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Maryland Agriculture Teachers Association

From The Nest

Meet The Officers of MATA

The 2019-2020 MATA Executive Board:

Past President-
Lori Mayhew, Damascus High

President-
Tom Hawthorne, Linganore High

President Elect-
Diane Herndon, Frederick CTC

Secretary-
Quinn Cashell Martin, Boonsboro High

Treasurer-
Roy S. Walls, Jr.

Reporter-
Thomas Mazzone, Clear Spring High

Membership Chair-
Richard Stonebraker, Frederick High

A Letter From The President

Tom Hawthorne

I was looking back through my files to find the last time I wrote the President's message for the MATA Newsletter and it was 2002.

I started the message 17 years ago by saying, I look forward to serving as your president for the 3rd time. Well now it's the 4th time and I am still looking forward to serving as your president. Your board has been charged with the theme, "make MATA great again". I am encouraged for our membership to grow now that the dues have been lowered after many members expressed concern about them being too high. Thanks to Quinn Martin for taking the initiative to research other state dues and present a good case for the need to lower ours. Richard Stonebraker is our membership chair and he is excited to enroll many new members.

I am looking forward to MATA hosting the regional conference July 12-15 2020 in Washington County. Quinn Martin, Tom Mazzone, and Naomi Knight are working hard to present one of the best regional conferences yet. I am looking forward to the MATA Newsletter regularly keeping members informed of MATA activities.

Thanks to University of Maryland Ag Ed majors, Kelcey Trewin and Ashley Abuelhawa for agreeing to put the newsletter together for us. I am looking forward to working with a great board and accomplishing lots.

Have a great year everyone,

Tom Hawthorne, MATA President



First Day of School Tricks

The first day of school can seem stressful and overwhelming at times! Here are some ideas that may come in handy in years to come!



Pansy Planting

At both North Harford, in Harford, and Parkside, in Worcester, students gear up for a relaxing first day back as they plant hundreds of seeds and seedlings to prepare for a fall sale.

@Nhhsagriculture took to Instagram to share “We don’t waste anytime! Our plant science and floral students were busy today” as they shared a plethora of images from their greenhouse and classroom! Jerry Kelley, instructor at Parkside shared on



facebook “(1st day) (1st class) High School @ Parkside Horticulture. 10,000 pansies in pots. 40 min. Like...? Yes. Amazing.” And posted a series of photos highlighting the perfect plantings they put in!



SAE for ALL!

If you are an Ag Teacher you know all too well that AG Education is more than just 4 walls of a classroom, but what allows us to be able to give our students a unique, immersive, experience everyday that they step foot into the ag classroom? Some think it’s the uniqueness of your lesson, others may say it’s the hands on opportunities but we know deep down its because we give our students the opportunity to apply the knowledge from our classroom to real world application by leadership opportunities in the FFA and most importantly by a student Supervised Agriculture Experience. Due to a long overdue update on SAE’s The Council has developed a new method for executing SAE’s in your curriculum. Stay tuned for training dates in your region!

Ignite Maryland FFA

In June a new slate of officers zipped up the blue Association jacket and are taking on the challenge of Igniting members in the Maryland FFA to find their passions to light their leadership. The Officers are President: Jill Allen- Vice President: Ryan Mondonede- Secretary: Sierra Wean- Treasurer: Rylee McConville- Reporter: Jaclyn Bryant- Sentinel: Mallory Anderson.

Over the summer officers spent hours in training with National FFA not only in Maryland but in Washington D.C. as well. These trainings have prepared the newly appointed team to advocate for agriculture, facilitate workshops, develop a professional image, and expand their knowledge of the FFA. With tools in their tool box officers proceeded to attend Summer Career Development events (CDEs), The 11 Best Days of summer at the Maryland State Fair, and The Big-E in Massachusetts. Begin to gear your members up for COLT, National convention, Regional Leadership, and Chapter officer visits!



AG-centuate your Classroom

Maryland Agricultural Educators Professional Development Conference

Maryland Agricultural Educators Professional Development Conference at UMES
The University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland hosted the over 30 agricultural educators for professional development on campus July 7-10, 2019. The college's department of Agriculture, Food and Natural Sciences welcomed the group by sponsoring the use of the Henson Conference Center for the event. Mr. Karl Binns, UMES Development Officer and Mr. Stephon Fitzpatrick, UMES Coordinator for the school of agriculture were instrumental in providing their services to host the conference on campus and to execute the various tours and workshops. An array of professional workshops were held by UMES faculty to include: Dr. Kumar on his extensive research on orchard propagation and strawberries; Dr. Escobar on the importance of managing parasites in maintaining healthy farm animals; and Ms. Tracie Bishop presented a workshop on GIS/GPS teaching strategies for the classroom. We also had the following local presenters conduct workshops: Tom Hawthorne, Linganore High- Small Gas Engine Skill Stations; Jerry Kelley, Parkside CTC- Getting Community Support for Ag Programs; Jodi Callahan, Caroline CTC- Utilizing Google Forms in the Classroom; Shannon Dill, UMD Extension for Talbot County- Assessing Human Personality Strengths; Christine Johnston, UMD Extension for Queen Annes County- National Safe Tractor Instructional Training; Keith Shane, Smyrna High in DE- Extensive raining in Online

Recordkeeping for Supervised Agricultural Experiences for students; Ginny Rosenkranz, UMD Eastern Shore Area Extension Educator- Preserving Pollinators; and Russell Noratel from Maryland Department of Agriculture- proper management and application of chemicals and pesticides. Karen Hutchison, Local Program Specialist presented updates from the National FFA Organization while Terrie Shank, Executive Director gave updates for the Maryland FFA. Offsite tours were held in and around Salisbury, MD during the conference. The group toured the Perdue Innovations Center, where research and development of products are housed for the Perdue Foods Corporation. Then ventured to the working greenhouses of Parkside CTC High School that utilizes researched based learning for their students giving them real life experiences in operating a thriving plant production business. Then off to Smith Island to experience the aquaculture and ecology of the island and learn the symbiosis of its sustainability.

An awards luncheon was held at the conclusion of the conference. The keynote speaker was Elizabeth Galbreath, grew up in Harford County, graduate of Virginia Tech, and is now a Seed Advisor for US Agricultural Solutions for BASF Corporation. College Scholarships to



attend the conference for free were presented to: Amanda Farmer, Bethany Meyers and Kelcey Trewin, all are Agricultural Education Majors. Years of Service Awards were presented to: Jamie Snider, Hancock Middle/High School- 5 years; Quinn Cashell Martin, Boonsboro High- 5 years; and Leasa Gudderra, Gwynn Park High- 20 years. National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Awards were presented to the following: Teacher Turn the Key- Richard Stonebraker, Frederick High; Outstanding Early Career Teacher- Thomas Mazzone, Clear Spring High; Outstanding Teacher- Diane Herndon, Frederick CTC; Outstanding Program- Middletown High; Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program- University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Outstanding Cooperator- Karl Binns, UMES; Outstanding Service Citation- Susan Lowery, Retired MD Ag Educator; and lifetime Achievement- Dr. Ronald Seibel for 65 years in agricultural education. Maryland Agricultural Teachers Association (MATA) Awards were presented to: Horticulture- Jerry Kelley, Parkside CTC High; Animal Science- Pat Beachy, Linganore High and Jodi Callahan, Caroline County High; FFA Leadership- Stacy Eckles, Southern High; Agricultural Mechanics- Doug Hering, Frederick CTC; CASE- Aaron Geiman, Westminster High; Floriculture- Quinn Cashell Martin, Boonsboro High; Middle School Agriscience- Jamie Snider, Hancock M/H; SAE- Sara Seiser; Spreading the Word- Thomas Mazzone; Teacher of Teachers- Tom Hawthorne. Outstanding Service Citations were awarded to the Conference Planning Committee comprising of Jessica Flores, Chairperson, Stephon Fitzpatrick, representing UMES and Naomi Knight, MD FFA Program Coordinator and liaison for MAEF and the MATA partnership.

-Naomi Knight

MD FFA Program Coordinator



Leave It All On The Track >>>

During the conference there were several opportunities for team building and bonding including a baseball game, Get-To-Know-U JENGA, and a crowd favorite Go-Karting. Opportunities like these allow for Members of MATA to connect, build relationships, share techniques, swap stories, and share in an unforgettable experience. So much so that Mr. Keith Good pulled out photos from an MATA conference years ago where they too spent some time bonding on a go-kart track.



UniversityThoughts

This month we are featuring some updates and thoughts from our Land Grant and Flagship university, The University Of Maryland, with Dr. Melissa Welsh!



The recent Journal of Agricultural Education article by Igo & Perry continues to investigate the ongoing discussion about how to retain talented educators within the K-12 setting. It was no surprise to read about the usual reasons for departures or lack of those entering the teaching ranks as inadequate work-life balance, recruited for other positions, or competitive salaries outside education. However, it was reassuring to know that among the reasons to stay was the student, school and community connection a teacher develops. As a teacher educator and motivational researcher, I strongly believe in assisting new teachers in developing a sense of belonging among their peers. When young professionals can match their love of teaching with a sense of being appreciated for the talents they bring to the profession it is a win-win situation. Among the updates to the agricultural and extension education program at the University of Maryland (UMD) is the intent to introduce these

Students to the professional association MATA, provide opportunities for them to observe the variety of agricultural teachers' talents across the state, and link the UMD students with informal teacher mentors. We have a growing student population at UMD that is eager to learn from those of you in the field ready to share your best advice for teaching success. The role of becoming an informal mentor for our UMD students requires a minimum of a 1 year commitment to engage in at least 6 communications. Unlike the focused topics required by the formal mentor teacher/student relationship during the student's last year of preparation, these communications can vary. If you are interested in becoming a non-formal mentor for UMD Agricultural and Extension Education students check out the following link to learn more and sign up

<https://forms.gle/zm37sNR1XKkbgKG56>

-Dr. Melissa Leiden Welsh, Ph.D., CFCS, CPFFE

Classroom Visits from UMD for Ag

Do you teach students who have expressed an interest in a career in Agriculture? The University of Maryland's Agricultural and Extension Education Program will be visiting high schools throughout the state of Maryland during the 2019-2020 academic year! We will provide an overview of the current advancements of careers in Agricultural disciplines, conduct a supplementary instructional segment related to the unit area(s) you are focusing on in your classes, and discuss criteria for applying to our program. Contact Lauren Argabrite for more information on how to schedule a visit (largabri@umd.edu) and check out the following link to learn more and sign up!

<https://forms.gle/pGfrjRfuzo5w8AGo7>

coming soon >>>

In The Next Issue

*National Convention
SAE for All -continued
Mid-smester Kick Start
Where are the Owlets?*



Want to feature a technique or a website you adore or use in your classroom! Contact the editor and share your story with some photos! We will be sure to pop it in an upcoming issue!

Kelcey Trewin

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