

PECAN COUNTRY NEWS

Volume 12

Summer 2015

On the Calendar

Jul 12-15:

Texas Pecan Growers Conf.; Frisco, TX

Orchard & Plant Tour at our place in Oklahoma!

Aug 28:

Arizona Pecan Growers Meeting; Tucson, AZ

Sep 3:

Georgia Pecan Growers Fall Field Day

Sep 10-12:

National Pecan Shellers Meeting; Washington DC

Sep 17:

Alabama Pecan Growers Meeting; Fairhope AL

Sep 25-26:

Jimenez Pecan Conf. Jimenez, Chih., Mexico

Savage honored by Oklahoma governor and legislature

Savage Equipment, Inc. and the Savage family's Hauani Creek Ranch recently hosted the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association's annual orchard tour. This year's convention meetings and show were held at the Ardmore Convention Center, where we displayed a large array of our pecan harvesting, cleaning and shelling equipment for visiting pecan growers and processors from Oklahoma and surrounding states. On the morning of June 13th convention attendees traveled to Hauani Creek Ranch for a tour of the pecan orchards and to learn from experts about state-of-the-art methods involved in fertilizing and irrigating pecans.

About 150 visitors then headed to Madill for a tour of Savage Equipment's facilities and a lunch held in our showroom. At the conclusion of the festivities, founder Basil Savage had a couple of surprises coming his way. Two state senators and a state representative were on hand to present commendations honoring Basils many years of service to agriculture and industry in the state of Oklahoma. Firstly, State Senator Eddie Fields presented a "Governor's Commendation" certificate

Continued on page 2



Oklahoma pecan show in Ardmore, Oklahoma



Basil Savage, Jr speaks to orchard tour crowd



State Sen. Eddie Fields reads Governor's Commendation

To make a little boy happy...

Late last year, we got a call at the Savage Equipment office from a customer in eastern Georgia. It seems she was having some trouble finding the one item that her young son, Cainen Patrick, really wanted for Christmas. What was it that no store, online or otherwise, carried? Cainen told his mom, what he really wanted for Christmas, more than anything else, was a Savage pecan tree shaker for one of his toy tractors. "Do you happen to have a small-scale version of your shaker?" she asked. "Or, do you know where I could find one?" Unfortunately, no such thing existed.

Well, the last thing we wanted to do was disappoint the little guy, but as folks in Pecan Country know, December can be a very busy time, and we just didn't have the spare capacity to produce anything of quality in the time

Continued on page 2



Cainen Patrick and his one-of-a-kind toy shaker

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Pecan Folks

Savage honored (continued from page 1)

from Oklahoma Governor, Mary Fallin. The certificate reads in part...

You are to be commended as an avid supporter of your local southern Oklahoma community of Madill as well as pecan organizations throughout the U.S. The three guiding principles of Savage Equipment: innovation, value and relentless improvement—have been evident in your persistent pursuit of novel solutions to complex problems. Throughout your career, much like our state motto, you have consistently demonstrated “Labor Conquers All Things,” a level of excellence to which we all aspire, leaving a legacy of integrity, respect and honor. Congratulations on a job well done!

State Senator Josh Brecheen and State Representative Tommy Hardin then presented a “State of Oklahoma Citation”. This document recognizes Savage’s fifty-year career, beginning with his first pecan tree shaker invention and eventually building his company into the “largest pecan equipment manufacturer in the world.” The citation also

honors Savage as a “recognized leader in the agriculture industry who has exemplified personal values, performance, and achievement in Oklahoma.”

These two certificates, along with honors bestowed by the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association, are fitting exclamation points to Savage’s year-long celebration of a half-century in the pecan equipment industry. Savage pecan equipment is now employed in orchards and nut-processing facilities in many countries around the globe, including Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Israel, Mexico and South Africa.



Making a little boy happy (continued from page 1)

we had left before Christmas. “What about his birthday?” We asked Ms Patrick if that would work. She assured us we could make his day (and hers) really special if we could come up with a toy tree shaker for his birthday in April.

So once the flurry of pecan season subsided, the challenge became how to make a scaled down version of a Savage Shaker--what scale it should be? How are we going to attach it to a toy tractor? We decided that the best place to start was with the tractor. We ordered a nice metal John Deere tractor that was built to the scale we had in mind and had something approximating a 3-point hitch. We used a slightly simplified version of our computer model from which we make the real shakers and shrunk it down to match the tractor scale. We found some chain online (like you might see on a necklace) that approximated that same scale and improvised a way to attach it to the shaker body. The 3-D printer we sometimes use for product development came in handy for building the main components of the shaker. A little gluing and a fresh coat of Savage Red paint, and viola! Well, almost. We decided we needed to create a tiny little Savage decal to go on the shaker, and that became the next challenge. But the

Savage team is seldom stumped for very long, and we managed to create workable solution.

We sent the small shaker (attached to the John Deere, of course) off to Georgia just in time for Cainen’s fifth birthday party. Ms Patrick was kind enough to send us a few photos of the joyous celebration and told us that “Cainen LOVES his shaker!”

Although we don’t anticipate going into the toy business anytime soon, we enjoyed the challenge of working together to make one little Savage fan something special for his birthday.



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.

Pecan growers getting their tails kicked

Southeast Farm Press ran an article in April entitled "Pecan growers 'getting tails kicked in the marketplace'" that describes how far behind the Pecan industry is from its tree nut competition.

In regards to public awareness, almonds, pistachios and walnuts are blowing pecans away. The savvy trio is backed by massive marketing machines that spend tens of millions of dollars to spread the word in imaginative–yet brutally effective–fashion.

Pecans ... well ...

The article includes several quotes from pecan grower and American Pecan Board President, Mike Adams. He is working toward a federal Pecan Marketing Order that will propel the industry forward and help pecans compete much more effectively in the tree-nut marketplace.

"Our commodity does not take a back seat to anybody," said Adams. "It's healthier, chefs love its diversity, and the world—especially China and India—has developed a passion for pecans. But we're literally not in the marketing game. A federal marketing order will get us in the game and will contribute millions of dollars to our industry. This will help everybody – from the smallest grower to the largest."

Pecan Marketing Order time-line has been accelerated

On a related note, in the June 2015 issue of *Pecan South* we learned that the USDA has announced an expedited time-line for the Federal Marketing Order for Pecans. The schedule is designed to get the Order in place for the 2016 pecan crop. The unofficial schedule provided in this magazine article is now official and is published on the American Pecan Board's website. And here:

July 20, 21 (Monday, Tuesday) – West Region, Las Cruces, NM at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum; 4100 Dripping Springs Rd, Las Cruces, New Mexico

July 23, 24 (Thursday, Friday) – Central Region, Dallas (Richardson), TX (**This location has changed since the *Pecan South* article was published.**) The updated location is the Doubletree Hotel, 1981 North Central Expressway, Richardson, TX.

July 27, 28, 29 with 30 as holdover (Monday through Thursday) – East Region, Tifton, GA at the Hilton Garden Inn in Tifton; 201 Boo Drive, Tifton, Georgia

The *Pecan South* article also provides portions of a summary of the draft marketing order. The entire 20-page draft marketing order is available on the Pecan Board's website, www.pecanboard.com.

Creative uses for pecans

The NPR foodie web page *The Salt* recently ran an article entitled "Southerners are Getting Creative with their Favorite Nut: Pecan" (Posted March 12, 2015 3:26 PM ET). Author Jill Nelmark tells us that pecans have "become the focus of experiments by Southern farmers, chefs and craft breweries. Inspired in part by the fast-growing farm-to-table movement, which sets a premium on local products, they are giving the pecan new opportunities to shine in the form of cold-pressed oil, gluten-free flour and even beer."



gluten-free flour and even beer."

The article mentions Oliver Farm, in Cordele, Ga., where Clay Oliver uses "an old-fashioned screw press to produce several thousand bottles of delicate pecan oil a year." Pecan flour is another item that's beginning to find new applications. Oliver sells his artisan oils and defatted, gluten-free pecan flour to chefs, area specialty stores and online.

Nelmark's most surprising discovery in pecan usage came from a little craft brewery located in Kiln, Mississippi and called Lazy Magnolia Brewing Company.

More Pecan Pieces

Success at Green Valley

If you'd like to learn about a really large, really successful pecan operation, check out the April 24, 2015 *Western Farm Press* website article by Lee Allen, entitled Success at Green Valley Pecan Company Family Rooted. Allen tells the family story behind the Arizona pecan farm that is the "largest in the world." Green Valley Pecan company grows pecans in three orchards--one in Sahaurita just south of Tucson, one near San Simon in the southeast corner of Arizona, and one in Gerogia. According to GVPC vice president and chief operating officer Bruce Caris, the operation cares for about a quarter of a million trees. Green Valley Pecan Company is owned by Farmers Investment Company (FICO), which was founded by Keith Walden back in the 1940s. The Walden family still

owns FICO and manages the farm. In recent times portions of the operation have moved to organic growing.

The GVPC growers are responding to marketplace demands. Two-thirds of the pecan trees are grown conventionally and one-third is organic.

"Organic is a big commitment, but you get a better premium," [Rich] Walden explained. "Compared to the disease and pest issues which can occur in fields in the East, we're one of the few places where organic pest control works due to our regional climate."



How old is that pecan tree?

Part II

In our last issue, we began a discussion of the amazing longevity we often admire in the noble pecan tree. One great example is a big old tree, planted beside the historic Natchez Trace in Tennessee--a well-known specimen that is unfortunately, no longer with us. It succumbed to old age and was cut down just a few years ago. In April 1973 the tree measured 18'2" in circumference, 106' in height and 136' in spread and was named the World's Largest Pecan Tree in the American Forestry Association's Social Register of Big Trees. Local tradition held that the tree grew from a pecan brought back from the battle of New Orleans by one of Andrew Jackson's men in 1815. This legend could well be true, but no documentation has yet been found.

Pecan trees may not be native to Georgia, but that doesn't mean the state is lacking in very old, very large pecan trees of its own. The "TyTy Big Pecan Tree" was already considered a huge tree way back in 1875 when John Williams and his wife Catharine built a house nearby in what was then Worth County, Georgia. How the tree came to grow there is a mystery; but given the many native artifacts in the area, it seems likely that Native Americans transported pecans there from pecan habitat located farther west. After all, pecans have

always made great traveling food. Either by accident or by design, at least one of these migrant pecans grew into a tree that stood the test of time.

From meeting minutes of a March, 2012 gathering of the Crop Germplasm Committee for Pecans and Hickories, we were able to extract the following nugget of pecan tree trivia.

TN Big Tree: The largest pecan tree in the US, based on records of the Big Tree Registry maintained by American Forests. Thompson obtained graftwood after tracking down the tree in Cocke County, TN. The tree measures 267 inches circumference at 4.5 ft, is 141 ft tall with a crown spread of 111 ft (giving a total score of 436 in the registry). The tree was reportedly established from introduced seed in the early 1800's.

When we stumbled across the above information, it seemed we had actually found the largest pecan tree in America (and probably the world). However, a quick check of the "Big Tree Registry" published online by *American Forests*, revealed that a new champion had recently been crowned:

Pecan (*Carya illinoensis*)

Tree Circumference: 277'

Height: 120'

Crown Spread: 126'

Total Points: 429

Location: Cadiz, Kentucky

Nominated By: Diana Olszowy

Year Nominated: 2014

Continued on page 6

Featured Equipment

Introducing the latest innovations from Savage Equipment

The Savage Row-Vac

If you've ever tried to harvest pecans in an orchard full of mature, healthy trees loaded with foliage, you know what a challenge it can be. All those leaves and sticks can choke even the best of windrow harvesters or slow them to a crawl.

If that has been your experience, we invite you to consider the new Savage Row-Vac. This amazing machine rolls down the windrow, vacuuming off most of the leaves and sticks, while leaving the pecans on the ground.



Savage's new
8960 Row-Vac



This allows your harvester to move quickly and efficiently down the windrows and get through your pecan harvest in record time. A single hydraulic cylinder will raise and lower the machine to the precise level that matches your conditions. The Row-Vac works with a 1000-rpm power take-off and will operate effectively with tractors powered at 65 horsepower or more.

The Savage V-Sweeper

We, here at Savage Equipment, are pleased to introduce the latest addition to our expanding line of row-harvesting equipment. The new 7520 V-Sweeper is a marvel of design ingenuity and mechanical craftsmanship.

For years the Savage Side-Sweeper has developed a reputation for quality and dependability, and we're proud to be offering this machine as a worthy alternative. Mounted to the front of your tractor, you can have our Row Harvester or Row-Vac mounted behind. You'll really appreciate the low profile of this machine when the two sides are raised

for transport. In the raised position, it's only 8' wide and will sit lower than the top of most tractor cabs.



Come see more of our equipment at the Texas Pecan Growers Conference in Frisco July 12-14 or the Orchard and Plant Tour at our place on July 15.

Just Plain Nuts

Old Pecan Trees (continued from page 4)

This champion Pecan of Kentucky made its debut on the list of American Forests Champion Trees in 2014, as it is the largest known tree of its species in the country.

Apparently, the previous champion (located in Tennessee) must have shrunk or died, because by my calculations the Kentucky tree is a few points shy of the previous champion.

In any case, they're both monster pecan trees, but we still don't know for sure how old they are. What about your giant pecan tree? Is it really as old as you think? Here's a challenge for you. When Texas

A&M professor, Marvin Harris and his compatriots conducted their research into pecan tree rings, back in 1995, the oldest tree they examined was 224 years old. To our knowledge, this is the oldest documented pecan tree, but there's a very good chance it's really not. In all likelihood, it's not the oldest--might not even be close. Our challenge to everyone out there in Pecan Country, is to prove yours is older. We'll need to see some rings or a documented planting year, perhaps. How about it? Who's got the oldest pecan tree?



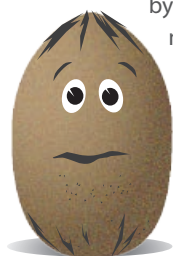
Pecan Weevil wins ugly bug contest

The sixth-grade students in Tammy Sherfield's class at Ardmore Middle School know an ugly bug when they see one. They were determined to win the 18th annual Oklahoma Microscopy Society's Ugly Bug contest. You see, there was a high-quality light microscope at stake--the grand prize in the state-wide contest. The students not only had to find an "ugly" bug and send it to the society, but also submit a research paper that detailed where the bug lives, what it eats, life expectancy, effects on people and the bug's role in the environment.



The lowly, detestable pecan weevil larva won from among 80 entries. Congratulations to these intrepid students!

Ardmore Middle School students know the ugliest bug, by Laura Eastes, The Daily Ardmoreite, www.ardmoreite.com; Posted May 19, 2015 at 8:00 AM



*They're right!
That really IS an ugly bug.*

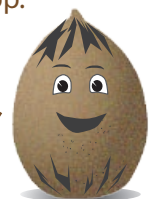
Simple Oat & Pecan Blueberry Crisp

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup pecan halves (about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup almond meal
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flaked coconut (unsweetened, preferably!)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup + 2 tablespoons olive oil
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup real maple syrup or raw honey
- 4 cups blueberries

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Chop the pecans. Combine the oats, pecans, almond meal, coconut, salt, and cinnamon in a large bowl. Add the olive oil and maple syrup and stir until well mixed.

Grease a square baking dish (8x8 or 9x9) & arrange blueberries in the bottom. Top with oat mixture. Bake 25-35 minutes or until top is golden brown and firmed up slightly. You can top with additional flaked coconut and return to the oven for another 5 minutes for some decorative toasted coconut on top.

This was borrowed from a yummy food blog called pinchofyum.com. You should check it out.



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