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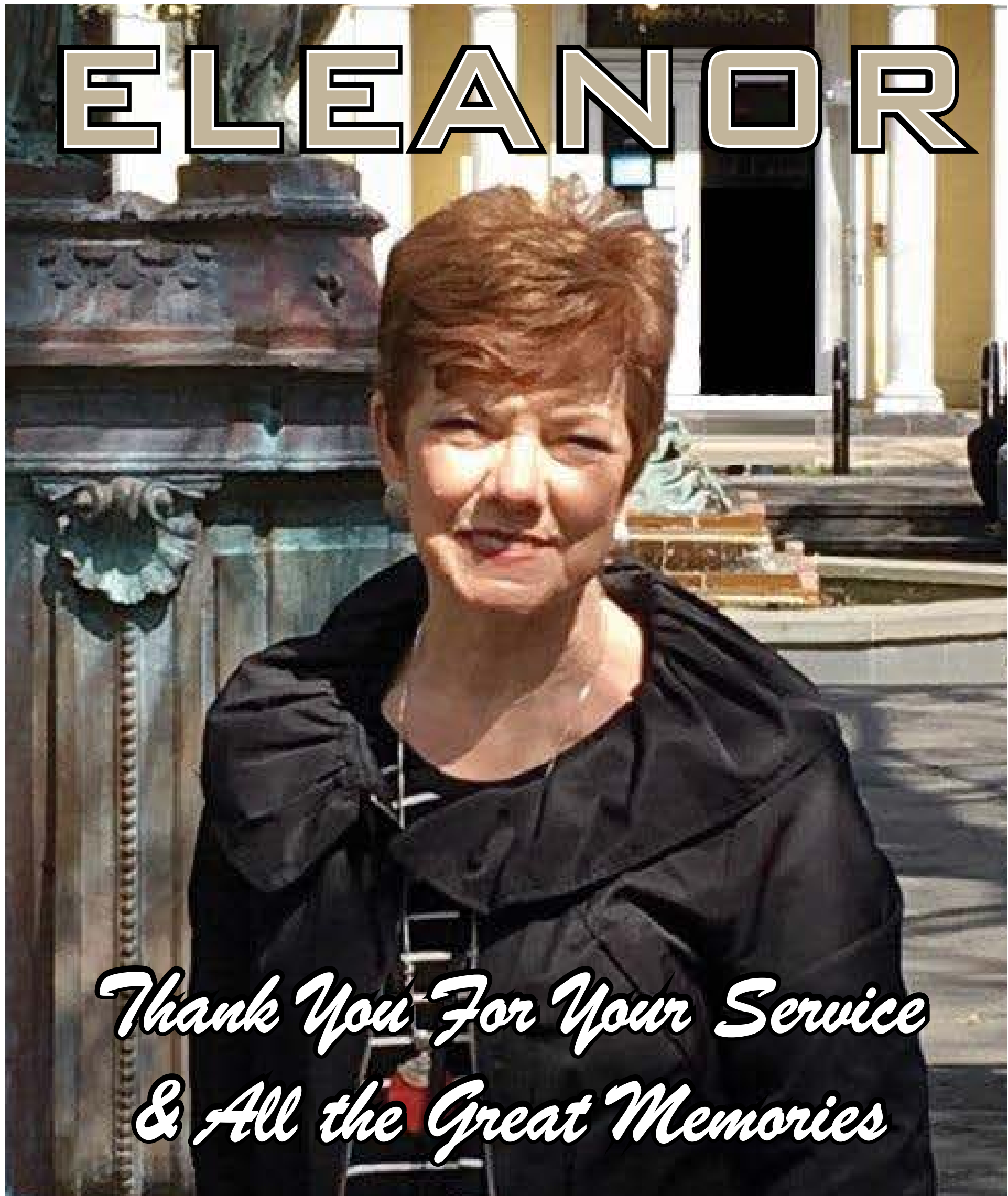
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Official Newsletter of the NATIONAL WATERMELON ASSOCIATION

Winter 2022



NATIONAL
Watermelon
ASSOCIATION



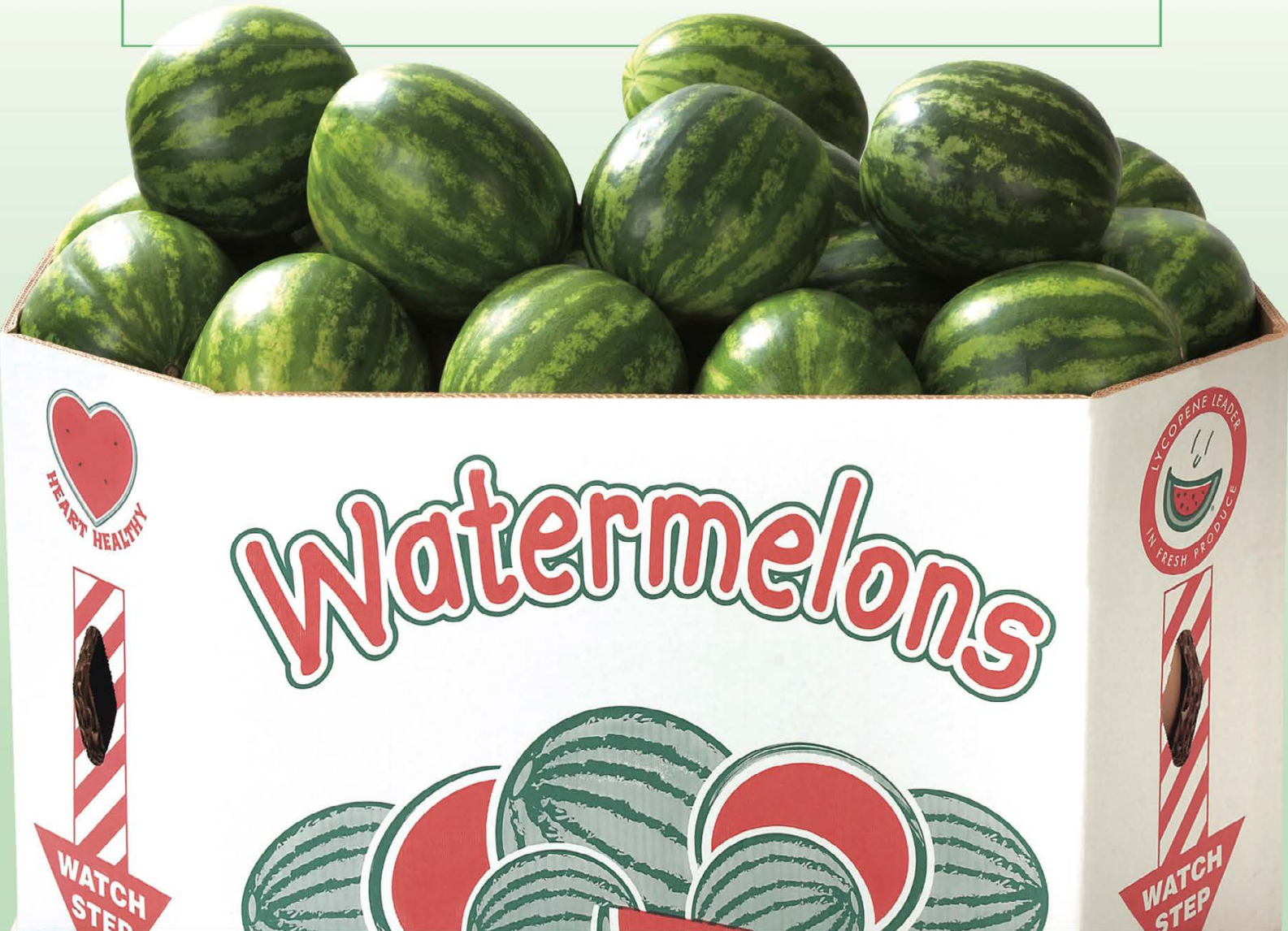


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National Report

Bethany Barfield has done a wonderful job for NWA this year. She’s a kind and thoughtful young lady and excels in her duties in every way. We so appreciate and love you, Bethany!

The tour picks up in the Maryland and Delaware area for awesome promotions sponsored by the Mar -Del Watermelon Association. We at NWA appreciate the dedicated sponsorship from Mar-Del and the fantastic job Terra does with the schedule. Many of the state queens joined them for the National Queen tour week.

The week’s events culminated with the Watermelon 5 K Run. They enjoyed radio, and television coverage, the Rehoboth Boardwalk beach promotion, farm tours and the Laurel Auction block for visits with friends and sponsors, the Old Mill Crab House, and a chance to visit with Mar-Del members, the girls also did the Crab Feast in Annapolis at the Navel Academy as well as some new events. Kerri and Bethany enjoyed the hospitality of the Mar-Del group. Thank you again for your hospitality and sponsorship. Congratulations to Terra and Dan Eby on the arrival of their precious son, Lexton Gray, he is so handsome.

They were soon off to California for some outstanding field day events with Sakata Seed, Syngenta, Enza Zaden, and Gowen Seed. We thank them all for your gracious hospitality and for your generous sponsorship and support. Our Queen Bethany joined Queen Amber for the University of Florida Homecoming parade. The girls really enjoyed the huge U F Homecoming Parade. Bethany’s next stop and again joined by Amber for an exciting school promotion at the McKeel Academy in Lakeland. The girls read to all the First Grades there, played games, and shared their watermelon knowledge with the first graders.

Bethany along with several other state queens attended this year’s IFPA, Global Produce and Floral in Orlando. This amazing International Produce and Floral event is an event no one in the business wants to miss. We thank Jane Jennings and CorrChoice and International Paper for your sponsorship. We appreciate your support. The ladies enjoyed the International Paper dinner and party on Friday night, it was a wonderful evening. They followed that with a stop at Cuba Libre, with NWA President Hamilton Dicks IV, Hammy. They enjoyed an evening of tropical ambiance, Latin music, and dueling pianos. Thanks to Hammy and Melon 1 for including them.

The ladies left Orlando headed for our Nation’s capital for the Marine Corps Marathon with the NWPB team, State Queens, Coordinators. What an exciting time to be a watermelon queen and serve the marathon runners. This is an event where you feel your efforts are very much appreciated. The runners after a 26-mile run need fast hydration and our watermelon does just that! Special thanks to NWPB for sponsoring us. Bethany absolutely loved the MCM and serving the runners.

Bethany was on the move again the following day headed to the Florida Watermelon Association convention at the beautiful Vinoy in St Petersburg. FWA President Trey Miller and his beautiful wife Katelyn hosted a fabulous convention. We thank FWA for sponsoring Bethany back home. It was a treat to spend time with FWA’s queen Amber and Coordinator Debra Harrison. We congratulate Alyssa Armentrout on her winning the 2023 Florida Watermelon Queen title. I’m sure a splendid year awaits you. Congratulations also to Mrs. Heather Raulerson on receiving the Outstanding Service Award and to Steve Singletary on his Lifetime Achievement award. More to Share Next Printing! Have You Had Your Watermelon Today?

Eleanor Bullock
NWA Promotion Coordinator
229.322.9933; etb.nwa@gmail.com



Checking the fields with Chris Hogg with Seedway on the Mar-Del tour



Looking good!



A visit with Greg Long of McMelon, Mack Farms Laurel, DE office



The girls stop to visit Bob and Rob Gibson of Gibson Produce in the Laurel, DE office



They enjoyed a visit with Ray Vincent and family of Vincent Farms



Watermelon Queens at Rehoboth Beach Delaware on the Boardwalk, Watermelon Day at the Beach



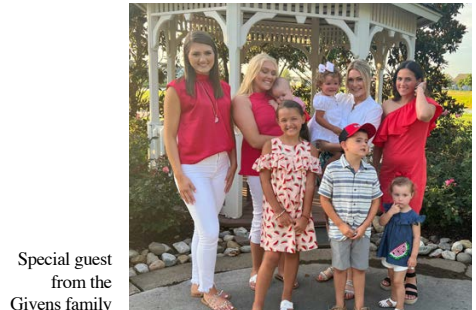
Special Guest from Melon1



The Melon 1 ladies visit



Our girls setting up for the Crab Feast in Annapolis



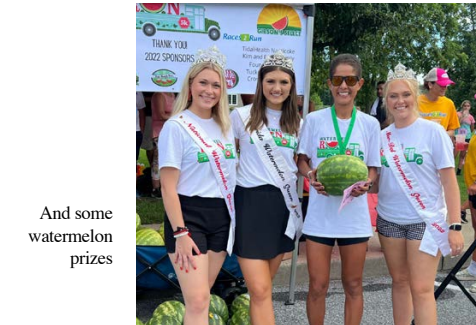
Special guest from the Givens family



Our girls are ready for duties at the Watermelon Run



Made it to the Finish line



And some watermelon prizes



Pictured with friends at the Sakata Field Day near Davis, California

Clifton Seed Company

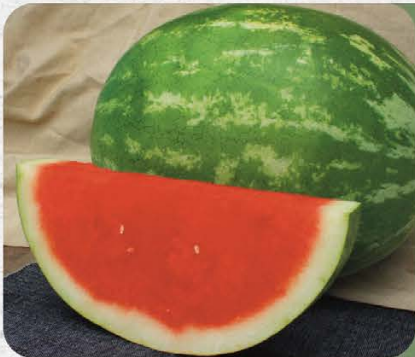
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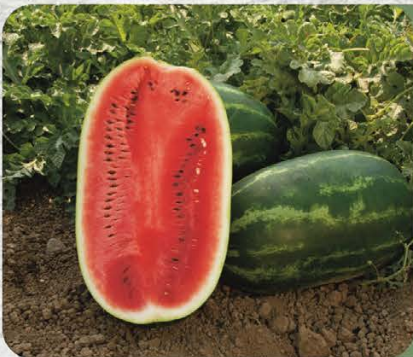
PREMONT

Round-Oval Shape, 15-17 lbs.
Super Crisp With High Brix
Very Small Seed Pips
Excellent Shelf Life



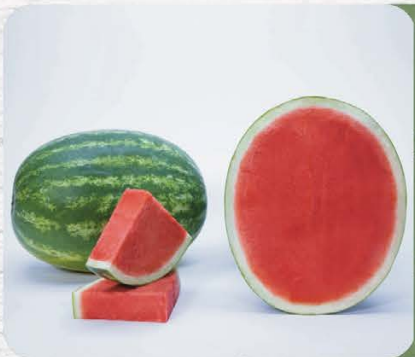
KINGMAN

High Yield Potential
Nice Round-Oval Shape
Crisp Flesh and Tiny Pips
Excellent Main Season Variety



WALKER

High Brix; Excellent Flavor
Strong, Vigorous Plant
Excellent Uniformity
Firm, Crisp Flesh



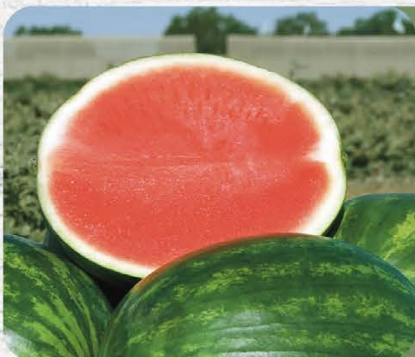
VALOR

Early Maturity With Firm Flesh
Produces Mostly 36 and 45 ct
Higher Fruit Set
Medium-Dark Green, Deep Red
Flesh



CUT ABOVE

Crisp, Sweet Flesh
Round-Oval Shape, 15-17 lbs
High Brix, Small Seed Pips
Excellent Shipping Capability



TROUBADOUR

High Yield Potential
Mid-Early Maturity
Uniform Fruit, 14-17 lbs.
High Brix With Deep Red Color



FASCINATION

Attractive Red, Firm Flesh
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National Pictures



Bethany found the Sakata Warehouse in California



Thank you, Syngenta,



Bethany and Amber are parade ready for the huge University of Florida parade in Gainesville



The Wiggins family pictured with the Sakata group



Field day with our friends at Enza Zaden



Did she say Go Gators?



Thank you, Sakata!



Let's try some Cracker Jack!



They had a blast at the U F Parade



Bethany thanks this Sakata team for sponsorship



Thank you for all your work at Enza Zaden



Thank You Debra



A visit with the Syngenta group in California



Bethany and Kerri thank Enza Zaden



Bethany and Amber read to the First Graders at McKeel Academy in Lakeland, Florida



Bethany is enjoying team Syngenta



Bethany at the Gilroy Enza Zaden field day in Gilroy, California



What a cute group at McKeel Academy



TELONE™ II is the premiere preplant soil fumigant for managing harmful nematodes that negatively affect watermelon production. By applying TELONE™ before planting, you create a zone of protection around delicate developing root systems, leading to healthier plants, higher yields, and improved ROI. A custom blend of TELONE™ and Chloropicrin can also help combat soil borne diseases, for an effective all-in-one preplant solution for your melons.

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National Pictures



Watermelon questions for the class to answer on the beach ball



The classes loved our Watermelon Queens



The girls stop to visit the Seedway guys at their booth at IFPA in Orlando



Team Watermelon for sure, Queens, NWA Executive Director Bob Morrissey, wife Betsy, NWPB Executive Director, Mark Arney and his team at IFPA



A visit by the Fresh From Florida booth at IFPA



A visit with the Allen Lund team at IFPA in Orlando



Trey Miller of Melon1 and Chef Joe at the Melon1 exhibit in Orlando



Madison, Amber and Bethany visit with Hamilton Dicks IV, NWA President and team Melon1



A little Latin music at the Cuba Libre in Orlando with the Melon 1 team



Team Watermelon, a rare moment, enjoyed breakfast together in Orlando, Monica, Kerri, Bethany, Eleanor, and Tami



Bethany at the Global Fresh Produce and Floral Show



Bethany in Washington DC for the Marine Corps Marathon



The NWA Team Watermelon, ready for MCM



These ladies are watermelon ready to serve watermelon for the Marine Corps Marathon in DC



This says it all!



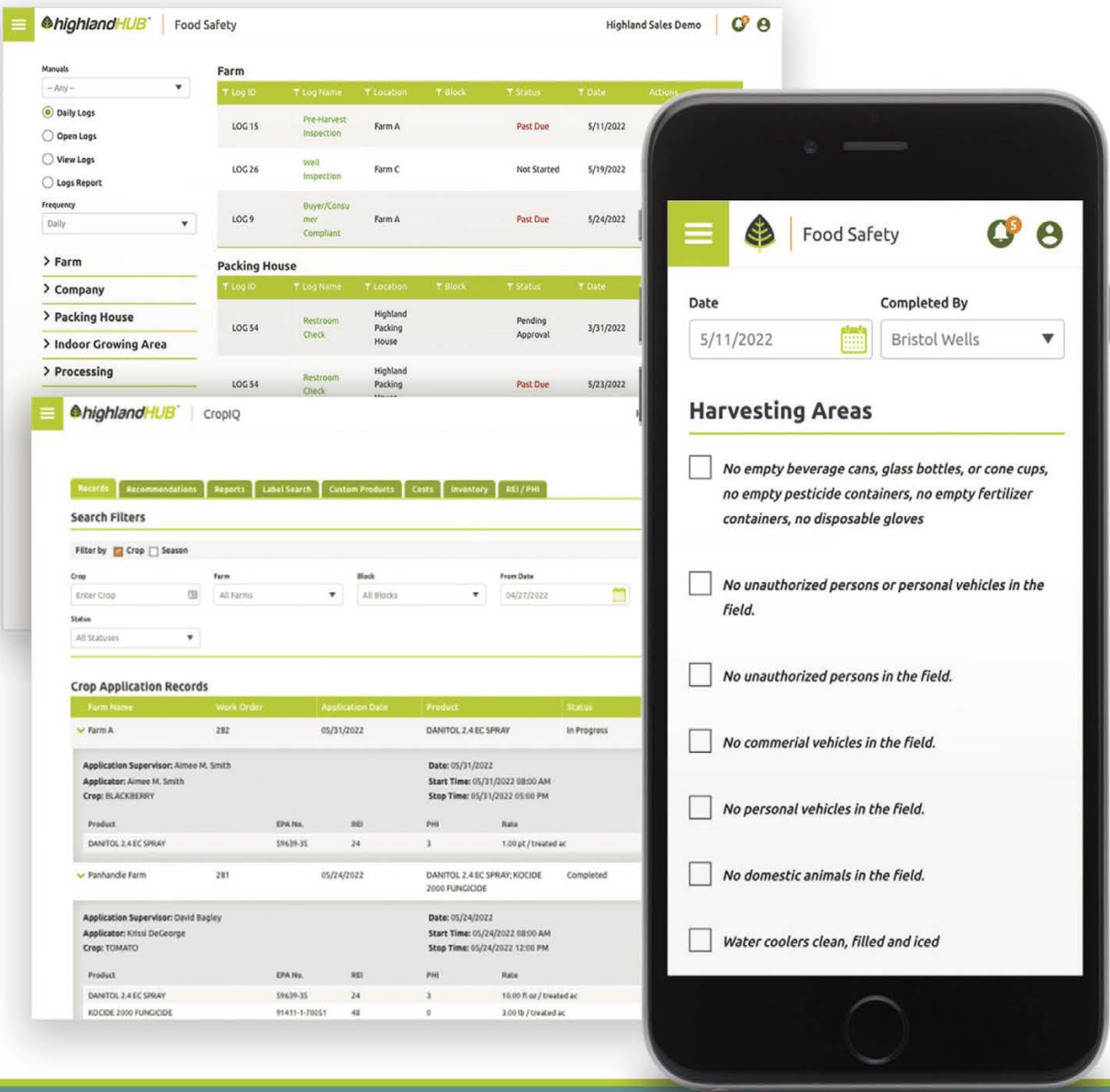
Bethany says thanks to NWPB team for this excellent promotion!



Samples Ready



Bethany visits with Monica Mc Cook at the NWA office in Lakeland



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February 20-26, 2023



108th National Watermelon Association Convention & Annual Meeting
Omni Grove Park Inn — Asheville, North Carolina
Details Coming in Mid-September

National Pictures



Special thanks to FWA President Trey Miller and wife Katelyn for having us at your convention (Katelyn was the 2012 National Watermelon Queen)



Thank you, Debra, for all you do!



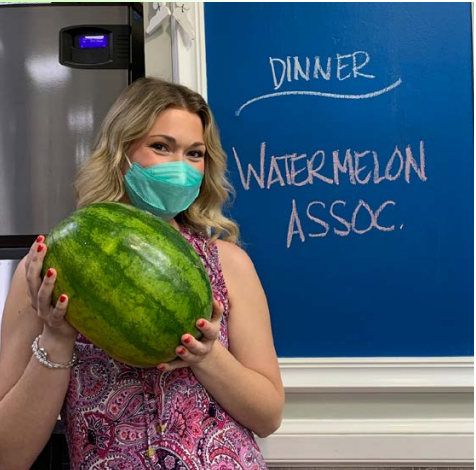
Bethany visits Heather from International Paper in St Petersburg



Thank you, Debbie Johnson, for having us at your FWA Convention



Bethany gets hugs from Katelyn, and Trey's handsome boys



Convention kicks off with a visit to Ronald McDonald House in St Petersburg, packaged prepared meals, snack bags, cubed watermelon for their guest to enjoy



The Sun Fresh team, Penny Carlton, her daughter Jame Carlton-DeLeon, and her daughter Maci Kate at FWA



Congratulations to the 2023 Florida Watermelon Queen, Alyssa Armentrout



This is part of the team from FWA at the Ronald McDonald House



Casino Night, look at our Queen rolling the Dice



Kerri and Bethany, a great team!

Florida Report

Greetings from the Sunshine State of Florida

Hope everyone had a safe and wonderful “Holidays” season! Queen Amber started her month of August off attending the Mar-Del National Watermelon Queen Tour. This three-day event consisted of attending the 77th Annual Rotary Club Crab Feast where she handed out slices of watermelon, Blessing of the Combines and the Mar-Del Watermelon 5 K Run. Thank you, Melon 1, Gibson Produce and GID Farms for help sponsor this event. At the beginning of October, Queen Amber and National Queen Bethany was chosen to participant in the University of Florida Homecoming Parade. Over 500 participants were entered in this year parade. A special thank you to Mark Bryan with Super Sweet Farms for sponsoring us. The Gators beat Missouri 24-17. At the end October Queen Amber attend the IFPA (PMA) Show held in Orlando and then on 47th Annual Marine Marathon Corp held in Washington D.C. A fun weekend of promoting watermelons at these events.

The first week of November our 54th Annual Florida Watermelon Convention was held at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida. There were six beautiful young ladies this year competing for the 2023 Florida Watermelon Queen Title. Congratulations to Alyssa Armentrout from Sebring for being crowned the 2023 Florida Watermelon Queen along with our first runner-up Reagan Hudson from Chiefland who also received the Jubilee Award and our second runner-up Kensley Durrance from Newberry. Also, Congratulations to Mr. Steve Singletary for receiving the “Lifetime Achievement Award” and Mrs. Heather Raulerson for receiving the “Outstanding Service Award”.

As our close this edition of the November Vineline the Florida Watermelon Association and I would like to wish Queen Amber good luck as she competes in February for Nationals in Asheville, North Carolina. Queen Amber has done awesome job this past year representing our Florida Watermelon industry as our public ambassadors. We wish you the best of luck in February. Until next time!

Debra Harrison –
Florida Watermelon Promotions Coordinator
Cellular – (863) 633-8306 email: debra@flfwa.com

It has been a complete honor representing the Florida Watermelon Association this past year. I have been so incredibly blessed with countless opportunities and I will forever be grateful for this amazing industry. My year of service has taught me so much about this industry and the hard work put in by the growers, members and sponsors. Thank you to Ms. Debra for being the best watermelon mama and mentor this past year. I will forever cherish our memories. Thank you to the Florida Watermelon Association for allowing me to serve as your queen. Being able to represent this Association this past year and meet such inspiring people has been unforgettable. Lastly huge thank you to all my sponsors. Without your unless support none of this past year would’ve been possible. Thank you for allowing me to share my passion for this industry to others. I’ve had the most incredible year of my life and I look forward to making Florida proud at nationals.

With gratitude,
Amber Boykin
2022 Florida Watermelon Queen



A Saturday event in Winter Garden at the “Pedalpalooza”.



Spending the morning at the “Mar-Del Watermelon 5 K Run”.



Queen Amber and National Queen Bethany spending the day at “McKeel Academy Elementary School”. All the first graders enjoyed them reading the book “The Watermelon” by Orsolya Varga.



Enjoying visiting with all these guys at IFPA Global Floral and Produce Show in Orlando.



Queen Amber along with our National Queen Bethany at the University of Florida Homecoming Parade “Go Gators”.



Queen Amber helping to handed out over 33,600 watermelon containers to all runners.



at the “47th Annual Marine Marathon Corp Run” in Washington D.C.



Our beautiful 2023 Florida Watermelon Queen Contestant and our 2022 Florida Watermelon Queen Amber Boykin.



Special Congratulations to Mr. Steve Singletary for receiving the “2023 Lifetime Achievement Award”.



Congratulations to Heather Raulerson for receiving the “2023 Outstanding Service Award”.



Queen Alyssa and her family at the 54th Annual Florida Watermelon Convention. “Welcome to our Watermelon family”.



Our beautiful “Has Been’s” and our newly crowned 2023 Florida Watermelon Queen Alyssa Armentrout.



Thank you to our President Trey Miller and his wife Katelyn for all the hard work this year for putting on our 54th Annual Florida Watermelon Convention “Farmers: The Original Gamblers”.



Good luck Amber as you compete for Nationals in Asheville, North Carolina in February.



Congratulations to “Ross Chastain” for making the final four for the championship race and finish second in the championship race. Way to go Ross!

Georgia Report

Happy New Year from Georgia!

In just a couple of weeks we will all be coming together for the Georgia Watermelon Association Conference and Annual Meeting to be held January 27-29, 2023. We always look forward to being back at the King & Prince Resort in St. Simons Island. Informative education sessions, recreational opportunities, appointment of the 2023 GWA Queen and much more all make for a weekend filled with the best memories! If you have not yet registered for the conference, please call our office at (706) 845-8575 or register online. Register NOW and take advantage of the early bird rates before the January 6, 2023, deadline.

Our 2022 watermelon promotional season has come to an end. Queen Adahy wrapped up her 2022 Promotional Tour in South Georgia at Southwind Sporting Clays for a day of skeet shooting with the Seedway and Syngenta sales team. Thank you to these companies for hosting this event and for feeding us a delicious catered seafood lunch!

Queen Adahy is looking forward to representing the GWA at the 2023 NWA Convention next month at the Omni Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina. Queen Adahy is busy preparing for the competition and is excited about the opportunity to compete for the title of 2023 National Watermelon Association Queen!

Thank you to Queen Adahy Pritchett for your hard work promoting watermelon across our state and the U.S. The GWA is extremely proud of you! The 2022 Queen Tour has been a great success. THANK YOU to our sponsors and the National Watermelon Promotion Board for supporting the 2022 GWA Queen Program!

We hope you are making plans to join us at the GWA Annual Meeting on January 27-29, 2023, in St. Simons Island, GA!

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Dawn Cheplick, Promotions Coordinator
Georgia Watermelon Association



Queen Adahy at the 8th District GOP Fish Fry with Tyler Perry, GA Ag Commissioner, and 2022 Queen Lindsey Westberry



Sharing nutritional and health benefits of watermelon at the Fitness Expo at Wesleyan College



Queen Adahy shows her appreciation for their service to the Marines at the Marine Corps Marathon.



Queen Adahy attends the GWA Grower Appreciation Lunch at UGA, Tifton Campus.



Gulf Coast Report

Greetings!

Madison attended the Atlanta Braves 5K Run in Atlanta, Georgia. We joined the Georgia Watermelon Queen, South Carolina Watermelon Queen, and the National Watermelon Queen. She assisted with passing out refreshing Georgia Watermelon, the perfect addition to rehydrate at the conclusion of the run. This event was made possible thanks to the Georgia Watermelon Association and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Farmers’ markets are one of the best ways for Queen Madison to share with consumers how beneficial watermelon truly is. She was able to travel to Lucedale, Mississippi to visit Charlie’s U-Pik with the Eubanks Family. She was also able to visit Sessions Farm Day in Grand Bay, Alabama, and attend a farmers market.

Over the summer, Queen Madison visited many Rouses Supermarkets in Louisiana and Mississippi. She passed out watermelon samples, coloring books, and recipe cards. Each store was so welcoming and excited to have a visit from the Gulf Coast Watermelon Queen. Thank you Rouses for another wonderful series of promotions. In July, Queen Madison was able to welcome guests to Defense Commissaries across the state of Alabama. We would like to thank the Military Produce Group for another great promotion and a great display of watermelon.

This past fall, Queen Madison was able to attend The Washington Conference in Washington D.C. hosted by the International Fresh Produce Association. She was able to meet with over 5 members of the House and Senate on Capitol Hill to advocate on behalf of the watermelon industry. Then a few short weeks later she attended The Global Produce and Floral Show in Orlando, Florida also hosted by IFPA. There she was able to visit numerous association members’ booths and gain more knowledge and appreciation for the industry. Lastly, she attended the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. There she was able to serve over 10,000 pounds of fresh-cut watermelon to race finishers.

Queen Madison hopes you join her for a fun-filled weekend at the Gulf Coast Watermelon Convention. It is being held on February 10th and 11th, 2023 at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. Registration is open now visit www.gulfcoastwatermelon.org to register!

Be sure to check out and keep up with our queen on the Gulf Coast Watermelon Association Facebook and Instagram pages to see all of our watermelon promotions.

Many Blessings,
Sarah Jane Levine
Gulf Coast Watermelon Association
Promotion Coordinator
(337) 348-4465



Queen Madison, alongside Melissa, with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and new Promotions Coordinator Sarah Jane Levine.



Queen Madison with Mr. Scott from Military Produce at the Maxwell Air Force Base Commissary.



Queen Madison (along with Executive Director Bob Morrissey, wife Betsy, the NWPB team, Stephanie, Mark, Megan, and Juliemar, and the National Watermelon Queen Bethany) at The 2022 IFPA Global Produce and Floral Show in Orlando Florida.



Queen Madison with Mr. Jeremy Sessions at Sessions Farm Day in Grand Bay, Alabama.



Passing out fresh cut watermelon to Marine Corps Marathon runner.



Queen Madison at Charlie's U-Pik in Lucedale, Mississippi with the Eubanks family.



Queen Madison in front of the 18-wheeler filled with watermelon at the Marine Corps Marathon.



Queen Madison visiting with a consumer at a Rouse's Supermarket.

Illiana Report

Greetings from Illiana!

We have kept Queen Gabby busy these past few months as our growing season wrapped up and we start to prepare for the new year!

Thanks to the National Watermelon Promotion Board, Queen Gabby had the opportunity to visit Washington DC for the Marine Corps Marathon. Standing beside the other state queens and the NWPB, Gabby helped pass out over 33k cups of watermelon to runners after crossing the finish line. This is many of the runners’ first marathon and it is an honor to be a part of their celebration! Special thanks to Ms. Stephanie Barlow and Ms. Juliemar Rosado for organizing this monumental event every year. It is truly a highlight of their reign!

Gabby was fortunate to attend the Florida Watermelon Association convention thanks to Mr. Mark Bryan and Super Sweet Farms. Gabby placed her bets at the casino night-themed event and made lasting connections within the industry. Thank you to Ms. Lorinda Ellermann for accompanying Gabby on her trip and to Mr. Kelly Tyner for purchasing Gabby a watermelon duffle bag in the auction.

She also traveled to the Texas Watermelon Association convention. Thank you to President Mr. Luke Brown, coordinator Ms. Barbara Duda, and National coordinator/ TWA member Ms. Kerri Wiggins for your hospitality. TWA made the most of the girls’ trip, giving them a tour of South Texas. They went to the Mexico/USA border, a poinsettia greenhouse, and collard greens fields. It was a great way for the visiting queens to learn more about Texas agriculture and to bond with each other! It is a weekend Gabby will remember fondly each time she wears her new cowboy hat!

Next on the agenda is preparing for our convention followed by the National Convention!

Please mark your calendars to attend the 33rd Annual IWA convention on January 19-22, 2023 at the beautiful French Lick Springs Hotel in French Lick, Indiana. Visit illianawatermelon.com to register today!

Kind Regards,
Lana Brothers
(314)724-6305
iwapromocoordinator@gmail.com



Marine Corps Marathon Finish Festival



With the NWPB in DC!



Exploring Washington DC



Sash Sisters



With the wonderful Mr. and Mrs. Bryan!



Rolling the Dice in Florida



With IWA Board Chairman, Mr. Kelly Tyner in Florida



The IWA crew in FL



Congratulations on a wonderful year, Queen Amber



At Speedling in Alamo, Texas!



Gorgeous Poinsettias in Texas



Texas Explorations, Yeehaw!



US/Mexico Border



Congratulations to the newest Texas Watermelon Queen, Miss Savannah



With IWA members in TX, Mr. Brock Lidly and Mr. Brad Johnston

Mar-Del Report

Another Mardelicious year has come and gone. Queen Jenna has represented the Mar-Del Watermelon Association through county fairs, state fairs, and produce stands to name a few. Most recently, Jenna had the opportunity to pass out watermelon at the Marine Corps Marathon at the Marine Corps Marathon. We can not thank the Watermelon Promotion Board enough for making this opportunity possible. The State Queens and National Queen were able to meet runners at the finish line with watermelon! A hydrating option that every marathon runner should take advantage of! The Marine Marathon weekend marked the end of our promotion season. We are anxiously awaiting attending State Conventions and hosting our own Mar-Del Watermelon Convention. It is one of our favorite times of year to reminisce with the watermelon family on the past year and year ahead. We welcome all to the 2023 Mar-Del Watermelon Convention. We will be celebrating with Peace. Love. Watermelon theme! 2022 and Queen Jenna's year is coming to an end but we look forward to celebrating all the blessings of year with our watermelon family!



Queen Jenna at the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C.



Watermelon for everyone!



The perfect serving of hydration for all!



Queen Jenna and the other state queens ready to welcome runners at the finish line.



North Carolina Report

Queen Emory’s watermelon promotions have continued to keep her busy with events all across the state and nation.

The Marine Corp Marathon was once again a huge success for watermelon. Emory had a great day meeting runners and sharing watermelon. The Queens, NWPB staff and board, Don Hiller and the coordinators worked to distribute the thousands of watermelon cups to the marathon runners. It is always exciting to hear the runners declare, “Watermelon is the reason I run this marathon.” They look forward to finding it to rehydrate at the end of the race. Thanks to Stephanie and everyone from NWPB for making it such a successful day.

We ended our season with two exciting watermelon festivals in eastern North Carolina. The NC Watermelon Festival in Murfreesboro and the Winterville Watermelon Festival. Queen Emory met hundreds of consumers and chatted with them about all things watermelon. The Murfreesboro festival included a special tribute to long time watermelon industry great and founder of the festival, Mr. Percy Bunch. Mr. Bunch will be remembered for his watermelon knowledge, kindness and dedication to the North Carolina watermelon industry.

Queen Emory shared watermelon with her favorite football team at her alma mater, North Carolina State University. Players were very excited to have watermelon after their practice. Later in the summer, Emory also shared watermelon with all the athletes at Chowan University. Thanks to Murfreesboro Farms for supplying the watermelons for each event.

Spectrum News Raleigh featured Queen Emory in two television segments. One story focused on Emory in her role promoting watermelon as the Queen. While the second story shared a day in the life of Emory and how surprised people are to learn about how she combines her agriculture engineering degree with her role as Watermelon Queen. Queen Emory was the feature speaker at several FFA events across the state. She spoke about the watermelon industry and the importance of agriculture in North Carolina. She also shared moments from her experiences as the North Carolina Watermelon Queen with members of the greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce during their fall festival event and she was a guest at the NCSU College of Ag and Life Sciences fall tailgate.

Emory recently returned for the Texas Watermelon Convention where she learned more about Texas agriculture and enjoyed making new friends from the Texas Association. Several more state convention are on her calendar and she has the North Carolina Fruit and Vegetable Expo coming up right around the corner.

Queen Emory is excited to welcome everyone to Asheville, North Carolina for the NWA Convention!

Sharon Rogers
NCWA Promotions Coordinator
336-583-9630
ncwatermelonqueen@gmail.com



TV interviews at the Cape Carteret Watermelon Festival



Queen Emory enjoying the Winterville Watermelon Festival



Emory with fans at the High Point Rockers Baseball Ag Night in High Point, NC



Seed spit winners from the Winterville Watermelon Festival



The NC Watermelon Festival iconic watermelon arch way. Frances Bunch, Queen Emory and Sandra Woodard



North Carolina State University College of Ag and Life Sciences Football Tailgate. Pictured are NCWA Chairman James Brake, Queen Emory and NC Cooperative Extension Director Dr. Rich Bonanno.



Queen Emory sharing watermelon at the NC Watermelon Festival in Murfreesboro, NC



Marine Corp Marathon, Queen Emory and the hard working Marines



Murfreesboro Farm tour with the Bunch Family



Marine Corp Marathon watermelon tent!



Sharing watermelon with North Carolina State University football players



Emory enjoyed sharing watermelon with runners at the Marine Corp Marathon



Spectrum News reporter interviewing Queen Emory at a promotion



Raleigh Chamber of Commerce Fall Festival



Chowan University Watermelon Day. Thanks to Frances Bunch and Kay Thomas for helping with the event.



State Watermelon Queen's enjoying the tour of Texas during the Texas Watermelon Convention

South Carolina Report

Queen Samantha attended the Shrimp Festival on October 5-6 in Beaufort, SC, where she passed out watermelon slices to the runners of the annual 5k race. On October 21, Samantha was the quest speaker at the Seratoma Club Luncheon in Spartanburg, SC. The month of October ended with a trip to Orlando, Florida and PMA. This trip was immediately followed by the Marine Corp Marathon in Washington, DC.

November started as another very busy month with a trip to St. Petersburg, Florida and the Florida Convention on November 2-4. Many thanks to Trey and Kathlyn Miller, Debra Harrison, and all of the wonderful members of the Florida Association. On Saturday, November 5, Samantha was the Panel Moderator at Clemson University for the Women in Agriculture Conference. Finally, on November 10-13, Samantha attended the Texas Watermelon Convention in McAllen, Texas. We want to thank Luke and Kendall Brown, the entire Wiggins family, the Borders family, and the members of the Texas Association for their very gracious hospitality.

As this year winds down, I want to thank our wonderful queen, Miss Samantha Nichols, our SC Board Members and all of those who helped make this year so special. We would also like to extend an invitation for the SC Convention in Hilton Head on January 13-15.

Samantha and I want to wish our entire watermelon family a Blessed Holiday Season!

Ann Bryant
SC Promotions Coordinator
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864-303-3995



Meeting Forrest Gump at the Beaufort Shrimp Festival in Beaufort, SC.



The shrimp king came to eat a slice of watermelon.



Beaufort 5k run participants.



Queen Samantha serving those delicious slices of melons.



PMA in Orlando, Florida with Inland Paper friends.



Chef Poon and our South Carolina Queen.



Melon 1 and Samantha at PMA.



Ham Dicks and Kitt Moore supporting our girl.



Marine Corp Marathon in Arlington, Virginia.



Queens enjoying a ride on the Metro to the race.



Samantha and 2023 Florida Queen, Alyssa Armentrout.



Enjoying the scenery in St. Petersburg at the Florida Convention.



Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, Sid Miller.



Kendall and Luke Brown at the Texas Convention.



Samantha and 2023 Texas Queen, Savannah Carr.

Texas Report

Greetings everyone! I hope this letter finds you and your families well. The months seem to be flying by and our wonderful Queen Olivia has filled them with many promotions and social media posts. She has been an exceptional representative for our association. She has done her best to promote our favorite fruit throughout the year. She has had an excellent attitude even when flights were delayed, or things did not go as planned, or when she was sick. Olivia continued to do her job and do it with a smile.

Olivia had a very busy few weeks after a little lull in promotions. At the end of October she went to the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. where she passed out watermelon to very grateful runners and the visitors watching them. She got to also enjoy a short tour around the capitol while there. Right after the marathon, Olivia headed to the Florida Watermelon Association convention in St. Petersburg. She had a wonderful visit and enjoyed her time with Mrs. Ashlyn Wiggins who stepped in to act as her coordinator. Olivia was thrilled to win a grill when she played the games at their casino night. Thank you to Ms. Debra, and Mr. and Mrs. Miller and all those who put on a great convention.

Next, Olivia traveled to the Rio Grande Valley where the Texas Watermelon Association Convention was held. Olivia got to spend time with association members and with the visiting queens. We were so happy to have the National Queen, Bethany Barfield, the Florida Queen, Amber Boykin, the South Carolina Queen, Samantha Nichols, the North Carolina Queen, Emory New, and the Illiana Queen, Gabby German come. The convention started off with a casino night reception, then the next day there were some great speakers including Sid Miller, the Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner. That afternoon we had a very successful auction where Olivia, the contestants, and visiting queens helped. Finally, on the last day the focus was on the pageant. In the end, Olivia crowned Miss Savannah Carr as the 2023 Texas Watermelon Queen.

We look forward seeing everyone in Asheville, North Carolina in February for the national convention. We also hope the 2023 year will be a blessed one for all of those in our watermelon family.

Best regards,
Barbara Duda
TWA Coordinator
bcduda62@gmail.com



Ready to pass out watermelon to the Marine Corps Marathon runners



Taking in the view



The NWPB team and the queens were excited to be back at the MCM.



Contestants Kate Darsey and Savannah Carr



Olivia and Ashlyn Wiggins enjoyed the Florida convention.



Olivia, the contestants, and the visiting queens



Helping at the Florida auction



Olivia helps the 2023 TWA Queen, Savannah Carr with her sash.

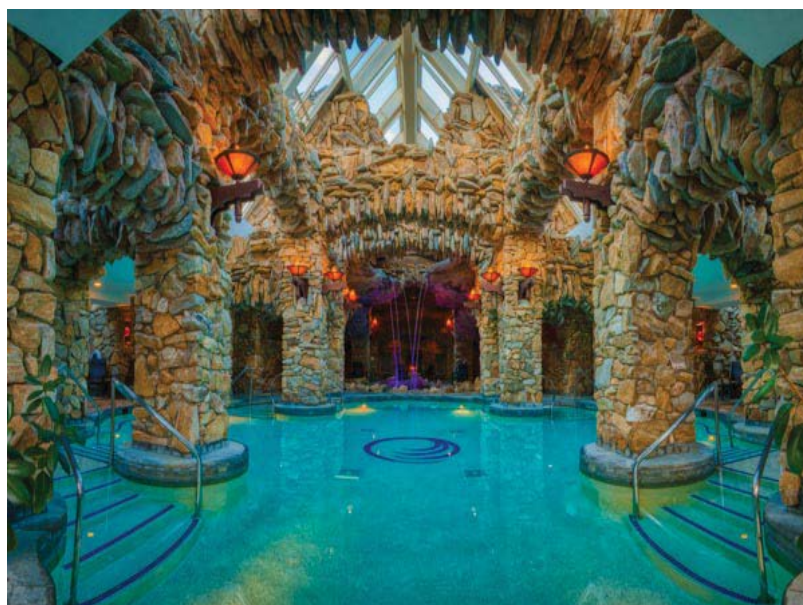


Queen Olivia and the National Watermelon Queen, Bethany Barfield



Two Texas beauties

SAVE THE DATE!



Omni Grove Park Inn Asheville, North Carolina February 20-26, 2023

108th National Watermelon Association Convention & Annual Meeting

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"I believe we have something special in Valor, and I look forward to seeing the donations it provides to American veterans' organizations as well as the benefits for those who grow it, and ultimately those who buy it."

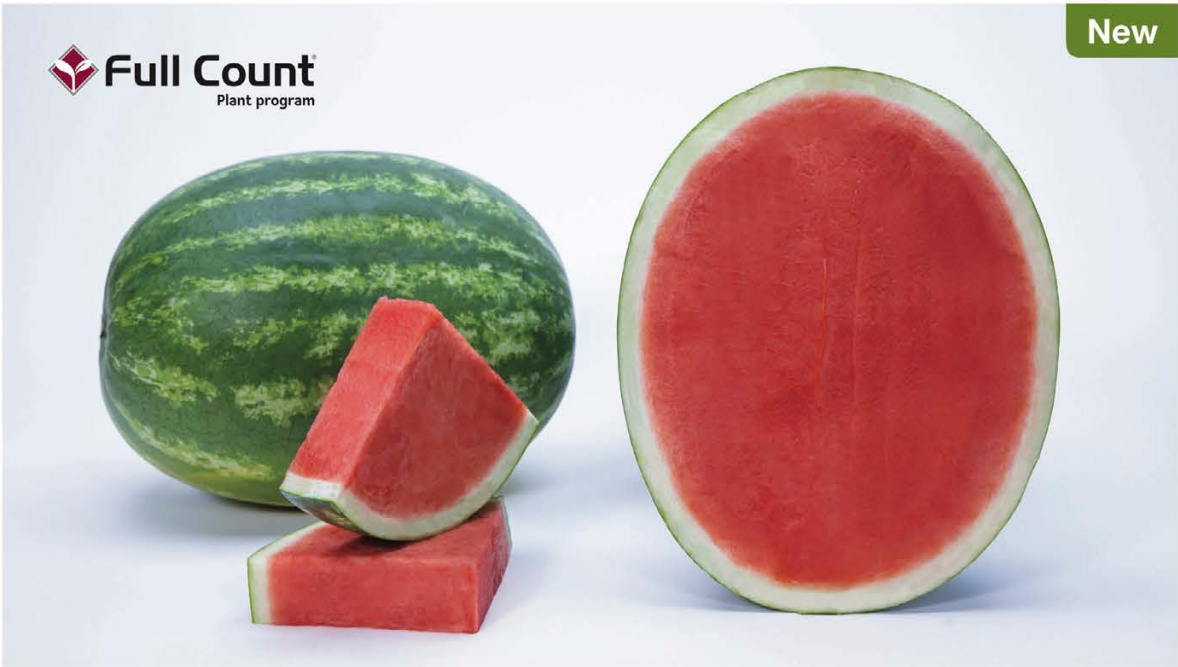
– John Reese Franklin, TSR, Syngenta Vegetable Seeds & Veteran Sergeant in the U.S. Army

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Introduced in the 2022 growing season, for every new **Valor** seed and plant sold through the Syngenta Full Count® Plant Program, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to American veterans’ organizations through the National Watermelon Association (NWA).

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