

Dr. Jeffrey K. Brecht

2014 FSHS Honorary Member

During 127 years of history, few individuals have been as dedicated and loyal to FSHS as Dr. Jeff Brecht. Jeff received his B.A in Biology (1979) from Whittier College, Whittier, CA and Ph.D in Plant Physiology (1984) with emphasis on Ripening and Regulation of Ethylene Production in Nectarines from the University of California, Davis. Currently, Jeff is involved in instruction, research and extension in the area of postharvest physiology and horticulture of vegetables and fruits and administration of the UF/IFAS Center for Food Distribution & Retailing.

Jeff has always been a research leader at UF demonstrating the effects of postharvest procedures on maintenance of fruit and vegetable product quality and leading extension efforts on postharvest information through presentations at extension and FSHS meetings. Since its inception in 2004, Jeff has been the Director of the UF/IFAS Research Center for Food Distribution and Retailing and he has been twice awarded a UFRF Professorship. He and his students have contributed greatly to FSHS. His research and extension programs have garnered many awards.

Jeff is a worldwide renowned horticulturist. He has worked with USAID, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Group, USDA FAS and has organized and/or has presented short courses in many countries. He has received many awards including: Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science, 2006; Outstanding Extension Materials Award, Video Category, Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 2006, for "Worker Health and Hygiene Training Manual for Florida Produce Industry"; Outstanding Extension Materials Award, Fact Sheet Category, Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 2003, for the series, "Good Agricultural Practices for the Production and Handling of – Selected Fruits and Vegetables"; Extension Publication Award, So. Region, Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 2003, for the series, Good Agricultural Practices for the Production and Handling of – Selected Fruits and Vegetables; Jim App Award for Outstanding Extension Design Team. FL107 Vegetable Production, Harvesting, Handling Efficiencies and IPM in Florida, 2002; Educational Materials Award, Commercial Fruit, Vegetable and Herb



Production category. Extension Division, American Society for Horticultural Science, 2000, for "D.N. Maynard and G.J. Hochmuth (eds.) 2000; Vegetable Production Guide for Florida (SP 170, revised)" (Chap. 18 author); Honorable Mention Paper Award, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, 1996; Vegetable Publication Award, American Society for Horticultural Science, 1996; American Society of Agricultural Engineers Blue Ribbon Award, Educational Aids Competition, Fact Sheets, Circulars or Bulletins, 1992, Council Memorial Tomato Research Award, Florida State Horticultural Society, 1992; Outstanding Paper Awards, Handling and Processing Section, Florida State Horticultural Society, 1985, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1995; Beta Beta Beta (National Honorary Biology Society); Dean's List, Whittier College, 1975-79; John Greenleaf Whittier Scholarship, Whittier College, 1975-79 Fellow of the ASHS and twice University of Florida Research Foundation Professor.

Jeff has been an ardent and active FSHS member for over 30 years. With the exception of Program Coordinator, he has held every position within the society, often more than once. Jeff has been President and Chairman of the Board (2010-2011), Editor of the Proceedings in 2002, Secretary from 2005-2009, Sectional Editor for Handling and Processing 2007-2009 and again in 2011-2012, Krome 2002, Vegetables 2003-2005, Member at large and Selection Committee for various years. As a voluntary Society, the FSHS relies on individuals like Jeff who have historical wisdom to keep the Board on track.

He is a passionate advocate for the society, and always ready to step up to the plate when needed, especially in last minute requests. Jeff has attended virtually every meeting since becoming a faculty member at UF, often bringing students and making multiple presentations on his work in postharvest of fruits and vegetables. During this time, he has authored or co-authored over 37 papers in the Proceedings. His contributions to Florida Horticulture through his work on extending shelf life and quality of produce have been numerous.

It is with honor and privilege that Dr. Jeffrey K. Brecht has been named the 2014 Honorary Member of the Florida State Horticultural Society.