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## Under the Citrus Tree

*Highlands County Extension Service*

4509 George Boulevard, Sebring, Florida 33875

### March 2017 Newsletter

Greetings from the Extension Office!

Hello from your Extension Office! Man, March has been busy! It seems like everyday we get new opportunities to serve the incredible folks of Highlands County. This newsletter includes information about the Citrus Institute coming up next week in Avon Park. Make sure you sign up today to beat the deadline and I look forward to seeing you there!

We are looking at some rain today, hopefully! My prayer is that you get it where you need it the most! I want to take just a minute and thank you for the opportunity to be YOUR citrus extension agent. Nothing brings me more joy than to be able to bring information and assistance to the most incredible people on earth..... the Florida Citrus Grower!

I hope that you enjoy this edition of the newsletter! If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Regards

**Laurie**



Laurie Hurner

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## 2017 Florida Citrus Institute ~ Hope to see you there!

**PURPOSE OF THE INSTITUTE**

Citrus Greening or Huanglongbing (HLB) continues to impact all citrus production areas of Florida. The 2017 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute is an opportunity for Florida citrus growers to come together to learn about effective management of HLB and other challenging diseases affecting the industry. Topics this year include citrus tree health, Asian citrus psyllid management, post bloom fruit drop, plant bactericides and food safety.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS**

Continuing Education Units (CEU's) will be offered for holders of restricted use pesticide licenses (RUP) and certified crop advisors (CCA). CEU's have been granted in the following categories: private applicator, agricultural tree crop and demonstration & research for RUP holders. CEU's have been requested for CCA's in the appropriate CEU categories.

**SPONSORS**

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Alltech  
Farm Credit  
Triangle Chemical Company  
Maxijet



**DIRECTIONS**

The South Florida State College is located at 600 West College Drive in Avon Park.

From the South: Take U.S. Hwy. 27/98 north towards Avon Park, turn east onto W. College Drive and follow the signs to the Theatre.


From the North: Take U.S. Hwy. 27/98 south to Avon Park, continue south to W. College Drive, turn east onto W. College Drive and follow the signs to the Theatre.

From the East: Take U.S. Hwy. 98 north to where U.S. Hwy. 27/98 merge south of Sebring. Proceed on U.S. Hwy. 27/98 north towards Avon Park, turn east onto W. College Drive and follow the signs to the Theatre.

From the West: Take S.R. 64 east to Avon Park, turn south on U.S. Highway 27/98 to W. College Drive, turn east onto W. College Drive and follow the signs to the Theatre.

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE  
ALAN JAY WILDSTEIN  
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS  
600 W. COLLEGE DRIVE  
AVON PARK, FL**

# FLORIDA CITRUS GROWERS' INSTITUTE



*2017 Florida  
Citrus Growers'  
Institute*

Conducted by  
University of Florida, IFAS Extension  
Citrus Research and Development  
Foundation

South Florida State College  
Alan Jay Wildstein  
Center for Performing Arts  
Avon Park, Florida  
April 4, 2017

# 2017 Florida Citrus Growers' Institute

## PROGRAM AGENDA TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

8:00 AM - Registration

8:30 AM - Welcome and Introductions  
*Mr. Chris Oswalt, CES, Bartow, FL*

### ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT PATHOLOGY *Moderators: Ms. Laurie Hurnen, CES, Sebring, FL, Dr. Juanita Popeno, CES, Tavares, FL*

8:45 AM - The Use of RNAi to Control  
Psyllids in Citrus - *Dr. Bill Dawson, UF/IFAS  
CREC*

9:15 AM - Distribution of Psyllids in Citrus  
Groves - *Dr. Kirsten Pelz-Stelinski, UF/IFAS  
CREC*

9:45 AM - What Have We Learned about the  
Bactericides Available for Use in Citrus - *Dr.  
Stephanie Slinoki, Citrus Research and  
Development Foundation, Inc., Lake Alfred, FL*

10:15 AM - OJ Break - Sponsored by Florida  
Citrus Mutual

10:30 AM - Postbloom Fruit Drop  
Management - *Dr. Megan Dewdney, UF/IFAS  
CREC*

### FOOD SAFETY RULE

11:00 AM - FSMA's Produce Safety Rule and  
the Florida Citrus Grower - *Mr. Travis Chapin,  
UF/IFAS CREC*

## CITRUS TREE HEALTH

*Moderator: Dr. Steve Futch, UF/IFAS CREC  
Dr. Mongi Zekri, CES, LaBelle, FL*

11:50 AM - Citrus Root Health and HLB  
Management - *Dr. Evan Johnson, UF/IFAS  
CREC*

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Nematodes and Citrus Integrated  
Pest Management - *Dr. Larry Duncan, UF/IFAS  
CREC*

1:30 PM - Update on Irrigation and Nutrient  
Management Studies of HLB Affected Trees -  
*Dr. Davie Kalyampakani, UF/IFAS CREC*

2:00 PM - Update on Citrus Nutritional Trials  
- *Dr. Tripti Vasbieth, UF/IFAS CREC*

2:30 PM - Genome Editing Technology: What  
is CRISPR and What Will It Mean for Florida  
Citrus - *Dr. Fred Omiten, UF/IFAS CREC*

3:00 PM - Adjourn

CES: County Extension Service  
CREC: Citrus Research & Education Center,  
Lake Alfred, FL

FSMA: Food Safety and Modernization Act  
HLB: Huanglongbing a.k.a Citrus Greening  
UF/IFAS: University of Florida, Institute of  
Food and Agricultural Sciences

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
(IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution.



FLORIDA CITRUS GROWERS' INSTITUTE  
April 4, 2017

PREREGISTRATION  
IS REQUIRED

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send registration to: Gail Crawford, Polk County Extension Service, P.O. Box 9005, Drawer HS05, Bartow, FL 33851.  
By March 31, 2017 By phone: 863-519-1942, Fax: 863-534-0001, email: [loralhyx@ufl.edu](mailto:loralhyx@ufl.edu) or  
online at: <https://citrusinstitute2017.eventbrite.com/>

## I Need a Little Help

Citrus Extension Agents work with the research centers to bring educational information and useful educational documents to the Florida Citrus Industry. At several events we have been asked for a one-page "Weed Identification" document to complement the Weed Identification card deck that is available. So, if you would be so kind, we would really appreciate it if you could go to the box below and let us know what weeds you are facing!

**All responses are anonymous and I really appreciate your input!**

**Weed Identification Question**

## SAVE THE DATE! Florida Citrus Mutual Area Meetings & Elections

Attention Florida Citrus Mutual Members and Potential Members: Area meetings and elections are right around the corner! Call FCM at 863.682.1111 to register for your area meeting and contact Rusty Wiygul at 352.266.2426 to make sure all of your grove is signed up so that you can cast the right number of votes. If you have been on the fence or not previously been a member I would encourage you to consider membership, "Together we make a difference". New members contact Rusty at the number above as well.

**April 7th (Friday)** - Districts 8, 9 & 10 Jay Clark's Ranch "The Linda Lou", Zolfo Springs Current Directors: District 8 - Fran Becker, Steve Sorrells District 9 - John Barben, Michael Prescott, Andrew Russell District 10 - Charlie Lucas, Paul Meador, Mark Wheeler

**April 19th (Wednesday)** - Districts 5 & 6 W H Stuart AG Center, Bartow Current Directors: District 5 - Daniel Skousen District 6 - Dennis Broadway, Larry Black, Kenny DeVane, Kyle Story

**April 27th (Thursday)** - District 7 USDA Lab, Fort Pierce Current Directors: Kevin Koppelman, Mike Monroe, Tom Mitchell

**April 28th (Friday)** - Districts 1, 2, 3 & 4 Lake County AG Center, Tavares Current Directors: District 1 - David Evans, Sr. District 2 - Tim Philmon District 3 - Glenn Beck District 4 - Bob Battaglia, Ric Freeman

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## CRDF Addresses Gaps in Citrus Research Portfolio

CRDF GROWER REPORT – VOL. 5 ISSUE 12 – FEB. 2017

A CRDF committee recently completed an extensive analysis of gaps in the industry's research portfolio and determined a handful of priorities including investigating alternative utilization of HLB infected fruit. You can find the report at the button below.

[GAPS Report](#)

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## PFD Workshop Presentations Posted

Recently Dr. Steve Futch, UF Citrus Extension Agent held a workshop in Arcadia on PFD. The presentations have now been posted to the UF Citrus Agents website and can be viewed by clicking on the button below. These presentations were very good and should help growers refer back to the information to enhance their PFD control in Florida.

[PFD Presentations](#)

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## Changes at the Ag Center

You may have heard recently about some changes happening at the Ag Center. As with all good things, they do have to come to an end. James McWhorter, our Livestock agent left us on March 14<sup>th</sup>. James was offered a job with a large

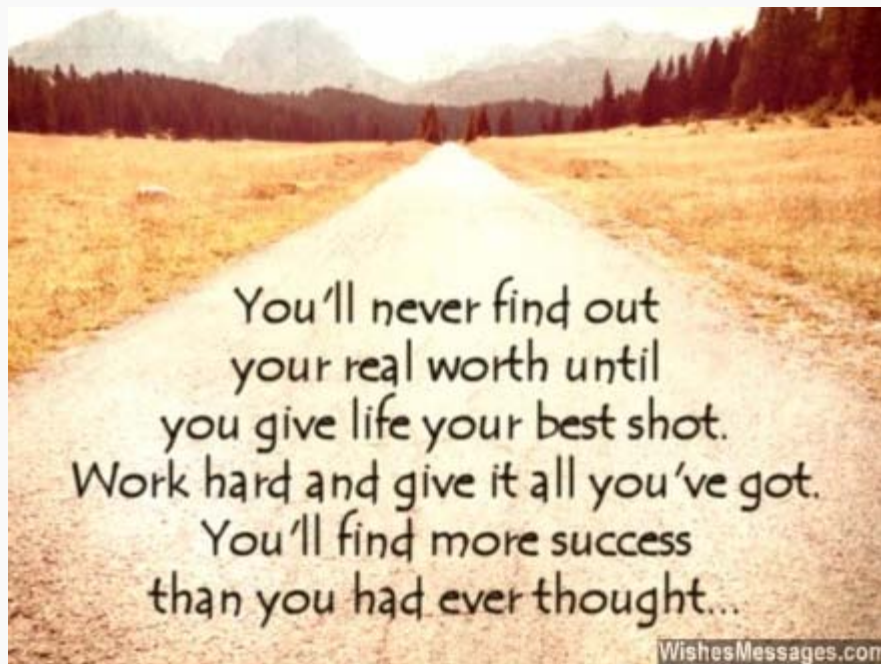


agriculture company in south Florida and could not pass up the opportunity. I was very sad to see James leave as he was a phenomenal part of our little family. However, as I told James, if no one ever wanted to “steal” my employees I would not be a very good boss.

Well, if you remember, last year we told you that James and Katie (Whidden) our 4-H agent were married in a beautiful ceremony in Katie’s hometown and we were all able to attend. After James’ news I felt in my heart that Katie would at some point “head south” as well, I just did not know it would be so soon. Katie as well was offered an opportunity she could not pass up. She will be building an Agriculture Education program from the ground up and have her own little farm for the kids to learn in. Katie will be with us until the end of June. Katie has done a tremendous job with our youth “Making the Best Better”.

I have had the opportunity over the past few years to watch these two young people blossom into fantastic Extension Agents, employees and friends. I hope that they will carry with them in their hearts many of the adventures, experiences and good times that they had here. We will surely remember them well.

So, where does that leave David Austin and me? We are right here and we are continuing to work hard for you. It will be a little while before we have the two positions filled but we are moving forward with support from the County and the State. So, I ask for your patience and that just like us, you “Trust the Process”.



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**Our mailing address is:**

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