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PABC Journal

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Jim Roquemore, Rep. David Hiott Named Ag Advocates of the Year



From left, Rep. David Hiott and Jim Roquemore are pictured with Ronnie Summers, PABC CEO and President of the SC Ag Advocates Board after receiving Ag Advocates of the Year awards. Rep. Hiott was chosen as the public sector advocate, while Mr. Roquemore, CEO of SuperSod, received the private sector advocate award. (cont. on pg. 2, see *Advocates*)

FORESTRY COMMISSION NAMES NEW STATE FORESTER

Scott Phillips has been named the next State Forester of the SC Forestry Commission.

Mr. Phillips, the Rural Forestry Programs Manager with the Commission, will take office when current State Forester Gene Kodama, who has the third-longest tenure of his predecessors, steps down January 2, 2018.

Commission Chair Walt McPhail, said, "Scott is a top-notch forester who has both the technical knowledge and people skills to work with the diverse coalition of stakeholders we serve, the landowners growing our forests, the General Assembly, our natural resource partners and of course, our

(cont. on pg. 2, see *Forestry*)



Scott Phillips

ADVOCATES

(cont. from pg. 1)

Rep. Hiott, from Pickens serves as Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee. He has served in the House since 2005 and is a strong supporter of agribusiness. Rep. Hiott sponsored legislation that allowed the SC Department of Agriculture to be the regulatory authority for the new Produce Safety Rule and worked to pass legislation to update regulations on the poultry industry.

Mr. Roquemore is a past Chairman of the PABC Board of Directors. His business dates back to 1894 and has grown from a small-town general store in Lakeland, Georgia to a cooperation having a number of sod and seed farms located throughout South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

Mr. Summers said "These two state leaders have consistently been advocates for our state's agribusiness interests, and this special recognition is well deserved."

DOMINION PRESENTS GRANT TO FORESTRY ASSOCIATION OF SC

Forestry Association of South Carolina President Cam Crawford was presented a \$5,000 grant awarded by Kristen Beckham, External Affairs Representative for Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, to support the SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Tour. The tour is a graduate level course offered by the Office of Professional Development in Education at the College of Charleston. Teachers in grades kindergarten through 12 can participate, and the course focuses on the importance of sustainable forestry to South Carolina's environment, economy, and quality of life. The program was hosted for the 20th consecutive year in 2017 by the Forestry Association of SC, the SC Forestry Commission, and SC Timber Producers Association.

"The Forestry Association really appreciates the grant from Dominion Energy. Dominion's support will allow us to train additional teachers about sustainable forestry and the importance of South Carolina's \$21 Billion forest industry" said Mr. Crawford.

Through the financial support of the forestry community in South Carolina and other funding sources such as Dominion Energy, the weeklong tour is offered at no expense to the participants. It is designed to educate teachers about all aspects of growing and managing forests, timber harvesting, and the manufacturing of forest products. Over 575 teachers have completed the course since its inception, representing schools from across South Carolina.

"Dominion Energy and the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation are pleased to partner with the South Carolina Forestry Foundation to support hands-on environmental and forestry education across South Carolina," said Ms. Beckham, External Affairs for Dominion Energy.

ERIK MARECHAL RECEIVES FAST TRACK HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION

Erik Marechal, president of McLean Marechal Insurance and Financial Services received the prestigious FAST Track Hall of Fame recognition from Nationwide ®. This award is an honor earned by an extremely select group of the best Nationwide ® Agribusiness partners who have qualified for the FAST Track Contest for 10 consecutive years.

"Erik Marechal is an exceptionally deserving recipient of the FAST Track Hall of Fame recognition," said Dirk Politt, Vice President Agribusiness Sales, Nationwide ®. "He has a relentless passion and dedication to serving and protecting what matters most to the agriculture community."

Forestry Commission (cont. from pg. 1)

Statewide Forestry Commission team."

In his current role, Mr. Phillips oversees the agency's cost-share and technical assistance programs offered for private landowners. He received a bachelor's degree in forest resources from the University of Georgia, where he dual-majored in forestry and wildlife management. He earned a master's degree in forest resources from Clemson University, where he specialized in forest business. Mr. Phillips has served as the forest renewal program manager for the Commission since 2008.

Mr. Kodama said, "I'm confident that he will do a fine job as State Forester, and I look forward to helping him transition into the position."

Mr. Phillips assumes leadership of the Forestry Commission at an exciting time. In addition to celebrating its 90th anniversary, the agency recently unveiled the results of a widely publicized study that showed forestry contributes \$21 billion to the state's economy and continues to be one of the largest industries in the state.



Walther Farms recently hosted a multi-county statewide collective of county level Soil and Water Conservation Districts with the annual meeting led and directed by Yvonne King of the Aiken Soil and Water Conservation District. During the meeting, Walther staff presented all of the current conservation practices the SC team utilizes in the production of potato, sweet potato and spinach crops.

KEMP MCLEOD NAMED 2017 FARMER OF THE YEAR

Kemp McLeod, President of McLeod Farms, was selected as the state winner of the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year.

A farmer for 44 years, Mr. McLeod's farm encompasses 7,500 acres, 2,500 acres of rented land and 5,000 acres of owned land. The farm grows peaches on 1,000 acres, which yield 500 bushels per acre. Strawberries from 50 acres yield 30,000 pounds per acre. The farm also grows soybeans, corn, wheat and blackberries. The farm is involved in agritourism, offering festivals and field trips.

PABC NAMES NEW DIRECTORS TO BOARD



Kathy Coleman serves as director of Clemson University's Sandhill

REC. This includes the Agribusiness Program Team, Experiment Station, Public Service Activities, Sandhill Research and Education Center.



Russ Crowe is President and CEO of Progressive Packaging. The company is a fully aligned

corrugated sheet plant operation and distributor of all industrial packing supplies. Their headquarters are located in Simpsonville, SC, and have a satellite location in Early Branch, SC



Jason Dan-dridge is the CEO of Palmetto Rural Telephone Co-operative,

which is a member-owned cooperative providing a complete telecommunications solution to the homes and businesses of Colleton County, SC.

A Clemson University graduate, Mr. McLeod was a commissioner of the Chesterfield County Conservation District and was named Outstanding Farmer in the county. He is a member of the McBee Town Council and has been on the Chesterfield County Economic Development Board. He also received the Order of the Palmetto, honoring his contributions to the state of South Carolina.

WELCOME NEW PABC MEMBERS

PABC would like to welcome the following new members:

Jason Burgess is the Business Development Manager with Burke Industrial, Inc. The company is based out of Sumter and has provided general contacting services for over 35 years and services to the food industry for over 20 years.

Matthew Flemming is the owner and President of Midland Agency Insurance. Founded in 1987, the company provides crop and agribusiness insurance, as well as commercial and general services insurance. Their offices are located in Columbia.

Bonnie Loomis serves as the SC Executive Director of the American Petroleum Institute. The organization represents all facets of the oil and natural gas industry, which supports 9.8 million U.S. jobs and eight percent of the U.S. economy.



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OFFICERS

Randy Brown, Chairman
Fred West, Vice Chairman
Cam Crawford, Sec./Treas.

STAFF

Ronnie Summers, CEO
Sandy Boozer, Exec. Assistant

We're on the web
Scagribusiness.com

CEO MESSAGE FROM RONNIE SUMMERS

As your PABC staff, Sandy and I genuinely value our organization's membership and want to know what is going on with your business in order for us to support your efforts to be successful. The first three quarters of 2017 have been tremendous. So much has been accomplished such as meeting new individuals, being associated with new companies, and becoming more familiar with the challenges presented SC AgriBusiness. All these activities in combination with so many other positive experiences have made for an excellent start for this new TEAM!

When the term "TEAM" is used, it is intended to mean all the PABC membership and staff. Our membership has really embraced our efforts to communicate and to find ways to work collectively together to further strengthen the SC Agri-Business industry. As opportunities have surfaced to visit and meet with our members, associates and prospects for membership, numerous great ideas have been shared. At the same time, obstacles that inhibit even more success have been identified. That is exactly what your staff needs from you as members – "constructive feedback"! Please keep the ideas and updates as to challenges coming so we can provide appropriate support where possible.

PABC is growing! Thanks to so many agribusinesses and organizations which share an interest in rural SC for investing in our TEAM by staying engaged or for becoming a new member. Your support is huge and keeps the door wide open for this organization to accomplish so much more as we move into the future. Your staff sincerely gets it – "we are here to support our state's largest industry, SC AGRIBUSINESS"!



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