

Blueberry Growers Field Day & Trade Show
Giles Farm
Wayne County, MS
October 11, 2012



The 2012 Blueberry Growers Field Day and Trade Show will be held 8:00 AM, October 11, 2012 at Giles Farm in Wayne County.

Field Day

You are encouraged to attend the 2012 Gulf South Blueberry Growers Association Blueberry Growers Field Day. This Field Day will be an excellent opportunity to see blueberry management and production techniques and learn about innovative ways to grow and produce blueberries. The Giles Farm, located at 985 Denham-Buckatunna Creek Road, Waynesboro, MS, owned by Tom and John Giles, is a well-managed, 75 acre, blueberry farm that has incorporated good management techniques and innovative ways to establish and produce blueberries. It is an excellent example of how close attention to detail has resulted in vigorous plant growth, high yields and has developed a procedure to efficiently and economically pick and pack large volumes of high quality fruit. This farm is a progression of innovations developed and added each year to improve the efficiency of the operation. You will be able to tour this highly productive farm and efficient processing facility and discuss the techniques used to manage this exceptional blueberry farm. We appreciate Tom and John Giles opening their operation to our group and showing us their keys to success.

A tentative program for the day is attached. The program is designed to highlight the innovative things that contribute to the Giles' success. We will discuss these practices in a concise program. However, we will not spend a lot of time with formal talks. There will be plenty of time for visiting with the exhibitors at the Trade Show, examining equipment and products, discussing blueberry production practices with the farm owners as well as fellow growers and touring the Farm and Processing Facility.

Trade Show

The 2012 Blueberry Growers Field Day Trade Show is shaping up to be the biggest and best we have had to date. Exhibitors from all over the United States will be on hand with equipment, supplies and products to make your blueberry operation more efficient and productive. Here is a preview of some of the Exhibitors who will be present at the Trade Show.

Blueberry Harvesting Equipment

Oxbo International (formally **Korvan Industries**)

Littau Harvesters, Inc.

BEI International Harvesting Equipment

Mckibben Manufacturing Inc.

Butch Rhoton

These five companies represent all of the major blueberry mechanical harvesters and harvesting equipment on the market. They will have their latest blueberry harvesters on display and factory representatives will be present to discuss these harvesters with you. A broad range of harvesters will be available in all price ranges. Today's harvesters have become very sophisticated and many growers are successfully harvesting blueberries for the fresh market and packing excellent quality fruit. You can discuss this with the Giles, the harvester manufacturers and other growers who are successfully mechanically harvesting for the fresh market. Labor is becoming more expensive and hard to find and Federal regulations are becoming more stringent and punitive. You cannot afford to miss this opportunity to investigate your options for getting your fruit out of the field.

Blueberry Grading Equipment

A&B Packing Equipment

WECO Sorting and Automation

Lakewood Processing Machinery

BBC Technologies LLC

Mckibben Equipment Manufacturing

An important aspect to mechanically harvesting fresh quality blueberries is having access to good quality grading equipment. These companies manufacture the finest grading equipment on the market today. Representatives will be on hand to discuss and demonstrate blueberry grading and packing equipment. It is a rare opportunity to see all of the grading equipment manufacturers in one location with their newest equipment on display. You can't afford to miss this opportunity.

Freeze Protection

Cascade Wind Machines, the Orchard-Rite Wind Machine

Representative will be on hand to discuss how wind machines can protect your crop from late spring freezes and demonstrate how they work on the Giles' Farm.

Pruning and Harvesting

Brewt Power Systems

Representative will be on hand to demonstrate pneumatic pruners and an efficient and economical harvesting system for small farms. This pruning equipment is used very efficiently on the Giles farm to maintain and invigorate their bushes. The Giles will also discuss their pruning technique with us.

Tractors and Blueberry Equipment

Chapman Tractor, Company

Bennett's Tractor Service

Southern Tractor Company

Equipment, Inc / Bobcat of Jackson

Laurel Yamaha

These equipment dealers will be on hand with tractors, equipment, sprayers and implements to help you with establishment of new plantings and maintaining your current acreage. Also on display, forklifts for the packing shed and side by sides and ATVs for versatility in managing your farm needs. Professionals with these companies will be on hand to demonstrate the equipment and answer your questions.

Sprayers

Chemical Containers, Inc. – Spraying equipment

This dealer has sprayers for any application, small 3 point hitch air-blast sprayers as well as large pull behind air-blast sprayers. These will be on display and the representative will be on hand to answer all your questions. He has a sprayer that will fit your needs.

Irrigation Equipment

Irrigation Mart Inc.

Poly Drip LLC

Representatives from these irrigation businesses will be on hand to help you with your irrigation needs and help design an efficient system to apply water and fertilizer to your blueberries that will accommodate your fields and water source.

Blueberry Farm Supplies

Agri-AFC LLC

Island Grove Ag Products

Delta Ag Formulations

TotalGro Soluble Fertilizer

Representatives from these suppliers will be on hand to discuss horticultural supplies, fertilizer formulations and distribution techniques and crop protection products as well as other horticultural products to help maximize your blueberry yields, increase efficiency and decrease cost.

Labor

H2A Complete LLC

Acquiring labor has become one of the most challenging aspects of running a blueberry farm. A representative from H2A Complete, LLC will be on hand to describe how to acquire and manage legal, efficient, hardworking labor.

Blueberry Packaging Materials

Monte Packaging Company

Southland Container, Inc.

PCA-Packaging Corporation of America

McNeely Plastics

FormTex Plastics Corp

Representatives will be on hand to discuss packaging options and products that can help you fine-tune your marketing and sell blueberries to more lucrative markets.

Blueberry Nurseries

Ambers Blueberry Nursery

Island Grove Agricultural Products

Representatives from these nurseries will be on hand to discuss blueberry varieties and help you with your plant needs.

This is an impressive group of exhibitors and the numbers are growing. They will be on hand with the very latest in equipment and supplies to make your farm more efficient, productive and profitable.

Please pre-register if you plan to attend the Field Day. Grower registration is \$20.00 per person. Please fill out and return the enclosed registration form by October 1. If you are not a member of the Gulf South Blueberry Growers Association, fill out and return the membership application form. The money you save on your registration can be applied to your membership. Join the Growers Association as a farm or family and your family members or employees can all register as members. If you join now your membership will be paid up until January 2014. Please send in your registration as soon as possible so we can make plans for food and facilities. This will be a very productive day. Lunch, drinks and refreshments will be provided.

Directions to Giles Farm

From I-59 in Laurel, MS - Travel East 29 miles on Highway 84 to Waynesboro. Take Highway 45 South and travel 2 miles. Take the Dyess Bridge Road exit and travel east 7/10 mile to County Lake Denham Road. Take a right (south) and travel 5.3 miles to intersection. Go straight at intersection on Denham-Buckatunna Creek Road. Travel 3/10 mile to Giles Farm. Look for white fence and iron gate.

The phone number at Giles Farm is 601-410-4088 or 601-410-2031 if you have trouble finding it.

If you have questions about the Blueberry Growers Field Day & Trade Show, contact Dr. John Braswell at 601-795-5558 or gulfsouthblueberry@gmail.com

Blueberry Growers Field Day & Trade Show
Giles Farm
Wayne County, MS
October 11, 2012



- 8:00 AM Registration
Trade show open 8:00 AM till 5:00 PM
- 8:30 Welcome – Jerry Hutto
Welcome and Farm Overview - Tom and John Giles
Blueberry Varieties and Farm Management Techniques - Ken Patterson,
Island Grove Agricultural Products
- 9:00 **Blueberry Harvesters –**
Oxbo Harvesters - Brian Foote
Littau Harvesters – Brian Thompson
BEI Harvesters – Max Lint
Mckibben Harvester – Jeff Mckibben
- 9:25 **Packing Facility and Grading Equipment Overview**
Post-Harvest Handling of Blueberry Fruit - Tom and John Giles
A&B Packing Equipment – Shannon Williams
WECO Sorting and Automation – Eric Holder
Lakewood Process Machinery – Shaun Harcourt
BBC Color and Soft Sorters – Bernie Newton
Mckibben Equipment - Jeff Mckibben
- 10:00 **Blueberry Harvester & Pruning -** Butch Rhoton, Brewt Power System
10:10 **Wind Machines for Frost Control –** Dave Harmening, Cascade Wind
Machines
- 10:15 **Blueberry Irrigation**
Poly Drip Irrigation – Mike Goree
Irrigation Mart – Mike Pippin
- 10:30 **visit with Exhibitors**
12:00 **Lunch and visit with Exhibitors**
1:00 PM **Farm Tour**
Field Tour, Packing Facility Tour, Harvester Demonstrations, Wind Machine
Demonstrations, Pruning Demonstrations, Irrigation Workshops
- Trade show open all afternoon -** Blueberry supplies and related products on display with
expert advice on usage and availability



**Gulf South Blueberry Growers Association
Blueberry Growers Field Day & Trade Show
8:00 AM, October 11, 2012
Giles Farm, Wayne County, MS**

Registration Form

The 2012 Blueberry Growers Field Day will be held at The Giles Farm, 985 Denham-Buckatuna Creek Road, Waynesboro, MS. Owned by Tom and John Giles, this highly successful blueberry farm is an excellent example of how good management and close attention to detail can result in vigorous plants and high yields. The Giles have incorporated a number of innovative techniques to increase their efficiency and profitability. We will tour and discuss management techniques of this highly productive blueberry farm.

Please complete and return this form before October 1. Registration cost is:

Pre-registered members - \$20.00 per person

Pre-registered non-members - \$30.00 per person

Registration at the door - members \$30.00 per person

Registration at the door - non-members \$40.00 per person

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Make Checks payable to Gulf South Blueberry Growers Association and mail to:

Dr. John Braswell
P.O. Box 308
Poplarville, MS 39470

If you have questions or would like to request a membership application to the Gulf South Blueberry Growers Association, contact Dr. John Braswell at 601-795-5558 or gulfsouthblueberry@gmail.com