



College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences

Stripling Irrigation Research Park
October 2010 Event and Activity Update

New Member of Advisory Committee:

We're happy to announce that **Rick Moss** will be joining the Stripling Park Advisory Committee. Rick is a progressive farmer in Mitchell and Colquitt counties. He serves on the Lower Flint – Ochlocknee Water Planning Council and also on Governor Perdue's Agricultural Advisory Commission. Rick is involved in many other civic and community activities. Welcome to the Advisory Committee!

Recent Activities at the Park:

September 7 – “Field to Market” webinar, Keystone Alliance for Sustainable Ag.
September 28 – Leadership Mitchell County session on natural resources. Calvin Perry and Rad Yager made presentations.

Recent Visitors:

September 10 – Dr. Glen Harris' UGA-Tifton soils class.
September 15 – Nancy Cobb (OneGeorgia Authority), Lee Connor (SGRITA), Ralph Wilcox (Schusters Cash, LLC).
September 16 – Brian Hollifield, Pioneer Seed.
September 21 – Tim Smith (Wilcox Co. Extension) and Don Wood.
September 28 – Richey Seaton and Bill Lambert, Georgia Cotton Commission.

Field Activities:

A Dupont-led **sweet corn** study was in high gear throughout September. The study compared insecticide applied with at-plant fertilizer, with ground-based rig (see photo below), and with our irrigation system (chemigation). The corn was harvested on September 28 and the researcher reported excellent and interesting results from the study. We'll have more on this study on our web site in the coming weeks.

Peanuts are progressing nicely. Studies led by John Beasley (UGA) and Wilson Faircloth (USDA) have been irrigated and sprayed according to protocols and are approaching harvest stage.

Cotton has also progressed well. We have two ‘ages’ of cotton crop here at SIRP as most was planted May 9 and our subsurface drip (SSDI) field was planted June 10. The earlier planted has been in its final days (no spraying or irrigating) and was defoliated on Sept 27. The later planted

field has required some sprays and is still being irrigated. Cotton is being studied by a number of 'team' members including Glen Ritchie, Scott Tubbs, Rad Yager, Phillip Roberts, Amanda Smith, Don Shurley, Jared Whitaker and Calvin Perry.

Weather Happenings at SIRP:

The total amount of rainfall received at SIRP during September (according to our 'official' rain gage) was 1.35 inches. This compares to 5.89 inches in August, 3.75 inches in July, and 3.36 inches in June. As always, for information from one of UGA's automated weather stations near you, go to www.georgiaweather.net.

Water on Television:

About a year ago, Jonathan Wickham (independent film producer) came down to the Flint Basin to shoot parts of the GPB documentary on the GA-FL-AL water wars - '**Chattahoochee - From Water War to Water Vision**'. Stripling Park provided some background material for the film. They shot some scenes with VRI in action on a farm – hopefully that topic will make it into the final cut of the documentary film. Note – I have no idea of the actual content of the film. The film is finished and it premiered at the Ecofocus film fest in Athens recently and the documentary will also air on GPB network Wed, Oct. 6 at 8pm, Fri, Oct 8 at 10pm and Sun. Oct 10 at 4pm. Might be worth watching.

Water In the News:

“Water wars in the southeast. Chattahoochee blues: Are Georgia, Alabama and Florida fighting over water or over growth?”

http://www.economist.com/realarticleid.cfm?redirect_id=17043462

“Water Wars, Southeastern Style.”

<http://www.inkstain.net/fleck/?p=4891>

“Barnes, Deal oppose water transfer.”

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/government/elections/georgia-elections/2010-09-26/barnes-deal-oppose-water-transfer>

“Conservation, fair distribution and trust are keys to solving water issue.”

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/conservation-fair-distribution-and-618581.html>

“Have we forgotten about water?”

<http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/archives/38425/>

“Our Views: Clocks are ticking in water wars.”

<http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/section/23/article/38395/>

“Tri-state water battle: Please, governors, get back to the table.”

<http://www.ajc.com/opinion/tri-state-water-battle-611082.html>

“Dawson Forest a new player in state water debate.”

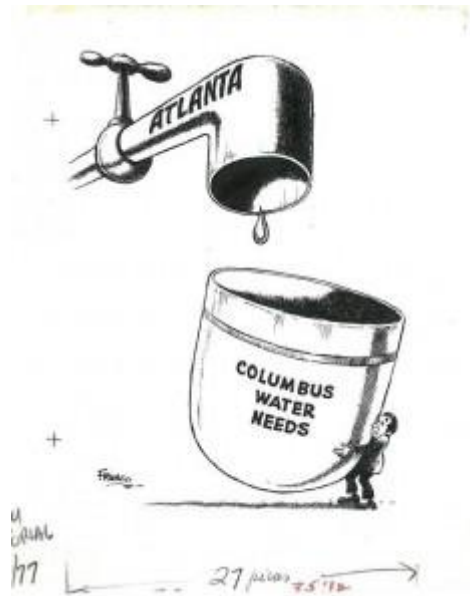
<http://www.ajc.com/news/dawson-forest-a-new-615371.html>

“Ga senators file legislation aimed at fixing water woes.”

<http://www.ajc.com/news/georgia-politics-elections/ga-senators-file-legislation-649130.html>

“Corps to officially remove ‘water usage’ from Lanier manual.”

<http://www.ajc.com/news/north-fulton/corps-to-officially-remove-611248.html>



Editorial cartoon from Columbus Ledger-Enquirer from March, 1977.

Upcoming Events:

Oct 12 – NRCS Area 3 Fall Irrigation Tour (invitation only)

October 19-21 – Sunbelt EXPO in Moultrie

October 26 – Dupont Sweet Corn Update for Consultants (invitation only)

Oct 27 – Georgia Conservancy Legislative Tour (invitation only)

November 3 – NRCS Southeast Workshop irrigation tour (invitation only)

Trivia:

How many gallons of water does an average person use daily?

Answer: 100-150

Photos of Recent Activities:



Dr. Glen Harris' soils class from UGA-Tifton Campus.



Spraying our fall sweet corn with insecticide.



Recent aerial view of the Stripling Park. Thanks to Rick Heard for the photo.