



The Blue & Gold

The Official Newsletter of the Georgia FFA Alumni Association

Spring 2008



Joe Greene
Georgia
FFA Alumni
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Success is not the result of spontaneous combustion. You must set yourself on fire." That quote is from Fred Shero, former coach of the Philadelphia Flyers hockey team. Now, I am not much of a hockey fan, but those of us involved with FFA and FFA Alumni know what success looks like. We see success daily through the FFA members. We know that success does not just happen.

The question becomes, how do we as Alumni members help to keep FFA and agricultural education successful? How do we keep the fire of success going? According to our quote, we must light our own fire. Inside each FFA Alumni member, there lies a flame of enthusiasm for the FFA. Otherwise, you would not be an Alumni member in the first place.

Our "fire starting match" is simply being around our local FFA members, ag teachers and their activities. Try to be there for FFA contests and shows whenever possible. If you have ever been to FFA state convention, you come away with a renewed vigor and increased dedication, so feed off of that fire. If you have not been to state convention in a while, try to attend at least

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Make Plans to Attend the Georgia FFA Alumni Convention

The 2008 Georgia FFA Alumni State Convention will be held Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26, at the Macon Centreplex. The alumni convention will be held in conjunction with the 80th Georgia FFA Convention.

The 2008 convention will kick off Friday afternoon with the annual Alumni Silent Auction. The awards and business session will begin Saturday morning at 9:30. Highlights of the awards and business session will be the presentation of the 2008 Georgia FFA Alumni awards and the election of new State Council members.

All local alumni affiliate members are encouraged to attend the convention. There is no cost to attend, and alumni members can register for the convention Saturday morning beginning at 9:00.



**2007 Outstanding
Local Alumni Affiliate
TOOMBS COUNTY**



**2007 Outstanding
Pioneer Affiliate
FANNIN COUNTY**

**See Page 2 for a Complete
2008 Alumni Convention Schedule**

ALSO INSIDE:

Recap of the 2007 State and National Alumni Conventions
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Alumni Briefs



The Blue & Gold



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The 2008

Alumni Awards to be Presented at Annual Convention

Georgia FFA Alumni will recognize its 2008 award winners during the Saturday morning session at 9:30. Award winners to be recognized include the Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate, Outstanding Pioneer FFA Alumni Affiliate, Outstanding Distinguished Contributor, Outstanding Achievement Winner, Outstanding Agricultural Education Instructor, Legion of Merit Winners, Local Alumni Affiliate Scrapbook Winners, Chapter Basket Contest Winners, and the Display Contest Winners.

Local Alumni Display Contest to be Held

Local alumni affiliates are encouraged to enter the Display Contest again this year by developing a recruitment and promotional display to use in local community events. The display boards will be judged during the alumni convention. The judging will be based on usefulness as a recruitment tool, support of the local FFA chapter, and overall appearance.

The first place alumni affiliate will receive \$100, second place will receive \$75, and third place will receive \$50.

The complete rules and guidelines about the Display Contest can be found on the Georgia FFA Alumni website, www.ffaalumni.org.

2008 Georgia FFA Alumni Convention Schedule

Friday, April 25

12:30-Evening Silent Auction, Edgar Wilson Convention Center Rotunda
12:30-4:30 p.m. Alumni Store Open, Edgar Wilson Convention Center Rotunda
12:30-4:30 p.m. Alumni Reception, Edgar Wilson Convention Center Rotunda

Saturday, April 26

9:00 a.m. Alumni Convention Registration
Room 306, Edgar Wilson Convention Center
9:30 a.m. Awards and Business Session and Live Auction
Room 306, Edgar Wilson Convention Center



Georgia FFA Alumni Convention

April 25-26
Macon Centreplex
Macon, Georgia



Don't Forget the Scrapbooks!

Affiliate scrapbooks will be judged during the convention. Scrapbooks are a great way to document all the activities of the local affiliate.

Silent and Live Auctions

The Alumni Silent and Live Auctions have become a tradition during the Georgia FFA Alumni Association's annual convention and are great fundraisers for the Georgia FFA Alumni Association. The silent auction begins Friday, April 25, at 12:30 p.m. in the rotunda of the Edgar Wilson Convention Center at the Macon Centreplex. The bidding will end Friday evening. The live auction will be held immediately following the awards and business session Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. in Room 306 of the Edgar Wilson Convention Center.

Consider a Donation for the Silent and Live Auctions

If you or your alumni affiliate would like to donate items for the silent or live auctions, please do so. Donations may be brought to the alumni table during State FFA Convention registration Thursday afternoon, April 24, or items may be brought to the alumni table Friday morning, April 25. All donations for the auctions will be greatly appreciated.

Cheek Alumni Scholarship Winners to be Recognized

The 2008 Cheek Alumni Scholarship recipients will be recognized during the Saturday morning session of the Alumni convention. These scholarships are presented annually to apprentice agricultural education teachers. Retired agricultural education teacher and life alumni member, Lt. Col. Earl Cheek of Perry, donated funds to the Georgia FFA Alumni Association for the scholarships.

See page 8 for information about the State Council elections that will be held during the convention.



FFA Alumni Basket Contest

One highlight of the alumni convention is the Chapter Basket Contest. Baskets should uniquely represent your local county or area by including products native to your county and distinct items of interest. All baskets will be auctioned off at the FFA Alumni Silent Auction Friday afternoon or on Saturday morning during the alumni convention. All proceeds from the basket contest will be used to support activities of the Georgia FFA Association and the Georgia FFA Alumni Association.

Baskets will be judged on the following criteria: best showcase of the FFA/ FFA Alumni; best representation of your city, county, or area; most creative use of the term "basket;" most attractive; most unusual and best representation of agriculture.

Baskets can be brought to the alumni table Thursday afternoon, April 24, or to the silent auction Friday morning, April 25. Baskets must be delivered by noon on Friday.

FFA Alumni Basket Contest Awards

ALUMNI AFFILIATES

- 1st place - Plaque and choice of either a scholarship to the National FFA Alumni Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., or a Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship
- 2nd place - Plaque and \$50
- 3rd place - Plaque

FFA CHAPTERS

- 1st place - Plaque and \$550 Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship
- 2nd place - Plaque and \$50
- 3rd place - Plaque

COLLEGE ORGANIZATIONS

- 1st place - \$100 for a Pizza Party



2007 Georgia FFA Alumni Award Winners

Outstanding Local Alumni Affiliate

Toombs County

(see picture on the front cover)

Outstanding Local Pioneer Alumni Affiliate

Fannin County

(see picture on the front cover)



Outstanding Achievement Award
Mona Jones



Outstanding Agriculture Instructor
Mark Montfort, Toombs County



Distinguished Contributor Award
Bill Lott

Basket Contest Winners

FFA Alumni Affiliate Category

- 1st place - Toombs County
- 2nd place - North Hall
- 3rd place - Franklin County

FFA Chapter Category

- 1st place - Worth County
- 2nd place - Fannin County
- 3rd place - Habersham County

Scrapbook Contest Winners

- 1st place - North Hall
- 2nd place - Fannin County

Display Contest Winners

- 1st place - North Hall
- 2nd place - Fannin County



Cheek Alumni Scholarship Recipients

(left to right): Ginger Bushey, Catrina Kennedy, Shawn Bertrang, Sallie Drew McHugh, Constance Saxon, and Taylor Ginn

Check out www.ffaalumni.org for 2008 award applications. Nominate alumni members and your local agriculture instructor for the following awards:

- Outstanding Achievement Award
- Distinguished Contributor Award
- Outstanding Agriculture Instructor

All award applications are due to the state office by April 1. Your local affiliate must submit a membership roster by April 1 to qualify for the awards. For more information contact Blane Marable at 706-542-9793 or blanemarable@gmail.com.



The 2007 National FFA Alumni Convention

**Outstanding FFA Alumni Affiliate
Bronze Ranking
Toombs County**



**Outstanding State FFA Alumni Affiliate
Silver Ranking
Georgia FFA Alumni**

**Outstanding Pioneer FFA Alumni Affiliate
Bronze Ranking
Fannin County**



**Scrapbook Award Recipients
Silver Ranking
Fannin County
North Hall**

Georgia Recipients of Local Program Support Grants

Seven Georgia FFA chapters were awarded \$1,000 Local Program Support Grants from the National FFA Alumni Association - more than any other state. The grants are sponsored by Tractor Supply Company. The chapters and their project names are:

Banks County High

Livestock Housing Facility

Banks County Middle

Organics for the Elderly

Fannin County

Starting a Fannin County Youth Fair
North and South Habersham Middle
Chapter Promotion and Visibility Project

North Oconee

Animal Science Facility

Southeast Whitfield

Project GOLD-Gaining Opportunities for
Leadership Development

White County

Agriculture Center



Legion of Merit Award Recipients

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>John Barnes</i> | <i>Blane Marable</i> |
| <i>Wayne Barneycastle</i> | <i>Doug Martin</i> |
| <i>Kevin Calhoun</i> | <i>Earl McQuaig</i> |
| <i>David Cantrell</i> | <i>George Parks</i> |
| <i>Joy Carter</i> | <i>John C. Pettit</i> |
| <i>Sallie Drew McHugh</i> | <i>Beverly Richardson</i> |
| <i>Jim East</i> | <i>Bobby Richardson, Sr.</i> |
| <i>Martin Evans</i> | <i>Bill Spooner</i> |
| <i>Norman Gay</i> | <i>Denise Temple</i> |
| <i>Miriam Jimerson</i> | <i>Kevin Walker</i> |
| <i>Gary Kesler</i> | <i>Luther Wilkes</i> |
| <i>Bill Lott</i> | |

2008 Grant Applications Due July 1

The National FFA Alumni Association will award \$1,000 Local Program Support Grants again in 2008. Applications are available on the Georgia FFA Alumni website, www.ffaalumni.org. The grant application must be postmarked by July 1.

Alumni Briefs

2007 State Leaders Conference

Thirteen Georgia FFA Alumni members traveled to Portland, Oregon, last July to attend the 2007 National FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference. Members attended workshops and enjoyed the sights of Oregon. The 2008 State Leaders Conference is scheduled for July 15-20 in Washington, D.C. More information about the conference can be found on the Georgia FFA Alumni website, www.ffaalumni.org.



Georgia Has Father and Son on State Council

Georgia FFA Alumni currently has a father-son team serving on the State FFA Alumni Council. Pickens County Alumni Member David Chapman is serving as a North Region Member Director, and his son, Pickens County FFA Member and State FFA President Junior Chapman, serves on the Alumni Council in his position as state president.

Chip Bridges Named to National FFA Alumni Council



North Region Agricultural Education Coordinator Chip Bridges has been named to the National FFA Alumni Council. Chip represents the National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education (NASAE) on the Council.



Alumni Sponsors WLC Bus

Georgia FFA Alumni sponsored a charter bus for Georgia FFA members to attend the 2007 Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) in Washington, D.C. Thirty-two members, along with eight adult advisors, attended the week-long conference which builds leadership skills by focusing on problem solving, relationship building, living with character, and developing an attitude for serving others.

Franklin County FFA Member Wins State Quiz CDE

Franklin County FFA Member Trevor Correia was named the 2007 FFA Quiz Career Development Event (CDE) State Winner during the 79th Georgia FFA Convention last April. The FFA Quiz CDE is sponsored by the Georgia FFA Alumni Association. Trevor advanced to state competition after placing at region competition. The FFA Quiz CDE tests students' knowledge in all areas of agricultural education and FFA.



Alumni Moves to Computerized Roster System

Beginning with the 2007-2008 membership year, Alumni rosters will be computerized. No paper rosters will be printed by National Alumni. All local affiliates should have received an electronic version of their roster. Instructions for completing membership rosters using Excel can be found on the Georgia FFA Alumni website, www.ffaalumni.org. Rosters need to be e-mailed to blanemarable@gmail.com by April 1. A printed roster with a check should be mailed to the Alumni office in Athens.



At Georgia Farm Bureau's annual convention in December, Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall announced that the 1,000 sales mark of Georgia's new ag tag had been reached. On hand to help celebrate the achievement were (L-R) Marilyn Smith, State 4-H Leader Bo Ryles, State 4-H Officer Michael Leggett, Zippy Duvall, State FFA Vice President Sara Ervin, and State Program Manager of Agricultural Education John Wilkinson.

Alumni Helps Promote New Georgia Agriculture License Plate

Georgia now has a license plate promoting agriculture, and a portion of the proceeds from the sales of the tag benefits Georgia FFA. The design of the tag came from FFA and 4-H members who attended the Governor's Honors Agriscience Program. The students researched designs from other states and developed their own ideas of what should be included on the tag. Winder artist Mike Parsons took their draft design and created the final design. The tags can be purchased at your local tag office.



Alumni Sponsors FFA Day at the Capitol

Georgia FFA members are shown on the Capitol steps with Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue. FFA members from throughout the state attended FFA Day at the Capitol, sponsored in part by the Georgia FFA Alumni Association. The members enjoyed breakfast with state legislators and then served as pages for their local legislators.

FOUR ARE INDUCTED INTO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION HALL OF FAME



Pictured left to right: Billy Moss, Scott Hart, Connie Collier, and Jimmy Lane

Four agricultural education teachers were inducted into the Georgia Agricultural Education Hall of Fame Thursday, January 17. The induction ceremony was held at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington and was sponsored by the Georgia FFA Alumni Association and Wm. J. Redmond & Son, Inc.

MS. CONNIE COLLIER has taught agriculture at Cass High School for the past 29 years. A native of Alabama, Connie was the first female to earn a degree in agricultural education from Auburn University and the first female agricultural education teacher in the Southeast. Connie has been diligent in making her agricultural education program an integral part of the school and the local community. Connie is a passionate teacher of agricultural education and displays her love for the FFA in everything she does.

MR. ISAAC SCOTT HART, JR. taught agriculture for 30 years before retiring in 1999. Scott grew up on a farm in southwest Georgia and earned degrees from

ABAC and the University of Georgia. He taught at Hepzibah High School and served as the Young Farmer teacher at Doerun High School and at Colquitt County High School where he finished his career. Scott received numerous awards during his career, and through his efforts and guidance, his students and Young Farmer members achieved excellence.

MR. JAMES "JIMMY" L. LANE, a native of Miller County, attended ABAC and the University of Georgia. He taught agriculture and served as the Young Farmer teacher for 35 years in Berrien County until his retirement in 2003. Jimmy was instrumental in starting the Georgia Young Farmers Association, and under his leadership, Berrien County received the second state charter. Many of Jimmy's FFA members achieved excellence, and through his encouragement, nine former students became agriculture teachers.

MR. WILLIAM H. MOSS, JR. was born and raised in Lincolnton and earned degrees from ABAC and the University of Georgia. During his career, he taught agriculture in Douglas County, Calhoun County, and Jackson County. He served as the North Region livestock area teacher until his retirement in 2007. Billy's FFA members received district, state and national recognition under his leadership. Billy has received many awards during his career, including the Georgia Cattlemen's Association Top Hand award for distinguished service to the Georgia cattle industry.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(continued from page 1)

one session this year in Macon. It will "fan your flames".

By being on fire ourselves, that flame will spread to those around us. By being involved with your FFA Alumni chapter, we can spread our enthusiasm to those around us. Show your excitement. Be fired up about FFA. Seek out and talk to the other teachers at school, the administrators, your school superintendent, school board members and legislators about the successes of your FFA chapter. Send them newspaper clippings and photos.

The great success that FFA and FFA Alumni have had in Georgia did not "spontaneously combust." It came about by hard work and the fire of dedication. Our continued success depends on us and keeping ourselves "on fire" for FFA.

Remember the Georgia FFA Alumni Convention in Macon during the Georgia FFA State Convention. We will be holding our meeting on Saturday April 26, 2008 at 9:00 am. Come and be "re-fired" for FFA.

Dates to Remember

April 1	Rosters and Dues Due to State Office to Qualify for Awards
April 1	Legion of Merit Applications Due to State Office
April 1	Outstanding Affiliate/Pioneer Affiliate, Outstanding Achievement, Distinguished Contributor Applications, and Outstanding Agriculture Instructor Applications Due to State Office
April 1	State Council Nomination Forms Due to State Office
April 25-26	Georgia FFA Alumni Convention
June 1	State Leaders Conference Registration Forms Due to State Office
July 1	Local Program Support Grant Applications Due to National Office
July 1	Outstanding Affiliate/Pioneer Affiliate, Outstanding State Affiliate, Outstanding Achievement Applications, National Distinguished Contributor Applications and Scrapbooks Due to National Office
July 1	National Council Nomination Applications Due to National Office
July 15-20	National FFA Alumni State Leaders Conference, Washington, D.C.
October 22-24	National FFA Alumni Silent Auction
October 23-24	National FFA Alumni Convention
October 24	National FFA Alumni Live Auction

Georgia FFA Alumni State Council Elections

Elections will be held during the 2008 Georgia FFA Alumni State Convention for the following positions on the Alumni State Council: President-Elect, Area 2 Member Director, Area 4 Member Director, Area 5 Member Director, Area 6 Member Director, one Director-at-Large, and one Teacher Director. Alumni members interested in running for these positions should submit a nomination form by April 1. The nomination form can be found on the Georgia FFA Alumni website, www.ffaalumni.org.



For information on how to start a local FFA alumni affiliate, visit www.ffaalumni.org.

Georgia FFA Alumni Association
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