

News



Fall – 2007



2007 Citrus Expo Breaks Attendance Record

From the “standing room only” crowd in the “expanded” seminar hall, to the jam-packed trade show at the Lee Civic Center in Ft. Myers...citrus growers and industry leaders from throughout the “Sunshine State”...and “the world” boosted Expo attendance to numbers exceeding all previous records! According to Gary Cooper of Southeast AgNet/*Citrus Industry Magazine*, the 16th annual Citrus Expo hosted over 1,650 attendees on day one, and more than 1,250 on the second day. “Citrus Expo traditionally draws the industry’s largest turnout of growers of all sizes and types,” says Cooper. “And, the 2007 event held August 22nd - 23rd was without doubt the best attended... ever! I am pleased to say that Citrus Expo is BACK, and is headed in the right direction,” he added.

The innovative, cooperative “working relationship” between the Gulf, Peace River and Highlands County Citrus Grower Associations, the University of Florida/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Centers and the Expo owners (Southeast AgNet/*Citrus Industry Magazine*) continues to enhance the quality of the event. These “co-hosts” form the Citrus Expo Steering Committee and invest hours working to produce “The World’s Premier Citrus Expo.” All activities and

programs are based on input from grower attendees, trade show participants and industry leaders. The seminar program committee, comprised of “volunteers” from the host organizations, focuses on building a “first class,” two-day schedule of presentations on timely topics. This newly-created approach to enhancing “Citrus Expo” has had two years of success. “When Southeast AgNet took over Expo...growers and vendors told us what they wanted, and we listened,” said Cooper. “Working with our host partners has been critical to revitalizing this event! Our special thanks to these organizations and their representatives who provided the leadership and support to achieve success.”

“Citrus growers in the ‘Gulf’ production region are particularly proud of the recent progress that has been made to re-invigorate this event,” said Ron Hamel, executive vice president of the Gulf Citrus Grower Association. “In 1992, GCGA, the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences’ Southwest Florida Research and Educational Center and *Citrus Industry Magazine* ‘pioneered’ what was then called the Southwest Florida Citrus Expo. Since that ‘first’ Citrus Expo, GCGA has been actively engaged

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Gulf Citrus Growers Elects 2007-08 Officers

At its 21st annual meeting on June 6, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association elected its officers to serve the organization during the 2007-2008 season. Elected to lead the association are the following:

President

David Wheeler
Wheeler Farms, Inc.

Vice President

Mark Colbert
Duda Farm Fresh Foods

Secretary

Wade Timpner
George Austin, Inc.

Treasurer

Callie Walker
English Brothers



2007-2008 GCGA Officers Elected

Elected to serve as the association's officers for the year are (standing left) David Wheeler, president and Wade Timpner, secretary. (Seated left) Callie Walker, treasurer and Mark Colbert, vice president.

Wheeler, a 1986 graduate of the University of Florida's College of Agriculture with a degree in Food and Resource Economics, was re-elected to a third term as president of the association. He began his citrus business career as an owner/operator of a gift fruit operation in Lake Placid. In 1990, he joined the family's citrus business as a grove manager for Wheeler

Farms, Inc. The company owns groves in Southwest Florida, the "Ridge" of Highlands and Polk counties and on the east coast of the state. He currently is president of Wheeler Farms, Inc.

In addition to his leadership in "Gulf Citrus," Wheeler currently serves on the Florida Citrus Commission, representing citrus growers in the region. He is past president of the Florida Production Managers' Association and a director of the Dundee Citrus Growers Association in Central Florida. Wheeler is also a graduate of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources administered through the University of Florida/IFAS.

He spent his formative years in Central Florida, graduating from Winter Haven High School and Polk Community College. He is married (wife Anne Marie) and has three children (David, Jr., Laura and Anna Grace). He is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid.

Mark Colbert was re-elected vice president and Wade Timpner re-elected secretary of the association. Callie Walker was elected to her first term as the association's treasurer. The officers all serve one-year terms.

Miller Couse "Thanked" By Association



At its annual meeting, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association recognized and thanked Miller Couse (center) for his leadership and service as treasurer of the organization. Presenting the commemorative plaque and Bill North oil painting of Florida oranges are David Wheeler (left) and Ron Hamel (right). Couse, president of First Bank, also chaired the 2007 GCGA "Country Gala" fundraising event, which benefits the association's community and governmental relations programs.

**Gulf Citrus Growers Association
2007-2008 Board of Directors**

David Wheeler, President
Mark Colbert, Vice President
Wade Timpner, Secretary
Callie Walker, Treasurer

Don Barwick
Emmett Evans, III
Joe Hilliard, II
John Hoffman
Paul Meador
Mike Murphy
Wayne Simmons
Steve Smith
Carey Soud
Ron Hamel

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New "Gulf Citrus" Board "Officially" Seated



2007-2008 Gulf Citrus Growers Association Board of Directors

(Standing L to R) Ron Hamel, Wayne Simmons, Joe Hilliard, II, Mike Murphy, David Wheeler, Wade Timpner, Emmett Evans, III and Don Barwick. (Seated) John Hoffman, Carey Soud, Callie Walker, Mark Colbert and Steve Smith. Paul Meador absent from photo.

At its 21st annual meeting on June 6, 2007, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association "officially" seated its 2007-2008 board of directors. The GCGA board was formally seated following annual election meetings in each of the organization's five counties as outlined in the association's by-laws. The two "at-large" directors were elected

through a balloting process among GCGA's grower members June 6th.

The newly elected leadership will direct the organization as it represents the collective needs of the citrus growing industry in Southwest Florida's "Gulf" production region. The region includes Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and

Lee counties. Please refer to the information below regarding the GCGA directors and the respective counties they represent.

These grower leaders are volunteering their time and talents for the betterment of the entire industry. Please thank and support them during the coming season.

GCGA 2007-2008 Board of Directors

Charlotte County

Emmett Evans, III
Evans Properties, Inc.

Collier County

John Hoffman
Barron Collier Partnership
Paul Meador
Gulf Citrus Partners LP
Mike Murphy
Cooperative Producers, Inc.

Hendry County

Mark Colbert
Duda Farm Fresh Foods
Joe Hilliard, II
Hilliard Brothers, Inc.
Wayne Simmons
LaBelle Fruit Co. LLC
Steve Smith
Alico, Inc.
Carey Soud
Soud Family Partnership

Glades County

David Wheeler
Wheeler Farms, Inc.

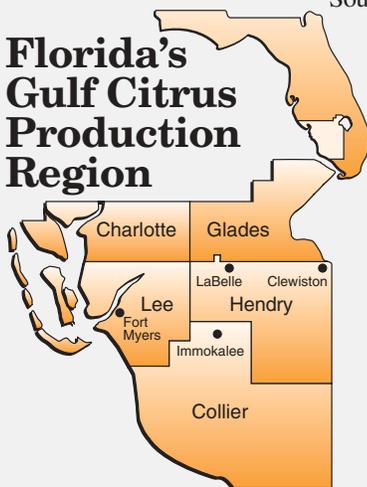
Lee County

Wade Timpner
George Austin, Inc.

At-Large Seats

Don Barwick
Heller Brothers
Packing Corp.
Callie Walker
English Brothers

Florida's Gulf Citrus Production Region



The Gulf Citrus Growers Association represents citrus growers with thousands of acres of citrus in Southwest Florida's "Gulf" region, which accounts for about 25% of the state's total fruit production. The region's citrus industry generates nearly \$1-billion of total economic impact within Southwest Florida.



Committee Chairs Appointed to Serve for 2007-2008 Season

GCGA President David Wheeler recently appointed the following individuals to chair the association's operating committees for the coming year.

Please contact these volunteer leaders for updates and information related to their respective committees.

Community Relations

John Hoffman

Governmental Affairs

Joe Hilliard, II

Labor Relations

Mike Murphy

Long Range Planning

George Austin

Production and Research

Mark Colbert

Associate Member

Sarah Hatton

Association Hosts Twenty-First Annual Meeting

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association's 21st Annual Meeting was held June 6, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, in conjunction with the Florida Citrus Industry Conference hosted by Florida Citrus Mutual.

The session included a "special" continental breakfast, the traditional "seating" of directors and officers, and the association's recognition of volunteer leaders and sponsors.

noted that through "Gulf Citrus" growers can and do work together to address them. He reported that in spite of declining acreage in the membership due primarily to the impacts of financial pressures and damaging diseases on growers, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association continues to strongly represent its members throughout the region and the state. He reported that the income generated through successful events such as the "Country Gala," the

Miller Couse, in the annual treasurer's report, noted that the board and staff are managing the association's financial resources extremely well at a time when the industry is facing great economic pressures. He informed the membership that a copy of the auditor's annual review of the association's financial statements is available to members. He thanked the membership for its support.

Ron Hamel, GCGA executive director,



"10-Year" Associate Members Recognized

At its annual meeting "Gulf Citrus" recognizes those companies who have been "associate members" for 10 years. (L to R) David Wheeler presents plaques to WilsonMiller's Brent Addison and Valent USA's Sarah Hatton. Parker Oswald of the Gowan Company was also recognized.

In his president's report, David Wheeler thanked the grower and associate members, the board of directors, the committee chairs and the staff for their support during his second term. He noted that there are many "challenges" facing the region's citrus growing industry, but

"Gulf Classic" and Citrus Expo continues to help offset some of the loss. He particularly thanked the Associate Member Committee for its continual active leadership during the year. He also urged the grower members to support the associate members who support the association.



Jeff Campbell Thanked for His Leadership

The GCGA recognized Jeff Campbell of Oswald, Trippe & Co., Inc. (Right) for his service as chairman of the association's Associate Member Committee. Ron Hamel presented the award to Campbell.

introduced and thanked the annual meeting sponsors Southern Gardens Citrus and Syngenta Crop Protection. He and Wheeler recognized and thanked the 10-Year Associate Members, "retiring" board members and committee chairs.

FGCU Professors Present Agriculture Study Results

A highlight of the GCGA annual meeting was the presentation of the research findings from a two-year study on the "Future of Agribusiness in Southwest Florida" conducted through the Lutgert College of Business, Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU).

The principal investigators were eminent scholars and professors Howard Finch, Ph.D. and Stuart Van Auken, Ph.D. The two faculty members presented the results from over 25 personal interviews with key executives from agribusiness, real estate, the environment and political interests...regarding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to Southwest Florida's agricultural sector. The study was conducted as part of FGCU's mission to serve the regional business community including agribusiness.

The major findings indicate that "agriculture" will continue to play a significant role in the region's economy into the future. Those interviewed indicated that the large land tracts currently in agriculture make "farming" more cost efficient through economies of scale. Future development on rural lands will be more concentrated such as at the Ave Maria community.

The research also indicated that Southwest Florida produces some of the highest quality citrus and vegetables in the world, has a strategic 3-month winter growing season for produce, can grow crops year-round, and can deliver to northern U.S. markets overnight.

In addition, Florida's coastal regions to the east and within the I-4 corridor are being developed faster than Southwest

Florida, shrinking their land base for ag.

Other advantages garnered by the study include the "growing" preferences for U.S. domestically produced food due to food safety concerns and the consumer trends to support local producers.

Regarding the top concerns and challenges for agriculture, the executives concluded that water management, labor availability, global competition, U.S. trade policy, pests and diseases and development pressures are the key issues that must be dealt with to be sustainable. They concluded that scientific research, new technology and enhanced communications are avenues to future success.

The report is available through FGCU/Lutgert College of Business and/or the Gulf Citrus Growers Association.

16th Annual Expo Attracts Record Crowd

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through dedicated individuals such as Norm Todd, the Production and Research Committee and the association's staff to plan and deliver a 'first class' event! The addition of the Peace River and Highlands County grower associations as 'co-hosts' has created a new dimension to help achieve that success. This is a real 'plus' for the EXPO," Hamel added. "And, the enthusiastic staff at SE AgNet/Citrus Industry Magazine has worked hard to make this event the best single event for Florida's citrus industry.

Trade Show

The 2007 Citrus Expo trade show featured 150 exhibitors for the two day event. Over 1,600 square feet of display space was dedicated to the University of Florida/IFAS to provide education on the citrus greening and canker diseases that are challenging the survival of the industry. This UF/IFAS display directly tied into the presentations at the seminars, adding to the total educational efforts as planned. The participation of the industry's top exhibiting companies at the trade show makes the event the largest and best-attended sales promotion, marketing and networking opportunity in the industry. The "Florida Cracker Cook-outs" featured in the exhibit hall continued to keep folks "on site" during the lunch breaks both days.

Seminar Program

Under the theme: "Managing Today's Risks for Tomorrow's Profits," the seminar program featured the latest information on combating the citrus greening and canker diseases delivered by Florida and "worldwide" leaders. From highlighting the incidence of greening in Florida, to tactics on "scouting/surveying," and from updates on research to Psyllid control... the standing room only crowd received cutting edge information.

Also presented were sessions on future grove production systems in efforts to keep Florida's growers competitive in the global citrus industry. Featured within these presentations were such topics as grove design, irrigation, nutrient management, tree density and hydroponics.

Seminar program sponsors included Bayer CropScience, the Florida Citrus Production Managers' Association and New Varieties Development & Management Corp.

Citrus Expo Banquet

The 2007 Gulf Citrus Expo Banquet continued as one of the highlights of the two-day event. About 400 growers, leaders and special guests enjoyed an evening of networking, fellowship and industry updates. Gary Cooper, president of SE AgNet/Citrus Industry Magazine, served as master of ceremonies. Presentations were made by Norm Todd, president of the GCGA Scholarship Foundation, Ken Keck, executive director of the Florida Department of Citrus and Connie Riherd, assistant director, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture. Congressman Tim Mahoney delivered the "keynote" address, and discussed his support for Florida's citrus industry and its issues as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee.

For details on the 2007 Citrus Expo and/or to get information on 2008 go to www.citrusExpo.net. Citrus Expo 2008 is set for August 20 & 21.



2007 Citrus Expo "Grows"!

Top: The "record crowd" at the seminars. **Top Left:** SE AgNet/Citrus Industry Magazine's Gary Cooper emcees Expo banquet. **Top Right:** Hamp Walker, Stephan Gardinier and Cliff and Carole Bowen enjoy the reception. **Center Left:** Congressman Tim Mahoney and Mark Wheeler discuss "the Farm Bill." **Center:** FDOC's Ken Keck presents "marketing" info! **Center Right:** FCM's Mike Sparks, Sarah Jane and John R. Alexander of Alico, Inc. "visit" during the festivities. **Lower Left:** The Expo banquet attracts industry leaders! **Lower Right:** Norm Todd (center) continues to provide GCGA leadership for the event.

Thank You 2007 Banquet Sponsors!

Platinum

Alico, Inc. • Bayer CropScience • Farm Credit of Central Florida
Farm Credit of South Florida • Farm Credit of Southwest Florida
Florida Department of Citrus & The State of Florida
Southern Gardens Citrus

Gold

Bonita Bay Group • Chemical Dynamics, Inc. • First Bank
MANA • Oswald Trippe and Company, Inc.
Pavese Law Firm • WilsonMiller, Inc.

Silver

Atlanticblue • BASF Corporation
Ben Hill Griffin, Inc. - Griffin Fertilizer Co.
Brandt/Agra-Chem Sales Co. Inc. • Dow AgroSciences
DuPont Crop Protection • FMC FoodTech • Gowan Company
Lykes Bros. Inc./New Harvest, Inc.
MacVicar, Federico & Lamb, Inc. • Oakley Groves, Inc.
Oxbo International • Pacific Tomato Growers, Ltd.
Plant Food Systems, Inc. • SunTrust Bank

Growers Face Record Drought, Provide “Water Supply” Input

The latest news from the South Florida Water Management District is not “good” for citrus growers or other agriculturalists in the “Gulf” region! The bad news is that Lake Okeechobee, a key water supply source for thousands of acres of citrus and other crops, and a leading indicator of regional water supply conditions, remains well below previous historic lows for this time of year! At press time, Lake O was at about 10-feet. That is over three feet below last October’s level. And, as growers know...last fall, the SFWMD put the region under water shortage restrictions and “severely rationed” the resource to lake and Caloosahatchee River water users. Currently, portions of Hendry and Glades remain under Phase III restrictions, while the District’s Lower West Coast, including Lee, Hendry, Glades, Charlotte and parts of Collier, are under full Phase II!

In response to this crisis, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association has “teamed-up” with other Ag groups and industry leaders to provide a “unified voice” for agriculture’s water supply needs. In sessions before the SFWMD Governing Board and at public workshops before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, GCGA and other Ag representatives have pressed the case for additional water supplies for



citrus and other crops. Presentations have included documented statistics of economic losses in the millions of dollars due to the 35-45% cutbacks! The Ag community has also pointed out the numerous conservation measures that farmers have adopted to use less irrigation water. Even Florida’s Commissioner of Agriculture has “weighed in” on the effort to provide as much water as possible to agricultural producers to make next year’s crops profitable to support the state’s economy.

“The GCGA will continue to aggressively represent its members on the water supply issue,” said Ron Hamel. “Growers will even have to be more actively engaged than ever before to make the

case.” The association has scheduled an Agricultural Water Issues Forum for November 7th at the Dallas Townsend Ag Center in LaBelle. The session will include presentations by three of the most informed individuals on agricultural water issues. Featured speakers are Tom MacVicar, a private consultant working on behalf of agriculture in the region; Chuck Aller, director of Agricultural Natural Resources, Florida Department of Agriculture, and Chip Merriam, deputy executive director for water resources, South Florida Water Management District. The speakers will address the current drought situation, as well as the other key water management issues that growers, farmers and ranchers are facing.

Gulf Growers Continue to Expand BMP Implementation

The latest report from the University of Florida/IFAS “BMP Implementation Team” indicates that citrus growers in the “Gulf” production region continue to enroll in the program within Southwest Florida’s five county area.

At last count, the UF/IFAS report shared with the Gulf Citrus Growers Association’s board of directors indicated that over 61,000 acres and 43 growing operations have been enrolled in the program. The county breakdown of participation is as follows: Charlotte, 2,984 acres; Collier, 8,807 acres; Glades, 839 acres; Hendry, 48,028 acres and Lee, 530 acres. According to the Florida Agricultural Statistics Services, which maintains Florida’s “citrus tree inventory” data, the five-county region now includes about 137,000 acres of citrus. These numbers indicate that almost 50% of the citrus acreage in the “Gulf” production region has “signed-up” to participate in the best management practices (BMP) program.

“These are great numbers... consider-

ing that the ‘Gulf Citrus BMP Manual’ was ‘officially’ released in February of 2006,” said Ron Hamel, GCGA executive vice president. “It is a real tribute to the overall effort, by UF/IFAS, the Florida Department of Agriculture’s Office of Water Policy, the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and our association...that in less than two years... nearly half of the citrus acreage in region has been enrolled to participate,” he added.

The “Gulf Citrus Best Management Practice (BMP) Manual” was adopted by rule under the Florida Watershed Restoration Act. It serves as the regional citrus growers’ “menu” of BMPs which address water resources management, erosion and sediment control, pest management and nutrition management.

Through the UF/IFAS BMP Implementation Team, individual growers are contacted to review the logistics of the program. The growers meet with a team member to discuss their grove operations

using a “check list” from the BMP Manual. Following that process, growers are given the opportunity to complete a “notice of intent” (NOI) with the Florida Department of Agriculture to participate. Upon completion of the NOI, citrus growers can qualify for a “Presumption of Compliance” with state water quality standards. A completed NOI also triggers eligibility to apply for cost/share funding for qualified practices as outlined in the annual “Gulf Citrus Cost-Share Procedures” booklet. Over \$400,000 in cost-share funding has been made available by the FDACS since the program began in the region. Efforts are also underway to increase the cost-share funding through “partnerships” with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), and other agencies.

Growers interested in more details about the program are urged to contact UF/IFAS BMP Implementation Coordinator Geovanne Stingham at (863) 634-7830 or by e-mail at stinghen@ufl.edu.

2007 “Gulf Classic” Tournament Marks 11th Year

The 11th annual “Gulf Classic” Golf Tournament was held May 4th at the Heritage Palms Golf and Country Club in Ft. Myers. The “Gulf Classic” continued to be one of the association’s most fun and successful social events. Traditionally, it has become one of the Gulf Citrus Growers Association’s key fund-raisers to support its community and governmental relations programs.

Thirty-four teams participated in the tournament, making the outing one of the association’s best attended. Over \$100,000 in “hole-in-one” prizes added to the competition and challenge of the day! And, the professional staff at Heritage Palms assured that the event ran smoothly from start to finish.

This year’s first place team was sponsored by D & K Harvesting, Inc. and included Larry Marsh, Joe Hilliard, II, Ross Fleming and Gene Hillman. The second place team was sponsored by Bob Paul Inc./Junior Harvesting and included players Ricky O’Ferrell, Bill Turner, Jesus Reyna, Jr. and Mario Gonzalez. And, coming in third place was the team sponsored by Everglades Harvesting & Hauling which included Paul Meador, Robert “Bo” Meador, Scott Albritton and John Whitehead.

Individual winners were as follows: Most Accurate Drive, Jim Davis; Longest Drive #2, Mitch Davis; Longest Drive #13, Tom Duda; Longest Putt, Garry Gibson; Closest to the pin “men’s”, Heath Prescott.

The 2007 “Gulf Classic” Tournament Committee included chair Robert Murray, Wedgworths; Jeff Campbell, Oswald, Trippe & Company, Inc.; Walter Fluegel, Heidt & Associates, Inc.; Julie “Hooty” Forrest, Stallings Crop Insurance, Corp.; Adam Ginsberg, Hertz Equipment Rental Corp.; Sarah Hatton, Valent USA; Stacy McCullough, Farm Credit of SW Florida; Alison Pool, Brown and Brown of Florida; Sonya Tuten, Ag-Tronix, Inc.; Rachel Walters, Bayer CropScience and Richard Woodruff, WilsonMiller.

These volunteer associate members worked many hours to assure a “first class” and “fun-filled” golf tournament. Please extend a warm “thank you” for their leadership!



D & K Harvesting, Inc. Team Takes 1st Place!
Caption: (L to R) Joe Hilliard, II, Larry Marsh, Ross Fleming and Gene Hillman teamed up to win first place in the 2007 “Gulf Classic” tournament. GCGA congratulates this winning team!



“Gulfers” Check-in at Registration!
The 11th “Gulf Classic” featured over \$100,000 in prizes! The tournament continued to be one of the association’s most “festive” events.

2007 Gulf Classic Tournament Sponsors

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association would like to say “thank you” to the Gulf Classic sponsors:

Tee-Off Breakfast

Tropicana Products, Inc.

Awards Luncheon

Douglass Fertilizer & Chemical, Inc.
Oakley Groves, Inc.
Triangle Chemical Company
Zenith Insurance

Refreshments

Gulf Citrus Management, Inc.
Helena Chemical Company
Lutgert Insurance
Steele Truck Center, Inc.

Photography

Agraquest
Bruce Hendry Insurance
DeSoto AutoMall
Dow AgroSciences
Helena Chemical Company

“Gulf Classic” Hats

Bayer CropScience

Refreshment Coolers

DeSoto AutoMall

“Communications”

Spectrum Wireless

Prize Holes

Ag-Tronix, Inc.
Alico, Inc.
ECT
Gulf Citrus Marketing, LLC
Heidt & Associates, Inc.
Monsanto
Pacific Tomato Growers
Valent USA

Tees & Greens

Ag-Tronix, Inc.
Agri-Property Consultants, Inc.
BASF Corporation
Banana Branch Harvesting, Inc.
Brown & Brown of Florida, Inc.
Chemical Containers, Inc.
Citrus Hedging, Inc.
Coastal Fertilizer & Supply, Inc.
Creel Tractor Company
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Uniroyal Chemical
Culligan Water

Duda Farm Fresh Foods
Everglades Farm Equipment Co., Inc.
FCCI Ins. Group
Farm Credit of SW Florida
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Florida Citrus Mutual
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Heidt & Associates, Inc.
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Louis Dreyfus Citrus, Inc.
Oswald Trippe & Company, Inc.
Peace River Citrus Products, Inc.
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T & M Portable Restrooms
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Whiddon’s Hoe Service
WilsonMiller, Inc.

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The Broken Niblick
Brown & Brown of Florida
ECT
Farm Credit SW Florida
Fish Hound Custom Rods/
Justin Hood
Gator Ag Group/
Sherman Youmans
Lutgert Insurance
MANA
Oswald Trippe
& Company, Inc.
OXBO International
Prudential Ag Investments
RHT Engineering, Inc.
ScreenPrintPlus
Spectrum Wireless
Stallings Crop
Insurance, Corp.
United Ag Products (UAP)



GCGA/Members Support County “Leadership” Programs

As a part of its community relations outreach, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association, as well as individual members, is providing annual support for “county” leadership programs. From providing leadership and presentations to sponsoring luncheons and field trips . . . “Gulf” growers are engaged in “telling the story” of citrus and agriculture to the future leaders of Southwest Florida.

Each county leadership program has an “Agriculture Day,” which provides the opportunity for participants to get out to various Ag operations, tour the facilities and ask questions. These day-long learning experiences at farms, in groves and on the range are priceless in educating key members of the community about agriculture.



Leadership Lee “Class” Tours Harvest!

Grove tours feature many demonstrations including the “pioneering” excitement of mechanical harvesters! Leadership classes rank “Ag Day” as one of the most interesting.

In addition, GCGA has provided leadership on water/environmental issues for the newly created Leadership Hendry & Glades program.

Classes of county leaders range from 30-50 “students,” who are selected from a wide variety of backgrounds. The “leadership” programs are all designed to encourage community awareness and to promote citizenship and service.

“It is very important for the region’s agricultural organizations and leaders to participate in these programs,” said John Hoffman, GCGA’s community relations committee chair. He noted the participation of the Barron Collier Partnership.

Other GCGA “grower” members that are active participants include Alico, Inc., George Austin, Inc., Duda Farm Fresh Foods and Six-Ls/ Farm Op. The UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center is also involved.

Taylor Appointed To Citrus Commission



Following appointment by Gov. Crist, three new Commissioners were recently sworn in to serve Florida’s citrus industry. (L to R) Michael Haycock of Tropicana Products, Inc.; Mike Taylor, V.P./General Manager, Collier Enterprises Agribusiness Division, and Stan Carter, Division Manager, McArthur Farms, Inc. Taylor served as a vice president of “Gulf Citrus,” and is active in many Collier County initiatives.

Gulf Citrus appreciates the support of



The association does not “endorse” the goods or services promoted in this newsletter.

www.gulfcitrus.org

The GCGA Community Relations Committee invites association members to go to www.gulfcitrus.org for the latest information. The website is being updated on a regular basis and has links to a wide range of citrus and agricultural organizations and services.