



Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

SUMMER 2017



MEMBER
Association of Official
Seed Certifying Agencies
<http://www.aosca.org>

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I've Been Thinking - Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

Finally the annual meetings and trade shows are over and we can get to work. As I reflect on this winter's meetings, I can't help but to comment on at least two events. We held the GCIA Annual Membership Meeting in March. We had excellent attendance and one of our more informative programs. Please visit our website www.georgiacrop.com to view the most recent changes to the seed certification standards relating to Bahiagrass and Centipede.

GCIA membership elected Mr. Kevin Calhoun, Birdsong Peanuts, Inc. as President, Ricky Hartley, Golden Peanut and Tree Nuts, Inc. as 1st Vice President, Ken Morrow, The Turfgrass Group, Inc. as 2nd Vice President and Lane Morrell, Plantation Seed Conditioners, Inc. will remain on the executive committee as Past President. Scott Grimsley and Ken Morrow were re-elected to the GCIA Board of Directors.

Billy Skaggs, Marie Sidwell and I recently attended the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. AOSCA was organized in 1919 and is composed of 44 member agencies responsible for seed certification in their states. The association establishes and enforces minimum quality standards for certified seed and works closely with other national organizations to promote the use of high quality seed.

Whereas all this is very important, the exciting news is that Georgia Crop Improvement Association will be hosting the 2018 AOSCA Annual Meeting next summer. This opportunity comes around about once every 35 years, and we are excited to showcase Georgia agriculture. Please consider this as an invitation to attend and meet our colleagues from not only the U.S. but international guests as well. We will be providing you with meeting dates and the program of activities as we get closer to the meeting.

REMINDER: The Georgia / Alabama Seed Association Annual Meeting is coming up on July 9-10, 2017 at the Sandestin Beach & Golf Resort in Sandestin, Florida. To register, contact Scott Morgan in Alabama at scott@grosouth.com or Billy Skaggs in Georgia at wdsdaggs@gmail.com.



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NPBPA Leadership Program Announces Graduates



Robin Singletary, Chairman of the Leadership Training Program of the National Peanut Buying Points Association presented the graduates with a certificate after two days of presentations and industry tours. This year's class of 20 was sponsored by the Association.

Those completing the class include: Seth Adams, Suwannee River Peanut Company, Jasper, FL; Brandon Arnold, Golden Peanut and Tree Nuts, McRae, GA; Jon Byrd, Birdsong Peanuts, Greenwood, MS; Micah Conoly, American Peanut Growers Group, Donalsonville, GA; Chase Crawford, Georgia Crop Improvement Association, Athens, GA; Stuart Franklin, Mazur & Hockman, Albany, GA; Jessica Goodman, BCT Gin Co., Inc. Quitman, GA; Ty Harper, Longbridge Peanut, Nashville, GA; Craig Jones, Birdsong Peanuts, TyTy, GA; Casey McCarthy, Golden Peanut and Tree Nuts, Ashburn, GA; Jeff Reese, Birdsong Peanuts, Walnut Ridge, AR; Travis Read, Reeves West Bay Peanuts, Wilmer, AL; Ashley Rowland, Premium Peanut, Douglas, GA; Rex Vandiver, The Seam, Memphis, TN; David West III, Firetower Peanut, Camilla, GA; Justin Straub, Reeves West Bay Peanuts, Grand Bay, AL.

Mr. Chase Crawford of GCIA had this say about the program, "As an inspector, I don't really get to see the marketing side of the peanut industry, so it was very educational. I learned a lot about foreign and domestic marketing and sales. The opportunity to meet so many great people from the industry and learn about the roles everyone plays (buying points, shellers, brokers) was very interesting."

GCIA congratulates all the graduates of the 2017 NPBPA Leadership Program!

(Thanks to Tyron Spearman, Editor of the Peanut Farm Market News.)

2017 UGA Peanut Update now available

The University of Georgia Peanut Team produces a peanut update every year for growers. The update provides information for the 2017 production season focusing on climate summary for 2016 and outlook for 2017, peanut cultivar options, peanut breeding, peanut rotations update, weed control, insect management, irrigation update, disease update and Peanut Rx. The publication is made possible through funding from the Georgia Peanut Commission.

Here's an excerpt from the update by Dr. Scott Monfort, UGA Peanut Extension Specialist:

"Peanut acres likely to remain elevated for the third year due to the reduced carryover as a result increased exports and reduced yields and quality in 2016. Low prices for other commodities are also going to entice growers to plant more peanuts. With this in mind, growers need to take several things into account before planting the first seed such as: **rotation, field history for diseases and nematodes, irrigated / non-irrigated, and yield and grade potential**. Unfortunately, growers have forgotten some of the aforementioned items and it has cost them some of their profits. I would encourage your growers to plan ahead and make sure they understand the risk associated with planting peanuts in short rotations or in fields with higher disease levels. Growers cannot continue to cut corners on inputs and expect to make high enough yields to remain economical under these highly risky situations."

To view the 2017 Peanut Update, go to http://www.gapeanuts.com/growerinfo/2017_ugapeanutupdate.pdf.

Waltz honored by TPI with Turf Educator Award of Excellence



Dr. Clint Waltz received the Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) Turfgrass Educator Award of Excellence earlier this year at TPI's 2017 Education Conference in Tampa, Florida.

The Turfgrass Educator Award of Excellence is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated personal commitment, dedication, and has had a positive influence in helping to educate consumers, turfgrass producers and industry professionals throughout the world. The award recipient is someone who has made themselves available to their community and to TPI and its members to address turfgrass questions and

concerns. The winner has also been a leader in promoting the benefits of turfgrass.

Clint joined the University of Georgia turfgrass team in September 2001 as a Turfgrass Extension Specialist. His program leadership responsibilities are in all turfgrass management areas, including turfgrass water management. He also has other state responsibilities include serving as ex officio board member for the Georgia Urban Ag Council. He also serves the golf industry on the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association (GGCSA) education committee and Water Task Force.

Ken Morrow of The Turfgrass Group stated, "Clint focuses on industry relationships in his role as Extension Turfgrass Specialist by serving as liaison with each industry association serving the turfgrass industry."

He has served the sod industry since his first year at UGA. His work in conducting the Annual Sod Industry Survey and annual reports on it have greatly enhanced sod marketing for all sod growers and provided landscapers, sports field managers, golf course superintendents and other urban ag professionals with a third party, unbiased report of the inventory of turfgrass sod by species, and with expected price impact for the spring season. This report is a "go to" resource for all sod customers in planning and bidding their projects. Sod farms rate it a key resource in evaluating the market and setting prices for sod each spring. Clint leads industry associations' committees in planning and conducting annual education programs and conferences. He provides this assistance also for our Turfgrass Sod Field Day which occurs every two years and has a one-half day seminar."

Aaron McWhorter of NG Turf wrote, "As Georgia Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Clint focused on serving the turfgrass industry from day one at UGA. He has continuously put his attention on building relationships with any and every entity of the turfgrass industry."

Dr. Waltz has been published in scientific journals and trade magazines, and makes regular contributions to the newsletters of state associations. Additionally, he makes numerous presentations to turfgrass professionals, from golf course superintendents and county extension agents to homeowner groups. He was also active in working with TPI's Public Relations Working Group and Extension Specialists Meetings and has spoken numerous times at TPI-related events.

GCIA congratulates Clint on this well-deserved recognition!
(Courtesy of UAC Magazine May/June 2017)

UGA CAES will showcase their latest research at Field Day 2017

By: Clint Thompson, UGA CAES News

MOULTRIE, Ga. — World-renowned research by University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences scientists will be featured at this year's Sunbelt Field Day in Moultrie, Georgia.

More than 600 acres of agricultural research conducted by various UGA commodity teams, as well as industry, will be on display during the field day, which is set for Thursday, July 13, at the Darrell Williams Research Farm, located at the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo site at Spence Field in Moultrie. The event is free and registration will begin at 7:15 a.m. Trams depart for the field tours at 8 a.m. and the event concludes at noon.



“This year’s field day will continue to focus on the latest cotton, peanut, corn and soybean seed varieties, crop protection, soil fertility and irrigation. We will also have a bermudagrass variety plot as well as alfalfa plots,” said Chip Blalock, executive director of the expo. “The goal of these research plots is to identify the best practices for our farmers and ranchers to (use to) become even more economically and environmentally sustainable.”

The field day will feature 30 stops; talks from UGA scientists like Stanley Culpepper, Glen Harris and Dennis Hancock; and will focus on commodities like cotton, peanuts and forages.

The research done at farms across Georgia, like Sunbelt, contributes to the success of Georgia farmers. Glen Harris, UGA Cooperative Extension soils and fertility specialist, focuses the majority of his research at the expo farm on cotton. Harris studies the effects of fertilizer treatments, specifically sulfur-based fertilizers, foliar potassium and sidedress nitrogen fertilizers.

“To be able to do research at Sunbelt is really valuable because the crew here is so easy to work with, and it’s also a very visible place. A lot of people know where Sunbelt is and come by,” Harris said. “Sunbelt is absolutely valuable to our work. Some of our studies wouldn’t be possible if not for the cooperation and help that we receive here.”

Managing weeds is a constant battle for farmers throughout the South. Research efforts at the expo farm involve maximizing weed control through new and old cotton technologies, minimizing cotton injury by herbicides and better understanding the volatility potential of the new auxin herbicides.

“The expo is unique in my research program because I am provided an opportunity to do large-acreage-plot research that more closely represents our growers. Additionally, the assistance from the expo staff is priceless,” Culpepper said.

Blalock believes that attendees will enjoy hearing from and talking with the UGA researchers who are helping to improve their farming practices.

“That’s the beauty of field day. We try to limit it to 30 stops on the tram tour, but when field day is over and they’ve had time to visit with the researchers during lunch, then they have the option to go back out to the fields and visit even further,” Blalock said.

“This is the one time of year when we focus on seed variety, crop protection, fertility, irrigation. While we already have this year’s crop in the ground, people can come see the new technologies and start making input decisions for the following crop year. They know when they come to field day, they’re going to see the latest technologies that are going to help their bottom line on the farm,” said Cody Mitchell, expo farm manager.

For more information, visit <http://sunbeltexpo.com/2017-field-day/>.

Southern Soybean Research Program visits Georgia



The Southern Soybean Research Program (SSRP) uses soy checkoff dollars to coordinate and fund production research projects that benefit the Southern soybean-producing region. The SSRP is managed by the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board. Six states make up the SSRP including Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Georgia's representatives to the SSRP are Dr. Roger Boerma, Executive Director of Georgia Seed Development and GCIA's Billy Skaggs who serves as the Executive Secretary to the Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission.

The SSRP meets twice a year and recently met here in Georgia. On June 20th, the SSRP toured UGA's Stripling Irrigation Research Park (SIRP). The SIRP is the premier research/extension facility for irrigation in the Southeast. Despite heavy rain the day of the tour, Mr. Calvin Perry, Superintendent of the Park, provided a tour of the station and gave an overview of the many projects taking place there.

SIRP is the current location of the irrigation work being funded by SSRP in Georgia. The project, **"Developing Irrigation Management Strategies for Soybean Production in Humid Regions of the Southern US,"** is being coordinated in Georgia by Drs. George Vellidis and Wesley Porter with the University of Georgia Crop & Soil Sciences Department. While at SIRP, Velledis and Porter provided an update on the project.

This project will provide Georgia soybean growers with a cheap, reliable, and easy-to-use irrigation scheduling tool. The benefit to soybean growers who use this tool will be consistently higher yields, higher water use efficiency, and conservation of water resources.

The long-term goal of this project is to develop an interactive evapotranspiration (ET) based irrigation scheduling tool for soybeans which operates on a smartphone platform and that can be used to implement both conventional and precision irrigation. At completion of the project, the Soybean Smart Irrigation App will have at minimum a Georgia footprint but will be easily expandable to a regional or national footprint.

For more information on the Southern Soybean Research Program, visit the program online at www.kysoy.org/ssrp.



SCRI Turfgrass Field Tour

On May 17, Terry Hollifield and Billy Skaggs of GCIA participated in a tour coordinated by Dr. Brian Schwartz, UGA Turfgrass Breeder, of visiting turf breeders and students participating in a multi-state Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) project. Ben Copeland, Jr. hosted the tour at Super-Sod in Marshallville. Other participants included Ken Morrow of The Turfgrass Group, Dr. Roger Boerma of Georgia Seed Development and Shelley Fincher of the UGA Innovation Gateway. Hollifield and Skaggs discussed the importance of turf certification and how the inspection process works. Below are some pictures from the day's activities. Thanks again to Brian and Ben for the opportunity to attend.



GCIA supports FFA Turfgrass Management Proficiency Awards

GCIA was proud to sponsor the Turfgrass Management Proficiency Contest at the 89th Annual Georgia FFA Convention held April 27-29 at the Macon Centreplex. Our turfgrass certification program is a vital part of business and nationally recognized. As such, we understand the importance of preparing the next generation of turfgrass professionals. We thank Georgia FFA allowing us to contribute. See below the notes of appreciation received from the winners, Owen Paulk of Ocillia and Daniel Holcomb of Mr. Airy.

Dear Mr. Terry,

I truly appreciate Georgia Crop Improvement Association for supporting the Turf Grass Management Proficiency. Going into this next summer with my lawn care service, I will always remember what it was like to be a State FFA recipient winner. Again, thank you for your support for not only myself but also the FFA

Yours truly,
Owen Paulk Trwin FFA



Dear Mr. Terry Hollifield,

Thank you for recognizing my Turf Grass Management Proficiency as a Second place winner at the state level. It was an honor to receive this award.

Sincerely,

Daniel Holcomb



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