

Stripling Irrigation Research Park

November 2018



Spraying peanuts under Newton Lateral.

View more of Stripling's photos at...
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ugasirp>

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From the Superintendent

Due to preparation for and after-effects of Hurricane Michael early last month, we did not send out our October newsletter highlighting the activities at the Park in September. So we're catching up this month by including a September section as well as an October section.

September

If June, July and August were wet months (26.75 inches of rain), September was definitely a DRY month with only 0.75 inches of rain over 7 "rainy" days. The historical average rainfall for SIRP is 3.92 inches for September. The high temps ranged from 95.5F to 87F and the lows ranged from 74.5F to 67.6F, according to our UGA Weather Network weather station. This combination of hot and dry conditions made for favorable harvest conditions for peanuts and early cotton. Speaking of harvest, Dr. Vellidis' corn study had an average yield of 229 bu/ac (ranged from 276-199 bu/ac – all irrigated). It was managed for a 300 bu/ac yield goal. My corn study had an average yield of 176 bu/ac, including rain-fed plots (ranged from 227 to 114 bu/ac). It was managed for 225 bu/ac.

The SIRP staff stayed busy with a number of field activities. We sprayed and chemigated Dr. Kemerait's cotton fungicide study, applied fungicide on peanut studies for Drs. Harris, Porter and Vellidis, inverted then harvested first of 3 plantings of peanuts for Dr. Kemerait's grad student, Clarence Codod, and inverted peanuts for Dr. Porter. We had to do the usual servicing and tweaking/repairing of our peanut equipment ahead of inverting and harvesting. BJ continued irrigation in peanut and soybean studies.

As I noted last month, Stripling Park is being recognized by the Georgia Water Coalition in their 2018 Clean 13 Report. Back in September the GWC had an online/virtual press conference to release the names of the entities being recognized to the press community. It was an interesting event and I learned that the other recipients are a terrific, involved group. We are very pleased to be included.

The visitors to the Park represented quite a variety of guests. We enjoyed hosting the SW District 4-H Forestry Field Day and contest. Craven Hudson did a great job coordinating this event and it included 4-H'ers from three counties (Crisp, Decatur, and Randolph). It was impressive watching these students in action. We hosted two teachers and 35 middle school students from Lee County Middle School Ag/STEM program for a tour of irrigation practices and crop production. We hosted my colleague Dr. Brenda Ortiz from Auburn along with 3 of her students and Ashley Henderson of the Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee – for a crash course on ag irrigation and current technology. We also provided our conference room for regional Syngenta reps to host a customer lunch.

Our BIG event was the President's Farm Tour in late September. Dean Pardue, Commissioner Gary Black, and State Rep's. McCall and England accompanied UGA President Jere Morehead and Toby Carr, Assoc Vice President for Government Relations, for the President's annual tour of agriculture across the state. This year the tour included a brief 45 minute stop at the Park and I invited Drs. George Vellidis and Wes Porter along with extension agents Brian Hayes and Cale Cloud to join me in our presentations that afternoon.

With all of this month's visitors, including the ones mentioned above, the total number of visitors/guests reached 832 for the year.



Calvin Perry

From the Superintendent

October

Two words will define October 2018 – Hurricane Michael. All of us involved in Georgia agriculture will remember this past month for years to come. I'll have more on the hurricane later in the newsletter.

After a dry September, October brought a bit more rain to SIRP as we received 6.63 inches over 5 “rainy” days. Historically, the Park has received 2.23 inches of rain. Late in October we finally had a drop in temps with highs from 93.7F to 68.3F and lows ranging from 74F to 44.5F!

Before and after the storm, we were busy irrigating soybean plots, applying defoliant to cotton, harvesting cotton, pulling cotton stalks, fluffing inverted peanuts and then harvesting them, harvesting soybeans and mowing in between planted pine tree rows. We obviously spent quite a bit of time preparing for the hurricane and then assessing damage and cleaning up from the storm.

We hosted several visitors at the Park last month. Casey Cox with the Flint River Soil & Water Conservation District is producing a video to highlight ag water conservation in SW Georgia. She asked Dr. George Vellidis and myself to be on camera addressing various aspects of our work on ag irrigation efficiency and irrigation scheduling. The video crew was at SIRP for this session the day before the hurricane hit. Very interesting and professional video team.

We were pleased to host Lynn Torak, Jamie Painter and Brian Hughes from USGS South Atlantic Water Science Center along with their 4 visiting Brazilian water scientists from the Agência Nacional de Águas (ANA). We gave them an overview of SW Georgia irrigated agriculture as well as the water efficiency technologies and research going on at SIRP.

Richey Seaton (Ga Cotton Commission) brought 15 Congressional staffers (10 with GA congressman) to SIRP to learn about the research and extension projects related to ag water use efficiency from Drs. George Vellidis and Wes Porter, Extension water agent Cale Cloud, Extension water educator Hunter Brannon, and myself. It was a great chance to reinforce the importance of federal funding opportunities to support our activities.

Finally, Stripling Park bids farewell to our long time Sr. Ag Specialist Ivey Griner as he retired from UGA on October 1st. Ivey joined the Park shortly after SIRP was created and had over 16 years with UGA/CAES. We appreciate his service to the Park over these many years.

We are pleased to announce that BJ Washington, previously SIRP's Ag Specialist, has been selected to become our next Sr. Ag Specialist. We are in the process of filling two open Ag Specialist positions now. One position is in the process of being filled, the other is still open. You can see the position announcement at:

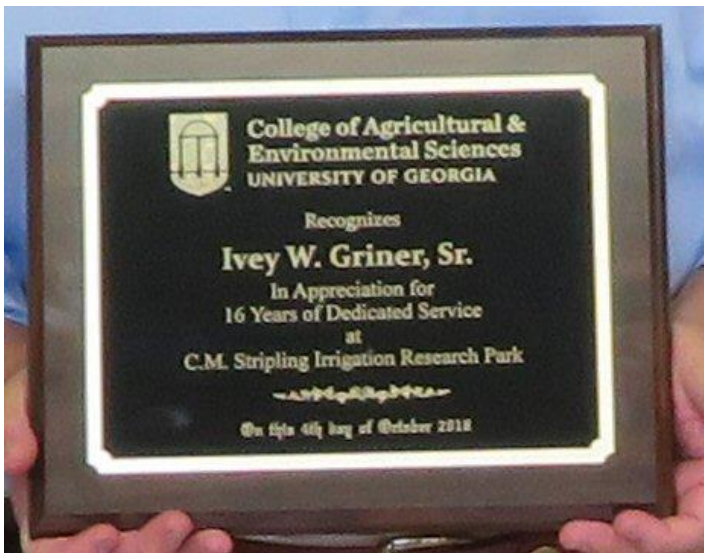
<http://www.ugajobsearch.com/postings/31983>



Calvin Perry

From the Superintendent

Ivey Griner's Retirement



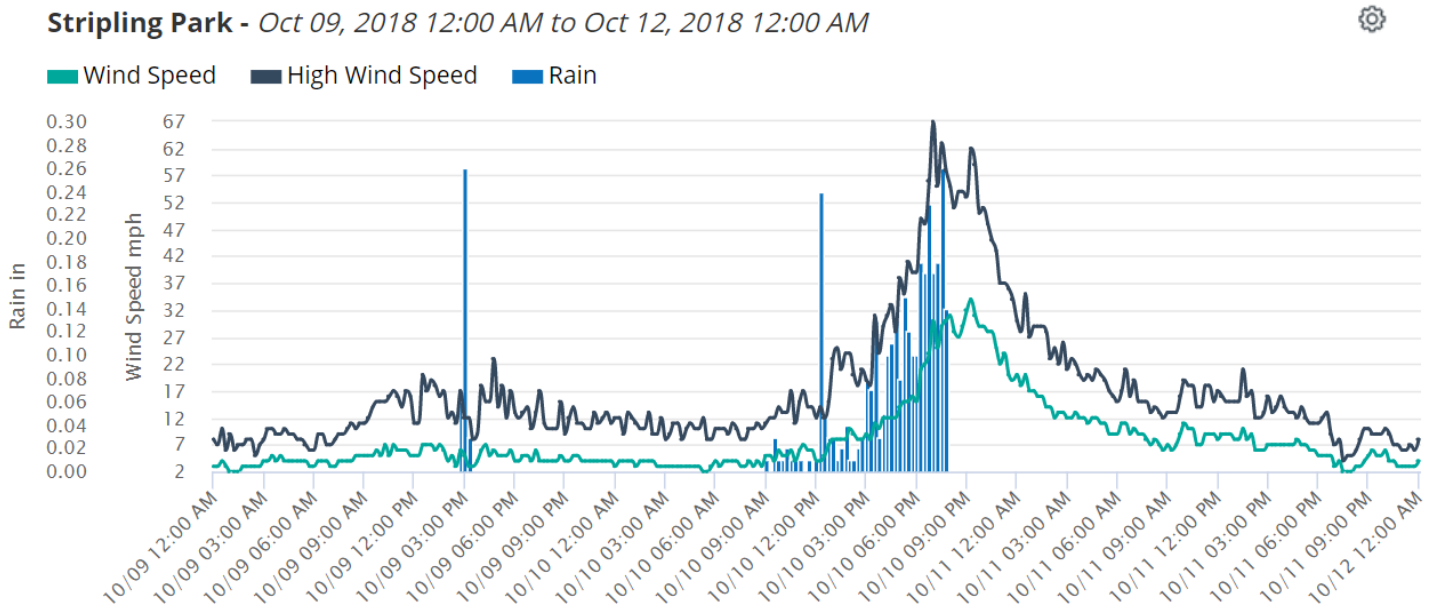
From the Superintendent

Hurricane Michael

Hurricane Michael roared into SW Georgia during the afternoon of October 10th. Stripling Park experienced a max wind gust of 73.9 MPH according to our 'official' UGA weather station. We graphed data from our 'unofficial' Davis Instruments weather station (see below) and you can see that we experienced high winds for about 6 hours that day. Fortunately, due to the forward speed of the storm, we received only 4.16 inches of rain.

Damage to the Park was fairly moderate compared to so many others in SW Georgia. Our front sign was blown over. We had two coil up doors and one large pair of sliding doors blown out leading to some insulation damage. The corner of the roof of a shed over a drip irrigation manifold was peeled back. Several sprinklers and VRI valves were broken on one of our center pivots. Numerous pine trees snapped off and many of the old oak trees along our property line either blew over entirely or major limbs broke off. Much of the cotton plots were either completely or partially stripped of bolls with some plots so damaged that Dr. Snider didn't bother harvesting them. Drs. Vellidis and Kemerait plan to harvest their plots. Soybeans were blown around but not so damaged that we can't harvest and get good data.

Like so many of our neighbors, we lost power for a week. We spent several days assessing damage and cleaning up much of the debris. The university has brought in a construction contractor to begin repairs.



From the Superintendent

Hurricane Michael



At the Park



Above: Harvesting cotton & dumping in boll buggy.
Below: Begin clean-up after storm.



At the Park



Above: Solar panel knocked over by strong hurricane winds.
Below: George Vellidis and Calvin talking to Congressional Staffers on tour at SIRP.



At the Park



Above: George Vellidis talking with FRSWCD and video crew.
Below: Mike Tucker, George Vellidis and crew checking cotton and sensors.



At the Park



Above: Stefano in the Camilla lateral cotton.
Below: Plot harvester in Vellidis' soybean plots.



At the Park



Above: Checking status of cotton before the hurricane arrives.
Below: B.J. harvesting non-data rows in peanuts.



Events

Past events

October 18	Metro North GA Water Planning District mtg.
October 24	SW GA Farm Credit Board mtg.
October 30	Ga Cotton Comm. & Legislative Staffers tour

Upcoming events

November 13	FRSWCD District meeting
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
November 26	ABAC class tour – Dr. Erin Porter
December 3 – 7	Irrigation Association Show & Conference (Long Beach, CA)
December 11	FRSWCD District meeting
January 8 – 10, 2019	Beltwide Cotton Conferences (New Orleans)
June 11 – 13, 2019	4H2O Summer Camp

In the News

[UGA weather network provides vital data to National Weather Service](#)

[5G Fixed Wireless Unlikely to Bridge Rural-Urban Digital Divide](#)

[Colorado River crisis demands focus on farm conservation programs](#)

[Precision Farming Startup Unlocks Hundreds of Terabytes of Ag Data to the Public](#)

[A Season to Remember](#)

[Cotton farmers say Hurricane Michael stole their crop of a lifetime. It could put them out of business for good.](#)

[The Hidden Tragedy Of Hurricane Michael And Georgia Agriculture - How It Affects You](#)

[Farmers regroup after Hurricane Michael](#)

[Post Michael, Georgia Pecan Farmers Take Stock](#)

[Hurricane Michael causes 'absolute devastation' to some Georgia crops](#)

[The Latest: Trump hears from Georgia farmers on Hurricane](#)

[Hurricane Michael, 'timing was horrible'](#)

[Michael Shatters Georgia's Agriculture Industry](#)

[Hurricane Michael devastates Georgia crops](#)

[Georgia, Florida ag living nightmare after Hurricane Michael](#)

[Georgia fears \\$1 billion in crop damage as farmers report devastation](#)

[Pecan Crop severely damaged by Hurricane Michael](#)

[Hurricane Michael's impact on ag 'catastrophic'](#)

[California startup turns to robots for farm labor](#)

[South Georgians to clean up Flint River, Lee Co. creeks](#)

[Turning the Tide](#)

[Georgia Tackles Broadband Expansion And Local Control](#)

[Irrigation: A game-changer for Mid-South agriculture](#)

In the News

[Early results from Delta water conservation project said positive](#)

[Ramping up irrigation tech](#)

[How to Make Fertigation Your New Precision Agriculture Tool](#)

[Business Casual: More Water Wars](#)

[Broadband Internet in Rural Areas Is Essential](#)

[Georgia Peanut Tour Showcases Southeast Production](#)

[Georgia Peanuts: New Irrigation Scheduling Recommendations Save Water, Money, Boost Yields](#)

[Dare to Drone](#)

[FARMERS APPLAUD PROGRESS ON TRADE AGREEMENTS](#)

[Hurricane Michael Devastates Georgia Cotton Crop](#)

[Georgia Peanut Commission Hurricane Michael Update: Impact on Georgia's Peanut Industry](#)

[Freeze will bring sharp end to 2018 growing season](#)

[Trade Agreement, Crop Prices Push Up Farmers' Optimism, Ag Barometer Shows](#)

[U.S. Farmers Welcome New North American Trade Pact](#)

[Similar farm bill choices, different farm economy](#)

[10 years, 10 soil takeaways](#)

[From Georgia Farm to School Cafeteria](#)

[New tool helps farmers make cover crop decisions](#)

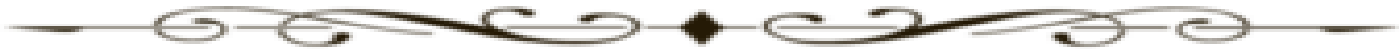
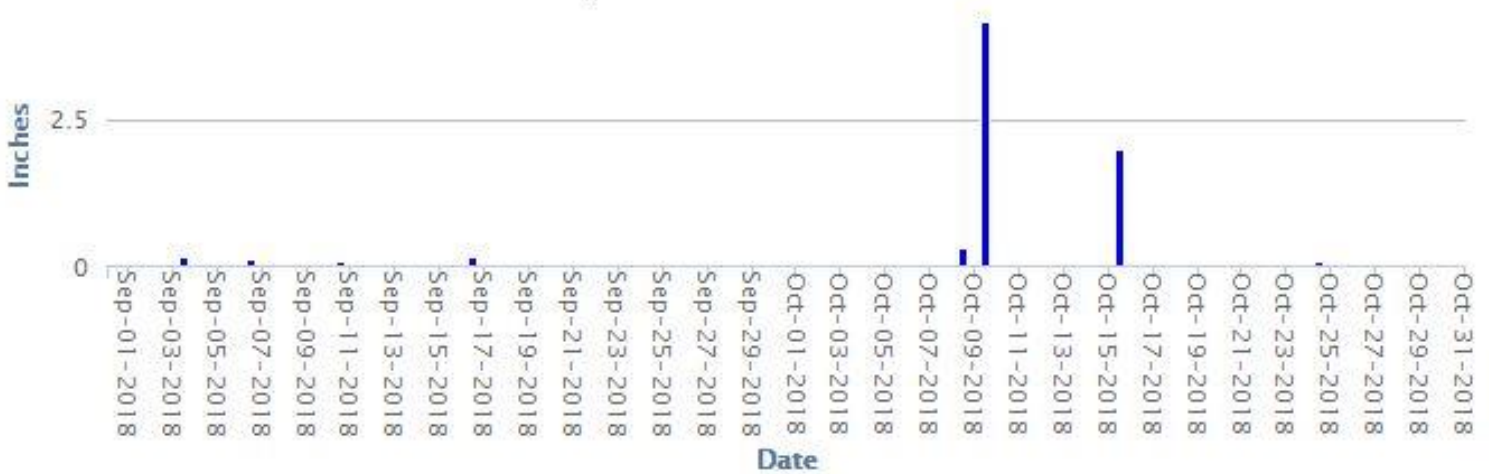
[Why is cotton not higher already?](#)

Video:

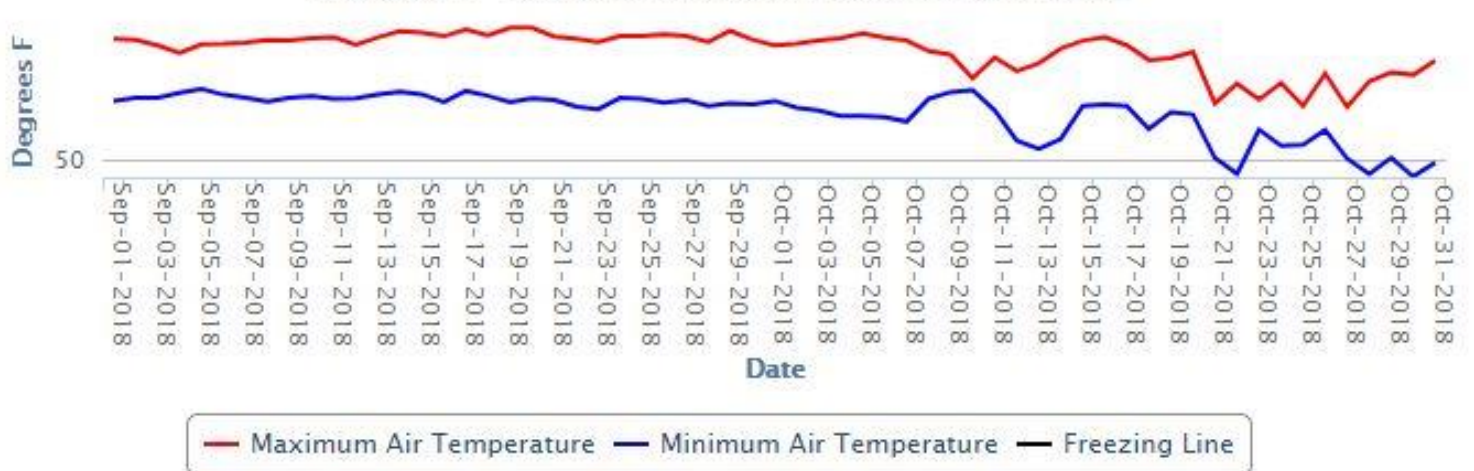
[Vice President, Southeast Farmer of Year Highlight 2018 Sunbelt Expo](#)

SIRP Weather

Daily Cumulative Rainfall



Maximum Temperature, Minimum Temperature



For September we had 0.75 inches and in October we had 6.63 inches of rainfall, compared to 9.17 in August, 8.57 inches in July, and 9.01 inches in June. We have already received 58.59 inches of rain... and we still have 2 months left to go!

To explore weather information, visit www.georgiaweather.net.

Flashback: What year was it?

- ❖ Baseball officially bans Pete Rose from being elected to Hall of Fame for betting on baseball.
- ❖ Ric Flair wins NWA/WCW wrestling title.
- ❖ Operation Desert Storm begins, with US-led coalition forces bombing Iraq, during the Gulf War.
- ❖ Roger Clemens signs record \$5,380,250 per year Red Sox contract.
- ❖ "The Silence of the Lambs" film starring Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins, is released.
- ❖ LA police are charged with beating Rodney King.
- ❖ Seven members of Reba McEntire's band are killed in a plane crash.
- ❖ US minimum wage goes from \$3.80 to \$4.25 per hour
- ❖ Johnny Carson announces he will retire next year from Tonight Show.
- ❖ Bruce McNall, Wayne Gretzky & John Candy buy CFL's Toronto Argonauts.
- ❖ 356th & final episode of CBS second longest running series "Dallas", (2nd only to "Gunsmoke")
- ❖ Apple releases Macintosh System 7.0.
- ❖ Chicago Bull Michael Jordan, named NBA's MVP.
- ❖ Donald Trump proposes to Marla Maples and gives her a 7.5 carat diamond ring.
- ❖ Jeffrey Dahmer confesses to killing 17 men in 1978.
- ❖ MTV announces it will split into 3 channels.
- ❖ Tim Berners-Lee releases files describing his idea for the World Wide Web. WWW debuts as a publicly available service on the Internet.
- ❖ JFK Jr wins his 1st battle as an attorney.
- ❖ Clarence Thomas is confirmed & sworn in as Supreme Court Justice (52-48).
- ❖ "Father of the Bride" film starring Steve Martin, Diane Keaton, and Martin Short, is released.
- ❖ Ted Turner is named Time Magazine Man of Year.
- ❖ "Carol Burnett Show" last airs on CBS-TV.
- ❖ Alex Trebek becomes first person to host three American game shows at the same time...
- ❖ (Jeopardy!, Classic Concentration, To Tell the Truth)

Pop songs: (Everything I Do) I Do It for You - Bryan Adams; Gonna Make You Sweat (Everybody Dance Now) - C+C Music Factory; Rush, Rush - Paula Abdul

Born: actors - Tyler Posey, Jamie Lynn Spears & Emma Roberts; singers - Anne-Marie, Hunter Hayes & Charlie Puth

Deaths: Redd Foxx, Jean Rogers, Michael Landon, Bert Convy, Fred McMurray, Freddie Mercury & Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel)

Minimum Wage - \$4.25 / hr.

New Car - \$9,989 avg.

New House - \$147,200 avg.

Gallon of gas - \$1.14

Loaf of bread - \$1.47

Gallon of milk - \$2.80

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UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
College of Agricultural &
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Trivia / Interesting facts:

Dr Seuss created the first animated TV ad for what car company?

Here's a sample of the commercials...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYllgSUVn5w>