



The Water Spout

Upcoming Dates in 2017

- Texas Water, April 10-13, Austin, Texas
- 7th Annual Water Re-use in Texas Conference, May 18, El Paso, Texas
- Watersmart Innovations Conference & Exposition, Oct 4-6, Las Vegas, Nevada
- IA Irrigation Show and Education Conference, November 8-10, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida
- Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show, November 28-30, Amarillo Civic Center

High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show

Over 100 people attended the High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show in Amarillo February 15 to see 24 exhibitor's booths and hear expert speakers on topics ranging from Irrigation Research Programs and Development to Emerging Irrigation Technologies to Issues in Water Law and Agriculture. Thanks to Dana Porter and Charles Hillyer for their efforts in putting the conference program together.

Thanks to the eight Event Sponsors for their generous support and contribution to the successful Trade Show.

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Check us Out!

Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association is now on Facebook.
A new, updated and mobile friendly Webpage is coming soon.

TAIA Board Seeking Member Input

The Board of Directors is asking for your input regarding two issues in 2017-2018.

1. **2017 Annual Meeting.** Over the years the annual meeting has been held in conjunction with various events such as the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show, the Beltwide Cotton Conference, Irrigation Association Show at locations such as Amarillo, Lubbock, San Antonio, and Austin. Last year's 25th anniversary was a stand-alone event in Fredericksburg. In most cases average attendance has been around 30 members. The Board would like your suggestions and recommendations as to:

Location—a central geographic location or area of higher membership density.

Separate, stand-alone function or in conjunction with some other event (if so, what).

2. **High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show.** Over the years the HPIC held in January or February has faced increasing competition with other entities for attendees seeking CEUs. Vendors sometimes outnumber attendees with limited opportunity to promote their products to end-users. Thus some of the questions facing the Board are:

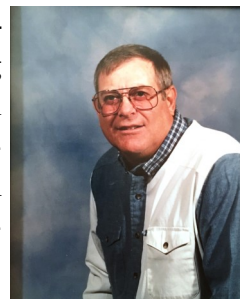
Continue with basically the same location and format and try to schedule to avoid same-day conflicts with others?

Change location to another part of the state, maybe two separate locations?

Please consider these and share your suggestions. You may contact any of the board members or the Executive Secretary. We look forward to your ideas.

. Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship

The Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship was created in honor of Dick Laursen, a life-long irrigation specialist. Dick was born in 1942 into a Nebraska ranching/farming family. He began his career as a purchasing agent for a pivot manufacturer; then moved on to Rainbird Ag before partnering to open SWISH Inc., an irrigation company. With his partners, Dick spent the rest of his life building SWISH, until his death in 1998. He was one of the founding members of TAIA. The scholarship was established in 2002 to assist a student pursuing ag related majors in each of the years since.



Application deadline for the 2017 scholarship was March 1. The 37 applications received are now being reviewed by the Scholarship Committee; Greg Sokora, Mark McCormick and James Prochaska. They anticipate announcing this years recipient by April 20. The 2017 winner will be joining the current recipients: Luke Stutler, Texas Tech University; Kaylee Ites, Texas A&M University; and Emily Wade, Texas Tech University.

In Sympathy

TAIA extends its sympathy to the family of Len Sheets on his passing. Len was a long-time member of TAIA and a well known and respected player in the agriculture market. Please watch your email for further information on services and possible memorial fund.

High Plains Irrigation Conference & Trade Show



Member Spotlight: Anthony Kingery, D&K Manufacturing

Silverton, Texas: Home of the Sight Check Valve

In the early 1970s Edwin Davis owned and operated a full well service in and around the Silverton area. In drilling wells and installing pumps, he saw the need for a visible way his customers could monitor pipeline flow at the pump. He conceived the idea of the sight check valve, but had no experience in manufacturing processes. Ted Kingery, another resident of Silverton, had extensive experience and expertise in metal fabrication. The two of them teamed up and established



D&K Manufacturing in 1976. Ted's son, Anthony, had moved back to Lubbock after spending some time in Indiana, and joined his dad and Davis in the venture.

The business started in a one-room building with three small pieces of equipment and began to manufacture the Sight Check Valve from various sizes of pipe and cast acrylic tubing. Early marketing strategy involved loading a few samples in a pickup, driving to various nearby locations and selling them from the mobile showroom. As the product caught on, popularity and demand increased, requiring larger facilities. The original one room was expanded to several which now houses some large lathes, cutting and welding machines for specialized fabrication for various customers. It also serves as

the local repair shop for the community of Silverton. After the death of Edwin, Anthony purchased the buildings and continued to pay royalties to Edwin's widow until her passing. Anthony and his wife, Kathy, continue to operate the company today.



Sight Checks are available in sizes ranging from 2" to 8" diameter. All the components are made in the shop, assembled, painted and stored ready for assembly. As orders come in for the checks, they are assembled by hand and shipped to wholesalers for distribution, not only in Texas, but neighboring states as well, and even into Mexico.

The Kingerys were and continue to be involved in their community. Anthony has been a member of TAlA for several years and currently serves on the Board of Directors. He is also a member of the Texas Ground Water Association. In the past Anthony and Kathy were active participants in school activities as their daughters were growing up. Anthony has been with the Volunteer Fire Department and served as a paramedic with the local ambulance service in Silverton. He is a longtime member of the Lions Club and served on the Lion's Eye Bank

Board. A recently born granddaughter now receives much of their attention.

TAlA salutes Anthony for his years of service and contribution to improved irrigated agriculture and wishes him the best in his present and future endeavors.



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T A I A

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