



# Phosphate Grows a Family Tree

For five generations, the Waters family has nourished its roots with phosphate. This summer, they added another family member to the record of those that have worked for Florida's phosphate industry.

**Audrey Waters**, a creative writing student at Florida Southern College, joined the Mosaic team as a Co-Op for Public Affairs at the FishHawk Office. "My parents rubbed off on me. They were always so proud to work for Mosaic, and now I can say the same," said Audrey.

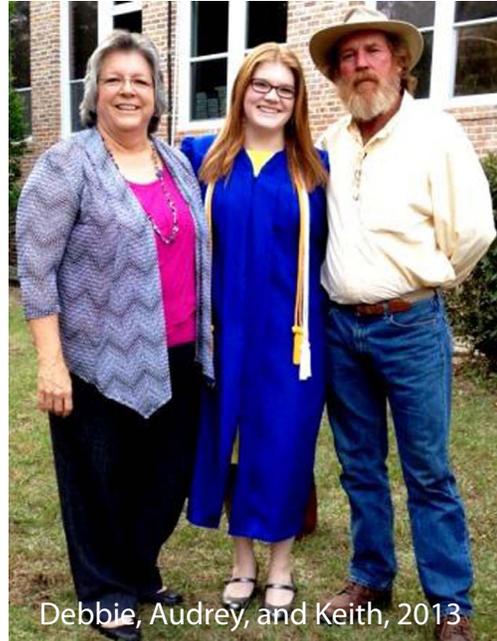
**Debbie Waters**, Audrey's mother, is Director of Environmental Regulatory Affairs at Mosaic and just celebrated 25 years with the company. Audrey's father, **Keith Waters**, got his start in the phosphate industry when he was 18 years old, spending a few months as a DAP plant laborer cleaning belts and on the Float Crew at IMC, a Mosaic legacy company. He later worked as a bulldozer operator for Seminole from 1990-1995 and for Cargill from 2002-2005.

Keith, who frequently shares family stories with Audrey, recounted one about her great-great-grandfather, **Aren Bryant Waters Sr.**, who was the first family member to work in the industry at Southern Phosphate when mining started booming in Florida. Aren Sr. began as a pump station operator in 1904, and then worked as a pit gunner when the company became Davison Chemical. In the early 1900s, pit cars and hydraulic water guns were used differently than they are today.

"Pit gunners had to stand on a platform and move the guns by hand to break up the matrix," said Keith. "It was Aren's supervisor who came to check on him and saw his hat floating in the water. They didn't have to wear hardhats back then, so he just wore a fedora."

According to Keith, co-workers started dragging the water thinking he had drowned. They also send out a search party, just in case a local black bear might have gotten him. As it turned out, Aren Sr. had taken a short break to walk home and change into some dry clothes. Aren Sr. spent 50 years on the job before he passed away in 1954. His son, **Aren Bryant Jr.**, often called Dude Waters, began working for Davison Chemical in 1941 and carried on his father's legacy.

"My great-grandfather, Pa Dude, as he is known to the family, started out at the Sand Gully Mine and the Edgewood Mines in Lakeland," Audrey explained. After



Debbie, Audrey, and Keith, 2013

the company became W.R. Grace, he ran the dry mill at the Bartow Plant until 1980.

Dude Waters' son, **Jessie Robert (Bob) Waters**, Audrey's grandfather, started working in the phosphate industry in 1960. As a third generation phosphate worker, Bob followed in his father's footsteps and became a pit gunner, working closely with Audrey's dad. The two of them could be found bulldozing on the same rock piles at Bartow. Bob retired from IMC in 1996, a year after Audrey was born.

In addition to her parents and grandfathers, Audrey also has many uncles and cousins who worked in the phosphate industry. Her great uncle, **Les Waters**, worked as a maintenance mechanic for W.R. Grace and Mosaic for 28 years before he passed away in 2008.

For more than 100 years, Mosaic and the phosphate industry has been actively involved in the growth and prosperity of the Waters family.

"Phosphate has fed our family for years," Keith and Debbie stated. "It has supported not only the Waters family, but countless other families over many generations."