



The Water Spout

Upcoming Dates in 2018

- Texas Irrigation Association Membership Meetings: Dallas, May 15; San Antonio, May 29.
- Annual Texas Groundwater Conference, June 6, 7, Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark, Austin, Texas
- Texas Water Conservation Association Mid-Year Conference, June 13-15, Montgomery, Texas
- IA Irrigation Show and Education Conference, December 3-7, Long Beach, California

2018 High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show

The High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show was held Wednesday, February 7, 2018, in the North Exhibit Hall A at the Amarillo Civic Center. Some 100 attendees visited 23 Exhibitor Booths and listened to 13 speakers covering current irrigation topics ranging from irrigation scheduling to mobile drip irrigation production, risk management along with a panel discussion on Variable Frequency Drives.

This year's conference featured a drawing for a YETI Cooler in which only ag producers participated and a \$100 Gift Card for all attendees' participation. The YETI Cooler was won by Charles Schlab, and Cody Ash, Amarillo Industrial Electric, one of the Variable Frequency Drive panelists, won the gift card. Congratulations to both of these men.

Thanks to Charles Hillyer, Texas Agrilife Irrigation Specialist, for organizing the Conference and securing the speakers and a big thank you to each of them for their presentations. Special recognition goes to Rhonda Fisher, Texas Agrilife, for her work in programing and registration.



New Members Welcome

The Board of Directors of the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association thanks all it's members for their past and continuing support. How about recruiting some of your friends and colleagues to join TAIA in 2018 and strengthen our organization?

4th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium

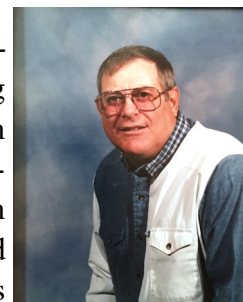
The 4th Biennial Texas Panhandle Water Conservation Symposium was held February 28, in the Amarillo Civic Center. The Symposium was jointly sponsored by the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District and the City of Amarillo. About 200 people were in attendance with some 16 Exhibitors. TAIA was a supporting sponsor of the Symposium and one of the exhibitors. The Symposium covered topics of interest to all water users, including rural areas, municipalities and agriculture.

Texas Alliance for Water Conservation Water College

The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation held its annual Water College January 24 at the Lubbock Civic Center. TAIA was a sponsor for the event with an Exhibitor's Booth. Over 200 people attended where speakers covered a wide range of topic related to water conservation and irrigated agriculture production.

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 and has assisted students pursuing ag related majors in each of the years since.



Forty one applications were received for the 2018 Scholarship. They were reviewed by this year's Scholarship Committee; Greg Sokora, Mark McCormick and Anthony Kingery. As always, there were several well-qualified applicants. The Scholarship Committee, with the approval of the Board of Directors, selected two recipients this year. Nicholas Fulbright of Schertz, Texas, will be attending Tarleton State University majoring in Vocational Ag and plans to become an ag teacher. He has been very involved in FFA activities as well as his church and community.



Kodie Cooper of Stephenville, Texas, is a graduate student and will be attending Tarleton State University where she plans to pursue a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics. Kodie has been active in FFA, worked on a horse ranch and is co-owner of a small business selling fresh produce, chickens and cattle.



Congratulations to this year's winners as they join the current recipients: Macy Lange, Texas A&M; Holt Bivens, Texas Tech University; Kaylee Ites, Texas A&M University; and Emily Wade, Texas Tech University.

2018 High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show



2018 High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show



WWW.TAIA.ORG



T A I A

PO Box 10613
Lubbock, TX 79408
Phone: 806-786-5644
E-mail: taia@taia.org

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation

At-Large: Paul Smith, T-L Irrigation

Vice-President: Bobby De Leon, Jain Irrigation

At-Large: Eddy Riggins, Equipment Supply Co.

Secretary/Treasurer: David Lott, Fresno Valves and Castings

Nominations Committee:
Farris Hightower, Lindsay

Immed. Past President: Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation

West Rep.: Mark McCormick, Agriculture Precision Supply

Scholarship Committee:
Greg Sokora, NRCS-USDA (Chair)
Mark McCormick, Agriculture Precision Supply
Anthony Kingery, D&K Manufacturing

East Rep.: Roger Schulze, ATS Irrigation

North Rep.: Anthony Kingery, D&K Manufacturing

Auditing Committee:
Kenneth Ewings, Senninger Irrigation,
Layne Hardesty, Equipment Supply Co.

South Rep.: Greg Sokora, NRCS-USDA

Affiliate Members of:

Texas Agriculture Council, www.texas.coop
Irrigation Association, www.irrigation.org
The Groundwater Foundation, www.groundwater.org
Texas Groundwater Association, www.tgwa.org
Texas Water Conservation Association, www.twca.org