

PECAN COUNTRY NEWS

Volume 13

Fall 2015

On the Calendar

Sep 25-26:

Jimenez Pecan Conf.
Jimenez, Chih., Mexico

Feb 26-27, 2016:

Southeastern Pecan
Growers Conf.; Destin, FL

Mar 22-24, 2016:

National Pecan Shellers
Meeting; New Orleans

Mar 29-31, 2016:

Georgia Pecan Growers
Conf.; Perry, GA



Be there!

Pecan growers meet in Frisco, Texas

When the Texas Pecan Growers gathered in Frisco, Texas for their annual conference, they were more than happy to welcome a whole lot of non-Texans to the festivities. Pecan folks from all across the United States, Mexico, and a few far-away corners of the globe, decided to join in the fun and maybe get a little pecan education along the way.

The visitors and the native Texans were not disappointed. All participants were treated to a vast array of equipment and pecan-related products from a wealth of industry manufacturers and supporters. On the educational front, many agricultural and industry gurus offered their considerable expertise to those thirsty for more pecan knowledge.

One of the more enlightening seminars involved software applications designed to ease a pecan grower's workload and help improve efficiency on the farm. Ben Allen of Agri-Data says that increasing demands for documentation and accountability in every phase of farm production and distribution will only grow.

His presentation was entitled "Can Software Create an Advantage for Pecans?" Mr. Allen states, "Things continue to change in agriculture. Consumers want more information about the food they eat. Environmental regulations continue to increase. Paperwork just increases year after year. But there might be a better way--a way to put Pecans in the lead position and generate a sustainable advantage year after year."

Luis Cisneros, of Texas A&M presented another fascinating session concerning some promising health-related research into pecans.

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Basil Savage was honored with the Texas Pecan Growers Association's Life Membership Award.

Billy Brown joins the Savage team

Pecan Country folks around Georgia are probably already familiar with Billy Brown. As an equipment expert and sales guy at Albany Tractor for the past sixteen years, he has sold more than a few pieces of Savage pecan equipment along with many other agricultural implements. Billy recently signed on with the Savage team, and is now general manager of the Savage of Georgia facility located in Baconton, Georgia.

"We've worked with Billy for many years," says Basil Savage, "and we couldn't be more pleased to have him and his wife Jackie as part of our extended family here in Georgia. He's got a great background and personality for this business, and we look forward to watching him make a real difference for our customers in the southeastern pecan region." Along with his wealth of experience in agricultural equipment within the region, Billy has spent the past several years getting increasingly involved in the pecan



Billy Brown visiting the Savage plant in Madill, Oklahoma

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Pecan Folks

Frisco, Texas Conf. (continued from page 1)

The research is still under way at Texas A&M University, and it points to pecan consumption as potentially very significant in reducing many risk factors associated with heart disease, diabetes and stroke.

Other sessions available included “Flowering: The Pecan Tree’s Perspective,” “The South African Pecan Industry: Past, Present and Future,” “Pecans, The Forgotten Nut—Succeed Together or Perish Alone” and several other intriguing titles. And of course, no confer-



Jesse Diaz with a couple of his young fans from Mexico



Loren Damron with Savage customers from Israel, Angelina & Yaacov Yermark

ence is complete without the “Pecan Crop Guesstimate” provided this year by Kyle Brookshier of Van Horn, Texas.

One of the highlights of the week (especially for those of us at Savage Equipment), was the TPGA’s Life Membership being awarded to Basil Savage. The plaque commends his “leadership in engineering and manufacturing pecan equipment that is effective, affordable, available and repairable...”

As always, the Texas Pecan Conference was a tremendous opportunity to enjoy the company of pecan growers, large and small, and to learn some tried-and-true growing practices along with some state-of-the-art methods for growing the best pecans possible. *And, what could be better than that?*

Billy Brown (continued from page 1)

business. He’s become a familiar face at pecan conferences and association meetings in and around Georgia.

Even in the few weeks he’s been with Savage Equipment, Billy has crisscrossed the area telling the pecan equipment story. He recently participated in a pecan “field day” held at Lewis and Bill Parker’s farm in Baxley, Georgia. This family graciously hosts the field day each year (generously contributing labor and resources) in order to support pecan education for fellow growers. County extension agent Shane Curry was responsible for organizing and managing the event. Billy reports that over 200 enthusiastic pecan growers attended the affair, with high-value presentations offered by Dr. Lenny Wells, Dr. Jim Dutcher, Dr. Will Hudson, Dr. Tim Brenneman and Dr. Glen Rains.

We congratulate Billy Brown on his new position and encourage our readers in the area to do the same. You can

track him down (if he’s not traveling) at the Savage of Georgia facilities located at 315 Lester Road NE in Baconton. Then again, he plans to be on the road a lot, so you might want to call ahead: 229-787-5115.



Georgia pecan growers enjoy the warm fellowship and good food that go along with a pecan field day in Baxley, Georgia.

Pecan Pieces

News you can use!

Here's a sampling of pecan-related news available on the internet and some of our favorite pecan publications.

National Pecan Company continues their expansion

An August 6 article in *Southeast Farm Press* (Texas-based National Pecan buys Georgia facility, moves to expand in Southeast) describes the latest acquisition by National Pecan

The purchase, which includes the Poulan Pecan Company processing facility and brand, is the first of its kind for National Pecan. The company says it is a major milestone toward its vertical integration goals.

"At National Pecan, we feel very positive about the future of the U.S. pecan industry. As such, we are delighted with the purchase of Poulan Pecan Company," said David Lawrence, Chief Executive Officer for National Pecan. "Our company has already purchased significant pecan acreage, so acquiring a high-efficiency processing facility is a strategic move for our aggressive expansion plans."

Who is National Pecan Company? Glad you asked. Here's what their website says:

National Pecan is building North America's leading diversified and fully integrated grower, accumulator, processor and marketer of pecans. National Pecan provides both in-shell and shelled pecans and pecan-based products around the world. We are currently looking to expand our asset base and are an active buyer of both orchards and processing facilities. We also acquire in-shell pecans from third party growers to complement our in-house production.

Home base for National Pecan is Frisco, Texas. The Chief Operations Officer is Steve Zaffarano, and their Director of Farm Operations is Tom Stevenson, who is based in Albany, Georgia.

What about walnuts?

In case you've been wondering about one of the pecan's biggest competitors, the walnut, we found a couple of

interesting articles on the Westernfarmpress.com website. Todd Fitchette's September 3rd article, entitled *NASS says record walnut crop in the making*, sheds some light on the upcoming harvest.

California walnut production is predicted to top a record 575,000 tons, up 1 percent from 2014's production of 570,000 tons.

The record crop comes during a season beset with a shortage of water and chilling hours. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecast credits a relatively mild summer for the increase, though bearing acreage is up 10,000 to 300,000 acres.

Bats for pest control?

In another walnut related article, entitled *Bats in walnut orchards: What's the benefit?* (Aug 19, 2015, by Dennis Pollock) the author addresses a method of organic pest control used by walnut growers in California. Apparently bats really love to eat moths.

Researchers with the University of California are trying to put numbers behind the dollar signs that growers of walnuts use when they tally the value of having bats cruise their orchards, eating pests that include their enemy No. 1 – the codling moth.

It's known the bats are voracious predators of night-flying insects that target walnuts and other crops, and growers have been putting bat houses into or near their orchards for years.

These researchers are in the process of catching bats at a number of walnut orchards and examining their... well their poop, actually--to determine the number of codling moths they are consuming. Early data is suggesting that moths can protect about 6 percent of crop yield, which equates to nearly \$30,000 for a typical 80-acre orchard at current walnut prices. So maybe setting up a few "bat boxes" around the orchard wouldn't be a bad idea.

Pecan Marketing Order hearings wrapped up

As reported in the August 2015 issue of *Georgia Pecans*, the series of three hearings on the proposed Federal Marketing Order for pecans has run its course. In late July hearings were held in Las Cruces, NM and Dallas, TX. The final hearing was held in Tifton, Georgia July 27 through 29.

More Pecan Pieces

More good news on tree nuts!

In an online article entitled “Tree nuts are a powerhouse of taste and nutrition” (May 29, 2015 by: Dr. David Jockers) we read more encouraging news on nut nutrition. Here’s just a little of what Dr Jockers says.

Nuts have biologically active compounds available for the development and maintenance of a healthy body. Examples of these compounds that provide antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and heart health properties are:

Vitamins: Examples include folate, niacin and tocopherols (which make up vitamin E) in which

many act as powerful antioxidants protecting the body from the damaging effects of free radicals, or highly reactive oxygen atoms.

Minerals: Examples include calcium, selenium, potassium and magnesium which help protect bone density, heart health and assist blood sugar regulation.



Phytosterols: A cholesterol-like

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How old is that pecan tree?

Part III

For the past couple of issues, we’ve occupied this space with investigations of the many long-lived pecan trees that inhabit our planet (and a couple that have departed it).

No such story would be complete without the Texas tale of the San Saba “Mother Pecan Tree”. It may not be the oldest (then again you never know), but this tree has certainly been around a while, and it’s a wonderful part of our pecan history. Our story begins in the 1870s (The tree probably began many decades before that.), when an English immigrant by the name of Edmond E. Risien became fascinated with pecans and decided to stage a pecan show in San Saba County, Texas—its first one ever. Mr. Risien was after the best pecan specimen around, and he found it. When he went to see the tree that had produced the winning pecans, he was horrified to find that all but one of the branches had been sawed off to harvest the pecans. Still, he ended up buying the land and tree (which recovered) and set about trying to produce a whole crop of these winning nuts. He learned the hard way that pecans don’t produce trees and fruits like the parent tree. But, eventually he figured out the science of grafting and went on to produce some great varieties from this “Mother Tree”. Today, its descendent’s include *Liberty Bond*, *San Saba Improved*, *Texas*

Prolific, and *Western Schley*. And, Mr. Risien’s descendants are still in San Saba, Texas and still in the pecan business as owners of Millican Pecan Company. This historic tree stands in the midst of their pecan orchard.

In our last edition, we asked readers to send in stories and maybe some real evidence about their old pecan trees. Well, we’ve gotten exactly zero takers so far, but we’re not giving up. Send us those stories and we’ll be glad to help tell them.



**The grand old Triple-tree
at the Savage’s Hauani Creek Ranch.
Who knows how old this giant might be.**

Featured Equipment

The Savage Equipment story begins a whole new chapter!

In a startling move that almost nobody saw coming, Savage Equipment has teamed up with a select few equipment manufacturers to enhance the already huge variety of equipment available from their operating locations. Savage is now a distributor for Orchard Machinery Corporation self-propelled shakers, Nelson Hardie orchard sprayers and pruning towers, and Inspection Masters in-shell pecan sorting machines.

Orchard Machinery Corporation is located in Yuba City, California and was founded in the early 1960s under the name Shock Wave Shaker. From simple beginnings, their product line has grown to include a wide variety of specialized agricultural machinery designed to improve efficiency in the orchard environment. Savage Equipment will be marketing and distributing OMC's Monoboom and Sprint Series V shakers throughout most of the U.S. pecan belt and in other countries.



The OMC
Monoboom Shaker

Founded in 1968, **Nelson Manufacturing** was originally a welding and repair shop, that soon branched into a variety of agricultural machinery production. In 1982 Nelson bought the Air-blast sprayer portion of Hardie sprayers from Lockwood Corporation in Nebraska and re-named the product line "Nelson Hardie." Improvements over the years include all stainless steel hoods, doors, panels and plumbing. In the nineties, Nelson introduced the Nelson "SuperTuff" reinforced composite air-blast fans and changed to John Deere engines.

In the early eighties Nelson built the first Nelson Spray Cab for orchard and vineyard tractors, (now



Nelson Hardie
6800E Sprayer

known as "Orchard Cab"). Nelson purchased the "Tree Squirrel" orchard pruning tower line from Woods Manufacturing in Yuba City in 2006.

Inspection Masters, LLC, based in Las Cruces, New Mexico, began life in the year 2000 to bring the PS-10,000 to market. This machine was an in-shell pecan "sticktight" sorter developed by Roger Holt, I.M.'s founder and CEO. As the product advanced dramatically over the years, the company has grown to incorporate a widening geographic reach and an expanding customer base.

Inspection Masters now uses dual-spectrum technology to sort various nuts using both near-infrared and color criteria. Additionally, nuts are characterized by size and shape. So now, based on four separate criteria nuts can be sorted as acceptable or unacceptable. In recent years, the company has adapted their machines to support the walnut and macadamia industries and sells them across the U.S. and around the globe.



Inspection Masters
PS-12,000 DS+

Just Plain Nuts

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molecule which interferes with the human body's ability to absorb cholesterol and helps decrease low density lipoprotein cholesterol or the "bad" LDL cholesterol.

Phenolic Compounds: Zeaxanthin and beta-carotene are examples of plant substances that provide color and protection to plants. These compounds

serve as antioxidants in the human body. Studies suggest that plant phenols protect the body from cancers, cardiovascular disease, diabetes osteoporosis and degenerative nerve disease.

Learn more at www.naturalnews.com



Wow--football season is here! How about some interesting quotes from Coach John McKay, who coached the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from their first year (1976) until he retired in 1984. The Bucs lost their first 26 games. Yikes!

- After the Bucs' first unofficial game, he responded to a question, "Well, we didn't block, but we made up for it by not tackling."
- Following a Tampa Bay loss in their early seasons, McKay was asked what he thought of his team's "execution." He replied, "I'm all for it."
- "Emotion is highly overrated in football. My wife Corky is emotional as hell but can't play football worth a damn."
- "If you have everyone back from a team that lost ten games, experience isn't too important."
- After receiving harsh criticism from the media about his coaching skills, McKay replied "You guys don't know the difference between a football and a bunch of bananas." In the next interview, members of the media left bananas for McKay. He then replied, "You guys don't know the difference between a football and a Mercedes Benz."

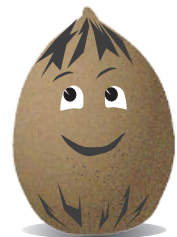
Caramel Popcorn Pecan Crunch

- 20 cups popped corn
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 4 cups coarsly chopped pecans
- 1 tsp. soda



Combine brown sugar, butter, salt and corn syrup in a large saucepan. Bring to boil and continue for 5 min., stirring often. Remove from heat and add vanilla and soda, stirring quickly. Pour over popcorn and pecans that have been place in a large oven-safe pan. Mix well. Bake for 1 hour in a 250° oven, stirring every 20 min. Cool on large cookie sheets.

This scrumptious recipe came from our own Frances Savage (also known as Granny). You gotta try it--mmmm-mmmm.



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