



Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

SUMMER 2018



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

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I've Been Thinking - Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

I've been thinking how proud the Georgia Crop Improvement Association was to host the 99th Annual Meeting of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) June 24th through 27th in downtown Atlanta. With over 100 guests in attendance, virtually every seed certification agency in the U.S. was represented. We also had several international representatives including Canada, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa and Alabama - just kidding about Alabama!

As an international organization, AOSCA coordinates services including crop field inspections, laboratory testing and labeling. These services enhance seed quality, purity and identity of seed and crop propagating materials from state to state and nation to nation. AOSCA's certified seed program and its connections with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) encourages and facilitates international seed sales.

Thanks to the generous contributions of our members, we were able to spread around some good ole fashion southern hospitality.

Hosting this meeting also makes me think (I know, too much thinking) how fortunate we are to be in an industry that has numerous organizations that work, mostly with volunteers, to advance agriculture. These organizations promote and finance basic and applied research, domestic and foreign market development, political action committees, organizations that establish standards dealing with seed production, seed testing, labeling, arbitration and the list goes on. Farm organizations are more important today than at any other time in history.

As many of you know, I am an avid reader, mostly books on history. I am of the opinion that "history is the window to the future". Recently I read the foreword to a book about Georgia Agriculture from 1850 to 1950. The writer speculated that the farm population in the United States by 1960 would be about 8% of the total population. As such, the farmer vote in both state and national elections would be relatively unimportant. However, the author concluded that would not be a problem because with farmers making up only 8% of the population farmers could demand fair prices and would be in control of their destiny, thereby not needing government support programs. Can you say WRONG!

My point is, we need and must have, all of our trade organizations so we can be heard. Production agriculture is indeed small in numbers, but huge in economic impact and providing the absolute necessities of life. If you aren't a member of an agricultural trade association, please join, and if you are a member, participate.

2018 AOSCA Annual Meeting Highlights



AOSCA President Randy Judd presented GCIA's Terry Hollifield with the Honorary Member Award. This award is in recognition of dedicated service and commitment to AOSCA's mission and principles and is the highest honor given to an AOSCA member.



UGA Innovation Gateway Assistant Director Brent Marable addressed attendees at the AOSCA Awards Luncheon.



Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black provided a warm welcome to AOSCA members and gave them an overview of the state's Ag industry.



GAC President Bryan Tolar was the keynote speaker at the AOSCA Annual Banquet at the Georgia Aquarium.



GCIA's Billy Skaggs visited with Rachel Hankins, Certification Specialist with Oregon Seed Certification Service.



GCIA's office staff, including Joy Cooper and Becki Hicks, surprised Terry at the Annual Awards Luncheon when he received the Honorary Member Award.



GCIA Peanut Update

In preparation for the peanut field inspection season, GCIA held an inspector training on July 25-26 in Tifton. Along with our staff, we were joined by Dr. Roger Boerma and Ralph Johnson of Georgia Seed Development. At the training, Dr. Bill Branch, UGA Professor & Peanut Breeder, reviewed peanut varieties on a tour of his field plots. He also planted several plots of intentionally mixed varieties that were used for the training. In addition, Dr. Scott Monfort, UGA Extension Peanut Specialist, provided us with an update on current field conditions and problems to watch for. Special thanks to Dr. Branch and Dr. Monfort for their support of the certified peanut seed program.

With almost 124,000 acres of peanuts applied for, our inspectors will cover a lot of ground over the next several weeks. Special thanks to our office staff, Becki Hicks and Joy Cooper, for their efforts in processing all the peanut applications! Also, thanks in advance to the buying point managers for your assistance! We certainly could not undertake such a task without your help.



Dr. Bill Branch leads a discussion on the different varieties in production. Pictured (L-R): Ralph Johnson, Johnny Luke, Mark Collier, Terry Crane, Chase Crawford, Dr. Branch, Sean Cunard, Dr. Roger Boerma, Raymond Bryant, Thomas Kessler, and Nino Brown, research assistant.



Inspector Raymond Bryant looking at the differences between two varieties.



Inspectors Chase Crawford and Sean Cunard looking at one of Dr. Branch's experimental lines.

GA / AL Seed Associations Hold Annual Convention

The Georgia / Alabama Seed Associations held their annual convention on July 9-10 at the King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort at beautiful St. Simons Island on the Georgia coast. As the host for this year's convention, Georgia recognized their members for outstanding service to the association and the seed industry as a whole. In addition, Lane Morrell of Plantation Seed Conditioners passed the President's gavel to Tony Harper of Athens Seed Company. During the convention, members heard from many excellent speakers, enjoyed some good food, and had the opportunity to network with others in the seed industry. As they say, a good time was had by all! Below are a few pictures from the convention.



President Lane Morrell presented Kevin Phillips of Dupont Pioneer with the Seedsman of the Year Award.



President Lane Morrell presented Rusty Autry of Seminis with the Hall of Fame Award.



President Lane Morrell presented Tony Harper of Athens Seed Company with the President's Plaque which is provided by the Southern Seed Association.



Special thanks to the courteous and professional staff at the King & Prince Beach & Golf Resort. They always make us feel right at home!

GCIA Hosts Turfgrass Inspector Training

On July 18-19, Terry Hollifield and Billy Skaggs conducted a turfgrass inspection training for inspectors from around the southeast at Super-Sod in Cartersville, Georgia. States participating included Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Day one consisted of a classroom session which included a review of turfgrass standards, identifying contaminants in the field, and working with producers. Day two featured a field exercise at Super-Sod during which time a mock inspection was conducted. A special thanks to Ben Copeland, Josh Morrow, and Brandon Chambley of Super-Sod for hosting us.



REGISTER NOW - GCIA Peanut Buying Point Training

All buying point representatives are invited to join us on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 for our annual Peanut Buying Point Training Session. Again this year, we are meeting at the **Georgia Federal-State Inspection Service Offices in Albany**. The address is 951 Pecan Grove Drive, Albany, Georgia. Thanks in advance to Mr. T.E. Moye and Ms. Teresa Cox for hosting us. Billy Skaggs, Certification Program Manager, will be conducting the training beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. and concluding by noon. We have also invited other speakers from the peanut industry to join us as well.

A buying point must appoint a representative knowledgeable of GCIA rules to be responsible for the buying point's compliance with the published rules governing certified seed production, handling and storage. GCIA representative(s) must attend a training session offered by GCIA no less than once every two years. Attendance at the Annual Peanut Seed Short Course will qualify as required training. A peanut buying point is any facility that receives and/or stores certified peanut seed. Each approved buying point location must have an onsite representative. A representative may not be responsible for more than one location.

All buying points will receive via US Mail a list of the authorized representative(s) GCIA has on file for your facility. When you receive this written notification, please review for accuracy and to determine if you are required to attend this year.

Please register by August 17, 2018

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