

# RIVER RAMBLINGS



The newsletter of the  
**Indian River Citrus League**  
APRIL 2017

## River Fun Shoot 2017

The second annual Indian River Citrus League River Fun Shoot kicked off on March 31 at Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee. Despite signs of nearing rain, the weather remained beautiful for the sixteen teams to begin the tournament with a shoot-gun start.

Each participant shot 100 clays from 14 different station locations with one station designated as the green bird station for a chance to win the 50/50 cash pot raffle. It was a lot of fun and it gave everyone an opportunity to improve their shooting skills. Everyone enjoyed a great lunch of Low Country Boil. Prior to the awards ceremony, raffle prizes were drawn with Bo Meador (AgroSource) winning the cash prize pot from the green bird raffle.



Special thanks goes to John Martinelli, Valerie Waters (Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Co.) and Deb Joneck (Florida Coast Equipment) for their help. Also to Quail Creek Plantation for their fantastic customer service in making sure that everything went smoothly.

Congratulations to the following winners of the shoot: Ladies High Overall award went to Robin Mixon; Runner Up Individual award went to George Winterling; High Overall Individual went to Layton Chambers; Runner Up Team award went to Anchor Point Solution. (Linda Jones, Dee Orr, Robin Mixon and Shawn Wisehaupt) and High Over All Team award went to Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Co. (John Martinelli, Rooster Chambers, Layton Chambers and Travis Chambers).

Thank you to all of our Fun Shoot Sponsors for your support! Your involvement made it a success.

Next year's shoot date is set for **Friday, March 23, 2018** at Quail Creek Plantation. Please mark your calendars and if interested in sponsorship opportunities, please contact the League office.

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## SAVE THE DATE!

Next year's shoot is set for Friday, March 23, 2018 at Quail Creek Plantation. Mark your calendars and contact the League office for sponsorship opportunities.

# River Fun Shoot 2017





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# Update on Senate Bill 10: Everglades Legislation

as of April 10, 2017

Nicholas Abrahams  
Governmental Affairs Director  
St. Johns River Water Management District



With the Legislative Session scheduled to Sine Die May 5, priority Everglades legislation continues to move in the Florida Senate. Senate Bill 10 recently passed its final Senate Committee last Wednesday (April 5). During the Senate Appropriations meeting, Senate Bill 10 was amended to remove all other environmental topics and deal solely with reducing harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee.

Senator Bradley's amended legislation aims to protect the coastal communities from discharges by leveraging land already owned by the state of Florida. The adopted amendment to Senate Bill 10 strictly prohibits the state of Florida from the use of eminent domain, while aiming to achieve 240,000 to 360,000 acre-feet of storage south of Lake Okeechobee. Senate Bill is headed to the Senate floor and was placed on the Special Order Calendar for Wednesday, April 12.

Per Florida Senate Professional Staff, Senate Bill 10:<sup>1</sup>

- Requires SFWMD to develop a plan to provide a minimum of 240,000 acre-feet of storage through a deep storage reservoir and water quality treatment features, using the A-2 parcel, land swaps, and purchases. SFWMD may consider alternate configurations using the A-1 parcel if a minimum of 360,000 acre-feet of additional storage can be achieved (60,000 acre-feet currently provided by A-1 FEB).
- Requires SFWMD to use DMSTA2 modeling to determine the amount of acreage needed to meet water quality standards.
  - Directs SFWMD to negotiate modifications of lease terms on state and district-owned lands to make land available for the reservoir project.
  - Directs SFWMD to negotiate for the acquisition of privately owned property if needed for the reservoir project through purchase or land swap.
  - The bill terminates the current PRIDE work programs on state-owned land using inmate labor for agricultural work considering the high unemployment rate in the EAA for these types of jobs. This land would then be available to swap for any privately owned land needed for the reservoir project further minimizing any impact on agricultural workers in the EAA.
- Establishes timelines for achieving milestones for approval of the post authorization change report and requires reporting to the Legislature.
- Moves up the date for the EAA reservoir project planning study to commence if Congressional approval of the post-authorization change report has not occurred.
- Clarifies that ongoing Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects will continue to receive funding.

See BILL page 6

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Welcome Spring

*BILL Continued from page 6*

- Authorizes SFWMD to begin planning and discussion with the owners of the C-51 Reservoir project to determine if the state should acquire or enter a public private partnership for this water storage facility that will add approximately 60,000 acre-feet of storage south of the lake.
- Establishes the Everglades Restoration Agricultural Community Training Program in DEO for stimulating and supporting training and employment programs, to match state and local training programs with identified job skills associated with non-agricultural employment opportunities in areas of high agricultural unemployment. The bill expresses the Legislature’s intent to promote the implementation of the Airglades Airport in Hendry County and an inland port in Palm Beach County to create job opportunities in areas of high agricultural unemployment.
- Establishes a revolving loan fund to provide funding assistance to local governments and water supply entities for the development and construction of water storage facilities.
- Revises the uses of the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund to include the water storage facility revolving loan program.
- Provides funding for the reservoir projects, including an authorization to bond funds from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF). The total cost is reduced from \$2.4 billion to approximately \$1.5 billion, half of which could be paid by the federal government. The amendment includes an appropriation of \$64 million from the LATF for the 2017–18 fiscal year.
- Allows for funds not spent on the reservoir projects to be used for other Everglades Restoration projects as provided in Legacy Florida.

1. Reagan. (2017, April). (Florida Senate, Committee on Appropriations). Retrieved from <http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/10/Analyses/2017s00010.ap.PDF>



# *Indian River Citrus League*

**2017**

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# New Approaches to Protecting Florida Citrus

By Ben Rosson

FDACS/Division of Plant Industry

Bureau Chief Budwood



In response to the dire situation that Florida growers are currently facing, the FDACS Bureau of Citrus Budwood Registration has identified an approach to decrease by half the introduction time of new varieties. The approach includes shoot tip grafting in combination with thermal therapy, limited biological indexing, and innovative laboratory testing. The most time-consuming aspect of a field introduction is the shoot tip grafting and biological indexing.

## Accelerated Budwood Clean-up Process

Shoot tip grafting (STG) is a procedure used to micro-propagate new varieties while simultaneously eliminating pathogens. The process takes approximately 2-3 months in vitro before a successful STG is established in the greenhouse. The STG tree will be grown out for 12 months, then biological indicators will be bud inoculated using budwood collected from the STG tree. The trees are then put through the process of biological indexing. These processes are extremely labor intensive. Traditional introduction methods take 12-18 months before enough budwood is available from the STG tree to inoculate indicators. A typical field introduction in the program includes bud inoculation of 40 biological indicators. The biological indexing process that follows is typically 6-12 months. Although the same basic process of biological indexing will be applied in the new trial introduction approach, there are several aspects that will be altered to speed up the process and to provide more reliable pathogen detection.

Rather than relying solely on biological indexing for symptom detection, highly sensitive laboratory testing including qPCR, double stranded RNA and cutting edge digital PCR and genomic sequencing will be used. As with traditional biological indexing, the indicators will be cut back to force flush and activate any potential pathogens that might be

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present. This allows for highly accurate sampling and eliminates the concern for uneven pathogen distribution. Symptom expression is no longer relied on to detect pathogens; instead, pathogens are detected by highly reliable laboratory testing.

A total of eight indicators will be inoculated on two core indicator varieties, Etrog Citron and Madam Vinous sweet orange, which will allow for sampling from both hot and cool conditions. The reduction in indicators reduces the time of the biological indexing phase by nearly half. Also, by reducing the number of biological indicators, multiple STG trees can be tested per introduction resulting in a decreased need for increase propagations and lessening the introduction time by an additional 4-6 months.

The new trial introduction process is estimated to take approximately 12-18 months as compared to the current process which requires three or more years. However, there are several factors that remain out of our control which may significantly increase the new introduction time such as parent material with multiple infections and slow growing/non-vigorous varieties. The Bureau of Citrus Budwood Registration is optimistic that the new trial introduction process will give Florida growers a much needed edge in the industry. The program is dedicated to continuously searching for ways to optimize and create the most efficient and timely introduction process possible.

***New trial introduction process estimated to take 12-18 months, compared to current process which requires 3+ years.***

### **Escape Tree Permit**

Another important step taken to mitigate disease impact is the creation of a permit process to allow for the propagation of “dirty” plant material that shows tolerance to greening in the field. This new permit is called an Escape Tree permit. While there may be many definitions of an Escape Tree, the definition used by the Department is: a citrus tree in a grove showing a considerable level of resistance or tolerance to greening, while surrounding trees are showing decline. This is a limited permit which allows for the propagation of trees on a small scale while the material is going through the clean-up process so that it can be distributed. This permit allows for the planting of 10 continuous acres in the region where the tree is found. These trees cannot be propagated in the same area as commercial propagations. These trees will also be evaluated on an annual basis to determine if they are still a viable case for the permit. We believe that by temporarily allowing this type of propagation, we are using all the tools currently in our toolbox to help the Florida citrus industry survive.

***Escape Trees show a resistance or tolerance to greening in the field and are allowed in small-scale propagation trials.***



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- We print in 4-color CMYK process.
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