



Newsletter – May 2003

Welcome New Members

Troy Aldridge, Willacoochee
Dale Bennett, Metter
Danny Bennett, Cochran
Craig Bevan, Louisville
Frank Bledsoe, Marshallville
Sam Bowen, Metter
Anthony Burns, Athens
Ralph Clifton, Metter
Ray M. Davis, Brooklet
Ted Davis, Brooklet
Michelle Deen, Baxley
Dory Franklin, Watkinsville
Mike Hubbs, Auburn, AL
Jeff Johnson, Douglas
Greg Kist, Augusta
Bobby Lane, Garfield
Laurie Linder, Wauchula, FL
Cherie Manning, Tennille
Muse Farms, Perry
Gene Oliver, Statesboro
David Reed, Pinehurst
Juan Rodriguez, Auburn, AL
Byron Sanders, Sandersville
Warren Selph, Milan
Guiellermo Siro-Prieto, Auburn, AL
Rebecca Stephens, Reidsville
Chris West, Metter
Keith White, Metter
Joe Williams, Kite



Billy Trapnell, Mayor,
welcomed everyone to Metter



Jim Donaldson speaks at the Annual Meeting as **Robert West** looks on



Ralph Clifton of Metter tells of his conservation tillage experiences during the farmer panel.

GCTA Holds 9th Annual Meeting

The **2003 GCTA Annual Meeting** was held **February 25-26, 2003** in Metter.

The **Metter** folks did an outstanding job of hosting the meeting. Thanks to **Jim Donaldson** and **Robert West** who coordinated local arrangements, and **Lamar Black** for being chairperson of the annual meeting committee.

GCTA Mission: "To Promote the adoption of conservation tillage and other economically viable and environmentally sound agricultural and natural resource management practices through research, education, and communication"

Three Board Members were elected to serve another 3-year term. They are **David Batchelor**, Douglas; **Jim Donaldson**, Metter; and **Steve Spooner**, Sylvester.

Excellent presentations were given. Many good door prizes were given away. GCTA Awards were given to **Tommy Cummings** of Louisville and **Rick Reed** of Douglas.

Another New Alliance for GA

The **Upper Suwannee Conservation Tillage Alliance** has been organized and it consists of members from **Turner, Tift, Irwin, and Ben Hill Counties**. This is the 7th conservation tillage alliance in Georgia. They have adopted bylaws and planned some activities.

The Officers and Board Members are:

President: **Don Register**, Chula
 Vice-President: **Bob Rawlins**, Rebecca
 Secretary/Treas: **Jason Morris**, Ocilla
 Program Coord.: **Carl Hobbs**, Ashburn

Ryan Branch, Chula
Carroll Coarsey, Brookfield
David Evans, Rebecca
Rusty Irwin, Ashburn
Rickey McWhorter, Ocilla
Johnny Morehead, Ocilla
Kyle Phillips, Fitzgerald
Keith Rucker, Tifton
Keith Story, Sycamore
Scott Utley, Ashburn
Tommy Waldrop, Fitzgerald
Gibbs Wilson, Ocilla

GCTA Board Meeting Notes

The **Board of Directors** recently met in McRae. Some of the highlights are:

* The 10th Annual Meeting will be held at **Metter**, February 24-25, 2004. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

* Officers were re-elected to serve in 2003:

President: **Lamar Black**, Millen
 Vice-President: **Steve Spooner**, Sylvester
 Secretary: **Glen Harris**, Tifton
 Treasurer: **Max Carter**, Douglas

* **GCTA** is working with **NRCS**, **ARS**, **UGA**, and others to host a conservation tillage exhibit at the 2003 Sunbelt Ag. Expo. Special activities are being planned for the Expo attendees that visit the conservation tillage exhibit.

GCTA members are needed to help during the Expo. Please let **Lamar Black** know if you can participate. His phone number is 478-982-4285.

3rd Conservation Tillage School Held February 11-13, 2003

The School was held at **Douglas** and was very successful. Attendance was over 100 again this year. Thanks to many, especially to the **Coffee County Conservation Tillage Alliance** who hosted this event.

The theme of this year's school was "**Feed the Soil, Save the Farm**" with emphasis on how conservation tillage and cover crops can improve soil quality. The speakers were farmers, researchers, and others from Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland. Several topics on organic farming were also presented and many organic farmers attended.



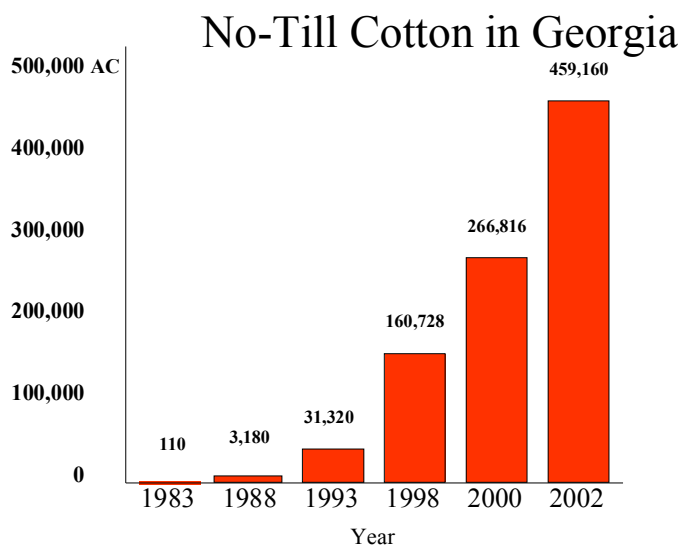
Mark Vickers of Douglas discusses his conservation tillage system at one of the break out sessions.



Attendees taking a break in the exhibit display area at **South Georgia College** in Douglas.

Plans are underway for the 4th Edition of the school in 2004, if funding is available. If you or someone you know wants to attend, contact **Luther Jones** @ 912-367-7679.

Conservation Tillage Continues to Increase in Georgia



The graph shows how the use of no-till cotton (which includes no-till and strip-till) has increased in Georgia. Georgia is #1 in the U.S. in the acreage of no-till cotton and no-till peanuts.

Your local NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation District, County Agent, FSA, and others collect countywide data every other year. The survey is coordinated by **CTIC**, the publisher of the "*Partners*", a good publication that is provided to all GCTA members.

New Column Added to Newsletter

Scott Utley, County Agent in Turner County came up with the idea of adding a "Ask the Experts" column to the GCTA Newsletter. We think this is a good idea and want to include the column in future newsletters.

We asked Scott to provide the first column. The use of conservation tillage is increasing rapidly there and the information may be useful to others.

"Ask the Experts"

Question: "It has been 30-45 days since applying a burndown herbicide on many of our fields. In most of our peanut fields a new flush of weeds and grasses have emerged since burndown. How can we handle this new flush of weeds?"

Answer: We are going ahead and planting our peanuts into the existing grasses and weeds and then immediately following up with one of the following after planting.

Option 1 - In cases where grasses are present along with other weeds, an application of glyphosate, Valor, and ethalfuralin or pendimethalin is applied within 1-2 days after planting.

Option 2 - In cases where Florida pusley has gotten by us and we do not have a grass problem, we are replacing the glyphosate with paraquat. This application of paraquat, Valor, and ethalfuralin or pendimethalin 1-2 days after planting should knock back the pusley and have us in good shape as we get started on a peanut crop.

Scott Utley
County Agent, Turner County

Check Your Mailing Label

Many of you may have noticed a new entry on your GCTA mailing label. The label shows if you are a member of a local alliance and shows when your GCTA membership will expire. For example, "CC 02" means you are also a member of the Coffee County Alliance and your dues are paid through 2002.

The abbreviations for the conservation tillage alliances are:

GC - GCTA
 CC - Coffee County
 EC - East Central Georgia
 MS - Mid State
 SE - Southeast Georgia
 US - Upper Suwannee
 WC - Worth County

Please check your mailing label and keep your GCTA Membership current. Annual membership in GCTA remains at \$15. You may send your check to:

Max Carter
 GCTA Treasurer
 1671 Warren Carter Road
 Douglas, GA 31533

GCTA List Serve Available

To subscribe, send an email to listserv@tifton.cpes.peachnet.edu. In the body of the message type (without the quotation marks): "subscribe ga-contill [your name]".

Calendar of Events

47th Annual Meeting - GA Chapter, Soil and Water Conservation Society, May 29-31, 2003 @ Jekyll Island. Call Kristin Smith at 912-265-8043.

www.gaswcc.org/region1/GASWCS/GASWCS

The **26th Southern Conservation Tillage Conference**, previously scheduled for June 16-18, 2003 @ Texas A&M **has been postponed until 2004.**

www.ag.auburn.edu/nsed/sctcsa/

Sunbelt Agricultural Expo, October 14-16, 2003 @ Moultrie, GA. www.sunbeltexpo.com

Conservation Tillage Alliances

Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance, Inc. (1993) gcta-ga.org

Coffee County Conservation Tillage Alliance, Inc. (1994) ccta.net

East Central Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance (1998)

Mid State Conservation Tillage Alliance (2000)

Southeast Georgia Conservation Tillage Alliance (2001)

Upper Suwannee Conservation Tillage Alliance (2003)

Worth County Conservation Tillage Alliance (2001)

GCTA Board Members for 2003

David Batchelor, Douglas
 Lamar Black, Millen
 Max Carter, Douglas
 Jim Donaldson, Metter
 Glen Harris, Tifton
 Stan Hillis, Girard
 Richard McDaniel, Waynesboro
 Scott Moore, Elko
 Steve Spooner, Sylvester