



UF/IFAS EXTENSION

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The Highlands County Citrus Extension Newsletter

Highlands Citrus – E-Talk

Vol. 5, No.3

March 2012

Bob Barben in the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame

Another big day for Highlands County was Friday March 12, when **Bob Barben** was inducted in to the **Florida Citrus Hall of Fame**. The induction was held as a part of the Citrus Hall of Fame Banquet held at Florida Southern College where the Florida Citrus Archives and the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame is located. This year marked the 60th Anniversary of the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame. A full weekend of activities was held to commemorate the occasion.

Bob Barben has devoted his life to the growing of citrus and as a leader of the Florida Citrus Industry. A video chronicling the highlights of Bob's contributions to our industry was most impressive, but was only able to tell a small part of what he has done for the citrus industry. Barben Groves and the Barben family speaks well of what citrus growers are all about.

Bob joins a fraternity of the greats of our industry, many of whom are from Highlands County.

Thank you Bob (and Jane) for all you have done for the citrus industry and for me!

2012 Florida Citrus Grower Institute

2012 FLORIDA CITRUS GROWERS' INSTITUTE

Tuesday April 10, 2012, 8:30 A.M.

Performing Arts Center Auditorium

South Florida Community College in Avon Park

Attached is a copy of the program.

This is truly a timely and informative program. Topics include several areas: ACP Management; Citrus Disease management; and Production Management. Fernando Terceiro, Farm Manager for CitroSucco in Brazil will be one of the speakers.

CEU's will be awarded for both RUP and CCA.

Preregistration is required. The Registration Form is in the attached program.

OR you can register by email to:

Dorothy Crawford: dorothyc@ufl.edu

Include: Your Name, Company
Address, City, Zip, State
Phone, and Email

2012 Pest Management Guide

Several growers have inquired about the 212 Florida Citrus Pest Management Guide. It has encountered a speed bump in printing. It should be out soon. I will alert you when it is in print and available

Highlands Citrus Grower Forum

Highlands “Citrus Grower Forum”

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 8:00 a.m.

**Bert J. Harris, Jr. Agricultural Center, Conference Room # 2
Sebring, Florida**



“Continental Breakfast” **beginning at 7:30 a.m.**

The Forum will begin at 8:00 a.m.

As with previous forums we will have a grower information exchange, sharing what we are having success with and what our challenges are.

Several growers have asked that we share information about **nutritional therapies** that each grower is using.

Forum purpose:

The **Highlands Citrus Grower Forum** is intended to allow growers to gather together and share information about issues and needs, successes and failures in their citrus management program including canker, psyllid, greening management programs, concerns for citrus black spot, etc.

The Forum format allows growers the opportunity to share what each is doing, and how successful we feel we are in what we have done. Also, to share ideas that may not have come to us from the research community, yet we tried them and found success.

I would encourage everyone to attend.

Highlands County Citrus Health Management Areas and Coordinated Area Sprays.

Highlands County has Seven Citrus Health Management Areas (CHMAs)

The **Highlands CHMA's and their Area Captains** are:

Avon Park/Lake Letta CHMA

Lake Letta/Sebring CHMA

Bairs Den CHMA

Area Captain: Steve Farr – Ben
Hill Griffin (863) 635-2251
sfarr@bhgriffin.com

Central Highlands 17/27 CHMA

Area Captain: John Gose –
Lykes Brothers (863) 465-4127
John.Gose@lykes.com

East 70 Flatwoods CHMA

Lorida CHMA

Area Captain: Doug Schobert –
Premier Citrus (772) 562-5030
doug@premiercitrus.com

Kissimmee River Basin CHMA

Area Captain: Tommy Todd -
Lykes Citrus (863) 467-1384
ext.302
Tommy.Todd@lykes.com

2012 Highlands CHMA Psyllid Surveys

CHMA Area	Acres*	Blocks*	Psyllid Count	
			1/6 - 2/3/12	2/6 – 23/12
Avon Park/Lake Letta	2,297	114	98	59
Lake Letta/Sebring	1407	68	19	1
Central Highlands US 27	1953	88	164	193
Bairs Den	4144	187	155	343
East 70 Flatwoods	398	20	66	11
Kissimmee Basin	4189	71	67	109
Lorida	2397	59	10	157
*Surveyed area				

Psyllid populations have remained low through the winter and are beginning to increase.

Upcoming CHMA Coordinated Area Spray

Citrus trees have begun a heavy bloom and flush triggered by a couple of early March rains. The next **Coordinated Area Spray** for each of the Highlands CHMA areas will occur between now and mid-April depending on the end of bloom, new flush, and psyllid populations. The chemical will center on an O.P., selection is up to the individual grower. Critical is the rotation of Modes of Action between sprays. Do not repeat a Mode of action used in your previous spray. Coordinating the timing with your neighbors is critical to heighten effective and efficient management of the psyllid

To be sure you are coordinating with your neighbors; contact your Area Captain to get a notification of the exact timing of the spray for your CHMA Area.

Go to the CHMA Tool Kit on the CHMA Web Site <http://www.flchma.org> for a list of recommended Organophosphates

International Symposium on Mechanical Harvesting Systems of Fruits and Nuts

Some of you may be interested in attending this symposium that will be held at the CREC in Lake Alfred in April.

It will cover the current status and information on the mechanical harvesting of citrus and other fruits. Presenters will include scientist from around the country as well as local growers who are using mechanical harvesting.

For more information on the symposium, topics, speakers, **how to register**, etc. go to <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/harvest/>. **Pre-registration is required.**

Citrus Copper Application Scheduler

We are approaching the time of year to begin a copper spray program to manage diseases and minimize the impacts of canker in citrus.

Growers now have a **new tool in the tool box** to use in scheduling copper sprays. It most importantly takes into account copper source material, rainfall, and temperature when determining when to re-spray. Taking into account these factors, growers can be assured the remaining copper residue is doing the job intended. No longer does one need to just plug into the calendar to spray every _____ days, hoping that control parameters are being met.

This new tool is the **Citrus Copper Application Scheduler** module developed by Dr. Megan Dewdney, Plant Pathologist, at Lake Alfred. It is available at either AgroClimate <http://agroclimate.org/tools/cudecay/> or FAWN <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/climate.php>.

Black Spot Presentations

A workshop on Citrus Black Spot was held at the Southwest Florida REC in Immokalee earlier this week.

I have had several requests for information from the workshop for those who could not attend. The presentations are available on the SWFREC web site at: <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>. Scroll down to "Citrus Black Spot Workshop"

Grower Report

Attached is a copy of the February **Citrus Grower Research Report** from the Citrus Research and Development Foundation. Included in this report is a summary of eleven research projects that have been funded ranging from RNAi research to “Psyllid Response to HLB and nutrient deficiency. Also there are efforts to obtain additional funding for projects from USDA, and a recent visit from Texas Citrus Growers and Scientist as a result of the finding of HLB in a grove in Texas. This is an excellent tool to keep up with how your money is being spent and progress on finding solutions.

One of our own local growers serves on the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Bobby Barben. Bobby chairs the Research Committee. Bobby puts in countless hours to his role on the foundation. He is commended for his effort. Thanks Bobby.

Olive Production for Florida

I have had inquiries about the Olive Production Workshop held last month. A video of the presentations is available on the CREC, Lake Alfred web site at <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/olives/> . Also, available are copies of the power point presentations, links to olive production information and reference to several books on olive production.

Dr. Louise Ferguson and Dr. Paul Vossen both from the University of California Riverside were the presenters.

My take Home Messages from the workshop were:

- Olives are a Mediterranean Climate Crop which prefer arid and dry conditions,
- Olives will grow in Florida,
- There are many varieties of both table and oil olives. Few have been tested in Florida,
- Spring rainfall can greatly reduce pollination, hence lower crop set,
- Olives are susceptible to a soil borne fungus that is very common in Florida much like *Phytophthora*.

I would think they are a potential crop, but more research and experience are needed.

2013 International Research Conference on Huanglongbing (HLB) **Save The Date**

Mark your calendar for the 2013 International Research Conference on HLB to be held in Orlando, February 4 – 8, 2013.

More information and details will be available later.

Tim Hurner, CCA, Multi-County Citrus Extension Agent
Highlands County

Highlands County Citrus Extension Program Sponsors 2012-1013

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 .

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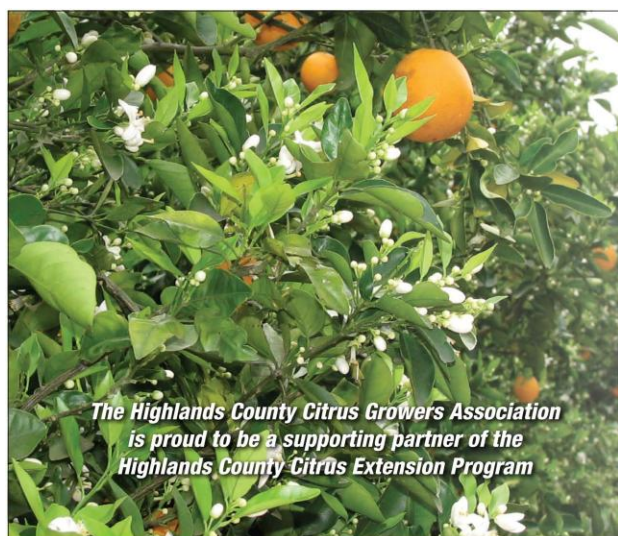
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*The Highlands County Citrus Growers Association
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