



The Water Spout

Upcoming Dates in 2015, 2016

- **Symposium:** Navigating Agriculture through the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, Nov 19, Austin, 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, Salt-grass Steak House, Amarillo, TX
- High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show, February 4, **2016**, Amarillo, TX
- 3rd Biennial Texas Panhandle-South Plains Water Conservation Symposium, February 24, **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 December 2 in conjunction with the 2015 Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show. This year's location is the Salt-grass Steak House, 8300 West I-40, featuring Texas Ag Commissioner, Sid Miller, as invited speaker. You may be aware that Commissioner Miller recently announced the opening of the Office on Water in the Texas Department of Agriculture. Dinner will be served at 7 pm following a 6:30 social hour with a cash bar.

Following Commissioner Miller's presentation, the annual business meeting will be held including election of officers and board members for 2016. Members of the various committees will also be announced. Why not take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the annual meeting and attend the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show at the same time. With over 400 exhibitors this year you are sure to find the solutions for ag production problems. You will see the latest in agriculture equipment and technology, including irrigation, and have the chance to interact with producers and others in ag-related businesses as well as your fellow TAIA members.

Make plans now to attend the annual meeting and support your TAIA organization!

Save the Date

High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show, February 4, 2016

Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo, TX

Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being received for the 2016 Dick Laursen Scholarship. The application forms are available on the TAIA Website: www.taia.org TAIA members are encouraged to get the word out about this scholarship opportunity to their local FFA Chapter, high school counselors, etc. Application deadline is **March 1, 2016**. This will give the committee time to review the applications and select the winner who will be announced at the high school graduation in May.

Thanks to this year's scholarship committee, Chairman Farris Hightower, Kenneth Ewings and Steve Driewer, for their service this past year. The new committee, to be announced at the Annual Meeting, will be responsible for the review of the 2016 applications and selection of the recipient.

Current scholarship students are Luke Stutler, Texas Tech University; Kaylee Ites, Texas A&M University. Shelby Redgate finished her degree in May at Texas A&M University.

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. Volunteers are needed to form a committee to organize this event. Some ideas that have been discussed are making the Annual Meeting a two-day event in a central location, perhaps Fredricksburg in October. Spouses would be invited and in addition to the banquet the celebration would include a golf tournament, tours, shopping, etc. A major theme of the meeting will be to honor the founders and long-time members of TAIA.

Let's give our organization the recognition it deserves for serving and advancing the irrigation industry in the State. Please let us know if you are interested in helping plan this event!

Third Biennial Texas Panhandle—South Plains Water Conservation Symposium

SLOW THE FLOW: Keys to Successful Water Conservation

The Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District has announced this Symposium to be held February 24, 2016, in the Amarillo Civic Center. Over 300 people attended the symposium in 2014 to contribute to the mission of educating communities on many areas of water use and conservation in the public, municipal and agriculture areas.

As in the past, TAIA is a sponsor of this event. The days agenda will be similar to previous symposiums: the morning session will focus on innovative water conservation strategies with afternoon breakout sessions for the public, municipal, and agricultural setting.

From the Board of Directors

Our Future Is Bright

For those of us lucky enough to be in Agriculture, we know the importance of what we do and how we impact our world. We work every day with hardworking people that toil with the land and help feed, clothe, and provide beautiful landscapes for us all.

Moreover, in the irrigation industry we help producers accomplish the aforementioned, but we also help conserve a precious resource: water. In helping producers to provide food, fiber, and landscape materials we are focused on future generations being able to enjoy water sustainably for many years to come.

It seems others are now confirming what we have known for some time, a recent study by Purdue University and the USDA (www.purdue.edu/usda/employment/) show that career opportunities in the Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources, and the Environment will be strong for the next five years. On average it is expected to have 57,900 annual openings and they are projecting 35,400 graduates a year during the same time frame.

There will be a need for agricultural graduates with focuses on business, management, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. In the irrigation industry we deal with these fields in some form or fashion every day, and as we go into the future we will need new generations to continue our work.

As I was meeting with a dealer some time ago, they had a new representative and he mentioned he was just starting out and was 22 years old. As I analyzed his comment, it made me realize that I have been in the agricultural industry for approximately the same time. Apart from making me feel a bit old, it made me proud to see new generations coming into our industry to carry on our work and commitment to our great industry.

Although there may always be market fluctuations, our work in the Irrigation Industry is noble and important. On the surface we manufacture, distribute, and sell irrigation products, but we are doing much more than that. As we reach our 25th anniversary in 2016 we need to acknowledge our pioneers and look towards our future by bringing in new generations into our industry. Our work helps provide for better lives for all of us, and as we say at our company we want to “leave this world better than we found it”.

Sincerely,

Bobby De Leon

Central Region Sales Manager
Jain Irrigation, Inc.

At-Large Representative to TAIA Board of Directors

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