**UGA HOSTS SOUTHEAST SOIL JUDGING CONTEST**

The UGA Soil Judging Team didn’t get to compete this year—instead, they hosted the Southern Region contest in Athens, where 11 teams from around the Southeastern US met in October to see the red soils of the Georgia Piedmont. Nearly 80 students and their team coaches spent 3 days looking at “practice” soil pits at the Whitehall Forest, Plant Sciences Farm, and Central Georgia Branch Experiment Station in Eatonton, honing their skills in describing soil profiles and making land-use interpretations and soil classification. A catered banquet was held for all the teams at Flinchum’s Phoenix on Thursday night, with a bluegrass band entertaining. The contest on Friday involved describing 4 pits, with individual and team awards; the top three teams were Virginia Tech, West Virginia, and North Carolina State University, with top-5 placing individuals from those schools as well as Clemson. UGA coaches Bill Miller (Crop & Soils) and Larry Morris (Warnell School of Forestry) were the contest organizers, helped by many undergraduate and graduate students in the Department and in Warnell, as well as other faculty, staff, and the generous help of the state NRCS office. Thank you to all who helped make this a success; next year the team travels to West Virginia to compete once again.
FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT UPDATES

Dr. J. Michael Moore was awarded one of seven Bronze medals presented by the Board of CORESTA at the CORESTA Congress, held in September in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Liwen Zhang, M.S student under the direction of Drs. Jack Huang and Miguel Cabrera, won second place for student presentation in the symposium “Environmental implication and application of nanomaterials” at the 240th American Chemistry Society annual meeting. Her topic was “Microbial degradation of multi-walled carbon nanotubes.”

Dylan Wann won the National Peanut Board’s George Washington Carver Award.

Dr. John Beasley was awarded the National Peanut Buying Points Association’s “President’s Award” at the NPBPA’s Pre-Harvest meeting in August. This award was presented to Dr. Beasley in recognition of his service and dedication to the NPBPA.

Dr. Mussie Habteselassie and his wife are the proud parents of a baby boy, Buruk M. Ykeallo. Buruk was born on November 18, and weighed in at 7lbs.

Dr. Jerry Johnson was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the GA and FL Seed Association.

Dr. Keith Karnok received the distinguished service award from the Georgia Golf Course Superintendent Association. The award was presented at a meeting held on October 25, 2010.

Dylan Wann won the International Plant Nutrition Institute Scholar Award.

Dr. Eric Prostko was the recipient of GACAA Senior Specialist Award.

Dylan Wann placed 2nd in the America Peanut Research and Education Society Graduate Student Oral Presentation competition.

Sudeep Sidhu won 1st Place for his oral presentation in “Industry Oral - Division C-05” at the annual ASA-CSSA-SSSA meeting in Long Beach, CA. Sudeep is a Ph.D student under the direction of Drs. Jack Huang and Miguel Cabrera.

Dr. Eric Prostko was awarded the D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Extension.

Lisa Woodruff and husband welcomed their first child, a boy named Amos, on August 28. All are doing well, and Lisa continues to pursue her M.S. degree.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Benjamin Salter, president of the UGA Agronomy Club and a junior Agriscience and Environmental Systems major, was awarded the Attie A. Fleming scholarship in the amount of $750.

Charles Blake McCranie, a junior Agriscience and Environmental Systems major in Tifton, was awarded the J. Frank McGill “Up With Peanuts” Scholarship in the amount of $2000.

Sudeep Sidhu, a Ph.D. candidate in Griffin, was awarded $500 from the Clint Tolbert Student Enhancement Fund. This money will be used for travel to the American Society of Agronomy annual meeting.

DEGREES

Jonathan Flaishans successfully completed the requirements for a M.S. degree in Crop and Soil Sciences. Jon has accepted a job with the EPA in Athens, GA.

TIFTON TIDBITS

Faculty and staff in the Crop and Soil Sciences Department that are headquartered at the UGA – Tifton Campus have had a great fall. Faculty members and field support staff were very busy harvesting research trials of summer crops and planting trials of winter crops. You didn’t dare stand still in the roads or parking lots around the Tifton Campus for more than a few minutes or you would nearly get run over by a truck or a tractor headed to or from the field. A huge “thank you” goes out to the staff in CSS in Tifton because of their dedication and commitment to the success of our research and Extension programs. This goes for the office support staff (clerical and bookkeeping) as well for keeping us all straight and our offices running smoothly while we were in the field.

-Dr. John Beasley
The Agronomy Graduate Student Association hosted a poster competition on November 17, 2010. The following people placed in the Top 3, and were awarded cash prizes:
1. Rajiv K. Parvanthaneni
2. Thomas B. Jacobs
3. Zachary King

Coffee Hour has continued to be a crowd pleasing hit with Jittery Jor’s coffee, Chick-Fil-A biscuits and various donuts and pastries. Watch your email for information on the next AGSA Coffee Hour.

The Agronomy Club has partnered with the Turf Club again this year to host the annual Peanut Sale. The sale kicked off in mid-October, and by Thanksgiving, half of the peanuts had already been sold. The clubs will use the proceeds to fund club activities throughout the academic year.

Turf Club

While working with the Agronomy Club on the annual Peanut Sale, the Turf Club has taken the lead in arranging the 2011 Spring Appreciation Banquet. Thanks to their hard work, our special guest speaker the spring will be former UGA head coach and athletic director Vince Dooley.

SCENES FROM THE HOLIDAY POTLUCK

ARRIVING AND DEPARTING

Dr. Dewey Lee retired from his position as Professor and Extension Agronomist in October 2010.

Joshua McMillian, a technician at the Agronomy Seed Lab in Athens, has moved to North Carolina to pursue a career with Dow AgroScience.

Hao Yuanfeng is a visiting scientist from China working in the Small Grain Breeding Program with Jerry Johnson and Zhenbang Chen. He is conducting molecular genetic research on mapping stripe rust and Hessian fly resistant genes.
INVEST IN OUR FUTURE

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