



GEORGIA SEED DEVELOPMENT

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September 2015 Update
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Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

I just noticed that my 4-year anniversary as Executive Director of GSD has come and gone without me realizing it. I clearly remember my first day on the job at GSD. I also recall indicating in this forum how grateful I was to have this opportunity at a “second career” in Georgia agriculture and requested your support and understanding as I worked to get up to speed. It took some time to ease out of being a UGA plant breeder and professor and to assume my new role at GSD, but I was blessed that for a year I shared with this position with Terry Hollifield. He was an outstanding mentor and went way beyond the call of duty to make certain I understood the workings of GSD. Even though UGA still allows me to serve on a number of graduate student committees and serve as an ex-officio member on their variety release committees, the transition to Executive Director was completed a number of years ago. As I stated in the July 2011 GSD Update, I consider it an honor to have been given this opportunity to lead GSD.

So what are we up to at GSD? Please take some time to read the GSD Update and find out from the GSD managers about our Foundation seed and turfgrass production and licensing, marketing, and educational activities. It is also interesting to keep up with the personnel changes at GSD. On July 31st Joseph Taylor retired after 20 years of service. In early August Timmie Hollis was hired as the new Foundation Seed Technician at Plains. Additionally, there are updates on the progress of the new peanut receiving and sampling stations at Plains.

Other ongoing initiatives at GSD include the update of GSD’s Long-range Plan. Our existing Long-range plan was developed in November of 2012. Several of us (GSD staff) recently met in Macon to provide necessary revisions and modifications to the 2012 Plan. We examined the new change agents impacting GSD and the seed and plant industries and developed the goals that will allow GSD to continue on the path of becoming the premier Foundation Seed organization in the USA. The staff’s goal is to have the updated Long-range Plan ready for Board review by this November.

Another project is the pending installation of a Georgia Historical Marker on Skidaway Island recognizing the first soybeans planted in North America. Historical documents have confirmed that the first soybean crop grown in North American was planted 250 years ago in 1765 on Henry Yonge’s Orangedale Plantation. Orangedale Plantation was located adjacent to the current University of Georgia Institute of Oceanography on Skidaway Island. We plan a formal dedication ceremony for the soybean marker on Saturday afternoon, 9 January 2016 at the Skidaway site. If you would like to join us for the dedication, please contact me (roger.boerma@gsdc.com), Terry Hollifield (terry.hollifield@georgiacrop.com), or Bill Skaggs (billy.skaggs@georgiacrop.com).



Education

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

GSD will be hosting Dr. Nick Hill's class on September 1st which will include a tour of GSD facilities and a presentation about our organization. Earlier this summer we hosted Dr. Steve Harrison's LSU Plant Breeding Tour. Dr. Boerma and I each gave a presentation to the participants and they participated in a tour of our facilities guided by Doug McWhorter, Doug Batchelder, and Corey Booth. They were able to see examples of all the different types of seed we have handled over the past few years along with being able to observe the seed cleaning and treating equipment in operation processing Foundation wheat seed.



LSU Students with Doug McWhorter identifying seed

GSD Staff Update



Mr. Joseph Taylor, GSD Foundation Seed Technician, retired at the end of July. Joseph worked for Georgia Seed Development at the Plains facility for 20 years. He was honored by his colleagues at a luncheon on 31 July 2015. He was also awarded the Georgia Seed Development Distinguished Service Recognition for his dedicated service to the peanut seed industry by Ralph Johnson (see top left photo). Please join us in wishing Joseph a long and enjoyable retirement.



Mr. Timmie Hollis (pictured bottom left) joined the GSD Plains staff as a permanent employee on August 3, 2015. He has been working with us as a temporary employee since September 2014 and doing an excellent job. Prior to joining us at GSD Timmie worked as a heavy equipment operator in the logging industry. Timmie and his wife Stefanie have one daughter, Timelia, and they reside in Sumter County.

Marketing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

We had a Georgia Integrated Cultivar Release System (GICRS) meeting on July 30th to discuss the opportunity for GICRS to be featured on the Georgia Farm Monitor. We will be meeting with representatives from the Georgia Farm Bureau about this in mid-September. We created a list of tradeshow that we are going to exhibit at this coming fall and winter. The group decided that we should add the WinterGreen 2016 show to the list for this year. This will be our first time exhibiting at this show which is held at the Gwinnett Center. The trade show schedule will begin starting in December and continuing for the next few months.

We received a request from one of our pecan licensees for a brochure that described all of the UGA-developed pecan varieties currently released from Dr. Sparks' program. Erin has designed a trifold brochure highlighting these varieties. The other licensees have been contacted to determine if they would like to have some of the new brochures. We will be using the new pecan brochures along with the blueberry brochures Erin has developed at the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable show in January.

Processing/Production

Blake Fleeman, Athens, and Ralph Johnson, Plains

2015 SMALL GRAINS PROCESSING

Plains: It was another bad year for Fusarium Head Blight in the south Georgia wheat production area. All of our varieties had some level of damage. Most of our preliminary germinations were in the 70% range. After cleaning and treating our germinations were in the upper 80 to 90% range. The addition of the gravity separator to our processing line played a major role in our ability to clean up this marginal quality seed. We processed the following wheat varieties in Plains: AGS 2040, LA 03200E-2, 26R94, LA 0614EP4, Southern Harvest 555, and Baldwin. We also processed two oat varieties- Horizon 201 and Horizon 270.

Athens: We have completed the processing of four wheat varieties, Savoy, AGS 2035, SS 8641, and GA 10E29, and are currently conditioning and treating AGS 2038. We have the following wheat varieties remaining to condition and treat: Oglethrope, GA 11LE44, GA 12E6, and GA 12LE28. Preliminary germinations were acceptable for all varieties.

2015 SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

Our production soybeans in north Georgia are at the flowering stage. We will continue checking them for flower color in the next few days.

2015 PEANUT PRODUCTION

Peanut harvest is fast approaching and overall it looks like it going to be a very large crop. I'm not expecting our first peanuts here until at least mid-September. Currently we are busy servicing equipment, cleaning warehouses, and trailers. We are looking forward to using the new air-gap cleaner (pictured on page 4) which will give us the ability to clean peanuts at a much faster pace. In the past we had to just selectively clean peanuts as time allowed. This machine will give us the capability to clean all peanuts as needed. This year we have 1,346 acres in production: 949 acres GA 06G, 238 GA 13M, 73 acres 14N, 70 acres GA 12Y, 15 acres GA 04S, and 1 acre of GA 112720.

TURF PRODUCTION

So far this summer we have filled several orders for Foundation Tifway and have a couple of more orders pending at this time. We have also been busy helping to get Foundation TifTuff distributed to the new sub-licensees. We are currently working with a producer in Thailand that has requested some Tifton 85 sprigs for planting.

The Foundation fields of TifEagle and SeaStar currently at the Plant Science Farm have been moved to the sand field at the GSD office. The proposed new Foundation turfgrass field at the Iron Horse field has the irrigation pipes in place and we have applied two applications of Roundup. Once the approval is given for work to resume at the Iron Horse Farm, we will be disking the field and preparing it for fumigation so several Foundation turfgrass blocks can be established.



Equipment and Facility Update



New Koro sprig harvester at work on the Plant Sciences Farm, Athens



Sampler Relocation progress, Plains



Air-Gap Cleaner almost completed, Plains

GSD Flag Recognition

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution presented Georgia Seed Development with a Certificate of Commendation for its display of the Flag of the United States of America. Mr. Wilbur Mull of the Sons of the American Revolution is shown presenting the certificate to Roger Boerma.



Licensing

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

The licensing activity has remained steady for the past three months. We have had several requests for amendments for current licenses. GSD just approved three license agreements for Dr. Sparks' newest pecan variety Whiddon. We are currently waiting for the licensees to sign and return the agreements to us. International turf producers continue to show interest in some of UGA's turfgrass varieties as two new license agreements have been recently signed. A new Vitex variety from Dr. Carol Robacker's program has just been licensed. Blueberries continue to be one of the active plants for licensing with the completion of two new blueberry agreements.

Important Dates

- ***Peanut Farm Tour**, Thomasville, GA; September 15-17, 2015
- ***Georgia Seed Development Annual Board Meeting**, Athens, GA, November 11, 2015
- ***EDGE Expo**, Gwinnett, GA, TBA Mid-December

Georgia Seed Development is a proud member of Georgia Grown, a program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture.
<http://georgiagrown.com>

