

# RIVER RAMBLINGS



- > Research Update
- > IR Lagoon Improvement
- > Hall of Fame Luncheon
- > FL Citrus Show Sale
- > Dispersed Water Storage
- > Turnpike Signs
- > Fun Shoot 2021
- > SFWMD/SJRWMD Reconnection

JUNE  
2022

## IT'S A WRAP 2020-2021 SEASON UPDATE

### RESEARCH

#### Trial Plantings

Two ongoing research trials here on the River is the MAC Project, a 300-acre plus trial planting of grapefruit rootstock/scion combinations here on the River and in two other counties, is in its fourth year. This ambitious project was spearheaded by former League President Pat Schirard and Doug Bournique, EVP of the Indian River Citrus League. Working with researchers from UF/IFAS/IRREC and the Division of Plant Industry, trees were planted beginning in 2019. The concept of this trial was utilized as the template for the multi-regional CRAFT Program. Measurements and data collection will be ongoing.

The second is the Millennium Block, a 20-acre trial planting of the industry's best scion-rootstock combination of grapefruit, orange, pummelo and mandarin trees, at the UF/IFAS/IRREC research site in Ft. Pierce, is another trial planting in the hopes that the silver bullet will be birthed there. A Drive-Thru Field Day in October 2021 was hosted by UF/IFAS/IRREC allowing growers a glimpse of what is showing promise. The League's Production Committee had an opportunity to tour the Millennium Block this past April.

#### Greasy Green Defect on Fruit

Through an initiative by the League, research funding was successfully approved by CRDF for, "Evaluating the Role of Greasy Spot and Peel Disorders in the Greasy Green Defect on Fruit". Dr. Mark Ritenour, UF/IFAS/IRREC, along with Drs. Megan Dewdney, UF/IFAS/CREC and Liliana Cano, of UF/IFAS/IRREC will be collaborating on this endeavor to seek treatment of this issue. Greasy Green defect causes a green cast disfiguring the fruit peel that is developing more often and earlier in the season. This three-year study will look into the causes and treatment.

See **RESEARCH**, page 3

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## **RESEARCH, con't from 1**

### **Nanobubble Project**

The oxygen injection nanobubble project at the UF/IFAS IRREC in Fort Pierce started in 2019-2020 with the goal of assessing the potential benefits of nanobubble injectors to increase water quality for irrigation and enhance water reaching to freshwater sources from storage systems.

Future stages of this study will look for nanobubble delivery methods through irrigation for citrus. It is known that higher oxygen in the water has the potential to reduce citrus tree stress. Usually, if the root zone temperature of the tree is high, then the oxygen level will go down. On top of that, if the tree is irrigated with low DO waters, then the roots will not be able to uptake the nutrients required for optimal growth. The more oxygen present, the better nutrient uptake as the root system will be less stressed.

### **Update of the Oak Leaf Extract Trials**

A formulation based on oak leaf extract and observed to rejuvenate trees back to economic productivity was developed by citrus grower's Travis Murphy and Tom Thayer. Multi-grower and USDA field trials initiated in 2021 used a modified version of the formulation reported by Travis and his team. The modifications were to accelerate the go-to-market availability of the formulation to growers. However, the rejuvenation effects observed in their field trials were not observed in the grower and USDA trials with the modified formulation.

The USDA has acquired the original formulation from Travis and has resumed testing. The USDA trial is being conducted at the Picos Road farm site and includes 122 trees made up of Minneola, Hamlin, Ruby Red grapefruit, and Valencia (5- and 10-year old). The trial is being monitored using the Gestalt Rating System being developed by Dr. Randy Niedz. All trees are currently rated as 1 – no difference between treated and untreated. To score a 2 rating – a clear and unambiguous improvement must be observed. A 3 rating is an extremely large positive effect that results in restoring the economic productivity of the tree. The USDA will use an unanimous consensus of Drs. Randy Niedz, Robert Shatters and Brian Scully, Steve Mayo (USDA Farm Manager), and Eldridge Wynn (USDA Biological Research Technician) to rate a 2 or 3.



# INDIAN RIVER LAGOON IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS

To improve the water quality to the Indian River Lagoon, the SFWMD's Upper East Coast Project, specifically the Indian River Lagoon-South Project (CERP), will alter the fresh water flowing into the St. Lucie River.

The construction on the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area Complex was completed, and components of the C-23/24 are being put into the ground. The Indian River Lagoon-South C 23/24-North Reservoir has been fully funded through construction under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and anticipates construction later this year.

The C23/24 Stormwater Treatment Area, or STA, is designed to treat water from the Canal-23 and Canal-24 Basins. It encompasses more than 2,500 acres. Its purpose is to reduce the sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen going to the St. Lucie River Estuary and the southern portion of the Indian River Lagoon. Other components are the C23/24-South that will begin construction in 2023 and C25 was recently purchased in December 2021 and is in the design phase.

A Natural Lands component of the *Indian River Lagoon - South* Project, property for Allapattah Flats Wetland Reserve Project was jointly purchased by SFWMD and Martin County and restored in cooperation with the USDA National Resources Conservation Service.





# HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON

In November 2021, the annual Citrus Hall of Fame Luncheon was held in Lakeland and the highlight was having a well-deserved inductee, former **Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam** receive his recognition. Putnam has been a strong advocate of the state's citrus industry dating back, when he was a state house representative.

The inductees for the class of 2022 have been chosen. **George Hamner, Jr.**, one of the selected, will be the 200<sup>th</sup> member inducted to the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame scheduled for November 4, 2022 at the Florida Southern College in Lakeland. Being an Indian River grower, Hamner has been a workhorse for Florida's fresh segment for 43 years.



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## THE FLORIDA CITRUS SHOW/FLORIDA GROWER MAGAZINE PURCHASED

The Florida Citrus Show continues to be a “must attend event”. Held January 2022, the show returned to its normal time slot in January at the Havert L. Fenn Center in Ft. Pierce and continues the theme of, “We Believe in Florida Citrus.” Half of the education program featured research work conducted by UF/IFAS and USDA and the other half focused on of what growers were currently working within the field. The partnership between Meister Media Worldwide and the Indian River Citrus League began in 2004 with upgrading the show to a two-day event and held in a larger facility allowing for more exhibitors and suppliers to participate.

Since the January show, Meister Media's Florida Grower Magazine was purchased by AgNet Media thus providing a single, unified information source for the grower. The League hopes to continue the show's success under the leadership with AgNet, who has been a strong advocate for growers throughout the state.

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## DISPERSED WATER STORAGE

The SFWMD held a ribbon cutting ceremony with state and local officials to celebrate the Scott Water Farm, a public-private partnership with Evans Properties, Inc. in Indian River and Okeechobee counties to store water and improve water quality.

This project will retain onsite rainfall and pump water from the C-25 Canal and store it on approximately 7,500 acres of privately-owned land. The project has the capability to reduce more than 3 metric tons of Total Phosphorus per year, and over 13 metric tons of Total Nitrogen per year.

This water farm project will join the Bluefield Grove (6,100 acres of privately-owned property) and Caulkins Citrus Company water farms (3,200 acres of privately-owned land along the C-44 Canal).

# FIGHT BACK AGAINST FRUIT DROP

*KPHITE Rx supports healthy root growth  
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## **KPHITE<sup>®</sup> Rx**



**KPHITE Rx** is specially formulated for the citrus industry to improve tree root health and control HLB Citrus Greening. The unique formulation works systemically, delivering KPHITE Rx's proven benefits from the roots up throughout the tree.



Fully EPA registered for control of HLB Citrus Greening and backed by field research, it is proven to help reduce fruit drop, increase yield and improve disease control.

### Apply KPHITE Rx "On the Ground" for Root Growth, Root Health and Phytophthora Disease Control

1-2 GPA for March, June and September applications.

Applications can be made with any standard irrigation system or with a boom application.

### Phytophthora Citrus Soil Assay

Three year grove report shows excellent disease control and strong root mass.

Grove sample	Propagules/cm3 soil		Root Mass (g)
	Total <i>P. nicotianae</i>	Total <i>P. palmivora</i>	
Replication 1	0	0	0.32
Replication 2	0	0	0.57
Replication 3	0	0	0.36
Replication 4	1	0	0.97

The treatment schedule was 3 applications per year at 2 gal/acre for 3 years.

# LEAGUE PUSHES FOR TURNPIKE SIGN UPDATES

As you know, first impressions stick with you. The Florida Turnpike, which sees on average four million vehicles per day and at 365 per day, equates to huge first impression opportunities.

The Florida Department of Citrus has been the agency that has overseen that signage at the Florida Turnpike rest areas in promoting Florida citrus...particularly Indian River grapefruit. Through an initiative by the League, the existing citrus signs are getting a sprucing up to make them more visible for the commuters traveling the turnpike system.

The signage has been a fixture for three decades.

In the late 1980's, the League was successful in lobbying the Florida Turnpike Authority and the Florida Department of Transportation to allow the only stand-alone signage allowed on the Florida Turnpike. The signs, 14 in total, were placed before each turnpike plaza with seven south-bound signs reading "enjoy Florida orange juice" and seven north-bound signs with the messaging of "enjoy Indian River Grapefruit." The new signs will have an updated health message and should be in place by the end of June. The \$50,000 cost for the sign updating will last at least for ten years.

League EVP Bournique commented, "The Florida Department of Citrus has been very accommodating to meet our request and we appreciate their staff's time in tweaking the signage."



## SJRWMD GOVERNING BOARD/ TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

As a side note, Doug Bournique, EVP of the Indian River Citrus League still continues to represent the agriculture segment for his district (Brevard and Indian River Counties) on the SJRWMD Governing Board. Along with those duties, he continues to serve on the Indian River Lagoon Council and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, once again representing the agriculture portion for the region.



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# TREASURE COAST GROWN FUN SHOOT

Despite the coldest temps of the season, the Treasure Coast Grown Fun Shoot, presented by the Indian River Citrus League was held on January 29, 2022 at Vero Beach Clay Shooting Sports in Vero Beach. The event went off seamlessly and the shooters were well prepared for the 50-degree temps. **Sailfish Brewing Company** crafted a very unique lager for the event. Needless to say, it was a hit for those coming off the course. A unique give away in the shooters' bags was the neck gaiter exclusively produced by **Hoo-Rag** that displays the iconic Indian River Grapefruit tag that was also included in the shooters' bags. **The 2023 event is scheduled for January 28, 2023** in Vero Beach. Call the League office for sponsorship details....not too soon to begin planning!



## SFWMD/SJRWMD RECONNECTION EFFORT

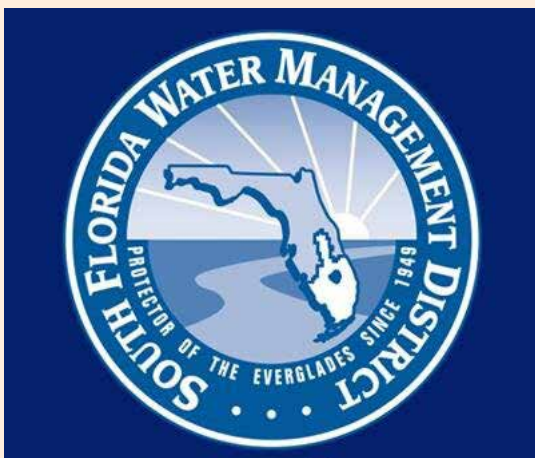
Efforts continue on the joint-district reconnection of the South Florida Water Management District and the St. John's River Water Management District with meetings ongoing between the districts' staff. The over-arching benefits of having the reconnection between the two districts are numerous.

The most important benefit is to keep hundreds of millions of gallons of water from going into the lagoon where it hurts the seagrasses and animals in the lagoon. This water can be diverted north into the Upper St. Johns Basin where it is needed by all the cities and towns along the St. Johns River.

The biggest, single project that can benefit the Indian River Lagoon is the reconnection. In the future, the reconnection could provide a water supply to the growing population of Florida.

Meetings continue between South Florida and St. John's River Water Management Districts along with Evans Properties, whose former groves are in the best location to reconnect the Districts.

EVP Bournique has been working on this important issue for over 10 years and remains hopeful and committed that this huge endeavor will come to fruition.



*Save the Date!*

## TREASURE COAST GROWN FUN SHOOT

The annual Treasure Coast Grown Fun Shoot has been set for January 28, 2023 and is building into a must attend gathering. This one-day event will be held at the Vero Beach Clays and Shooting Sports and provides fun, fellowship and networking opportunities. It's not too soon to begin thinking about partnering with us. Contact Karen at (772-595-5026) or email ([karen@ircitrusleague.org](mailto:karen@ircitrusleague.org)) for more details of how you can be a part of our growing event. There are various levels of sponsorship so there's something for everyone!



We are thrilled to welcome returning sponsorship commitments from:

**Carden & Associates** – Cart Sponsor

**Everglades Farm Equipment** - Shot Gun Sponsor

**Florida Coast Equipment** – Lunch Sponsor, Presented by Countryside Citrus

**Central Life Sciences** – Coffee Bar Sponsor

**Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Co.** – Beverage Sponsor

There's still room to add your company!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**\*Florida Citrus Crop Forecast Release**  
**July 12, 2022 @ 12 noon**  
(Season Final Report)

**Citrus Expo @ Lee County Civic Center**  
**August 17 & 18, 2022**  
Ft. Myers  
<https://citrusexpo.net/registration>

**Treasure Coast Grown Fun Shoot**  
**January 28, 2023**  
Vero Beach

\*The citrus production forecast is released at 12 noon but may not be available on their website until 15-30 minutes later due to transmission schedules. The USDA report should be available immediately after release and can be found at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>







# Advertising Opportunities .....

Looking for a way to reach our readers? Why not try our newsletter that reaches our grower members, packinghouses, associate members and affiliated businesses that make up the Indian River citrus growing district. Our publication schedule is September through June and is distributed electronically. Also, the newsletter is posted on our website of [www.ircitrusleague.org](http://www.ircitrusleague.org). If interested, please call the League office at 772/595-5026 or email at [info@ircitrusleague.org](mailto:info@ircitrusleague.org) for more details.

## Ad Copy Specifications

### Fonts

- Please embed all fonts.
- Do not use artificial font formatting; all formatting (bold, italics, etc.) must be done using stylized fonts.

### Logos

- When submitting logos, convert all fonts to outlines.
- Preferred format: vector eps

### Color

- We print in 4-color CMYK process.
- All pantone colors must be converted to CMYK.
- Black type should be made with 100% black.

### Resolution

- Resolution should be a minimum of 300 dpi at actual size.
- 72 dpi images pulled from websites are not acceptable.
- Line art should be scanned at a minimum of 600 dpi.

### File Format

- PDF files and InDesign files are preferred (collected output to include layout, linked pictures, embedded pictures, color profiles, screen fonts and printer fonts).
- Other file formats accepted:
  - eps (Adobe Illustrator)
  - tif (Adobe Photoshop)
  - jpg (Adobe Photoshop)

## Ad Size Specifications / Rates

### • Business Card

2.833 inches across by 2 inches down  
\$60/month  
\$50/month w/ a monthly commitment through June

### • 1/2 Page

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### • Full Page

8.5 inches across by 11 inches down  
\$300/month  
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Please allow at least 1/8" bleed.  
Do not include printers marks.

- Please email all advertising materials to [graphics@creativeprinting.net](mailto:graphics@creativeprinting.net)

# ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

As an associate member, you have access to most of the League's benefits and services. Associate members gain the opportunity to network their products, services, and information with our full membership. All associate members will receive:

- Invitation to association meetings
- Subscription to our newsletter
- Access to sponsorship opportunities, which enable your business to market its services directly to our grower and other associate members (newsletter, luncheons, The Florida Citrus Show, and our annual Treasure Coast Grown fun shoot to just name a few)
- Listing on our website ([www.ircitrusleague.org](http://www.ircitrusleague.org)) and newsletter

The Indian River Citrus League, headquartered in Ft. Pierce, was established in 1931 to protect the Indian River Citrus name and growing region that stretches from Volusia to Palm Beach Counties.

The League's responsibilities have expanded from the original purpose of "protecting and enhancing the Indian River name" to include a responsibility of voicing members' opinions at all industry meetings; to all governmental agencies as well as the Florida Legislature and Congress in Washington.

If you feel that a membership would be appropriate for your company, simply complete the attached application and return it along with your dues. Please don't hesitate to call, if you have any questions. Annual membership is \$300.

Contact:

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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. 772-595-5026 or [info@ircitrusleague.org](mailto:info@ircitrusleague.org)

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We love supporting our local community. Whether you need a professional facility to handle the processing and packaging of your juice or a donation for your next charity event, remember to think of Indian River Select!

