PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

By Blaine Viator, Ph.D., CPCC-I, CPCC-R
NAICC 2012 President

See You in Sunny Florida!

Well, it’s getting close to that time of year again – the NAICC Annual Meeting. Plane tickets are being booked, registrations are pouring in, and meeting details are being finalized. Jacksonville will make for an exciting venue.

Fall is always a busy time for NAICC Executive Board and committees. The Board convened for its annual fall board meeting in New Orleans last month. Our 2014 Annual Meeting will be held there and we wanted to tour the meeting facilities in advance. The hotel and convention center in Downtown New Orleans is perfectly located and the meeting rooms are well suited for our group. Plus, there are a million things to do within walking distance of the meetings.

After two days of intense Board work, I hosted the Board and spouses on a sugarcane industry tour in my neck of the woods. Sugarcane harvest was in full swing so the road trip offered many interesting sights. We began at the John Deere Thibodaux Factory, one of only two in the world. It manufactures sugarcane harvesters for all sugarcane-producing countries in the world except Brazil. The Thibodaux plant also manufactures cotton strippers and various types of construction equipment. We were able to see sugarcane harvesters develop from sheet metal to a monstrous, shiny-green technological marvel.

After a quick bite at a local Cajun eatery (and watching live alligators behind the restaurant), we went on a tour of the Raceland Raw Sugars sugar mill. Factory manager, Dan Duplantis, Jr., guided us through the entire process of raw sugar manufacturing, from the sugarcane delivery system to the final crystallization and storage of the raw sugar headed for the refinery.

On the way back to New Orleans, we stopped and watched sugarcane being harvested and loaded into transportation equipment destined for the sugar mill. It was definitely a “sweet” experience for all!

Fellow NAICC members shared valuable feedback on their agricultural industries that can apply to problems we face in sugarcane production.

The week before our annual meeting in January, I will visit with our United Kingdom colleagues and attend the AICC meeting in London. I am really looking forward to the experience of meeting many AICC members and seeing first hand issues they face.

I look forward to seeing you all in Jacksonville to celebrate NAICC’s 35th birthday! We have a new and exciting concept this year – a robust, fully functional meeting app for all smartphone and tablet platforms with enhanced networking, personalized meeting schedules, maps, and speaker bios using a simple interface. You can download it now and begin taking advantage of the app before the meeting. Bios and other information are being uploaded daily.

NAICC ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to newly elected Executive Board members:

- Gary Coukell, President Elect
- Marla Siruta, Secretary
- Donna Landis, Director
- Amy Beth Dowdy, Director
- Rick Kesler, Director

Returning to the 2013 Executive Board:

- Blaine Viator, Past President
- James Todd, President
- Debra Keenan, Treasurer
- Steve Hoffman, Director
- Daryl Wyatt, Director

The NAICC headquarters has a new email address: AllisonJones@naicc.org

www.naicc.org

December 2012
The NAICC 2013 Annual Meeting and AG PRO EXPO is fast approaching and we want to make sure you’re prepared for a great event. We’re excited to be offering a mobile event guide to attendees featuring speaker information, session schedules, and much more! Best of all, it’s accessible from all devices with an internet browser: smartphones, tablets, laptops, and even desktops.

How you can benefit from our EventMobi App:

Review sessions and save them to your personal agenda.

Update your attendee profile and share your services and social media links.

See the final list of speakers and sessions on our mobile event app updated on site.

Bookmark the app to your home screen for instant access to all the information you need to have a great event experience.

Scan the QR code to access the app!

How to Access our Mobile Event Guide

Method 1: Scan the QR Code above

Method 2: Go to http://eventmobi.com/NAICC13 on your mobile browser to instantly access your mobile event guide!

We look forward to seeing you at the event!
Don’t forget to register for the 2013 NAICC Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, on January 23-26. Early registration ends December 21. Hotels reservations must be made by December 20 in order to get the $135 rates at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.

Check out the AWESOME hotel at: http://www.hyattregencyjacksonville.com/
Hotel reservations: https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.
do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=7131428

Print the program, registration forms or register on line at: http://naicc.org/meetings/current-annual-meeting/ (all events listed below can also be found at the link above)

NEW Focus on Precision Ag


GLP Workshop

St. Johns River Boat Cruise Registration Form (PDF)
(Sponsored by ADPEN Laboratories)


2013 NAICC ANNUAL MEETING AND AG PRO EXPO

Exhibitors
ABC Laboratories
ADPEN Laboratories
Ag Leader Technology
AG Professional Magazine
Ag Quest
AG Renaissance Software LLC
AGVISE Laboratories
ALMACO
AMVAC Chemical Corporation
Analytical & Regulatory Chemistry
American Society of Ag Consultants
Battelle
Bayer Crop Science
Buckeye Ag Testing
CDMS, Inc.
Charah, Inc.
Conation Media
Cover Crop Solutions
Critical Path Services, Inc.
Douglas Speed & Associates
Dow Agro Science

Doctor of Plant Health and
Doctor of Plant Medicine
DuPont Agriculture and Nutrition/Pioneer Hi-Bred
EPL-Bio Analytical
Eurofins Agroscience Services, Inc.
Fast2Grow, Inc.
FM C Corporation
Golden Pacific laboratories
Gr a t e a w a y R e s e a r c h , Inc.
Gylling Data Management, Inc.
Helena Chemical Company
iAdvantage
ICMS, Inc.
int’l Certified Crop Advisor
iPipe
IR-4 Project
IRAC
JFR America
Juniper Systems

Kincad Equipment
LABServices
Landis Int’l
OMIC USA
Precision Partners
Real Farm Research
Ricerca BioSciences
Seed Research Equipment Solutions
SGS North America
Smithers Viscenti
Spectrum Technologies, Inc.
Symbiotic Research
Syngenta Crop Protection
Syntech Research, Inc.
Tech Crops Int’l
University of Idaho Food Technology Center
USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service
Valent U.S.A. Corporation
Vaughn Agricultural Research Services, Inc.
Vortex Services, Inc.
Willard AgriServices
Winfield Solutions, Inc.

Our Sponsors and Exhibitors Ensure Our Continued Success
Thank you, exhibiting companies and sponsors, for your support of the 2013 AG PROEXPO. Because of your generosity, we are able to increase our visibility in Washington, enhance our growers’ profitability and improve our educational programs.

Sponsors (as of 12/12/12)
ABC Laboratories
Hotel Room Keys

BASF
Consultant of the Year Award

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Collins Agricultural Consultants, Inc.
Permanent Name Badges

Coxco Ag Services, Inc.
Executive Board Breakfast
Audio Visual Support

Dow AgroSciences
New Members’ & First Timers’ Reception
Executive Board Breakfast
QA Mentoring Program

DuPont Agriculture and Nutrition/Pioneer
Hi-Bred Int’l
Refreshment Break

EPL Bio-Analytical
Name Badge Lanyards

FMC Corporation
Friday Night Networking Dinner

GOWAN Company
Refreshment Break

Helena Chemical
Committee Chair Luncheon

Landis International
Coolers

Monsanto Company
New Members’ Boot Camp

Syngenta Crop Protection
Emerging Technology Flash Drives

Young and Young Consultants
Refreshment Break
**GLP Training Returns in January 2013**

NAICC’s popular half-day training course, “Applying GLP Fundamentals for Research and Quality Assurance Professionals,” will be offered on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, from 7:30 a.m. – Noon CST. Enrollment is limited to 125 persons. The first hour of the course is dedicated to introductory GLP topics of interest, with the remaining time divided among three customized training modules. You must identify the module you prefer during Pre-Registration. Enrollment in each module is limited, so register early:

1. Basic GLP Training: Overview of GLP regulations with emphasis on the GLP responsibilities of QA and the PI, including how they relate to the Conduct of a GLP study. Highly recommended for a person with 0-3 years GLP experience.

2. Practical GLP Scenarios (limited to 50 participants): This module is enhanced and offers something for everyone. Work through problems and practical applications in small groups with relevant topics for the field, labs and sponsors. GLP experts moderate this module.

3. Practical Field Workshop (limited to 24 participants): Hands-on training workshop focuses on hand boom sprayer operation, as well as calibration and test substance application. Module addresses sprayer equipment/nozzle theory and operation, application verification, proper data documentation and GLP compliance. This module is designed to improve protocol and report writing, QA auditing skills, compliance awareness, and efficiency in raw data review. Using typical field research equipment – a protocol and field notebook – participants will work in small groups to lay out a plot, set-up and calibrate a sprayer, and make and verify an application using appropriate GLP guidelines.

Remember, space is limited so register early for your preferred module. See you in Jacksonville!

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**iPIPE Simplifies Pest Data Gathering and Submission**

Informed decision making is a critical aspect to all manner of business, but especially in agriculture where weather uncertainties rapidly change production decisions. Crop consultants must deal with pests that suddenly appear in a grower’s field without warning. Fortunately, a new service provides crop consultants with timely warnings of migratory and emerging pests.

The iPIPE (Industry Pest Information Platform), built on the success of ipmPIPE, is an information technology platform that provides tools and models for managing and analyzing data in support of commercial agricultural decision making. The iPIPE project is a collaborative project between North Carolina State University’s Center for IPM, the Pennsylvania State University, the American Seed Trade Association, and the information technology company ZedX Inc., with initial funding provided by APHIS-PPQ.

iPIPE brings together crop consultants, extension, industry, federal and state partners and allows users to share pest observation data while protecting their client’s privacy. It delivers fast, easy, and mobile mechanisms for data gathering and submission. Decision support products include national pest observation maps, epidemiological and aerobiological models and daily weather maps. The products facilitate the monitoring of pest spread to improve the consultant’s ability to offer clients timely management recommendations. Cereal rusts and southern corn rust are some of the first pests included in the platform.

Crop consultants can freely participate in the iPIPE project at no cost provided that they upload pest observations into the system on a regular basis. There is no expectation to scout crops other than those normally included in a consultant’s regular work program. Phone apps will be available for android and iPhone users. To protect client confidentiality, data shared with other iPIPE users is displayed anonymously and at a county resolution. Future funding of the system is expected to be provided by large agricultural companies and associations.

To learn more about the iPIPE platform, please visit our booth and/or lunch training session on Thursday, January 24th. We will also participate in the Emerging Technologies Session. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this innovative platform with you.

To participate in the hands-on training on Thursday, January 24th while enjoying a delicious lunch, please RSVP. More details are available from Julie Golod at goloj689@zedxinc.com, or 814.689.9184.
NAICC Annual Meeting: QA Seven Years and Growing Strong

How quickly we have grown! 2013 marks the seventh year of providing exceptional Quality Assurance sessions at the NAICC Annual Meeting (Jacksonville, FL).

Back in 2003, the Board approved Quality Assurance professionals’ eligibility as voting members. The demand for concurrent QA sessions quickly grew. We tested the waters in 2007 (Atlanta, GA) with two QA sessions. Our first 90-minute session focused on things that might have slipped through the cracks – EPA Perspective, Facility Inspections and, finally, Data Audits. The next session focused on Auditing/Inspecting Atypical Projects (Data Pen, Groundwater Studies, APHIS Regulated Studies, and Worker Exposure/Turf Residue). These two sessions were well received so we added a third session to the program in 2008 (Seattle, WA).

Quality Assurance attendance at the NAICC Annual Meeting continued to increase and, by 2009, two additional sessions were added (Memphis, TN). This set the groundwork for our present lineup. In 2011, Dow AgroSciences graciously agreed to sponsor the Quality Assurance Mentoring Program/Networking Lunch. From humble beginnings, the building blocks were firmly laid and the QA component of the NAICC Annual Meeting has grown into the exceptional program that it is today.

So what can you expect in 2013? Lab QAs, we have just what you’ve asked for -- Lab Quality Assurance topics relevant to your role! I am happy to announce that Torrance Lee (Valent) and Kathryn Hackett-Fields (IR-4/Rutgers) have added a concurrent QA Lab Session – ‘Laboratory QA Skills and Techniques.’ Inspection, Documentation (QA and technicians), and Effective Findings Writing will be addressed in a roundtable setting. Monsanto’s presentation, ‘Status Reports to Management’ (160.35 (4)) will also be included. Lively discussion is highly encouraged!

Field QAs have an opportunity to review Mock GMO Inspection questions with Doug Grant (USDA-APHIS) and Renee Daniel (Perspective Consulting). Doug and Renee are also developing the 2013 Mock Inspection. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with these two very knowledgeable professionals. For instance, do you know what should be on a Biotech Compliance checklist? Renee will answer that question following the Mock GMO Inspection debriefing.

In the ‘Hot Topics’ session, we’ll explore audit studies outside your comfort zone. Lee West (RDA) will share her interesting account of atypical locations and audits, and helpful hints on what to expect in a similar situation. An ‘Update from Sponsor GLP/GMO Working Group’ is also included in this session. Sponsor representatives will update us on the Working Group with plenty of time for questions and answers. To close out the session, Rick Hoffman (Monsanto) will address Monsanto’s process for ‘A Risk Based Approach to Scheduling Facility Inspections.’ Monsanto’s ‘Risk-Based Approach to Auditing’ was well attended in Reno last year, and I predict that this 2013 topic will generate similar participation.

If you are new to Quality Assurance – or simply need a refresher – ‘Records and Reports’ (Subpart J) is for you. This session provides a comprehensive overview of QA Files, QA Checklists, and QA Statements and Reports. Deb Wallace (Bayer CropScience) will explain what to keep in your QA Files, how long to keep them and efficient storage solutions. Rick Hoffman (Monsanto) will describe a thorough QA Checklist in various forms. Lance Sandvik (Valent) will discuss completing QA Statements and Reports.

Sometimes we all need to get ‘Back to Basics’. This session is a good opportunity for new Quality Assurance professionals to gain knowledge on the ‘Details’ expected for both Field QA and Lab QA. Mark Tumey (Encore Innovations) will have fun sharing some ‘pet peeves’ he has developed over the years. Angela Dawson (EPL Bio Analytical Services) will give her take on what ‘Details’ Lab QA must check. Deb Green (Advantage Quality Services) will walk us through the handling of test substances receipt and proper storage requirements. The mystery of ‘Field Calculations’ will be solved by Tim Case (SGS North America). Finally, Paul Toll (Blue River Quality Solutions) will describe the ins and outs of auditing paper and electronic Field Notebooks.

The grand finale of the 2013 Annual Meeting is our very own ‘GLP Game Show’ with me as your humble host. Brush up on your ‘GLP Knowledge’ because prizes will be awarded! Who said QA people can’t have fun?!

I look forward to seeing you all in sunny Jacksonville. Let’s continue to grow QA involvement in the NAICC and to provide a strong QA continuing education component in the Annual Meeting.

DuPont Crop Protection Specialist
Wynn John Retires

“It’s time to put new wind in my sails.” That’s how Wynn John describes his decision to formally retire from DuPont on March 31, 2013.

A 22-year veteran of the DuPont, Wynn says the hardest part will be leaving the many friendships he has made in our industry. “All I can really say is thank you for your support, friendship, and encouragement,” says Wynn. “My goal was to help make work easier and more enjoyable for each of you. Your constant feedback and encouragement has indicated that to some degree I have been able to do that. For that I am extremely grateful.”

Wynn will be working through the first quarter of 2013 to ensure a smooth transition. His replacement should be announced soon. In the meantime, please express your appreciation and best wishes to Wynn: Phone: 302.521.0291 Email: W-Wynn.John@dupont.com

Update on Bob Mack,
GM, Helena Products Group

As many of you know, our friend Bob Mack has been dealing with serious health issues. Bob began a medical leave to focus on his recovery in mid-October and we certainly hope that he returns soon. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

During his absence, contact Bill Salley with any issues, questions, or concerns. Thank you for your patience and support.

Please send Bob your get well wishes at bmack424@earthlink.net.
2012 AICC Meeting Recap

I had the pleasure of representing the NAICC at the United Kingdom’s AICC meeting in January 2012. Having interacted with Andrew Watson and Patrick Stephenson at our annual meetings, it was nice to meet them on “their turf.” I only wish that I could have spent more time across the pond but, alas, I had to hurry back to prepare for the NAICC January meeting.

The two organizations have distinct differences and similarities. Differences in that the AICC is considerably smaller and comprised of crop consultants only. Researchers and QA professionals do not attend their annual meeting. There is also no GLP equivalent component. Similarities in that the AICC has a support system for mentoring and providing scholarships for its young consultants, much like our Foundation for Environmental Agricultural Education (FEAE). The AICC also gave awards and scholarship money at the meeting. In addition, independent consultants, sponsoring companies and university professors were all active participants.

The AICC meeting was held at the U.K.’s beloved National Rugby Stadium near London’s Heathrow Airport. The venue drew a large number of attendees – it is a huge attraction for tourists and locals alike. We enjoyed a tour of the stadium that gave me a huge deja vu to our experience at last year’s Dallas Cowboy stadium tour! Our tour included a peek into the locker room, much like in Texas, except there were no rugby cheerleader’s lockers with near life-size photos on the wall. Believe it or not, there was actually a work-related feature in the stadium. To combat damage caused by bad weather and intense play on the real turf, the stadium crew installed tungsten grow lights to illuminate and stimulate growth of the grass. Overall, the tour was a great break from a packed meeting schedule and very much appreciated.

The meeting’s pace was fast and furious as all content was packed into two days. There were many interesting sessions and a good number of exhibitors similar to our NAICC meetings. It was especially interesting for me, as a researcher, to attend the consultant sessions since I do not attend many of them at our meetings.

In addition to the usual performance trial results and product comparisons/approaches, there were talks by university professors including Dr. Tim Benton. Dr. Benton discussed the coming potential crisis of plateauing food production in the face of reduced farmland increased world population. Industry representative Janet Williams talked about regulatory challenges in the U.K., particularly the difficulty of controlling crop diseases and weeds in the face of pesticides banned in the EU. Since the ruling 91/414 was enacted, the EU has lost over 600 active substances.

All in all, it was an educational and enjoyable meeting. I appreciated the hospitality of our U.K. members and would love to return and spend some time in the field.

In Memoriam: Marvin Kaufmann

A beloved member of the NAICC community, Marvin Dean Kaufman, passed away on December 6, 2012. Marvin was a renowned independent soil scientist/consultant, active member of the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Association, member of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants and member of MEDA (Mennonite Economic and Development Association).

Marvin had a vastly impressive educational resume. He graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Soils in 1963 and earned his Master of Science from Cornell University in 1965. In 1977, Marvin received his Doctor of Philosophy with a focus on Soil Science from Oregon State University. The NAICC has been the privileged recipient of his knowledge and experience for over three decades.

A faithful member of the Mennonite Church, Marvin believed that scientific discoveries provided evidence of the Creator God. He is survived by his wife, Anna Grace, two daughters, and a large extended family. Online condolences may be left at www.fisherfuneralhome.com.