



# The Water Spout

## Upcoming Dates in 2016

- Water Reuse in Texas Conference, July 14-15, San Marcos, TX
- Texas Nursery /Landscape EXPO, August 18-20, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas
- TAIA Annual Meeting and Silver Anniversary Celebration, October 3, Inn on Barons Creek, Fredericksburg, TX.
- Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show, November 29-December 1, Amarillo, TX
- IA Irrigation Show and Education Conference, December 5-9, Las Vegas, NV.

## WATTS Conference Held in Lubbock, March 22

WATTS stands for Water Advancement , Technology, Training, and Solutions. The conference was hosted in part by the High Plains Water Conservation District and the City of Lubbock along with several other water conservation districts on the High Plains. The Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association was one of the sponsors and had a booth at the Trade Show.

The conference opened with remarks by Senator Perry and highlighted success stories in water conservation, water reuse, water treatment and technologies used in agriculture, municipal water and the oil and gas industry.

Evening sessions included kid's activities, water-wise plant materials, basics of rainwater harvesting and water conservation education.

Kern Stutler and Board Members Albert Reyna and Kenneth Ewings were on hand to man the TAIA booth.



## Save the Date

**October 3, 2016**

**TAIA Annual Meeting and Silver Anniversary Celebration**

**Inn on Barons Creek, Fredericksburg, Texas**

## Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship

Nineteen applications were received for the 2016 Dick Laursen Scholarship.

Thanks to this year's scholarship committee; Chairman Eddy Riggins, Kenneth Ewings and Bobby De Leon; for reviewing the applications and making their selection in a very timely manner. TAIA is pleased to announce this year's winner, Ty Hess of Stratford, Texas. Ty plans to attend West Texas A&M and major in animal science. Ty is active in athletics in his school and participating in other extra curricular activities as well as involvement in his church and community.

Ty joins our current scholarship students; Luke Stutler, Texas Tech University; and Kaylee Ites, Texas A&M University. Following is an excerpt from Ty's thank you letter.

Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association:

*"...I would like to sincerely express my appreciation for being selected as the recipient of the 2016 Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship. I cannot tell you how much this will help me meet my financial obligations in college. ...thank you for the opportunity you provided me."*



## Coming up Silver

The Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association celebrates its Silver Anniversary this year! Founded in 1991, the organization is completing 25 years of service to the irrigation industry in Texas and neighboring states. The Silver Committee, made up of Edie Bartos Canale, Bobby De Leon and Mark Stutler, is coordinating the arrangements for the event to be held at the Inn on Barons Creek in Fredericksburg on October 3, 2016. This will include the Annual Meeting as well as other special activities for TAIA members, spouses and guests.



A block of rooms has been reserved at the Inn at a special rate for the night of October 3, with the option of including October 2 and/or October 4 at the same reduced rate. Room reservations must be made by calling the hotel **before September 3, 2016**. Reservations **cannot** be made online as the special group rate is not available online. Please call the hotel at 830-990-9202 to make your reservations and mention the Texas Agricultural Association to get the reduced rate. (\$109.00 plus tax, standard 2-room suites with either 1 king or 2 queen beds.)

Additional details of the event will be sent to the membership as they become available. Tentative plans include a catered meal featuring German menu at the Inn Monday night, October 3; shopping, museum visits and tours on Monday and a golf tournament on Tuesday morning. Comments and suggestions may be sent to any member of the committee or to the Executive Secretary, Kern Stutler.

### Member Highlight

#### Agriculture to Irrigation – a Natural Succession

Mark McCormick

Our member highlight features an irrigation service company arising out of agriculture. Agriculture Precision Supply owner, Mark McCormick, was raised on a farm in the Floydada area and earned his BS and MS

Degrees in business and finance from Texas Tech University. Following a few years in Dallas he returned to Floydada in 1989 to join his dad in the farming operations. With hands-on experience managing and maintaining center pivot sprinklers, Mark became a dealer for Pierce Corporation and expanded the service on



his own systems to other owners and operators in the community. In 2014 he purchased Payne Irrigation in Ralls including the Reinke dealership. APS currently operates from two locations, Ralls and Floydada; designing and selling Reinke center pivots and continues to service all makes of center pivot machines. The stores stock a complete line of drip parts but do not handle design or installation of drip irrigation systems.

APS is agricultural supply in its broadest sense. In addition to selling all types of irrigation parts and accessories; from hand cleaners to hand tools; from flow meters to fertilizer applicators; other larger equipment such as fertilizer tanks and tillage equipment can be purchased from or through them as well.

APS is a family owned and operated business. Mark’s wife, Kelly, is the accountant/chief financial officer and manages the store in Floydada. Their son, McCrae, graduates from West Texas A&M in May and will join the family business with a degree in Ag Business. Their daughter, Madolyn, is a sophomore in Business Administration at Texas A&M, College Station.

In addition to the irrigation business, Mark currently farms 5000 acres in Floyd and Hale counties,

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producing mainly cotton with some corn and wheat. Over half of the farms are irrigated, mostly under center pivots. Mark joined TAIA in 2012 following invitations from members of the organization and after reviewing its goals and purposes. He is currently serving on the TAIA Board of Directors as the West Region Representative. Mark and Kelly received the Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Award in 1998.

Mark has been active in Farm Bureau at both the county and state levels; serving as president of Floyd County Farm Bureau and on various committees at the state level. Mark also served on the Floydada School Board.

TAIA salutes Mark and Kelly on their successful service to irrigated agriculture in West Texas and wishes them the best in the future.



### **From Around Texas....**

*The following is an excerpt from a recent press release from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, entitled **Every Acre is Unique**.*

Temple— While all other things wither and decay land alone has the capability to sustain or regenerate itself. Land, marked with a vast array of soils is the origin of food, clothing, manufactured products, building materials, and home to every living thing on this planet. Franklin Delano Roosevelt once wisely said, "The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself."

Farmers and ranchers hold title to the vast majority of acreage in Texas. In fact, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture, rural lands, including privately owned forests, total 142 million acres or 84% of the state's total land area.

The economic impact of the food and fiber sector in the state totals more than \$100 billion annually. Texas leads the nation in cattle, cotton, hay, sheep, goats and mohair production. Texas A&M Forest Service recently completed a new study of the economic contribution provided by forestry-driven, wood-based industries in Texas. The report shows that the total economic contributions of the Texas forest sector include \$30.3 billion in industry output, supporting more than 130,600 jobs.

Behind the phenomenal success of the Texas agriculture story is sound conservation planning to treat every acre according to its needs. For 75 years since the dust bowl days of the 1930's, generations of agricultural producers have been applying voluntary conservation practices on their land to conserve and improve the soil, water, and related natural resources to which they hold stewardship.

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T A I A

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