



*Aquatic Science ♦ Biology  
Chemistry ♦ Physics*

Gadsden State Community College  
Aquaculture Education and Development Center

October 9, 2007

Trent Johnson  
345 Oak Manor Road  
McKenzie, TN 38201

Dear United Tech :

My name is Hugh S. Hammer and I am the director of the Aquaculture Education and Development Center (AEDC) at Gadsden State Community College (GSCC). I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Trent Johnson. I met Mr. Johnson about 1 year ago when he approached our group with some new methods of aerating various aquaculture operations. We have been very pleased with the products and customer service provided by Mr. Johnson.

The AEDC at GSCC has 10 small 0.1-hectare ponds, 2 larger 0.2-hectare ponds and a 1.6-hectare reservoir. Our production species include channel catfish, tilapia, koi and freshwater shrimp. We have traditionally used 0.5-hp and 0.75-hp Powerhouse or Kasco propeller driven aerators in ponds but were unhappy with the pond erosion and bottom deformities caused by extended use of these aerators. In addition we used a 1-hp Sweetwater regenerative blower to drive airlifts around a pier used for cage culture of tilapia. Mr. Johnson traveled to GSCC (on three separate occasions) to assist in setting up shrouded tube diffusers by Colorite in a freshwater shrimp pond and tube diffuser arms around the pier. The shrouded diffuser tubes used in the freshwater shrimp pond provided by far the most efficient and consistent aeration we have seen to date with almost no bottom or pond-side erosion. In fact, the bottom of the pond had a greatly improved contour. We checked and recorded DO levels daily in 8 different locations in the pond and all DO levels were within 0.4 ppm and all the readings remained above 4 ppm for the entire Summer. Best of all, this entire pond system was run from a single 1-hp Sweetwater blower. The tube diffuser arms around the pier moved many times more aerated water than our airlifts using the same 1-hp blower. The Freshwater Shrimp pond was harvested at 159 kg/0.1 ha (1590 kg/ha) and Tilapia grown in cages along the pier grew very well at densities near 128 kg/m<sup>3</sup> and experienced no DO levels below 5 ppm.

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*October 9, 2007*

*Page 2*

In summary, we are very pleased with the Aero-Tube<sup>™</sup> provided by Trent Johnson; they are among the best innovations we have seen in the aquaculture industry for aeration. The service provided by Mr. Johnson was timely, consistent and went far beyond the service we have experienced with other aeration companies. I have and will continue to recommend these products to aquaculturists I consult with because they are simply the best products on the market for aerating small ponds. If you have any questions regarding Mr. Johnson or our success with these products, I encourage you to contact me directly at the telephone number or email address on the bottom this letterhead. Thanks very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Hugh S. Hammer  
Director GSCC AEDC