



Quarterly

FSHS Newsletter

February 2019 Volume 28 Issue 1

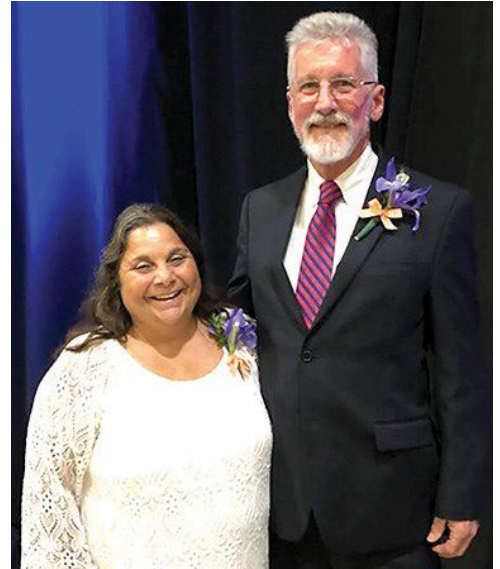
In this issue:

- 1 Introducing FSHS President
- 1 Greetings From the Editor
- 2-3 Updates from FSHS BOD
- 4 Meet FSHS Newsletter New Editor
- 4 FSHS Proceedings Editor's Report
- 5 Getting Ready for 2019 Meeting - Student Competition
- 5-6 Introducing FSHS Agroecology and Natural Resources Section
- 6-7 Opportunity for Hemp in Florida
- 7 Getting to know FSHS students

Introducing FSHS President

Gene McAvoy is the County Extension Director in Hendry County based in LaBelle, FL. He also serves as a Regional Specialized Vegetable/Horticulture Extension Agent for Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and, Lee counties. He brings a lot of knowledge and expertise to FSHS and we are happy to have him on the Board of Directors as President. He has worked with the University of Florida since 1997 and is currently the president elect of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA).

Some of his areas of specialization include commercial vegetable production, Integrated Pest Management and, environmental landscape management.



Gene McAvoy and his wife Donna at 2018 NACAA meeting.

Greetings From the Editor



Tatiana Sanchez, DPM
Commercial Hort. Agent

During the last two years I had the honor to serve as the Newsletter Editor for the Florida State Horticultural Society. I greatly enjoyed this endeavor as it allowed me to forge new professional connections and strengthen existing ones. I also gained a deeper understanding of the value of the

society and the service it provides to its members and the horticultural community at large. This responsibility will now be assumed by a very talented woman, Alicia Lamborn, who you will know more about on page 4.

In this issue you will find some updates from the Agroecology and Natural Resources Section, Student Competitions (oral and paper) and more!

Submit an article for next issue at alamborn@ufl.edu.



Updates from FSHS Board of Directors

By Eric Simonne

Check your calendars, register and make your hotel reservations for the **132nd annual meeting of FSHS** that will be held at the **Sheraton Orlando North Hotel** (600 North Lake Destiny Road, Maitland, FL 32751; (407) 660-9000 on **June 9 to 11, 2019**.



Mark your calendars for the 133rd annual meeting of FSHS that will be held at the Hilton St. Pete, tentatively on June 7-10, 2020.

The 131st Proceedings of the FSHS Annual Meeting (2018) is now complete thanks to **FSHS Editor Mary Lamberts'** efforts. Putting the proceedings together is a yeoman's job! Please remember that manuscripts are due at the time of the meeting!

FSHS thanks **Ed Etxeberria** (etexeber@ufl.edu) for accepting to lead the **FSHS Membership Committee**. We can all help Ed in recruiting new members to attend the 2019 FSHS annual meeting.

In-Service-Training

In-service co-coordinators for FSHS are **Steve Sargent** and **Shinsuke Agehara**. Thank you Steve and Shinsuke! The ISTs offered in 2019 are (a) the whole meeting itself, and (b) two concurrent Tuesday afternoon sessions:

Session 1: Agricultural Irrigation, Scheduling and Use of Soil Moisture Sensor In-Service Training, offered by Lincoln Zotarelli, UF/IFAS HOS and Charles Barrett, Water Resources RSA, UF/IFAS Extension.

Session 2: Residential Irrigation and Landscape Management In-Service Training offered by A.J. Reisinger, UF/IFAS. As always, Extension agents need to sign up for the IST at the PDEC website (pdec.ifas.ufl.edu).

FSHS will host again in 2019 two **student competitions**: The Student Best Oral Presentation Competition and the Student Best Paper Competition (more information on page 5). Thanks to the support of a generous gift from **an anonymous donor (THANK YOU!)**, the first, second and third place winners for each of these competitions will receive prizes of **\$500, \$300 and \$200** each.

The same gift together with the support from the **UF/IFAS Horticultural Sciences Department** will allow the attribution of \$200 scholarships to the 15 students who qualify for the Student Best Oral Presentation and for additional 10 selected students from HOS who present at the meeting.



Following one of the recommendations of the 2018 FSHS program enhancement task force, an advanced Master Gardener session planned by UF/IFAS State-wide Master Gardener Coordinator **Wendy Wilber** will be offered at the 2019 annual meeting. Tree-related topics will be covered at this training.

FSHS is glad to welcome Master Gardeners at its 2019 annual conference!

Did you realize that **FSHS** is a non-profit corporation?

Do you know how does **FSHS** operate as such?

For over 10 years, many behind-the-scene support services and functions FSHS needs and relies on to smoothly operate have been provided by ASHS staff **Tracy Shawn**, **Heather Hilko**, and **Sylvia DeMar**. Here is a brief summary of what they do behind the scene:

1. Set-up and host the FSHS Registration system. Respond to inquiries from FSHS members and registrants.
2. Maintain the FSHS membership database.
3. Create and manage invoicing and produce receipts; handle payment, refunds and adjustments related to FSHS financial transactions.
4. Collect on outstanding invoices for page charges, memberships and conference related charges.
5. Create and share the draft FSHS annual budget and quarterly financial reports.



6. Register FSHS as a non-profit in Florida and file FSHS tax returns.

7. Produce and distribute the FSHS proceedings.
8. Communicate with the webmaster on details of the conference information, author instructions, officers, and implementation of changes resulting from Board decisions.
9. Prepare conference badges, tickets, and ribbons for the annual meeting. Order plaques, gavels, other award related items. Perform onsite conference duties.
10. Advise Board members and provide historical wisdom and perspectives.

Updating FSHS bylaws

The 2019 FSHS bylaws and Operation Procedure Manual revisions task force led by **Jeff Brecht** was tasked with reviewing and updating the FSHS bylaws and the manual. In accordance with current FSHS bylaws ARTICLE XI "BY LAW AMENDMENT", a final report will be sent by April 15 for the Board to review before sharing with the membership in the May issue of the FSHS newsletter. The proposed updates will be discussed, amended, and adopted by the membership at the 2019 annual business meeting on Tuesday June 11. For ideas and thoughts on this topic, contact Jeff (jkbrecht@ufl.edu).



With the terms of Secretary/Treasurer **Jamie Burrow** and Newsletter Coordinator **Tatiana Sanchez** ending in December 2019, please join us in thanking them for their dedicated service and in welcoming **Fernando Alfarez** (Secretary/Treasurer) and **Alicia Lamborn** (Newsletter Coordinator) as they prepare to start their terms in January 2020.

Meet FSHS Newsletter New Editor



Alicia Lamborn, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County

Alicia Lamborn is the County Extension Director and Environmental Horticulture Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Baker County. Having degrees in Landscape and Nursery Horticulture (B.S.) and Agriculture Education and Communication (M.S.), her Extension programming focuses on promoting environmentally-friendly gardening practices for landscapes and edible gardens.

Alicia takes every opportunity to incorporate activities during programs and established the Baker County Arboretum and Teaching

Garden to replace classroom lessons with outdoor, hands-on instruction.

Alicia also coordinates the Baker County Master Gardener Volunteer Program and provides 4-H programming to teach youth about plant science, entomology and environmental stewardship. Alicia has received numerous awards for her Extension programming and was presented with the National Association of County Agriculture Agents Achievement Award in 2017.

Welcome Alicia!

FSHS Proceedings Editor's Report

By Mary Lamberts

I have finished submitting everything connected to the Proceedings to ASHS. If any author has not returned her/his proofs, they need to be sent back to ASHS immediately.

As soon as the sectional VPs have finalized their lists of papers for the 2019 Conference, I will email each author with an Author's Agreement which **must** be completed and signed by the author(s) (student papers will also require the signature of the Major Professor, Advisor or faculty co-author). The Author's Agreements will be accompanied by the instructions for authors which are in the form of a checklist.



Dr. Mary Lamberts

FSHS Board of Directors

Board Chair: Eric Simonne
President: Gene McAvoy
President Elect: Jeff Williamson
Secretary/Treasurer: Jamie Burrow
Board Member-at-Large: Eric Waldo
Board Member-at-Large: Adrian Hunsberger



FSHS Sectional Vice Presidents

Citrus:
Vice President: Jawwad Quereshi
Ornamentals, Garden & Landscape:
Vice President: Wayne Hobbs
Handling & Processing:
Vice-President: Yu Wang

Krome Memorial:
Vice President: Alan Chambers
Vegetable:
Vice President: Shinsuke Agehara
Agroecology/Natural Resources:
Vice President: Zack Brym

Getting ready for 2019 FSHS meeting



Student Best Oral Presentation Competition (SBOPC)

All student abstracts are eligible to participate in the SBOPC competition. To compete, at the time of submission of the abstract to the sectional VP, a copy of the abstract must also be sent to the chair of the SBOPC competition (mddanyluk@ufl.edu).

Submitted abstracts competition will be evaluated and 15 finalists will be selected to give a presentation during the annual meeting. Abstracts are judged on the importance of the subject to Florida horticulture, scientific merit, organization, clarity, and succinctness. Finalists will be notified within a month of abstract submission.

Finalist presentations are judged on importance of the subject to Florida's horticulture, scientific merit, organization, awareness of current literature, fluency, clarity of presentation, effective use of figures and tables, report of conclusions, completeness, timing, and response to questions.

Student Best Paper Competition (SBPC)

To participate in the SBPC, students must submit a manuscript (use author guidelines for the Proceedings of the FSHS) by email with the subject "Student Best Paper Competition" to fshsproc@ashs.org by **May 18, 2018**.

Student papers will be published in the Proceedings of FSHS. Entries will be judged on relevance to Florida horticulture, scientific merit, experimental design rigor, literature review, completeness, and clarity.

For more information on the **SBOPC** or **SBPC** competition, contact Michelle Danyluk (mddanyluk@ufl.edu).

No late abstracts submissions will be accepted.

Introducing FSHS Agroecology and Natural Resources Section

By Dr. Zachary Brym, UFIFAS TREC and Dr. Lyn Gettys, UF/IFAS FLREC

Natural and agricultural systems are inextricably interconnected. The renaming of the Natural Resources Section to the Agroecology and Natural Resources Section is an attempt to bring that conversation to FSHS.

The Agroecology and Natural Resources Section will facilitate a program of research, extension, and professional contributors that can speak to the shared goals of agriculture and natural resource management. We welcome you to join our conversation and share your interest and experience in these efforts.

So, what is agroecology? And, what are we looking for from contributors?

Agroecology provides a framework for sustainable agricultural production, natural resource conservation, and social responsibility. Through the agroecology framework, natural resource and agricultural management share goals to support the sustainability and resilience of the environment and society. Natural areas provide ecosystem services

useful for farming systems, while agricultural systems, or 'agroecosystems', buffer the impacts of human consumption on natural areas.

Agroecosystems are described by the interacting features of environmental and ecological characteristics of a farm and the surrounding area. Agroecosystems are complex and challenging to manage and require a multidisciplinary understanding from specialties such as horticultural sciences, agronomy, economics, engineering, entomology, natural resource management, and soil and water sciences.

Protecting natural ecosystems is a critical complement to food production. Natural resource conservation, restoration, and enhancement are essential to maintain suitable habitats for native flora and fauna. Natural areas also fulfill human needs, such as storing water to prevent flooding and to facilitate irrigation and providing beautiful places for recreation.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Preservation of natural resources relies on multidisciplinary partnerships from specialties such as invasive species management, stormwater collection and processing, nutrient reduction and mitigation, and best management practices.

The Agroecology and Natural Resources Section can help promote cohesive management strategies for agriculture and natural resources through shared goals to maintain

productivity and ecosystem health. Although the broad content and goals described may first appear as abstract concepts and logic, we hope to develop a strong program of diverse, real-world and place-based examples.

Transformative agroecological and natural resource research and application is happening in Florida. We want to tell that story through our program. Submit an abstract or identify someone outside of FSHS that may find a place in the Agroecology and Natural Resources Section (brymz@ufl.edu, 786.217.9238).

Featured article:

Opportunity for Hemp in Florida



Dr. Zachary Brum
UF/IFAS TREC, UF Hemp
Program Coordinator

Cultivation of hemp in Florida is still illegal without a permit, for now. Currently permits are only available to the state's land-grant universities (UF and FAMU), but there is growing clarity about when the private permitting process should be in place.

[A recent statement by the USDA](#) declares their "intention to issue regulations in the Fall of 2019 to accommodate the 2020 planting season". No state plan will be accepted prior to that timeline, which leaves any state 2014 Farm Bill program in place through 2019.

Meanwhile, a new state hemp plan is being prepared for Florida to submit to the USDA. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Commissioner, Nikki Fried, has appointed a [Director to the Office of Cannabis](#), Holly Bell. Director Bell has reached out to the UF hemp program to express her commitment to our progress and help with our program objectives.

UF is on a solid path to get plants in the ground this spring and execute our [research plan](#). The UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project is working to identify varieties and planting recommendations that can be profitable for growers and environmentally responsible. Florida's climate and markets are very different from other places growing and selling hemp and most hemp seed and plant materials on

the market are adapted to those places. So, we will start with variety trials at three UF research locations around the state (Quincy, Hague, Homestead) to find marketable hemp that grows well in Florida's diverse soils, climates, and latitudes. Economic research is being conducted to find the input costs of growing hemp, expectations of hemp's market value, and a breakeven point to recommend when hemp is an ideal crop. Additionally, we are conducting a study for risk of invasiveness to ensure that the new industry limits unintended negative impacts on natural areas.

UF has obtained four planting permits from FDACS for our seed storage location, two UF main campus locations, and the Mid Florida Research and Education Center. With these sites permitted, we are prepared to begin germination and physiology trials as soon as seeds arrive. We have orders filled for 21 seed varieties and shipments are on their way.

We are also working to expand the scope of our variety trial and other research activities. Growing our program will require support from industry sponsors and individual donors that can be accepted through the [Florida Industrial Hemp Endowment](#). We are also keen to engage with part-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

ners in the industry that can provide other meaningful contributions, such as plant material, volunteer effort, and expertise.

Check out the program website, <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/hemp/>, for detailed information about the research program, events, activities, and ways to get involved. Our outreach plan for 2019 is to roll out details on the permitting process, basic information we have gathered on hemp physiology and production, and preliminary outcomes of our work. Workshops and field days will be scheduled for the summer once there are plants to see. Stay tuned through the newsletter for those updates.



- Getting to know FSHS students -

My name is Catherine Belisle, I am a second year Ph.D. student in the Horticultural Sciences Department at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

I am working with Dr. Steven Sargent, who specializes in postharvest techniques and technologies, and with Dr. German Sandoya, who specializes in lettuce breeding and genetics.

My project involves developing rapid quality assessments for breeding line selections and applying chemical interventions to reduce Pink rib, a common physiological disorder of lettuce.

We aim to detect postharvest quality upon harvest or within 3 to 4 days by determining the rate-limiting step in quality decline.



Catherine Belisle.

Our second focus is to reduce or eliminate the formation of pink to brown colored compounds that appear in mid-ribs and cut ends of lettuces. This physiological disorder is induced by pre- and postharvest stresses and can develop within 1 to 3 days.

We are using plant-produced compounds as possible solutions. These compounds are naturally synthesized in plants, are consumed as dietary supplements, and can act as antioxidants.

We hope to provide a product that is useful for growers, packinghouses, and fresh-cut operators.

A decorative footer banner with a dark orange background. On the left is a large, detailed silhouette of a tree with many branches and leaves. On the right is a smaller silhouette of a bird perched on a branch. The bottom edge of the banner features a silhouette of a grassy field with small flowers.

Plan ahead and register early for our next FSHS meeting in Orlando June 9 - 11

<https://fshs.org/meetings/>