



THE GEORGIA PLANT FOOD
EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
Post Office Box 2538
Albany, Georgia 31702

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GPFES Summer Meeting

July 23 - 25, 2007
Amelia Island, FL

Contact: Jimmy Champion
(229) 883-7050 / (229) 881-0254
jpchamp@alltel.net

Georgia CCA Update James E. Dean Administrator, Georgia CCA Program

Many activities are being planned by the Georgia CCA Board. The 2006 shooting clay fund raiser co-sponsored with GPFES was a huge success and another is planned for August 28, 2007, also at Wynfield Plantation near Albany. A continuing education unit (CEU) session will also be held that day.

A Georgia CCA exhibit is planned for this year's Georgia Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting at Jekyll Island the first weekend of December 2007. This and other activities are being planned to make folks more aware of the CCA program.

The 5th Annual Georgia CCA Conference will be held the afternoon of January 9, 2008 immediately following the GPFES winter meeting in Perry. CCA program updates and CEUs will be provided. Please note that the CEU guidelines changed beginning in 2006. Now, CCAs must get a minimum of 5 CEUs in NM, SW, PM, and CM. The remainder of the 40 CEUs in the two-year cycle can be in any category, including PD.

Please note that all meetings that provide Georgia CCA Board approved CEUs are posted immediately on the Georgia CCA web site located at gacca.org. Look for the tab "Board Approved Training". Also, the web site has contact information for members of your CCA board, links to the ASA web site to check on your CEUs, and a listing of the CCAs in Georgia, in alphabetical order and by county.

TFI Sponsors Soils Exhibit at Smithsonian

Washington, D.C. - The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) announced recently a \$1 million grant in the name of its Nutrients for Life Foundation for an exhibition about soils at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit will feature a soil monolith collection of a representative soil from each of the 50 states plus US Territories. The USDA's Natural

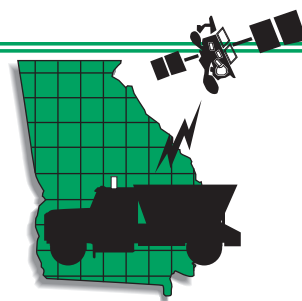
Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) created the collection in 1999 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the national soil survey and donated it to the Smithsonian. Monoliths are large, vertical sections of soil horizons often referred as soil profiles.

The exhibit is scheduled to open in July of 2008 in what is the most visited natural history museum in the world with more than 6 million visitors annually. The 5,000 square foot exhibit is being developed by the Smithsonian in partnership with the Soils Science Society of America (SSSA).

It is designed to increase the level of public awareness about the important role of soils in our world by educating visitors about the many ways soil is essential to human life.

The soils exhibit will be on display until January 2010 after which it may go on a three-four year national tour.

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WHAT & WHY Newsletter

P.O. Box 2538 • Albany, Georgia • (229) 883-7050

For Georgia Plant Food Educational Society Members

Volume 56, No 2

Summer 2007

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunbelt Ag Expo Field Day
July 10, 2007
Moultrie, GA
Contact: Gina McDonald
(229) 985-1968

FFAA Summer Meeting
July 11 - 13, 2007
The Ritz Carlton
Naples, FL
Contact: Mary Hartney
(863) 293-4827

GPFES Summer Meeting
July 23 - 25, 2007
The Ritz Carlton Resort
Amelia Island, FL
Contact: Jimmy Champion
(229) 883-7050 (Office)
(229) 881-0254 (Cell)

Southwest Fertilizer Conference
July 28 - Aug 1, 2007
San Antonio, TX
(512) 259-2118

PFANC Summer Meeting
August 5 - 7, 2007
Grove Park Inn
Asheville, NC
Contact: Howard Singletary
(919) 851-4953

• NOTICE •

Please forward any program recommendations you have for upcoming meetings to:
Tim Forshee
Chairman, Arrangements
& Program Committee
E-mail: forshee64@bellsouth.net



President's Paragraph

Drought is the "D" word. Most of our conversations either begin or end with the devastating effects of no

rain

A concern around here is the availability of water for sustained irrigation. Artesian wells are no longer flowing. Bryan Tolar should have an interesting discussion on "Water" at the CCA training portion of our Summer Meeting.

On a positive note, this 2007 wheat crop has been great. I have been buying wheat

since 1980 and have never seen this quality. Yields are good and prices real good. Farmers that had wheat enjoyed the harvest.

As a plant food industry we have had a pretty good spring with sales volume up everywhere. When the acreage reports are in, we are going to be surprised. Farmers are playing the hand they've been dealt and "Water" is wild.

Tim Forshee and the Program Committee have put together a fine program for the Summer Meeting. Bring all the family and let's enjoy ourselves. See you There.

GPFES Presents... The Summer Meeting of 2007

"A Return to the Island"

Time to enjoy once again the unsurpassed combination of "Old Florida History" and "New Florida Luxury" as the Society returns to Fernandina Beach/Amelia Island for it's 2007 Summer Meeting.

Soak up some rays, take a dip in the ocean, hit a few balls, bend an elbow and some where in there find time to attend the outstanding educational session that has been planned for you.

The meeting is scheduled for July 22 - July 26, 2007 at the Ritz - Carlton Resort Hotel, Amelia Island, Florida.

The educational session is Monday

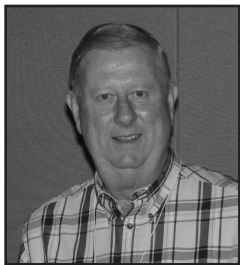
afternoon, leaving all day Tuesday for committee meetings and recreational activities. The program will feature three speakers with outlooks for the future of our industry from three perspectives.

First, what lies in store for agriculture from the State and Federal legislative and regulatory arenas. Second, a view of the future from the supply side and third, a look at the future from the retail perspective.

Monday concludes with a cocktail reception sponsored by Potash Corp and the Mosaic Co., with dinner on your own.

Tuesday evening, after a day of fun, festivities build to a climax with the Silent Auction and Cocktail Reception followed by the banquet.

Plan now to attend and treat you and your family to a few days of rest and relaxation. Registration materials have been mailed to you. Pre-register and save.



From the Office of GPFES Jimmy Champion

Once, when complaining about how long it was till summer vacation, an older gentleman told me “don’t wish your life away”. I have thought about that advice many times over the years and have told my children the same thing. The older we get the faster time moves. It seems like just a few weeks ago we were at Reynolds Plantation participating in the 2006 Summer Meeting.

It doesn’t seem possible that it is time to get your room reservations and your registration completed for the 2007 Summer Meeting. As most of you know, this year, by

popular demand, we are going back to The Ritz-Carlton at Amelia Island, Florida. If you need registration forms, please let us know.

Letters have been mailed to those who had not paid membership dues for 2007. Response has been good but in order to maintain a healthy organization we need both member numbers and member participation. If you have not paid, please do. Enroll an employee. Include your dues payment with the summer meeting registration form or respond to the mailing you received from the membership committee.

I hope to see each of you at Amelia Island.

Society Saddened by Recent Passing of Two of it’s Members

Jefferson I. “Jeff” Davis III
1949-2007

It is with deep regret we report the death of GPFES member and supporter **Jeff Davis** of Dublin, Georgia. Jeff died in a plane crash May 4, 2007 near Ashville, North Carolina.

He was born in Albany, Georgia where he graduated from Albany High School in 1968. He received an Associates Degree from ABAC in 1970 and a BS from Georgia in 1972. He was married to the former **Judith Ann Johnston** and the father of two sons.

Jeff was retired from Uniroyal Chemical. A multi-engine commercial pilot, he often flew for the Governor. He was active in a host of church, civic, political and community affairs.

The Society wishes to extend it’s heartfelt sympathy to his beloved family.

Ty Cobb Griffith
1919-2007

Society members were saddened by the news of the death of one of its charter members, **Ty C. Griffith** on March 27, 2007 in Huntsville, Alabama.

He had been living with a granddaughter at Madison, Alabama since the death of his wife, Marty in 2005.

Ty was an active supporter of GPFES even after retirement. He attended every winter meeting except the last one. He was presented the Lifetime Membership award in 2005.

Ty was a member of the Georgia Independent Plant Food Manufacturer’s Association. As secretary/treasurer, he wrote the letter to GPFES advising them that the association was disbanding and included a check for the balance in their checking account.

His career in the fertilizer business began in 1949 when he joined Cotton States Fertilizer, Macon, Georgia. In 1965, Columbia Nitrogen bought Cotton States where Ty continued to be employed until his retirement in 1990.

Ty is survived by a son, a granddaughter and husband and two great grandchildren plus a host of relatives and friends. The GPFES membership extends it deepest sympathy to the family.

Reserve Your “Support Agriculture in Georgia” License Plate Now!



Help Promote Georgia 4-H and FFA

This special tag can be ordered anytime at your county tag office – no need to wait for your annual registration renewal. Ask for tag code FFH. The cost is \$25.

Ten dollars of the proceeds from the sale of each tag will be evenly distributed between Georgia 4-H and FFA and go to fund special initiatives in each organization. Funds will be used to support the mission of each organization and to pro-mote agriculture, agricultural awareness and environmental education.

Before tags can be manufactured, 1,000 requests with the \$25 fee must be received. If the required number is not received, the fee will be refunded.

2007-2008 Membership Directory Update

The latest edition of the GPFES Membership Directory is now at the printers., according to editor and chief, **Lamar Beamon**. A copy will be mailed to each member upon its completion.

It is the Society’s policy that you must be a member to receive a copy. Anyone from outside the Society who requests one, must pay membership dues first.

Lamar, who is also GPFES vice president, should be commended for the work he does on the directory.

GPFES thanks all of those who purchased ad space. It is this support that covers the cost of it’s production.

Between The Rows.....

By: Dr. Glen Harris, Educational Advisor *You Don’t Need A Weatherman....*

There’s a line from an old Bob Dylan song that says “you don’t need a weatherman to tell which way the wind blows”. Right now (May 29), I don’t need a weatherman to tell me it’s dry. Some are calling this the worst drought in recent history. On top of that, we are (literally) burning up with wildfires. In fact, around here it is more common to get a weather alert for smoke than rain !

So was this a good year to test a number of new nitrogen fertilizers and additives designed to improve efficiency? Good question. Some of these materials are designed to reduce volatilization from urea.

Since most of our dryland cotton is either not planted or ‘dusted in’ it will be awhile before we sidedress, if we do at all. On irrigated corn land we are having to irrigate so frequently to keep the crop going that these materials may only have 3 to 5 days to work. Even so, conditions during this time are “ideal” i.e. enough soil moisture from irrigating to allow N volatilization but otherwise hot, dry and windy.

There is also a renewed interest in nitrification inhibitors. Since these materials or additives are designed to block ammonium from converting to nitrate (I knew you remembered that from your CCA

exam but added it anyway), the assumption is they will be more useful under wet, leaching conditions. Again, you don’t need a weatherman to know we are a long ways from leaching conditions !

But all this could change with one good hurricane or a good break in the weather system. That is what most folks are praying for. Personally, I’ve decided I’m better off praying for rain that listening to the weatherman, cause you know what, I don’t need a weatherman to tell me when it’s raining either !



IT’S BACK TO THE BEACH FOR THE 14TH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION EVENT

Please consider becoming a Contributing Sponsor for the 2007 Georgia Plant Food Educational Society’s FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION which will be held Tuesday, July 24h at the Ritz Carlton Hotel – Amelia Island, Florida

If you’ve previously attended the auction, you know how much fun it is to see members and their families having a great time. We try to provide items of interest for children, as well as our adult members. Since 1993, when we held our first auction, we’ve had great success. What’s our formula for success? MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS + MEMBER PARTICIPATION. Member contributions come in two forms, **cash and items**. Cash helps us to even out the balance between items so that we can be sure all our attendees find something of interest to bid on. Contributions of items help broaden the scope of what is offered because members always come up with some of the most interesting, unique and beautiful items that make the auction so great. And, at the end of the day, participating in the auction gives us such a great opportunity to see our friends and shop at the same time. That’s our definition of success! And Contributors receive recognition in the *What & Why Newsletter* published just after the event as well as on the Bid Sheets placed with each of the items.

If you would like more information or have questions regarding the Silent Auction, please call Judy Sherling toll free at 888-384-5828 Ext. 206 or e-mail her at jsherling@rwgriffin.com. The Society will be glad to invoice you for your cash contribution or provide receipts for donations of items. Reminder Post Cards will be mailed in June.

See you at the RITZ.

Judy

New Associate Dean of UGA Extension Named

Georgia native Beverly Sparks is the new associate dean of extension of the University of Georgia College of Agriculture and Environmental Science effective June 1, CAES Dean and Director, **J. Scott Angle** announced recently.

Dr. Sparks has been serving as acting associate dean for 14 months. She brings a vast wealth of experience to the position, having worked for many years in Texas and in Tifton, Georgia, according to Dean Angle. She has been with UGA Extension since 1989.

Dr. Sparks earned her undergraduate degrees in horticulture and entomology from ABAC and UGA. She earned a master’s degree in entomology from UGA before getting a Ph.D. in entomology from LSU.

Sparks is known around the state for her entomology work, especially with imported red fire ants.

GPFES joins in welcoming Dr. Beverley Sparks to her new position.

