



The Water Spout

Upcoming Dates in 2019

- Annual Texas Groundwater Conference, June 12, 13, Omni Austin Hotel at Southpark, Austin, Texas
- Texas Groundwater Summit, August 20-22, Hyatt Regency Hill Country, San Antonio, TX, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts
- IA Irrigation Show and Education Conference, December 2-6, Las Vegas Convention Center, Co-Located with National Ground Water Association's Groundwater Week

2018 Annual Meeting & Membership Banquet

President Kenneth Ewings welcomed some 35 members and guests to this year's annual meeting at Youngblood's Cafe in Amarillo on November 28, where they were treated to the Fajita Bar with all the trimmings.

This year's guest speaker was Mr. James Hunt, Farm Editor for Radio KGNC, Amarillo. He described his journey from childhood in Belton, Texas to journalism and serving with legislators both at the state and national levels to his present position in Amarillo. He sees himself as a journalist trying to provide accurate information of interest to farmers and ranchers and as an advocate for agriculture. Another important aspect of his job is helping to educate the general public about the role of, and need for, agriculture in everyone's life.

Officers and board members elected were: President, Bobby De Leon; Vice President, David Lott; Secretary-Treasurer, Eddy Riggins; East Region Representative, Jason Hester; South Region Representative, Greg Sokora; At-Large Representative, Don Mooring.



New Members Welcome

The Board of Directors of the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association thanks all its members for their past and continuing support. How about recruiting some of your friends and colleagues to join TAIA in 2019 and strengthen our organization?

TAIA Participation in 2019 Ag Conferences

TAIA participated in the Caprock Crop Production Conference held Jan 25, at the Floyd County Friends Unity Center. The Conference featured speakers on various topics related to crop production including laws and regulations, pest management and irrigation practices. It also featured a trade show with some 20 exhibitors and about 200 people in attendance.

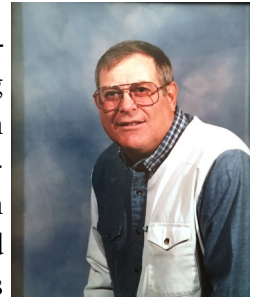


The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation held its annual Water College January 17 at the Lubbock Civic Center. TAIA was a sponsor for the event with an Exhibitor's Booth. Over 200 people attended where speakers covered a wide range of topics related to water conservation and irrigated agriculture production.



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. The Scholarship Committee, with the approval of the Board of Directors, selected two recipients. Nicholas Fulbright of Schertz, Texas, is 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 attending Tarleton State University pursuing 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.



They joined the current recipients: Macy Lange, Texas A&M; Holt Bivens, Texas Tech University; and Emily Wade, Texas Tech University. Kaylee Ites finished her degree in December 2018 at Texas A&M University.

Fifteen applications were received for the 2019 Scholarship and are currently being reviewed by the scholarship committee; Greg Sokora, Mark McCormick and Anthony Kingery. Winner will be announced by May 1.

TAIA Member Featured in Recent Edition of *Irrigation Leader*

TAIA member Monty Teeter, founder of Teeter Irrigation and Dragon-Line, was featured in the March 2019 issue of *Irrigation Leader*. Monty has been a member of TAIA for two years and has been involved in pivot irrigation since 1972 and a drip irrigation dealer for 25 years. With interest and experience in both methods of irrigation, Monty conceived the idea of mobile drip irrigation where drip tubing is used to convert a center-pivot irrigation system to a mobile drip irrigation system, called Dragon-Line. The technology received the Irrigation Association's best new agricultural irrigation product award at the 2016 Irrigation Show.



Dragon-Line is in 17 states, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, South Africa and on its way to New Zealand and Australia with potential for Brazil and Canada. Congratulations to Monty and his company on being recognized by *Irrigation Leader*.

Proposed Training for IA Certification

In response to a suggestion at the 2018 Annual Meeting, the TAIA Board of Directors has been in conversation with the certification people at the Irrigation Association in regard to sponsoring training classes for IA Certification. Farris Hightower has offered the Lindsay facilities in Amarillo as a possible site for the classes. The cost per training session is a fixed amount, thus the cost per participant is largely determined by the number of participants; larger numbers mean lower cost per trainee.

TAIA was established for the purpose of promoting quality standards in irrigation: proper design, installation and management of agricultural irrigation systems and places a strong emphasis on education for everyone associated with the manufacturing, distribution, installation and management of modern irrigation equipment. Therefore TAIA is encouraging members to consider certification and wants to facilitate that by sponsoring training classes. Members were recently asked to respond to a survey to help determine the level of interest in certification. Thanks to those of you who responded to the survey. A preliminary review of the survey results indicates sufficient interest to warrant further consideration. The Board of Directors is in the process of evaluating those responses and planning the next steps.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Kern Stutler: 806-786-5644 or email taia@taia.org

Additional information on IA Certification can also be found on the Irrigation Association's website www.irrigation.org

WWW.TAIA.ORG



T A I A

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2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Groundwater Foundation, www.groundwater.org
Texas Groundwater Association, www.tgwa.org
Texas Water Conservation Association, www.twca.org