



The Water Spout

Upcoming Dates in 2015

- Texas Water Reuse Conference, July 17, Lubbock, TX
- Texas Water Conservation Association Fall Meeting, October 14-16, San Antonio, TX
- 75th Annual Meeting of SWCD Directors, October 26-28, Corpus Christi, TX
- IA Irrigation Show and Education Conference, November 9-13, Long Beach, CA
- Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show, December 1-3, Amarillo, TX
- TAIA Annual Meeting and Membership Banquet, December 2, Amarillo, TX
- High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show, February 4, 2016, Amarillo, TX

Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet To Be Held in Connection with Farm and Ranch Show in Amarillo

The 2015 TAIA Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet will be held in conjunction with the 2015 Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show in a yet to be determined location on December 2. Election of officers and board members for 2016 will be held. Texas Ag Commissioner Sid Miller has been invited to speak.

Why not take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the annual meeting and take in the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show at the same time. You will see the latest in agriculture equipment and technology, including irrigation, and have the chance to interact with your fellow TAIA members as well.

Make plans now to attend the annual meeting and support your TAIA organization! Time and location will be announced at a later date.

Coming up Silver

The Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association is approaching its Silver Anniversary! Founded in 1991, the organization will complete 25 years in 2016 of serving the irrigation industry in Texas. The Board of Directors is soliciting your input as to how we might celebrate this milestone. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be a significant part of the celebration. Please be thinking about ways to make this happen and convey your ideas to Board President, Mark Stutler; to the Executive Secretary, Kern Stutler; or any board member. Let's give our organization the recognition it deserves for serving and advancing the irrigation industry in the State.

Save the Date

Annual Meeting and Membership Banquet, December 2, 2015, Amarillo, TX

Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship

Nineteen applications for the 2015 Scholarship were received. The scholarship committee selected Kaylee Ites, New Braunfels, as this year's winner. She has been accepted to Texas A & M, College Station and will join our current recipients: Shelby Redgate, Luke Stutler and Aspyn Martin. Congratulations to Kaylee and best wishes as she begins her college education this fall.



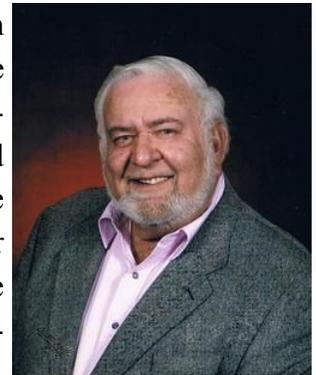
The following is an excerpt from Kaylee's thank you note:

"Thank you very much for the Dick Larsen Memorial Scholarship. This will help me pursue my college education at Texas A & M University where I will be majoring in Agricultural Systems Management with a minor in Horticulture.."

Thanks to this year's scholarship committee, Chairman Farris Hightower, Kenneth Ewings and Steve Driewer, for their service.

In Memory

Long-time TAIA member Tom Bosse died on March 12, 2015. He was born April 27, 1944, in Navasota, Texas. Tom was a successful businessman, cattle rancher, and entrepreneur. He took great pride in his life's work and had an incredible work ethic which began at the early age of 13, delivering fuel for his dad at Sinclair Oil Company. Tom and his wife, Carol, made their home in Needville in 1964. He was a pioneer in the agricultural irrigation industry contributing over 41 years of knowledge and expertise to the field. Tom also managed Needville Grain Dryer and dabbled in rice farming for several years. Over the years he contributed to the community of Needville in many ways.



TAIA Board of Directors and its membership express their condolences to his survivors: his wife, Carol; son, Wyatt, and his wife Amy of Needville; daughter, Carolanne, and her husband Russ of Weimar; and son, Wade, and his wife Teresa of East Bernard. Appreciation is also expressed for his service and contributions to TAIA over the years. Son Wyatt continues to be a TAIA member.

Recent Rains Curb Drought

According to the drought monitor, spring rains have helped alleviate the drought in some of the driest areas of the state. Less than 1% of the state is in drought, with only a small portion of the Panhandle still witnessing dry conditions. However, the abundance of rain has not completely corrected the decreased levels of our state's water supply -- water stored in important reservoirs and our aquifers.

Many reservoir levels have refilled to their normal range, but reservoir levels in South and West Texas are still low. This is just one reason why we have a great opportunity to share our water-, time-, and money-saving messages with Texans everywhere. No matter the weather, it is always important to be water smart.

Taken from the recent Texas Water Smart Newsletter. (TAIA is a member of Texas Water Smart Coalition)

Letter from the Board of Directors

As the summer approaches I have to ask a common question; where does the time go? As I sat down to write this letter I have to admit that I struggled mightily to come up with a worthy topic. I thought about describing the type of year that we have had in 2015, but I can pretty well sum that up in one phrase. In my 23 years in the industry I've never seen anything like it. Then I thought of talking about the near record rainfall that we had in May, but if you're reading this you saw it. If you haven't seen it already go check out www.waterdatafortexas.org and see how the lake levels have changed in the last couple of months. Some of those lakes, which are water sources for towns and cities, were in single digits and some near zero capacity and today some are at or near 100 percent. Some of our lakes in West Texas still need help but it was a nice start. This event takes some pressure off our underground water sources and hopefully will allow for some recharge. While both topics are interesting, they were not what I was looking for. Believe it or not, the topic came to me on the morning commute to work and quite frankly it's something that bothers me every time I see it.

Most of us go to and from work on the same path every day. The only two things that change my path are my family and construction crews. What I saw that morning was nothing new; unfortunately I had seen it with regularity over the last several months. What I saw was water running out of a housing development and down the curb and into a low spot of a major street. In this same location for months the pavement has had either ice or water on it, due to run-off. As citizens of this great state we owe it to ourselves and each other to use water wisely. We need to use water wisely no matter where we live or what we do. This applies to everything, whether it is for personal, commercial, industrial, municipal or agricultural use. This education has to start with ourselves and then it can branch out to our families, co-workers, friends, neighbors, customers and suppliers. It needs to be in the fore front of our minds whether we get 6 inches in a year or 11 inches in a month. What we all need to understand is that we can make a difference and every drop that we save, can and will make a difference someday. We all need to make a point to talk about it when the situation arises. Hopefully, by talking it up and educating people we can all eliminate driving through these areas on all our daily paths.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership of the TAIA for electing me as a board member. I am honored to serve on the board of the TAIA and look forward to serving you in the future. If you are not a member of the TAIA I encourage you to join. If you are a member and know someone that is not, I encourage you to talk to them about becoming a member. Our strength will grow with numbers. My hope for each of you is that you have a safe and prosperous remainder of the year.

John Taylor

West Region Representative

Member Spotlight

From the Beginning

This Newsletter features one of the charter members of TAIA; Roger Schulze of Brenham, Texas. After graduating in 1978 from Texas A&M with a degree in Ag Engineering, Roger began work with the USDA Soil Conservation Service, (now Natural Resource Conservation Service). He started out in Big Spring and was later transferred to east Texas in irrigation and drainage related work. A few years later Roger worked as a consultant in civil engineering on various water and sewage treatment projects. In 1982 Roger began designing lawn irrigation systems part-time for people from Houston who had property in the Brenham area. This eventually led him to form

ATS Irrigation, Inc. in 1985 along with his wife, Evon, and brother-in-law, Tim Meier.

ATS has grown from its four-room beginning to a modern large-scale facility with warehouse and offices, plus a full -service show room and retail store carrying PVC pipe and fittings, all types of sprinklers, drip line and emitters, tools, pumps, and accessories for irrigation and drainage. ATS serves a large area in South East and South Central Texas with all kinds of agricultural irrigation: drip and micro irrigation systems, center pivots and hose reel travelers. A variety of crops are served from corn and cotton under center pivots to hay and pasture under hose reel travelers. Other related activities include dust control and irrigating polo fields. The company provides turnkey projects beginning with surveys, planning and design, lay-

out, materials and installation. In all of these, the company goal is providing quality irrigation systems.

Roger is a Certified Irrigation Designer and Licensed Professional Engineer (Texas) and handles planning and design, Tim is in charge of installation and field operations. In 30 years Roger has seen significant changes in the industry, not only in irrigation systems but also their design and layout using computer design and GPS for survey and layout.

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Schulze Buckhorn Saunders



From the Beginning *(continued)*

As mentioned, Roger was one of the charter members of TAIA and served as its second president in 1992. He believes that the organization has been beneficial to the irrigation industry in Texas, as it has brought together those serving irrigation in a non-competitive atmosphere to work for the common good. He cites the membership lobbying the Texas legislature to remove the sales tax on certain components of irrigation systems as an example.



Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency

The Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency spent the last 10 years in the Rio Grande Valley looking at two different aspects—the district and on-farm. Recently released information on their website reveals significant potential for increased irrigation efficiencies at both levels.

-Substantial opportunities for ag water conservation lie in more efficient management of irrigation district conveyance systems, which can significantly reduce losses and more accurately deliver water to producers.

-The biggest return on investment comes from installing low-cost, off-the-shelf technology to monitor, measure and direct water flow in an irrigation district's infrastructure.

-On the farm, the low price of raw water reduces the financial incentive for producers to invest in tried and true, but often more expensive, on-farm irrigation technologies.

-The most realistic strategies for on-farm water conservation involve efficiencies in managing how and when water is applied to crops. Smart irrigation practices can improve crop quality and net profit while saving water.

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