

*The Alabama Agribusiness Council is the **ONLY** organization in the state that brings **ALL** agriculture interest together.*

Our Mission: To advocate, enhance, and promote agribusiness in Alabama as the collective voice.

Our Purpose: Our primary purpose is to work with groups and organizations to effectively promote and enhance the business of agriculture and forestry in Alabama.

We represent: The broadest base of agricultural interest in Alabama. Membership is open to individuals, trade associations and companies ranging from 1-500+ employees who share a common interest in positively enhancing agriculture and agribusiness in Alabama.



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AAC HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING

The Alabama Agribusiness Council held our annual meeting at the Island House Hotel in Orange Beach June 26-28.

The business session began Monday morning with the election of new Council president 2016-2017 AAC Board of Directors. The AAC Heritage Award was presented by Mike Wood to the late Floyd "Shady" Gilliland. The Heritage Award is presented to someone who has supported the growth and development of the Council. Gilliland was a long time AAC Board Member who unselfishly served the Council through his legal talent and exceptional knowledge of agriculture. Gilliland's wife Janie accepted the award on his behalf.



The first speaker on the program was Dr. William Puckett, Executive Director of the Soil and Water Conservation Committee. He spoke on Conserve Alabama, a new initiative formed to increase awareness on conserving our natural resources. Steve Flowers, author of *Of Goats & Governors*, followed with some of Alabama's rich and rowdy political stories. Energy Institute of Alabama Chairman Seth Hammett and Dr. Steven Taylor, Auburn University Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts, gave an update from the newly formed Energy Institute of Alabama. The impact of Alabama's energy industry and the role energy plays in agribusiness development was discussed.



Following the Monday morning session, members participated in a scholarship golf outing at Glenlakes Golf Club. This event raises scholarship money for students pursuing a degree in agriculture or a closely related field.

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AAC HOSTS ANNUAL MEETING (continued)

Monday night, the ever popular low country boil was held on Cotton Bayou for members and their families. Brothers Mike and Tim Wood continued



their long tradition of hosting the boil with plenty of shrimp, potatoes, corn and sausage to go around. Justin Fobes entertained with live music while guests enjoyed the opportunity to network with each other. Members enjoyed magnificent sunset on Cotton Bayou.

lege of Agriculture and AAES Director, updated the group on his plans for the college. From the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Dr. Gary Lemme, spoke on economic development efforts from state agricultural leaders, and the role agriculture is playing to help grow and attract businesses to Alabama. Dr. Wesley Porter from the University of Georgia presented the importance of irrigation scheduling and how it increases profitability and Anis Bousselni, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, concluded the Annual Meeting discussing agroclimactic characterization and water consumption.

Tuesday morning's session began with Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries John McMillan who gave an update on Alabama agriculture and trade opportunities with Cuba. Dr. Paul Patterson, Dean of Auburn University Col-



AAC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Amy Belcher
Coosa Valley Turf Farms
Covington County EDC
Jim Cravey
Evonik Corporation
Philip Hardee
James Harwell
Richard Lusk
Richard McNider
Milstead Farm Group
Rick Pate
Duncan Roberts
Soil & Water
Conservation Committee
Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff



that affect the entire agricultural community. Membership in the AAC is truly an investment in the future of Alabama Agriculture and the benefits are immeasurable. Time and time again members have joined forces to promote economic growth in the agriculture sector in our rural communities while continuing to be wise stewards of the land. It has been my privilege to work with the AAC on numerous projects including the impressive economic impact study which has proven to be an invaluable resource for farmers, agribusinesses, universities and government officials. I look forward to continuing a positive relationship with the AAC, a unifying voice of Alabama agriculture.

The Alabama Agribusiness Council (AAC) is a valuable organization providing a unified voice representing a variety of commodity groups and agribusinesses on legislative and economic development issues



-Commissioner John McMillan

AACF Selects Scholarship Winners

The Alabama Agribusiness Council Foundation scholarship program was created to promote the future of agriculture by financially supporting students working towards a career in an agriculture related industry. 2016 is the inaugural year for granting scholarships and each of the recipients were awarded \$1,000 for the Fall 2016 semester. Applicants must be majoring in agriculture or an ag related field, be accepted or enrolled in a four-year institution in the State of Alabama, have a grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and be a resident of Alabama.

From the 24 applications received, five students were selected by the AACF Board of Directors. All of the students who were granted scholarships exceeded these qualifications and represent a diverse area of study and varying future career aspirations. AACF is excited about the future of our industry with these worthy young adults.

AACF carries out the Alabama Agribusiness Council's mission of advocating, promoting and enhancing the business of agriculture and forestry in Alabama. Through this scholarship, we hope to continue to support future students in their efforts to dedicate their lives to agriculture. Please consider supporting the Foundation by making a tax-deductible contribution. The members of the AACF Board of Directors are President Tim Wood, Vice President Eddie Ingram and Treasurer Nisa Miranda.

For more information contact Executive Director Leigha Cauthen at (334) 834-4006, lcauthen@alagribusiness.org or by mailing a donation to the Alabama Agribusiness Council Foundation at P.O. Box 3612, Montgomery, AL 36109.



Pictured Left to Right:
AACF President Tim Wood,
Austin Brown (Agronomy),
Emily Williams (Forestry),
Jessica Langford (Animal Science),
Ronald Beck (Pre-Vet)
and AACF Treasurer Nisa Miranda.

Not Pictured: John Wes Adcock
(Biosystems Engineering)



The Agricultural Retailers Association in partnership with AAC, the Georgia Agribusiness Council and the Florida Fertilizer and Chemical Association is hosting a regional meeting October 19 at the Rainwater Conference Center in Valdosta. \$30 Registration fee includes seminar, lunch, transportation and VIP tour and admission to Sunbelt AgExpo. To register visit: www.aradc.org/agretailforum

AAC 2016-2017

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AL Rural Electric Association

Mike Wood - *Syngenta*

Heather Wright
Wright's Nursery & Greenhouse

Glen Zorn - *Zorn Brothers*

Legislative Reception: February 14, 2017 – RSA Plaza Terrace, Montgomery
Annual Meeting: June 25-27, 2017 – Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach

SAVE THE DATE



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