

Georgia Report

The Georgia Watermelon Association recently held our annual meeting at The Blackshear Resort and Golf Club in Cordele, GA. The two-day event, held January 29-February 1, 2009, boasted the highest attendance numbers in recent history with more than 221 attendees. According to Charles Hall, Executive Director of the Association, "We are so pleased with this year's annual meeting. We had a great group of attendees, an informative educational session with exceptional speakers and a terrific group of contestants for the Queen Contest. The weekend was definitely a success and we appreciate all the exhibitors and growers that supported the event."

We are pleased to announce that Miss. Lindsey Marie Mann of Tifton, GA was crowned our 2009 Georgia Watermelon Queen during our annual meeting. Lindsey is the 20-year-old student at The University of Georgia and is the daughter of Bill and Sheree Mann. Lindsey plays both the harp and piano and often performs at weddings and other special events. Additionally, she was a church pianist for several years prior to moving to Athens, GA to attend school. Lindsey is a junior majoring in Accounting maintaining a 3.98 gpa. We are thrilled to have Lindsey as our 2009 Georgia Watermelon Queen.

We had 10 top notch contestants this year running for the title of Georgia's Watermelon Queen. Ms. Whitney Leah Conner of Abbeville, GA was named 1st runner-up and Ms. Lauren Elizabeth Hale of McDonough, GA was named 2nd runner up. Additionally, Ms. Jessica Morgan Thompson of Pineview, GA received the Miss Jubilee Award. As a part of the meeting, C & L Packing/Melon 1 was awarded King Buyer and King Donor for donating and purchasing the most loads of watermelons and auction materials.

GWA would like to thank everyone that sponsored during our convention: Abbott & Cobb, AG GA Farm Credit, ACA, Albany Pallet Exchange, Bank of Dooley, Ben Morris, Borders Melons East, C & L Packing/Melon 1, C. H. Robinson, Cole Woodroof, Commercial Shuttle Service, Inc., Delta Fresh Sales, Inc., Dixon Farm Supply, HarvestMark, Helena Chemical Co., International Paper, Leger & Son, LTF Greenhouse, LLC., McMelon, Inc., Mobley Greenhouse, Nunhems USA, Inc., Planters First Bank, Rawlins Farm, Rooney Bowen Chevrolet, Seminis Vegetable Seeds, Simmons Produce, Smurft-Stone Container, South GA Banking Co., Sue Childers, Sunbelt Seeds, Syngenta Seeds, Temple Inland, Triangle Chemical Co., Tucker Farms, Valdosta Plant Co., Westlake Produce, Zeraim Gedera.

ALL SPONSORSHIPS WERE GREATLY APPRECIATED

Since convention, Queen Lindsey has begun her tour. We joined the Cordele Chamber of Commerce for their annual Fish Fry at the Atlanta Freight Depot. Lindsey greeted guests with watermelon stickers as they entered the building to enjoy the tasty catfish. Lindsey headed back to Atlanta for the annual Ag-Awareness kick-off week where she met with the House and Senate to be proclaimed on the floor as the 2009 Georgia Watermelon Queen. Thank you Mr. Buddy Leger and Rep. Buddy Harden for making the resolution possible. After visiting the capitol during this Ag-Awareness day, Lindsey joined the GWA exhibit booth where we handed out watermelon coloring books and brochures. Our 1st runner-up Miss. Whitney Conner filled in for Lindsey at the Adel, GA Ag Day at the Primary School. We demonstrated watermelon and handed out delicious slices of watermelon donated by Borders Melons East. Thank you Barry and Christine!

We are excited watermelon season is near. Please contact us if you have need for the Watermelon Queen to promote your product.

Sincerely,

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We were fortunate to have ten wonderful contestants at our annual convention. Each of the contestants helped make our convention a success.



Lindsey Mann and Rep. Jay Roberts at the State Capitol.



In the middle of our lovely contestants you will see the highlight of our Friday night at our convention...Adams King!



Sen. Dickie Crosby, Queen Lindsey, Rep. Buddy Harden and Mr. Buddy Leger in Atlanta at the GA State Capitol.



Thank you Borders Melons East for sponsoring our 2009 GWA Queen Lindsey Mann.



Ag Awareness Day at the Capitol.



We appreciate Rich Chastain and John Lapide for their tremendous support to Georgia.



Queen Lindsey with Gov. Sonny Perdue's granddaughters in the Governor's office.



Queen Hannah between two very special men...Buddy and Greg Leger.



A pleasure running into Ken Lewis in Atlanta during the Ag Kick-off.



Sweet times with Brittanie Faircloth Garner and Mitch Mitchell.



Chris Greene from Cordele loves his watermelon queens!



WE ARE FAMILY! Eric Clifton of SunBelt Seeds and Brittanie.



First runner-up Whitney Conner at Ag Day in Adel, GA.



Hannah Jones in Charleston, S.C. ready for the President's reception.



Whitney Conner served delicious Borders East watermelon slices and read a watermelon story to the students during Ag Day.



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