEA.** Bijaya Sharma Subedi<sup>1\*</sup>, Rhuanito Soanz Ferrarezi<sup>2,3</sup>, Sudeep Pandey<sup>1,4</sup>, Andrew Ogden<sup>1,4</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223,

<sup>2</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, <sup>3</sup>Institute for Integrative Precision Agriculture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, <sup>4</sup>Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223. ([aogden@uga.edu](mailto:aogden@uga.edu))

9. **Field Performance of Commercial Cucumber Cultivars Under Whitefly and Virus Pressure in Southern Georgia.** Nirmala Acharya<sup>1\*</sup>, Sudeep Bag<sup>2</sup>, David G. Riley<sup>3</sup>, Juan C. Diaz-Perez<sup>1</sup>, Timothy Coolong<sup>4</sup>, Manish Kumar<sup>2</sup>, and Theodore McAvoy<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, <sup>2</sup>Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, <sup>3</sup>Department of Entomology, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, <sup>4</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. ([nirmala.acharya@uga.edu](mailto:nirmala.acharya@uga.edu))
10. **Hydraulic Properties of a Coarse-Textured Soil Treated with Biochar.** Erick D. Gutierrez<sup>1\*</sup>, Andre da Silva<sup>1</sup>, Paul Bartley<sup>1</sup>, Sushil Adhikari<sup>2</sup>, and Alvaro Sanz-Saez<sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. <sup>2</sup>Department of Biosystems Engineering, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. <sup>3</sup>Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. ([azb0207@auburn.edu](mailto:azb0207@auburn.edu)).
11. **Influence of Pre-Harvest Time on Blueberries (*Vaccinium spp.*) BRIX Estimation Using UAV Multispectral Data and Machine Learning Approach.** Regimar G. Dos Santos\*, Lucas de Azevedo Sales, Marcelo Rodrigues Barbosa Júnior, João Gabriel de Almeida Santos, João Victor da Silva Martins, Ronega Boa Sorte Vargas, and Luan Pereira de Oliveira. Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793. ([regimar.garcia@uga.edu](mailto:regimar.garcia@uga.edu))
12. **Interplay Between Zinc Biofortification and Nitrogen Dynamics in Spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*).** Sandeep Kaur Sran\*, Dalton Thompson and Vijay Joshi, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Uvalde, TX 78801. ([sandeep.sran@tamu.edu](mailto:sandeep.sran@tamu.edu))
13. **Leaf sap analysis as a nutrient management tool in a mature peach orchard.** Selvin Carrillo<sup>1\*</sup> and D.J. Chavez<sup>1,2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA, 30223-1731, <sup>2</sup>Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA, 30223-1731. ([scarrill@uga.edu](mailto:scarrill@uga.edu))
14. **Optimizing hydroponic spinach cultivation in warm climate: effects of root zone cooling on growth and biochemical properties.** Md Noor E Azam Khan\*, Genhua Niu, and Joseph Masabni. Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension at Dallas Center, Dallas, TX 75252, USA ([noor\\_hort@tamu.edu](mailto:noor_hort@tamu.edu))
15. **Photoregulation of bioactive compounds in greenhouse-grown tomatoes.** Samikshya Bhattarai\*, Deepak K. Jha, Shuyang Zhen, and Bhimanagouda S. Patil, Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite A120, College Station, TX 77845. ([bsami@tamu.edu](mailto:bsami@tamu.edu))
16. **Potential of Brewer's Spent Grain and Ash as a Source of Organic Nutrient for Potted Plants.** Babita Lamichhane\* and Bruce L. Dunn, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, OK 74075. ([babita.lamichhane@okstate.edu](mailto:babita.lamichhane@okstate.edu))
17. **Probiotic-Derived Exopolysaccharide as a Natural Emulsifier for Limonene: Enhanced Stability and Antimicrobial Applications.** Sangeeta Balyan<sup>1,2</sup>\*, Vikas Dadwal<sup>1</sup>, Deepak Kumar Jha<sup>1</sup>, and Bhimanagouda S. Patil<sup>1,2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, USDA National Center of Excellence Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite A120, College Station, TX 77845, <sup>2</sup>Department of Food Science & Technology, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite B130, Station, TX 77845, USA ([sangeetabalyan05@email.tamu.edu](mailto:sangeetabalyan05@email.tamu.edu))
18. **Screening Tomato Genotypes for Thermotolerance Using Physiological Traits.** Chungkeun Lee\* and Daniel I.

Leskovar, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Uvalde, TX 78801. ([d-leskovar@tamu.edu](mailto:d-leskovar@tamu.edu))

19. **Time-Series Phenotyping and 3D Modelling of Peach Tree Architecture Over Five Years by Utilizing TLS Technology.** Jordan Knapp-Wilson<sup>1\*</sup>, Alexander Bucksch<sup>2</sup>, and Dario J. Chavez<sup>3</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics, University of Georgia, Griffin Campus, Griffin, GA 30223, <sup>2</sup>School of Plant Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, <sup>3</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin Campus, Griffin, GA 30223. ([jrk88473@uga.edu](mailto:jrk88473@uga.edu))
20. **Towards the identification of genes controlling flowering intensity in blackberries using an image-based phenotyping method.** Alexander Silva<sup>1\*</sup>, Cengiz Koparan<sup>2</sup>, Samuel Fernandes<sup>3</sup> and Margaret Worthington<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>2</sup>Department of Agricultural Education, Communications and Technology - Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>3</sup>Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. ([easilvac@uark.edu](mailto:easilvac@uark.edu))
21. **Two-year evaluation of morphological and floral characteristics of wild and cultivated *Ratibida Raf.* in Central Texas.** Mason Marshall<sup>1\*</sup>, Michael A. Arnold<sup>1</sup>, Tim Hartmann<sup>1</sup>, Calvin Trostle<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>495 Horticulture Rd, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133, <sup>2</sup>1102 East Drew St, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Lubbock, TX 79403-6603. ([masonmarshall@tamu.edu](mailto:masonmarshall@tamu.edu))

## POSTERS

- Room:** Prefunction Area  
**Presiding:** Ping Yu, Chair  
[pingyu@uga.edu](mailto:pingyu@uga.edu)  
**Presentation:** Bring your poster with all material need to mount on a 4'x4' poster board.  
**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in

*HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**Set-Up Room:** Friday, 8:00-10:00  
**Mount Posters:** Friday 10:00 am-12:00 pm

### Poster Viewing

Friday: 12:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 Saturday 8:00 am to-6:00 pm

### Authors at their poster:

Saturday, 1:00-3:00 pm even numbered posters  
 Saturday, 3:00-5:00 pm odd numbered posters  
**Take-down:** Saturday after 5 pm

### Student Poster Competition

U = Indicates undergraduate poster titles  
 G = Indicates graduate poster titles

### Cross Commodity

- 1U. **Soil water dynamics of sand-based rootzones using surface versus sub-surface irrigation.** Sam Wiesepape\*, and Charles Fontanier, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. ([charles.fontanier@okstate.edu](mailto:charles.fontanier@okstate.edu))
2. **Comparing commercial and opensource tools for spraying coverage evaluation.** Lucas Sales, Joao Gabriel Santos, Regimar dos Santos, Joao Victor Martins, Marcelo Barbosa, Luan Oliveira, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton GA 31793, USA. ([lucas.sales@uga.edu](mailto:lucas.sales@uga.edu))
3. **Do Commercial and Consumer Horticulturists Practice Good Sanitation Practices?** Jenny B. Ryals<sup>1\*</sup>, Patricia R. Knight<sup>1</sup>, Christine E. H. Coker<sup>2</sup>, Jeremy M. Pickens<sup>3</sup>, Ronald C. Stephenson<sup>4</sup>, Ben Posadas<sup>2</sup>, Guihong Bi<sup>5</sup>, and Shien Lu<sup>6</sup>. <sup>1</sup>South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Poplarville, MS 39470, <sup>2</sup>Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, Biloxi, MS 39532, <sup>3</sup>Ornamental Horticulture Research Center, Auburn University, Mobile, AL 36689, <sup>4</sup>Department of Agronomy and Horticulture, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68583, <sup>5</sup>Department of Plant and Soil Science, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, <sup>6</sup>Agricultural Sciences and Plant Protection Department, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762 ([j.ryals@msstate.edu](mailto:j.ryals@msstate.edu))

- 4G. Nutrient Remediation and Seedling Establishment in Blended Bioreactor Media.** Brianna Slade<sup>1\*</sup>, Damon E. Abdi<sup>1</sup>, Jeb S. Fields<sup>1</sup>, M.P. Hayes<sup>2</sup>, Mysha Ahmed<sup>2</sup>, Jeffrey Beasley<sup>3</sup>, and Jeff Kuehny<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403, <sup>2</sup>Louisiana State University School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, 219 Sturgis Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, University of North Carolina Pembroke, 1403 Old Main Rd., Pembroke, NC 28372, <sup>4</sup>Louisiana State University School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, 137 Sturgis Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (dabdi@agcenter.lsu.edu)
- 5U. The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on High School Students Competing in the FFA Horticulture CDE District Competition.** Dr. Steven Still and Ananiah Barbee\*, School of Agricultural Sciences, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, 62901. (ananiah.barbee@siu.edu)
- Fruit**
- 6G. A Genomic Exploration of Climate-Resilience Traits in Munson Cultivars.** Jacob Muras\*, Justin Scheiner and Amit Dhingra, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843 (muras.jacob@tamu.edu)
- 7G. Agriculture 4.0 and UAV's (Drones) applied to Pecan Orchards: Evaluation of an AI-driven web platform for automated canopy biometry assessments.** Joao Victor Martins<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Marcelo Barbosa<sup>1</sup>, Lucas Sales<sup>1</sup>, Joao Gabriel Santos<sup>1</sup>, Regimar dos Santos<sup>1</sup> and Luan Oliveira<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31763, <sup>2</sup>Department of Agronomy, Federal University of Viçosa, Viçosa, MG 36570-900, Brazil (victormartins@uga.edu).
- 8. A Mobile Image-Based Approach to Assess Blueberry Fruit Quality.** Marcelo Barbosa\*, Regimar dos Santos, Lucas Sales, Rônega Vargas, Angelos Deltsidis, Luan Oliveira, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, USA. (marcelobarbosa@uga.edu)
- 9. Determining Consumer Perception for Wine in Alternative Packaging.** Mark Walker Bartz<sup>1</sup>, Lawton Lanier Nalley<sup>2</sup>, Brandon McFadden<sup>2</sup>, Renee Threlfall<sup>1\*</sup>, and Shelby Rider<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup>2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704, <sup>2</sup>217 Agriculture Building, Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701. (rthrelf@uark.edu)
- 10. Evaluating Methods to Measure Free and Total Sulfur Dioxide in Wine.** Amanda J. Fleming\*, Erika M. Gomez, and Renee T. Threlfall, 2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704. (ajfleming@uark.edu)
- 11G. Evaluating the Viticultural Characteristics of Five New Pierce's Disease. Resistant Grape Cultivars.** Susan Webb<sup>1\*</sup>, Justin Scheiner<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael Cook<sup>2</sup>, and Fran Pontasch<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, <sup>2</sup>Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, College Station, TX 77843. (webb97@tamu.edu)
- 12G. Enhancing the Shelf-life of Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) Fruits Using Plastic Packaging Techniques.** Kshitij Shahi\*, Kirk W. Pomper, Sheri Crabtree, and Jeremiah Lowe, Land Grant Program, College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601-2334. (Kshitij.Shahi@kysu.edu)
- 13G. Growing Raspberries in the South: Uncovering Heat-Tolerant Varieties for Mississippi** Apphia Santy\*, Guihong Bi, Tongyin Li, Department of plant and soil science, Mississippi state University, Mississippi State, MS39762 (as5152@msstate.edu) (Abstract submitted)
- 14. Investigating Berry Blends for Better Balance in Southern Wines.** Haley N. Williams<sup>1\*</sup>, Eric T. Stafne<sup>1</sup>, Amanda J. Fleming<sup>2</sup>, M. Walker Bartz<sup>2</sup>, Renee T. Threlfall<sup>2</sup>, Courtney A. Crist<sup>3</sup>, and Christine E.H. Coker<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>711 W. North Street, South MS Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Poplarville, MS 39470, <sup>2</sup>2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704, <sup>3</sup> 945 Stone Boulevard, Department of

Biochemistry, Nutrition, and Health Promotion, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, <sup>4</sup>1815 Popp's Ferry Road, Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, Biloxi, MS 39532. (hnw111@msstate.edu)

**15. Output Deposition of Spraying Drone Versus Conventional Air Blast Sprayer on Pecan Orchards.** Joao Gabriel Santos\*, Lucas Sales, Regimar dos Santos, Joao Victor Martins, Marcelo Barbosa, Luan Oliveira, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton GA 31793, USA. (joao@uga.edu)

**16. Relative Susceptibility of Grapevine Rootstocks to Dicamba Drift.** Daniel Hillin<sup>1\*</sup>, Justin Scheiner<sup>2</sup>, Amit Dhingra<sup>3</sup>, Thayne Montague<sup>4</sup>, Katie Lewis<sup>5</sup>. <sup>1,2,3,4</sup>Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133. <sup>5</sup>Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2474. (dannyh@tamu.edu)

**17G. Investigating the Performance of Recently Released Rabbiteye Blueberry (*Vaccinium virgatum* Aiton) Cultivars for Sustainable Production in Alabama.** Jagjit Singh\*, E. Coneva, M. Trandel-Hayse, M.R. Salazar-Gutierrez, and E.L. Vinson, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (edc0001@auburn.edu)

**18G. Target genotyping using Capture-Seq technology to characterize the population structure and phylogenetic relationships of peaches from Australia and other parts of the world.** McCann, C.<sup>1\*</sup>, J.X. Chaparro<sup>4</sup>, Bruce Topp<sup>3</sup>, Dougal M. Russell<sup>2</sup>, Jeekin Lau<sup>5</sup>, Jordan Knapp-Wilson<sup>1</sup>, Rachel Itle<sup>6</sup>, and D.J. Chavez<sup>1,6</sup> Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics, and Genomics. University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223., Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Queensland), Mineral House, 41, George St, Brisbane City QLD 4000, Australia., Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, The University of Queensland, 306/306 Carmody Rd, St Lucia QLD 4067, Australia., Horticultural Sciences Department. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611., Southeastern Fruit and Tree Nut Research Laboratory. USDA-ARS, Byron, GA 31008., Department of Horticulture. University of

Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223. (Caitlin.mccann@uga.edu)

**19. The Yin and Yang of Juvenile-Adult Transition in Fruit Trees** Olivia Whobrey<sup>1\*</sup>, Ksenija Gasic<sup>1</sup>, Carmen Tercero-Alcázar<sup>2</sup>, and Concepción Muñoz Diez<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, 105 Collings St., Clemson, SC 29634 USA, <sup>2</sup>Department of Agronomy, Universidad de Córdoba, Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz km. 396, 14071, Córdoba, Spain. (owhobre@g.clemson.edu)

#### Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf

**20G. Influence of Water-Soluble Fertilizer on Petunia Organogenesis** Daryl A. Richards Jr.\* and Thomas W. Zimmerman. University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture, 10,000 Castle Burke, Kingshill, VI 00850 (daryl.richards@uvi.edu)

**21G. Integrated Pest Management Strategies for American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and Chili Thrips (*Thrips parvinspinus*).** Yan Zhang<sup>1\*</sup>, Lei Gao<sup>2</sup>, Ping Yu<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup> Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223, USA.<sup>2</sup> Department of Plant Protection, Shanghai Academy of Landscape Architecture Science and Planning, Shanghai, 200232, China. (yz24373@uga.edu)

**22U. Influence of Silicon on Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.) Potassium Uptake.** Sebastian L. Sanchez<sup>1\*</sup> and Maria Benlloch-Gonzalez<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, 105 Collings St., Clemson, SC 29634 USA, <sup>2</sup>Department of Agronomy, Universidad de Cordoba, Ctra. Madrid-Cádiz km. 396, 14071, Cordoba, Spain. (slsanch@clemson.edu)

**23G. Stomatal Conductance of Herbaceous Perennials in North-Central Texas under Deficit Irrigation.** Lindsey Trinkle\*, Madison Coyle, and Derald A. Harp. College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX 75429 (Derald.Harp@tamuc.edu)

**24G. The Decibel Dynamics of New Technology in Landscape Maintenance.** Landon Erbrick\*, Paul Bartley, Kati Kent, and Mark Hoffman, 101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (lbe0008@auburn.edu)

- 25U. Gas exchange rates of bermudagrasses (*Cynodon dactylon* X *C. transvaalensis*) in response to varying light intensities.** Jackson Wallace\*, and Charles Fontanier, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (charles.fontanier@okstate.edu)
- 26U. Landscape Performance of Herbaceous Perennials in North-Central Texas under Deficit Irrigation.** Madison Coyle\*, Lindsey Trinkle, and Derald A. Harp. College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX 75429 Derald.Harp@tamuc.edu
- 27U. Using Various Incorporation Rates and Particle Sizes of Eastern Red Cedar Biochar to Produce Potted Begonias.** Rebekah Harmon, Dr. Bruce Dunn, Dr. Charles Fontanier, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74074 (bekah.harmon@okstate.edu)
- Vegetables**
- 28G. Screening Texas A&M Potato Breeding Germplasm for Resistance to Potato Virus Y.** MichaelAnne L. Roach\*, Jeewan Pandey, Stephany E. Toinga-Villafuerte, Joshua R. Johnson, and M. Isabel Vales, Department of Horticulture Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133. (michaelanne.roach@tamu.edu)
- 29G. Evaluating Watermelon (*Citrullus* spp.) F2 Hybrid Populations for *Phytophthora capsici* Resistance.** Ryan Elms\*, Kevin Crosby, John Jifon, and C. Wayne Smith, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133. (relms7432@tamu.edu)
- 30. Biomass Source of Biochar and Genetic Background of Tomato Influence Plant Growth and Development and Fruit Quality.** Isaac D<sup>1</sup>, Labbanicz J<sup>2</sup>, Knowles NR<sup>1</sup>, Tenic E<sup>1</sup>, Horgan A<sup>2</sup>, Ghogare R<sup>2</sup>, Dhingra A<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup> Department of Horticulture, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164, <sup>2</sup> Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, US. (amit.dhingra@ag.tamu.edu)
- 31G. Garlic (*Allium sativum*) Cultivar Trial and Allicin Content Analysis in Oklahoma.** Ware, Victor\* and T.J. Mason., Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (Victor.ware@okstate.edu) (abstract submitted)
- 32G. The Root of the Problem: Clonal Propagation on Stoloniferous Perennial Peanut (*Arachis pinto*).** Gareth Chamberlynn\* and Leynar Leyton, Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, Quincy, FL 32351. (gchamberlynn@ufl.edu)
- 33. Influence of Nitrogen Nutrition on Basil Cutting Rooting** Steven Kennedy<sup>1\*</sup>, Sunil Gurung<sup>1</sup>, Rob Mikkelsen<sup>2</sup> and Dharma Pitchay<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209, <sup>2</sup> Director of Agronomic Services at Yara International, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. (skenned1@tnstate.edu)
- 34. Interactive Effects of Growing Medium and NH<sub>4</sub>:NO<sub>3</sub> ratios on Broccoli Growth and Yield** Sunil Gurung<sup>1\*</sup>, Rob Mikkelsen<sup>2</sup> and Dharma Pitchay<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209, <sup>2</sup> Director of Agronomic Services at Yara International, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. (sgurung@tnstate.edu)
- 35U. Assessing Kale Microgreens Yield and Quality Grown Using Different Soilless Media,** Morgan Mosby<sup>1</sup>, Shivani Kathi<sup>2</sup>, Tyler Mason<sup>2</sup>, and Charles Fontanier<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, 39759, <sup>2</sup> Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, 74078 OK. (Shivani.kathi@okstate.edu)
- 36U. Exploring Mycorrhizal Fungi Benefits for Soilless Basil Production,** Jacob McNew, Shivani Kathi, and Charles Fontanier, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 74078. (Shivani.kathi@okstate.edu)
- 37. Treatment of Palletized Broccoli with 1-MCP from Harvesthold® Fresh Sheet, a Polymer-Based Delivery System** Nobuko Sugimoto<sup>1\*</sup>, Pranav Pillai<sup>2</sup>, and Randolph Beaudry<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture,



University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793,  
Department of Horticulture, Michigan State  
University, East Lansing, MI 48824.  
(beaudry@msu.edu) (abstract submitted)

- 38U. Pheromone-Based observation of *Cylas formicarius* population in sweetpotato.** Imhotep R. Charles, Isaiah Hodge\* and Thomas W. Zimmerman, University of the Virgin Islands School of Agriculture Agricultural Experiment Station, 10,000 Castle Burke, Kingshill, VI 00850, (tzimmer@uvi.edu)
- 39. Visual Symptoms of Abiotic Stress in Water Spinach (*Ipomea aquatica*): A Diagnostic Tool** Firuz Yuldashev<sup>1</sup>, Sunil Gurung<sup>1</sup>, Steven Kennedy<sup>1</sup>, Juan Diaz-Perez<sup>2</sup>, Rob Mikkelsen<sup>3</sup> and Dharma Pitchay<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209, <sup>2</sup> Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton GA 31793 and <sup>3</sup> Director of Agronomic Services at Yara International, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. (fyuldash@tnstate.edu)
- 40. Influence of Nitrogen Nutrition on Basil Cutting Rooting.** Steven Kennedy<sup>1\*</sup>, Sunil Gurung<sup>1</sup>, Rob Mikkelsen<sup>2</sup> and Dharma Pitchay<sup>1</sup>, College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209, <sup>2</sup> Director of Agronomic Services at Yara International, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. (skenned1@tnstate.edu).
- 41. Educating All Ages Through the Transition to Organic Partnership Program.** Brenton Breland<sup>1\*</sup>, Christine Coker<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup> Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762, <sup>2</sup> Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, Biloxi, MS 39532. (bb1217@msstate.edu)

## SECTION TITLES

### EDUCATION

**Room:** Harmony B  
**residing:** Gerardo Nunez, Chair  
g.nunez@ufl.edu  
**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on

a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

- 8:00 Evaluation of Perception on the Legalization of Medical Cannabis Amongst Undergraduate Students.** Brennan Rupert\*, Ed Bush, Mike Burnet and Eric Debor. LSU AgCenter, 137 J.C. Miller Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (ebush@agcenter.lsu.edu).
- 8:15 Insights Into Student Topical Interests in Horticulture in a General Survey Course and the Application to Curriculum Improvement.** Michelle M. Wisdom\* and Garry V. McDonald, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701 (mmwisdom@uark.edu)
- 8:30 Student-Led Discussions to Foster Students in In-Depth Learning in Advanced Horticultural Courses,** Shivani Kathi, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 74078. (shivani.kathi@okstate.edu)
- 8:45 Using PlayPosit to Teach Calculations in an Asynchronous Online Plant Nutrition Course.** Gerardo H. Nunez, Horticultural Sciences Department, 2550 Hull Road, Gainesville, FL 32611 (g.nunez@ufl.edu)
- 9:00 Horticultural Career and Professional Development: Collaboration Between Curriculum and the College and University Offices of Career Connections to Prepare Students.** Curt R. Rom<sup>1\*</sup>, and Janet Collins<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>316 Plant Sciences Building, Horticulture Department, <sup>2</sup>AFLS E-219 Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701 (crom@uark.edu)

### EXTENSION

**Room:** Harmony B  
**Presiding:** Jeremy Pickens, Chair  
pickej@auburn.edu  
**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**9:30 Creating a Viticulture and Wine Science Professional Certificate.** Justin Scheiner<sup>1\*</sup>, Michael Cook<sup>2</sup>, Danny Hillin<sup>1</sup>, Patrick O'Brien<sup>3</sup>, Deya Garcia Zea<sup>1</sup>, and Andreea Botezatu<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 2134 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843. <sup>2</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 611 Kimberly Drive, Denton, TX 76208. <sup>3</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 1102 E. Drew Street, Lubbock, TX 79403 (Jscheiner@tamu.edu)

**9:45 Creative Writing to Engage Consumer Audiences.** Damon E. Abdi\*, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403. (dabdi@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**10:00 Effects of Fungicide on Mycorrhizal Root Colonization and Soil Health.** Andrew Shepard<sup>1\*</sup> and B. Bachelot<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Ferguson College of Agriculture, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 74078, <sup>2</sup>Department of Plant Biology, Ecology and Evolution, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, 74078. (anshepa@okstate.edu)

**10:15 Getting the Best of Pests Webinars Meet Green Industry Needs and Bolster County Programming.** Bodie Pennisi<sup>1\*</sup>, S. Joseph<sup>2</sup>, D. Suiter<sup>2</sup>, and B. Harris<sup>3</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, <sup>2</sup>Department of Entomology, <sup>3</sup>Center for Urban Agriculture, 1109 Experiment St, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30223 (bpennisi@uga.edu)

**10:30 Production of Carrot BBQ Sauce, From Harvest to Marketing; A Value-Added Food Product from Surplus Produce,** Andrea Myers<sup>1\*</sup>, Renee Threlfall<sup>1</sup>, Rogelio Contreras<sup>2</sup>, Steve Jenkins<sup>3</sup>, Jeyam Subbiah<sup>1</sup>, John Swenson<sup>1</sup>, and Rodrigo Salas<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704, <sup>2</sup>University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, Brightwater, Center

for the Study of Food, Northwest Arkansas Community College, 801 SE 8<sup>th</sup> St. Bentonville, AR 72712. (alm028@uark.edu)

**10:45 Improving Vegetable Production in Raised Bed Home Gardens in Galveston, Texas.** Alessandro Holzapfel<sup>1\*</sup>, Edward Bush<sup>1</sup>, and David Creech<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>137 Julian C. Miller Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup>Stephen F. Austin Gardens, P.O. Box 13000-SFA Station, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. (aholzapfel@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**11:00 Break**

**11:15 Performance of Olive (*Olea europaea* L.) Cultivars in Texas.** Stephen D. Janak and Monte L. Nesbitt, Larry A. Stein., Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77943-2133. (stephen.janak@ag.tamu.edu)

**11:30 Understanding the Needs of Horticultural and Specialty Crop Industry in Texas.** Alex Cash\* and Amit Dhingra, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133. (alexcash@tamu.edu)

**11:45 Survey Assessment of Production Practices, Marketing Perspectives, Education, Research, and Extension Needs of the Texas Pecan Industry.** Monte L. Nesbitt<sup>1\*</sup>, Meghan Mabry<sup>2</sup>, Larry A. Stein<sup>3</sup>, Amit Dhingra<sup>1</sup>, and Kimberly Cervantes<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, Texas Pecan Growers Assn., <sup>2</sup>4444 Carter Creek Pkwy, Bryan, TX 77802, <sup>3</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 1618 Garner Field Rd., Uvalde, TX 78801, <sup>4</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center, 1380 A&M Cir., El Paso, TX 79927. (monte.nesbitt@ag.tamu.edu)

**12:00 Using the Arkansas Quality Wine Program to Expand Consumer Knowledge on Wine Sensory and the Arkansas Grape and Wine Industry.** Renee T. Threlfall<sup>1\*</sup>, Amanda J. Fleming<sup>1</sup>, and Amanda L. McWhirt<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704 and <sup>2</sup>2301 S. University Ave., Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR 72204. (rthrelf@uark.edu)

**12:15 Evaluating the Use of Vine Shelters to Reduce Cold Injury in New Vineyards.** Michael Cook<sup>1\*</sup> and Justin Scheiner<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>611 Kimberly Drive, Denton, TX 76208, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, <sup>2</sup>2133 TAMU, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 77843. (m.cook@tamu.edu)

## FRUIT CROPS

**Room: Harmony D**

**Presiding: Edgar Vinson, Chair**  
vinsoed@auburn.edu

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**8:00 Influence of High Tunnel Cultivation on Early-Ripening Blueberry Cultivar Performance in Central Alabama.** James D. Spiers\*, Emily K. Wismer, Elizabeth S. Neal, Marlee A. Trandel-Hayse, and Sushan Ru, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL, 36849. (jds0017@auburn.edu)

**8:15 Preliminary Evaluation of Two Cutting Propagation Methods of Eight Elderberry Cultivars.** Curt R. Rom. 316 Plant Science Building, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (crom@uark.edu)

**8:30 Drought Priming Enhances Cold Hardiness in Citrus by Activating Antioxidant System, Osmolyte Production, and Carbohydrate Metabolism.** Shahid Iqbal<sup>1\*</sup> and Muhammad A. Shahid<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Horticultural Science Department, North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida/IFAS, Quincy, FL, 32351, USA, (mshahid@ufl.edu)

**8:45 Use of Plastic Reflective Mulch to Shorten Production Cycle of 'Julyprince' Peach (*Prunus persica*) Cultivar Budded on MP-29 Rootstock.** Edgar L Vinson III<sup>1\*</sup>, Jeremy M. Pickens<sup>2</sup>, Melba R. Salazar-Gutierrez<sup>3</sup>, and Matthew

D. Price<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>120 County Road 756, Clanton, AL 35045, <sup>2</sup>411 N McGregor Ave, Mobile, AL 36608, <sup>3</sup>101 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. (vinsoed@auburn.edu)

**9:00 Color Impact of Alternative Packaging on Vignoles (*Vitis hybrid*) White Wine Quality during Storage.** Mark Walker Bartz and Renee T. Threlfall\*, 2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704. (rthrelf@uark.edu)

**9:15 Break**

**9:30 Through the Grapevine: Developing *Vitis x Muscadinia* Wide Hybrids for Enhanced Disease Resistance and Quality.** Renee Threlfall<sup>1\*</sup>, Margaret Worthington<sup>2</sup>, Qi Sun<sup>3</sup>, Lance Cadle Davidson<sup>4</sup>, Melinda Knuth<sup>5</sup>, and Mark Hoffmann<sup>5</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704, <sup>2</sup>Horticulture Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>3</sup>Cornell Institute of Biotechnology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, <sup>4</sup>USDA Grape Genetics Research Unit, Geneva, NY, 14456, <sup>5</sup>Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27607. (rthrelf@uark.edu)

**9:45 Fruit Quality and Postharvest Storage of Arkansas Fresh-market Blackberries Grown on a Rotating Cross Arm Trellis.** Renee Threlfall<sup>1\*</sup>, Amanda McWhirt<sup>2</sup>, Andrea Myers<sup>1</sup>, Grace Howard<sup>1</sup>, Luke Norman<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704, and <sup>2</sup>2301 S. University Ave., Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR 72204 (rthrelf@uark.edu)

**10:00 Regional Survey Recommends Amendments to Southeastern Blackberry Leaf Tissue Nutrient Sufficiency Ranges.** Amanda Lay-Walters<sup>1</sup>, Jayesh Samtani<sup>2</sup>, Gina Fernandez<sup>3</sup>, John Havlin<sup>4</sup>, Elina Coneva<sup>5</sup>, Eric Stafne<sup>6</sup>, Natalie Bumgarner<sup>7</sup>, David Lockwood<sup>7</sup>, Zilfina Rubio Ames<sup>8</sup>, Karen Blaedow<sup>9</sup>, Amanda McWhirt<sup>10\*</sup>, <sup>1</sup>316 Plant Science, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>2</sup>1444 Diamond Springs Rd., School

- of Plant and Environmental Science, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, <sup>3</sup>270 Kilgore Hall, Department of Horticulture, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, <sup>4</sup>101 Derieux Place, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695-7619, <sup>5</sup>101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>6</sup>810 Hwy 26 West, Coastal Research and Extension Center, Mississippi State University, Poplarville, MS 39470, <sup>7</sup>112 Plant Biotech Building, 2505 E J Chapman Dr., Plant Sciences Department, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996, <sup>8</sup>2360 Rainwater Road, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793-5766, <sup>9</sup>100 Jackson Park Rd, NC County Extension, Hendersonville, NC 28792, <sup>10</sup>2301 S University Ave, Little Rock, AR 72204, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR 72204. (amcwhirt@uada.edu)
- 10:15 New Clues to Solving the Peach Bronzing Puzzle.** Juan Carlos Melgar\*, Ayodeji Idowu, Sydney Lykins and Guido Schnabel, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634. (jmelgar@clemson.edu)
- 10:30 Rock and A Hard Place: The Challenges Confronting the West Texas Pecan Industry.** Kimberly Cervantes<sup>1\*</sup>, Monte L. Nesbitt<sup>2</sup>, and Larry A. Stein<sup>3</sup>, <sup>1</sup>1380 A&M Circle, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center at El Paso, El Paso, TX 79927, <sup>2</sup>495 Horticulture Rd., Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, <sup>3</sup>1619 Garner Field Rd., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Uvalde, Uvalde, TX 78801. (kimberly.cervantes@ag.tamu.edu)
- 10:45 Break**
- 11:00 A Non-Buffered UPLC-FLD Gradient Method for Identifying GABA and Essential Amino Acids in Tomatoes.** Vikas Dadwal\*, Deepak Kumar Jha, Braulio Cervantes, Sangeeta Balyan, Bhimanagouda S. Patil. Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite A120, College Station, TX 77845, USA. (vikas.dadwal@tamu.edu)
- 11:15 Off-season Blueberry Production with Day Neutral Varieties in Florida.** Gerardo H. Nunez\* and Sarah da Silva Benevenuto, Horticultural Sciences Department, 2550 Hull Road, Gainesville, FL 32611 (g.nunez@ufl.edu)
- 11:30 Preliminary Investigation of Parboiled Rice Hull Mulch as a Weed Barrier in Containerized Blueberries.** Matthew B. Bertucci\*, Rachel C. Woody-Pumford, and Claire E. Plassmeyer. Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (Bertucci@uark.edu)
- 11:45 Survey of Northwest Arkansas Specialty Crop Growers' Soil Health Perceptions and Practices.** Rachel C. Woody-Pumford\*, Claire E. Plassmeyer, Matthew B. Bertucci, Drew E. Kirkpatrick. Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (rxw025@uark.edu)
- 12:00 Alternative Oxidase Likely Maintains ATP Biosynthesis During Pear Fruit Ripening.** Adwaita Prasad Parida\* and Amit Dhingra. Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M university, College Station, TX 77843 (amit.dhingra@ag.tamu.edu)

## VEGETABLE CROPS

**Room:** Harmony D

**Presiding:** Ted McAvoy, Chair  
ted.mcavoy@uga.edu

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**1:00 Evaluating the Effects of Flight Parameters on Spray Deposition Efficiency of an Unmanned Aerial Application Systems (UAAS).** Thiago Bento Caputti<sup>1\*</sup>, Luan Alves de Oliveira<sup>2</sup>, Camila Rodrigues<sup>1</sup>, Wheeler Foshee<sup>1</sup>, Andre

Luiz Biscaia Ribeiro da Silva<sup>1,1</sup> 101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36830,<sup>2</sup> 136 Engineering Building, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA, 31793. (thb0033@auburn.edu)

**1:15 Enhancing Detection of Volatiles in Tomato Fruit by Optimizing Solid-Phase Microextraction Coupled with Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry.**

Debanjan Chatterjee\*, Deepak Jha, Vikas Dadwal, Braulio Cervantes-Paz, and Bhimanagouda Patil, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77845. (d-chatterjee@tamu.edu)

**1:30 Impact of High pH and Bicarbonate on Lettuce Growth and Development.**

Steven Kennedy<sup>1\*</sup>, Sunil Gurung<sup>1</sup>, Rob Mikkelsen<sup>2</sup> and Dharma Pitchay<sup>1</sup>, College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209, <sup>2</sup> Director of Agronomic Services at Yara International, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. (skenned1@tnstate.edu)

**1:45 Decoding the Role of Nitrogen Forms in the Growth of Water Spinach (*Ipomea aquatica*).**

Sunil Gurung<sup>1\*</sup>, Juan Diaz-Perez<sup>2</sup>, Rob Mikkelsen<sup>3</sup> and Dharma Pitchay<sup>1</sup>, College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209, <sup>2</sup> Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton GA 31793 and <sup>3</sup> Director of Agronomic Services at Yara International, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. (sgurung@tnstate.edu)

**2:00 Lettuce Productivity as a Function of PAR Intensity in Controlled Environment Agriculture.**

Firuz Yuldashev<sup>1\*</sup>, Sunil Gurung<sup>1</sup>, Rob Mikkelsen<sup>2</sup> and Dharma Pitchay<sup>1</sup>, College of Agriculture, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN 37209, <sup>2</sup> Director of Agronomic Services at Yara International, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. (fyuldash@tnstate.edu)

**2:15 Break**

**2:30 Seed Nanopriming with Copper Enhances Yield, Quality, and Potential Health-Promoting Attributes in Tomato Fruit.**

Deepak Kumar Jha<sup>1\*</sup>, Vikas Dadwal<sup>1</sup>, Braulio Cervantes Paz<sup>1</sup>, Carlos A. Avila<sup>2</sup> and Bhimanagouda S. Patil<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Vegetable and

Fruit Improvement Center, USDA National Center of Excellence Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite A120, College Station, TX 77845, <sup>2</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 2415 E Hwy 83, Weslaco, TX 78596. (deepakkumar.jha@ag.tamu.edu)

**2:45 Seed Nanopriming with Copper (Cu) Enhances Yield, Quality, and Potential Health-Promoting Attributes in Tomato Fruit.**

Deepak Kumar Jha\* and Bhimanagouda S. Patil, Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, USDA National Center of Excellence Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite A120, College Station, TX 77845. (deepakkumar.jha@ag.tamu.edu)

**3:00 An Efficient Non-Buffered UPLC-FLD Gradient Method for Identifying gamma-aminobutyric acid and Essential Amino Acids in Tomatoes.**

Vikas Dadwal, Deepak Kumar Jha, Braulio Cervantes, Sangeeta Balyan, Bhimanagouda S. Patil\*. Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, College Station, TX, 77845. (b-patil@tamu.edu)

**3:15 A Non-Buffered UPLC-FLD Gradient Method for Identifying GABA and Essential Amino Acids in Tomatoes.**

Vikas Dadwal\*, Deepak Kumar Jha, Braulio Cervantes, Sangeeta Balyan, Bhimanagouda S. Patil. Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite A120, College Station, TX 77845, USA. (vikas.dadwal@tamu.edu)

**3:30 Leveraging Genomic Tools to Address Fusarium Wilt in Watermelon.**

Anju Biswas<sup>1\*</sup>, Hannah Houston<sup>1</sup>, Laura Massey<sup>1</sup>, Pat Wechter<sup>2</sup>, Sandra Branham<sup>2</sup>, and Amnon Levi<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC, 29414, <sup>2</sup>Clemson University, Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC, 29414. (Anju.Biswas@usda.gov)

**Floriculture, Ornaments and Turf**

**Room: Harmony B**

**Presiding: Anthony Bowden, Chair**

abowden@uada.edu

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**1:00 Moving Beyond Peat: Extending substrate supply with low-input materials.** Jeb S. Fields<sup>1\*</sup> and Kristopher S. Criscione<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Associate Professor, Hammond Research Station Louisiana State University AgCenter, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403, <sup>2</sup>Assistant Professor, Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech, 1444 Diamond Springs Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455. (JFields@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**1:15 Influence of stratification treatments on germination of *Acer skutchii* seed from seven different genotypes.** Andrew R. King<sup>1\*</sup>, David L. Creech<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>1710 FM 3053 N, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Overton, TX 75684, <sup>2</sup>SFA Gardens, 2900 Raguet St., Nacogdoches, TX 75965. (Andrew.king@ag.tamu.edu)

**1:30 *Petunia (Petunia x hybrida)* Growth Characteristics in Response to a Novel Poultry-Derived Fertilizer.** Austin L. Lindquist<sup>1\*</sup>, Rishi Prasad<sup>2</sup>, Glenn Fain<sup>3</sup>, Eve Brantley<sup>2</sup>, Jeremy Pickens<sup>3</sup>, Paul Bartley<sup>3</sup>, Garry V. McDonald<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, 316 Plant Science Building, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, 72701, <sup>2</sup>Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>3</sup>Department of Horticulture, 101 Funchess Hall, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (allindqu@uark.edu)

**1:45 Ecological Niche and Phenotypic Differences Among Two Alpine *Rhododendron* Species and Their Natural Hybrids in A Shared Landscape.** Yanghui Zhao<sup>1</sup>, Wenqian Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Siwen Hao<sup>1</sup>, Yafeng Wen<sup>1</sup>, Donglin Zhang<sup>2\*</sup>. <sup>1</sup>College of Landscape Architecture, Central South University of Forestry and Technology, Changsha, Hunan 410004, China, <sup>2</sup>Department of Horticulture,

University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-7273, USA. (donglin@uga.edu)

**2:00 Break**

**2:15 Simplified Pour-through Procedure for Monitoring Container Substrate Nutrition.** Tom Yeager\*, Nursery Plant Production, Gainesville, FL 32608. (yeager\_t@yahoo.com)

**2:30 Assessing Pre-Plant Root Modifications of Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica x fauriei* ‘Natchez’) to Enhance Establishment in the Landscape.** Damon E. Abdi\*, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403. (dabdi@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**2:45 Evaluating soil sensors and imaging systems to monitor container basil and sage growth under varied irrigation and fertilization schedules.** Ping Yu<sup>1</sup> and Kuan Qin<sup>1</sup>. University of Georgia, Department of Horticulture, 1130 Experiment Street, Griffin, GA, 30223. (pingyu@uga.edu)



## Sunday, February 2, 2025

### ACB BUSINESS MEETING

**Room:** Junior Ballroom B  
**Time:** 9:00 – 10:45  
**Presiding:** Madison Goepfinger, ACB-  
 President,  
 Gerald Burgner, ACB Advisor

### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS PROGRAM

**Room:** Junior Ballroom B  
**Time:** 11:00-12:30  
**Presiding:** Christine Coker, President

### SECTION TITLES

#### VEGETABLE CROPS

- Room:** Meeting Room 1  
**Presiding:** Ted McAvoy, Chair  
 ted.mcavoy@uga.edu
- Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .
- Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.
- 8:00** **Survey of Northwest Arkansas Specialty Crop Growers' Soil Health Perceptions and Practices.** Matthew B. Bertucci\*, Claire E. Plassmeyer, Rachel C. Woody-Pumford, and Drew E. Kirkpatrick, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. (bertucci@uark.edu)
- 8:15** **Ethnic Vegetables in Kentucky: Opportunities for Diverse and Sustainable Agriculture.** Srijana Thapa Magar\* and Kirk W. Pomper, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601. (srijana.thapamagar1@ksu.edu)
- 8:30** **Yield and Quality of Snap Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) Cultivars from**

**Successive Harvests in Spring and Fall Production Seasons in Oklahoma.** Tyler J. Mason<sup>1\*</sup>, Jess Richmond<sup>1</sup>, Niels Maness<sup>1</sup>, Lynn Brandenberger<sup>1</sup>, Shivani Kathi<sup>1</sup>, Donna Chrz<sup>1</sup>, Bizhen Hu<sup>1</sup>, and Carla Goad<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, 320G Agriculture Hall, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, <sup>2</sup>Department of Statistics, 301F Math Sciences Building, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. (tyler.j.mason@okstate.edu)

**8:45** **Field Performance of Tomato Cultivars Resistant to Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV) across Multiple Locations in Southern Georgia.** Theodore McAvoy<sup>1\*</sup>, Manisha Kumari<sup>1</sup>, Bhavya Shukla<sup>2</sup>, Manish Kumar<sup>2</sup>, and Sudeep Bag<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793, <sup>2</sup>Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA 31793. (ted.mcavoy@uga.edu)

**9:00** **Beyond the Label: Selecting the Right Fertilizer for Organic Watermelon Transplant Production.** Jun Liu\*, Joseph Masabni, and Genhua Niu, AgriLife Research Dallas Center, Texas A&M University, Dallas, TX 75252. (j.liu@ag.tamu.edu)

**9:15** **Break**

**9:30** **Combat Root Zone Stresses in Organic Hydroponics.** Jun Liu\*, Joseph Masabni, and Genhua Niu, AgriLife Research Dallas Center, Texas A&M University, Dallas, TX 75252. (j.liu@ag.tamu.edu)

**9:45** **Comparison of Two Nitrogen Sources in Growing Tea (*Camellia sinensis*) and Promoting Soil Microbial Activities.** Yan Chen\*, Jim J. Wang, and Autumn Hilderbrand, School of Plant, Environmental, and Plant Sciences, 104 Sturgis, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (yachen@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**10:00** **Managing Herbicide Drift in Vegetable Operations: Workshop Effectiveness and Lessons Learned.** Maria Bampasidou<sup>1\*</sup>, Alessandro Holzapfel<sup>2</sup>, Kathryn Fontenot<sup>3</sup>, Ronald Strahan<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>101 Martin D. Woodin Hall Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup>Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness LSU AgCenter., 104 Sturgis Hall Baton Rouge, LA 70803,



<sup>3</sup>School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, SW Region LSU AgCenter., 1373 Caffey Rd Rayne La 70578, <sup>4</sup>, NW Region LSU AgCenter., 262 Research Station Drive, Bossier City 71112. (mbampasidou@agcenter.lsu.edu)

- 10:15 Exploring the Role of Grafting in Enhancing Cold Tolerance in Cucumber: A Transcriptomics Perspective.** Sudeep Pandey\* and Andrew B. Ogden, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA 30224. (sudeep.pandey@uga.edu)
- 10:30 Productivity of Ginger with Previous-Year Seed Rhizomes and Shoots without Seed Rhizomes.** Sanjun Gu\* and Peter Coffey. Cooperative Extension, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA 23806. (sgu@vsu.edu)

## FLORICULTURE, ORNAMENALS AND TURF

- Room:** Meeting Room 2  
**Presiding:** Anthony Bowden, Chair  
abowden@uada.edu
- Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .
- Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.
- 8:00 Sooty Mold Related Alterations in Photosynthesis and Leaf Chlorophyll in Natchez Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* × *fauriei* ‘Natchez’) Infested with Crepe Myrtle Bark Scale (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*).** Derald A. Harp\* and Madison Coyle. College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, East Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX 75429 (Derald.Harp@tamuc.edu)
- 8:15 Kansas Homeowner Preferences for Naturalistic Landscape Styles.** Julia A. Hammes<sup>1</sup>, Cheryl R. Boyer<sup>2\*</sup>, Howard D. Hahn<sup>1</sup>, and Leslie A. Wren<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>920C N Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, <sup>2</sup>1712

Clafin Rd., Department of Horticulture and Natural Resources, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506. (crboyer@ksu.edu)

- 8:30 Developing an Efficient Root Transgenic System in Crapemyrtles (*Lagerstroemia* spp.) using *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* and Visual Reporter Gene *RUBY*.** Bin Wu\* and Hongmin Qin, Department of Biology, Texas A&M University, College Station TX, 77843. (hqin@bio.tamu.edu; bin.wu@tamu.edu)
- 8:45 The effect substrate packing density and particle size has on root morphological development.** Kristopher S. Criscione<sup>1\*</sup> and Jeb S. Fields<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech, 1444 Diamond Springs Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23455. <sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, Hammond Research Station Louisian State University AgCenter, 21549 Old Covington Hwy, Hammond, LA 70403. (kscriscione@vt.edu)
- 9:00 Break**
- 9:15 Effect of Paclobutrazol on the Freeze Tolerance of Hybrid Bermudagrass Varieties.** Mingying Xiang<sup>1</sup>, Mujibur Rahman Khan<sup>1</sup>, Shuhao Yu<sup>1</sup>, Dennis Martin<sup>1</sup>, Yanqi Wu<sup>2</sup>, and Charles Fontanier<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, <sup>2</sup>Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK (my.xiang@okstate.edu)
- 9:30 Effects of Nurser Container Color and Fertilizer Rates on Growth of *Cestrum corymbosum*.** Jeremy M. Pickens<sup>1\*</sup>, Jacob H. Shreckhise<sup>2</sup> and Paul C. Bartley<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, 2USDA-ARS, US National Arboretum, Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit, Otis Floyd Nursery Research Center, McMinnville, TN 37110 (Jeremy.pickens@auburn.edu)
- 9:45 The Price of Transitioning to Battery-Powered Landscape Maintenance.** Paul C. Bartley<sup>1\*</sup>, Kati Kent<sup>1</sup>, and Mark Hoffman<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>101 Funchess Hall, Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>2</sup>Wiggins Hall, 354 War Eagle Way, Department of Mechanical Engineering Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (paul.bartley@auburn.edu)

**10:00 A new era for Ornamental Rhizome Perennial Peanut (*Arachis glabrata*).** Leynar Leyton<sup>1\*</sup>, Ann Blount<sup>2</sup>, Gary Knox<sup>1</sup>, and Cheryl Mackowiak<sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Environmental Horticulture Department, University of Florida, UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, 155 Research Rd. Quincy, FL 3235, <sup>2</sup>Agronomy Department, University of Florida, UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, 155 Research Rd. Quincy, FL 32351, <sup>3</sup>Department of Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences, University of Florida, UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, 155 Research Rd. Quincy, FL 32351. (l.leytonnaranjo@ufl.edu)

## FRUIT CROPS

**Room:** Meeting Room 4

**Presiding:** Edgar Vinson, Chair  
vinsoed@auburn.edu

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**8:00 Evaluating Heat and drought Stress, Yield Optimization, and Adaptability of Wine Grapes in Texas.** Chadwick Watters<sup>1\*</sup>, Justin Scheiner<sup>2</sup>, and Patrick O'Brien<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2134, <sup>2</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 1102 E. Drew Street, Lubbock, TX 79403. (chade.watters@tamu.edu)

**8:15 Seed Nanopriming with Copper Enhances Yield, Quality, and Potential Health-Promoting Attributes in Tomato Fruit.** Deepak Kumar Jha<sup>1\*</sup>, Vikas Dadwal<sup>1</sup>, Braulio Cervantes Paz<sup>1</sup>, Carlos A. Avila<sup>2</sup> and Bhimanagouda S. Patil<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, USDA National Center of Excellence Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite A120, College Station, TX 77845, <sup>2</sup>Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 2415 E Hwy 83,

Weslaco, TX 78596.  
(deepakkumar.jha@ag.tamu.edu)

**8:30 Seed Nanopriming with Copper (Cu) Enhances Yield, Quality, and Potential Health-Promoting Attributes in Tomato Fruit.** Deepak Kumar Jha\* and Bhimanagouda S. Patil, Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, USDA National Center of Excellence Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, Suite A120, College Station, TX 77845. (deepakkumar.jha@ag.tamu.edu)

**8:45 Effects of intermittent warm temperature exposure on progression of chill accumulation during peach floral bud dormancy.** Ashley Sorrow<sup>1\*</sup>, Anish Malladi<sup>1</sup>, Dario J. Chavez<sup>2</sup>, and Savithri U. Nambeesan<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 30602, <sup>2</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA, 30223. (ars30626@uga.edu)

**9:00 An Update on Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) Production in the Southeastern Region of the United States.** Kirk W. Pomper\*, Sheri Crabtree, and Jeremiah Lowe, Land Grant Program, College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40601-2334. (kirk.pomper@kysu.edu)

**9:15 Genomic Characterization of Mutation-Bred Pears by Long-Read Sequencing.** June Labbancz\* and Amit Dhingra, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-2133. (junelabbancz@tamu.edu)

**9:30 Break**

**9:45 Impact of Different Strains of *Lachancea thermotolerans* Yeast on Acids and Sugars during Wine Fermentation of Arkansas-Grown Chambourcin Grapes.** Amanda J. Fleming\* and Renee T. Threlfall<sup>1</sup>, 2650 N. Young Avenue, Food Science Department, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72704. (ajflemin@uark.edu)

**10:00 Introducing a New Research Program: Advancing Sustainability and Quality in Grapes and Other Tree Crops for Texas and Beyond.** Lorenzo Rossi\*. Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M

University, College Station, TX 77843-2133. (l.rossi@tamu.edu)

**10:15 An Efficient Non-Buffered UPLC-FLD Gradient Method for Identifying gamma-aminobutyric acid and Essential Amino Acids in Tomatoes.** Vikas Dadwal, Deepak Kumar Jha, Braulio Cervantes, Sangeeta Balyan, Bhimanagouda S. Patil\*. Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, College Station, TX, 77845. (b-patil@tamu.edu)

**10:30 Golden Kiwifruit in Texas (*Actinidia chinensis* Planch.): Conclusions and Outlook from a Decade of Research.** Tim Hartmann<sup>1\*</sup>, David Creech<sup>2</sup>, and <sup>3</sup>James Spiers. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843, <sup>2</sup>SFA Gardens, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. <sup>3</sup>Department of Horticulture, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849. (Timothy.Hartmann@ag.tamu.edu)

## POSTHARVEST AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

**Room:** Meeting Room 3  
**Presiding:** Renee Threlfall, Chair  
rthrelf@uark.edu

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**8:00 Texture Comparison of Rabbiteye Blueberry Cultivars Grown in Two Locations.** Peter Ephraim<sup>1\*</sup>, Camilla Rodrigues<sup>2</sup>, Sushan Ru<sup>2</sup>, Mike Miller<sup>3</sup>, Suzanne Johanningsmeier<sup>4</sup>, and Marlee Trandel-Hayse<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, 101 Funchess Hall, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>2</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, CASIC Building, Auburn, AL 36832, <sup>3</sup>Auburn University, Department of Biological Sciences, 101 Rouse Life

Sciences Building, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>4</sup>United States Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Services (USDA-ARS), Food Science and Market Quality & Handling Research Unit, Raleigh, NC 27606. (pze0011@auburn.edu)

**8:15 Consumer Sensory Evaluation of Five U.S.-Grown Specialty Black Teas in Comparison to an Imported Brand Name Tea.** Yan Chen<sup>1\*</sup>, Witoon Prinyawiwatku<sup>2</sup>, and Zhimin Xu<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, 104 Sturgis, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup>School of Nutrition and Food Sciences, 201B Animal and Food Sciences Laboratories Building, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (yachen@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**8:30 An Efficient Solvent System for the Extraction of Lycopene and its Isomers from Tomato Fruit.** Braulio Cervantes-Paz\*, Vikas Dadwal, Deepak K. Jha, and Bhimanagouda Patil. Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 1500 Research Parkway, A120 College Station, TX 77845. (bhimaganouda.patil@agnet.tamu.edu)

**8:45 Rabbiteye Blueberry Cultivar Assessment of Postharvest Composition and Phytonutrient Quality Between Two Locations.** Clarisse Cochran-Chipura<sup>1\*</sup>, Sushan Ru<sup>2</sup>, Elaina Coneva<sup>1</sup>, Sungeun Cho<sup>3</sup> and Marlee Trandel-Hayse<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, 101 Funchess Hall, Auburn AL 36849, <sup>2</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, CASIC Building, Auburn AL 36849, <sup>3</sup>Auburn University, Department of Poultry Science, 201 Poultry Science Building, Auburn AL 36849. (czc0258@auburn.edu)

**9:00 Break**

**9:15 Effect of Microwave Assisted Pasteurized and Sonicated Edible Coatings on the Post-harvest Quality of Blackberries.** Muhammad Nadeem<sup>1\*</sup> and Muhammad A. Shahid<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Horticultural Science Department, North Florida Research and Education Center, University of Florida/IFAS, Quincy, FL, 32351. (mshahid@ufl.edu)

**9:30 Comparison of Six Carotenoids in Red and Green Butterhead Lettuce Grown in**

**Different Production Systems.** Marlee Trandel-Hayse<sup>1\*</sup>, Alan Walters<sup>2</sup>, Victor Hugo<sup>3</sup> and Melissa Boersma<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, 101 Funchess Hall, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>2</sup>Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, School of Forestry and Horticulture, Carbondale, IL 62901, <sup>3</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, CASIC Building, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>4</sup>Mass Spectrometry Lab, Auburn University, 172 Chemistry Building, Auburn, AL 36849. (mat0141@auburn.edu)

**9:45 Postharvest Evaluation of Two Blackberry Cultivars Treated with 1-Methylcyclopropene.** Marlee Trandel-Hayse<sup>1</sup>, Eugene Asare<sup>2</sup>, Jay Spiers<sup>1</sup>, and Edgar Vinson<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Auburn University, Department of Horticulture, 101 Funchess Hall, Auburn, AL 36849, <sup>2</sup>Chilton Research & Extension Center, 120 Country Road 756, Clanton AL 35045. (mat0141@auburn.edu)

**10:00 *Pyrus communis*: A Model System to Study Ripening and Senescence.** Amit Dhingra, Department of Horticultural Sciences, Texas A&M University, 495 Horticulture Road, College Station, TX 77843. (amit.dhingra@ag.tamu.edu)

## SAAS Meetings

### SAAS Board Meeting

**Bldg/Room:** Junior Ballroom B  
**Time:** 2:30 PM–3:30 PM

### SAAS General Business Meeting

**Bldg/Room:** Junior Ballroom B  
**Time:** 4:00 PM–4:30 PM

### SAAS Social

**Place:** Grand Loft (Southern Exchange)  
**Time:** 5:00 PM – until

## WORKING GROUPS

(Contact Chairs for Agenda and order of business meeting and presentations if not given)

### National Sweet Potato Collaborators

**Room:** Harmony A  
**Presiding:** Tristan Watson, Chair  
 twatson@agcenter.lsu.edu

**Friday** 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Saturday** 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

#### Oral Presentations:

**Sweet Potato Research & Development in Quebec, Canada.** Carlos Martin\*, Nordany Brokers Inc., 189 Saint Regis, St. Roch de l' Achigan, QC, Canada. (camarba46@hotmail.com)

**Plant Growth Regulator Impact on Sweetpotato Slip Development.** Kerington Bass<sup>1\*</sup>, Lorin Harvey<sup>2</sup>, Bi Guihong<sup>3</sup>, Richard Harkess<sup>3</sup>, and Kelsey Harvey<sup>3</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Plant and Soil Science, Mississippi State University, MS, 39762. (kb3270@msstate.edu)

**Weevil Damage after Intercropping Sweetpotato with Jicama.** Daryl A. Richards Jr.\*, Imhotep Charles, and Thomas W. Zimmerman, University of the Virgin Islands, School of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Station, 10,000 Castle Burke, Kingshill, VI 00850. (daryl.richards@uvi.edu)

**Curing me softly: simulated water deprivation increases continuity and area of lignified tissue in 'Beauregard' sweetpotato periderm.** Arthur Villordon<sup>1\*</sup>, Marissa Barbosa<sup>2</sup>, Mae Ann Bravo<sup>2</sup>, and Don LaBonte<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324, <sup>2</sup>LSU School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (avillordon@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Reducing Sweetpotato Infection Through Vector Management.** Rachel Morrison<sup>1\*</sup>, Lorin Harvey<sup>2</sup>, Natraj Krishnan<sup>1</sup>, Sead Sabanozovic<sup>1</sup>, and Fred Musser<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Agriculture Science and Plant Protection, Mississippi State University, MS 39762, <sup>2</sup>Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863. (rem555@msstate.edu)

**Genome-wide Association Study (GWAS) to Analyze the Genetic Variation of Fusarium Wilt Resistance in Louisiana Sweetpotato Population.** Ajay Dhungana<sup>1\*</sup>, Imana Power<sup>2</sup>, Phillip A. Wadl<sup>3</sup>, and Don R. LaBonte<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, Louisiana State University, 104 Sturgis Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup>Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, 302 Life Sciences Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>3</sup>United States Vegetable Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Research Service, Charleston, SC 29414. (adhung4@lsu.edu)

**Recent Developments in Understanding Acrylamide Formation in Fried Sweetpotatoes.** Matthew C. Allan<sup>1\*</sup>, Baker Stickley<sup>2</sup>, Jonathan Schultheis<sup>2</sup>, and Suzanne D. Johanningsmeier<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>USDA Agricultural Research Service, Food Science and Market Quality and Handling Research Unit, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, <sup>2</sup> Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (matthew.allan@usda.gov)

**Consumer Risk Perceptions of Sweetpotato Products and Processes.** Rebekah Brown<sup>1\*</sup>, and Jonathan Allen<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Food, Bioprocessing and Nutrition Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (rmwilso2@ncsu.edu)

**Variation in Root Architectural Adaptations in Putatively Low- and High Lead-Accumulating Sweetpotato Cultivars.** Mae Ann Bravo<sup>1</sup>, Marissa Barbosa<sup>1</sup>, Brenda Tubana<sup>1</sup>, Jack Baricuatro<sup>2</sup>, and Arthur Villordon<sup>3</sup>, <sup>1</sup>LSU School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup> Department of Chemistry and Physics, LSU-Shreveport, Shreveport, LA, <sup>3</sup>LSU AgCenter



Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324. (mbravo4@lsu.edu)

**Evidence for the Crucial Role of Nitrogen in Mediating Sink Strength and Storage Root Formation in Sweetpotato cv. Beauregard.** Marissa B. Barbosa<sup>1\*</sup>, Lisa I. Arce<sup>1</sup>, Mae Ann A. Bravo<sup>1</sup>, Mary Ann A. Munda<sup>1</sup>, Arthur Q. Villordon<sup>2</sup>, Cole Gregorie<sup>2</sup>, and Don Labonte<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>LSU AgCenter School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup>LSU AgCenter Sweetpotato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324. (mbarbosa@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Genotype Reveal: Variation in Nitrate and Phosphate Signaling Responses Highlight Sweetpotato Cultivar Differences During the Onset of Storage Root Formation.** Lisa Arce<sup>1\*</sup>, Don LaBonte<sup>1</sup>, Arthur Villordon<sup>2</sup>, Cole Gregorie<sup>2</sup>, Mae Ann Bravo<sup>1</sup>, Marissa Barbosa<sup>1</sup>, and Mary Ann Munda<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>LSU AgCenter School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup>LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station, Chase, LA 71324. (larce@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Discovery of a major QTL for resistance to Fusarium wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. batatas) in ‘Covington’ sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batatas*).** Simon Fraher<sup>1\*</sup>, Jonathan Kinczyk, Gabriel Gesteira<sup>1</sup>, Chris Heim<sup>1</sup>, Sharon Williamson<sup>1</sup>, Bode Olukolu<sup>2</sup>, Guilherme Pereira<sup>3</sup>, Marcelo Mollinari<sup>1</sup>, Zhao-Bang Zeng<sup>1</sup>, Lina Quesada-Ocampo<sup>4</sup>, and Craig Yencho<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA, <sup>2</sup>University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Knoxville, TN, USA, <sup>3</sup>Department of Agronomy, Federal University of Viçosa, Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil, <sup>4</sup>Department of Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA. (spfraher@ncsu.edu)

**Optimizing Light Intensity for Rooted Cuttings Production of Sweetpotato (*Ipomoea batata* L.) at the Micropropagation and Repository Unit (MPRU).** Sofía Ruiz<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Christie Almeyda<sup>2</sup>, and Ricardo Hernández<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Horticultural Science Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, <sup>2</sup>Micropropagation and Repository Unit, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (truiuze@ncsu.edu)

**Rotation, Cover Crop, and Fumigation Impacts on Guava Root-Knot Nematode Incidence in Field Studies in ‘Covington’ Sweetpotato.** Baker Stickley<sup>1\*</sup>, Jonathan Schultheis<sup>1</sup>, Adrienne Gorny<sup>2</sup>, Jessica Dotray<sup>2</sup>, and Brandon Parker<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Horticultural Science Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, <sup>2</sup>Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (bestickl@ncsu.edu)

**The Relationships Between Generation, Virus Loads, and Yield in US Sweetpotatoes: Final Results From a Multi-State Trial.** Rebecca Wasserman-Olin<sup>\*</sup>, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523. (Rebecca.Wasserman-Olin@colostate.edu)

**Blind Ring Test at the Sweetpotato Clean Centers: Efforts to improve virus testing protocols.** Christie Almeyda<sup>1\*</sup>, Lorin Harvey<sup>2</sup>, Imana Power<sup>3</sup>, Sathish Ponniah<sup>4</sup>, and Maher Al Rwahnih<sup>5</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Micropropagation and Repository Unit, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, <sup>2</sup>Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863, <sup>3</sup>Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>4</sup>University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, AR 71601, <sup>5</sup>Foundation Plant Services, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. (cvalmeyd@ncsu.edu)

**Effect of sanitizer, fungicide, and packing line configuration on postharvest management of sweetpotato black rot caused by *Ceratocystis fimbriata*.** Hunter Collins<sup>\*</sup>, and Lina Quesada-Ocampo, North Carolina State University and NC Plant Sciences Initiative, Raleigh, NC 27606. (shcollin@ncsu.edu)

**Resistance and susceptibility mechanisms of sweetpotatoes coinfecting with sweetpotato chlorotic stunt and sweetpotato pakakuy viruses.** Francis Wanjohi Kiemo<sup>2\*</sup>, Pál Salamon<sup>1</sup>, Zoltán Tóth<sup>1</sup>, and Zoltán Szabó<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Institute of Genetics and Biotechnology, Applied Plant Genomics Group, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Godollo, Hungary, <sup>2</sup>North Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station, Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, Mississippi, USA. (fwk11@msstate.edu)

**A Sweet Surprise: *Drosophila hydei* unveiled as a key vector of Sweetpotato Black Rot.**

Kelly Avila<sup>1\*</sup>, Madison Stahr<sup>1</sup>, Amanda Lytle<sup>1</sup>, Anders Huseth<sup>1</sup>, Matt Bertone<sup>1</sup> and Lina Quesada-Ocampo<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology and NC Plant Sciences Initiative, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (kjavila@ncsu.edu)

**Occurrence of fungal plant pathogens in sweetpotato production in Uganda, Africa.**

Carlos Morales\*, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (camorales@ncsu.edu)

**Evaluation of Sweetpotato Cultivars for Resistance to the Reniform Nematode.**

Timothy Miller<sup>1\*</sup>, and Tristan Watson<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, LSU AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (TSMiller@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Optimizing Sweetpotato Breeding With Data Management.**

Russell Mierop\*, NCSU Sweetpotato Breeding and Genetics Program, (ramierop@ncsu.edu)

**Impact of Seed Generation on Yield and Virus Infection for Several Varieties: A CleanSEED Project Update from California.**

C. S. Stoddard<sup>1\*</sup>, and J.O. de Souza<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>UC Cooperative Extension, Merced, CA 95341, <sup>2</sup>UC Davis Foundation Plant Science, Davis, CA 95616. (csstoddard@ucanr.edu)

**Effect of Potash Rate and Harvest Timing on Covington Sweetpotato Sizing.**

Brandon Parker\*, Jonathan Schultheis, Stu Michel, and Baker Stickley, Horticulture Science Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (bkparker@ncsu.edu)

**Enhancing the Market Quality of Fresh Produce Using Sweetpotato-Based Nanoparticle Coatings.**

Ragab Abouzeid<sup>1\*</sup>, David Picha<sup>2</sup>, and Qinglin Wu<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup>School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (dpicha@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Developing New Tools to Help Manage Nematode Pests in Sweetpotato.**

William B. Rutter<sup>1\*</sup>, Phil Wadl<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Wram<sup>2</sup>, Hannah Baker<sup>1</sup>, Julianna Culbreath<sup>1</sup>,

Churamani Khanal<sup>3</sup>, Tyler Slonecki<sup>4</sup>, and Tyr Wiesner-Hanks<sup>4</sup>, <sup>1</sup>U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, USDA-ARS, Charleston, SC 29414, <sup>2</sup>USDA-ARS Mycology & Nematology Genetic Diversity & Biology Laboratory, USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD 20705. <sup>3</sup>Clemson University, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, 105 Collings St., Clemson, SC 29634, <sup>4</sup>Breeding Insight, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. (William.rutter@usda.gov)

**Effect of Chelated Iron as a Safener to Various Herbicide Treatments on 'Covington' Sweetpotato.**

Keith D. Starke<sup>1\*</sup>, Katherine M. Jennings<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan R. Schultheis<sup>1</sup>, David W. Monks<sup>1</sup>, and David L. Jordan<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA, <sup>2</sup>Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA. (kdstarke@ncsu.edu)

**Integrated Pest Management of Potyviruses: Evaluating the Effects of Border Crops and Alternative Controls in Sweetpotato Fields.**

Reuel Pablo\*, Berenice Romero, and Jeffrey A. Davis, Department of Entomology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA. (rpablo@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Identification of Genetic Loci Associated with Resistance to Root-Knot Nematodes and Insect Pests of Sweetpotato.**

Phillip A. Wadl<sup>1</sup>, Hannah E. Baker<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Wram<sup>2</sup>, Cris Taniguti<sup>3</sup>, Bhoja Basnet<sup>3</sup>, John Coffey<sup>1</sup>, Dongyan Zhao<sup>3</sup>, Tyler J. Slonecki<sup>3</sup>, Manoj Sapkota<sup>3</sup>, and William B. Rutter<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC 29414, <sup>2</sup>USDA, ARS, Mycology and Nematology Genetic Diversity and Biology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD 20705, <sup>3</sup>Breeding Insight, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853. (Phillip.wadl@usda.gov)

**Identifying the weed species hosting sweetpotato potyviruses.**

Ajitha Ravikumar<sup>1</sup>, Elijah Agene<sup>1</sup>, and Sathish K. Ponniah<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, AR 71601 (ponniahs@uapb.edu)

**Estimating the effect of sweetpotato potyvirus on different generations of the Beauregard variety.**

Linda Mukiri<sup>1\*</sup>, and Sathish K. Ponniah<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Pine Bluff, AR 71601. (ponniahs@uapb.edu)



**Poster Presentations:****SCRI CleanSEED Update: Sweetpotato virus testing, LED lights, and hardening tests.**

Sofia Ruiz<sup>1,2</sup>, Chunying Li<sup>1</sup>, Ricardo Hernández<sup>2</sup>, Carlos Santos<sup>1</sup>, Marcos Martinez<sup>1</sup> and Christie Almeyda<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Micropropagation and Repository Unit (MPRU), Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695, <sup>2</sup>Controlled Environment Agriculture, Department of Horticultural Science, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27695. (truizve@ncsu.edu)

**Physicochemical Properties of Sweetpotato Starch.**

Mohamed Abd El-Aal<sup>1</sup>, Ragab Abouzeid<sup>1</sup>, David Picha<sup>2</sup> and Qinglin Wu<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>School of Renewable Natural Resources, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, <sup>2</sup>School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (dpicha@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Screening Sweetpotato Germplasm for Resistance to *Meloidogyne incognita*.**

Hannah E. Baker<sup>1</sup>, Catherine Wram<sup>2</sup>, William B. Rutter<sup>1</sup>, and Phillip A. Wadl<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC 29414, <sup>2</sup>USDA, ARS, Mycology and Nematology Genetic Diversity and Biology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD 20705. (hannah.baker@usda.gov)

**Sweetpotato variety performance in spring cover crops.**

Prakriti Dhaka<sup>1,2</sup>, Juan C. Velasquez<sup>1</sup>, Giovana de Carvalho Silva<sup>1</sup>, Jianping-Zhang<sup>1</sup>, and Nilda Roma-Burgos<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, <sup>2</sup>Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR (prakriti@uark.edu)

**Machine Learning Analysis of Hyperspectral Images for Remote Detection of Sweet Potato Feathery Mottle Virus.**

Clayton Poplin Blake<sup>1</sup>, Madison Flasco<sup>1</sup>, and Imana L. Power<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70803. (Cblake@agcenter.lsu.edu)

**Sweetpotato Variety Development in CA.**

C.S. Stoddard, UC Cooperative Extension, Merced, CA 95341. (csstoddard@ucanr.edu)

**Watermelon Research Group****Room: Melody 3**

**Presiding:** Brian Ward

bw@clemson.edu

**Saturday 9:30 am – 5:00 pm**

**Presentation:** Preferably email your PowerPoint to Chair prior to meeting or inform Chair you will bring to meetings on a USB drive .

**Abstracts:** To publish your abstract in *HortScience*, email to the Chair a properly formatted Word doc prepared following the instructions at end of program.

**9:30 Introductions****10:30 Marker Assisted Backcrossing for Gummy Stem Blight Resistance in Watermelon.**

Cecilia McGregor<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Samikshya Rijal<sup>3</sup>, Amelia Boettcher<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, 1111 Miller Plant Science Bldg., Athens, GA, 30302, <sup>2</sup>Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics, University of Georgia, 1111 Miller Plant Science Bldg., Athens, GA, 30602, <sup>3</sup>Institute of Plant Breeding Genetics and Genomics, University of Georgia, 1109 Experiment St, Griffin, GA 30223. (cmcgrel@uga.edu)

**10:45 Watermelon Breeding for Diseases Resistance and Fruit Quality Using QTL mapping and Genomic Selection.**

Rahul Kumar<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Azeez Ahmed Shaik<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Jennifer Ikerd<sup>3</sup>, Raghupathy Karthikeyan<sup>2</sup>, Kousik Chandrasekar<sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup>ORISE Participant, USDA ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC 29414. <sup>2</sup>Clemson University, Agricultural Sciences Department, Clemson, SC 29631. <sup>3</sup>USDA ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC 29414. (rkumar2@clemson.edu)

**11:00 Salinity Tolerance in Watermelon.**

Azeezahmed Shaik<sup>1, 2\*</sup>, Rahul Kumar<sup>1, 2</sup>, Raghupathy Karthikeyan<sup>1</sup>, and Chandrasekar Kousik<sup>2</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Clemson University, Agricultural Sciences Department, Charleston, SC 29414, <sup>2</sup>USDA ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC 29414. zeezah@clemson.edu

**11:15 Adjusted nutrient management and rootstock effects on flowering and yield in grafted seedless watermelon production.**

Jason Hollick\* and Chieri Kubota, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210. (hollick.4@osu.edu)

**11:30 Evaluation of Biostimulants for Efficacy on Triploid Watermelon Yield and Quality.** Seunghyun Choi\*, Joshua T. Harvey, and Daniel I. Leskovar, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Uvalde, TX 78801. (d-leskovar@tamu.edu)

**11:45 Exploration of Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation for Use in Conventional Watermelon.** Matt Cutulle<sup>1\*</sup>, Brian Ward<sup>1</sup>, Gilbert Miller<sup>2</sup>, Bhupinder Jatana<sup>2</sup>, Bhupinder Farmaha<sup>2</sup> and Angela Rainwater<sup>3</sup>. <sup>1</sup> Clemson University, Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC, 29414, <sup>2</sup>Clemson University, Edisto Research and Education Center, Blackville, SC, 29817, <sup>3</sup>Growers for Grace, Aiken, SC, 29803. (mcutull@clemson.edu)

**12:00 pm Break for Lunch**

**1:00 Designing a Nutrient Film Technique Hydroponics System for Assessing Salinity Tolerance in Watermelon Varieties.** Joseph Bazzle<sup>1\*</sup>, Matt Cutulle<sup>1</sup>, William Bridges<sup>2</sup>, Amnon. Levi<sup>3</sup>, Sandra Branham<sup>1</sup>, Brian Ward<sup>1</sup>, William P. Wechter<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Clemson University, Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC, 29414, <sup>2</sup>Clemson University, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. Clemson, SC, 29631, <sup>3</sup>USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC, 29414. (jbazzle@g.clemson.edu)

**1:15 Optimizing experimental criteria for measuring drought tolerance in wild vs cultivated watermelon genotypes.** Ben Hyland<sup>1\*</sup>, William Bridges<sup>2</sup>, Amnon. Levi<sup>3</sup>, Matt Cutulle<sup>1</sup>, Sandra Branham<sup>1</sup> Brian Ward<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Clemson University, Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC, 29414, <sup>2</sup>Clemson University, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. Clemson, SC, 29631, <sup>3</sup>USDA, ARS, U.S. Vegetable Laboratory, Charleston, SC, 29414. (bahylan@clemson.edu)

**1:30 Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation Performance on Weed Control and Watermelon Yield and Quality.** Sohaib Chatta<sup>1\*</sup>, Brian Ward<sup>1</sup>, Bhupinder Farmaha<sup>2</sup>,

Michael Marshall<sup>2</sup>, Matt Cutulle<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>Clemson University, Coastal Research and Education Center, Charleston, SC, 29414, <sup>2</sup>Clemson University, Edisto Research and Education Center, Blackville, SC, 29817. (mchatth@g.clemson.edu)

**1:45 2024 Standard Size Watermelon Cultigen Yield and Results for North Carolina.** Jonathan R. Schultheis\*, Stuart Michel, Brandon Parker, and Baker E. Stickley. Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, 2721 Founders Drive, Kilgore Bldg, Raleigh, NC 27695-7609. (jonr@ncsu.edu)

**2:00 Break**

**2:20 Additional Research, Extension, and Industry Talks (Open Forum)**

**4:00 Break**

**4:15 – 5:00 Wrap up and Discussions**

## Southern Fruit Workers

**Presiding:** Rachel Itle  
ritle@uga.edu  
**Room:** Melody 2  
**Friday:** 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

## Horticulture Administrators

**Presiding:** Chris Gunter, Chair  
cc.gunter@ufl.edu  
**Room:** Rhythm Boardroom  
**Friday:** 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

## Instructions for Submission of Abstracts for Publication in *HortScience*

- 1) One of the authors must be registered for the conference.
- 2) The title of the abstract must appear in the published conference program.
- 3) The abstract must be submitted as a doc file properly formatted.
- 4) The abstract must be submitted to the Chair of the session by the deadline.

### Presenters: Submission of Abstract to Chair by Meeting

**Guidelines** Each abstract must be submitted to the Chair as a separate Word (.doc) file; on a single page. Place an asterisk after the presenting author's name (example: Shem Elias\*)

**Font** 12 pt font; use Sans, New Times Roman or similar font that preserves superscripts

**Length:** Limit the abstract body to about 2000 characters.

**Deadline:** 1) At meeting: Give USB with file to the Chair of the session.

1) Before meeting: Email abstracts to the Chair of the session

2) Chair may offer a few days grace period after the meeting

### Chairs: Submit Abstract to Secretary Treasurer by February 15

**Email** dwreed@tamu.edu

**Guidelines** Send all abstracts from a section as one Word Doc file; with abstracts in the desired order, and one abstract per page. ONLY properly formatted abstracts will be published. Submit as a single Word document.

The file should be saved as SR plus the section name and the year (example: SREducation2024.docx)

### Example Format

#### **Molecular Marker-Derived Genetic Similarity Analysis of a Segregating Blackberry Population**

Eric T. Stafne\*<sup>1</sup>, John R. Clark<sup>1</sup>, and Kim S. Lewers<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>316 Plant Sciences, Department of Horticulture, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701, <sup>2</sup>USDA-ARS Fruit Lab, 10300 Baltimore Ave., BARC-West Bldg. 010A, Beltsville, MD 20705

A tetraploid blackberry population that segregates for two important morphological traits, thornlessness and primocane fruiting, was tested with molecular marker analysis. Both randomly amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) and simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers were used to screen a population of 98 genotypes within the population plus the two parents, 'Arapaho' and 'Prime-Jim'<sup>®</sup> (APF-12). RAPD analysis averaged 3.4 markers per primer, whereas SSR analysis yielded 3.0 markers per primer pair. Similarity coefficient derived from the Dice index averaged over all individuals was 63% for RAPD markers, 73% for SSR markers, and 66% for RAPD and SSR markers together. The average similarity coefficients ranged from a high of 72% to a low of 38% for RAPD markers, 80% to 57% for SSR markers, and 73% to 55% for both. Comparison of the parents indicated a similarity of 67% for RAPD markers, 62% for SSR markers, and 67% for both. This is similar to a previous study that reported the similarity coefficient at 66%. Although inbreeding exists within the population, the level of heterozygosity is high. Also, evidence of tetrasomic inheritance was uncovered within the molecular marker analysis. This population will be used to identify potential markers linked to both morphological traits of interest. Further genetic linkage analysis and mapping is needed to identify any putative markers.

## 2025 Program at a Glance

The Weston Irving Convention Center	Friday, January 31														
	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:00					
Prefunction Area	7:00 open <span style="float: right;">Registration</span>														
Prefunction Area	Poster Room Set-up				Authors set-up posters as they arrive				Poster Viewing						
Harmony A	National Sweetpotato Collaborators														
Melody 2	Southern Fruit Workers														
Melody 3	Watermelon Research Group														
Rhythm Boardroom											Horticulture Administrators			Executive Com.	
Harmony B	ACB Club Share and Networking				ACB Activities, Tour, Meal or TBA						ACB Mixer TBA				
Harmony D	National ASHS Board of Directors														
Saturday, February 1															
	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:00					
Prefunction Area	7:00 open <span style="float: right;">Registration</span>														
Prefunction Area	Poster Viewing All Day				Author at Even Number Poster				Author at Odd Number Poster				Remove Poster		
Harmony E/F	Judging Contest Set-Up				J. Benton Storey Horticulture Judging Contest						ACB Scoring				
Harmony A	National Sweetpotato Collaborators														
Melody 3	Watermelon Research Group														
Harmony B	Education		Extension				Floriculture, Ornamentals and Turf								
Harmony D	Fruit Crops Section						Vegetables								
Melody 1	J. B. Edmond UG Oral Paper Competition				Warren Barham Ph.D. Graduate Student Paper Competition										
Melody 2	Norman F. Childers M.S. Oral Paper Competition														
Sunday, February 2															
	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00	5:00					
SAAS Registration Desk	7:00 open <span style="float: right;">Registration</span>														
Junior Ballroom B	ACB Business Meeting				Business Mtg/Awards Prog.										
Meeting Room 1	Vegetable Crops Section														
Meeting Room 2	Floriculture, Ornamentals & Turf Section														
Meeting Room 4	Fruit Crops Section														
Meeting Room 3	Postharvest & Biotechnology Section														
Junior Ballroom B							SAAS Board Mtg			SAAS Business Mtg					
Grand Loft															SAAS Social



At  
**ASHS New Orleans**

