



## UF/IFAS EXTENSION

4509 George Boulevard, Sebring, Florida 33875 – (863) 402-7150

The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter

# Highlands Citrus – E-Talk

Vol. 5, No.2

February 2012

## Highlands County Youth Citrus Project

### Citrus Tree Silent Auction

The Youth Citrus Program has grown over the past three years. This year, fifty seven young people have successfully grown citrus trees that they will exhibit and sell at the Highlands County Fair February 10 – 18, 2012.

The participants will sell their citrus tree in a “Silent Auction”, whereby individuals or businesses can bid on these trees. In the fair exhibit at the fair a Silent Auction Bid Sheet will be displayed by each tree where individuals can make their bid.

The trees are all Hamlin on Swingle in excellent condition in 5-gallon pots. The trees are inspected by the DPI, and can be used as resets in your grove.

I would encourage you to go to the fair and bid on a tree or trees in the “**Silent Auction**”. If you are unable to go to the fair, you can contact me and I will place your bid(s) for you. You can bid by entrant name, for a tree, or group of trees. If you want to bid all you need to do is contact me and let me know how many trees you want to bid on. The Silent Auction will end Thursday evening February 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Champion and Reserve Champion Trees will sell in the **live Auction** during the Junior Livestock Sale on Thursday evening, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. Again, if you cannot go to the live auction and would like to bid on these two champion trees, let me know and I can bid for you, all you need to do is give me a limit.

A third option is to “Add-On” to the sale price of the citrus trees being sold at the fair. The “Add-On” rules require you add-on to all of the trees and the add-on minimum bid is \$5.00 per tree for all of the 57 trees in additional increments of \$5.00 per tree for all of the 57 trees.

**I encourage you to purchase a citrus tree(s) at the fair to support these young people in their citrus project.** If you would like a list of names of young people who will be exhibiting trees, let me know.

The Youth Citrus Project is an effective means to introduce young people in Highlands County to the Highlands Citrus Industry and the citrus business.

For more details on how to purchase a tree, or to bid on trees, contact me, Tim Hurner, at (863) 402-7150 or [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu).

The Corporate Sponsors who have contributed to this project for 2011 and 2012 to support the project and premium monies that are paid based on ribbons the participants have earned.

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## **The Spring Citrus Blossom has begun for Central Florida Citrus**

### **The following is an excerpt from Dr Albrigo's Flower Bud induction Advisory # 4 for 2011-2012**

Mother Nature has not been friendly, but the weather has lived up to a La Niña year. The Flowering Monitor Model indicates that a first wave of flower buds was initiated between Dec. 3rd and 12<sup>th</sup>, depending on the location, earliest initiation was in mid-Florida. The full bloom dates for this first wave of flower buds is about February 7 to 17. A second wave of bloom is expected February 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. Finally, a third wave of flowering is projected for Immokalee and the Central Florida area about March 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. For a full narrative of the Blossom Advisory go to: [http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2012/01\\_11\\_12.shtml](http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/flowerbud/2012/01_11_12.shtml). If you have any questions, you can contact Dr. Albrigo at [albrigo@ufl.edu](mailto:albrigo@ufl.edu).

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## **Next CHMA Coordinated Area Spray**

### **Why is it important to predict the blossom occurrence and duration?**

New leaf flush happens at the same time as blossom which is accompanied with a frenzy of psyllid breeding and feeding and potential acquisition and transmission of citrus greening (HLB).

The latest cycle of the FDACS/USDA Psyllid Survey shows psyllids numbers to be very low in Highlands County following the Dormant Danatol Coordinated Area Spray during the first three weeks in January. Emergence of flush and warming weather conditions will trigger rapid psyllid build-up.

Some growers are spraying in February with a miticide/insecticide material such as Movento or Portal. Be sure and consider the label restriction as to Bee Activity.

The general outlook for the **next CHMA Coordinated Area Spray** indicates an OP Spray at the end of the blossom period in March. This is a critical Coordinated Area Spray to be the most effective means of knocking psyllid populations back down to low levels and minimizing the potential for the spread of citrus greening. Stay in touch with your CHMA Area Captain as to the

timing of this spray. For the name and contact information of your CHMA Area Captain, go to [www.flchma.org](http://www.flchma.org). Click on "Active CHMA Web sites and select the CHMA where your groves are located.

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## **Local Great Named to Citrus Hall of Fame**

In case you have not heard, Bob Barben has been selected to be inducted in to the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame. Certainly he is a most notable inductee, an excellent citrus grower, a true citrus industry leader, and a fine family man, joining this prestigious fraternity. Bob was a mentor to me many years ago when I came to Highlands County and has remained a true friend.

Bob will join the Citrus Hall of Fame with Dr. Bernie Lester, and Frank M. Hunt II, who like Bob Barben are most deserving.

This is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame and a full weekend of activities is planned.

If you have not yet made a reservation to attend the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Luncheon or any of the associated events, you should do so soon before the attendance limit is reached. Ticket information can be found on the web site at [www.FloridaCitrusHallofFame.com](http://www.FloridaCitrusHallofFame.com) or by calling Brenda Eubanks Burnette at (561) 351-4314.

Congratulations Bob.

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## **Highlands Citrus Grower Tour**

**"New Planting Systems Trial"**

**Gardinier Florida Citrus**

**Indiantown, Florida**

**Thursday February 23, 2012**

**10:00 a.m. to noon**

Hosted by Lee Jones, Gardinier Florida Citrus.

This is a research trial coordinated by Dr. Bill Castle. It is about 3 years old and includes various planting spacing's, rootstocks, varieties, and management systems. It demonstrates some interesting concepts and results.

**Attached** is a flier with the details including the program and Registration details.

**Pre-Registration is required.**

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## **Royce Grove Field Day**

**Attached** is a flier announcing a Field Day being sponsored by the Citrus Research and Education Foundation at the:

### **Citrus Research Foundation Grove (formerly Royce Grove) on the west shore of Lake Istopoga northeast of Lake Placid**

Wednesday, March 7, 2012 beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Field trials will be toured on;  
 New Leaf miner Management Strategies,  
 Windbreaks,  
 Advanced Citrus Production Systems,  
 and HLB Management

#### **Pre-Registration is Required:**

Please RSVP to - Jane Wilson at [wilsonmj@ufl.edu](mailto:wilsonmj@ufl.edu) or (863) 956-8643 by Monday March 5, 2012.

**Attendance will be capped at 80 participants due to space considerations**

**Most of you know the grove location. If not click on the following MapQuest Link for a map and directions:**

<http://www.mapquest.com/?version=1.0&hk=1-gBwINlx4>

## **2012 Florida Citrus Grower Institute**

The 2012 Florida Citrus Grower Institute is again scheduled this year for Tuesday April 10, 2012 to be held in the Performing Arts Center at South Florida Community College.

Topics will include: ACP IPM Citrus Root Health Management, Citrus Canker, Economics of Managing groves to reduce infection Rates, Large Scale HLB Management in Brazil, etc.

The program looks impressive and will be sent out soon.

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

**Tim Hurner, CCA**  
**Multi-County Extension Citrus Agent**  
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## Highlands County Citrus Extension Program Sponsors 2010-1011

A special **THANK YOU** to all of the **Highlands Extension Citrus Program** sponsors for their monetary support. If you would like to be among them please contact **Tim Hurner** at **(863) 402-7150** or [plowboy@ufl.edu](mailto:plowboy@ufl.edu) .

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