

PECAN COUNTRY NEWS

Volume 22

Winter 2018

On the Calendar

Jan 22-25:

Texas Pecan Short Course
Texas A&M, University

Feb 23-24:

Southeast Pecan Growers
Conf.; Point Clear, AL

Mar 4-6:

Western Pecan Growers
Conf.; Las Cruces, NM

Mar 14-15:

National Pecan Shellers
Mtg.; San Antonio, TX

Mar 27-28:

Georgia Pecan Growers
Conf.; Univ. of GA-Tifton

Jun 21-22:

Tri-State Pecan Growers
Conf.; Monroe, LA

Jul 15-18:

Texas Pecan Growers
Conf.; San Marcos, TX

Oklahoma Ag Secretary visits Savage Equipment

In late October, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, Jim Reese and the State Agricultural Board visited Savage Equipment at our home in Madill, Oklahoma. Counting board members, staff and a few family guests, there

were about twenty visitors in all. Secretary Reese spoke to the assembly of Savage employees and state agricultural leaders regarding the impact Basil Savage and his company have had on the state and the greater pecan community. The group enjoyed a delicious barbecue meal, then made the rounds on a detailed tour of the manufacturing facilities of Savage Equipment.



Oklahoma pecan grower celebrates the next big step.

In mid-November this year, Dennis and Glenda Ward put on a good-old-fashioned fish fry to celebrate their next big step as an Oklahoma pecan family. The Ward family started farming the southeastern corner of Oklahoma back in the 1930's. Dennis' grandfather and father (Barney Sr. and Barney Jr.) would eventually run several hundred head of cattle and farm cotton, soybeans and rice. In the early days, Dennis' grandmother, May Ward, learned there could be a market for the pecans that grew along the creek bottoms in the area. She made sure the farm hands left the pecan trees standing when they were clearing land for farming.

For the past couple of decades, the Wards (especially Glenda) have been using an old Savage Model 2400 Cleaner and a few pieces of



Dennis Ward (left) shows off the indoor section of his new cleaning plant.

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Pecan Folks

Oklahoma pecan grower (cont. from page 1)

farm-made equipment to clean the harvested nuts. Glenda finally grew tired of the increasing difficulties of keeping the old equipment operating well enough to keep up with the mountains of harvested pecans flowing in every fall. Dennis and Glenda decided to take the bold step of putting in a whole new cleaning plant housed in a whole new pecan barn.

The new plant came on line in November, and the Ward family decided it was an occasion worth celebrating—a grand opening, harvest celebration and family reunion all rolled into one. They invited a few dozen of their neighbors and fellow pecan growers to a Saturday-night fish fry featuring bucket loads of catfish and crappie along with all the fixings and generous portions of southern hospitality. Representatives of Savage Equip-

ment, who manufactured and erected the cleaning plant, were also in attendance to help mark the occasion.



A delicious meal and great company made for an enjoyable evening for all.

A (true) pecan story

Karen Kapella was cleaning up underneath a native pecan tree near her home in Davis, Oklahoma when she noticed a good-sized improved-variety pecan under the tree. It seemed a bit unusual, so she scraped her foot across the ground and a few more out-of-place nuts were exposed. That really got her attention. She grabbed a stick and started digging. You've probably figured out that the photograph below shows the pecans that eventually came out of the ground. The whole stash was discovered within about a two-foot radius. Some industrious critter had really been busy building up this hoard of nuts.



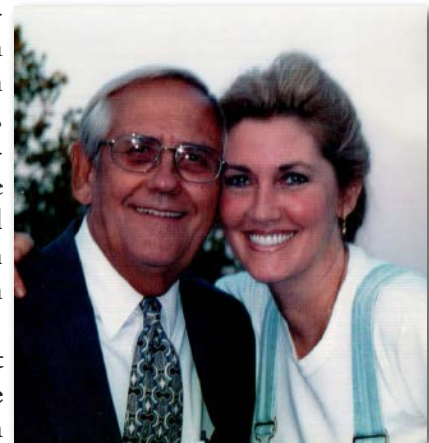
There are over 400 pecans here. Now THAT'S a big stash!

After retrieving the "stolen goods," Karen reflected on how hard the family had worked to establish the family's orchard, and how much her late father's enthusiasm for growing pecans had rubbed off on her. When she emailed us to tell her pecan story, she wrote the following.

I love the pecan work. My father and I shared that passion. He bought equipment from you guys and we had so much fun. He was probably watching me dig for gold from heaven.

Karen is a graduate of Oklahoma State University who enjoyed a successful career in the fashion and performing arts industries in Dallas, New York, Cincinnati and northwest Arkansas. A self-described "country girl at heart," she recently gave up her directorship of the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas to return to Oklahoma and care for her mother and the home place. Karen's father, Dr. David Eggenberg, passed away in 2006. He was a family medical doctor in Davis for 43 years, along with being a rancher and pecan farmer. Now Karen and her husband, Tom, are reconnecting with the family's roots and doing battle with those pesky pecan thieves.

(Don't miss Part 2, "Another true pecan story" on page 4.)



Karen and her dad, the late Dr. David Eggenberg (about 2005)

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.

Ted Cruz signs on to champion pecans in India

It was reported in *The Dallas Morning News* as well as trade magazines *Pecan South* and *Pecan Grower* (a.k.a. *Georgia Pecans*). Three separate stories appeared in October, describing how Texas Senator Ted Cruz had recently taken a leadership role in the governmental efforts to break down the wall of high pecan tariffs in the nation of India. The Dallas news article (written by Tom Benning and Katie Leslie, Oct 26, 2017) is a lengthy one. It begins with an interview of west Texas pecan grower and president of the U.S. Pecan Growers Council, Kevin Ivey. He's been trying to navigate the federal system looking for someone that could understand and take ownership of the pecan trade issues in India. Then, he got the chance to speak with Senator Cruz.

And just like that, a long-stunted trade tussle sprouted anew.

"He understood completely the unfairness of it," said Ivey, a bolo tie-wearing 46-year-old whose extended family has been growing pecans near El Paso for generations.

With over 1.3 BILLION people and an expanding middle class, India has enormous potential as a market for pecans. A large obstacle to success is the high tariff (36 percent!) on pecans. Other tree nuts, including almonds and pistachios, enjoy a much more reasonable 10-percent tariff. The almond industry has focused on this lucrative market for decades, and India is now its biggest export market at well over 200 million pounds annually.

Senator Cruz, joined by eight other senators from pecan-growing states, sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer, urging his cooperation in bringing pecan tariffs in line with other nuts exported to India. Perhaps with this new senatorial push the Indian government will soon create a more level playing field among tree nuts. It doesn't hurt that we have a U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (Sonny Perdue) from the state of Georgia either.

Give one or all three of these articles a read, and maybe

you'll gain a little optimism that pecans will one day enjoy a tremendous boost in the international marketplace.

Commercial pecan acreage continues to grow in Arizona.

According to a recent *Western Farm Press* article by the above title (Cecilia Parsons, Oct 18, 2017), the number four state for pecan production is experiencing a growth spurt in that department.

Joshua Sherman, commercial horticulture area agent with the University of Arizona (UA) Cooperative Extension, says 2017 is closing with double the number of new pecan acres planted over 2016. There is an estimated 26,000 acres of pecans in Arizona with 14,000 acres in bearing production. This year, growers planted about 2,500 acres in pecan.

Mr. Sherman, attributes the recent increase in pecan acreage to more affordable land and water. Although there are concerns about water availability and soil PH, the desert southwest is a surprisingly accommodating environment for pecan growing. Sunshine is abundant and the pressure from insects and disease are much lower than other pecan-growing regions.



Young pecan trees near Bowie, Arizona

As more planting takes place, the Arizona Department of Agriculture is keeping a tight grip on the potential for any pecan weevil infestations.

They have prohibited the import of any pecan material, including in-shell nuts and firewood, from states east of Arizona. Growers cannot even source bare root pecan trees or potted trees from any state to the East, Sherman says. The main pecan tree source must be

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More Pecan Pieces

Bumper year for pecans? (cont. from page 3)

from nurseries in Arizona and California.

Pecan growing in Arizona goes back farther than most folks realize—all the way back to 1927 when Carl and Eva Hayden planted trees in the Camp Verde area. The trees are no longer in production, but most of these 90-year-old stalwarts are living to this day.

Gaining the edge against weeds in Arizona pecan orchards

Another Western Farm Press article (Cary Blake, Sep 01, 2017) provides some very useful information on managing weeds in western pecan acreage and perhaps other parts of pecan country. The person providing his expertise for the article was University of Arizona weed specialist Bill McCloskey. He advocates winter tillage in pecan orchards for a couple of reasons.

...tillage on the orchard floor during the winter can provide a “clean season start,” and provide an excellent surface to apply preemergence herbicides to minimize early-season weeds. Tillage can also increase water infiltration in the soil. “If you have a lot of ‘trash’ and organic debris on the soil surface (un-tilled) it can reduce the efficacy of applied preemergence herbicides,” said McCloskey during the 2017 Arizona Pecan Growers Association annual meeting.

McCloskey is also a fan of using preemergence herbicide and employing herbicide diversity to counter the development of herbicide-resistant weeds. He says that using a preemergence application will reduce the number of post-emergence applications required.

McCloskey considers glyphosate the main culprit when it comes to tree damage caused by herbicide drift.

“The alternatives glufosinate (Rely, Lifenline) and paraquat (Gramoxone) only cause minor leaf speckling with drift with no lasting damage, and don’t trans-locate to the nuts, roots, or other plant parts. These can be used in conditions where glyphosate might cause

some damage to the trees.”

Regarding cover crops, Dr. McCloskey says they can be useful in the first couple of years of a new orchard. In organic orchards, he says “some growers have successfully used some clover varieties which have helped weed suppression year after year by reseeding themselves.”

Another (true) pecan story

There was a late-breaking postscript to our page 2 article about Karen Kapella’s experience with rodent pecan thieves. Not long after that incident, they were getting harvest chores done when a very interesting item came drifting across the sorting table of their cleaner. It was a pocket knife; but not just any pocket knife. Karen told us that their harvester picked up the knife in an orchard where her father, Dr. David Eggenberg, taught her how to graft a pecan tree. Here’s what she said about it.

First the blade tip appeared and we didn’t think much about that, but then shortly after, the pocket knife appeared. I couldn’t believe my eyes! He always used this pocket knife. He must’ve dropped it when grafting a limb. I bet he was bummed because he took good care of things. Remember he’s been gone TWELVE years. I felt like it was a sign that he’s still with me and cheering me on with this harvest.

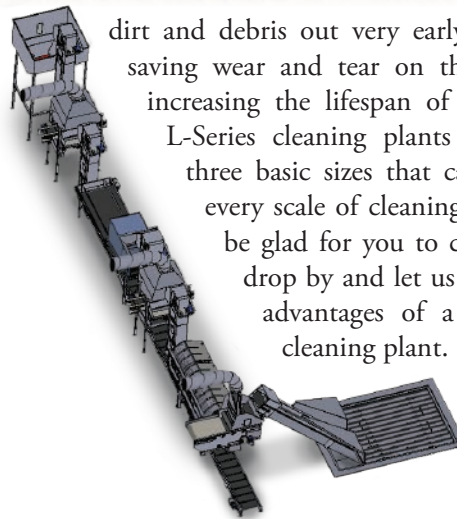


Now THAT is a pretty cool and amazing pecan story, and maybe you have one of your own that you’d like to share. You know, here in *Pecan Country*, we’re always looking for another good story, so send it along.

Featured Equipment

Introducing the Savage L-Series Cleaning Plants

Over the past few decades, Savage Equipment has developed a reputation within the pecan community for offering high-quality, innovative machines at a reasonable price. The latest result of our ongoing quest to create better, faster, more reliable equipment is our L-Series Pecan Cleaning Plant. It has a smaller footprint which cuts down on building costs and frees up more space for storage. The L-Series is a modular design and requires fewer elevators, lowering total cost and assembly time. We can also get it built and delivered more quickly without the usual custom design difficulties. This system gets the



dirt and debris out very early in the process, saving wear and tear on the machines and increasing the lifespan of your plant. The L-Series cleaning plants are available in three basic sizes that can accommodate every scale of cleaning operation. We'd be glad for you to call, email or just drop by and let us show you all the advantages of a Savage L-Series cleaning plant.

It turns out Savage Equipment isn't only for pecans.

For over fifty years now, the Savage brand has been closely associated with pecans—growing pecans, cleaning pecans, cracking pecans and more. That hasn't changed, but gradually over the years, some of the Savage machines have found their way into the realm of other nuts and even completely different industries.

Take, for example, the humble acorn. Maybe you didn't even realize there IS an acorn industry. Yes—acorn flour is a thing and so is acorn oil. But this story is about the whole acorn getting eaten. A long way northeast of Savage's home base in southern Oklahoma is a unique New England business known as Walden Hill. They partner with restaurants, grocers, butchers, farmers, public parks and landowners (especially landowners with lots of oak trees on their property) to produce and sell acorn-fed pork products (yum!). One good thing about pigs is they like to eat acorns, shell and all. Walden Hill and their partners offer every kind of meat product you could imagine coming from a pig and maybe a couple that you couldn't imagine. A few months back, they contacted our Georgia office to look into incorporating one of our 4224 Cleaners into their acorn cleaning operation.

The new cleaner proved to be a huge labor saver. As you might imagine, acorns coming from an unimproved forest floor can be pretty messy. Founder, Tylan Calcagni tells us that their mostly manual process that used to last 6-to-8

hours a day can now be done in about an hour. We just wish we lived closer to New England so we could sample some of that bacon, and sausage, and ham, and—well—everything. Check them out at www.waldenhill.co.



Savage's Kyle Stratton with Tylan Calcagni

Macadamias? It's a story almost too sad to tell, but not long ago there were some intrepid growers in Florida that set their sights on being the first commercial macadamia farmers in the continental U.S.. They recently bought one of our 8042 harvesters to gather up the nuts. After they'd nurtured their trees for nine years, they started harvesting with the Savage 8042, which worked well. Then, hurricane Irma hit. In less than a couple of hours, it wiped out every tree. It's hard to imagine how tough that must have been, and our hearts really go out to these folks.

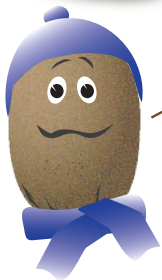
There are a few more stories to tell about how Savage Equipment is used in other industries, but we'll have to save them for the next issue. Stay tuned.

Just Plain Nuts

Savage's South Africa rep journeys to Oklahoma with his family.

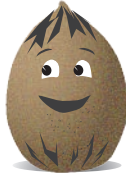
For about five years, Werner Hamman has represented Savage Equipment in South Africa. In addition to selling Savage machines at his agricultural equipment business in Hartswater, Werner has “flown the Savage flag” at pecan conferences and many of the country’s far-flung pecan orchards. At about twice the size of Texas, it’s a lot of land to cover. In mid-December, Werner made the long journey to Madill, Oklahoma accompanied by his wife, Marinda and two of their children, Marilex and Ivander. Mixing a bit of business with pleasure, the Hamman family enjoyed tours of the equipment plant and the

family pecan orchard, and managed to squeeze in a little time to see a rodeo, catch some fish and shop.



Brrrrr--it is reeeaaally cold, Elliot!?

How cold is it?



It's so cold at my house, we leave the refrigerator door open to make the kitchen WARMER.

The kids have started telling outrageous lies just hoping their pants might catch fire.

I even saw Richard Simmons wearing long pants.

I saw a flock of geese flying south with a pond frozen to their feet.

Now, THAT's cold! But, for our Pecan Country friends in the southern hemisphere, we heard it was so hot...

...the trees are whistling for dogs.

...your seatbelt buckle works pretty well as a branding iron. Ouch!

Creamy Fruit & Pecan Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg lemon flavored gelatin
- ¾ cup fruit cocktail syrup
- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 1 1/3 cup fruit cocktail, drained (Save the juice.)
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup apple, unpeeled & chopped
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 1 cup evaporated milk

Preparation:

Dissolve gelatin in hot fruit cocktail syrup; cook slightly. Fold in remaining ingredients & mix well. Chill in a decorative container and serve as a side.

Note: You can use any flavored gelatin you want but omit lemon juice if lemon gelatin is not used.

Easy as pie.

Actually, even easier.

If you've got a pecan story, a good, clean joke or a pecan recipe you'd like to share, send it along to pecancountry@savageequipment.com. We love to hear from our Pecan Country neighbors.