

FARMERS COOPERATIVE

FARMING NEWS

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Students Plant and Harvest

Cabbage Patch for Kids

By: Todd Lawrence

Farmers Cooperative is proud to have teamed up with Bonnie Plants to support the 3rd Grade Cabbage Program.

Farmers Cooperative and Bonnie Plants want to share our love of gardening with these 3rd graders. We feel that gardening is a great way for parents to share time with their children while it also teaches these 3rd graders about how our food is grown and where it comes from.

On February 11th, General Manager Todd Lawrence and Live Oak Agronomy Division Manager Barry Long, made presentations to 19 Suwannee Elementary third grade classes and gave out over 400 Bonnie cabbage plants. Nationwide this year, 1,200,000 third-graders will be planting and taking care of their own cabbage plants.

BY PLANTING one of Bonnie Plant Farms O.S. Cross, or "oversized" cabbage plants, the third grader can watch their cabbage plant grow to more than 40 pounds—bigger than a basketball!

Third graders that grow a cabbage plant will become eligible for a chance to win money and prizes. We will pick a 3rd Grade Class winner from each participating class based on size, maturity, and appearance of the cabbage plant. Bonnie Plant Farms takes all of the class winner's names from all over the state and has a

random drawing for the state winner. The state winner will receive a \$1,000 dollar Scholarship from Bonnie Plant Farms.

In addition, Farmers Cooperative will have a random drawing from the 3rd Grade class winners from Suwannee Elementary School, and the winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Farmers Cooperative along with a Red/White/Blue Co-op hat and their choice of a John Deere T-Shirt.

Farmers Cooperative will treat the winner and his/her class to a pizza party.

For 2009, Farmers Cooperative is only participating with Suwannee Elementary School but hopes to be able to expand their participation to other elementary schools in their service area for the 2010 spring growing season.

THE BONNIE PLANT Farms 3rd
Continued to Page 2



Mindy Berry & Barry Long, Agronomy Division Manager

Suwannee Elementary Students Plant Cabbages

Continued from Page 1

Grade Cabbage program is very simple, all the third grader has to do is plant the cabbage plant, provide the nutrients and attention it needs, and watch it grow. Our staff will be happy to answer questions and assist the student with this project. You can also go to Farmers Cooperative's website at www.farmerscooperative.org and click on News and Events to get step by step instructions on how to grow your Bonnie cabbage.

During the growing process, we encourage parents to take pictures of the student and their plant and then e-mail them to infoliveoak@farmerscooperative.org so we can upload them to the Photo Gallery on our website at www.farmerscooperative.org.

So make sure during the event that you check out the Photo Gallery often to see the progress that the 3rd graders have made.

ON SATURDAY, May 2, 2009,

'Ministry' to Senior Citizens

He 'Serves' Co-op Customers

Brian McDonald is a native of Racine, Wisconsin where his twin brother, Bruce and two other brothers, Harvey and Gary, still reside. The McDonald's raised their boys with strong family values. His mother especially taught her sons to be self-sufficient, by teaching them to cook, clean the house, repair anything so it could be used again and again, and never to kill an animal that you were not going to eat.

HUNTING AND fishing was a great deal of fun for the McDonald boys when they would go fishing on Lake Michigan and catch trout and Coho Salmon weighing 25-50 pounds each.

Upon graduation from William Horlick High School, Brian was drafted into the United States Army during the Viet Nam era. After his 3 years of military service with 15 months of his time served in Korea, he returned home and worked 21 years for PigglyWiggly stores in the grocery business. He had an interest in the fire department and worked with the Caledonia Fire Department for 12 years as a fireman and a certified EMT.

In 1984, Brian moved to West Palm Beach, working construction, electrical work, mechanical jobs, or just any trade that he could find work. In 1991 he decided to open his own business in the pest control line and was very successful at this work for over 15 years. Having a desire to move to a less congested area, Brian and his wife, Anna, moved to Wellborn, Florida in 2006.

YOU MAY SEE BRIAN working the counter, giving sage advice to our Cooperative customers concerning their crop or working out the details for lumber projects or putting a swing set together for sale.

Brian's been working for the Cooperative for approximately three years. He is a loyal and dedicated employee, and having a unique sense of humor makes his day very rewarding. Mr. McDonald is very knowledgeable in most of our product lines and has a keen sense of anything mechanical, from assembling it and making it work. What Brian doesn't know, he is willing to learn.

Brian and Anna are active members in Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Wellborn. Anna sings and plays the piano and Brian said, "We have been in the service of the Lord for over 19 years." The McDonald's have a special ministry for the senior citizens.

Every second Sunday they go to Still

Farmers Cooperative in Live Oak will have an official weigh in day from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. (If your cabbage matures earlier you are welcome to bring it by Farmers Cooperative to have it weighed and judged.) After the weigh in, the cabbage will be judged for size, maturity and appearance.

From all entries, a winner from each participating 3rd Grade class will be selected. These class winners will then be entered into the State Bonnie Plant Farms drawing for the \$1,000 scholarship.

Farmers Cooperative looks forward to the opportunity for Suwannee Elementary 3rd Grade classes to enjoy the fun of gardening as well as have the opportunity to win money and prizes.

Waters Nursing Home in Lake City where Brian preaches and Anna sings and plays the piano for the senior citizens living there.

The McDonald's have two wonderful grandchildren they do not get to see nearly enough since they live in South Carolina. Granddaughter, Dana, is 18 and grandson, Devan, is 14 years old.

Keep up the good work Brian!

ATTENTION

HUNTERS

Farmers Cooperative has teamed up with two leaders in the Wildlife Food Plot Industry, BioLogic and Pennington Seed. Farmers Cooperative has in stock many spring/summer wildlife food plot mixes.

Farmers Cooperative has plot mixes that contain products such as Chicory, Chufa, Lupine, Brassica, clovers, and other legumes. We also have the standard products such as peas, corn and other wildlife forages. If we do not have what you are looking for, ask us and we will be happy to try and locate the product for you.

Stop by Farmers Cooperative in Live Oak to see a large display of Bio Logic Spring/Summer Wildlife Food Plot Mixes and don't forget we can order any of the Pennington wildlife mixes that you might need.



Brian McDonald

For The Past Quarter

NEW CO-OP MEMBERS

LIVE OAK STORE

Jeffery Woods, Live Oak
Charlotte Carrico, Wellborn
Roger D. McLeod, Live Oak
Pablo Quezada, Calhoun, GA
Malcolm C. Holman,
Jacksonville
Lee Frances Hollis, Jasper
Mark W. Toigo, Lake City
Vita D. Roquet, Live Oak
Ryan P. Butler, Live Oak
Catherine Gilmartin, O'Brien
Michelle Speirs, Live Oak
Tonia Kennedy, McAlpin
Robert Drewing, Jr., Live Oak
Lucille Kempf & Larry Arrant,
Live Oak
Bobby J. Tomlinson, Wellborn
Jorge M. Riveron, Live Oak
Tammy Buchannan, Mayo
Melinda Poole, Live Oak
Leonard Frazier, Live Oak
Richard Yates, Lake City
Amelia W. Green, Lake City
Terry W. Haney, Zephyrhills
Valecia Lee, O'Brien
I. Daniel Bailey, Live Oak
Dr. Glidden Quinones, Live Oak
Pakua Stevens, Live Oak
Roque Castellanos, White Springs
Nicole Cray, Jasper
George Wood & Kim Strahl,
Mayo
Anita Howard, Branford
Janice E. Shannon, Live Oak
George Umstead, Lake City
Shirley Pipkins, Wellborn

Jamie Christie, Live Oak
Suw. Co. Animal Shelter, McAlpin
Louisette Denison, Live Oak
Patrick O. Raulerson, Live Oak
Elizabeth Baker, Live Oak
V. Louise Daughtry, Live Oak
Donald Bolline, Lake City
Keith Thompson, Ft. Pierce
James Mimranck, Live Oak
Gertrude Land, Live Oak
Susan McGuire, Live Oak
Edward L. Woods, McAlpin
Robert Bautochka, Archer
David L. Deans, Lake City
Martha Welzel, Wellborn
Patrick Riordan, Bell
Roy A. Rogers, Live Oak
Ronald Cates, Live Oak
Luis Gonzalez, Live Oak
Kim Helms, White Springs
Frank Carroll, Live Oak
James Royal, Dowling Park
Karen Bass, Live Oak
Tonya Ferstermacher, Live Oak
Crystal D. Carey, Live Oak
Ina Gibson, Live Oak
Thomas W. Davis, Live Oak
David J. Gregory, Ft. Lauderdale
Antonio Hart, Live Oak
Shelton Mitchell, Jasper
Larry Cox, Live Oak
Kenneth J. Barger, Wellborn
Robert G. Bush, Live Oak
Char Verdier, O'Brien
Edna M. Allen, Live Oak
Gary Schiro, Bell
Marshall Howard, Live Oak

Joseph Buckley Roberts, Live Oak
Stephen Campbell, Live Oak
Leroy Simmons, White Springs
Clifford Crane, Lake City
Glenn Walnum, Pinellas Park
Roger Bass, Lake City
Joe Buhler, Perry
Rick Russell, White Springs
James Whipple, Ft. White
Cheryl Greene, Live Oak
Kris Anne Hall, Wellborn
Lillie Hodges, Live Oak
Michelle Sumrell, Live Oak
Robert M. Matthews, O'Brien

MADISON STORE

John Seasholtz, Jennings
Robert Agner, Madison
Willie J. Sadler, Perry
Michael Briggs, Lee
David Stafford, Ocala
Jimmie Anderson, Lee
Rosa B. Hunter, Madison
Tawania Wims, Greenville
Cheryl Knighton, Madison
Bul-Hed Corp., Mulberry
Shirley Thomas, Madison
Thomas T. Hughey, Madison
Jeff Dierman, Havana
Penate General Farm, Inc.,
Greenville
Tim Ressler, Madison
Linda Hoffman, Lee
Joe B. Stallings, Jennings
Anthony C. Wright, Madison
Perry A. Michael, Lee
Jason Jennings, Live Oak
Farmers Furniture, Madison
Omar Pagan, Madison
Sue Mathews, Madison
Terri Butler, Madison
Chelsea Bouley, Madison
Cindy Boyd, Lee
John Cuthrell, Lee
Diane Bass, Shady Grove
Frances English, Greenville
Devin Thompson, Lee
Ag Services, Jasper
Donald Drummond, Madison
Michael Moir, Greenville
John Mortensen, Lee
Chad Thomas, Pinetta
Tom Garside, Greenville
Clinton Akins, Madison
Ruth Walker, Pinetta
Virginia Dobbs, Madison
Ebonie McDaniel, Pinetta
Jacquelyn D. Crapps, Madison
William L. Bennett, Madison
Maria Balboni, Monticello
Brenda Byrd, Monticello
Robert Layton, Carrabelle
James A. Ray, Madison
John A. Rodriguez, Live Oak
Andre Origer, Crawfordville
Wallace Byford, Monticello
Octavio Cruz, Lamont
David Lambert, Atlantic Beach
Jim McDonald, Jacksonville
Beach
Robert Fridenberger, Jennings
Rick Edwards, Winter Garden
Robert J. Rohrer, Jasper
Jorge Tojeiro, Madison
Marie K. Hayes, Greenville
Debra Booker, Pinetta

Website: Coupons, Specials, Newsletters

By: **Todd Lawrence**

Since Farmers Coop started business some 62 years ago, we have seen a lot of changes in the way we do business. One of the latest changes is the update of Farmers Co-op's website. Go to www.farmerscooperative.org for information about products and services that Farmers Co-op offers.

Farmer's Co-op's website offers over 65,000 products from a host of name brand manufacturers that you can shop at 24 hours a day...7 days a week. You can use Site to Store shipping to have products shipped free to your local Farmers Co-op store. When your shipment arrives we will e-mail

you that your order is ready for pick-up.

Remember it is easy to shop at www.farmerscooperative.org and comes with free Site to Store shipping.

OTHER FEATURES of Farmers Co-op's new website is the ability to view and print monthly specials, special Internet-only coupons, quarterly newsletters, and recent Co-op news and events.

The new website also has a photo gallery that presently contains photos of the winner of Farmers Co-op's Big Buck Contest, Billy Whittington, and some of the other contenders. The photo gallery also has pictures of some of the participants in Farmers Co-op/Bonnie Plant Farms 3rd Grade Cabbage Plant program.

With all of these new changes, Farmers Co-op now has the ability to e-mail you the electronic version of this newsletter. The advantages of having the newsletter e-mailed to you are that you will receive it earlier due to not having to have it mailed.

This in turn saves your Co-op the expense of mailing and printing. It also will allow you to forward the newsletter to friends and neighbors who might be interested in a particular article or recipe.

If you would like to have the newsletter e-mailed to you, just send us an e-mail at infoliveoak@farmerscooperative.org and request this service.

Big Buck

Winner

By: Barry Long & Pauline Fletcher Cogdill

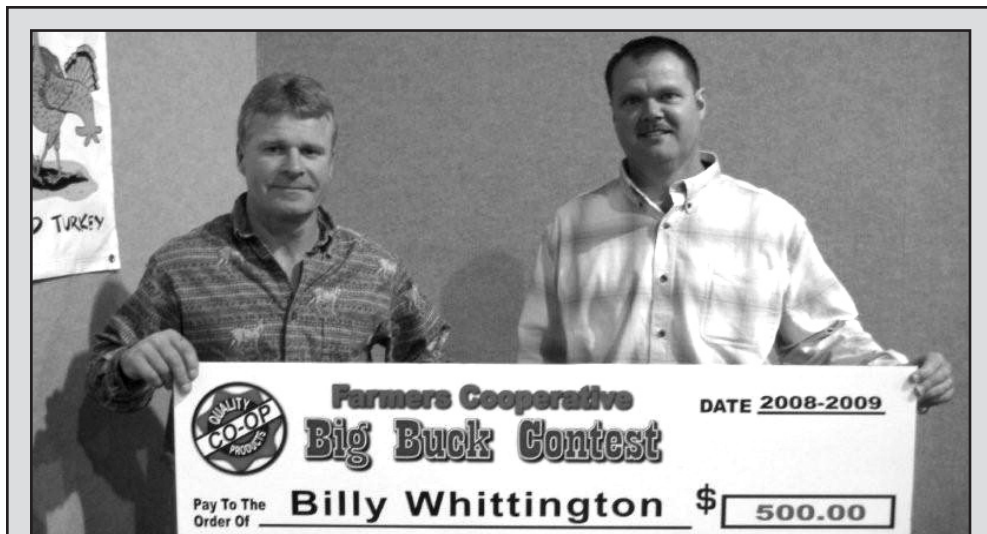
Billy Whittington is Farmers Cooperative's Big Buck Contest Winner with a \$500.00 gift certificate to spend at Farmers Cooperative. The main frame 10 point weighs 185 pounds and had two abdominal points including a split brow tine-for a total of 12 scorable points. The antlers measured out at 153 5/8 net scored.

Billy is very appreciative of the landowner in Hamilton County that gave him permission to hunt on his land. On opening day of general gun season, November 8, 2008, Billy dropped the 185 pound buck with a single shot from his .270 Ruger M77. Billy's been hunting on this land for 20 years, but this day was absolutely the best!

BILLY IS ALSO an early contender for the Woods 'n Water Florida Buck-of-the-Year contest and is in the Florida Buck Registry.

Billy is a Charleston, West Virginia native, traveling from Virginia to North Carolina with his family, and in October 1979 they decided Live Oak was a good place to get their 7th grader settled and Suwannee County is now called home. This quiet, humble young man is not comfortable being in the spotlight and would be just as happy giving anybody else the credit for his celebrity status.

Mr. Whittington is a graduate of Suwannee High School. In fact, in the 9th grade, he met the love of his life, Teresa Alcorn. When he was 17 years old he walked approximately 2



Big Buck Winner Billy Whittington and Live Oak Agronomy Division Manager Barry Long

miles a day to go to work at Town and Country Tire Company except for the days his friend, John Strayer, would give him a ride.

It didn't take Daro Robinson long to realize what a valuable employee he had, and gave Billy his first truck, an old green Dodge pickup. Billy treasured that truck not to mention the great bond he and Daro enjoyed. A loyalty that still goes on with Billy today.

It's been said that Billy is the heart and soul of Town and Country Tire Company as he manages the repair work in the shop. He's thankful for the opportunity that continues under Daro's daughter, Cher Mahan, who manages this family owned and operated business that remains successful even in difficult economic times.

LIFE'S BEEN good for Billy except for the loss of his wife and daughter. Teresa's long, hard fought battle with thyroid cancer claimed her life February 2007. Their younger daughter, Leslie Ann, at the age of two and one-half years old also died of cancer, which started with a

tumor in her stomach. It is indeed a difficult life experience to try and make peace when losing your loved ones.

Luke, Billy's son, is his "angel" as he is called by his teachers, Ms. Vickers and Ms. Johnson at Suwannee High School where he is a junior in ESE classes. Luke and daughter, Kalie, fill their dad's heart with lots of joy. At the end of the school day, Kalie and Luke check in with their dad at Town and Country Tire Company. That's the highlight of Billy's day, hearing about their day.

DAUGHTER, KALIE, is also a junior at Suwannee High School, and if there is any female who deserves the title "Superwoman", Kalie certainly qualifies for that distinction. Kalie is the chauffeur and caretaker for brother, Luke, helps run the household with her dad, and still manages to be a member of the National Honor Society, Inter Act Club, FFA, Art Club, Key Club and shows a hog each year at the Livestock Show. Seems as though winners just run in the Whittington Family.

Farming News

www.farmerscooperative.org

P.O. Box 610

Live Oak, FL

32064

Phone

386-362-1459

P.O. Box 390

Madison, FL

32341

Phone

850-973-2269

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Todd Lawrence, Publisher & Editor

Co-op Directors

Kenneth Dasher, McAlpin (Suwannee County)

Ted Henderson, Live Oak (Suwannee County)

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Kevin Morgan (Hamilton County)

Kenneth McLeod (Madison County)

Jeff Lee (Suwannee County)



General Manager, Todd Lawrence, recently presented certificates of appreciation for years of service to Madison employees: left to right-Madison Manager, Eddie Curl, 20 years; General Manager, Todd Lawrence, Warehouse Manager, James C. McCray, 5 years and Gwen Nash, 5 years.