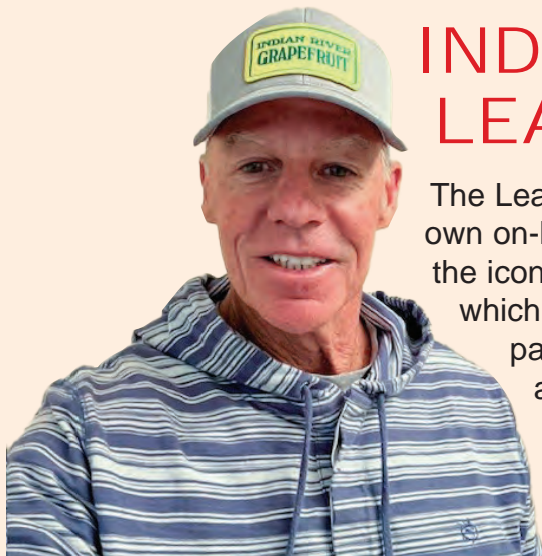


RIVER RAMBLINGS



- > Indian River Online Store
- > River Growers & NIFA Grant
- > Citrus Hall of Fame
- > One Stop Citrus Growers Projects
 - TAP
 - Best Management Practices
 - Property Appraisers Offices
 - CRAFT
- St. Johns WMD
- Abandoned Wells
- FL Citrus Show

MAR
2024



INDIAN RIVER CITRUS LEAGUE ON-LINE STORE

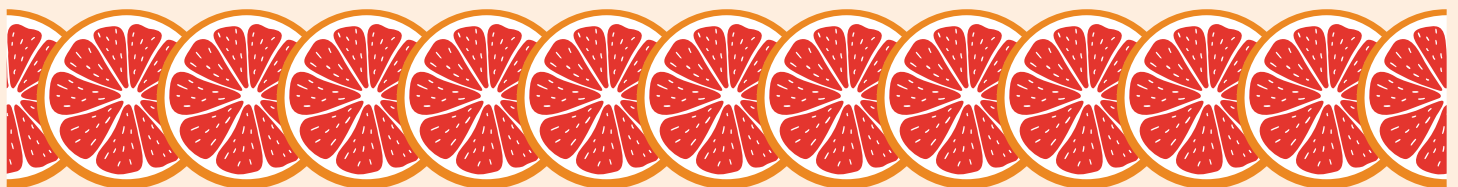
The League is happy to announce its very own on-line store. With the popularity of the iconic Indian River Grapefruit tag, which the image was reproduced as a patch on caps that were given out at the League's recent fun shoot, we were encouraged to make these available for sale online due to the popularity of these items.



We have Dan Richey, Riverfront Groves, modeling the sought after Indian River Grapefruit hat.

We also have available the Indian River Grapefruit license tag, tee shirts and other goodies. Check out the store at www.irgrapefruitshop.com to order.

You can also request specific colors for the cap, if you wish by contacting Christine, Kool Stuff LLC, at chrism@ekoolstuff.com



RIVER GROWERS PARTNER WITH NIFA GRANT

USDA-ARS scientists Drs. Michelle Heck and Randall Niedz were approached by the League about coordinating a meeting with the River growers about a unique approach to testing molecules to combat HLB called Grove First. So, on November 16, 2023, with interested growers in attendance, met with Drs. Michelle Heck and Randall Niedz, to hear about a novel approach to HLB research that bypasses lab assays and test molecules directly in the grove to learn of their ability to solve the HLB situation that has overtaken the citrus industry here in Florida.

Along with Drs. Heck and Niedz, the research team also includes Nick Larson (USDA-ARS) and Guilherme Locatelli and Lorenzo Rossi, cooperators from the University of Florida. Also, providing contributions to this project is Dr. Brian Scully, retired USDA-ARS lab director, who is researching available molecules to test which ones would meet regulatory requirements. So far over 200 molecules have been selected to test.

This unique research is part of a \$15 million USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) funded project that aims to solve the citrus greening disease that has overtaken the citrus grower regions of the State of Florida.

- Phase one of this approach is screening a large number of molecules on HLB-infected trees to identify molecules that show horticultural effects equal to or greater than trees treated with OTC.
- Phase two is larger grower trials to test the molecules identified in Phase one.

The partnership with the grower cooperators is the single, most important part of this process to identify the molecules that can solve HLB.

Molecules are tested by injecting into HLB-infected trees using 100 milliliters of a solution containing the molecule using a FlexInject device. Then the effects of the molecules are observed over the next 12 months to determine if the molecules' impact on the tree's health warrant additional field trials.

Drs. Michelle Heck and Randall Niedz are meeting with other Florida citrus organizations in hopes to have additional growers come on board as collaborators.

Doug Bournique, Executive Vice President of the Indian River Citrus League stated, "Michelle and Randy along with Dr. Brian Scully and the team are on a possible breakthrough for our industry and need all the support we can give them."

If you are a grower and are interested in participating in this unique approach, please contact Karen at the League office at karen@ircitrusleague.org to be added to the list of grower cooperators.



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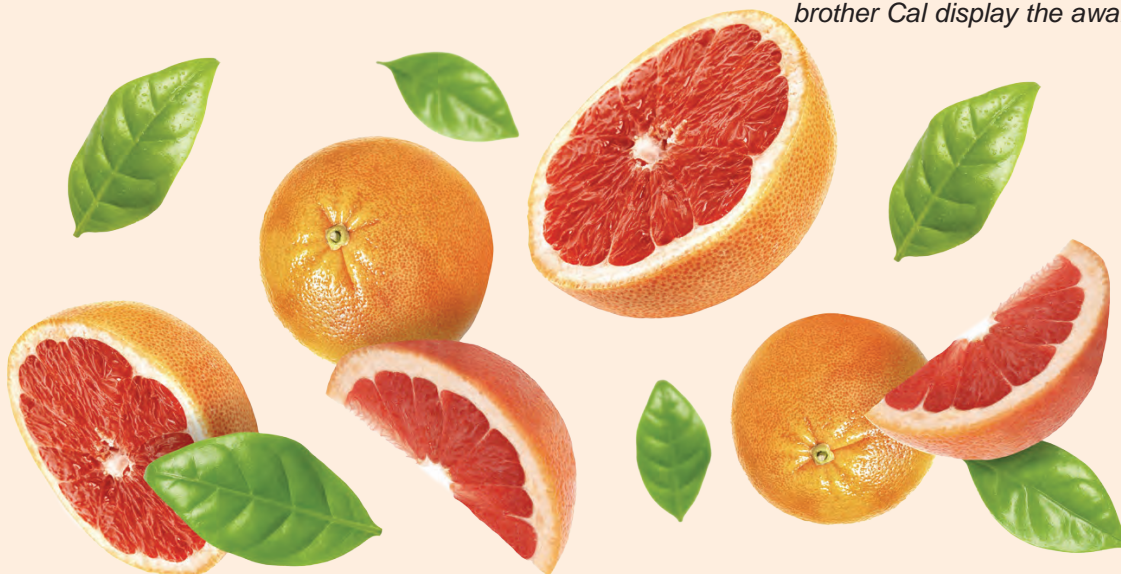
FLORIDA CITRUS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CEREMONIES

Approximately 420 people turned out for The Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies at Florida Southern College on Friday, March 1, 2024, to see the induction of the **Class of 2024 - Dr. Robert M. "Bob" Behr, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., George H. Streetman, of Vero Beach, and Leland K. Young, formerly of Alturas, Fla.,** along with the **Class of 2023 - Gilbert Bowen (deceased), of Winter Haven, Fla. and A.G. Smith (deceased), of Wauchula, Fla..**

Doug Bournique, Executive Vice President of the Indian River Citrus League stated, I can't think of a more deserving and popular nominee than George. He has served on behalf of our industry on numerous boards with distinction, which has provided our industry with invaluable leadership. What was most touching was after George gave his remarks after being inducted, he received a standing ovation from the large crowd. It was a fitting tribute to a life of excellent service to our industry."



George Streetman (right) and his brother Cal display the award.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Florida Citrus Show
April 3, 2024

Florida Citrus Industry Conference
June 12 – 14, 2024

Citrus Expo
August 21 – 22, 2024



**Citrus Estimate Forecast Dates
2023-2024 Season**

April 11, 2024
May 10, 2024
June 12, 2024
July 12, 2024

FL CITRUS QUEEN CENTENNIAL GALA

Co-sponsored by Florida Citrus Mutual and the Florida Department of Citrus, the ceremonies also included a nod to the 100th Anniversary of when the first Florida Citrus Queen was chosen on the shores of Lake Silver in Winter Haven, by welcoming over 20 of the women who represented Florida's citrus industry over the years. The queens in attendance dated back to the 1965 Florida Citrus Queen, Karol Kelly Bullard and culminated with the 2023 Miss Florida Citrus, Casana Fink, who would give up her crown later that night in Winter Haven to the Centennial Miss Florida Citrus, Alana Scheuerer, of Coral Springs.

Scheuerer, age 26, of Coral Springs, is a two-time Florida State University graduate, holding a degree in Hospitality Management and Tourism and a Masters in American Dance Studies. She works in the behavioral health field doing community outreach for the International Association of Firefighters Center of Excellence through Advanced Recovery Systems. Alana's social initiative is TAP: Turn up Artistic Participation. An award-winning tap dancer, Alana started her university's first tap dance team and currently advocates for community involvement in arts. She serves on her city's public art committee and is a regional director for Fly Dance Competition. For her talent during the competition, Alana performed a tap dance to Adele's "Rolling in the Deep."



The following night, a Florida Citrus Queen Centennial Celebration Gala was held at Nora Mayo Hall to welcome the new Miss Florida Citrus. Co-sponsored by Florida Citrus Mutual and Visit Central Florida, approximately 130 guests were in attendance along with 16 Florida Citrus Queens from prior years, dating back to the 1975 Florida Citrus Queen, Sonya Surrency Weinberg. Each representative was introduced and given a commemorative Golden Crown pin to mark the Centennial Celebration, culminating in welcoming Miss Florida Citrus 2024, Alana Scheuerer, to the sisterhood.

The Florida Citrus Queen Pageant began in 1924 and has been part of the Miss America Organization off and on throughout the years, with the name changing to Miss Florida Citrus in 1984. Over the years, the representatives have traveled throughout the world promoting the Florida citrus industry. This year marks 100 years since the first Florida Citrus Queen was chosen on the shores of Lake Silver in Winter Haven, Fla. Miss Winter Haven was added back to the program in 2018.

For more information or to schedule an appearance, contact Brenda Eubanks Burnette, Miss Florida Citrus and Miss Winter Haven Program executive director, at 561-351-4314 or MFCitrus81@gmail.com



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ONE STOP GUIDE FOR CITRUS GROWER PROGRAMS

USDA/Farm Service Agency Emergency Relief Program (ERP 2022)

ERP 2022 covers crop production, including certain quality losses, and losses of trees due to qualifying natural disaster events that occurred in calendar year 2022.

For impacted producers, FSA will be administering emergency relief to eligible producers through a two-track process:

- **Track 1** will leverage existing Federal Crop Insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data as the basis for calculating initial payments. This is for all producers that received crop insurance indemnity payment from an event in 2022.
- **Track 2** will be intended to fill additional assistance gaps and cover eligible producers who did not participate in existing risk management programs. This is also for losses in 2022, but the producer can certify either by tax return sales info or “expected vs actual sales.”

TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP) FLORIDA CITRUS GREENING

The 2014 Farm Bill makes TAP a permanent disaster program and provides retroactive authority to cover eligible losses back to October 1, 2011 and is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the USDA. TAP for greening will cost share on cost of trees, cost planting trees and cost of site preparation.

Program Contact:

Kimberly Willits
Program Technician
St Lucie/Martin/Indian River County FSA
8400 Picos Rd, Suite 203
Fort Pierce, FL 34945-3401
kimberly.willits@usda.gov



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Florida Department of Agriculture – BMP – provides cost share for projects specific to water conservation and water conservation quality.

Program Contact:

Vanessa Bessey
Environmental Administrator, South Florida Field Staff
863/467-3245
Vanessa.Bessey@FDACS.gov
Website: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Water/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices>

PROPERTY APPRAISER'S OFFICES

The duties of the Property Appraiser's Office would be administering the AG classification, which would be uniform state-wide. This classification enables the owner or lessee of a property used primarily for bona-fide commercial agricultural purposes to receive a partial or full waiver of ad-valorem taxes. Below are some important reminders related to the classification:

- α. An existing agricultural classification does not guarantee future agricultural classification under new ownership.
- β. Applicants will be required to provide documentation of the business including but not limited to federal tax return, business licenses/registrations, receipts related to buying and selling of animals, insurance supplies, feed, equipment etc. as deemed necessary by the Property Appraiser and as allowed by statute.
- γ. Granting of applications are based upon requirements outlined in Fla. Statute 193.461 and applicants must continue to meet these requirements on an annual basis.
- δ. The addition or removal of the classification will impact any CAPS currently on the property (these include a 10% non-homestead cap and the 3% save our homes cap)
- ε. It is important to note that it is the property owner's responsibility to report a change in use either affecting the entire parcel or a portion of the parcel to the Property Appraiser; records are updated annually.
- φ. Most importantly- reach out early. We are here to assist in the process, but the timely filing of the application (March 1 annually) is an important part of the two-way communication process. Without an application it is difficult to discuss and determine factors that will impact the ability to grant a classification

St. Lucie County Property Appraiser's Office

Contact:

Anthony Rahal
Field Appraiser
Representing Michelle Franklin, CFA
Saint Lucie County Property Appraiser's Office
Phone: (772) 460-3334
Email: RahalA@paslc.gov
Website: <http://www.paslc.gov>

Indian River County Property Appraiser's Office

Contacts:

Wesley Davis, Property Appraiser
772 226 1480 office
772 473 8688 (personal cell)
Email: wdavis@ircpa.org

Matt Mosel, Agricultural Appraiser
772 226 4334 office
Email: mmosel@ircpa.org

Billy Auton, Tangible & Commercial Appraiser
772 226 1475
Email: billya@ircpa.org

Website: <https://www.ircpa.org>

CITRUS RESEARCH AND FIELD TRIAL PROGRAM

The CRAFT (Citrus Research and Field Trial) program- provides funding for citrus planting, if growers participate in research. Currently, individual growers use a mixed strategy, including a variety of practices to try to combat HLB and ACP. These strategies vary by grower with no reported or scientifically proven results attributable to any given combination of management practices.



Experts identified the need for comprehensive field testing of HLB management practices to evaluate the efficacy of the practices. It was also recommended that there be a centralized database to inform growers and assist HLB researchers to improve HLB management practices. These recommendations were implicit in the *National Academy of Sciences 2018 Report on Citrus Greening*.

Program Contact:

Tamara Wood

CRAFT Foundation, Inc.

Program Manager

863.698.9276

tamara@craftfdn.org

Website: [CRAFT \(craftfdn.org\)](http://CRAFT(craftfdn.org))

ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Agricultural Cost-Share Program

The St. Johns River Water Management District has an Agricultural Cost-Share Program that works with farmers, growers and ranchers to conserve water and reduce nutrient runoff. The District accepts eligible applications, awards funding contingent with District Governing Board approval and funding availability.

Eligible project types include converting to a lower-quality water source, conserve water and/or reduce nutrient runoff. Cost-share could be up to 75 percent, not to exceed \$250,000 annually, for the engineering, design, construction and implementation costs.

To learn more about the district-wide Agricultural Cost-Share Program, contact:

Suzanne Archer

407-215-1450

sarcher@sjrwmd.com

Eden Yarborough

386-643-9133

EMYarbor@sjrwmd.com



Website: www.sjrwmd.com/localgovernments/funding/agricultural-cost-share

PLUGGING ABANDONED WELLS

The District has a District Abandoned Artesian Well Plugging Program that is designed to assist well owners in complying with state law in properly plugging artesian wells so they no longer allow water to flow to the surface or between aquifer layers. Participation in the District's program is free, provides technical guidance and oversight of licensed well contractors while the well is being permanently plugged.

Eligible wells typically have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Does not have a properly functioning valve or flow control
- Has no present or future beneficial use
- Does not meet current well construction standards
- Is discharging salt water into a drinking water aquifer

Program Contact:

Gary Foster, Hydrologist P.G.
Abandoned Artesian Well Plugging Program Manager
386-329-4421
gfoster@sjrwmd.com

Note: At the time of this publication, South Florida Water Management District had no current programs to contribute, but you may contact Libby Pigman, External Affairs Director at epigman@sfwmd.gov to learn of any upcoming programs.

ATTEND THE FLORIDA CITRUS SHOW

The Florida Citrus Show, with its origins dating back to 1946, is a one-day event bringing seminars packed with the newest information for growers, and more than 50-top agricultural companies will be exhibiting at the tailgate-style environment in between educational sessions. In addition to citrus crops, segments will also feature key vegetable crops grown in Florida. Lunch will be served in the exhibitor's tents in the USDA parking lot.

The UF/IFAS/IRREC and USDA/ARS have partnered to present the issues that are important to growers, including HLB and the impacts of the two hurricanes from 2022. "We are developing a program that gets right to the things citrus growers need to move the needle against HLB after a season that was marred by hurricanes," says Franks Giles, editor-in-chief of AgNet Media.

Doug Bournique, Executive Vice President of the Indian River Citrus League, stated, "It's exciting and encouraging to see that AgNet Media is committed to continuing the legacy of this show that has been around for 80 plus years."

Show Details:

WHEN: April 3, 2024 • Registration Opens: 7:30 a.m. • Breakfast: 8:00 a.m.
General Session: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. • Lunch/Cookout: 11:10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Citrus Breakout Session: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. • Vegetable Breakout Session: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Indian River Research and Education Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory in Ft. Pierce off Rock Road.

REGISTRATION: <https://agnet.wufoo.com/forms/s4e5f1i1t85my3/>



Advertising Opportunities

With the citrus season wrapped up, we wanted to share information on the new sponsorship opportunities for your budget planning purposes. Contact Karen at 772-595-5026 or karen@ircitrusleague.org for further details on the opportunities mentioned.

INDIAN RIVER CITRUS LEAGUE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - \$300

Newsletter Ad 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
8.5 inches across by 5.5 inches down
\$200/month
\$150/month w/ a monthly commitment through June
- Full Page
8.5 inches across by 11 inches down
\$300/month
\$225/month w/ a monthly commitment through June
- Bleed
Please allow at least 1/8" bleed.
Do not include printers marks.
- Please email all advertising materials to graphics@hirize.us
- Design services available for an additional fee

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

- 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), jpg (Adobe Photoshop)

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. 772-595-5026 or karen@citrusleague.org.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Active Minerals International
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AgroSource, Inc.
Bayer CropScience
Brown International Corp.
Carden & Associates, Inc.
Carter & Associates, Inc.
Certis Biologicals
Chemical Containers
Chemical Dynamics, Inc.
Citrus Management Services, Inc.
Corteva Agriscience
Diamond R. Fertilizer Co., Inc.
Everglades Farm Equipment
Everglades Harvesting, Inc.
Farm Credit of Florida
Florida Coast Equipment, Inc.
Florida's Natural Growers
Gowan USA
Graves Brothers Company
Indian River Select
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Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Co., Inc.
Packers of Indian River
Palmdale Oil Company
Peace River Citrus Products, Inc.
Perricone-Schirard Grove
Saunders Real Estate
Syngenta
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Yara North America, Inc.

