

Field Notes

By Ernie Flint, Ph.D., CCA, Regional Specialist - Agronomy
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Mild spring changes everything

Easter has arrived, and the First United Methodist Church in Kosciusko will again be presenting the Passion Play "His Last Days". The productions will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, the 13th, 14th, and 15th, starting a little after dark at church. Admission is free.

And now back to business. This mild spring has changed most of the things we do in preparation for the crop, but this is not the first time this has happened. I can recall the stories I heard my grandparents tell about strange weather, one in which the winter was so warm that the cotton sprouted from plants from the previous season, performing as the perennial plant it actually is.

As the story went, this happened around 1930. This date agrees with data published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It also agrees with a statement in the recently published Mississippi Weather and Climate by Morris, Wax, and Brown that the highest temperature in Mississippi was 115 degrees F in 1930.

Cotton plants could not have survived in this region if soil temperatures dropped very much below freezing at 32 degrees F. Given the fact that soil temperatures in this region commonly drop into the mid-twenties this was an unusual occurrence. As I have been in fields during the past few weeks getting ready for corn planting I have not seen any volunteer cotton plants. I feel it is safe to conclude that this was not the warmest winter this area has experienced. It may be one of the warmest any of us can recall, but unless someone was old enough to remember the winter of 1930 we don't have an eyewitness.

There seems to be at least one unfortunate result of the mild winter we have experienced. The chilling requirement for vernalization of wheat have apparently not been met in some varieties of this crop, especially in Louisiana and possibly in some southwestern portions of Mississippi. When this occurs wheat plants do not change completely from the vegetative stage of growth to the reproductive stage.

Thankfully, most of the wheat varieties that are commonly planted in this region can vernalize and produce good grain yields with significantly reduced chilling. However, there are a few later maturing varieties that require more chilling in order to be vernalized. Some of these

fields are not producing normal heads at this time and it appears that the yield of these varieties may be reduced in some cases.

Another issue with winter cereal grains is that the mild weather has allowed for the early infection of the crop by diseases, primarily the rust organisms that are transmitted by wind currents from alternate hosts and crops southwest of our

area. The prevailing southwesterly winds bring spores of these diseases to our area every year, the degree of infection depending mainly upon the amount of spores that arrive and the weather in this area.

This year weather has been almost ideal for disease production and movement, so we may see these and other diseases in many fields. A quick look at a variety trial has suggested to me that we have varieties that are very susceptible to the rusts and others that approach resistance to these infections. This should be a good year to choose which varieties to be plant in the future.

Thanks for your time.

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

One of my favorite hunts is hog hunting. In the south, hogs have fast become a farmer's worst nuisance and destroyer of property. They have become so numerous most game commissions allow them to be hunted or killed at any time and using any means. For the locals they are trouble, but for those of us who live a little north of this abundance, they are a fun way to get through February while waiting on turkey season to open. They are also a great way of adding some bacon to the freezer.

I recently took a two day trip with three others to Georgia. The first day we hunted with rifles, the second day with dogs and knives. Yes, that's right; with dogs and knives. I had heard of this type of hunting before but this was my first attempt at such close-quarter combat. Even though I wondered about the sanity of such a venture, I decided to check this one off my bucket list. The thrill sounded too appealing and the anticipated adrenaline rush, too tempting. It will be a hunt I will never forget.

There's no doubt, giving into this gust of excitement had its potential for danger. The good thing about it was that all the danger involved was of the physical variety. There was no potential of damaging me or anyone in my family emotionally. There was simply the possibility of some physical danger that did not outweigh, for me, the experience or the testosterone-filled moment that came with the involvement. It also helped to know there were others around me, whom I trusted, to let me know I was not taking my life in my own hands.

By far and away, the greatest dangers for most men are not

the things we decide to do that have the potential for physical harm, but they are those things that cause hurt that is never seen on the outside. Both may come from the desire for adventure or

DURANT NEWS

by Rowena Hill

Love and best wishes to Sara Nell Martin. She has been a patient in St. Dominic Hospital for some time. Prayers are for complete healing.

Prayers are for the sick and/or home bound of our residents, former residents including Jimmy Loftis, Mary Ellis Miller, Amy Mayhue, also locally, Lucy Alexander, Jan Maddox, Amber Kast and Lucy Howell. May God bless each with return to good health. Sorry if I left out anyone. It's not intentional.

Don't forget the Easter sunrise service at 7:00 on Sunday, April 16 at First Baptist.

Prayers continue for the family of William Ingram. He passed away early last week after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were held grave side at Saron Church Cemetery.



Central Holmes varsity runner Emily Martin (pictured at right) runs the Girls 100 Meter Hurdle at Washington School in Greenville on Wednesday, March 29 finishing at 18.56 in the event. The Trojans next meet is at junior high district on Wednesday, April 19 and high school district Saturday, April 22 both at Canton Academy. (Photo by Amy Lindsey)

excitement, but one always results in the participant and those he loves, having irreparable harm. Guys, when the testosterone bug hits you, make sure the only scars you come home

with are the ones you're proud of. She'll be proud of them too. gary@outdoortruths.org

Mrs. Frankie Farmer, Shirley Ables and I drove down last Tuesday to the reservoir area to the home of our cousins, Mrs. Janette Cain Winstead for a good overnight visit. Our sister Bessie Easterling and Aunt Sara Cain Pilgrim joined us for the visit. It was indeed a pleasure being together again.

Be in prayer for our city and the upcoming election that God will direct in all that's said and done. We especially need some good and caring leaders.

Prayers continue for Plez White. He is pretty much home bound. Many friends/family are praying he will feel well again soon.

I enjoyed another birthday last Sunday and heard from a lot of former residents and friends. Thank you very much all who responded.



Bridal Registry

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Ben Brown
April 22

Sara O'Reilly
Jamie Boyette
October 7

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Sunday: Closed

Bunker Hill M.B.C. in Sallis

Pastor Elvin Garner and the Bunker Hill Church family invite you to our annual Spring Revival beginning Sunday, April 16 through Tuesday, April 18 at 7:15 p.m. The guest minister will be Pastor Leonard Jones of New Jericho MBC and Delidia Hill MBC in Kosciusko.

Hippity Hoppity!
Easter's on its way!

The Easter Bunny will hop into Howell & Heggie
Friday, April 14 from
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Pick an Easter Egg for your discount at the register.
Treats and refreshments in store!

Bring Your Cameras!

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POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holmes County Herald has been authorized to announce the following candidates for office in the May 2, 2017 Primary Election.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

MAYOR

CITY OF LEXINGTON

Doris Alexander

Clinton Cobbins

Robin McCrory

MAYOR

CITY OF DURANT

Dr. Henry Robinson, Jr.