

-----**DAY 0**-----**September 29, 2015**-----

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 – 9:00pm	Onsite Registration/ Materials pick up	[Main floor lobby]

-----**DAY 1**-----**September 30, 2015**-----

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:00	Onsite Registration/ Materials pick up	[Main floor lobby]
	Poster set up	[Smoky room]
7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast	[Salon D&E]
8:00 – 8:15	Welcome, overview, and introductions Larry Arrington , University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Chancellor	[Cherokee ballroom]
8:15 – 9:00	KEYNOTE: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES David Bransby , Switchgrass: Thirty years of research at Auburn University	[Cherokee ballroom]
9:00 – 10:20	SESSION 1: ECOLOGY AND LOCAL ADAPTATION Session moderator: Mike Casler	[Cherokee ballroom]
9:00 – 9:20	Loretta Johnson , Kansas State University Adaptive genetic differentiation and local adaptation of dominant prairie grass <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> along the precipitation gradient of the US Midwest: Implications for climate change	
9:20 – 9:40	John Lovell , University of Texas Gene expression variation between upland and lowland <i>Panicum hallii</i>	
9:40 – 10:00	Caitlin Race , University of Arkansas Pitfall trapping in switchgrass	
10:00 – 10:20	Discussion	
10:20 – 10:35	Break	[Smoky room]
10:35 – 11:50	SESSION 2: SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION Session moderator: Tom Juenger	[Cherokee ballroom]
10:35 – 10:55	Esther Parish , Oak Ridge National Laboratory Sustainability assessment of east Tennessee switchgrass-to-ethanol production	
10:55 – 11:15	Amanda Ashworth , University of Tennessee Biologically fixed nitrogen in legume intercropped systems: Comparison of N-difference and 15N enrichment techniques	
11:15 – 11:35	David Duncan , University of Wisconsin-Madison Effects of nitrogen fertilization rates on N ₂ O production and denitrification in switchgrass soils	
11:35 – 11:50	Discussion	
11:50 – 1:00	Lunch buffet	[Salon D&E]
1:00 – 3:00	SESSION 3: BREEDING AND GENETICS	[Cherokee ballroom]

Session moderator: Yanqi Wu

1:00 – 1:45	Mike Casler , USDA-ARS Breeding, genetics, and genomics of switchgrass and big bluestem	
1:45 – 2:05	Serge Edmé , USDA-ARS, University of Nebraska Selection responses to breeding a switchgrass population for bioenergy objectives	
2:05 – 2:25	Roger Samson , Resource Efficient Agricultural Production, Canada Developing a one year RRPS breeding system with creeping nursery for big bluestem and switchgrass	
2:25 – 2:45	Christian Tobias , USDA-ARS Production of new octoploid switchgrass populations by seedling treatment	
2:45 – 3:00	Discussion	
3:00 – 3:30	Break	[Smoky room]
3:30 – 4:45	SESSION 4: MOLECULAR BREEDING Session moderator: Christian Tobias	[Cherokee ballroom]
3:30 – 4:15	Malay Saha , Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Development of a nested association mapping population in switchgrass and its use for the identification of natural allelic variations for biomass yield and quality	
4:15 – 4:35	Joseph Evans , Michigan State University Revealing ecotype variation in switchgrass through exome capture sequencing	
4:35 – 4:55	Laura Bartley , University of Oklahoma Genetic association and correlation analysis of switchgrass biomass content	
5:00 – 6:00	Poster session All even numbered posters will be presented	[Smoky room]
6:30 – 8:30	Welcome dinner 4 Market Square Knoxville, TN 37902	[The Square room]

-----**DAY 2**-----**October 1, 2015**-----

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:10	Breakfast	[Salon D&E]
8:10 – 10:00	SESSION 1: BIOTECHNOLOGY Session moderator: Gautam Sarath	[Cherokee ballroom]
8:10 – 8:40	Neal Stewart , University of Tennessee Grassroots: the history of switchgrass biotechnology in Tennessee	
8:40 – 9:00	Christine Ondzighi-Assoume , University of Tennessee Development of an efficient cell suspension culture system for protoplast production, rapid cell wall biosynthesis, and shoot regeneration in switchgrass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i> L.)	
9:00 – 9:20	Jonathan Willis , University of Tennessee Heterologous expression of TcEG1 beetle cellulose in switchgrass improves sugar release efficiency with no affect to biomass yield	
9:20 – 9:40	Yunwei Zhang , China Agricultural University Cloning of the PvNHX1 gene and its transformation in switchgrass	

- 9:40 – 10:00 Discussion
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break [Smoky room]
- 10:15 – 11:50 SESSION 2: BREEDING AND GENETICS [Cherokee ballroom]
Session moderator: Malay Saha
- 10:15 – 10:35 **Arvid Boe**, South Dakota State University
Clonal and progeny evaluations of genotypes of switchgrass selected for long-term biomass production in the northern Great Plains
- 10:35 – 10:55 **Yanqi Wu**, Oklahoma State University
Switchgrass sexual reproduction and its impact on breeding new cultivars
- 10:55 – 11:15 **Michelle Serapiglia**, USDA-ARS
Evaluation of the impact of compositional differences in switchgrass genotypes on pyrolysis product yield
- 11:15 – 11:35 **Hem Bhandari**, University of Tennessee
Optimization of switchgrass for sustainable bioenergy feedstock production
- 11:35 – 11:50 Discussion
- 11:50 – 1:00 Lunch buffet [Salon D&E]
- 1:00 – 3:00 SESSION 3: GENOMICS AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY [Cherokee ballroom]
Session moderator: Neal Stewart
- 1:00 – 1:45 **Jeremy Schmutz**, DOE Joint Genome Institute
Improved reference genomes for diploid and tetraploid *Panicum species*
- 1:45 – 2:05 **Nathan Palmer**, USDA-ARS
That perennial prairie lifestyle: below ground metabolism in switchgrass
- 2:05 – 2:25 **Gautam Sarath**, USDA-ARS
Functional genomics of switchgrass developmental processes
- 2:25 – 2:45 **Tom Juenger**, University of Texas
Studying local adaptation and GxE in *Panicum* grasses
- 2:45 – 3:00 Discussion
- 3:00 – 3:20 Break [Smoky room]
- 3:20 – 4:30 SESSION 4: BIOTIC AND ABIOTIC STRESS [Cherokee ballroom]
Session moderator: Loretta Johnson
- 3:20 – 3:50 **Kevin Childs**, Michigan State University
Physiological, metabolic and gene expression responses of lowland and upland switchgrass to salt stress
- 3:50 – 4:10 **Peng Qi**, University of Georgia
Unraveling the genetics of frost tolerance in switchgrass
- 4:10 – 4:30 **Gary Yuen**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Rust diseases in biofuel switchgrass in Nebraska and other northcentral states
- 4:30 – 5:30 Poster session [Smoky room]
All odd numbered posters will be presented
- 5:30 – 6:00 Remove Posters
Dinner on your own

-----**DAY 3**-----**October 2, 2015**-----

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast	[Salon D&E]
8:00 – 8:15	Board bus outside hotel at Clinch Ave.	[Clinch Ave.]
9:00 – 10:10	Tour Genera Energy Biomass Processing Facility	
10:15 – 11:15	Tour Genera Switchgrass field	
12:00	Arrive at Hilton Hotel Downtown Lunch on your own	