

Mid America Strawberry Growers



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Dear Fellow Growers,

The annual spring MASGA meeting has been scheduled for Friday, February 28 through Saturday, March 1, 2014. It will be held in the Keeter Center at the College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, MO (near Hollister and Branson, MO). I know I have said it before, but again I believe this will be the largest and best meeting we have had. Our featured speaker this year will be R. Allen Straw, a long time extension specialist in strawberry production. He has worked in TN, NC, and is currently working in VA. He is a grower himself so he can easily relate to farming issues we have as growers.

Other speakers will be: Bob Hall owner of Bush-n-Vine in York, SC; Ken Wommackk and Lynne B. Johnson of Blessington Farms in Simonton, Texas; Michelle Schroeder-Moreno, Dept. of Crop Science, NC State University, Raleigh, NC; Victor Lilley, President at Reddick Fumigants of NC, LLC; Dr. Terry Kirkpatrick Professor-Plant Pathology U of A; Dr. Elena Garcia Small Fruit Specialist U of A.

We are planning on having door prizes during our meal times and hold a silent auction with proceedings going to general fund of MASGA to help with airfare and accommodations of speakers.

If you are around on Thursday night, we will have a meet and greet at the Keeter Center in the Silver Dollar City Room from 7 to 9 p.m. **The Keeter Center at College of the Ozarks is a smoke-free, alcohol-free and pet-free facility, as well as a learning laboratory of the College's educational program, and is operated under the same Vision, Mission, Goals and expectations as the College.**

We will have lunch on Friday with speaker Bob Hall; a banquet meal Friday with speakers Ken Wommackk and Lynne Johnson, and a buffet breakfast Saturday morning. All 3 meals will be at the Keeter Center. The cost of the 3 meals including tax, gratuity, and room is \$100 per PERSON. Your yearly MASGA dues are \$100 per FARM. If you do not attend the banquet and meals, but wish to attend the conference only there is a \$15 fee per person for the conference room.

We must have a count 5 days prior to the meeting for the meals. Therefore please call as soon as possible for meal reservations. You can call Jim Goodson (501-951-6830), Donna Goodson (501-993-8604), or Wayne Simpson (417-926-5308) to let us know you are coming. We cannot break the meal charge up, it is a package price.

There are many hotels in the Branson, MO and Hollister, MO area with good rates at this time of year.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the spring meeting and we always have a great time just getting together.

Can't wait to see you there,

Wayne Simpson and Jim Goodson