

Fifty Years Ago...



1958 Annual Meeting Barbecue



2007 Annual Meeting Catfish Luncheon

The styles were different...The menu was different...But one thing has not changed: The Delta still works together.

May 23, 2008 • 73rd Annual Meeting of Delta Council • Bologna Performing Arts Center, Delta State University



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THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

April 2008

The Delta Council Review

73rd Delta Council Meeting to be Held May 23

Political Analyst Stu Rothenberg to Keynote

The 73rd Delta Council Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, May 23, 2008, and will include a featured address by political analyst Stu Rothenberg. The publisher of *The Rothenberg Political Report* and *Roll Call* columnist's address will be at the Bologna Performing Arts Center on the campus of Delta State University.

"We are pleased that Stu Rothenberg will address the members and special friends of Delta Council at our 73rd meeting," said Delta Council President Bill Kennedy of Inverness.

In addition to his newsletter and bi-weekly *Roll Call* columns,

Rothenberg often contributes op-ed pieces to *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *The Orlando Sentinel*. His political insights have also made him a solid anchor on the network television news circuit, appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press*, ABC's *This Week* and *Nightline*, and *The McLaughlin Group*. He served as a political analyst for CBS News in 2006, and before that, served over ten years as a CNN pundit, including extensive on-air election night analysis.

Rothenberg holds a B.A. from Colby College in Waterville, Maine,

and a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. He also taught political science at Bucknell University and the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C.

"Stu has spoken to Delta 1000 members several times before the Annual Meeting the last few years, and his political insight and unbiased observations have been extremely well-received. With one of the most important election cycles in modern American history about to unfold, we felt like it was timely to have Stu address all of the members and guests of Delta Council," Kennedy said.

Rothenberg's keynote address will



Stu Rothenberg, 2008 Keynote Speaker

follow a full morning's activities, including a salute to Delta honor graduates by Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, and a report on the region's activities and issues. Delta Council

.....**ROTHENBERG continued on page 4**

Delta Leaders Reach Consensus on National Heritage Area Proposal

A group of Delta business leaders, elected officials and civic organizations achieved regional consensus on a proposed measure to establish the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area. At the meeting in Stoneville, the group agreed to combine the governance of previous proposals that were advanced by the State's Congressional delegation, but not passed because of other national Congressional issues.

"We want to send a message that the Delta has achieved consensus, and we are working together to encourage our

Congressional delegation to advance the proposal during the next session," said Bill Kennedy, President of Delta Council.

As proposed, the lands covered by the Heritage Area include the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties in the alluvial flood-plain. If adopted, the area will be guided by the U.S. Dept. of Interior's National Park Service, as are other heritage areas around the country. The area will also be coordinated by a developed partnership and governed by a 15-member-board, with representation from universities, the Governor, state

agencies, regional entities and local interests appointed by County Supervisors on a rotating basis.

Following the unanimous outcome of the meeting, support for the proposed bill is being sent to the Mississippi Congressional Delegation by communities, elected officials, local Chambers of Commerce and Tourism Boards, as well as other local and regional entities.

"Whether it's music, a mosaic of different cultures, civil rights, agriculture or geography, we have long recognized the national importance of

the Delta," Kennedy said. "And based on our distinctive culture and the impact that we – as a single region – have had on our nation, the Delta deserves to be designated as a National Heritage Area. The designation will allow us to continue efforts to 'brand' the region by identifying, cataloging and marketing the components of our culture and heritage that are unique."

If you would like to receive a copy of the draft, and show your support to the Mississippi Congressional delegation, contact Delta Council's offices at 662-686-3350.



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Send all address changes to
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 257, Stoneville, MS 38776
Shipping Address:
433 Stoneville Rd., Stoneville, MS 38776
Phone: 662-686-3350
Fax: 662-686-3378
Web Address:
www.deltacouncil.org
E-mail: info@deltacouncil.org

Message From The President



**Bill Kennedy, President
Delta Council**

This will be my next to the last opportunity to communicate with the Delta Council membership as this year's President, prior to the May 23, Annual Meeting in Cleveland on the Delta State University Campus. It has been an exciting year for me, and as I have come to know the vast number of issues which confront this organization on a daily basis, I am more confident than ever that Delta Council's role in this region has a well-defined purpose. The business and agricultural leadership continues to look to this organization as a compass for addressing issues important to the economy of this region, in its 73rd year.

In the success category for this

year, our friends on Capitol Hill are continuing their conscientious efforts to craft a new farm bill which looks a lot like the 2002 bill. The bill also adapts to changing demands of a more expensive nutrition title and significantly more conservation spending. By the time this *Delta Council Review* reaches you, the final destiny of the farm bill should be known or very close to it. At the time of this writing, I, for one, know that the hard work which has been expended by individuals such as Jane Anna Harris, Graham Harper, West Higginbothom, Martha Scott Poindexter and numerous other friends of Mississippi has shown up in a positive way. These people serve as key staffpersons in the farm bill debate and they have been the *front line* when it comes to initiating action on behalf of Southern agriculture. All of them are from the Mississippi Delta, with the exception of West, and we adopted him as one of ours when he arrived in Washington from Marianna, Arkansas, several years ago.

In the accomplishment column, Dr. Kent Wyatt, the Delta Health Alliance Board member representing Delta Council, reports great progress and promising outcomes from the young organization of Delta Health Alliance. The Adult Literacy Program of Delta Council is continuing to touch the lives of hundreds of Delta people who can read the Bible for the first time in

their life, fill out a job application, and read to their grandchildren. And, in cooperation with Dr. Vance Watson, and our own Dr. Ed King and Dr. Joe Street of Stoneville, new challenges have been identified for our Stoneville Research Complex and these three research leaders have committed themselves to work with Delta Council to address the ever-changing science issues — reducing costs and increasing units per acre — which face farmers.

And, as we reflect on 2007-08, there have been those moments of discomfort and trepidation for me. As I pen this message to the membership, I ponder the Mississippi River gauge at Vicksburg, which continues to climb due to strong weather patterns which are moving through the Missouri Boothill, the Arkansas River and the entire Ohio River Basin during early Spring. Fortunately for all of us and our children, in the past, names like Whittington, Humphreys, Percy, and Hand from all parts of the Mississippi Delta did their civic job and did it well following the 1927 flood. They went to the Congress with a consensus-plan that represented the most comprehensive flood protection strategy that had ever been conceived in modern times. And it has worked ... for most of us.

I look forward to seeing all of you on May 23, in Cleveland for the 73rd Delta Council Annual Meeting.

Delta Council Presents 2007 EPR

Delta Council is pleased to present the 2007 Economic Progress Report. Published annually, the report is an assessment of key economic, agricultural and social indicators in the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties in Northwest Miss.

"The purpose of Delta Council's Economic Progress Report is to give individuals information that will help them obtain a clear perspective of our region," said Tom Gresham,

Chairman of Delta Council's Development Department.

For over twenty years, Delta Council has worked in conjunction with the Delta Project's Delta Data Center to compile the information. The data is gathered from a variety of sources, including the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, and

Mississippi State University's Department of Agricultural Economics.

To obtain a copy of the 2007 EPR, visit Delta Council's website at <http://www.deltacouncil.org/publications.htm>, then select the link, **2007 Economic Progress Report**. For more information, please contact Delta Council's Development Department at 662-686-3360.

DC Past President Receives Baker Award

Delta Council Past President and Perthshire cotton farmer and ginner Kenneth Hood was the recipient of the 2007 Harry S. Baker Distinguished Service Award. He was recognized at the National Cotton Council's 2008 Annual Meeting held in Memphis on February 7-11.

The Baker Award, named for the late California industry leader and NCC President Harry S. Baker, is presented annually to a deserving individual who has provided extraordinary service, leadership and dedication to the U.S. cotton industry.

"We cannot think of anyone that is

more deserving of the cotton industry's highest award than Kenneth Hood," said Delta Council President Bill Kennedy of Inverness. "He has worked tirelessly on behalf of the cotton industry during his career, not to mention his extensive civic involvement in the life of the Mississippi Delta and being recognized as one of the most progressive and innovative producers in the United States."

Since 1962, Hood has been a partner in Perthshire Farms, a 12,000 acre cotton, soybean, peanut, grain sorghum and wheat operation in the

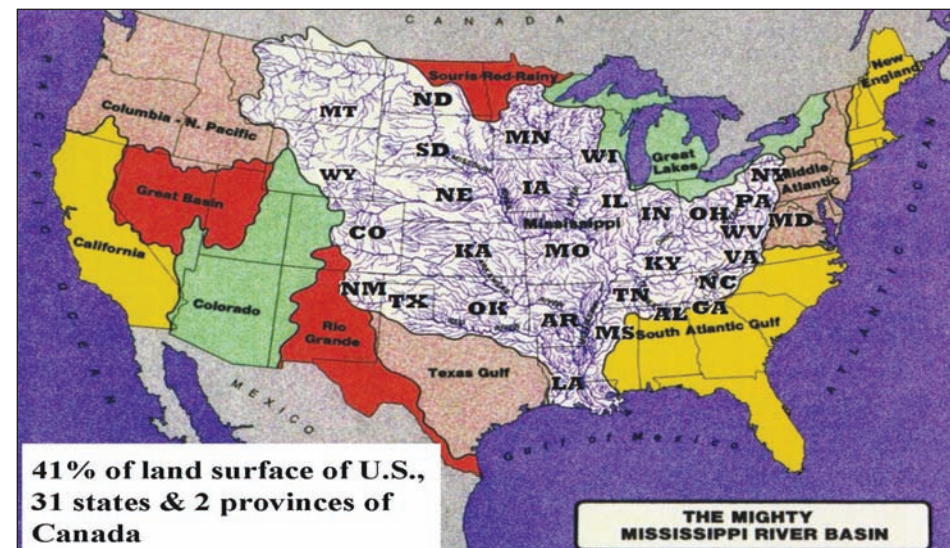
Mississippi Delta community of Gunnison. He also is involved in H.B. Hood and Sons Gins, Hood Equipment Co., and InTime Inc., an aerial imagery-based precision farming service. He was NCC chairman in 2002, and is a past president of the National Cotton Ginner's Association and Southern Cotton Ginner's Association.

Past Mississippi recipients of the cotton industry's most prestigious award include producers Bruce Brumfield of Inverness, Frank Mitchener of Sumner, B.F. Smith of Stoneville, and Senator Thad Cochran.



**Kenneth Hood,
DC Past President (2000-2001)**

Pump Veto Could Yield Dire Results When Flood Waters Rise



By Bill Kennedy

Today, when songwriters compose their lyrics about Mississippi, when literaries compose books about Mississippi, and when cable network meteorologists are forecasting weather patterns each morning for citizens of all 50 states, the influence of the Mississippi River and its watershed, and our geographic placement at the bottom of that vast funnel which extends from Montana to New York State, is prominent in its influence on all that we do and all that we are about in the Mississippi Delta. Had it not been for the intestinal fortitude and the courage of leaders like those I named on page 2, there would be little reason to talk about interstate highways, adult literacy, health care improvements, or the thousands of jobs associated with

the agri-industrial complex of the Mississippi Delta. Simply put, the risk of being at the bottom of that funnel of water that encompasses 31 States would be too great for any of us to consider investing our life's savings in this region, had it not been for a plan, and great leaders who rose out of adversity to see their plan through.

As I have observed and learned of the arbitrary and senseless veto of the Yazoo Backwater Pump Project by the Environmental Protection Agency, I am reminded of what this region might have been like if a federal agency had been vested with the authority to tell Congressman Will Whittington, Senator Leroy Percy, Congressman Ben Humphreys, or South Delta leader James Hand from Rolling Fork, that the plan to build reservoirs in the bluff hills above the Delta and an earthen dam on

the Mississippi River extending from Memphis to Vicksburg to protect the Mississippi Delta, that, "this plan is vetoed."

Trepidation and bewilderment hang over my sadness as I watch my friends in the South Delta furiously move to the fields and begin planting their early corn and soybean crops, at the precise time that the entire Delta drainage system of 4,000 square miles could receive rainfall only to settle behind the Mississippi River levee and the Yazoo River levee, trapped until the Mississippi River highwater begins to recede. As I write this message, I think of the possible hardship and economic consequence of the jobs and investments that could be affected if the Delta receives heavy rainfall prior to the Big River receding enough to open the currently closed floodgates in the South Delta.

I recently asked our staff to research the impact upon the South Delta if we experienced a 1973 Mississippi River crest, at the same time that we experienced a 1991-type Delta Spring rainfall. Since these two events are the most memorable water events during my lifetime, I wondered just what kind of impact those two weather events would have if they coincided during the same year. The answer was believable, but it was saddening.

The result:

A duration of flooding spanning more than 60 days.

Steele Bayou:
100.3 ft. flood elevation in the vicinity of Onward on Steele Bayou.
100.3 ft. flood elevation at the Steele Bayou outlet in Issaquena County.

Sunflower River:
100.3 ft. flood elevation in the Holly Bluff area of Yazoo County on the Sunflower River.
101.8 ft. flood elevation at Rolling Fork in Sharkey County.
104.5 ft. flood elevation in the vicinity of Highway 12 on the Sunflower River on the Washington/Humphreys County line.

And, an interconnected body of water spanning more than 500,000 acres below Highway 12 which encompasses all or parts of 6 counties.

Why worry? Well, I am disappointed that there was a plan which would have reduced these elevations by approximately five feet, if we ever experienced the coincidence of a May 1991 rainfall at the same time we experience a 1973 highwater. And, I am reminded that it is not "if," but "when." It was just such a coincidence which brought great men like Mr. Whittington, Mr. Percy, Mr. Hand, and Mr. Humphreys to their feet.

But, back then, only a U.S. President had veto power over a Congressionally-mandated public works project. One day, history will not be kind to those who perpetrated this veto, but in the meantime, the South Delta grows more anxious as the Mississippi River rises and Delta rainfall threatens.

News From Around the Fields

Ed Nichols has been named publisher of *The Clarksdale Press Register*. He comes to Clarksdale from Sulphur, LA. Nichols was formerly publisher of *The Delta Democrat Times* from 1997 until 1999.

New Board members were recently named for the Delta Workforce Investment Area. They include: **Alice Pimpton** and **Marvin Doss** from Tallahatchie County; **Victor Byas** and **Tim Timbs** representing Sunflower County; **Wade Litton** representing Leflore County; **Dean Kindle** representing Panola County; **Mauri Eubanks** representing Sunflower County; and **Jamie Anderson**

representing Tallahatchie County.

Daryl Lewis of Leland was recently named The Outstanding Teacher of American History by the Mississippi State Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Lewis, who was the co-author of history books on Delta Council and the AHEAD program, was also recently named to the Mississippi Arts Commission by **Gov. Haley Barbour**.

Les Torrans, a fish production specialist at the National Warmwater Aquaculture Center in Stoneville, was presented the Distinguished Service Award for Research by Catfish Farmers of Mississippi.

The Catfish Farmers of America

recently awarded **Mike Tagert**, former director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, MS Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the Distinguished Service Award for his service to the industry during his six years as bureau director. Tagert recently joined the Tennessee-Tombigbee Economic Development District as Administrator.

Nine Mississippi cotton industry members have been elected to leadership positions in the National Cotton Council for 2008. They include: **Shane Stephens** of Staplcotn, who was re-elected as a NCC vice president; **Michael Adams** of Staplcotn, who was named chairman of Cotton Council International; **Meredith**

Allen of Staplcotn, who was re-elected as a director and vice-chair of the Mississippi Unit; **Bowen Flowers**, a producer of Clarksdale, who was re-elected as a director; **Scott Middleton** of Delta Oil Mill, who was re-elected as a director and chair of the Mississippi Unit; **Sledge Taylor** of Como Gin, who was re-elected as a director; **Clark Carter** of Associated Producers Gin in Rolling Fork, who was re-elected as CCI director; **Dan Branton** of Leland, who was elected as the Mississippi chairman of the NCC's American Cotton Producers; and **David Cochran** of Avon Gin, who was elected as vice chair of the Mississippi Unit.

Status of Legislation

Senate Bill 2988 – *Illegal Immigrants; prohibit employment of or seeking employment by.* Provide procedures for newly hired employees and their employers to require employee verification.

3/17 – *Approved by Governor*

House Bill 728 – *Country of Origin Labeling* Catfish Marketing Law; require consumer notice and labeling of country of origin on all foreign and imported catfish.

4/2 – *Due from Governor 4/8/08*

House Bill 591 – *Eminent Domain* Eminent Domain; restrict to direct public use
4/1 – *Conferees named Blackmon, Cockerham, Moss*

Senate Bill 2822 – *Eminent Domain* Eminent Domain; restrict to direct public use
3/27 – *Conferees named Blackmon, Cockerham, Moss*

Senate Bill 3013 – *Mid-Delta Industrial Commission* Economic Development; create the Mid-Delta Industrial Commission
3/26 – *Died on calendar*

House Bill 115 – *Agricultural Aviation Board* Agricultural Aviation Licensing Law; extend repealer on.
3/18 - *Died in committee*

Senate Bill 2937 – *Agricultural Aviation Board* Agricultural Aviation Board; transfer duties to Agriculture and Commerce
4/2 – *Decline to concur/invite conf.*

Bayer and Delta Council 2008 Public Policy and Production Scholarship Program



Bayer CropScience and Delta Council teamed up for the 17th year to present the 2008 Public Policy and Production Scholarship, held in conjunction with the National Cotton Council's Annual Meeting. While at the Annual Meeting of the Cotton Council, the six Mississippi producers and their spouses are given a special briefing on cotton issues affecting their Delta operations and get the opportunity to participate in the meetings and activities surrounding the Annual Meeting. The six producers and their spouses receiving the scholarship for 2008 were: Gary and Lee Bailey of Tunica, John Rodgers and Patricia Brashier of

Indianola, Hartwell and Jodie Huddleston of Leland, Patrick and Emily Johnson of Tunica, Chris Talley and Sarah Hunt of Vance, and David and Allison Taylor of Como. In the above photograph, the participants are pictured with Bayer CropScience and Delta Council leaders. They include; (front row, from left) Gary Bailey, David Taylor, Chris Talley, John Rodgers Brashier, (second row, from left) Bill Kennedy, Ned Darbonne of Bayer CropScience, Patrick Johnson, Steve Nichols of Bayer CropScience, Hartwell Huddleston, Eddie Ingram of Bayer CropScience, and Kyle Maple of Bayer CropScience.

Wolf Lake Project Scheduled to Begin this Summer

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality announced that Delta F.A.R.M. and state agencies will cooperate in an initiative to implement a Watershed Restoration Project on Wolf and Broad Lakes, west of Yazoo City, Miss. Efforts in the watershed began during the summer of 2007 as Watershed Implementation Teams, consisting of landowners, homeowners, and natural resource agencies, met to gauge stakeholder interest and determine priority concerns.

The response to this initiative was overwhelmingly positive. All parties involved recognized the need for water quality improvements in the Wolf/Broad Lake Watershed, and everyone agreed that sediment/siltation should be the primary focus of this restoration project.

Delta F.A.R.M. is currently

surveying private lands in the watershed to identify locations where sediment reducing Best Management Practices (BMP's) can be installed. Once sites are identified, they will be prioritized. BMPs such as water/grade control structures and riparian buffer strips will serve as the primary tools to trap sediments before they enter the lake. Implementation of BMP's will begin this summer and continue through 2010. Measurable benefits should be reached within one year.

"Every farmer I have talked with supports the project," commented Rob Coker, Wolf Lake landowner and Delta F.A.R.M. Director. "Delta F.A.R.M. will be facilitating environmental improvements on private property that will ultimately enhance both water quality and fishing in the public water bodies of Wolf and Broad Lakes."



Sediment reducing BMP

WOLF LAKE PROJECT COOPERATORS:

Private Landowners & Farmers, Private Businesses, Private Homeowners, Delta Wildlife, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-NRCS, Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District

Delta Angel Network Formed

A meeting in Stoneville, organized by the Delta Council Development Department, recently helped establish the formation of a Delta Angel Network. The meeting was held with Delta investors interested in creating an angel investment network in the Delta, through the efforts of the Mississippi Technology Alliance.

The Mississippi Technology Alliance has pursued the establishment of regional "Angel Networks," as it considers them vital elements of an innovation-based economic development platform.

Dr. Randy Goldsmith, CEO of MTA, has been instrumental in setting up angel networks in other parts of the country, and has a nationally-recognized model for assisting technology and

entrepreneurial start-ups prepare to access capital.

"Dr. Goldsmith sought Delta Council's assistance in facilitating the formation of a Delta Angel Network, and after reviewing his strategy, we believe that their approach is not only sound, but is both methodical and data-driven and, therefore, possesses the elements necessary to produce high quality, credible 'deals' for review and consideration by Delta investors interested in these activities," said Delta Council Development Department Chairman Tom Gresham of Indianola.

Delta Council, in conjunction with the Delta Project some 15 years ago, tried something similar with the 'Delta Innovators Society,' and it was learned through that

process that there are a lot of entrepreneurs in our region and people interested in investing in these ventures. However, a core deficiency at that time was a lack of proven and credible financial information that was judged to present unforeseen hindrances and hurdles to investors and innovators alike. We believe that MTA's model could be instrumental in bridging that gap," added Gresham.

The Delta Angel Network will continue to meet at least several times a year to review entrepreneurial and technology deals that have been vetted through Dr. Goldsmith's process. It is important to note that being a part of the Delta Angel Network does not obligate anyone to invest in any venture, but merely gives them the opportunity to consider and analyze

deals that Dr. Goldsmith has vetted through the his Mississippi Technology Alliance model.

"While neither Delta Council, nor any local Chambers of Commerce or other organizations have any official role or presence in the inner workings of the Delta Angel Network, we felt it was important to encourage the formation, since it has been so well-received and can be another solid tool in helping encourage entrepreneurial development and business activity in the region.

If you would like more information about the Delta Angel Network, please contact Charles Mortimer, Vice President of Capital Development at MTA at 601-960-3617, or Frank Howell in the Delta Council Development Department office.

New Glyphosate Drift Program to Recognize the Best Ag Pilots in Mississippi

The Mississippi Glyphosate Stewardship Coalition announces a new program that recognizes aerial applicators who demonstrate the highest level of environmental stewardship. Recipients of this annual award will receive a 4' x 8' sign for their place of business, a plaque, media recognition and a cash prize. All members of the Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association licensed in the State of Mississippi and who do not have any proven drift violations in the past 24 months, may qualify for the award.

Pilots who choose to participate in this program will submit to an annual evaluation by filling out a simple questionnaire. While the questionnaire will be relatively simple, it will ultimately determine the level of voluntary stewardship exhibited by the pilot. The highest ranking pilots will then be more thoroughly evaluated by the Mississippi Glyphosate Stewardship Coalition before winners are announced this fall. The finishing touches are being put on the questionnaire and will be mailed out to all licensed pilots in the next 60 days.

PROGRAM PARTNERS AND SPONSORS:

- Agricultural Aviation Board of Mississippi
- Crop Life
- Delta Council
- Delta F.A.R.M.
- Mississippi Agricultural Aviation Association
- Mississippi Agricultural Industry Council
- Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
- MDAC Bureau of Plant Industry
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Monsanto
- Southern Crop Protection Association
- Syngenta
- USDA-ARS Application Technology Research Unit
- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

ROTHENBERG continued from page 1

will also recognize Deltans who have made significant contributions in other critical areas of Delta life.

Rothenberg's address is scheduled to conclude at noon, when the Delta Council members and guests will move to the University quadrangle for a fried catfish luncheon.

The 73rd Delta Council Annual Meeting will be held at the Bologna Performing Arts Center, Delta State

University, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The meeting is being sponsored by BankPlus, KBH Corporation, Land Banks of Mississippi, Morgan Keegan, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., and five organizations representing "Voices of Mississippi Agriculture:" The Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, The Corn Promotion Board, Cotton, Inc., The Rice Promotion Board and The Soybean Promotion Board.

Mississippi Delta Developers Association Continues Marketing Activities



Participants in a recent Southern Economic Development Council "Meet the Consultants" Event, from left to right: Scott Luth of Entergy, Phillip Heard of the Grenada Chamber of Commerce, Frank Howell of Delta Council, Tim Mood of the Electric Power Associations, Frank Short of MS Development Authority, Lyn Arnold of the Tunica Chamber of Commerce, Ed Johnson of the Delta Economic Development Center of Washington County, and Ron Hudson of the Clarksdale-Coahoma County Industrial Foundation.

The Mississippi Delta Developers Association (MDDA), an alliance of local economic development organizations, utility providers, the Mississippi Development Authority and Delta Council Development Department, continues its aggressive marketing and outreach strategies in order to enhance economic development efforts in the Mississippi Delta region.

"When you talk about regional economic development efforts in the State and around the country, the Mississippi Delta Developers Association has been and continues to be, on the vanguard of a true regional partnership that is recognizable among site selectors and development professionals," said Mississippi Development Authority executive director Gray Swoope. "A lot of groups talk regional, but the Delta practices it."

MDDA continues to focus on its target industry areas such as automotive, food processing, contact centers, and metal fabrication, as well as outreach to the site location consultants and commercial real estate executives who comprise over 80% of new company locations.

In addition to targeting these sectors, the group is also working with the Southwest Mississippi Partnership in a super-regional partnership called "Mississippi West," aimed at pooling resources of the two regions to focus specifically on the food processing industry by attending trade shows together and calling on food processing consultants.

Ron Hudson, the executive director of the Coahoma County Industrial Foundation, said the efforts of MDDA and the Delta Council Development Department allow organizations such as his to do things that they would not be able to do on their own.

"Whether it is recruiting activities through MDDA or providing regional emphasis on workforce training, existing industry opportunities, or local and regional demographic and economic information on a 'real-time' basis, we are grateful for the work of the Delta Council Development Department in providing the horsepower for a strong and sustainable regional effort," Hudson said.

News



Delta Health Alliance recently hosted Sen. Thad Cochran's staff members Sarah Love Swaney (left), Leigh Ann Ross (center) and Will Crump (right). DHA Chief Information Officer Chuck Fitch explained DHA's program to implement electronic health records throughout the Delta.



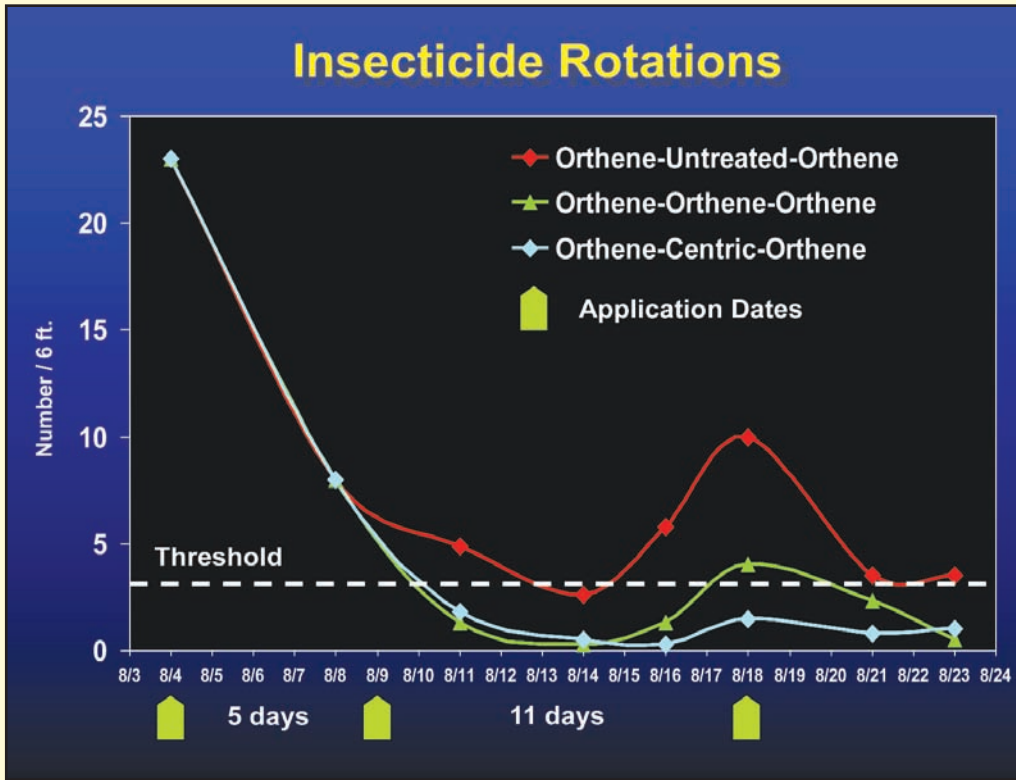
Chairman Bennie Thompson recently spoke at the Mississippi Rice Council Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Miss. Thompson updated council members and guests on Farm Bill proceedings.



USDA/NRCS State Director Homer Wilkes (right) was the featured speaker at the 31st African-American History Program at Stoneville. USDA/ARS hosts this program annually, on behalf of Stoneville employees and guests. Also pictured are USDA/ARS executives Deborah Brennan (left) and Archie Tucker (center).



U.S. Undersecretary of Agriculture Mark Keenum (left) recently spoke to Delta producers and agricultural leaders in Stoneville about the Administration's outlook on farm policy and other critical issues facing U.S. agriculture. Keenum is a Mississippian and former chief of staff for U.S. Senator Thad Cochran.



Plant Bug Strategies

In a recent Delta Council Advisory Research Committee meeting, Stoneville Researcher Dr. Jeff Gore spoke extensively to committee members about plant bug costs to Delta crop production, including the resistance issues surrounding control strategies for plant bugs.

The graph shows the benefits of rotating insecticides for tarnished-plant bug control. Where Centric was used as the second application (shown in blue), tarnished plant bug densities remained below threshold, while the densities where Orthene was used as the second application (shown in green) reached threshold after 11 days.

Gore utilized the graph to illustrate Stoneville's treatments that produced the greatest control. (Mention of trademark or proprietary product names should not be construed as being the preferred product over other similar chemistries in the same class.)

Source: Dr. Jeff Gore, MSU-DREC