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FALL 2013

Bi-Annual Newsletter of Georgia Agriculture Educators

President's Message



I hope your year is going exactly how you want everything to go. I know how hectic this time of year is and how crazy things can get. Congratulations to everyone who has

completed thus far. I hope that you will take the time to reflect on the impact you are making on the students' lives that you are teaching.

In GVATA news: The budget is always of great concern. The PRC committee and professional representation are working hard to bypass any possible cuts to Agriculture Education. We have a plan in place and the wheels are starting to

turn. Please be patient as our plan unfolds. You will continue to receive updates from HBS. We are so blessed to have great Agriculture teachers before us that have lead our organization and blazed trails for us to follow. I expect an awesome year for the GVATA. Please feel free to contact me if you have any problems I can address.

Conference Updates

- Mid-Winter Conference will be held Thursday, January 16 through Friday January 17th at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington. Click [here](#) to register for the conference.
- Summer Conference 2014 will be held July 7—9 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center.
 - Lodging on the island is minimal. Book now to ensure a room on the island. There are plenty of additional hotels located nearby (St. Simons and Brunswick).
 - GVATA has negotiated rooming blocks with three hotels on Jekyll:
 - Quality Inn - 912-635-2202 - Rate \$112.00—\$143.00 - 20 room block
 - Days Inn - 912-635-9800 - Rate 145.00- 225.00 - 50 room block
 - Hampton Inn - 912-635-3733 - Rate - 189.00-209.00 - 20 room block

◆ Room blocks are open for booking from now through June 1, 2014



Area 3 Update



As we begin another school year or for some their first year, there are a lot of things going on in our lives. From CDE's and practices, SAE visits, and lesson plans. I want

everyone to remember who the people are who make this wonderful career possible. So may say it is the students that you teach, others may say it is the community that you teach in. But, the ones that make this career possible for me is my family. As an Agriculture teacher we spend more time with other people's children then we do with our own. There are days where I am running from

school to take my children to ball practice, games, or scouts. And I wander where has the time went with my children? So I try to soak up as much time and energy with them as possible. In the end it is worth every minute that I get to spend with my students but, you and I have to remember who is giving us this opportunity to change lives.

Full Swing:

Noun

Full operation;
greatest activity

Area 5 Update



As a young boy I can remember sitting on the front porch in the porch swing and not being content with just a slow easy glide but wanting to be in "full swing". That is exactly where we find ourselves as Ag Teachers in the fall; the first wave of CDEs, the GA National Fair,

National Convention, not to mention that we are under contract to teach in the classroom. While we are weary from all that is required of us, when we are honest with ourselves it is the "controlled chaos" that keeps us going.

I hope that the year has started out great for you and I hope that you can continue to keep that passion and drive as the year progresses. I want to say welcome to those new teachers in our area. If I or any of your GVATA Board can be of

assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you have not yet paid your GVATA dues or PRC dues, I ask that you take care of that as soon as possible. We can take installments if you need to do that. I do have some T-shirts and pocket calendars that were not picked up at our Area meeting. Contact me about how to get it to you. Best of luck to everyone in all of your endeavors and I look forward to seeing all of you at the next event.

GACTE Update



Here We Go!!!

Congratulations, you have made it to the GACTE Vice President section of the GVATA Fall newsletter! That proves one of two things. 1) You are a dedicated Ag teacher who yearns for knowledge or 2) you were hoping for a give-away. You are both in luck, visit the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education website (<http://www.gacte.org>), click on membership and email me 6 reasons to join GACTE and you will be entered into a drawing. Thank you for the time you take to grow your students and promote their achievements in CDEs and in their SAEs. Every year at State Convention, as students cross the stage for various awards, my mind often wanders. I wonder if our students will ever realize the sacrifices made so their

feet could grace that stage, so their hands could hold that plaque and so they could achieve their dreams.

I am appreciative of a career that takes the time to grow not only the students in our program but each other. Thank you to every teacher who has sacrificed time on the phone to answer questions for a “newbie” or an “oldie” who has just forgotten. The Ag Ed family has seen many new faces and I hope we have welcomed you with open arms. If I can be of any help please let me know.

Agriculture Education has the hardest working teachers hands down and I want all of GACTE to know! Award applications are available and I am looking for nominations. If you or someone you know could qualify for one of the following awards please email me. The categories are: Teacher of the Year, Outstanding Educator, Outstanding Teacher in Community Service and Outstanding Teacher New Teacher. Let me help you get your hard work recognized!

Agriculture Teacher or just the runt pig?

**What's it like to be an Agriculture Teacher
Of a public school in 2013?
Let's look at the runt pig of the litter
And read the lines between**

**The hardest working pig in the pen
Just to get the same meal as the rest
Sometimes pushed around by the momma pig
And by no means ever treated as the best**

**The runt pig is always looked over
When outsiders come to view the lot
Sometimes not even shown by the farmer
So that his prestige doesn't drop**

**Sometimes left behind
With no concern for its well being
And the accolades and praise it deserves
For the most part never seeing**

**The runt pig is a survivor
Working harder than the rest everyday
So is the Ag Teacher considered the runt pig?
Guess I will leave that for you to say**

Todd Dobson 11/20/2013





Mid-Winter Conference Agenda *January 16-17, 2014*

Thursday, January 16th

- 10:00 am:** Executive Board meeting—Pulliam
- 12:00 pm:** Lunch—Sheffer Hall
- 1:00 pm:** Tactical Plan Committees—Sheffer Hall
- 2:00 pm:** PRC Meeting –Skinner Room
- 3:00 pm:** GVATA 2014 Summer Conference Committee—Infirmery Conference Room
- 3:30 pm:** UGA ALEC Advisory Committee
- **3:30pm – 5:00 pm-**Registration-Mobley Hall**
- 5:00pm – 6:30pm-**Opening Session-Mobley Hall
- 6:35** Hall of Fame Induction—Mobley Hall
- 7:45** Dinner—Sheffer Hall

Mid-Winter Conference Registration Fees:

Conference Registration.....\$40.00

(Includes breakfast, lodging, basic linens)

Hall of Fame Dinner\$15.00

(Includes a steak, potato, salad, dessert, and beverage)

Non -Member Conference

Registration.....\$115.00

(Includes breakfast, lodging, basic linens)

Online registration is available — January 6.

Registration deadline: January 6.

Friday, January 17th

8:00am – Breakfast

9:00am – 10:00 am—Breakout Session 1

1. Young Farmers - Lynn Barber – Walters Hall
2. S.T.E.M. - Gilda Lyon - Dunn Room
3. One Less Thing - Alicia Tomlinson – Newton County
4. National Agriscience Teacher’s Academy— Julie Throne and Lula Williams-Terrace Room
5. CEV Multi Media – Georgia Power
6. National FFA Update - Frank Saldana, National FFA – Mobley Hall
7. Using Digital Media—Kelly Stewart— Computer Lab
8. Purina Nutrition—Morgan Moser—Old Craft Shop 1

10:15 am – 11:15 am— Breakout Session 2

1. GA FFA Update—Ben Lastly – Walters Hall
2. S.T.E.M. - Gilda Lyon - Dunn Room
3. UGA Cooperating Teachers - Dunn Room
4. National Agriscience Teacher’s Academy— Julie Throne and Lula Williams-Terrace Room

5. CEV – Multi Media – Georgia Power

6. National FFA Update - Frank Saldana , National FFA – Mobley Hall

7. Using Digital Media—Kelly Stewart— Computer Lab

8. School Gardens—Dr. David Knauff—Old Craft Shop

11:30 am-1:00 pm - Lunch

1:15pm – 2:30pm -Business Session

President’s Remarks—Chad Crews

President Elect’s Remarks—Todd Claxton

Financial & Membership Reports—Josh Allen

PRC Report—Joel McKie

Tactical Plan Committee Reports

Old Business

New Business

Closing Remarks

2:45pm – 4:00pm - Region Meetings

North Region..... Mobley

Central Region..... Walters

South Region..... GA Power