



L-R, Back Row: Jason Wistehuff, Buck White, John Offenber, Will Gay, Pam Sapp, Robert Rawlins, Jacob Sandeford, Scott Mitchell, Walter Powell, Mary Jones, Ken Hall, Charles Sumner, Gator Walker, Jason Mallard, Jeremy Kichler; Front Row: Donnie Keene, Wilson Keene, Rhonda Cook, Rick Riley, Peyton Sapp, Jason Cobb, Bryan Ponder, Michael Brooks, Fred Powell, Scott Carlson, Rick Powell, Lee Powell, Charlie Burch, Joey Burch

2017 Georgia Quality Cotton Award Winners

Taylor R. Sils, Georgia Cotton Commission

The 2017 Georgia Quality Cotton Awards were presented at the Georgia Cotton Commission's 11th Annual Meeting and UGA Cotton Production Workshop on January 31, 2018 in Tifton, GA. The awards are co-sponsored by the Georgia Cotton Commission and Bayer Crop-Science, and administered by the University of Georgia Cotton Team. The purpose of the awards are to recognize producers and ginners of high-quality cotton fiber and to identify their general man-

agement practices for the benefit of other growers. The producers and their gins received a plaque and the winning producers received a \$500 cash award. The UGA County Extension Agent for each winner was also recognized as they work closely with the farmers during the growing season. The awards are given in each of these three cotton acreage categories: 1) less than 500 acres, 2) 500 to 1,000 acres, and 3) greater than 1,000 acres within the four regions of the state. Winners in these categories are determined by the

loan value and premiums of their cotton. The winners' excellent achievements are due largely to their management practices and expertise. The sponsors of this program congratulate all of the following winners:

Region 1: Less than 500 acres – Robert Rawlins of Turner County, Sconyers Gin and Warehouse with agent Will Gay. 500 to 1,000 acres – Lee Mays of Wilcox County, Sconyers Gin and Warehouse, with agent Andrew Sawyer. Greater than 1,000 acres – Donnie Keene of Wilcox County, Sconyers Gin

and Warehouse, will agent Andrew Sawyer.

Region 2: Less than 500 acres – Van Hiebert of Jefferson County, Midville Warehouse, with agent Pam Sapp. 500 to 1,000 acres – Buckhead Creek Farms of Jenkins County, Midville Warehouse, with agent Jason Mallard. Greater than 1,000 acres – Sandeford Farms of Burke County, Midville Warehouse, with agent Peyton Sapp.

Region 3: Less than 500 acres – Charles Sumner of Tift County, Omega Gin Company, with agent Scott Carlson. 500 to 1,000 acres –

G.A. Farms of Tifton County, Omega Gin Company, with agent Scott Carlson. Greater than 1,000 acres – Ken and Brian Ponder of Tift County, Omega Gin Company, with agent Scott Carlson.

Region 4: Less than 500 acres – Walter Powell of Colquitt County, The Cotton Gin, with agent Jeremy Kichler.

Ken Hall Farms of Worth County, Omega Gin Company, with agent Blake Crabtree. 500 to 1,000 acres – Creek Bank Farms of Miller County, Clover Leaf Gin, with agent Brian Creswell.

Greater than 1,000 acres – Ken Hall Farms of Worth County, Omega Gin Company, with agent Blake Crabtree.

The final award given was the overall Best Cotton Award. This was awarded to the Georgia cotton producer with highest loan value and premium. The 2017 Best Cotton Award went to Robert Rawlins with a loan value of 54.14 cents/lb and a premium of 4.65 cents/lb.

For a full photo album of the winners, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Georgia-CottonCommission.



Members of Evans Memorial Camp building a wheelchair accessible ramp at a Harnage Rd. residence.

Heart to Heart: *Evans* serves our community

By Carol A. Moore

Three days a week members of the Evans Memorial Camp provide much needed assistance and help to a wide variety of the Lanier County and City of Lakeland residents. Here, Evans members are building a wheelchair ramp for a home on Harnage Rd. The new ramp will allow a local area resident, recently confined to a wheel chair, to move out of a rehabilitation center and into her home.

Under the direction of Rick and Stephany Wagner, who have both come from a

past of addiction, Evans Memorial Camp provides a place for men and families to come into a foundational relationship with their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The camp's call is to bring healing to the fatherless and reestablish families, by breaking the chains of addiction, and equipping them with the personal tools to build character.

The Evans Memorial Camp's curriculum is based on the solid foundation of God's Holy Word, and is by application of the heart. There are four phases

within their program that build on each other leading a man to trust God, believe and have hope, and to walk in character guided by the Holy Spirit. Because members of Evans Memorial Camp thrive on demonstration, not presentation, they actively give back to our community through service work and help to make Lakeland and Lanier County a better place in which to live.

More information can be found on-line at <http://www.evansmemorial-camp.org/>.

State route right of way maintenance underway for safety and function

Anyone living in Southwest Georgia last January likely remembers the tornadoes and straight line winds that left behind piles of debris, much of it on roadways.

"State Route 91, where the big oak trees were, it took a full day to get the road open. We only had one lane open down there for probably 18 hours. There were sections of SR 520 Business closed because power lines were down, mainly because trees fell on them. It was closed for at least three days," said Jerry Wayne Smith, Georgia Department of Transportation assistant maintenance engineer for the Albany area.

Emergency responders need clear roads after extreme weather events. It's one of the reasons Georgia DOT's Southwest District is contracting for the removal of trees and vegetation on the state route right of way. The maintenance is also being done for the public's safety. Colliding with a tree was the third most frequently reported fixed object crash in 2017. Vehicle vs. tree collisions resulted in 161 fatalities, 939 serious injuries and 1,325 visible injuries last year.

Trees and vegetation are being removed in order to reclaim state route right of way, clear drainage structures and remove hazards to the public. Some trees may be pruned. No digging up of vegetation is permitted and stumps will be ground level with the surface. Removal will be done by hand inside wetlands. Land disturbing equipment is not allowed in those areas.

The Southwest District has awarded two maintenance service contracts for

vegetation removal and has submitted four others for bid.

DeAngelo Brothers LLC is in the process of working on the right of way of SR 31 in Lowndes County from north of SR 7/Inner Perimeter Road to the Lanier County line. Work is expected to be complete March 1.

Lovin Contracting Co. Inc. was awarded a contract for vegetation removal on SR 122 in Lanier County from the Lowndes County line to west of Peachtree Street in Lakeland. Work must begin by Feb. 22.

Other vegetation removal contracts submitted for bid are for portions of SR 45 and SR 50 in Terrell County, SR 39 in Quitman County, SR 202 in Colquitt County and SR 202 in Thomas County. A contract for a portion of SR 31 in Lanier

County is expected to be submitted for bid soon.

GDOT representatives are meeting with local government officials before work begins in their areas.

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Sealed Bid Sale

4 Properties located in Berrien County, GA
375.8 (+-) Acres
Timberland & Cultivated Land

**Sale on Saturday
March 10th @10:30 a.m.**

For more info contact:
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