

# RIVER RAMBLINGS



The newsletter of the  
**Indian River Citrus League**  
JUNE 2019

## It's a Wrap! 2018-2019 Season Update

### Annual Meeting

Our season kicked off by having Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Ron DeSantis, later becoming Florida's 46th governor of Florida, as our guest speaker at our 88th annual meeting held on October 23, 2018. He briefed the crowd with his vision of the water crisis in Florida and his military background and how it will provide a strong base for his leadership.

### Florida Citrus Show

The 2019 Florida Citrus Show marked another hugely successful gathering in Ft. Pierce January 23-24, which drew a large crowd for the two-day education program and trade show at the Havert L. Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce and presented by Florida Grower® magazine in partnership with UF/IFAS, USDA, and the Indian River Citrus League.

*See CITRUS SHOW pg. 3*

### Clay Shoot

The fourth annual Indian River Citrus League River Fun Shoot kicked off on March 29, 2019 at Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee with nearly 80 shooters. The event continues to grow with more and more shooters. As you know, the funds generated from this event will allow the League to continue representing our grower base on issues impacting our industry.

We were thrilled by the generosity of **Everglades Farm Equipment** who sponsored our first **Shot Gun Raffle** of a Beretta, 12-gauge, A300 Outlander. We also had other great prizes for our Chinese Raffle along with a green bird 50/50 pot.

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### *CITRUS SHOW* con't from pg. 1

Pat Schirard, President of the Indian River Citrus League, kicked off the show by welcoming the attendees and highlighted activities that the League has been involved with to promote the viability of the Indian River growing district.

The big attraction for the show was the educational programs focusing on new scion and rootstock updates from scientific community. Other presentations touched on outside-of-the-box tactics people are trying in groves to promote tree health and yields. Educational sessions featured HLB and psyllid control along with updates on bactericides, nutrition and postharvest and new grapefruit scion and rootstock updates.

The trade show was packed and sold out with more than 100 exhibitors. The floor stayed busy with activities and numerous giveaways and prizes throughout the event. Because of the government shutdown, there was a lot of last minutes shuffling of speakers that was pulled off flawlessly by Dr. Rhuanito "Johnny" Ferrarezi, Education Program Coordinator for the Show and an Assistant Professor of Citrus Horticulture with UF/IFAS.

The Florida Citrus Show is hosted in partnership between the Florida Grower, UF/IFAS, USDA and the Indian River Citrus League. The 2020 Florida Citrus Show is slated for **January 22-23, 2020** in Ft. Pierce at the Havert L. Fenn Center. As always, kicking off the show was the Indian River Citrus League Banquet at The Club at Pointe West in Vero Beach. Next year's banquet will be held on **January 21, 2020** at Pointe West.

## MAC Project

With the approval for funding of the MAC project, work is moving forward on the grower-driven, 300-acre plus grapefruit trial comprised of 30, ten acre sites with the bulk of the acreage here in the River growing region, as well as numerous sites on the ridge and gulf growing areas. With the project in phase one, participants are getting their acreages readied for sites inspections so that the first round of reimbursements can be distributed to the grower. Trees, representing promising experimental grapefruit scion/rootstock, have been ordered and hopeful to receive those to mid to late 2020. If grower participants are ready for their site inspection, please contact the League office at 772-595-5026.

## Food Safety Working Group

The League and the Florida Citrus Packers' Good Agricultural Practices group continues to meet to insure industry compliance of the Produce Safety Rule. This committee has worked tirelessly to insure the fresh citrus industry maintains the excellent track record of safe, fresh citrus from Florida. Finally, Doug Bournique continues to serve, representing agricultural interests, on the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, the SJRWMD Governing Board, Indian River Lagoon Council, SFWMD Water Resources Advisory Council and the Advisory Committees for USDA Horticultural Lab and UF/IFAS/IRREC.



# Tree Assistance Program (TAP)

TAP provides financial assistance to qualifying orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters.

Orchardists and nursery tree growers who experienced losses from natural disasters during calendar year 2019 must submit a TAP application either 90 calendar days after the disaster event or the date when the loss is apparent.

Eligible tree types include trees, bushes or vines that produce an annual crop for commercial purposes. Nursery trees include ornamental, fruit, nut and Christmas trees that are produced for commercial sale. Trees used for pulp or timber are ineligible.

To qualify for TAP, orchardists must suffer a qualifying tree, bush or vine loss in excess of 15 percent mortality from an eligible natural disaster, plus an adjustment for normal mortality. The eligible trees, bushes or vines must have been owned when the natural disaster occurred; however, eligible growers are not required to own the land on which the eligible trees, bushes and vines were planted.

If the TAP application is approved, the eligible trees, bushes and vines must be replaced within 12 months from the date the application is approved. The cumulative total quantity of acres planted to trees, bushes or vines, for which a producer can receive TAP payments, cannot exceed 1,000 acres annually.

For more information, please contact your local Farm Service Agency please see the following link:  
<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=fl&agency=fsa>

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## Getting Involved.

### membership opportunities

Our Associate Membership provides opportunities to network with existing customers and potential customers by providing opportunities to sponsor events scheduled throughout the year. Their partnership with our organization is important to us.

If interested in joining our organization, please contact the League office for further details.

# CRAFT Status Report

*By Mike Sparks  
Florida Citrus Mutual*

As the Florida citrus industry continues to fight against HLB, there is hope on the horizon with the development of a new grower-driven, large-scale field trial program known as Citrus Research and Field Trials, or “CRAFT program.”

CRAFT will utilize a cost-share approach to encourage growers to implement management tools for new plantings, including grove design, planting preparation, pest management and post-planting production practices in 20, 40 and 100 acres blocks around the state of Florida. The program anticipates 2,000 acres of participating new plantings in the first year and 3,000 new acres in the second year for a total of 5,000 additional acres of Florida citrus in the ground by 2021. CRAFT will also have a program for resets.

CRAFT’s acting program manager, Kristen Carlson, and Mutual Executive Vice President Mike Sparks are currently working with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services staff to establish a Direct Support Organization (DSO) under FDACS that will become the CRAFT Foundation. Final formation of the DSO and the appointment of the new CRAFT Foundation Board of Directors is expected to be complete by June 30.

“We are very grateful that Commissioner Nikki Fried has agreed to take on this critical program,” said Sparks. “She and her staff have been extremely responsive to the industry’s interest in getting CRAFT up and running in short order.”

Once organized, the CRAFT Foundation will further develop the program and begin distribution of program information and participant applications to growers in early September. Under current timelines, the application deadline for interested grower participants is expected to be October 2019.

Florida Citrus Mutual is continuing the push to secure funds for the program. A grant application was recently submitted to the USDA’s HLB MAC requesting funds from USDA. Staff is also working on additional revenue sources such as the CRRP program, USDA NIFA, and state general revenue funds that were allocated to the Citrus Research and Development Foundation for use in field trials. A Request for Proposals is anticipated from the CRDF later this month in regard to the \$2 million available from state general revenue. A proposal in response by the CRAFT Foundation will be submitted for CRDF consideration. From these funding sources, it is expected that all program components, including reimbursement of certain grower costs, will be paid.

“We have received excellent feedback from many potential funding sources regarding the CRAFT program,” said Sparks. “We are optimistic about the level of support that we are seeing, both from a financial standpoint and in terms of the program itself.”

The CRAFT program is a work in progress, but there appears to be good forward momentum.





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# Promotional & Sponsorship Packages

Plan now to partner with us and lock in some great deals to promote your business and some great networking! Below are the League's sponsorship opportunities coming up in 2020.

## IRCL Associate Membership

\$300 annually

## Newsletter Advertising Rates (Publication Schedule: Sept – June)

Full Page – Color

\$300 per month

\$225 w/ a monthly  
commitment thru June

Half-Page – Color

\$200 per month

\$150 w/ monthly  
commitment thru June

Business Card – Color

\$60 per month

\$50 w/ monthly  
commitment thru June

## Annual Banquet Kicking off the Florida Citrus Show – January 21, 2020

Platinum Sponsor (6 complimentary seats and custom recognition pkg)

\$1,500

Gold Sponsor (4 complimentary seats and custom recognition pkg)

\$1,000

Silver Sponsor (2 complimentary seats and custom recognition pkg)

\$500

## IRCL Sporting Clays River Fun Shoot - March 27, 2020

Title Sponsorship (4 shooters and recognition package)

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Shot Gun Sponsor (4 shooters and recognition package)

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Lunch Sponsor (4 shooters and recognition package)

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# Worker Protection Standard Certification

**Train-the-Trainer & Certification Workshop**  
**Brought to you by UF/IFAS Extension and FDACS**

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

**8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.**

**UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County Hurricane House**  
**8350 Picos Road Fort Pierce, Fl. 34985**

The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) is a Federal regulation designed to protect agricultural workers (people involved in the production of agricultural plants) and pesticide handlers (people mixing, loading, or applying pesticides or doing other tasks involving direct contact with pesticides). You probably need to comply with the WPS if you are a:

- Manager or owner of a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse; or
- Labor contractor for a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse; or
- Custom (for-hire) pesticide applicator or independent crop consultant hired by a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse operator.

A key requirement of the WPS is that workers and pesticide handlers must receive pesticide training. The WPS Train-the-Trainer program is one route through which an individual can gain the knowledge required to become a WPS pesticide handler/worker trainer. During the training program, we will explore the topics a WPS worker/handler training must include, hear from a local FDACS inspector on the WPS requirements they need to see addressed, offer different methods by which to teach workers about pesticide safety, and learn about EPA's important recent changes to the WPS. We will also discuss human resource management, including the H2A program, farm labor contractors, and considerations for hourly and piece rate wages.

The class is intended primarily for pesticide handlers/applicators/trainers, agribusiness owners and managers, agricultural employees, human resource staff, crop consultants, and farm labor contractors.

Register on-line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/worker-protection-standard-train-the-trainer-wps-ttt-certification-tickets-62162849757>

Registration fee of \$50 includes materials, snacks and lunch.

For more information, contact the UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County office at (772) 462-1660



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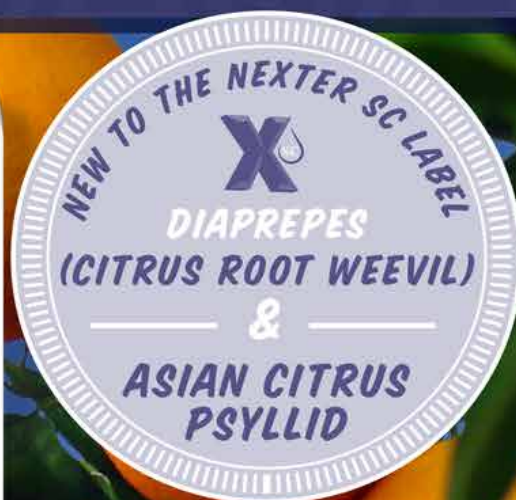
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