



# The Water Spout

## Upcoming Dates in 2013

- Texas Water Conservation Association Mid-Year Conference, June 19-21, Galveston, TX
- Irrigation Show and Education Conference, November 4-8, Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX
- Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, November 6\*, in conjunction with Irrigation Show and Education Conference, Austin, TX.
- High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show, January 16, **2014**, Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo, TX

*\* Time and location to be confirmed*

## Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet to be held in connection with IA Show in Austin in November

The TAIA Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet this year will be held in conjunction with the Irrigation Show and Education Conference in Austin, November 4-8, 2013.\* Time and place will be announced as final arrangements are made. The Irrigation Association, of which TAIA is a member, holds their International Show about every four years in Texas, so this a unique opportunity for members to attend the Banquet as well as the IA Show in their home state. Please make plans now to be a part of the happenings in Austin in November!

TAIA will have a booth in the Texas Area near the entrance to the Convention Center along with four other Texas Associations who are co-hosting the IA Show. This booth will be open and manned during the Irrigation Show hours November 6 and 7. The TAIA Board of Directors may be asking for volunteers from the membership to help man the booth during these hours, so please let us know if you could spare an hour or two during the show to work the booth. We will also be participating in the decoration of the area and may be soliciting input for that as well.

Further information and details on the IA Show may be found at: [www.irrigation.org/irrigationshow](http://www.irrigation.org/irrigationshow)

**We hope to see all of you in November in Austin!**

*\* See IA advertisement page 3*

**Save The Date—See Page 3**

## **Solution Beneath the Surface: Development of Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation**

Some 33 years ago Hubert Frerich went looking for a better way to irrigate his small field of watermelons near Garden City, Texas. He wanted to provide frequent irrigation without wetting the surface of the field, which interfered with the quality of the crop. The roots were beneath the soil surface absorbing moisture, so why not apply the irrigation there as well? Thus was born the concept of sub-surface drip irrigation and first practiced by Hubert on his watermelon crop. Good crop management



required, among other things, crop rotation. Since cotton was the principle crop in the area, it found its way on to the permanently installed drip system. Following successful cotton production, other farmers in the area of St. Lawrence and Garden City began observing and inquiring about this new method. In a few short years, Hubert found himself busy designing and permanently installing drip lines beneath his neighbors' fields, operating out of an office converted from the sun room in the house and a warehouse in an old railroad car. This was the beginning of Eco-Drip. Siblings Andrea, David, and Brian were helping Dad and Mom with the watermelons and other farm chores and naturally the sub-surface drip irrigation business as well.

Eco-Drip was incorporated in 1984. Brian has been full time since about 1993; Andrea took care of billings and books part-time along with serving as extension agent secretary, and in 1995 she also became fulltime. David left the appraisal business to join the family venture in Abernathy in 1998. In 1999 Craig Hoelscher came on as an intern and was hired in 2003 for the office in Levelland. He later worked out of the office in Hastings, NE with mostly corn and soybeans on sub-surface drip irrigation systems, and now is located in Lubbock.

Brian, David, Andrea, and Craig are currently the four partners of Eco-Drip, which includes a recently opened office in Altus, OK, and a soon-to-be opened outlet in Scottsbluff, NE. The company continues to sell and design sub-surface systems in three states on an ever increasing acreage which now totals nearly a quarter million acres of cropland. Their growth is also reflected in the increasing amount of services provided to customers. Recognizing that the full benefit of such a highly efficient irrigation system could only be realized by proper operation and maintenance of the system as well as management of other production inputs, Eco-Drip has phased into a full-service provider. This includes fertility and soil moisture measurement and management. As Craig expresses it: "The right product in the right amount at the right place at the right time".

*(continued on page 4)* **Eco-Drip**



SAVE THE DATE



# 2013 IRRIGATION SHOW & EDUCATION CONFERENCE

IRRIGATION SHOW—NOV. 6-7 • EDUCATION CONFERENCE—NOV. 4-8  
AUSTIN CONVENTION CENTER—AUSTIN, TEXAS



[WWW.IRRIGATIONSHOW.ORG](http://WWW.IRRIGATIONSHOW.ORG)





## Dick Laursen Memorial Scholarship

Nineteen applications were received for the 2013 scholarship. Brian Frerich, scholarship chairman, recently announced the winner as Luke Stutler, Shallowater High School. Luke is the son of Doug and Lori Stutler of Shallowater and will be entering Texas Tech University this fall and majoring in Crop and Soil Science. (See thank-you letter from Luke below). Thanks to Brian and the other committee members, Steven Driewer and Rusty Houston, for their efforts! Luke joins the current scholarship recipients: Shelby Redgate, Texas A&M University; Levi Schafer, Texas Tech University; James Mahaffey, Texas A&M University; and Calvin Welper, Texas Tech University.



Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association,

This is to thank you for the scholarship I was recently awarded from your organization. My father works for Monsanto and my mother is a fifth-grade school teacher. I am a sibling with three other brothers, and three of us will be in college this year, so this scholarship will certainly be a big help to me and my family.

I have several relatives in agriculture related fields and my involvement in FFA in high school for four years further influenced my decision to major in Crop and Soil Science at Texas Tech University. I am thankful and humbled for having been selected and I assure you I will do well in my studies. I hope to someday thank you personally for this honor. May God bless you.

Sincerely, Luke Stutler

### Eco-Drip (continued from page 2)

A Service Center north of Lubbock has recently been added to provide assistance to customers and serves as a training facility as well.

Frerichs have been involved in TAIA over the years; David served on the Board of Directors for one term, Brian was Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, and served as the President in 2005. They express the benefits of TAIA membership, especially from the standpoint of education and improving the performance of irrigated agriculture. Congratulations to the four partners of Eco-Drip for the successful expansion of their business and thanks for their contribution to improving irrigated agriculture in Texas, as well as their contributions to TAIA.



Eco-Drip Partners (left to right): Brian Frerich, Craig Hoelscher, Andrea Hillger, David Frerich

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T A I A

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#### 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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