

# News



Winter 2019



Citrus  
& AG  
Celebration  
2019  
@ FGCU



see page four

# Executive Vice President's Message

When I talk to citrus growers or those in the industry about how things are going, the word challenging is usually in the first sentence. Among the many topics concerning growers in Southwest Florida is water; from both a water quality and supply standpoint. As more people live and vacation in Florida, more pressure is put on our environment and our natural resources. Governor DeSantis and our legislators are committed to protecting this precious resource and Gulf Citrus Growers Association remains committed to being a voice for its members in the process. Advocating for Florida citrus growers is our top priority.

Throughout the year, Gulf Citrus Growers staff and leadership have met with key agency representatives and legislators to keep a voice for agriculture and citrus growers in the region. Gulf Citrus Growers leadership has also participated in grove tours with new members on the SFWMD Governing Board to educate them on how citrus is grown in Southwest Florida using Best



**Steve Smith**  
Executive Vice President

Management Practices and in a sustainable manner.

GCGA also hosted a grower luncheon at the SWFREC on December 4th. Guest speakers included SFWMD Board Chairman Chauncey Goss, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Director Greg DeAngelo, and Lt. Colonel Todd Polk from the Army Corps of Engineers. Important information concerning the Caloosahatchee Basin Management Action Plan, works of

the SFWMD and the Lake Okeechobee operating schedule were presented to our members in an open Q&A format. Gulf Citrus Growers Association staff and leadership are involved in many areas important to our growers: labor, research, marketing, property rights etc., and will continue our outreach regarding all “water issues” such as Everglades restoration, ACOE Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule, FDEP Total Maximum Daily Loads as related to BMAP creation, and Minimum Flow Levels for the Caloosahatchee. We appreciate our legislators’ commitment to the environment and look forward to working together to find balanced solutions to Southwest Florida’s water issues. This is a complex matter that requires all stakeholders (residents, businesses, municipalities, utilities, agriculture and others) to work together.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to call me or Bernadette with any questions or concerns.

Steve



SFWMD Governing Board Members Charlotte Roman and Jay Steinle learn about our industry while touring Tamiami Citrus groves.



# GCGA Visits the Capitol



**UPPER LEFT** Representative Melony Bell, District 56  
**UPPER RIGHT** Representative Josie Tomkow, District 39  
**BOTTOM LEFT** Senator Ben Albritton, District 26

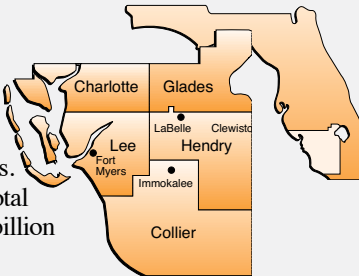
## 2020 GCGA EVENTS

- February 5th** - Member Luncheon
- April 4th** - Country Gala
- May 8th** - Golf Tournament
- June 3rd** - Annual Meeting
- August 12th** - Citrus Celebration
- November 6th** - Citrus Cup
- December 2nd** - Member Luncheon



## Florida's Gulf Citrus Production Region

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association represents thousands of acres of citrus groves in Southwest Florida's "Gulf" region, which is officially designated as a production region in state statutes. The region accounts for over 25% of Florida's total citrus fruit production, and generates nearly \$1-billion of total economic impact!



## GCGA 2019-2020 Board of Directors

### Collier County

Tom Kirschner  
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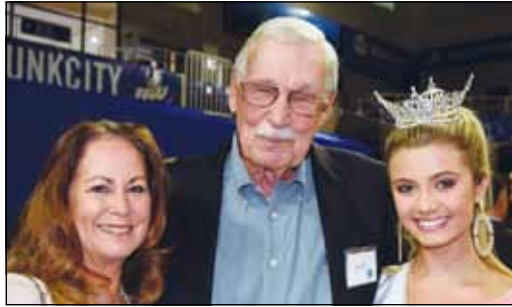


## Gulf Citrus Growers Association, Inc.

Established in 1985, Gulf Citrus Growers Association is a trade association representing the citrus growers of Southwest Florida. The association addresses key issues of economic importance to the sustainable growth and development of the citrus industry in the region. These issues include land and water use, environmental regulation, farmworker relations, transportation, marketing and domestic and international trade programs.

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# Citrus and AG Celebration at FGCU!!



The annual Gulf Citrus Growers Association's **Celebration** was held August 14, 2019, at Florida Gulf Coast University's Alico Arena. After welcoming over 300 guests, Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman remarked on the importance of agriculture and the history of citrus in Lee County.

GCGA President Ron Mahan thanked our many sponsors and introduced FGCU President Mike Martin, Ph.D., as Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Martin welcomed everyone to campus and introduced special guests and elected officials.

Guests enjoyed an excellent meal provided by FGCU's official caterer Chartwells Catering.

After dinner, Dr. Martin introduced Matt Caldwell, chairman of the Center for Agribusiness Advisory Committee, to give the audience an update on the activities within the Center for Agribusiness. Mr. Caldwell stated, "If this group is not talking to agriculture then the group is not doing their job." The advisory committee and staff are out in the community discussing the center's needs and how the community and ag companies can get involved.

Next, Dr. Martin introduced Congressman Greg Steube the keynote speaker for the evening. Congressman Steube earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Florida, majoring in Beef Cattle Sciences and minoring in Agricultural Law. He also served as an Airborne Infantry Officer and as a JAG Corps Officer as a Captain with the 25th Infantry Division in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Congressman Steube touched briefly

on each of the three House Committees (the Judiciary; Oversight and Reform; and Veteran's Affairs) and six Sub Committees (Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security; Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law; Immigration and Citizenship; Government Operations; Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; and Health) that he serves on. He also remarked on how important water is to the state of Florida

and that we must all work together to find solutions to the many challenges related to water quality and supply.

GCGA's Executive Vice President Steve Smith closed the evening thanking Dr. Martin and the FGCU staff for hosting the celebration, Congressman Steube, Commissioner Hamman, and all the guests and sponsors for making this year's event a success!

## Platinum Sponsors

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First Place team was sponsored by G.P. Solutions

## Florida Citrus Cup a Success!

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association and the Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association hosted the 3rd Annual Florida Citrus Cup on October 25th at the Bermuda Shooting Club in Punta Gorda. Fifteen teams competed in this year's fun shoot.

The Florida Citrus Cup was coordinated and directed by Steve Smith and Bernadette Rashford with the Gulf Citrus Growers Association and by Kait Shaw, Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association's Executive Director. We are truly thankful for the financial and volunteer support of the grower and associate members.

This year's Florida Citrus Cup awarded the First Place Team, First Place "B" Flight Team, First Place "C" Flight Team, First Place Individual Shooter and Woman's Champion.

The team with that won First Place was sponsored by G.P. Solutions and included Mark White, Lee Jones, Peter Jones and Wayne Faulkner. All team members received a \$50 Bass Pro gift card and a custom-made Tervis tumbler.

This year's First Place "B" Flight Team was from Syngenta Crop Protection and included Morgan McKenna, Cody Hoffman, Cole Tyler and Justin Cain. All team members received a \$25 Bass Pro gift card and a custom-made Tervis tumbler.

The First Place "C" Flight Team was sponsored by Duda and included Mike Martin, Jose Vasquin, Joe Leon and Julio Figuro. All team members received a custom-made Tervis tumbler.

Winners of the individual awards were: First Place, Peter Jones and Woman's Champion, Morgan McKenna.

There was an option to participate in two special contests, the judge and the green bird. The judge, sponsored by Justin Cain with Chemical Dynamics, was a contest where you entered and if you shot the clay target with the judge revolver then your name went into a drawing for the judge

revolver. Charlie Hurst was the lucky winner of the judge contest. The green bird contest was a 50/50 raffle. If you chose to participate and shot the green clay target, then your name was entered in the drawing for half the amount of money that was collected. Eddie Wertz with Tropicana was the green bird winner, collecting \$230.

Both associations want to thank all those who participated and sponsored the event. We especially want to THANK Ray Royce for volunteering at the green bird station. The date for next year's Florida Citrus Cup is already reserved for **November 6, 2020**. Please make sure that you have this date and event on your calendar!



First Place "B" Flight Team was from Syngenta Crop Protection



First Place "C" Flight Team was sponsored by Duda

### Thank You 2019 "Florida Citrus Cup" Sponsors!

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#### Water

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#### Hats

Syngenta Crop Protection

#### Photographer

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#### Judge

Chemical Dynamics

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#### Team

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# News



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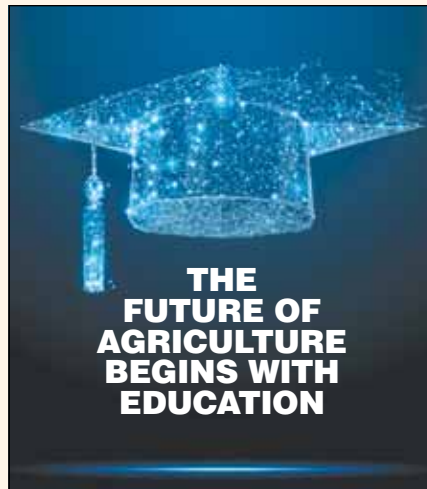
## GCGA Awards \$4,500 in Scholarships this Year

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association's Scholarship Foundation awarded **\$4,500** this year to seven deserving students: **Peter Jones** attending **Warner University**; **Taylor Sorrell** attending **Perdue University**; **Brett Whann** and **David Whittaker** attending **Florida Gulf Coast University**; and **Madison Koukos**, **Megan Winfree** and **Iman Zekri** attending the **University of Florida**. Year to date, the foundation's accumulated total scholarship dollars given is \$109,850.

Scholarships are awarded two times each year, during spring and fall. Applications are reviewed by a committee made up of industry leaders and members of GCGA's Scholarship Foundation.

The Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation. Contribu-

tions are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Membership dues and contribution forms are mailed annually in June. The foundation appreciates the continued support of its members and donors.



**December 31, 2019** is the next deadline for scholarship applications. For an application, please contact Mongi Zekri at 863.674.4092 or Bernadette Rashford at 239.690.0291.

### **DUDA Donates \$5,000 to Foundation**

The GCGA Scholarship Foundation would like to thank DUDA for its recent \$5,000 donation.

In a letter to DUDA's corporate executive leadership, the foundation expressed its sincere thanks for that very generous contribution.

This is the third year that DUDA has generously donated this amount to the foundation.