



Georgia Crop Improvement Association



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GCIA News Briefs

WINTER 2017/2018

I've Been Thinking

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

The end of the year "I've Been Thinking" article is normally easy to write. I usually give a brief report on acres inspected, certification tags issued, etc. However, yesterday while I was organizing some of the papers lying around my office, I came across my copy of Paul Harvey's 1978 monologue, "So God Made a Farmer", which should be required reading for every middle school student. With the Thanksgiving holiday fresh on my mind, I got to wondering just how many of us thanked God for the American farmer? I bet we all gave thanks for "hands that prepared the food we are about to eat", but did we give thanks for the American farmer who provides us with food, shelter and clothing? Or did we just take the farmer for granted?

Whereas Mr. Harvey's speech is factual and inspiring, I think he should have added another paragraph. The American farmer, and I believe most of us agriculturists, still honor our heritage and history, actually practice real sustainable agriculture, have a sense of pride in what we do, and respect our fellow man. I'VE BEEN THINKING that this country needs more farmers.

P.S. GCIA did have a great 2017:

Field inspected 166,503 acres. (Peanuts, 146,944 acres, turfgrass 7,994 acres plus small grain, forages, soybeans and other crops).

Issued 3,182,403 Certification tags (each tag equals a 50 pound unit)

Food Safety, Organic and International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Programs remain steady as compared to 2016.



Upcoming Ag Industry Events - GCIA hitting the road in 2018

Over the first few months of 2018, GCIA staff will be participating in a number of Ag industry events and trade shows. Such activities provide us a great opportunity to visit with our members as well as those working in related industries. If you're attending one of these events, we hope you will stop by and visit.

The 2018 Southeast Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference is January 11-14 at the Savannah International Convention Center. The Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference is the largest educational conference and trade show in the southeastern U.S. that unites growers, vendors and suppliers. Anyone with an interest in specialty crop agriculture is invited to be a part of this event. For more information, visit www.seregionalconference.com.



The 42nd Annual Georgia Peanut Farm Show will be held Jan. 18, 2018, at the University of Georgia Tifton Campus Conference Center, Tifton, Georgia. The one-day show offers peanut farmers and those involved in the peanut industry the ability to learn more about the latest products, services and peanut research within the peanut industry. [Click here for more information.](#)



Golf Industry Show 2018 is February 3-8 at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The Golf Industry Show (GIS) is an innovative trade show designed for owners and operators of golf facilities and golf course management professionals. Featuring the largest exhibit floor in the industry, the event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, equipment managers, owners/operators, general managers, chief operating officers, and architects and builders. GCIA staff will be attending to promote our International Turfgrass Genetic Assurance Program. [Click here for more information.](#)



The 2018 Annual Winter Conference of the National Peanut Buying Points Association will be February 16-19 at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. Billy Skaggs, GCIA Certification Program Manager, will be a featured speaker at the conference, and GCIA will have an exhibit as well. For more information, visit <http://www.peanutbuyingpoints.org/>.



The 2018 Georgia Organics Conference and Expo is taking place at the Augusta Convention Center in Augusta, Georgia February 16-17. Johnny Luke, GCIA Organic Program Manager, will be on hand to interact with current organic clients and meet potential new growers. For more information, visit www.georgiaorganics.org.



UGA's Wayne Parrott Named AAAS Fellow

By: Allyson Mann, UGA CAES



University of Georgia Professor of crop and soil sciences Wayne Allen Parrott has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an honor bestowed by his peers for “scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.” Parrott is among 396 new AAAS Fellows who will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue - representing science and engineering, respectively - rosette pin at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2018 AAAS Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas.

Wayne Parrott, professor of crop and soil sciences at the University of Georgia, believes that genetically improved plants will help feed the world, and he's traveled the globe to help connect farmers and scientists with what they need to make that happen. Since coming to UGA in 1988, Parrott's laboratory has served as an international flagship for genetic research in soybeans and other crops. He's spent the last three decades not only developing new soybean varieties and researching the human and environmental safety of genetically modified crops.

“Selection as an AAAS Fellow is a major milestone in a scientist’s career, and thus the University of Georgia is enormously pleased that three of our faculty have been selected for this honor,” said David Lee, UGA vice president for research. “This peer recognition is important to our faculty, and it also brings added distinction to the university.”

Parrott, a member of the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences faculty, is honored for his distinguished contributions to the development and implementation of plant transformation technologies and to the discussions of the science and regulatory processes associated with genetically modified organisms.

For nearly 30 years, he has conducted research on the discovery, evaluation and use of agriculturally important genes in crop plants, using both molecular markers and genetic engineering, especially in soybean and switchgrass. His emphasis is on developing the methodology for use and safety assessment of genetically modified crop plants, and he has published a guide for environmental risk assessment of GMOs.

Remembering former GCIA board member Charles Carter

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Charles Wilmer Carter on November 16, 2017. Mr. Carter was a proud World War II veteran having served in the Philippines. While a proud veteran, his life’s work and passion was managing his 650 acre cattle and row crop farm in Winterville, Georgia. He was among the first to have a GCIA Approved Seed Conditioning Facility and served on the GCIA Board of Directors for several terms in the 1970’s.

Mr. Carter was always a leader, serving as Commissioner for the Athens-Clarke County Unified government and several agricultural organizations, including the Board of the Northeast Georgia Cattle Barn, Clarke County Farm Bureau, Clarke -Oconee Cattlemen’s Association and Northeast Georgia Resource Conservation and Development Council. At the time of his death, he was a member of American Legion Post 20, Tuckston United Methodist Church, and the Clarke County Farmers Roundtable.



Seed Short Course set for January 9 in Athens

The annual seed short course for approved conditioners of soybean, small grain and grass seed will be held Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at Georgia Seed Development (2420 South Milledge Avenue, Athens, GA 30605). Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., and the program will conclude at noon. At the short course, you will hear from GCIA staff on field and conditioning facility requirements, Georgia Seed Development will provide a tour of their facilities, and Department of Agriculture staff will provide an overview of Georgia seed law, rules and regulations.

Attendance by an approved representative will fulfill the requirement to attend a GCIA sponsored seed short course once every two years. We hope you and/or your employees will join us. Please confirm your registration by email (joy.cooper@georgiacrop.com) or phone (706) 542-2351 before January 5th.

2018 Soybean / Small Grain Expo set for January 30

The Georgia/Florida Soybean Association and Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission present the Soybean & Small Grain Expo on Tuesday, January 30th at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry. Registration begins at 8:00am and the Expo will conclude by 3:30pm.

The Expo provides up-to-date market projections and information on the newest production techniques, as well as remarks from the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences leaders. This year, we are featuring:

Dr. Mohamed Mergoum - Wheat Breeding: New Challenges for an Old Crop

Dr. Adam Rabinowitz - World Outlook for Southern Ag Commodities

Brent Marable - Georgia's Integrated Cultivar Release System

Dr. Zenglu Li - Development and Release of New Soybean Varieties

Dr. Reagan Noland - Strategies to Increase Georgia Soybean Production

Jeffrey Harvey - 2018 Ag Policy Update

Mark Freeman - Ultra Late Soybean Production

PLUS

Presentations related to soybean and wheat production, poster session featuring latest research out of UGA, and an update on research projects funded by the Georgia Soybean Commodity Commission.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) or contact the Georgia/Florida Soybean Association directly at 706-542-3793.



Georgia Soybean
Commodity Commission

Peanut Seed Short Course set for February 13th

The 2018 Peanut Seed Short Course will be held on Tuesday, February 13th at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. At the request of several of our members, we moved the Seed Short Course up from April to February to avoid the busy spring season. Hopefully this will allow more of you to attend. As you will see below, we have a good lineup of speakers for this year, and we hope you will make plans to join us.

8:30 Registration

9:00 Presiding

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

9:10 Peanut Production Update

- Dr. Scott Monfort, Extension Peanut Specialist
UGA CAES Cooperative Extension

9:35 Peanut Market Forecast

- Tyron Spearman, Executive Director
National Peanut Buying Points Association

10:00 Overview of GCIA Field Inspection Process

- Billy Skaggs, Certification Program Manager

10:25 Break

10:40 Overview of Peanut Statewide Variety Testing

- Dr. Daniel Mailhot, Program Director
UGA Statewide Variety Testing Program

11:05 New Developments in Peanut Seed Treatment

- Dr. Tim Brenneman, Professor - Peanut Disease Management
UGA College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

11:30 State Seed Lab Update

- Scott Hobby, Program Director
Georgia Department of Agriculture Seed Laboratory

12:00 Closing Remarks

- Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

GCIA approved plant representatives and buying point representatives are required to attend a seed short course once every two years for the conditioning facility or buying point to remain on the GCIA approved list. If you are unsure if you are required to attend this year, contact Joy at the GCIA office at 706-542-2351.





Georgia Crop Improvement Association

2425 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, Georgia 30605

Phone: 706-542-2351
www.georgiacrop.com

OFFICERS

Kevin Calhoun, Birdsong Peanuts, Inc.
President

Lane Morrell, Plantation Seed Conditioners, Inc.
Past President

Ricky Hartley, Golden Peanut & Tree Nuts
1st Vice-President

Ken Morrow, The Turfgrass Group, Inc.
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DIRECTORS

John Bowen, John Bowen Turf Company

Mitchell Burke, American Peanut Growers Group, LLC

Ben Copeland, Jr., Super Sod / Patten Seed

Larry Cunningham, R.L. Cunningham & Sons, Inc.

Blake Fleeman, Georgia Seed Development

Scott Grimsley, Birdsong Peanuts, Inc.

Bill Marshall, McCleskey Mills, Inc.

Ernie Purcell, John B. Sanfillipo & Sons, Inc.

John Raley, R&R Seed Farms, Inc.

STAFF

Terry Hollifield, Executive Director

Terry Crane, Food Safety Program Manager

Chase Crawford, Field & Conditioning Plant Inspector

Sean Cunard, Field & Conditioning Plant Inspector

Billie Dunn, Outside Services Program Assistant

Jeanne Gonzales, Organic Program Assistant

Becki Hicks, Turfgrass Administrative Assistant

Thomas Kessler, Field & Conditioning Plant Inspector

Johnny Luke, Organic Certification Program Manager

Joy Cooper, Seed Certification Administrative Assistant

Marie Sidwell, Director of Operations

Billy Skaggs, Certification Program Manager