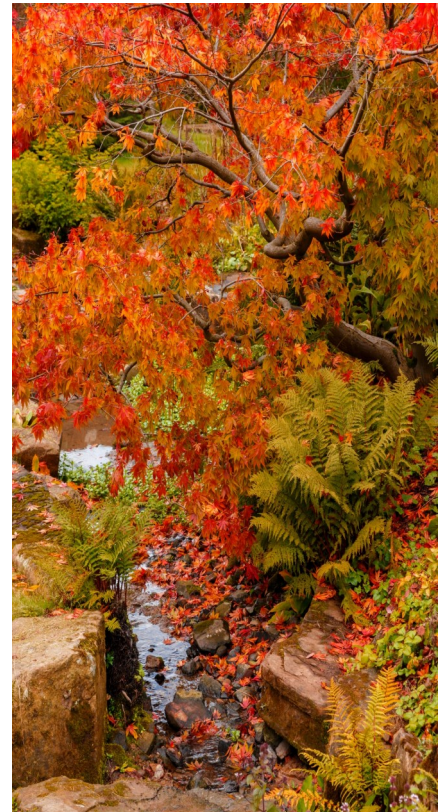




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PABC Annual Meeting Highlights

The PABC annual meeting, held in August at the Hilton in Columbia, was well attended and included Gov. Henry McMaster as the guest speaker and a legislative panel featuring Rep. Bill Hixon, Rep. Russell Ott and Sen. Danny Verdin. *(More photos on pg. 6)*



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CEO MESSAGE

FROM RONNIE SUMMERS



Forever the first of each year has been loaded with meetings as agribusiness organizations worked around seasons when ag operations were somewhat less engaged in farming practices. Well, now it appears the late summer/early fall is a target as there have been a number of meetings and events of late. It should be emphasized that the recent meetings attended have been excellent, but there sure seem to be more events than in the past.

As I am writing this message, Sandy and I are preparing for the LART Committee to meet in a few weeks. We had 31 surveys completed by members, which is the most surveys addressing priorities since I have been CEO. For many that might not seem like a large number, but we have typically had a high of about +/-25 completed. Additionally, several new issues surfaced from the surveys. With the information we have accumulated, the LART Committee discussion should be robust and lead to some great information being firmed up to present to the Board of Directors in November. Thanks to all who completed the survey!

The recent Advocates for Agriculture Recognition Reception in mid-August proved quite an event. Numerous PABC entities were represented at the reception, and one of our PABC founders, Danny Mixon was recognized as the private sector Advocate of the Year and he and his family appeared to enjoy themselves. Senator Thomas Alexander, the SC Senate President, was the public sector Advocate of the Year, and the Senator wrote a very kind note and emphasizing the quality of the event. Thanks to all PABC members who attended this growing event.

As noted in the last quarterly CEO Message, the forestry sector continues to be challenged at levels not seen in any recent time due to papermill closures and other processing entities refocusing from new raw product to recycling both of which has reduced stumpage market prices for timberland owners. PABC has retained contact with most of our forestry member entities in an effort to stay abreast of the challenges and to support potential ways to improve the markets, but obviously there does not appear to be a so-called "quick fix". PABC just wants to emphasize that we are exhausting efforts to work closely with all concerned entities in this regard as we recognize the huge challenge that exists.

Please recognize that PABC desires to support your member entity, and if we can be of assistance, please advise without hesitation. Your support of SC AgriBusiness is so valuable!

SCDA Will Use \$40 Million to Launch the Growing Agribusiness Incentive Program

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the Growing Agribusiness Fund, a new incentive program for South Carolina agribusinesses.

The South Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$40 million to launch the initiative, which will help existing South Carolina businesses engaged in the processing, packaging, manufacturing, distribution, storage, and transportation of agricultural products, in turn providing more markets for agricultural producers.

“This fund will be significant in opening up new opportunities for South Carolina farmers and agribusinesses,” said Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers. “I applaud the General Assembly for investing in the future of agriculture in our state in such a meaningful way.”

According to a 2022 study by Darla Moore School of Business research economist Joey Von Nessen, South Carolina currently imports \$11.7 billion in agribusiness products annually from outside the state. If this demand were captured by in-state operations, it would increase the total value of agribusiness by 23 percent. Being able to keep production and packaging at home helps bolster revenue, capital investment and jobs in South Carolina.

Examples of potential projects could include:

- Increasing the capacity of a vegetable canning operation with additional equipment
- capture more local seafood production
- Modernizing a poultry processing plant to improve efficiency, in turn increasing demand for locally grown feed and creating opportunities for poultry growers
- Helping an existing packaging business open a second facility to produce a new line of sustainable food packaging

Agribusinesses that are considering expanding and investing at least \$3 million in their current location or establishing an additional location in South Carolina are encouraged to contact the South Carolina Department of Agriculture to discuss their project and whether they qualify for the Growing Agribusiness Fund or another program.

Agribusinesses in Tier 3 and 4 counties (i.e., counties designated by the state Department of Revenue as having higher unemployment and lower income) and those that anticipate creating or consuming more agricultural products grown in South Carolina are highly encouraged to apply.

More information about the Growing Agribusiness Fund and other incentives for doing business in South Carolina can be found at scagribusiness.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

SC State Fair October 11-22

Columbia, SC
www.scstatefair.org

The logo for the Forestry Association of South Carolina, featuring the text "Forestry Association" in a serif font, with "OF SOUTH CAROLINA" in a smaller sans-serif font below it, all enclosed in a thin rectangular border.

Annual Meeting November 8-10

Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms
www.scforestry.org/am

SC Corn & Soybean Growers

**2023 Meeting
December 14**
8:30 am—3:30 pm

Santee Conference Center
1737 Bass Dr./US-15
Santee, SC

SAVE THE DATE Certified SC Showcase March 21, 2024

Columbia Metropolitan
Convention Center

Members in the News

SC Best Places to Work

Several PABC member companies were recently named South Carolina Best Places to Work by SC Biz News: Central Electric Power Cooperative, Palmetto Rural Electric Cooperative and the SC Research Authority.

First Citizens Bank Supports MTC QuickJobs Program

First Citizens Bank continues to support Midlands Technical College's QuickJobs program with a \$50,000 donation for the second year in a row.

There are currently more than 20 QuickJobs programs in the areas of business, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare that are eligible for scholarships.

QuickJobs are designed to provide intensive and complete job training that aims to develop workers for high demand jobs during the next decade. Funded primarily through private and corporate donations, participants must meet the eligibility requirements and attend a QuickJobs information session to qualify for a scholarship.



ArborGen Names New CEO

Justin Birch has been appointed President and CEO of ArborGen, Inc. Justin succeeds Andrew Baum, who retired in June.

SCAFA Recognizes Ag Advocates of the Year at Annual Reception

South Carolina Advocates for Agriculture named two Advocates of the Year for 2023 in honor of their service to the state's agriculture industry.

The 15th Advocates of the Year Recognition Reception was held Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Phillips Market Center at the South Carolina State Farmers Market in West Columbia.

S.C. Senate President Thomas Alexander, a native South Carolinian and Oconee County businessman, has been committed to agriculture throughout his 29 years in the Senate. He supports South Carolina farmers, agribusinesses and rural communities in his work at the State House.



From left, Danny Mixon, Ronnie Summers and Senator Thomas Alexander

Danny Mixon, a PABC member, who founded Mixon Seed 50 years ago and remains part of its leadership team, has been instrumental in developing the state's seed industry. His work to preserve and promote South Carolina agriculture is a model for others.

"It's very fitting to recognize people who have done so much for South Carolina agriculture," said Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers, who serves as an advisor to the Advocates for Agriculture board. "On behalf of the state's farmers and the more than 250,000 people whose jobs are supported by agribusiness, I thank these two men for their service."

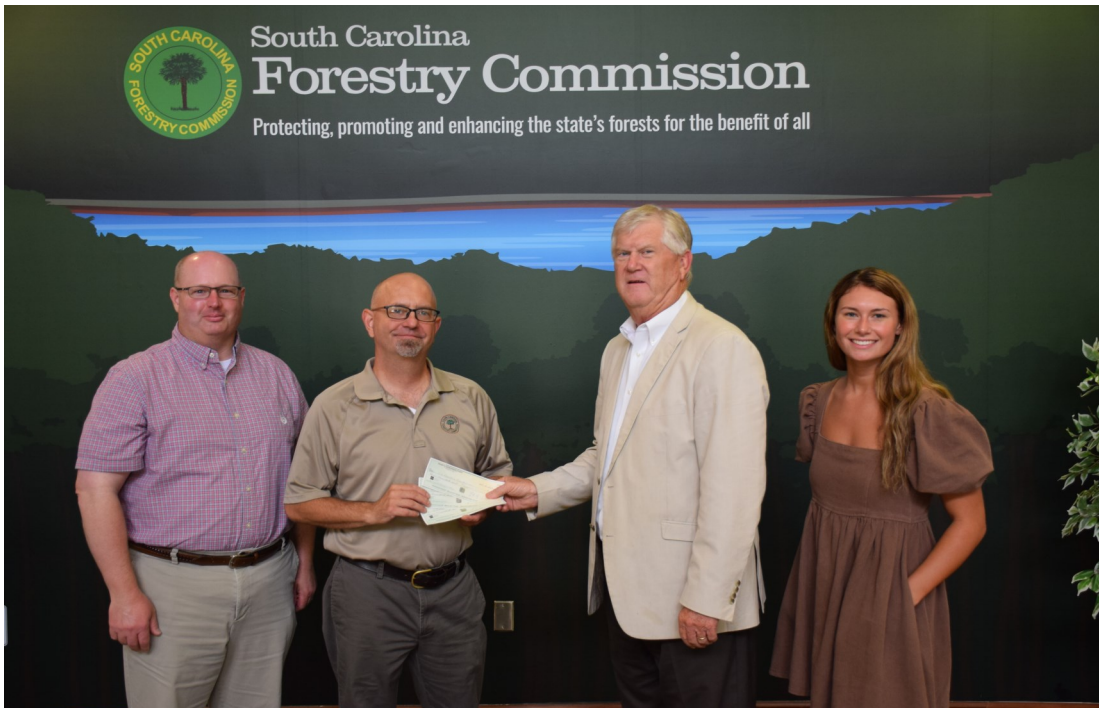
"Senator Alexander has always welcomed feedback from agribusiness leaders as to needs within the industry and has always exhausted every effort to provide support when and where needed," said Ronnie Summers, president of Advocates for Agriculture. "Danny Mixon has been a leader in South Carolina agribusiness for well over 50 years and is still making a major impact on the state's number one industry. Just recently, for example, Danny was instrumental in helping the state land a peanut processor. These two leaders are without question deserving Advocates of the Year!"

Founded in 2005, the nonprofit **South Carolina Advocates for Agriculture** helps promote the state's agricultural products and overall agriculture industry.



PABC Supports Agribusiness Entities

PABC continued its contributions to support agribusiness organizations. At left, PABC Chair Sarah Windham presents a check to CAFLS acting dean Greg Yarrow with Board member Edgar Woods and CEO Ronnie Summers.



CEO Ronnie Summers presents checks to Doug Wood, Communications Director and State Forester Scott Phillips to support several forestry programs such as, Wood Magic, Project Learning Tree, and the SC Forestry Teachers' Tour. PABC summer intern Lacy Johnson was also at the presentation.

BOARD TRANSITIONS



Fred West



Chris Wheeler

A special thank you and congratulations to long-time Board member **Fred West**, who recently retired from Amick Farms. Amick Farms will now be represented by **Chris Wheeler**, Director of Strategic Sourcing, on the PABC Board. Good luck to Fred on his retirement and welcome to Chris.



Karl Zimmer



Clay Garnto

Clay Garnto is the new President and CEO of Premium Peanut. He will now represent them on the PABC Board to succeed **Karl Zimmer**, former President and CEO. Thank you to Karl who brought Premium Peanut to the PABC membership. Best wishes on your new endeavors and welcome to Clay.

Welcome SCMEP

The SC Manufacturing Extension Partnership has joined PABC as an Associate member. Welcome to them and their representative **Tony Moore**, Director of Operations. <https://scmep.org/>



PABC ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Founding Board members David Winkles (L) and Jack Shuler (R) provided an overview of PABC's formation and early history at the annual meeting.



Commissioner Hugh Weathers presented comments at the annual meeting about the collaborative efforts of SCDA and PABC on initiatives like Certified SC Grown.

Greg Yarrow Named CAFLS Acting Dean



Greg Yarrow was named acting dean of Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) in August. As acting dean, Yarrow continues to collaborate with associate deans of academic affairs, research, and outreach and engagement to support CAFL's land-grant mission of teaching, research and outreach. As such, he ensures CAFLS remains focused on founder Thomas Green Clemson's vision of a high seminary of learning to address the needs of the state of South Carolina and its citizens.

Yarrow works to support a culture of cooperation among the college's tripart mission, which strives to prepare students to become leaders in their field, leverage state-wide infrastructure of research and Extension to improve the health and livelihoods of South Carolinians, and promote a state agribusiness industry with a \$51.8 billion annual impact. Likewise, Yarrow promotes and strengthens partnerships with state and federal agencies including the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC Department of Natural Resources, SC Department of Agriculture, SC Forestry Commission, Forestry Association of SC, SC Farm Bureau, US Department of Agriculture, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

(cont. on pg. 8, see New CAFLS Acting Dean)

Local Farm Products Featured in Brewing Company Beverages

PABC member McLeod Farms, along with Coosaw Farms, are partnering with the Peak Drift Brewing Company in Columbia to feature locally-sourced fruit in new craft beers.

Peak Drift used peaches from McLeod Farms and watermelon and blueberries from Coosaw Farms to create its newest seasonal beverages—the Peak Drift Peach Cobbler Sour Ale and the Peak Drift Watermelon-Blueberry Sour Ale.

Clint Leach, assistant commissioner for external affairs for the SC Department of Agriculture, said this type of partnership aligns perfectly with the department's goal of helping farmers bring their products to more markets and increase the financial impact of agriculture on the state's economy "We're excited to be involved in this partnership because we are in the business of helping farmers add value to their crops and farms", he said.



Palmetto AgriBusiness Council

OFFICERS:

Sarah Windham, Chair

Harry Ott, Past Chairman

Fred West, Vice Chairman

Bryant Sansbury, Secretary/Treasurer

STAFF:

Ronnie Summers, CEO

Sandy Boozer, Executive Assistant

New CAFLS Acting Dean (cont. from pg. 7)

A certified wildlife biologist by The Wildlife Society, Yarrow has worked as a professor of wildlife ecology at Clemson since 1988. He previously served as chair of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Conservation from 2012 to 2019. His Extension and outreach activities have included developing and delivering educational programs in wildlife conservation in managed systems (forestry and agricultural production), mitigating human-wildlife conflicts through wildlife damage management techniques, and maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in managed landscapes for audiences such as private landowners, natural resource professionals, government officials, public policy makers, and the general public.

Prior to joining Clemson in 1988, Yarrow served as an Extension Specialist for the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service at Mississippi State University. Yarrow holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Science in wildlife ecology from Mississippi State University, and a Doctor of Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Yarrow is a longstanding member of the Society of American Foresters and The South Carolina Chapter of the Wildlife Society, for which he previously served as president. Yarrow is the author of numerous publications, including the book *Managing Wildlife*. And in 2020, he received the Thomas Green Clemson Award for his impact on students and his contributions to Clemson University.

Palmetto AgriBusiness Council

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