



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park
February 2010 Event and Activity Update

Recent Activities at the Park:

January 21- David Reckford and Little St. Simons Island Inc. group
January 25 - 4H2O Meeting to discuss our 2nd annual 4-H2O Summer Camp
January 27 - Georgia Cotton Conference (Tifton)
January 28 – Superintendents meeting with researchers, Tifton
January 28 – 2010 Ag Forecast breakfast, Tifton

Recent Visitors:

On January 21, SIRP was the host site for a visit by Wendy and Hank Paulson, co-owners of Little St. Simons Island Inc. (LSSI). The group visited conservation programs in the Flint Basin at the invitation of The Nature Conservancy. Stops included the Jones Ecological Research Center and some longleaf pine tracts managed by Tall Timbers. At SIRP they heard about irrigation water conservation efforts. Mr. Paulson is former US Treasury Secretary under President George W. Bush. We were honored to host these guests. See photo below.

Speaking of visitors, we mentioned in the last (updated) SIRP Monthly Update that nearly 400 folks visited SIRP in 2009. We are including a list of groups at the end of this update that visited SIRP. It's quite a list.

"Water"and "Irrigation" in the News:

- Gov. Perdue recently announced that he is backing legislation covering water conservation measures as the Atlanta region faces the potential loss of Lake Lanier as its main source of drinking water. The legislation calls for water utilities to detect leaks, builders required to use “efficient water fixtures” and also required to use “sub-metering” for new apartment buildings. Additionally, the bill directs eight state agencies to develop incentives for communities to conserve water. The proposed bill would set up a House-Senate committee to find new sources of water, including building new reservoirs or expanding existing ones.

Follow this link:

www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/perdue-backs-water-conservation-290093.html

- The January and February issues of Georgia Trend magazine each have an article covering a round-table discussion of water issues in Georgia. Interesting reading.

Follow these links:

http://www.georgiatrend.com/features-environment/01_10_water.shtml

http://www.georgiatrend.com/features-environment/02_10_water.shtml

- Also in the January issue, editor Neely Young talks about Georgia needing to unite to solve the problems facing the state. He makes an interesting point about lakes in one of his paragraphs:
Carters Lake supplies drinking water for northwest Georgia, including Chatsworth and other cities. West Point Lake and dam supply drinking and industrial water for LaGrange (near the new Kia plant). George W. Andrews supplies drinking water for the farms of Albany and southwest Georgia. Allatoona Lake supplies Cobb and Bartow counties with drinking water for more than 600,000 people.

Follow this link:

http://www.georgiatrend.com/neely-young/01_10_neely.shtml

- As most of you know, Calvin has been involved with the development of VRI - variable rate irrigation since 1999. Much of the early prototype work was done at Stripling Park and developments continue at SIRP as Calvin and other colleagues work with Rick Heard of Advanced Ag Systems (US distributor for FarmScan). Valley Irrigation recently announced a new agreement with Computronics Holdings Ltd., manufacturer of the patented FarmScan Variable Rate Irrigation technology. This agreement allows for the development and distribution of variable rate irrigation (VRI) controls through over 460 Valley dealers worldwide. Calvin was excited to hear of this agreement as it gives a boost to the concept of precision irrigation water application which UGA has been promoting through work at NESPAL and SIRP.

Follow this link:

<http://www.precisionag.com/news/?storyid=2185>

University and SIRP Highlighted:

- In the January issue of Georgia Trend, the cover story was the "100 Most Influential Georgians: Georgia's Power List". In the article, UGA's very own President Michael Adams was listed.

Follow this link:

http://www.georgiatrend.com/features-business-industry/01_10_migs.shtml

- In that same issue, the article "Most Influential Georgians: Notables" included our College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean Scott Angle.

Follow this link:

http://www.georgiatrend.com/features-business-industry/01_10_notables.shtml

- On January 21, President Adams delivered his State of the University address in Athens. In that speech, we were pleased (and surprised) that he mentioned SIRP:

"at the C.M. Stripling Irrigation Research Park near Camilla, our researchers are working on the most effective and efficient ways to deliver water to growing crops."

Follow this link:

<http://www.uga.edu/presofc/pdfs/speeches/SOTU10.pdf>

Congratulations:

Congratulations to SIRP Advisory Committee member Jimmy Webb for being highlighted in the February issue of Cotton Farming magazine. Jimmy was recognized for his work as chairman of the National Cotton Council's Conservation Task Force. Jimmy made a presentation on this at the recent Beltwide Cotton Conference in New Orleans.

Field Activities:

The rains have kept the Park's plots saturated. This is starting to become an issue as field corn, sweet corn, and tomato plots will need attention very soon. Yet as this newsletter is being finalized, more rain is falling. Ivey and Jay were able to kill the cover crop in plots that will be in conventional tillage in 2010. They were also able to put out some herbicide to control winter annuals that are popping up.

Weather Happenings at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP Jan 1-31 (according to our 'official' rain gage) was 7.21 inches. This compares to 8.72 inches in December. So 2010 is starting off wet. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to www.georgiaweather.net.

Upcoming Events:

February 1-2, 2010 – Ga. Dairy Conference, Savannah, Ga.
February 2, 2010 – Avery Ins. Customer Appreciation Luncheon, SIRP
February 9, 2010 – Sweet Corn Meeting, SIRP
March 5, 2010 - Research Park Superintendents meeting, Athens, Ga.
June 15-17 - 4-H2O Summer Camp
June 29 - SIRP Field Day

Trivia:

Recycling one milk jug saves the same amount of energy it would take to run your laptop for over 9 hours. See more of the facts at www.epa.gov/waste.

Photo with the Paulson's:

Standing from left to right in the front are David Reckford (TNC), Christi Lambert(TNC), Shelly Lackly(TNC), back row from right to left are Scott Coleman(Little St. Simons Island), Hank Paulson and wife, Wendy(Little St. Simons Island), and SIRP Superintendent, Calvin Perry



2009 Group Visitors to SIRP:

Adams, Joe B. Farm
Ag Sense
Aqua Spy
Area Farmers
Avery Insurance
Bill Hurt, Arkansas
Clark Farm and Produce
Decatur Co Ext Agents
Dee's Electric
DNR
Dougherty County Extension
Dr. Ava Lambert/spouse
DTN & Progressive Farmer
EarthTec
FarmScan Australia
FarmScan, USA
FFA
FRSWCD
FSIS
GGIA
Golden Peanut
GPB
Grebel Pecan Service, Inc
Hannah Solar
Healthy Hollow Farms
IGEL
iLinc Technologies
Irrrometer- California
J&B Irrigation
Jones Research Center
KVIE Public TV
Leico Mojo RTK
Lindsay Irrigation
Longleaf Plantation
LSU
Master Gardner's Club (local chapter)
Mitchell Co 4H
Monsanto
MorphH2O
NRCS
Reinke Irrigation
Rep Gene Maddox Dist 172
Riverquarium
Saxby Chambliss Reps
Senator Isakson's Reps
SGRITA
Smartfield
Southern Plastics
Stripling Family and Friends
The Flint River Basin Program
TNC
UF