

# ASABE Quad City Section Newsletter

*ASABE - The Society for Engineering in Agricultural, Food, and Biological Systems*

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**From the Chair** – ASABE Quad City Section members! On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to invite you to join us for an exciting year in the Quad City Section. The Fall Meeting was a small taste of what lies ahead! We have some exciting programs and activities planned for the 2016-2017 year and we look forward to another great year. The leadership team is committed to delivering interesting technical sessions and continuing education seminars filled with relevant content, as well as entertaining meeting speakers. We have received a lot of great recommendations from our membership over the past couple of years, and we have been able to act on many of those ideas which demonstrates we really do listen to our membership. Our meetings are designed for you and we want YOUR feedback!

Although I have gotten to know some of you over the past few years, allow me to take the time to share a little more about my background. I was raised on a small sharecrop farm in south western Kentucky. Growing up in a rural area gave me an appreciation for agriculture and encouraged me to get involved with programs like the FFA, where I served in many officer positions within our chapter

and achieved the American degree. I obtained a Bachelors degree in Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering from the University of Kentucky. I was heavily involved in the 1/4 Scale Tractor team, receiving two 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes and capturing 1<sup>st</sup> place my last year. While in college, I had an internship with [Amadas Industries](#), which is the leading manufacturer of advanced harvest systems for peanuts. I knew I wanted to work for a large player in the agricultural machinery world, so I assumed my destiny would take me to the Midwest. After graduation, I relocated to the Quad Cities to work for John Deere Harvester as a contract engineer in current products. Once I decided I liked the company and I could handle the cold winters of the North, I applied and was fortunate to get on full time with John Deere in product development at the Global Crop Harvesting Product Development Center. I am currently on the Advanced Functional Team, where we focus on the crop engaging performance aspects of the combine and do a large portion of the field testing for the Center.

Upon moving to the Quad Cities, I joined our Section and since have served as the Secretary, Communications representative, Chair-Elect, and Quad City Section representative for the AMC Planning Committee. I have also been involved in the national ASABE organization, as I currently sit on the P-126 committee that oversees the International 1/4 Scale Competition. My affinity for agriculture runs deep and the ASABE professional society has provided an outlet for me to raise awareness for the industry and to give back to an organization that was so important to my professional development.

I would be remiss if I failed to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Quad City

Section Chair within this great Society. The Quad City Section is celebrating its 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and it renowned for its roots in innovative manufacturing and its accomplished members. The knowledge gained from our meetings pales in comparison to the networking connections established. It is my goal to provide you with networking opportunities to advance your professional careers.

We are currently in an agricultural machinery market downturn and being an agriculture based society, the Section is also feeling that impact. We did not receive funds in 2015 from our Section's main source of income, the AMC Conference, and future contributions are uncertain.

A management change and meal and meeting cost increases at the Viking Club, our previous meeting place, lead to a venue change to the Thunder Bay Grille for the 2016 Winter Meeting and a slight cost increase for our meetings. With the uncertainty of how much funding might come from the AMC, the Executive Committee made the decision to increase the meeting registration fee to \$ 30 starting with this year's Fall Meeting. The registration fee pays for the meal and any meeting space charges and also covers the meal cost for our speakers plus also covering any persons who register for the meeting but do not attend. Even with this increase, our meeting registration fee is still one of the lowest of the ASABE Sections.

The AMC funding uncertainty also led to the decision to lower the amount of the Section's two scholarships from \$ 750 to \$ 500 each and add a "tip" jar at the meeting registration desk to allow members to make donations to support the scholarships. See more on the scholarships below.

In addition, the Section's local awards program was also modified to reduce costs. In the past, the Section has purchased membership longevity pins from ASABE national headquarters for members reaching 25, 40, 50 and 60 years of membership. This coming year, the longevity recipients will be asked to purchase their own pin if they desire one. The recipients will continue to receive ASABE membership longevity certificates at no cost to the

Section from ASABE national headquarters. Another major awards cost is for plaques for the recipients of the Section's three local awards and a plaque for the outgoing Section Chair. Instead of plaques, this year the recipients will receive certificates recognizing their accomplishment. See more on the Section's awards below.

In the past, the AMC funding has been our main source of funding the Section's scholarship and awards program as well as covering situations where meeting income did not fully cover expenses. With the uncertainty in the level of AMC funding, the Executive Committee felt the above changes were necessary to keep the Section operating in the black.

I was glad to see many of you at the recent Fall Meeting, but if you were not able to join us; I hope to see you in January! Feel free to contact me any time should questions arise, or if you have recommendations for our programs. – Chance Corum, 2016-2017 Quad City Section Chair

**Fall Meeting Review** The Fall Meeting was held on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Thunder Bay Grille in Davenport with 35 members and guests present. The meeting began with a technical session with two speakers.

The first speaker, John Thiel, Director of Sales for Engineered Plastics with [Cope Plastics](#), used actual parts to illustrate his presentation on Metal Replacement – The Performance Advantage of Engineered Plastics. He discussed the following benefits of using plastics: (1) extend wear life significantly, (2) increase the life of mating parts, (3) reduce or eliminate lubrication, (4) enhance corrosion resistance, (5) substantially reduce weight, (6) provide electrical insulation and (7) provide thermal insulation. He noted a plastic part may actually be more expensive individually but can often lead to a lower cost for the overall machine.

The second speaker, Josh Hoffman, Manager of the Enterprise User Experience for John Deere, discussed the future possibilities of the Internet of Things (IoT). Some examples would be smart home devices, connecting cars to make traffic safer

and even a wearable baby monitor all of which transmit data for monitoring or actual control. Another example is the [Connected Yard](#) which includes an app that can make watering and other recommendations based on data about moisture and watering schedules available from smart devices such as moisture sensors and irrigation controllers. Deere has introduced the [MowerPlus](#) app which tracks grass mowing and provides tips for efficient lawn care. A list of other [Deere developed apps](#) shows the wide variety available.

Quad City Engineering and Science Council (QCESC) President Chris Cournoyer was the meeting's after-dinner speaker discussing the Council's dual mission of supporting [local engineering and science professionals](#) and technical societies as well as local STEM related activities encouraging [students](#) to explore technical careers. The QCESC has supported the Section's [web site](#) since its inception and has recognized [several Quad City Section members](#) through its awards program. The group is always looking for [volunteers](#) to support its STEM activities.

**AETC 2017** The AETC will again feature technical sessions, continuing education seminars, technical committee meetings and plenty of opportunities for networking with colleagues in the machinery industry. The 2017 AE-50 awards will also be presented. See [AETC-2017](#) for more details.

**AMC 2017** - The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Agricultural Machinery Conference (AMC) will again be held in Waterloo, Iowa. The Conference will be held April 25-27, 2017 at the Ramada Hotel and Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in downtown Waterloo. More information is available online at [www.amc-online.org](#) - Carol Plouffe, Chair-Elect and Quad City Section Representative to the AMC Planning Committee

**Section Scholarships** – The Quad City Section will be offering two \$500 scholarships this year. Past recipients are listed at [Quad City Section Scholarship Recipients](#) .

Scholarship applications are available on the Section's website at <http://www.qcesc.org/ASAE/Awards.htm>. High school seniors as well as college students are eligible to apply. Alumni, be sure that your alma mater is represented by sending a copy of the application (or the link) to the Preprofessional branch at your school. If you know of a local high school senior interested in pursuing an agricultural engineering related degree, pass on the above link to them. The scholarship winners will be invited to our Quad City Section meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Remember, applications are preferred in Word format submitted by email and must be received by March 13, 2017. – Cody Freehill, Scholarship Chair.

**Section Awards** – Note the awards related changes discussed above in the From the Chair column. Nomination forms for the three Quad City Section awards (Young Member, Member and Outstanding Engineering Achievement) are also available at <http://www.qcesc.org/ASAE/Awards.htm> . Please consider nominating one of your colleagues for one of these recognitions. These awards will be presented at the annual Awards Meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Nominations are due by March 1, 2017. Past recipients are listed at [Quad City Section Award Recipients](#) . – Dave Smith, Awards Chair

### **Closing Notes**

Former Quad City Section Member and Past Chair Chad Yagow is the guest editor for the [Nov.-Dec. issue of Resource](#), a special issue devoted to a look at the future of agricultural machinery. Section Member Bernie Romig wrote the [Last Word column](#) for this issue.

Please welcome Ethan Lardner and Tim Wodrich (both with John Deere), Wayne Buchberger (Hardi) and Bailey Richardson (ADM) as new Section members.

Prior to the Fall Meeting, the Section had a balance of \$ 4,569.67 in its checking account and a certificate of deposit valued at \$ 2,335.57 after redeeming its other certificate of deposit and providing the two \$ 750 scholarships offered in

2016. The meeting fee, scholarship and awards changes discussed in the From the Chair column above are aimed at keeping the Section operating on a break-even basis.

**Upcoming Events** - Check the Section's web site at <http://www.qcesc.org/ASAE> for the most recent information on the Section and the following events:

**January 15-17, 2017**

Quad City Farm Equipment Show, QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island. See <http://www.qccaexpoctr.com/farm-show-event.html>

**January 17, 2017** (tentative)

Quad City Section Winter Meeting

**February 7, 2017** (tentative)

Quad City Section Continuing Education Seminar

**February 13-15, 2017**

ASABE [Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference](#), Louisville, Kentucky.

**March 1, 2017**

Deadline for applying for the Section's three local awards.

**March 13, 2017**

Deadline for applying for the Section's scholarships.

**March 28, 2017** (tentative)

Quad City Section Awards Meeting

**April 11, 2017** (tentative)

Quad City Section Spring Tour

**April 25-27, 2017**

[Agricultural Machinery Conference](#), Waterloo, Iowa

**July 16-19, 2017**

ASABE [Annual International Meeting](#), Spokane, Washington

**ASABE Quad City Section Officers 2016-2017**

**Chair:**

Chance Corum  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-428-5079  
[CorumChanceM@JohnDeere.com](mailto:CorumChanceM@JohnDeere.com)

**Chair-Elect:**

Carol Plouffe  
Deere Moline Technology Innovation Center  
Ph. 309-738-0177  
[PlouffeCarol@JohnDeere.com](mailto:PlouffeCarol@JohnDeere.com)

**Past Chair:**

Scott Clark  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-765-2093  
[ClarkScottN@JohnDeere.com](mailto:ClarkScottN@JohnDeere.com)

**Secretary:**

Tanisha Locklear  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-748-2430  
[LocklearTanishaR@JohnDeere.com](mailto:LocklearTanishaR@JohnDeere.com)

**Treasurer:**

Matt Wold  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-748-3242  
[WoldMatthewT@JohnDeere.com](mailto:WoldMatthewT@JohnDeere.com)

**Nominating Committee:**

Evan Bush  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-765-2200  
[BushEvan@JohnDeere.com](mailto:BushEvan@JohnDeere.com)

Brad Vogtsberger  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-428-5427  
[VogtsbergerBradley@JohnDeere.com](mailto:VogtsbergerBradley@JohnDeere.com)

**Awards and Newsletter:**

David Smith  
Ph. 309-755-8934  
[dave.smith8633@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dave.smith8633@sbcglobal.net)

**Communications:**

Tanisha Locklear  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-748-2430  
[LocklearTanishaR@JohnDeere.com](mailto:LocklearTanishaR@JohnDeere.com)

**Continuing Education:**

Eric Drobny  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-765-1285  
[DrobnyEricJ@JohnDeere.com](mailto:DrobnyEricJ@JohnDeere.com)

**Membership:**

Scott Clark  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-765-2093  
[ClarkScottN@JohnDeere.com](mailto:ClarkScottN@JohnDeere.com)

**Meeting Arrangements:**

Tyler Brammeier  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-765-9143  
[BrammeierTylerS@JohnDeere.com](mailto:BrammeierTylerS@JohnDeere.com)

**QCESC Liaison:**

Scott Clark  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-765-2093  
[ClarkScottN@JohnDeere.com](mailto:ClarkScottN@JohnDeere.com)

**Scholarship:**

Cody Freehill  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-765-2282  
[FreehillJustinC@JohnDeere.com](mailto:FreehillJustinC@JohnDeere.com)

**Suppliers Coordinator:**

Mike Jendro  
Federal Mogul Deva  
Ph. 515-850-6255  
[mike.jendro@federalmogul.com](mailto:mike.jendro@federalmogul.com)

**Young Professionals:**

Tyler Brammeier  
John Deere Harvester Works  
Ph. 309-765-9143  
[BrammeierTylerS@JohnDeere.com](mailto:BrammeierTylerS@JohnDeere.com)

**Social Hour Sponsors**

The following sponsors have committed to providing the beverages for the social hours at our meetings this year. Look for additions to this list in the next newsletter. Our thanks to Mike Jendro of Federal Mogul Deva for his work in organizing this much appreciated support activity.



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