



Seed for Thought

Roger Boerma, Executive Director

What are you passionate about? Recently, I was discussing several performance issues with a GSD employee. I have always enjoyed my conversations with this individual and the insight he provides to the organization. After the meeting I realized that he has always brought enthusiasm to the job and was truly passionate about GSD and his responsibilities in the organization. This individual is willing to bring new ideas and global concerns to my attention because he wants GSD to be a better and more successful organization.

This realization got me to thinking about some of the characteristics of passionate employees. I found a short article on the web by Mr. Jared Brox, a marketing director for Express Employment International located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, that listed five traits that make passionate workers the drivers of successful organizations: i) They are focused- Eyes on the prize, ii) They are stubborn - But in a good way, iii) They are savvy - Constantly honing their skills, iv) They are competitive - Driven to success, and v) They are steadfast - Persevere through defeat.

Reflecting on these five traits I realized that the GSD employee described above clearly checked all five of the boxes. I had previously given thought to the fact that he could be considered somewhat stubborn on certain issues, but on further consideration, I realized he would always provide strong support for his positions, and more times than not, he was correct. When a passionate person believes in something he will campaign for the cause much longer than other individuals.

This employee is always focused on the goal and singularly driven to achieve it. He can't rest until the goal has been accomplished. Related to this characteristic is the ability to persevere through the difficult times. He works even harder on a project when faced with potential failure. If he does fail at a goal it won't be long until he has figured out what went wrong and how to repair it.

It is obvious to me that successful organizations are created by the passionate individuals that strive to achieve success. The challenge becomes how to develop and maintain this passion in ourselves and pass it on to our fellow workers.

A BRIEFING FROM BLAKE

Blake Fleeman, Licensing/Marketing Manager

Licensing

With most of the spring crops planted licensing activity has begun to slow down. We have recently finished a license request for peanuts. We are currently in the process of licensing a new greens grass from Dr. Schwartz's program. We also continue to receive inquiries about UGA blueberries from potential licensees.

Marketing/Meetings

As expected, the trade shows season begun slowing down as we approached the beginning of spring. I attended the Southern AOSCA meeting in Charleston, South Carolina with Terry Hollifield, Billy Skaggs, and Caleb Warrington in April. The meeting was very well attended and I was able to talk with several of the other Southern Foundation Seed Program managers.

This spring I helped arranged a tour for one of our licensees of Dr. Mergoum's wheat breeding program at the SWREC in Plains, Georgia. Caleb, Doug, and I joined Dr. Mergoum and the licensee to review potential new releases and to look at the wheat variety trials conducted on the station. This meeting with the licensee provided the opportunity to have a one-on-one discussion and determine the characteristic the licensee desired in a new wheat variety for their market areas.

Education

On 21 April GSD staff and met the Georgia Crop Improvement Association (GCIA) staff at the SWREC in Plains, Georgia to participate a Crop Inspector Training Session. The training was to familiarize the GCIA inspectors, GSD employees, and other attendees with the characteristic of the new and established wheat varieties. Earlier this month, I traveled to Escondido, California with Bill Carraway of The Turfgrass Group to inspect our 5 acre Foundation TifTuf production field. The existence of this field in California saves the licensee significant cost when establishing new production fields in the western USA.



Processing/Production

**Doug Batchelder, Athens, and Justin Tanner, Plains
Production Managers**

FOUNDATION SMALL GRAIN

Foundation small grain plantings for this year total 345 acres. Total acreage is up 50% from last year and we are producing Foundation wheat of 15 different licensed varieties. In addition, there are also two public varieties (Ga Gore wheat and Wrens Abruzzi rye) of Foundation small grains being produced. We are increasing five new experimental wheat lines from Dr. Mergoum's program as well as two increases for Dr. Harrison at LSU. Harvest will begin late May in South Georgia. We plan to harvest about 12,000 bushels to store and condition in the Athens facility with an additional 6,000 bushels in Plains facility.

FOUNDATION SOYBEAN

We have increased four soybean varieties this year: SH 7418LL, G17PR-1053HOLLR1, G17PR-1207HOLL, and G15PR-340. GSD has adequate Foundation seed of the three AG South varieties in cold storage for our 2023 needs.

FOUNDATION TURFGRASS

The turf plots in Athens and at the Iron Horse Farm are doing well and greening up nicely. We anticipate being ready to harvest sprigs of licensees' orders by mid-June. We have identified and inspected the location for the new Foundation TifTuf field with Super Sod in Marshallville, Georgia and plan to move forward with fumigation and planting. GSD has initiated a plan for the replacement of a portion of the Foundation TifEagle and Tifway fields at the Iron Horse Farm (required replacement due to the 5-year restriction). GSD will have both of these ¼-acre Foundation blocks replanted and ready for harvest by summer of 2023.

FOUNDATION BAHIAGRASS

Our current TifQuik Foundation field in Plains, Georgia has been fertilized and spot-sprayed for undesirable plant material. We will begin seed harvest in early July. We have also prepared land for planting an adjacent 5 acres of TifQuik to increase production for our licensees and to mitigate the natural seed production decline that occurs in older establishments of Bahiagrass.

FOUNDATION PEANUT

Our peanut acreage goal for 2022 is 2,000 acres. We will produce 13 peanut varieties, an increase of Breeder seed of the Ga 06G variety, and 7 small increases from Dr. Branch and Dr. Holbrook's breeding program. Our farmer stock goal is 4,715 tons which is an increase of 233 tons from 2021. Our production plan includes 1,500 acres of Ga 06G (400 of these acres are from the Breeder Ga 06G), 20 acres of Ga 14N, 110 acres of Ga 18RU, 70 acres of GA 20VHO, 230 acres of Tif NV, 25 acres of Tif Jumbo, 20 acres of Tif NV HG, 16 acres of Ga 21GR, 7 acres of Ga 163120, 0.2 acres of Ga 163103, .05 acres of CB1, 0.7 acres of CB2, and 1 acre of CB7. Due to the existing carry-over seed of Foundation Ga 19HP and Ga 11J we decided not to increase them in 2022.

2022 GSD/GCIA INTERNSHIP

Caleb Warrington, Senior Director of Operations

The interns started on May 16. After initial tour of facilities and safety training, they have been to Dublin, GA to scout foundation wheat fields. In addition, they joined me in participating in the IPBGG Plant Breeding Practicum class in Griffin, Georgia from 18-20 May in Griffin, GA.

Dalton Beasley (pictured left) is a rising senior from Screven, GA majoring in Applied Biotechnology at UGA. His family owns and operates a crop consulting business in southeastern Georgia. He has worked the last five summers scouting row crops for disease, insects, and weed pressure. He is excited to learn more about how GSD operates and interacts with our university breeders. Dalton is interested in continuing his education in graduate school. We are glad to have him as part of our team this summer.

Victoria Clendenning (pictured right) is a rising senior from Gainesville, GA majoring in Agriscience and Environmental systems at UGA. Victoria has experience in horticultural nursery settings as well as row crops. She has worked for almost 2 years at Cofer's Home and Garden Showcase in Athens. In addition, during the summer of 2021 Victoria interned with the Vellidis Research Laboratory in Tifton, Georgia. Last fall, Victoria participated in a UGA Capstone Project located at Premium Peanut in Douglas, GA. GSD is pleased to have Victoria as one of our interns in 2022.



UPCOMING EVENTS

GEORGIA ALABAMA SEED ASSOCIATION
JULY 10-11, 2022 ORANGE BEACH, AL

SOUTHERN PEANUT GROWERS CONFERENCE
JULY 21-23, 2022 PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL

UGA TURFGRASS FIELD DAY
AUGUST 3, 2022 GRIFFIN, GA

