

**U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council
Cultivated Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order
Council Member Ballot—Georgia State Representative**

The nominees listed on this ballot are seeking the Georgia State Council Member seat on the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC). As a cultivated blueberry grower in the state of Georgia you are asked to cast your vote for one Georgia state council member, or to write in the name of your choice for state representative in Section #1 of this ballot.

Please complete this ballot and mail it back to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope. Ballots must be received by the USHBC no later than close of business on Tuesday, May 29, 2007. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

USHBC MEMBER BALLOT – GEORGIA

**Section #1: GEORGIA GROWERS
Georgia State Representative**

Growers from the state of Georgia who are producing cultivated blueberries in the state are asked to indicate their choice for state representative here:

(choose **one** candidate only or provide name of write-in candidate)

GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

- John Bennett – Alma, Georgia
- Adair Chambers-Peterson – Homerville, Georgia
- James Allen Miles – Baxley, Georgia
- Write-in Candidate:

Print Name

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**Section #2 TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL GROWERS
CERTIFICATION STATEMENT**

I certify that I have produced a minimum of 2,000 pounds of cultivated blueberries at the location listed below during the twelve-month period of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____

Submission of Ballot to USHBC

Once you have completed and signed this ballot please place this ballot in the enclosed, self addressed envelope and mail it to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council. **Incomplete ballots, unsigned ballots, or ballots received after May 29, 2007 will not be counted.**

If you have any questions concerning this ballot please contact the USHBC office at (916) 983-0111.

USHBC Diversity Outreach Policy

The USHBC has adopted a diversity outreach plan to attempt to achieve a diverse representation on the Council. USHBC programs are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, parental status and marital or family status. The USHBC fully complies with any and all applicable federal, state, and local equal employment opportunity statutes, ordinances and regulations, including but not limited to, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1907; and The Equal Pay Act of 1963. It is USHBC policy that membership on the Council and its committees reflect the diversity of individuals served by its programs.

To accomplish this objective, the USHBC will strive to attain representation of growers and other industry participants from diverse backgrounds on the Council and USHBC committees. To this end, the USHBC strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to seek nominations to the USHBC and to participate in Council and USHBC committee activities.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0093. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

**USHBC COUNCIL MEMBER
CANDIDATE STATEMENTS – GEORGIA**

**John V. Bennett – Alma, Georgia
Candidate for: USHBC Georgia State Member**

I own and operate Alma Sunbelt Blueberries in South Georgia, which we have operated since 1989. We started growing blueberries in 1978. I taught school for 17 years and became a full time blueberry farmer and processor in 1989. We are producer/packers of approximately 250 acres of Highbush and Rabbiteye blueberries and are member of MBG Marketing.

My two sons, Vance and Reed, are active in our company. We are in the process of expanding our acreage and plan to plant an additional 200 acres.

I, along with everyone else, am concerned with overproduction, but I am also excited about the health benefits of a good tasting fruit. It is my belief that the success we are having now with consumers and with ever-evolving research is because of the efforts of the USHBC, and any future success will be directed by this organization. As a representative from Georgia, I would be honored to serve the growers in Georgia and the blueberry industry as a whole.

**Adair Chambers Peterson– Homerville, Georgia
Candidate for: USHBC Georgia State Member**

I attended the organizational meeting of the USHBC in the fall of 2001 right after 9/11. It was an uncertain time full of anxiety. What I discovered right away was that I was in the company of people a lot smarter than I was who were optimistic and unfazed by current events. As members of a voluntary organization, the NABC, they had dreamed that our industry could come together and pass the marketing order which created the USHBC.

Since those initial days, the USHBC has succeeded beyond anyone's expectation in achieving its stated task—the research and promotion of blueberries. The result, strong demand and high prices, is directly attributable to the careful and thoughtful use of assessment dollars to fund research into the healthful aspects of blueberries and getting that message directly to the consumer.

While we enjoy unprecedented prosperity today as blueberry producers, I believe we must remember our historical evolution. We have not arrived at this point accidentally, but rather, as a result of the vision and hard work of a group of blueberry growers many years ago. Donnie Morris used to say that we started with a great-tasting product and even better message. While that is undeniably true, if Donnie and others like him had not developed that message and gotten the story out, our circumstances might be quite different today.

I have been elected twice to the position of alternate delegate from Georgia to the USHBC and upon Donnie's untimely death became the delegate from Georgia. There has been a lot to learn about the big picture facing our industry. I have served on the Finance Committee, the Industry Relations Committee and presently serve on the Research Committee, which I have found to be a rewarding challenge.

Today there is explosive growth in the productive capacity of blueberries. We will be challenged individually and collectively to plan and adapt to shifting trends which are globally mediated. I believe that the USHBC will continue to provide the tools our industry needs to meet those challenges. In seeking reelection to the position of Delegate from Georgia, I offer the experience I have been privileged to acquire as qualification for that position.

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James Allen Miles, Jr. – Baxley, Georgia
Candidate for: USHBC Georgia State Member

Allen Miles is a native of Baxley, GA, where he attended Appling County Comprehensive High School. After his graduation in 1983, he attended Georgia Southern College in Statesboro, GA, where he majored in civil engineering and business administration. He is married to Dorothy Rich and they have one son, Jamin.

Allen has been active in the blueberry industry since 1993 when Miles Berry Farm was formed by Allen and his father, Jimmy Miles. Miles Berry Farm is fresh market oriented, with a ratio of 75% fresh and 25% process. The farm has been very active in planting new varieties of blueberries. In addition Miles Berry Farm has been certified to produce organic blueberries.

In April, 2006, Allen purchased Miles Sunbelt Blueberry Corp. with approximately 150 acres of productive blueberries. Miles Sunbelt Blueberry Corp. also has a warehouse that packs for about 15 growers in addition to them. The warehouse is capable of packing fresh, process and organic blueberries.

Allen has actively promoted blueberries as a member of several organizations. He is a member of the Appling County Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, the Blueberry Growers Association, and MBG Marketing. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Blueberry Growers Association.

He also is active in his community and is a member of the Exchange Club of Appling County, where he has served on the Board of Directors.

