



# GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

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## Seed for Thought

*Roger Boerma, Executive Director*

**The Power of Vision** - I had the privilege and honor the second week of May to participate and speak at the UGA Plant Center's 30th Anniversary Joe L. Key Symposium. Dr. Key (*Pictured Right*) was a Professor and Executive Vice-President for Research at UGA, the first Program Director for the USDA Competitive Grants Program in Washington DC, the Research Director for the Agrigenetics Company, and a mentor for numerous graduate students and post-doctoral associates in plant molecular biology at UGA and Purdue University.



I first met Dr. Key in 1973 when I began my career as a soybean breeder at the University of Georgia. He became a mentor and friend to me. Dr. Key possessed many positive attributes, but one of his most prominent was his vision where science needed to go and its resultant impact on agriculture. This vision was conveyed in the research that he conducted, the programs that he supported, the people he hired, and the organizations that he created and supported. Although he was a fundamental plant molecular biologist, his degrees in agronomy from the University of Illinois allowed him to keep his focus on the importance of the actual application of fundamental research findings to agriculture.

His impacts on plant molecular biology and agriculture were articulated by each of the 14 scientists on the program. The careers of each of these speakers had been directly influenced by Dr. Key's vision and guidance. The speakers included two National Academy of Sciences members and a scientist that had been 'knighted' by the Queen of England for his research accomplishments.

From the perspective of those of us in the seed, turfgrass, and nursery industries, his vision resulted or directly contributed to the following; i) approval of the "GSD-UGARF 97 Agreement", ii) development of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations Cultivar Development Program, iii) administration of a \$27 million Georgia Research Alliance Plant and Animal Genome Initiative, iv) building of the Center for Applied Genetic Technologies (CAGT) facility in Athens (*Pictured Below*) v) recruitment of Dr. Andrew Paterson to UGA and his contributions to the sequencing of the cotton and sorghum genomes, vi) recruitment of Dr. Scott Jackson to UGA as a Georgia Research Alliance/Georgia Seed Development Eminent Scholar in Crop Genomics and his contributions to sequencing the peanut genome, and vii) the creation of the Institute of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics and its MS and PhD graduate programs.



I could list additional contributions of Dr. Key, but I believe it is obvious that he headed a revolution in plant molecular biology that has had a profound and lasting influence on our ability to breed better plants. These "people with vision" propel us to advance as a society.

## Licensing

SIGN  
HERE

*Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger*

With most of the spring crops planted our licensing activity has begun to slow. We are currently in the process of licensing Dr. Conner's new pecan variety, 'Avalon'. We are anticipating a large interest this fall in licensing three new soybean varieties (one R2Y and two Liberty Links) that have been released by Dr. Zenglu Li. We have already had several companies making inquiries about these varieties. We will have Foundation production fields of each of these new soybean varieties this summer that potential licensees can visit. We also continue to receive inquiries about UGA blueberries varieties from potential licensees.

## Marketing

*Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger*

As spring approached the trade show season began winding down. I attended the Southern AOSCA meeting in Lexington KY with Terry Hollifield and Billy Skaggs in April. The meeting was very well attended and I was able to talk with personnel from several of the other Southern Foundation Seed Programs.

This spring I helped arranged a tour of Dr. Johnson and Dr. Mergoum wheat breeding program in Griffin and Plains for personnel from one of our relatively new licensee's, Meherrin Agricultural and Chemical Company. I met with Dr. Johnson and the Meherrin representatives in Plains where we looked at potential future variety releases and other varietal research. This meeting with Meherrin gave us the opportunity to discuss their future plans and to see what characteristics they desired in a new wheat variety for their market area. While we were in Plains I was able to show them the Foundation seed production field we are producing for them this year.



*Visiting with Licensees*

## Education

*Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manger*

We hosted Dr. Donglin Zhang's Plant Propagation class on March 17th in Athens. The class had about 25 students registered this semester. The students first met in the conference room where we presented the structure, mission, and scope of Georgia Seed Development. Next, we moved to the processing plant for tours and demonstrations of the machinery, warehouses, and cold storage facility. The class was then provided a tour of the turfgrass plots and our new harvesting machinery. On April 21st GSD personnel from both the Athens and Plains locations met at the Southwest Research and Education Center in Plains to attend the GCIA Small Grains Inspector Training. This training is to help familiarize the GCIA inspectors, GSD employees, and others with the characteristics of the new and existing wheat varieties grown in Georgia. On April 26, several of the Athens personnel attended the 70th Southeastern Turfgrass Conference in Tifton.



## Processing/Production

*Doug Batchelder, Athens, and Ralph Johnson, Plains; Production Managers*

### 2016 SMALL GRAINS PRODUCTION

We have a total of 18 small grain varieties in Foundation production this year. These include one rye, two oat, and 15 wheat varieties. All of our fields were treated at flowering with a fungicide and insecticide. After observing that conditions were not highly favorable in south Georgia for the development of Fusarium Head Blight (FHB), we were surprised to see its development. It has returned and in some fields is about as serious as last year (at least in south Georgia). All of our varieties produced in south Georgia have some FHB damage ranging from 5 to 20%. Fields are now drying down quickly and we should be able to start harvesting next week. North and central Georgia appear to have escaped any serious FHB problems. We are 2 to 3 weeks from harvest in north Georgia.



*2010 E 2914 Wheat Field*



*Savoy Wheat Field*

### 2016 SOYBEAN PROCESSING

We harvested Foundation seed of G12PR-63R2 during the fall of 2015 and conditioned this seed during the winter. We also grew Breeder seed increases of three potentially new varieties (one Roundup 2Y and two Liberty Links) in Puerto Rico this winter for Dr. Zenglu Li. Seed has been shipped back to GSD and have been processed for planting this summer. We have also completed fungicide treatment on Foundation G00-3209 (AGS Woodruff), G06-3182RR (AGS 738RR), and G04-1618RR (AGS 828RR). The seed are awaiting State Seed Laboratory reports prior to shipment. Germinations of all Foundation soybean varieties produced in 2015 were initially poor, but were much improved by heavy conditioning and fungicide treatments. We will be growing around 150 acres for Foundation soybean production this summer.

### 2016 PECAN PRODUCTION



We harvested pecan graftwood in January and February for distribution to licensees. We also increased production by adding Foundation trees in Albany and the new Avalon variety in Ray City, GA. *Pictured Left: Avalon Pecan Trees*

### 2016 PEANUT PROCESSING

As of May 16 we shipped 95% of the 4.1 million pounds of the Foundation peanut seed that we processed. We had to down grade 466,000 pounds of GA 13M to sell them, but everything else was sold as Foundation seed. After receiving our 2017 Foundation peanut seed Pre-Order Forms back from the licensees, we have put together the following production plan: GA 06G -1,050 acres, GA 14N -150 acres, GA 13 M- 50 acres, GA 112720-15 acres, and Tif NV-HI O/L -15 acres. Due to GSD being at our maximum storage capacity for contracted farmer stock peanuts, Alabama Crop Improvement will be producing the Foundation seed of the GA 12Y, GA 09B, and Tifguard varieties in 2016.



## TURF PRODUCTION

The Foundation turfgrass area that GSD rents at the UGA Iron Horse Farm in Greene County now has an operational irrigation system. It was tested the first week in May and only needs timers to make it completely functional. We have been tilling our turfgrass area this spring and will have it fumigated this week if the weather cooperates.

The TifEagle (right of partition) and SeaStar (left of partition) increases at the sandbox field near the GSD offices in Athens did very well this winter. We will be able to harvest some great sprigs from these areas to plant at the Iron Horse Farm.



Sales have increased for Foundation turfgrass material. Since April, we have moved four dump trailer loads of TifTuf, a load of Tifway sod, and a load of TifGrand sod. Several additional orders for TifTuf and Tifway are in the works. For Tifway, we have two orders for washed sprigs; one for Turkey and one for Arizona.



## *New Faces in Familiar Places*



Mr. Brendan Fatzinger, native of Hoschton, Georgia is one of our two interns for the summer of 2016. Brendan is in his 4th year at UGA. He is working towards a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture, majoring in Horticulture.



Mr. Turner Spratling will also intern with GSD this summer. Turner hails from Augusta, Georgia. He is in his 3rd year at UGA and working towards his Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture, majoring in AgriScience and Environmental Sciences.

### Important Dates

- \***Georgia Seed Development Semi-Annual Meeting**, The Windsor Hotel, Americus, GA; May 25, 2016
- \***Georgia Alabama Seed Association**, King and Prince, Saint Simons Island, GA; July 10-11, 2016
- \***Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition Field Day**, Spence Field, Moultrie, GA; July 14, 2016
- \***Southern Peanut Growers Conference**, Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, FL; July 21-23, 2016

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