

IN MEMORY OF
P.K. HODGES

STAA

SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA



25 Years & Growing Strong

25 years of serving & promoting
the interests of the seed Industry
of the state of Arizona

SANTA MARIA SEEDS

A company spotlight

WATER

Wet winter = cautious optimism

SCHOLARSHIPS

Three success stories



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A special thanks to all the men and women who have served to make STAA an outstanding organization

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- 1994 Duane Palmer
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- 2003 Kevin Ford
- 2004 John Hodges
- 2005 Tom Thompson
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- 2007 Duane Palmer
- 2007 Larry Taylor
- 2008 Allan B. Simons
- 2010 Rod Hallman
- 2013 Carrel Loveless
- 2015 Kelly Keithly
- 2016 Ernie Millner
- 2017 Michael Edgar

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNIFER BLACKWELL

Welcome to the fifth annual publication of the Seed Trade Association of Arizona. This edition takes a look at the organization as it prepares for its annual convention that also will serve as a celebration of its 25th anniversary. In addition, attention turns once again to water, an ongoing issue of concern for the Desert Southwest in the face of increasing demands for a shrinking critical resource. Finally, this edition spotlights the achievements of three recipients of scholarships provided annually by STAA to help young people on their way to careers in agriculture.

The Seed Trade Association of Arizona has served the seed industry of the state since 1992. “It’s a good way to network with other seed companies,” said Justin Lewis, 2016-17 president. “We go over new varieties and new products for the industry. We talk about the issues facing agriculture ... find out what is going on in the industry.”

That mission will be continued at this year’s convention, to be held May 4-5 at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort and Spa with the theme, “25 Years and Growing Strong.” Speakers will provide updates on the agriculture industry, legislative issues impacting the industry and the importance of agriculture and education in Arizona. Lance Jungmeyer of the Fresh Produce Council of the Americas has been asked to share information regarding cross-border relations, especially in light of President Donald Trump’s threats against the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) adopted a quarter century ago to facilitate trade between the United States, Mexico and Canada.

“As this is our 25th anniversary, we hope to make this a truly memorable occasion,” Lewis said. “But then again, with our group of colleagues, every year is memorable.”

A Yuma native, Lewis is the first in his family to go into agriculture. That career got off to a start when he got a job with Carr Seed, first in the warehouse, then in product development and evolved to seed sales. Biology wasn’t his favorite subject in school, he acknowledged, but he found he enjoyed the seed work. “It’s always something new ... every day it’s different. I like to work outside. And I like to help farmers with their crops.”

Two years ago, he took a sales position with Santa Maria Seeds when the company opened an office in Yuma to handle vegetable seed sales throughout Yuma County and Imperial Valley.

When not busy with work and STAA, Lewis likes to hunt and fish and take his family camping.





Our Keynote Speaker

Mark Killian

Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture

Mark Killian has been involved in Arizona State government since 1983. District 30 voters first elected him to the Arizona House of Representatives at the young age of 27. He quickly went to work and represented his district very well as the Vice Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. A few years later he became the Chairman of the Public Institutions committee and two years later he earned Chairman of the Ways and Means committee. After his work on those committees, Representatives elected him Republican Majority Leader. In 1992 Mr. Killian earned their support and became Speaker of the House; he served in that capacity for two terms. While in his leadership positions, he was awarded the Republican Legislator of the year award and recognized as the Public Official of the year by Governing Magazine. After 14 years in the Arizona House of Representatives, Governor Fife Symington appointed him to serve as the Director of the Arizona Department of Revenue where he served as its director for almost 6 years.

In April 2015 Governor Doug Ducey appointed Mr. Killian the director of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Killian was the prime sponsor of the legislation that created the Arizona Department of Agriculture in the early 1990s while serving in the Arizona Legislature.

Mr. Killian comes from a family that has been involved in Agriculture in Arizona for more than 100 years. His family farming and ranching operations spanned Colorado, New Mexico, Kentucky and California. Currently the Killian family is farming 1500 acres in Pinal County, Arizona and ranching in Graham and Cochise counties in Arizona. The ranching operation runs cattle on 160,000 acres of land with a cow herd of 500. Mr. Killian also owns and operates a registered Angus cattle herd that produces bulls for the family ranching operation and markets to local ranchers in Arizona.

He not only works in agriculture, but he and his brother own and operate a commercial real estate brokerage; Mr. Killian has been a licensed real estate broker in Arizona for almost 35 years specializing in the management of shopping centers and the development of small suburban office buildings.

Mr. Killian is also the chairman of the Green Reservoir Flood Control District and the Chairman of the Lower Santa Cruz River Alliance.

He is been married to his wife Nancy (Nancy comes from a long time farming family in Arizona) for over 39 years and they have six children and 11 grandchildren.



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25th Annual Convention

JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa | Tucson, Arizona

Thursday, May 4

11:00 am Registration Opens

1:15 pm Opening General Session

President's Remarks

USA/Mexico Ag Trade Update

Lance Jungmeyer, *President*
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas, Nogales, AZ

Arizona Department of Agriculture Current Affairs

G. John Caravetta, *Associate Director*
Arizona Dept. of Agriculture, Phoenix

Update on Current Legislative Issues Affecting AZ Agriculture

Joe Sigg, *Director of Gov. Affairs, Arizona Farm Bureau, Higley*

UofA - Update on Current Academic Programs

Shane Burgess, *Dean - College of Ag & Life Sciences*

Committee Meetings

Board of Directors Meeting - Officer Elections

6:00 pm Hosted Cocktail Reception with Hors D'oeuvres

7:00 pm Dinner & STAA Walk Down Memory Lane

8:00 pm Live Band! Dancing to Yuma's own – "Downtime"

Friday, May 5

7:00 am Breakfast Buffet

8:00 am Keynote Speaker

Mark Killian, *Director, Arizona Dep. of Agriculture*

STAA Business Meeting

President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Southern Seed Association Report and Plaque Presentations

Tom Bodderij

American Seed Trade Association Report

Pat Miller

University of Arizona CALS Students - Recipients of SSA & ASTA Scholarships

Outgoing President's Remarks

Incoming President's Remarks

Convention Adjourns

Lunch on Your Own

12:00 PM Shot Gun Start - Al Simons' 7th Annual Scramble Golf Tournament

at Starr Pass Golf Club

Immediately following golf (4:30pm) – Hosted Bar/ Munchies & Golf Awards Starr Pass Golf Club - for golfers and guests

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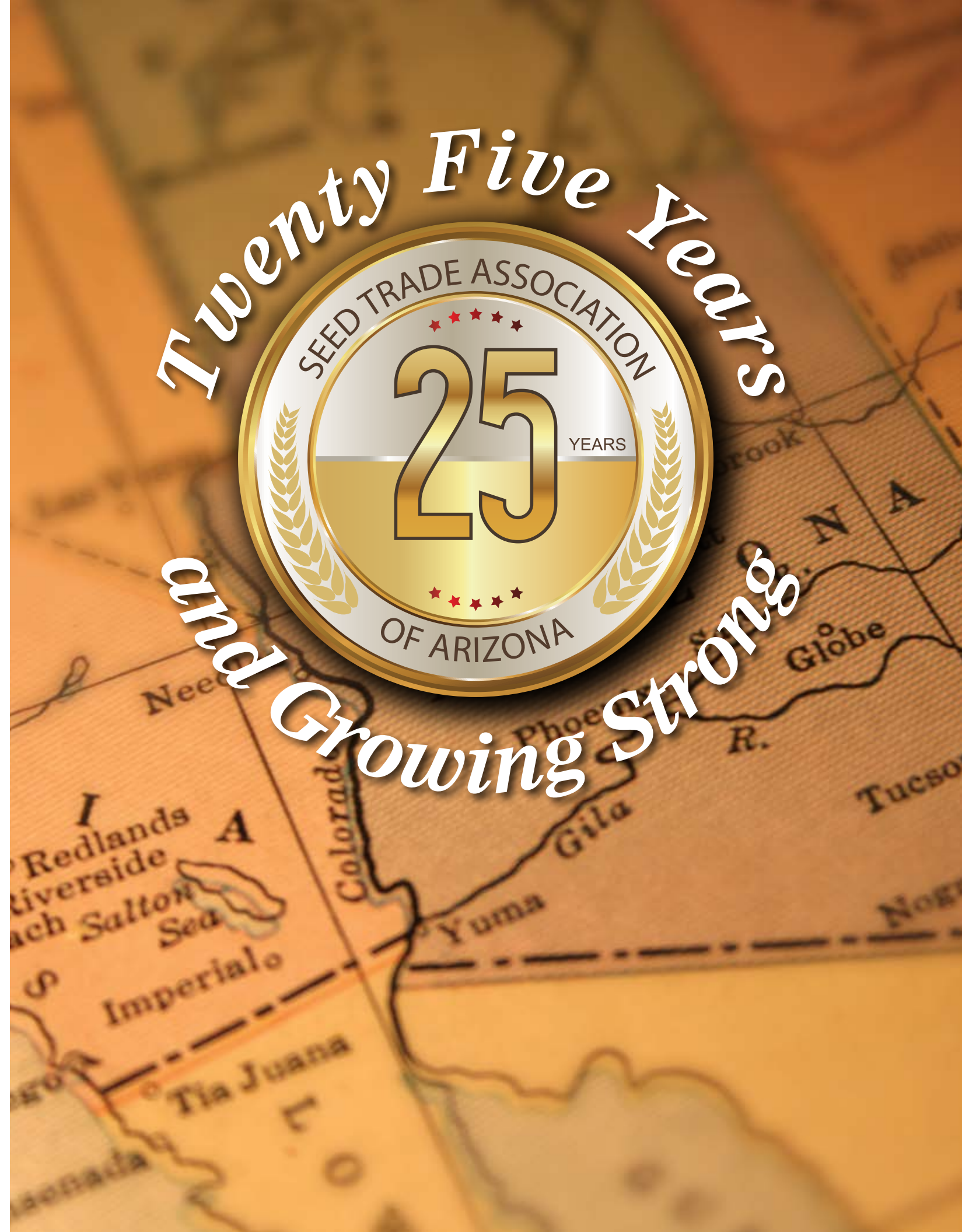
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*Twenty Five Years
and Growing Strong*





“The value of membership is being there when we need it. You never know what might come up. When it’s needed, we can react quickly.”

BY JOYCE LOBECK

Having an organization like Seed Trade Association of Arizona has been likened to possessing an umbrella. “You don’t usually need it, but when it rains you’re really glad to have one,” said Michael Edgar, president of Barkley Seed and a founding member and past president of STAA.

The same can be said of such an organization as STAA. “The value of membership,” Edgar said, “is being there when we need it. You never know what might come up. When it’s needed, we can react quickly.”

That wasn’t the case a number of years ago when a major issue hit the seed industry. Whether seed sales to producers were subject to sales tax was “a gray area,” recalled Patrick Hodges Jr., whose father was a founder of H&H Seed. Some seed companies were charging the sales tax but others weren’t. This led to questions by farmers and raised a “red flag at the state level. It caused an unlevel playing field for the companies and it needed to be cleared up.”



So seed companies under the leadership of Duane Palmer of Yuma and others formed a group in 1992 and hired a lobbyist on their behalf. “We got clarification,” Hodges said. “And no retro payments were required” by companies that hadn’t been charging the tax.

On the first try, the legislation requiring the tax was repealed, according to historic accounts. When the measure came up a second time, the lobbyist was able to help pass legislation on behalf of STAA that stated that seed companies didn’t have to charge sales tax: Arizona Revised Statutes 42-1310.01.A.35 “provides an exemption from the transaction privilege tax under the retail classification for the gross proceeds of sales or gross income from sales of seeds, seedlings, roots, bulbs, cuttings and other propagative material to persons who use those items to commercially produce agricultural, horticultural, viticultural or floricultural crops in this state.”

Palmer of D. Palmer Seed Co. served as the first president for STAA and the initial convention was held in Yuma.

A newspaper article reported on that initial meeting, stating that 23 certificates were presented honoring companies for their charter membership and financial support. In addition to Palmer and Hodges, board members elected included Louis Didier, Select Seed of Arizona; Doug Anderson of Barkley Seed Co.; Larry Taylor of Taylor Seed Inc.; Gary Tollett of Delta and Pine Land Co.; Kelly Keithly of Keithly-Williams Seed Co.; Mike Kelly of Farmers Marketing Corp., and Gene Kempton of Fertizona Inc.

Hodges went on to serve as the second president of STAA and he still attends the past presidents luncheon when his schedule permits. A few years later his brother, John, also served as president.

The now 25-year-old STAA hasn’t had a repeat of such a major crisis since but the organization continues to remain strong and vibrant, said Allan Simons, longtime executive director of the Arizona Crop Improvement Association who provided administrative services and acted as the treasurer for STAA until his retirement nine years ago. His successor continues to provide those services. But Simons does intend to take part in the annual STAA golf tournament held as part of the convention – after all, it is named for him.

“It’s a combination of the people in Yuma and Imperial County who have kept it going,” he said of STAA. “It’s been impressive to my view.” And, he added, “they have a great time.”

Edgar noted that it’s worthwhile to be able to network with other people in the industry and compare notes. In addition, the annual convention brings members together to hear about trends and issues in the agriculture industry and how they may impact their business.

“It’s vital to the industry to keep an eye on things,” Hodges said. “The seed industry needs to be vigilant ... keep an eye on issues that might impact them.”

STAA is modeled after other, older seed trade associations such

“It’s vital to the industry to keep an eye on things,”

as the American Seed Trade Association and the California Seed Association, Hodges said. And “we intertwine with them and support each other on issues like pesticide regulation. We need the right tools to produce seed.”

STAA also has a focus on education, providing thousands of dollars each year in scholarships for qualifying students who are enrolled in the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

“I think it’s cool that we provide scholarships,” said Justin Lewis, STAA 2016-17 president. “I think it’s very important as an organization that we provide thousands of dollars for scholarships for agriculture students.” ■



In memory of **P.K. Hodges**

This issue of the Seed Trade Association of Arizona’s annual publication is dedicated to the memory of Patrick Killeen “P.K.” Hodges, longtime seedman and respected member of the Yuma community who died March 22 at the age of 90.

Hodges descended from a Yuma County pioneer family, the grandson of one its first sheriffs in the 1880s. Over the years, various family members were influential in the community and Arizona Territory, raising cattle, establishing businesses and serving in government.

Hodges carried on that tradition. He went to work for Northrup King Seed in 1950, rising in the ranks to branch manager, then district manager. He also went on to open Northrup King’s very successful seed operation in Mexico.

In 1979, with the encouragement of farmers and friends, Hodges and Phil Hornung founded H&H Seed, which became noted for its Bermuda grass seed program. The business remained in the family, with Hodges’ sons Pat and John involved, until it was sold in 2003 to Barkley Seed. Today, Pat is in the real estate business but John is still in the seed business with Castle Dome Seed. Grandsons Blake and Eli Hodges are actively involved in the seed industry and work at Pinnacle Seed. Blake, who is featured in this year’s success story, is employed full time while Eli is an intern with the company.

Hodges was active in the STAA organization and was named the organization’s first Honorary Member. His sons Pat Jr. and John served the STAA as President.

Hodges’ impact on the community reached far beyond the business world. He served on the governing board of Yuma Union High School during the time Kofa High School was built and was involved in several other organizations. He was a charter member of Hospice of Yuma and established the Southwest Ag Golf Tournament 30 years ago to benefit the organization. The event, held this year just days after Hodges’ death, was renamed the PK Hodges Hospice Golf Tournament a few years ago in his honor.

Hodges was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Billie Jeanne Hodges, and one daughter. He is survived by six daughters, his two sons, 26 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren (two more are on the way).



Santa Maria Seeds

BY JOYCE LOBECK

Santa Maria Seeds has deep roots in agriculture, going back to the late 1800s when the Silva family began farming in Arroyo Grande, Calif., after emigrating from Portugal. The family raised cattle, had a walnut orchard and farmed vegetable crops.

From those humble beginnings, succeeding generations went on to establish Santa Maria Seeds in 1978 and grow it into a leader in the nation's vegetable seed industry, providing growers with hybrid seed developed by plant breeders around the world, then tested to meet their individual farming needs and growing conditions.

Manny Silva III, who today runs the seed business with his sister, Kelly Silva-Petri, traced the company's history. Two years after his father, Manny Silva Jr., graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, the family sold the farm and Silva Jr. went on to manage the dry fertilizer department at Valley Farm Supply in Santa Maria, Calif. After a couple years in this position, he was asked to also run the company's seed division.

Valley Farm Supply owner Doug Martin sold the business to Western Farm Service in 1977. He then approached Silva Jr. and they started Santa Maria Seeds in 1978. Silva Jr. bought out his partner in 1987 to gain sole ownership of SMS. He has since retired and turned the company over to his two children, who both graduated on the same day in 1999 from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with degrees in agriculture business.

"We make a good team ... a great dynamic," said Silva III. He focuses on outside sales and product development while his sister is in charge of the back office.

They've been able to continue and grow a great company their father created and conduct business the way their father taught them, with hard work and integrity at the forefront of everything they do, Silva III said.

In the early days, the company sold primarily open pollinated varieties for a handful of seed suppliers. As the industry moved toward hybrids, SMS began to work with numerous breeder producers, many based in Europe and Asia. Today many of these companies are the largest providers of hybrid vegetable seed worldwide and remain key partners for SMS, Silva III said.

As the number of varieties being sold continued to grow, the company saw a need to test the varieties' performance and created a fulltime product development position in 1996. The company now has six people focusing on product development to test and advance new varieties. "We don't do breeding," Silva III said. "We help test new genetics from companies around the world, then sell them. We're trying to give growers the tools they need."

For example, he said, the company is working on varieties to make mechanical harvesting easier in light of labor shortages. They also are looking for solutions to such challenges as mildew and disease resistance, desired cultural traits and higher yields.

"We sit down with growers and discuss what they want and their planting schedules," he said. "When they tell us what

they're looking for, we talk to suppliers about what they have and plant trials in (the growers) fields." Last year SMS did over 6,000 variety evaluations in all areas.

With development of its proprietary web-based software, the company is able to provide real time evaluations that benefit both customers and suppliers and enable them to make growing and production decisions when needed.

SMS now has offices in Santa Maria, King City and Salinas in California and since 2006 in Yuma, Ariz. This has allowed the company to work with growers and shippers year-round to help ensure they are growing the best varieties wherever they're conducting their business.

Today the company has seven sales and product development personnel in Arizona and completed construction of a new facility in August of 2015.

The company has a strong commitment to the communities where it is located, supporting charities, sponsoring fundraisers and buying animals at fair auctions, Silva III said. It also hires interns each year to expose them to the seed industry and give them work experience they can put on their resumes. He is incoming president of the California Seed Trade Association and Justin Lewis, Yuma-based salesman for the company, currently is president of the Seed Trade Association of Arizona. ■



Loaned Photo



Above: Manny Silva III and his father in their Santa Maria Seeds Ball caps. Green and red leaf lettuce grown by Tanimura and Antle in the Gila Valley, Yuma AZ

Opposite page: Manny Silva III and Kelly Silva-Petri

Below: Left to right: Tyler Mead, Britton Catron, Steve Coburn, Chad Hefner, and Justin Lewis



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JENNIFER BLACKWELL

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Welcome Reprieve

BY JOYCE LOBECK

It's been an exceptionally snowy winter in the northern Rocky Mountains, the watershed for the Colorado River that provides water for 40 million people and an estimated 1.8 million acres of farmland across the Southwest.

"We have snow," said Chuck Cullom, Central Arizona Project Colorado River programs manager. "Life is good."

The wet winter came as a welcome reprieve after a drought that began in 2000, putting off at least for a time a dreaded shortage declaration for the Colorado River. But some sound a note of caution that one wet winter does not resolve issues of a shrinking resource in an area with increasing demands for it.

As of April 3, the snowpack for the Colorado River's Upper Basin in the Rockies was 124 percent of average and this year's runoff is anticipated to exceed 27 percent of normal. In addition, drought conditions in California have declined substantially this winter due to heavy rainfall and snowpack 164 percent above average in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, lessening that state's dependence on the Colorado River at least for now.

"It's been a good water year," observed Tom Davis, executive director of Yuma County Water Users. "It will push back the risk of a shortage declaration, probably by a couple of years to 2019 at the very earliest. And that's a 50 percent chance or less." Only a few months ago, before the snow started falling in earnest, there was concern

the Colorado River was at risk of mandated reductions possibly as soon as 2018.

Arizona is entitled to 2.8 million acre-feet of Colorado River water a year, of which 1.4 million acre-feet plus any unused portion of the state's supply goes to CAP, with any excess stored underground.

If a shortage is declared, it would be Arizona – in particular CAP, a major source

"We have snow...life is good"

of water for Central Arizona – that would take the first and biggest cut due to an agreement with California that paved the way for construction of the CAP project. If Lake Mead falls below 1,075 feet, the trigger level for declaring a shortage, CAP could lose 20 percent of its share of the river water, Cullom said.

That would have serious repercussions for the entire state, he said. "We can fight about it or we can work collaboratively. Long term we need to strategize and

augment the system to reduce the demand on the river."

That new spirit of cooperation is resulting in a variety of conservation projects and other innovative programs, he said. "We've been investing significant money to keep Mead above 1,075 feet. All water users need to help protect Mead and Powell." Davis noted Arizona in particular "has done well to get an early start on what

could be a major problem" by programs to conserve water through reuse, recycling, greater efficiencies and water banking. For example, agriculture in Yuma County has reduced its water use by 18 percent over the last 20 years, according to a study by the Yuma County Agriculture Water Coalition. Perhaps households are getting more efficient, he added, "but there are more households."

As of early April, Lake Powell was 47 percent full, some 50 feet below its high

mark as shown by its white "bathtub" ring. The sprawling reservoir can fill quickly, though, when the snowpack in the mountains begins to melt, up to a foot a day. Meanwhile, Lake Mead as of early April was 41 percent of full. But with this year's anticipated snowmelt, Mead could receive 9 million acre-feet of water this year, raising its level by 20 feet or more.

"Who would have thought we would have a winter like this one?" Davis said, likening it to the massive flooding that occurred across the West in 1862 when atmospheric rivers formed in the Pacific Ocean. "These kinds of years are still possible. It's not all doom and gloom. The good years can still happen."

However, Cullom and others remain concerned about the sustainability of the river's system and its long-term ability to meet water needs of the states that rely on it.

That's because there's a "structural deficit" that causes Lake Mead's elevation to drop about 12 feet every year, drought or no drought, Cullom explained.

That's because the normal releases from Lake Powell into Lake Mead do not account for treaty-mandated water deliveries to Mexico nor the approximately 600,000 acre-feet of water lost each year to evaporation, a loss that would be made worse by warming temperatures.

Whatever the future may hold for the Colorado River, Davis concluded: "The Colorado River entitlement or diversion for each state was established decades ago. As demands increase within each state, the states can't expect to increase their entitlements. They will have to limit growth or consider recycle and reuse, or other ground water sources." ■



Yuma County has reduced its water use by 18 percent over the last 20 years.

Lake Powell's "bathtub ring" shows the effect of the drought since 2000.



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Providing Scholarships

Providing agriculture with a future

The Seed Trade Association of Arizona offers scholarships annually to qualifying students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona and other institutions in the state.

Matching contributions from the Southern Seed Association and the American Seed Trade Association augment the scholarships.

The award criteria established by STAA are:

- Arizona residency and graduate of an Arizona high school
- Upper division student status - junior or senior
- Majoring in plant sciences, crop production or ag-tech management

Here are three recent graduates who benefited from the STAA scholarship program.

Ralph Evans Jr.

A Yuma native, Ralph Evans Jr. always had a fascination for agriculture while growing up despite not being brought up in the business. "I always wondered what they were doing and how they got to their end result. The whole concept of farming and agriculture was fascinating to me."

He attended Arizona Western College and graduated with an associate's degree in agriculture science. Ralph continued his education at UA-Yuma and earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture technology and management in May 2014.

"I met my current employer, Dow AgroSciences, when I was a student volunteer at the Southwest Ag Summit. That connection helped me get an internship and a job waiting for me post-graduation."

He started working for Dow AgroSciences the Monday after graduating. He has a pest control advisor license in both California and Arizona and currently is the sales representative for both Crop Protection and PhytoGen Cottonseed for Yuma County, Imperial County and Coachella.

A number of scholarships helped him get through college. "I'm extremely grateful for all the scholarships I got. I wouldn't be where I am today without the help I got from others."

Active on numerous committees, he's treasurer of the California Association of Pest Control Advisors, volunteers at Yuma Catholic High School in the soccer program and is married and has a beautiful baby girl.



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Elene Stefanakos

Elene Stefanakos graduated from the University of Arizona in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in sustainable plant systems. She graduated debt free with the help of 14 scholarships and is featured as a Winning Wildcat on Scholarship Universe. She also won the UA Outstanding Senior Award for 2016.

She said when she first started school she hadn't known about applying for scholarships but a friend helped her apply and was shocked and delighted when she was accepted. In all, she received \$50,000 in scholarships.

Initially she was going to become a pharmacist but was encouraged to take some agriculture classes by Tanya Hodges, UA regional academic programs coordinator in Yuma, because they covered a lot of the same science. "I got interested," she said, and today is pursuing her interest in disease research as manager at Yuma County Citrus Pest Control District. She also is the coordinator for Yuma's first Citrus Health Management Area and is in training to become manager of the Yuma County Pest Abatement District.

The scholarships "made a huge difference for me. I was able to go after the job not for the pay but what interested me. I didn't have to pay a big college debt so I got the job that was the best fit for me."

Aside from her outstanding accomplishments, Elene's biggest personal achievement is her family: her husband and two beautiful daughters.

Blake Hodges

Blake Hodges grew up in Yuma, and is the third generation in his family to work in the local agriculture industry. He grew up working on the farm of his grandfather's business, H&H Seed Company.

The first three years of college, he attended the University of Arizona on the Tucson campus where he was studying agriculture. The last year he returned to Yuma to finish school at UA-Yuma while working as a research and development intern for Pinnacle Seed, the first hire of a brand new company launched in 2014 by veteran seedman Mike Vanoli. When he got the call, it seemed like destiny, Hodges said. "Seed business ran in the family. My grandfather owned a seed business, my dad owned a seed business. It was the only thing I knew."

He worked all day from the crack of dawn, went to school at night, then did homework. The scholarship he received provided "some breathing room" but it was also nice to know "people were involved in helping a local kid pursue his dream. It let me know there's support out there."

After earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural systems management from the UA, Hodges was hired fulltime by Pinnacle Seed as its desert sales representative. Hodges spends each morning looking at trials in the fields and checking product quality before sales calls. "It's not just getting units out the door," he said. ■



Michael Edgar

2017 Seed Trade Association of Arizona Honorary Member

Michael Edgar grew up in El Centro where his family had a farming and feedlot operation but decided at an early age he needed to seek his fortune outside the family business.

In 1979, he took an outside sales position with Southwest Marketing, a seed and grain business in Imperial, Calif. Four years later he became President of the company, a position he held until 1987. Then he went into business for himself for a year, trading commodities.

About then, he learned that Robby Barkley had bought back the seed business he had been forced to sell after his father's unexpected death. In August 1988, Edgar went to work for Barkley Seed in sales and worked his way up to general manager. He was named President in 2014.

During those years, Barkley Seed has grown to multiple facilities in Arizona and California and has provided high quality, identity-preserved grains for premium

markets domestically and internationally, including Desert Durum wheat prized by pasta makers.

"The last few years it's fair to say Barkley Seed has handled or produced more certified cereal grain seed than any other company in the U.S.," said Edgar.

In addition to his duties with Barkley Seed, Edgar also has played an active part in various industry affiliations. He has served on the boards of the California Grain and Feed Association, California Wheat Commission and Arizona Grain Research and Promotion Council. He is a founding member and past President of the Seed Trade Association of Arizona and served as President of the U.S. Wheat Associates in 2008-09.

Asked what he likes about his job, he responded that "every day is a new day. No two are alike." The second reason, he said, "is the people I get to work with. The ag community ... they're just good people."

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