



Georgia Crop Improvement Association

GCIA News Briefs

FALL 2023



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 that this is the last of my little narratives before I enter the world of the retired. Yep, December 31st is the last day of the year and my last day of employment with the joys of receiving a pay check, paid insurance, matching retirement contributions, free coffee (2 cups) seeing wonderful colleagues, getting up at six a.m., reviewing a 100 emails per day, (are there really that many people in the world who want to do a free evaluation of our website?) and responding to the five emails that are relevant, zoom calls and computers that seem to always have a problem. If artificial intelligence is so great why can't computers fix themselves? Come to think of it, if people are so smart, why do they have so many problems?

For those of you who will be retiring soon, get ready for the most asked question, "What will you do with your time?" Answer; "Any damn thing I want"! No kidding, everyone wants to know what I will do in retirement. It is gratifying that people care what my plans are. Everyone says to keep active, stay involved, don't go home and sit down. Really, have any of you ever seen me sit down? Don't worry about me, I've taken pretty good care of myself for the last seven decades.

I have been blessed with a supportive board of directors, clients who are supporters of our programs and a motivated staff. A great group of mentors took me under their wings and guided me along the way. Truth be told, our clients and staff are the folks I will miss the most. Ok, Ok, I hear someone out there saying "You will miss all the controversy that follows you around." You are probably correct, but I like to fix things and there are parts of our world that need fixing.

Here is the place I offer words of wisdom for those who will be replacing me. We are indeed fortunate to be working in agriculture. An industry, especially the seed industry, that is constantly developing, innovating and using science to feed the world. This constant change is what keeps many of us interested and involved and offers opportunities. As I have stated on many occasions, Certifying Agencies have to find a way to stay relevant to agriculture, and some agencies may have to go outside of the seed industry to find a "home". We have a good reputation, we have staffing, we know how to inspect and document what we find. We have a skill set to market, we just need to find the market. So keep looking, try to find that opportunity to excel.

In closing, don't be a stranger, send me emails and give me a call every once in a while.

2023 GCIA Upcoming Ag Events:



SAVE THE DATE
10.25.23
 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA | ATHENS, GA

75th Southeastern Turfgrass Conference

Join us as experts share the latest scientific advancements in turfgrass breeding, sports field management, and more. Plus, take a tour of Sanford Stadium!

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
 College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

More info on the web:
LuGa.edu/8Z2



- Georgia Agribusiness Council Harvest Celebration – Nov 17; <https://www.ga-agribusiness.org/Events.aspx>



- GCIA Turfgrass Authorized Representative Training – Nov 29 starting at 1pm and will be hosted by Patten Seed/Super Sod-Marshallville *Contact Becki Hicks for more info and to register: call 706-542-2351 or email becki.hicks@georgiacrop.com.



- Southeastern Regional Fruit & Vegetable Conference – Jan 11-14; <https://seregionalconference.org/>



- 47th Annual Georgia Peanut Farm Show – Jan 18; <https://gapeanuts.com/farm-show/>



One-on-one with new AOSCA President, Billy Skaggs

By: Seed World Videos (July 31, 2023)

At the 2023 AOSCA Annual Meeting in Bloomington, Minn. (June 4-7), newly elected AOSCA president Billy Skaggs sat down with Aiden Brook, director of partner development at Seed World Group, to talk about certified peanuts, changes in Georgia's seed industry and what he's most excited about in his new role as head of AOSCA.

To read the full article and view the video interview, click [HERE](#).

The screenshot shows a video player interface. The main video frame displays a man (Billy Skaggs) in a light-colored shirt, smiling. To the right of the video frame is a yellow graphic with the text 'BILLY SKAGGS' and 'Certification Program Manager, GEORGIA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION INC. & Newly Elected President of AOSCA'. Above the video frame, the title 'One-on-one With New AOSCA President, Billy Skaggs' is visible, along with the date 'August 11, 2023' and the source 'Seed World Videos'. Below the video frame, there is a 'Watch on YouTube' button. To the right of the video frame, there is a section titled 'ONLINE PARTNERS' with logos for Missouri Soybeans, BASF, KSI, Albaugh, and Nufarm. Below the video frame, there is a section titled 'Order Your Custom Signage Today!' with a 'SHOP NOW' button.

GCIA President Jutt Howard reflects on Terry Hollifield's years of service

On behalf of the GCIA Board of Directors, I would like to thank Terry Hollifield for his 50 plus years of service to the seed industry and congratulate him on his retirement. Terry's contributions extend well beyond the seed industry with service to many sectors within agriculture as well as being a leader in his community. His vision, innovation and leadership have resulted in GCIA being a model for seed certification agencies, and he is respected and admired by his peers around the world. Terry's service extended to the Georgia Sod Producers

Association, the Georgia Agribusiness Council, the Georgia/Florida Soybean Association and he served as President of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). No matter where you might run into Terry you can always count on a friendly greeting, a genuine conversation, and some encouraging words. Terry will be missed by many in our industry, and we wish he and Mrs. Kay a bright future. Also, I'm proud to announce that Billy Skaggs, GCIA certification program manager, has been appointed GCIA executive director effective January 1, 2024.

Jutt Howard
President – GCIA Board of Directors





2023 Acres Applied For:

CROP	ACRES
Peanuts	138,342
Turfgrass	9,890
Small Grains	5,012
Forage Grasses	1,201
Soybeans (including Corteva)	5,700
TOTAL	145,782



PEANUTS:

Acres up 12k compared to 126K acres in 2022. Field inspections were conducted in August & September with four fulltime staff & three part-time inspectors. The Annual buying point training was held on August 28th in Albany.

TURFGRASS:

Turfgrass acres held steady at 9,890 acres applied for this year. 3rd round of turf inspections were conducted in September & October.

SMALL GRAINS & BAHIA GRASS:

5,012 small grain acres this year which is up 1,000 over 2022; forage grass acres ticked up slightly to 1,200.

SOYBEANS:

Approximately 5,700 acres of soybeans will be inspected this year which would be 1,000 acres over 2022 with the majority of the acres being contract inspections for Corteva.



Highlights from the GA/AL Seed Associations' Convention



The 2023 Georgia/Alabama Seed Associations' Annual Convention at The King and Prince Golf & Beach Resort in beautiful St. Simons was a huge success! The convention was held on July 24 – 25 with over 130 in attendance. We had a great group of speakers including Commissioner Tyler Harper, Georgia Department of Agriculture and Bryan Tolar of Tolar Capitol Partners. At the Annual Banquet, our very own Executive Director, Terry Hollifield was awarded with the Hall of Fame Award for his 53 years of service to GCIA as well as the greater seed industry. Bill Bullard, Birdsong Peanuts was awarded with the Distinguished Service Award, and Justin Tanner, Georgia Seed Development received the Seedsman of the Year Award. Congratulations to these well deserving men! Russ Beckham, Nunhems USA was nominated as president and Kevin Phillips, Corteva was awarded for his service and leadership as president for 2021-2023. Thank you to all the members, sponsors, speakers and staff that made this convention so successful!





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