

ASABE Quad City Section Newsletter

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

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Winter 2018

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From the Chair – Bonne Année, Gelukkig Nieuwjaar, Feliz Año Nuevo... I think you get it... Happy New Year from around the world. This defines ASABE which is truly an international organization leveraging the strengths of individuals globally.

Our Winter Meeting was somewhat special for three reasons. First, we moved to a different location at St. Ambrose University allowing our Section to grow in attendance without worrying about space limitations. While the Thunder Bay Grill was a good setup, it was limited to about 70 attendees. The change in location to St. Ambrose was made to facilitate having future meetings with other organizations having similar interests. Secondly, the online registration introduced for this meeting makes planning and budgeting much easier and will allow us to better control cost and deliver higher value to our members. Finally, we introduced a theme event with the meeting's theme of "seeding/planting innovation".

The cold winter experienced lately in the Midwest may not be prone to planting seeds but this is a perfect time for farmers, manufacturers, and supplier

to be thinking of the coming planting season. The speakers brought a combination of engineering and agronomy to enhance our knowledge of this area. We welcome any ideas for future "themes" that would be of interest to current and new members. I want to thank our officers for taking the lead and helping make these changes happen.

We have several interesting events coming up as listed in the Upcoming Events calendar. I would encourage all members to consider participating or getting more involved in the organization. For example, the ASABE ¼ Scale Tractor Competition is always looking for volunteers and this is an excellent opportunity to meet the future top ASABE engineers!

I also want to congratulate all of the members involved in the products receiving AE50 and Agritechnica awards. This illustrates how the ASABE Quad City Section members should be recognized as innovators!

Our Section is involved in many exciting activities in the coming months so I look forward to seeing you all. Wishing you the best in 2018! – Carol Plouffe, 2017-18 Quad City Section Chair

Winter Meeting Review The Winter Meeting was held at the Rogalski Center on the St. Ambrose University campus in Davenport with 50 members and guests present. The meeting began with a technical session with two speakers.

The first speaker, Joe Bassett, CEO of [Dawn Equipment](#) in Sycamore, Illinois, discussed the features of Dawn's [Pluribus strip till row unit](#) which makes use of hydraulic down pressure control. The row units mount on a tool bar which can be [operated at 7-13 mph](#) resulting in a power requirement of 10-

15 hp per row. Dawn manufactures [a variety of planting related equipment](#) including trash wheels, closing wheels, row cleaners and fertilizer openers.

The second speaker, Shane Meis, Director of Research for [Wyffels Hybrids](#) in Geneseo, described the steps used to create a new variety of hybrid seed corn. Corn breeding has resulted in higher yields, tolerance of increased plant densities, stronger roots and stalks, more efficient use of nitrogen and increased disease and drought tolerance. A new hybrid variety requires five to seven years of development utilizing growing areas in Hawaii and South America to allow producing two crops per year.

The after-dinner speaker was Sue Gray, John Deere Agronomist, who spoke on “How Crops Really Feel About Their Neighbors ... A Discussion on How Crops Respond to Different Row Widths, Plant Spacings and Emergence Differences”. The major benefit of narrow (less than 30 inch) rows for corn is early season interception of sunlight by the crop canopy. Higher plant populations point to the logic of further narrowing the rows rather than closer spacing between plants. Research has shown narrow rows result in larger yield increases in northern U. S. latitudes (Wisconsin, Minnesota) than further south perhaps due to longer day lengths in the growing season. Studies on corn plant spacing have shown skips are considerably more detrimental to yield than doubles. Uniform emergence is a key factor in achieving higher yields.

AETC 2018 The Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference (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 2018 AE-50 awards will also be presented. See [AETC-2018](#) for more details.

Section Scholarship – For the past several years, the Quad City Section has offered two scholarships for students interested in pursuing an agricultural engineering related degree. Although the scholarships were open to local high school students, the great majority of the applicants and recipients have been college students from Midwest universities. Past recipients are listed at [Quad City Section Scholarship Recipients](#) .

Locally the Quad City Engineering and Science Council (QCESC) operates a [scholarship program](#) open only to local high school students. In 2017, the QCESC awarded 19 scholarships totaling \$112,500. The success of this program with local students led to the decision to offer a single \$ 1,000 Quad City Section scholarship for 2018 through the QCESC program. Applicants must be a Quad City area resident in the Illinois counties of Carroll, Henry, Knox, Lee, Mercer, Rock Island, or Whiteside, or in the Iowa counties of Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, or Louisa.

If you know of a local high school senior interested in pursuing a degree in [agricultural and biological engineering](#) or [agricultural technology and systems management](#), pass on this information to them. The scholarship application is available at <http://qcesc.org/for-students/#Scholarships> and must be submitted by January 23, 2018. The Section’s scholarship recipient will be recognized at the QCESC’s National Engineers Week Banquet on February 22 and invited to our Quad City Section Awards Meeting on March 27th.

In the past, several Quad City Section members have participated in selecting the recipients of the Section scholarships. If you’d like to be involved in the selection this year through the QCESC, contact me at FreehillJustinC@JohnDeere.com Thanks! – Cody Freehill, Scholarship Chair

Section Awards – Nomination forms for the three Quad City Section awards (Young Member, Member and Outstanding Engineering Achievement) are available at <http://www.asabe.qcesc.org/awards-2/>. Please consider nominating one of your colleagues for one of these recognitions. It’s not necessary to fill out everything on the nomination form. These awards will be presented at the annual Awards Meeting on March 27th. Nominations are due by March 1, 2018. Past recipients are listed at [Quad City Section Award Recipients](#) . – Dave Smith, Awards Chair

2018-19 Section Officers Needed - The Nominating Committee is looking for smart, energetic, professional members like you. We need leaders to provide your Section members with quality

programs and services next year. Offices open are Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary and three Nominating Committee positions. If you would like to serve as an officer or know of a qualified person to consider, let one of the members of the Nominating Committee know. Serving as an officer of the ASABE Quad City Section is an excellent way to develop your leadership skills while working with your peers to promote the engineering profession.

Nominating Committee Members can be reached at:

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Nominees will be announced at the March 27th Awards Meeting.

AE50 Recipients – The AE50 recognition program of ASABE's Resource magazine annually honors up to 50 of the most innovative products in the industries served by ASABE. The 2018 AE50 recipients are listed in the [January/February issue of Resource](#) and include four products related to the Quad City Section:

Hardi Alpha Evo Self-Propelled Sprayer

Hardi Rubicon Self-Propelled Sprayer

John Deere S700 Combine

Kondex Straw-Claw Chopper Blades (Kondex is a Section Social Hour Sponsor.)

In addition, the 2017 Agritechnica Exposition in Germany recognized the following Quad City Section related product with a [Silver Medal](#):

John Deere AutoTrac Implement Guidance

Congratulations to all those involved with the introduction of these innovative products!

Closing Notes

Don't forget to cast your ballot in the ASABE national election. ASABE is again using electronic voting this year with voting closing on March 1st. As a member, you should have received an email from ASABE with instructions on how to vote. See [2018 Candidates](#).

There is an opening for a Section member to serve as the organizer for the tour for this spring. The tour is usually held in April at a local business or other place of interest to the Section members. If you'd like to serve the Section in this capacity, contact one of the Nominating Committee members.

Volunteers are also sought to audit the Section's books at the close of its program year in the April timeframe. Contact Treasurer Matt Wold if you'd be willing to serve.

Prior to the Winter Meeting and after paying for the 2018 scholarship, the Section had a balance of \$ 4,257.61 in its checking account and a certificate of deposit valued at \$ 2,380.

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

January 23, 2018

Deadline for submitting applications for Section scholarship – see [Scholarship Application](#)

February 12-14, 2018

[AETC](#) - Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference, Louisville, Kentucky

February 22, 2018

Annual National Engineers Week Banquet sponsored by the [QCESC](#) at the Putnam Museum, Davenport.

March 1, 2018

Deadline for nominations for the Quad City Section’s local awards – see [Award Nominations](#)

March 1, 2018

Deadline for voting in the national ASABE election.

March 2018 (tentative)

Quad City Section Continuing Education Seminar

March 21-24, 2018

Gathering of the Green, Davenport. See <http://gatheringofthegreen.com/>

March 27, 2018

Quad City Section Awards Meeting

April 10, 2018 (tentative)

Quad City Section Spring Tour

May 31-June 3, 2018

[ASABE 1/4 Scale Design Competition](#), Peoria, Illinois

July 29-August 1, 2018

ASABE [Annual International Meeting](#), Detroit, Michigan

ASABE Quad City Section Executive Committee 2017-2018

Elected Officers

Chair:

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Tour:

Open Position

Young Professionals:

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Social Hour Sponsors

The following sponsors have committed to providing the beverages for the social hours at our meetings this year. Our thanks to Mike Jendro of Federal Mogul Deva for his work in organizing this much appreciated support activity. We'd like to welcome Southco as a new sponsor since the Fall Meeting



[Timken Drives](#) is the world leader in USA manufactured chain products. Timken Drives delivers a complete line of superior quality precision roller chain, attachment chain, and engineered conveyor chains with over 100 years of advanced engineering knowledge and experience.



[Don Dye](#) is a leading manufacturer of pressed steel V-belt & flat idler drive pulleys for agriculture.



[Fibeco](#) provides electronic data and design support for high level 3D modeling, rapid prototyping, concept vehicles, functional models, prototypes, and test parts along with value added support services for

the product development of parts for a wide range of industries.



[GGB](#) is dedicated to provide global customers with high performance self-lubricating and prelubricated plain bearings for thousands of applications in scores of industries.



[Kondex](#) is a product design and manufacturing partner producing custom-designed metal components for agricultural, lawn and turf and other OEM partners including MacDon culminating in a joint [2014 AE50 award](#).



[Myers Spring](#) produces extension and compression as well as single and double torsion springs of virtually any specification, for virtually any application. Myers Spring also produces rings and wire forms as well as custom assemblies, using their springs and parts and customer provided components.



[Schaeffler Group](#) USA/INA is a leading manufacturer of bearings worldwide with company sales of €11.1 billion in 2012. Schaeffler has 76,000 employees in 50 countries in 180 locations comprising a worldwide network of manufacturing

locations, research and development facilities, sales companies, engineering offices and training centers.



[Sears Seating](#) is the leader in the design and manufacture of suspension and non-suspension seating systems for agricultural markets. Since 1855, we have built a reputation for highly innovative seating products that offer unparalleled comfort and durability.



[Southco](#) is a leader in the specialty fastener and latch business offering engineered access hardware solutions such as locks, latches, captive fasteners, hinges and handles.



[Superior Gearbox Company](#) has been manufacturing high quality gear drives for power transmission systems since 1975 including right angle, bevel, worm gear and spindle drives for various types of on and off-road applications.



[Vibratech TVD](#) is a leader in torsional viscous damper design and development for engines, partnering with OEM and aftermarket engineering teams to provide torsional vibration analysis, design integration, rapid prototyping and product validation.