



Quarterly FSHS Newsletter

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The 135th Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society

By John L Griffis, Jr., FSHS President

The 135th Annual Meeting of the Florida State Horticultural Society will take place in beautiful Sarasota. Join with us and learn about the latest research and innovations in Florida horticulture. Check out the conference program at FSHS.org for more information.

When:

June 5th to 7th, 2022

Where:

Hyatt Regency Sarasota (1000 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236).

Book your hotel room -> [here](#) by **May 14th** to get **reduced rates**, only available by using this link! The reduced rates are also available for several days before and after the conference.





REGISTER NOW!

We bring together science, industry, academia, government, and students to cultivate ideas and share knowledge and technologies.

FSHS.ORG/MEETINGS

Our conference features technical sessions, poster presentations, keynote speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities.

JUNE 5-7, 2022

Sarasota
WELCOME
2022

ABOUT THE FSHS...

- ✓ Since 1888, we are one of the oldest horticultural societies in the United States.
- ✓ Our scientific proceedings span more than 125 years dating from 1888.
- ✓ Network with colleagues and expand your knowledge and opportunities.
- ✓ The FSHS also welcomes sponsors for its annual meeting.



2022 ANNUAL MEETING



CITRUS

Cultivar improvement, pest management, fertilization, irrigation, cold protection, more.



VEGETABLES

Cultivar improvement, cultural practices, harvesting, disease, insect control, more.



ORNAMENTALS/LANDSCAPES

New plants, cultivar selection, landscape design and management, pests, more.



HANDLING/PROCESSING

Post-harvest quality, food safety in packing and processing, by-products, utilization.



KROME MEMORIAL

Tropical and subtropical crops, cultural practices, harvesting and management.



NATURAL RESOURCES

Soils, water, environmental issues, biofuels, biofertilizers, agronomic crops and more.

Hyatt Regency
1000 Boulevard of the Arts
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Guest Speaker Schedule

135th Annual Meeting of FSHS



Sunday, June 5th, 2022 – FSHS awards ceremony speaker:

Dr. Ed Etxeberria, Professor emeritus, UF – CREC

Dr. Etxeberria is not only a well-respected citrus expert, but is also well-versed in the long history of FSHS. He will be presenting “FSHS – the first twenty-five years, 1888-1913” at the FSHS awards ceremony before the opening reception.



Monday, June 6th, 2022, – FSHS general session keynote speaker:

Dr. Jason Downing, Fairchild Botanical Gardens

Dr. Downing will be giving the keynote address at the general session. His topic will be “The Million Orchids Project.”



Tuesday, June 7th, 2022 – Horticultural breakfast speaker:

Dr. Marguerite Beckford, UF/IFAS Sarasota

Dr. Beckford will be presenting “Treejuvination, Urban Tree Renewal” at the Horticultural Breakfast. Breakfast registration available online at FSHS.org



Tuesday, June 7th, 2022 – Extension luncheon speaker:

Dr. Andra Johnson, Dean for Extension UF/IFAS

Dr. Johnson will be giving the extension luncheon address. His presentation is “Key learnings and future priorities of UF/IFAS extension.” Luncheon registration available at FSHS.org



Introducing Globe Artichokes to North Florida Growers and Markets

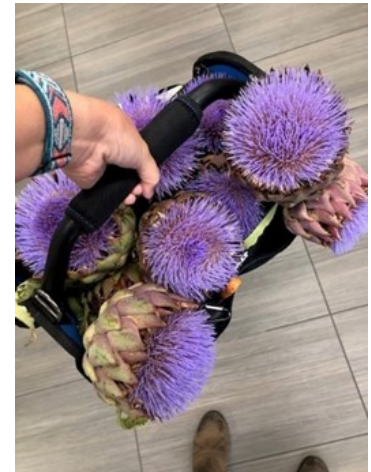
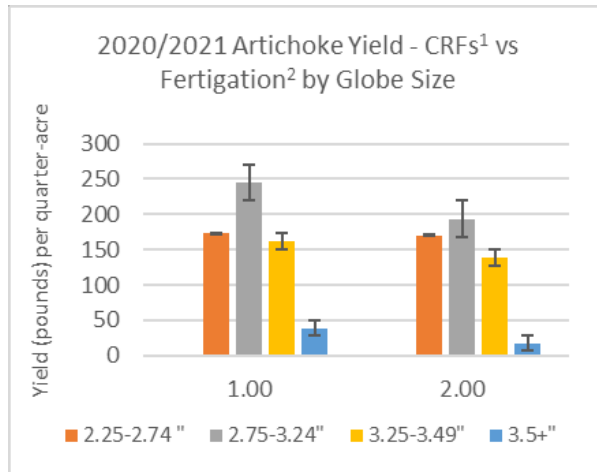
By Evelyn "Prissy" Fletcher

Commercial Agriculture Agent

UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County

Five years ago, Gary England and Shinsuke Agehara collaborated to establish a plot of globe artichokes as part of an Extension demonstration of alternative crops for the tri-county agricultural area. Initially, the objective was the assess varieties for North Florida considering that 99% of production comes from California. We had little literature to go by, so we assessed three varieties for two years, then added on three more in the third and final trial year. 'Green Queen' was the highest yielding variety, which was convenient! At the local farmer's market in St. Augustine, when voted by the public (n = 83).

Since then, Christian Christensen and I took over the trials to focus on nutrient management. Our half-plot demonstration was planted exclusively with 'Green Queen' where we compared a plot of 16-6-11 CRF (5-6 month release) product from Harrell's to a plot fertigated for the same length of time. While the CRF yield was statistically greater than fertigation, either production style is effective depending on the grower's preferences and accessible materials.



As SB712 changed our recommendations into state law, we have shifted gears and oriented our trials around phosphorus rate work. I won't bore you with the preliminary results - we'll save that for next year's conference, but I will share the excitement in the community! Recent field days have promoted our alternative crop work, including lettuce and artichokes. [Our trials have been promoted through Edible magazine](#), and been a special item on local restaurant menus thanks to chefs at Catch 27 and Amici's. Our local feed mill is incorporating them into their weekend BBQ luncheons, and nursery on Anastasia Island is passing them out to retail shoppers to get the word out about IFAS research. In another attempt to appeal toward the retail market, our farmers are helping us assess the marketability in produce boxes, with all artichokes being sold out in one day of online sales! Best feedback ever from a farmer – "The people have spoken. They want more artichokes."

To summarize this success story, we have three famers who plan on incorporating this crop next season thanks to the partnership of the community. We have discovered our preferred variety and local marketability. Our trials will contribute to BMP research and provide nutrient recommendations. Globe artichokes in Florida are a promising, emerging crop and have multiple uses. Even as a secondary market, these buds turn into gorgeous flowers if allowed to bloom. So many opportunities!

Horticulturalist John Chater joins citrus breeding team

By J. Scott Angle, Ph.D.

Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences



Dr. J. Scott Angle
jangle@ufl.edu
@IFAS_VP

My hope is that our new citrus breeding team horticulturalist will be a new [Bill Castle](#) on warp speed. That is, [John Chater](#) will accelerate the search for citrus varieties that hold up against HLB.

He's got tens of thousands of places to search. [Fred Gmitter](#) and [Jude Grosser](#) have been busy breeders. Since Castle retired, they've continued creating candidate cultivars, resulting in a huge inventory of potential solutions waiting for a thorough evaluation of how well they'll perform in commercial groves.

Chater started playing catchup on Jan. 10. The new member of our citrus breeding team in Lake Alfred will have access to tools Castle didn't have. Drones scan acres in just minutes. Massive computing power sifts through imagery. Advances in various -omics connect what's happening at a molecular level to a trait such as HLB tolerance.

He also showed up with leads on day one on where to search for funding to support his search for the right tree. As of this writing, he was working on transferring grant money from his last job in California to his lab at the [Citrus Research and Education Center](#) (CREC). And he's already submitted millions of dollars in other grant proposals.

The funding is important, Chater says, because when growers agree to host a field trial, they shouldn't have to pay all the costs. He sees funding not just as fuel for his research but a way to reduce growers' risk and expense in becoming his partner in innovation.

Chater speaks with reverence for Castle and regularly consults with him to tap into the Florida Citrus Hall of Famer's decades of accumulated wisdom. At the same time, Chater will expand his search far beyond CREC to investigate varieties from USDA, from California, even from Japan.

In my first year and a half leading the scientific response to HLB, growers repeatedly asked me to fill the Castle vacancy. It made me wonder, do we have an HLB-resistant variety already in the vastness of our citrus germplasm collection, waiting to be validated?

I wanted someone to start looking—hard, full-time, with the tools to scan thousands of candidates in that collection and with the cooperation of producers testing the most promising potential cultivars in the groves to find the winners.



Chater calls his job the hunt for the blue lobster, a one-in-2-million occurrence. Chater's citrus search is analogous in that he needs to spot a rare genetic oddity that makes an individual stand out from the rest of its species—the tree that thrives while hundreds of thousands of others show symptoms of disease.

Chater is so eager to meet growers that he came to our CREC Open House and Field Day in November, flying out from California months before he was to start work at UF/IFAS.

As soon as I arrived in Florida in 2020, I reaffirmed HLB as the highest research priority for the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. We'll continue to search for ways to manage HLB.

With Chater, we're going to accelerate finding a genetic solution to HLB that very likely already exists in the Gmitter-Grosser collection. That's going to take a lot of lab work, field trials and propagation. It's more than one scientist can do, especially when you're trying to keep up with Gmitter and Grosser, whom Chater calls the best and most important citrus breeders in the world.

He'll need a team to close the gap. He'll get biological scientists and graduate students from funding agencies and from us. He'll need acreage and observations from growers. And he'll rely on peers such as those in FSHS to learn about their industry and academic experience in Florida horticulture.

Get Social with FSHS

Don't forget to tag [@fshs_hort](#) to increase visibility of your work and our organization.



www.facebook.com/



<https://www.linkedin.com/>



www.instagram.com/fshs_hort/



https://twitter.com/FSHS_Hort



FSHS Board of Directors

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- President:** John Griffis
- President Elect:** Alan Chambers
- Secretary:** Fernando Alferez
- Treasurer:** Kevin Athearn
- Board Member-at-Large:** Craig Campbell
- Board Member-at-Large:** Richard Campbell



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Vice President: Michelle Leonard-Mularz
VP Elect: Ashley Kush</p> <p>Handling & Processing:
Vice-President: Jeff Brecht
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Vice President: Taylor Clem
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FSHS Committee Chairs & Administrative Contacts

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| <p>Program Coordinator: German Sandoya Miranda</p> <p>Proceedings Editor: Mary Lamberts</p> <p>Marketing Coordinator: vacant</p> <p>Meetings Coordinator: Tracy Shawn (ASHS)</p> <p>Member Services: Heather Hilko (ASHS)</p> | <p>Sponsorship Coordinator: Gene McAvoy</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Alicia Lamborn</p> <p>Student Competition Coordinator: Xin Zhao</p> <p>Poster Coordinator: Lisa Hickey</p> |
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