

the **vine**line Spring 2022

Official Newsletter of the NATIONAL WATERMELON ASSOCIATION



# QUEENS



# CORRCHOICE

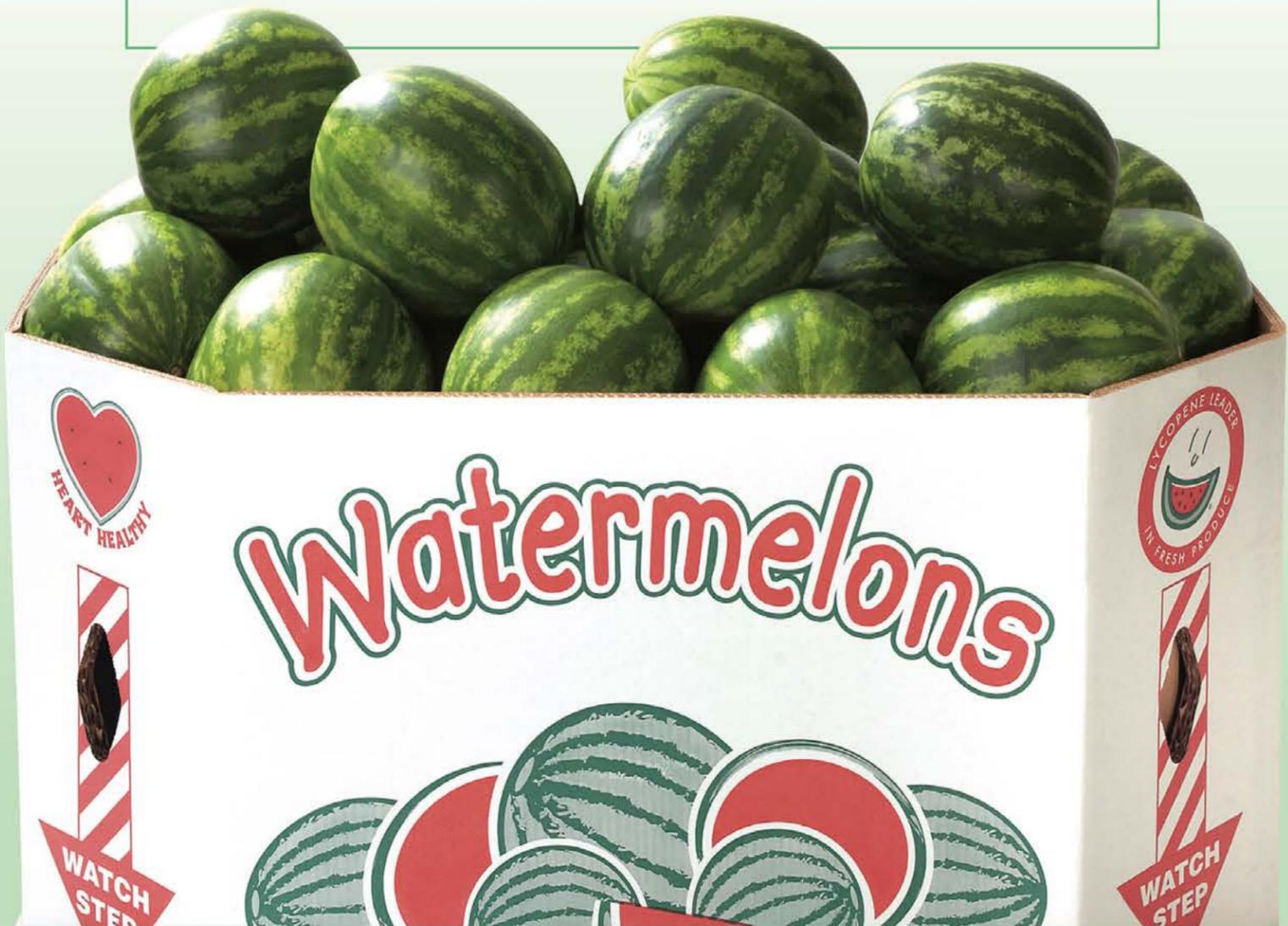
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# National Report

Happy Spring!

I will attempt to wrap up our National Watermelon Queens 2020-2021 final promotions. We thank you Paige Huntington for the fantastic way you represented our industry for the past two years!

We also thank our fabulous sponsors, for without you it would not have been possible! Paige was honored to attend the following State Chapter Conventions. We thank each of you for your undying support of our Queen Program.

The Texas Watermelon Convention, McAllen, Texas, November 11-13, 2021, proudly welcomed Paige back to her home state. We thank President Luke Brown, and past President Jesse Wiggins, and Barbara Duda and the entire Association for your support. They also had several State Queens visiting their convention, for most the first time ever. A great time was had by all! Thank You TWA for bringing Paige home!

The next stop was Hilton Head, South Carolina for the South Carolina convention in January. This was made possible by Kinard Farms, and Mr. Rusty Kinard. This beautiful setting was enjoyed by everyone. It was well attended with many beautiful contestants. We were welcomed warmly by Ann Bryant, SC Coordinator and everyone attending. We thank Mr. Rusty Kinard for making it possible.

Paige, and Kerri Wiggins enjoyed the Georgia Watermelon Convention, in beautiful St. Simons Island, Georgia. The group was eager to meet again, and it enjoyed a well-attended and informative convention, in picturesque St. Simons. We thank the Georgia Watermelon Association for your continued support.

They were soon off to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the, Gulf Coast Convention in Biloxi, MS. We certainly thank Gulf Coast for their continued support of our National Queen. She was welcomed warmly by President Terry Parish. This well attended convention was enjoyed by many, always a fabulous time in a beautiful setting with WATERMELON in the spotlight!

Paige and Kerri missed the Mar-Del Convention due to Texas weather. We have to say we appreciate all the support always received from this Association. Thank You Mar-Del! It was an amazing convention from the looks of the pictures. Thank you for your continued support.

Paige enjoyed a final NWA Queen School Promotion in Center, Texas. The classes enjoyed a watermelon book reading by Queen Paige and an official Seed Spitting Contest at Center Elementary. We thank NWAP for the use of the grant money to make this possible. I know the kids loved having you! To wrap up promotions down to the wire, the weekend before National Convention, our busy National Queen was sponsored to the Saguaro Half Marathon in Tucson, Arizona. This event was in conjunction with the United Fresh Produce of the Americas, Andrea Ortega and sponsored by the Watermelon Board. Thank you NWPB, and the watermelon was furnished

To wrap up promotions down to the wire, the weekend before National Convention, our busy National Queen was sponsored to the Saguaro Half Marathon in Tucson, Arizona. This event was in conjunction with the United Fresh Produce of the Americas, Andrea Ortega and sponsored by the Watermelon Board. Thank you NWPB, and the watermelon was furnished and donated by Cactus Melon of Nogales. Thank you, Ramon, Barbara, and Christian Murillo! This event had runners eight years old and up, with 1500 runners. They loved having watermelon to hydrate and replenish at the race finish! Thanks Cactus Melon!

The evening before the event they were treated to a delicious dinner at Daisy Mae's in Tucson by Brent and Susan Harrison of Nogales. Brent is a past President of NWA and Susan was my 1994 National Queen. Thanks Brent and Susan! What a fabulous ending to a great two-year tour! Thank you again Paige, you are now a lifetime member of the watermelon family!

## NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

The 107th Annual National Watermelon was well attended in Nashville, Tennessee at the Sheraton Grand Downtown Nashville. It was amazing to be together again as a group, the watermelon family treasured each event. We enjoyed the opportunity to visit in person after missing last year.

The slate of officers for NWA for 2022 are Chairman John Gee; President, Hamilton Dicks IV; Vice President; Bob Gibson; Executive Director; Bob Morrissey. The Marketing Award went to Doug Cahoon and Sam's Club. The inductees as Future Watermelon Leaders are Dalton Borders of Hargill, Texas, son of Ranell and Nowell Borders of Borders Melons, and Blake Mouzin of Vincennes, Indiana, son of Cathy and Dennis Mouzin of Mouzin Brothers Farms.

We thank Syngenta and their continued promotional efforts of the Chapter Queen Programs with annual sponsorship for the State Queens.

We congratulate Mr. Dean Liere of Syngenta Seeds on being inducted into the National Watermelon Association's Hall of Fame. This was established to recognize the past leaders and pioneers who made major contributions to the Association in key aspects of the business. Dean contributed to the success of the Association (and the industry) by leading and remaining steadfast in all he has done, and the legacy that he has left behind. Congratulations Dean!

We congratulate the winner of this year's Outstanding Service Award, who have had long term levels of support and commitment to our Association. NWA honored the Three owners of Melon1; Rich Chastain; Hamilton Dicks IV; and John Lapide. Congratulations Melon1!

NWA enjoyed another successful auction this year. We especially thank all those that donated loads. This is the bread & butter of the auction. We also thank those that purchased loads. We thank all those that donated and purchased items for the auction. Without the support of each of you we could not continue as an Association. The items brought \$89,325.00; \$34,600.00 went to Charitable Contributions; and \$453,352.00 was made from the loads, with a total of \$577,277.00 total proceeds from our auction.

The King Donor and the King Buyer Award went to Melon1! Thank You Melon1, and Congratulations!

We at NWA thank all our Platinum Sponsors, Corr Choice; Gibson Produce; International Paper; Schmieding Produce; Seminis and Syngenta.

The 2022 National Watermelon Queen is Miss Bethany Barfield, Florida Watermelon Queen! Congratulations Bethany! A wonderful year awaits you!

The Miss Jubilee award went to Miss Anna Young, NC Watermelon Queen; the Second Runner-up went to Miss Anna Young, NC Queen, and the First Runner-up went to Miss Grace Rainey, Illiana Watermelon Queen.

Thanks to the following for sponsoring awards to the National Watermelon Queen, and to the NWA Queen Program, we so appreciate each of you! NWA; Gibson Produce; MultiCorr; Adam Jackson Memorial Scholarship, donated by Brent Jackson; Seedway; Sakata Seed; and Heather Raulerson and Melon1 for purchasing the luggage.

I thank each State Queen for the outstanding job you did representing your Association's. You did them proud!

I'm sorry I don't have photos of all the other awards, only the queen awards. We don't have those from the photographer yet. They will be posted on the NWA site later.

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



A little in field training during Texas Convention



The girls Congratulate the 2022 Texas Queen, Miss Olivia Johnson!



So many visiting state queens attended the Texas Convention, thank you!



Paige congratulates Olivia!



Queens and Coordinators enjoy the beauty of the Season



Paige enjoys a day at Center Elementary School in Center, Texas, complete with seed spit



**HERE'S TO 2022, MOVING FORWARD,  
AND TO A GREAT YEAR OF  
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**CONTACT**

ELEANOR BULLOCK TO BOOK  
[etb.nwa@gmail.com](mailto:etb.nwa@gmail.com)  
(229)322-9933



# National Pictures



Out for a Seafood dinner in Hilton Head, a very large group, not pictured, thank you Kendra and Gideon



Paige Congratulates Samantha Nichols, and thanks Queen Serena for doing a great job, and on her teaching career.



Thanks to Gibson Produce and this fella Rob Gibson for all you do, and his wife Kelli and little Bo



Paige visits with NWPB's Executive Director, Mark Arney and NWPB's Juliemar Rosado at the SC Convention in Hilton Head



Working the GWA Auction, thanks GWA for sponsoring Paige



These girls look beautiful!



We thank this gentleman for sponsoring us to the SC Convention, Mr. Rusty Kinard of Kinard Farms



Special thanks to IWA President Kelly Tyner for the auction gift for Paige



Congratulation to Adahy Pritchett, 2022 Georgia Watermelon Queen



Paige thanks Mr. Hammy Dicks, NWA President of Melon1 for all they do for us!



Queen Lindsey welcomes Grace and Paige to Georgia, and the GWA Convention



Gulf Coast President, Terry Parish visits with Queens Hannah and Paige during the convention's watermelon themed party



Congratulations to these ladies, 2022 SC Queen Samantha and her court, Congratulations to Samantha Nichols,



Goodies from Mr. Paul Sawyer during the Gulf Coast Auction, thank you Paul

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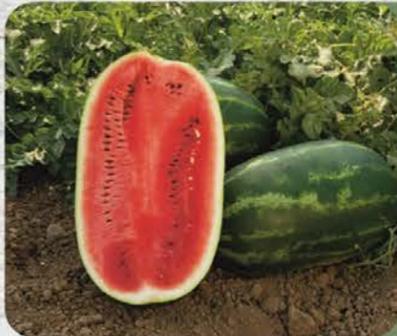
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Super Crisp With High Brix  
Very Small Seed Pips  
Excellent Shelf Life



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High Yield Potential  
Nice Round-Oval Shape  
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**Tyler Raulerson**  
Southwest GA  
229.891.8226

Repeat The Reward

# National Pictures



Bethany and Paige get in a visit with Mr. Billy Smith



Congratulations to 2022 Gulf Coast Watermelon Queen, Miss Madison Sieving!



The perfect post-race treat



Also Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Garrett at Gulf Coast



Tucson, Arizona with past NWA President, Brent Harrison, and fellow watermelon sister Susan Harrison (1994 National Queen) treated Paige and Kerri to dinner



The perfect way to get hydrated



Madison and Hannah welcome Paige to the Gulf Coast Convention



A lovely duo, National Queen Paige and our Kerri Wiggins, race ready to serve the runners



They served 1500 Runners



Kendra Kennedy chats with the girls during the watermelon party



They are loving it!



Thank you NWPB and Fresh Produce of the Americas



Gulf Coast President, Terry Parish and his beautiful wife, welcome Paige



The true finish line, 3 days before she leaves for the NWA Convention in Nashville! Thank You Paige for A Job Well Done!

# OUR NEW MISSION

*is crystal clear!*



**So many reasons to join--so many needs each season--let the NWA help you climb the mountain and solve the issues of the year, and beyond**  
**Log on to [www.watermelon.ag](http://www.watermelon.ag) for more information.**

# National Pictures



The team dinner in Nashville



NWA Welcome Reception!



Congratulations!



The girls loved their shirts!



They are Auction Ready



Bethany's Coordinator, Debra Harrison is ecstatic, Bethany had a surprise visit from her mother and sister, they were so thankful to be there to Congratulate Bethany



Contestants and Paige ready for the Opening Night Party and reception with the judges



The 2022 National Watermelon Queen, Miss Bethany Barfield, First Runner-up Grace Rainey; Second Runner-Up and winner of Jubilee Award, Anna Young, Congratulations to each of you!



The crowning photo, sister queens, Kendra, Madison, and Paige congratulates our new 2022 National Watermelon Queen



Thank you ladies, for the amazing job you did representing your State Associations



Our Queen Bethany is exhausted, but ready and beyond excited to serve! Congratulations!

# Florida Report

## Greetings from Florida

As our year ended in December 2021, Queen Bethany attended the 16th Annual Florida Seed Skeet Shoot held in Nokomis, Florida. Queen Bethany enjoyed helping out with their annual auction and actually getting to try to shoot skeets. During this event we were able to sign up many new members to join our association. Thank you to our sponsor Mark Bryan with Super Sweet Farms and to everyone that came out and support this event.

Queen Bethany started her year off in 2022 attended several conventions in January and February with her first being the South Carolina Watermelon Convention. Congratulation's to Miss Samantha Lee Nichols being crowned the 2022 South Carolina Watermelon Queen. The first weekend of February she attended the Mar-Del Watermelon Convention in Cambridge, Maryland. Congratulations to Miss Jenna Anger for being selected as the 2022 Mar-Del Watermelon Queen. Then the following weekend Queen Bethany headed to Biloxi, Mississippi for their 3rd Annual Gulf Coast Watermelon Convention. Thanks to Brianna Barfield for filling in as a chaperone. Congratulation to Miss Madison Sieving for being crowned the 2022 Gulf Coast Watermelon Queen. A huge thank you to all of our sponsors Schmieding, Gibson Select, International Paper, and Seedway, for sponsoring us to these conventions.

Our last weekend together, Queen Bethany and I headed out to Nashville, Tenn. for the 107th National Watermelon Convention. I'm so proud to announce that our Florida Watermelon Queen Bethany brought home the title of the 2022 National Watermelon Queen. **CONGRATULATIONS to BETHANY!!!** Way to go!! On behalf of the Florida Watermelon Association, our board members and FWA members we are all so very proud of you, Queen Bethany. She has done an amazing job these past two years being our Public Ambassador. Thanks to everyone that attend Nationals in Tennessee and supported Queen Bethany. Also, Congratulations goes out to Miss Anna Young for winning the "Miss Jubilee Award", Second Runner-up Miss Grace Rainey – Iliana Watermelon Queen, and First Runner-up Miss Anna Young – North Carolina Watermelon Queen. All the States Queen's did an awesome job representing their home state.

Our 2022 newly crowned Queen Amber Boykin starting off her reign the month of February at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, Fla. in our newly renovated booth. Thanks to Marty and Jennifer Boykin for renovating our booth.

As our season is approaching us in the next few months. We would like to wish all of our watermelon farmers a successful and prosperous year. If you like for Queen Amber to attend an event, please reach out to me at (863) 633-8306 or email at [debra@flfwa.com](mailto:debra@flfwa.com).

Debra Harrison  
Florida Watermelon Promotions Coordinator



Enjoying the day at the Florida Seed Skeet Shoot! Thanks Chuck Elam and Wayne Cline for having us.



Thank you Heather Raulerson and International Paper for all you do for FWA.



Congratulations to Justin Connerly for winning the 2021 John Deere Gator raffle drawing at the Florida Seed Skeet Shoot.



Thanks Paul Sawyer with Gowan Seed Company for the watermelon sun-glasses.



Being at the South Carolina Watermelon Convention, it was nice to get to visit with one of their watermelon farmers Rusty Kinard.



Congratulations to Madison Sieving for being crowned the 2022 Gulf Coast Watermelon Queen.



Congratulations to Samantha Lee Nichols for being crowned the 2022 South Carolina Watermelon Queen.



Thank you to Rob Gibson - Gibson Select and John Lapide - Melon 1 for purchasing the beautiful watermelon bag for Queen Bethany at the National Watermelon Convention.



Queen Bethany excited for winning the Mar-Del Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest. Way to Go Queen Bethany!



Words can't describe how proud we are of you, "Congratulations Bethany Barfield for being crowned the 2022 National Watermelon Queen. Way to go!!!"



Ladies having fun at the Mar-Del Watermelon Convention. Congratulations to Juliemar Rosado with NWPB for winning the best costume contest.



Congratulations to second runner-up Grace Rainey – Iliana, NWQ Bethany Barfield – Florida, first runner-up and Miss Jubilee Anna Young - North Carolina at the National Watermelon Queen Competition.



Congratulations goes out to our first vice-president Mr. Rob Gibson for being crowned the 2022 Mar-Del King.



All smiles from our Florida Watermelon family in Nashville, Tennessee.



Congratulations to Miss Jenna Anger for being selected as the 2022 Mar-Del Watermelon Queen.



Being at the Florida State Fair the month of February our 2022 Florida Watermelon Queen Amber Boykin in our new renovated booth handed out slices of watermelons on opening day.

# Georgia Report

Greetings from Georgia!

The Georgia Watermelon Association is excited to share with everyone that our 2022 GWA Queen is Adahy Pritchett, a Wesleyan College student from Gray, Georgia. Adahy is looking forward to an exciting year as the GWA Public relations representative. She cannot wait to begin her travels to promote this sweet and refreshing treat in the days ahead!

Queen Adahy just attended her first watermelon promotion at Appling County Elementary and she is looking forward to traveling to Orlando for Queen Training, hosted by the National Watermelon Promotion Board. She will be traveling to Cordele soon to join in on the festivities at the Watermelon Capital Hot Air Balloon Festival, where she will take a tethered ride above a newly planted watermelon field in South Georgia!

Future promotions include a TV segment with ATL & Co influencing viewers to go out and get a fresh, Georgia-grown watermelon at their local retailer. Just as Georgia watermelons are ready to be harvested, Georgia Public Broadcasting's, "A Fork in the Road," will be featuring several local producers at their operations. Queen Adahy will also be featured in the segment to help harvest our favorite fruit and speak about her role as the Georgia Watermelon Public Relations Representative.

Looking ahead into the Spring, Queen Adahy will be joining the Georgia Spring Savage Race, along with over 4,000 athletes and spectators, in NE Georgia to hand out our favorite replenishing treat! Other promotions include school visits, culinary kids camp, Braves Country 5K, and Atlanta Braves on-field experience as Honorary Team Captain.

We cannot wait to continue our travels, promoting our slice of happiness!

Would you like to schedule a date for our Georgia Watermelon Queen to visit your location? Please call Dawn Cheplick at 706-845-8575 or [dcheplick@asginfo.net](mailto:dcheplick@asginfo.net) to book the queen.

Sincerely,  
Dawn Cheplick, Promotions Coordinator  
706-845-8575  
[dcheplick@asginfo.net](mailto:dcheplick@asginfo.net)



Watermelon Cupcakes and Kids Culinary Camp Open House at Leaning Ladder Olive Oil Tasting Boutique.



Photo opp with the GWA Queen!



Queen Adahy is presented with a special T shirt, compliments of Appling County Elementary School



The Queen creates hand motions for 'Look, Lift, and Turn' method of picking out the perfect watermelon.



## Gulf Coast Report

We've had a busy new year.

We started by visiting the Mar-Del Watermelon Association Convention. We had a blast participating in their Grease themed opening reception. It is always a joy to see our friends from Maryland and Delaware.

We then held our annual Gulf Coast Watermelon Convention. It was so nice being back at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS. We got to hear a Bluegrass band Friday night with Shannon Slaughter. To end our convention we crowned our new 2022 queen, Madison Sieving. Madison is from Enterprise, AL, and she attends the University of Alabama.

We ended the month of February in Nashville, TN at the National Watermelon Convention. It was so much fun to see all of friends from all over the country. Our 2021 queen, Hannah Hughes, represented the Gulf Coast Association with class and style, and we are so proud of her. We can't wait to see all she accomplishes in the future. We want to wish our friend, Bethany Barfield, a congratulations as she became the new National Watermelon Queen. Bethany is genuine and beautiful on the inside/out. We know she will represent the National Watermelon Association well.

As of March 1st, we have began our new queen, Madison's, year officially. The Lee County Republican Club and the Republican women of East Alabama hosted a sip and shop event at Lily Jane Boutique. Female Republican candidates were invited to speak including Katie Britt who shared about her why in running for office.

We are looking forward to a normal and productive year.

We hope you all stay safe and healthy!

Love always,  
The Gulf Coast Watermelon Association



# Illiana Report

Greetings from Illiana!

Preparations are underway for what we hope will be a prosperous growing season in Indiana and Illinois!

The time has come for Queen Grace to give up her crown and we are so proud of the way she has served our association. Grace shared her passion for the industry with the judges at the national convention and we are excited to share she was awarded second runner-up in Nashville, Tennessee! Thank you, Queen Grace, for an amazing two years. We know you will do great things!

Our 32nd annual convention took place March 10th through 13th at the beautiful French Lick Resort in French Lick, Indiana. It was a wonderful weekend filled with good food, great friends, and fun! Kelly Tyner, our 2020-2022 President, passed the gavel to Cody Smith and we welcome a new 2nd Vice President, Ms. Renee Goodwin of Poseyville, Indiana! We also crowned our new 2022 Illiana Watermelon Queen, Miss Gabby German, of Crystal Lake, Illinois! Queen Gabby is an Integrated Marketing major with hopes to be a social media manager in the future. We are happy to welcome her to the watermelon family!

Our new Officers are as follows:

Chairman of the board: Kelly Tyner  
 President: Cody Smith  
 1st Vice President: Rob Beets  
 2nd Vice President: Renee Goodwin

Updates to our board include Brad Johnston who now serves on the Executive Council and John Nowaskie, Ed McClellan, and Judy Kentworthy are now Lifetime Council. New to the Executive committee is Todd Bell.

Of course, our convention could not go on without the help of our wonderful sponsors. A huge THANK YOU to our platinum sponsors, Superior Ag, CorrChoice, International Paper, Seedway, and Farm Bureau Insurance! Thank you!

We look forward to a wonderful growing season!

Kind Regards,  
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Western wear ready in Music City!



Passing the crown



Making the most of Nashville



Introducing Miss Gabby German, your 2022 IWA Queen!



Congratulations, Grace on your 2nd runner-up placement!



Thank you Grace for a wonderful two years!

# Mar-del Report

The 2021 watermelon promotion year has come to a close. The Mar-Del Watermelon Association held its annual convention February 4-5th. We had five lovely contestants compete in the Mar-Del Queen competition. The weekend was filled with our watermelon friends and family. It felt so good to be back at our Mar-Del Watermelon Convention. We started the weekend with the Grower seminar and Grease themed President reception. Saturday, the queens started the day with speeches and promotion wear. We finished off the afternoon with the auction and the final banquet crowning the 2022 Mar-Del Watermelon Queen. Jenna Anger is our newly crowned queen and will start her promotion year at the Illiana Watermelon Convention and attend the Watermelon Promotion Board sponsored Queen Training. We are excited for another year of promotions and seeing what this year will bring.

Queen Leslie competed in the 2022 National Queen competition in Nashville, TN. She did an outstanding job and we are so proud of all she accomplished during her reign. Leslie said some of her favorite promotions were getting to tour Mar-Del growers farms and packing sheds. She said she learned some much of what truly goes on behind the scenes and has inspired her to want to tell the farmers story even more.



The crowning of the 2022 Mar-Del Watermelon Queen, Jenna Anger.



Promotion wear ready at Nationals.



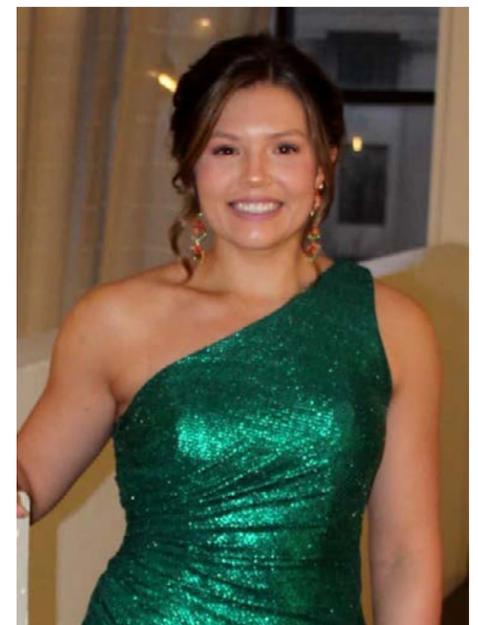
Queen Leslie with the other state queens at the Grease themed President reception.



Queen Leslie's favorite part of the competition, interview.



Queen Leslie and our Pink Lady contestants.



Simply stunning! The Mar-Del Watermelon Association is so proud of Leslie and all her hard work she put into preparing for Nationals.



Queen Leslie ready for auction at the National Watermelon Convention.



The Mar-Del watermelon association had quite the showing at Nationals.



Queen Leslie and her family out to dinner in Nashville.

# North Carolina Report

What a fun year it has been for the NC Watermelon Queen Miss Anna Young. Anna was the perfect watermelon ambassador and we would like to thank her for her dedication this season. Always happy to be promoting watermelons no matter the time, place or Covid restrictions! She had a smile on her face and was gracious to everyone. We must also congratulate Queen Anna for being selected First Runner Up and Miss Jubilee in the NWA Queen Pageant in Nashville, TN and for representing North Carolina so well. This season Anna had the opportunity to promote the NC Watermelon Association at the South Carolina and Mar-Del Watermelon Conventions as well. A special thank you to both groups for your hospitality. Anna wanted an opportunity to say a farewell to all of her supporters this year.

Dear Watermelon Family and Friends,

This year has been truly remarkable serving as your 2021 North Carolina Watermelon Queen. When it all began, I had no clue what was in store or if I would even be able to meet any of you in person. I never expected to have been blessed with such a supportive family like all of you! Although I am sad to relinquish my title, I am and will always be proud to promote and serve our association. I have immensely enjoyed the countless miles and minutes spent with you all as they taught me first-hand what it means to have a true heart for the industry. As thanks to your many stories, advice, and the sweetest hugs I walk away from this year being twice the girl I was just a year ago. These lessons and experiences are something I will carry along with me for a lifetime and I can't wait to see the many more blessings that come from our wonderful watermelon family.

All the Love,  
Anna Young

The NC Watermelon Association just completed our 39th Annual Convention and it was great to be meeting in person. Congratulations to our newly crowned 2022 NCWA Queen Miss Emory New from Nashville, NC. Emory is a student at NC State University majoring in Agriculture Engineering. We are looking forward to a great year with Emory. Watch for more convention highlights in our future articles. Wishing you all a prosperous watermelon season.

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



Queen Anna at the SC Watermelon Association Convention



Anna enjoying the "Grease" theme party on the first night of the Mar-Del Watermelon Convention



Fun at the Mar-Del Convention with Juliemar and Stephanie



Queen orientation in preparation for the NWA Queen competition



Gift from the NC Watermelon Association



Queen Anna getting ready for the opening night party at the NWA Convention



Anna and Paige at the NWA Convention in Nashville, TN



Queen Anna selected as Miss Jubilee by her peers in the 2022 NWA Queen competition



Congratulations to the 2022 NWA Queen Pageant winners. Grace XX second runner up, Bethany Barfield 2022 Queen and Anna Young first runner up along with 2021 Queen Paige Huntington. It was a great pageant.



Anna and Sue Colucci at the NWA Convention



2022 NC Watermelon Queen Pageant Contestants, Queen Anna and SC Queen Samantha getting ready for the NCWA Auction.



Queen Anna receiving a special gift from Howell Farming Co and Melon 1



Frank Howell and Anna at the NCWA Convention Auction



Mr. Joe Jones was presented the NCWA Distinguished Service Award from President Frank Howell during the NCWA Convention



Congratulation to all the winners of the 2022 NC Watermelon Queen Scholarship Pageant. Second runner up and Miss Jubilee Lilly Whitaker, 2022 NCWA Queen Emory New, first runner up Kayley Merritt and 2021 NCWA Queen Anna Young



It is always great to have returning NCWA Queens at the convention each year.

## South Carolina Report

What a great beginning to 2022! Not only have we crowned a wonderful new queen, Miss Samantha Nichols of Saluda, SC, but we are in full swing for an awesome year of watermelon promotions.

Our calendar is filling up and Queen Samantha can hardly wait to begin her reign as the 2022 South Carolina Watermelon Queen. We will start off with a visit to the NC Watermelon Convention and then proceed with numerous schools and functions within the state including a new 3 school event in Buford, SC.

It is so good to be getting back into a normal routine and I sincerely hope that each and every state will have a tremendous year in the watermelon industry. Samantha and I look forward to seeing every one of you in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Ann Bryant  
SC Promotions Coordinator  
abryant028@charter.net  
864-303-3995



# Texas Report

Greetings everyone!

I hope this letter finds all our friends in the watermelon world doing well.

The first and only event of this year for Queen Micayla and myself was the National Watermelon Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Though Nashville was a little cold and rainy we had a wonderful time. Seeing everyone from the different associations was just what was needed to feel like life is getting back to “normal”. This event was actually the first where Micayla and I got to meet some of the other state queens, and we were so grateful to get acquainted with them. On Thursday evening we had a wonderful buffet dinner and some great entertainment by Louis Brice and Montgomery Gentry. Queen Micayla had fun dancing with some of the children and visiting with new people. On Friday morning the contestants had a couple of the judging elements, and they were the speech portion of the competition and the impromptu question. All of the ladies did a great job, and every state association should be proud of them. Later Micayla and the other queens took part in the seed spit, and then they all helped in making the auction a success. The next morning started early with informative speakers and then the contestants had the promotion wear competition. After that the girls had their interviews with the judges, an on-camera interview, and a written portion of the competition. That afternoon we had a little down time, so Micayla and I decided to grab lunch in town. We chose Ole Red, which is Blake Shelton’s restaurant. We liked the food and especially enjoyed the live music. The final night brought the evening gown competition. Every year I say the girls looked lovely and this year is no different. Each young lady chose a gown that suited them, and they all looked stunning. After one of the best banquet dinners I have had and after the awards were given, the announcement we were waiting for was made. Miss Bethany Barfield was crowned the 2022 National Watermelon Queen. We are very happy for Bethany and know she will do a fantastic job as an ambassador for the NWA.

As a final statement about our queen, I would like everyone to know that Micayla stepped into the job of being the Texas Watermelon Queen at a very unusual and difficult time. She worked hard and did her best despite a very busy school schedule, and I am so thankful to have gotten to know her. I and the rest of the Texas Watermelon Association wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

Until the next time, I pray everyone has good weather and good markets for their crops, and most importantly, good health for their families.

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



Our Texas girls, Micayla and Paige



Beautiful auction helpers



Dancing with new friends



Time for promotion wear



Micayla is ready for her speech.



Micayla looked lovely in her evening gown.



Loving the Queens' shirts



Micayla with TWA members Luke and Kendall Brown



Seed spit



Micayla congratulates her friend, Bethany.

## Western Report



WWA 2022---Wow did we have Fun!

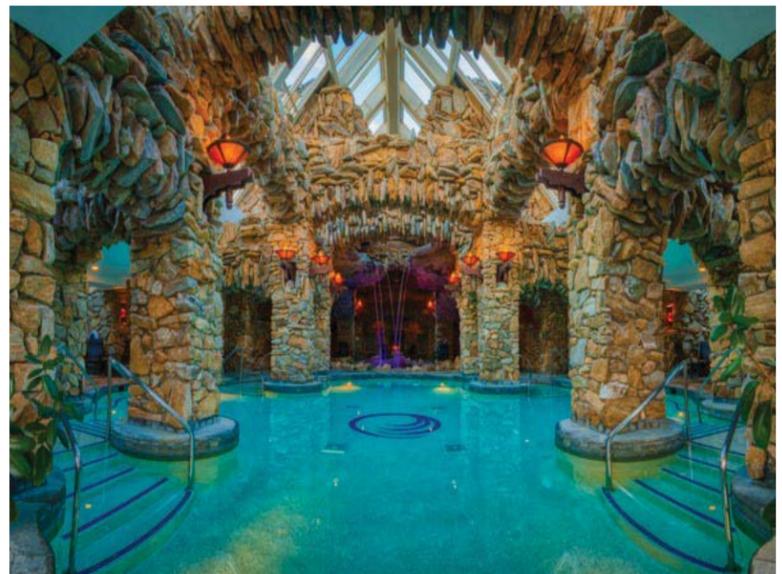
From the Ashes we arose! Two weeks prior to our convention, with covid surging, Guest speaker cancelations and registrations abysmal, we were exploring our options---canceling, rescheduling, but ultimately, we chose to move forward. And as luck would have it----Then our members came! While attendance was 2/3's of a normal year, that was a big win during the height of a covid surge! We had a terrific convention and the new lunch/open bar venue, Tom Urbans just kicked it. Three hours of enjoying food and drink with friends in an indoor /outdoor setting that abutted the Las Vegas Strip The atmosphere was just terrific. It was truly one of the best conventions that we have ever held. Can't wait to host WWA 2023!

Sincerely,  
Tashi Zouras  
President  
Western Watermelon Association

For more information on the Western Watermelon Association, be sure to check out our website at: [www.westernwatermelon.org](http://www.westernwatermelon.org) and  "like" us on **facebook**



# SAVE THE DATE!



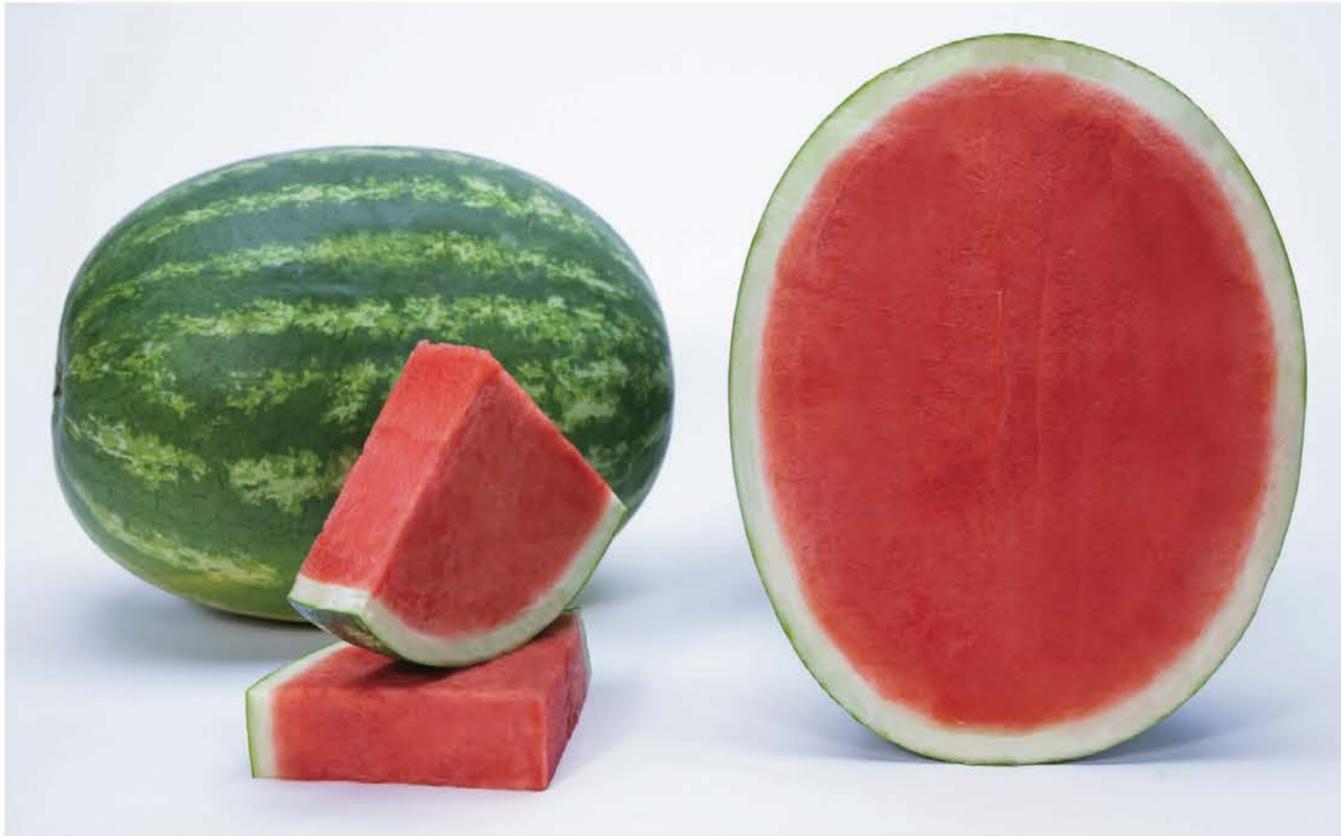
## **Omni Grove Park Inn Asheville, North Carolina**

**February 20-26, 2023**

**108th National Watermelon Association  
Convention & Annual Meeting**

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- Higher fruit sets
- Excellent watermelon flavor for great consumer appeal
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- Ideal for retail either whole or fresh-cut
- Intermediate resistance to Fusarium Wilt race 1 and Anthracnose race 1



## New Syngenta Watermelon Variety Sales Will Benefit Veterans' Organizations

Introduced in the 2022 growing season, for every new **Valor** 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).



**For more information, contact your Authorized Full Count Dealer.**

Learn More About the Initiative



SCAN ME

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Further details of the Valor promotion such as percentage of the sales that will be donated, and period of the promotion will be made available by December 2021.

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