



# The Seedsman

Atlantic Seed Association



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## A Letter from the President

Summer has passed so quickly, kids are returning to school and the fall season is upon us. For most of us we are just hoping that this winter is shorter and milder than the last. The convention is less than 7 weeks away, and I can hardly believe it. It seems like just yesterday that we selected the location. Don't forget..... this year's convention has a new schedule; it will begin on Thursday and conclude on Saturday evening.

By now you all have received your registration packet for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Atlantic Seed Association Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. If you haven't, please contact me or Carrie and we'll send one to you. Early registration closes on September 7<sup>th</sup>, so send yours in today!

We have planned three action packed days with an assortment of activities. On Thursday, you have the option of playing a round of golf @ Quicksilver or tasting your way through the Strip District during the 'Burgh, Bits and Bites tour. No matter which activity you choose, we hope you'll meet afterwards for networking at the Early Bird Reception. Friday activities start early, with a day trip to Ernst Seeds for a tour, and concluding with the Opening Reception and Penny Auction. Please consider donating an item for the auction to help raise funds for the Dr. John Baylor Grant Fund. Contact Nancy Aerni, [nancy@turfmerchants.com](mailto:nancy@turfmerchants.com), for more information, its not too late to donate. Saturday's meeting and workshop, which includes speakers Kevin Stahl, RST, NST Seed Labs, and Gil Waibel, RST, Native Seed Program Director, Indiana Crop Improvement Association, will be followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine Pull at the President's Reception.

I must take another opportunity to thank our sponsors. Without your generous support we couldn't make all of this happen. If you haven't sponsored and would like to, please contact me or Carrie today.

I can't wait to see you all in Pittsburgh this October.

Stephanie Breckenridge, Ernst Seeds, ASA President



## Turf grass Report by Aaron Kuenzi

Our grass seed production acres are still off the highs of 2006/2007 and seed production acres can still be a challenge to place. In June inventory levels were at historical lows. However, the 2014 acres harvested for most species are up from 2013 except for Kentucky bluegrass and some fine fescues.

Following a fairly mild spring, we moved into harvest season after good pollinating weather. The initial reports are that most crop yields came in average to above average.

So for 2014/15 we should see better availability than in previous years and prices that are stable once we can restock our warehouses with new crop seed. The other part of the equation is demand. Price and availability could change according to market demand.

Lets hope for an improving economy and increased demand.

## 2013 Spring Northern CA Crop Report by Miles Rogers

The summer of 2014 in Northern California has been beautiful with only a few hot snaps. Crops which had water, either well or expensive surface water are flourishing. I expect most 2014 vegetable seed crops to average above base rate yields. Beet and Squash yields seem to be quite exceptional. Hopefully we will receive above average rain fall for 2014/2015 season. The reservoirs are at a dangerously low level of 30% capacity. This is quite alarming compared to the 50% at this time last year. Many California water districts received 0% surface water allocation. The 4 year drought in California is alive and well, pray for lots of winter rain.

## Forage Report by Scott Rushe

What a crazy year it has been! After most of us experienced a “normal” winter, we then needed to get through a very wet spring that was cooler than normal. In central Pennsylvania and most areas, we could not buy three days of nice weather! Some did have drier conditions, but overall we were all in the same boat! Growers that need to make first cuttings couldn’t get into the fields and either let their crop stand or cut and mulched it. Second cutting came and most were just trying to make first cutting! Fields and pastures in the region looked good from an airplane, nice and lush with decent color. The downfall is that all the green is not good, with the hard winter and winter kill coupled with wet conditions; we created a lot of area for weeds to take over. As growers got into the fields, they are noticing that all is not good, and I anticipate good movement in overseeding forages yet this Fall.

We are already seeing increased movement in rye, wheat, and triticale and the availability is getting tight. There has not been a lot of word out of new crop forages except that the crop looks good and yields are close to normal or slightly better. There has been a softening in the crimson market as well as diakon radishes. With the increase in popularity of cover crops, more seed is being produced to cover the needs. Though the market on the two is softening, I would expect that to firm up as we head into cover crop seeding time.

If the Farmer’s Almanac is correct, the Northeast is supposed to have a “harder” winter than last year. If that is the case, forage seeding increase in the Spring of 2015. I hope you all have had a great year so far! Fall seeding is upon us, and it should be as strong as it has been in past. (For those of you that I haven’t had a chance to talk with....8 months in remission so far!)

**We are switching it up a bit—consider a fun, unique item for our penny Auction**

What is a “Penny Auction”, you ask?? Similar to what we did for a few items last year at the Gaylord, we will be selling raffle tickets at the Opening Reception. Place a ticket in the basket in front of the item you would like to try and win! Really want that item? Buy 20 ticket to increase your chances in getting that prize! Lots of fun!

Please help the ASA continue support of the Dr. John E. Baylor grant program. The Baylor grant program offers assistance to those who are working to find better ways to advance our industry through technologies and research that might otherwise be delayed or even abandoned. Applications are scrutinized by a committee for their potential and take into consideration many different factors prior to any awards. Please think about any contribution you may be able to assist with, whether that is with donations of goods or services. Your participation and generosity is appreciated! Any questions may be directed to Nancy Aerni 541-926-8649.

Item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated By: \_\_\_\_\_

Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you send the item Ahead or Bring with you? AHEAD BRING (Circle one)

Please return this form to [nancy@turfmerchants.com](mailto:nancy@turfmerchants.com) or fax to 541-926-4435

Any last minute donations will be gladly accepted, however, we would like to

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## Here's what you need to know to for a GREAT 62nd Annual Convention!

The room rate is **\$189 for single and double occupancy—run of the house**, per night, plus 14% state and local taxes at the . This rate is for run of the house rooms. Rooms are assigned at check in based on availability. Suite and upgrades may be available at an additional charge. Check-in is 3 pm. Reservations **must be made on or before September 4th, 2014**. To make a reservation, please call 1-800-THE-OMNI and mention our group: Atlantic Seed Association or ASA, to reserve your room. You can also make your reservations by clicking on this link: <http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/pittsburgh-william-penn/meetings/2014-asa-62nd-annual-convention>

The hotel's address is: 530 William Penn Place Pittsburgh, PA 15219 Phone: 412-281-7100 . If you have a problem or question, email Carrie, [carrieb@newsomseed.com](mailto:carrieb@newsomseed.com) and she'll do her best to help you.

Consider jointing the Omni Select Guest Program! Sign up for FREE!! It gives you free WiFi, free morning beverage service, complimentary pressing service and more! Use the link here to join!

[https://ssl.omnihotels.com/sg?pagedst=SG5&lang\\_code=en-us](https://ssl.omnihotels.com/sg?pagedst=SG5&lang_code=en-us)

- The Omni William Penn is about a 30 minute ride/19 Miles from Pittsburgh International Airport.
- Self parking offered in the Mellon Square parking garage across from the hotel (\$14/day Monday - Friday, \$5/day Saturday & Sunday)
- Valet parking available to overnight guests (approx. \$29 per 24 hours, includes in/out privileges)
- Oversized vehicle parking offered at the [Oliver Garage](#) (\$14/day Monday - Friday, \$5/day Saturday & Sunday)
- Adjacent to the Pittsburgh Metro System (links all points of downtown Pittsburgh and Station Square) A taxi cab ride from the Pittsburgh International airport is about \$40 one way.
- 24 Hour Complimentary Executive Fitness Center
- As always, the ASA works hard to make convention arrangements with our host hotel and appreciate that our members stay at the property selected.

## Dr. John E Baylor 2014 Grant Winners!!

The Executive Committee is pleased to announce that two grants from the Dr. John Baylor Grant Fund will be awarded this year.

◇ Jeff Derr from Virginia Tech is conducting a number of research projects including; turfgrass monoculture comparisons to reduce disease and weed levels, cold hardiness of seashore paspalum and herbicide treatment evaluations.

◇ Dr. Bingru Huang from Rutgers University is working on a research project for seed viability testing in turfgrass and crop species.

Each recipient will receive a \$1,500 grant along with an invitation to share their research at the 2014 Convention in Pittsburgh. We would like to thank everyone who participates in the yearly auction to raise funds for these research grants!

Without your continued support we would be unable to reward the hard work these universities and researchers put forth to aid our industry. Please join us this year at the Opening Reception, Friday October 10<sup>th</sup>, for this year's Penny Auction to support the Dr. John Baylor Grant Fund. If you'd like to donate to the auction please contact Nancy Aerni, [nancy@turfmerchants.com](mailto:nancy@turfmerchants.com) for more information.



## *A note from your Executive Director....*

*Greetings ASA Members! We hope that you have had a very nice summer and are on your way to a great Fall! We are really working very hard behind the scenes at the ASA to open up this wonderful organization to more people like yourself!*

*Stephanie has been working really hard at making this convention, in the new format of days, to be one that is exciting and educational. Please consider joining us as we take an extensive look at Ernst Seed thru an “adult field trip” if you will, as well as learn about seed testing on Saturday. Hope to see you in October!*