



Quarterly FSHS Newsletter

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Board of Directors &
Sectional Vice Presidents

A Letter from the President

By Noris Ledesma , FSHS President



Greetings members from the Florida State Horticulture Society!

We would like to thank you for your participation in the society and for attending our annual virtual meet-

ing last October 2020. I want to recognize the outstanding work of the Board head by Gene McAvoy, Jeff Williamson, and all VP and officers to manage despite all restrictions and challenges of COVID-19 and made possible a successful virtual meeting.

The next FSHS annual meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2021 in Daytona Beach, and we are planning to do it face to face. Let us hope that things have sufficiently improved so we can reconvene and be able meet in person this time. The Board is working to have different scenarios to facilitate the encounter. We will keep you informed if sudden changes in restrictions particular to our circumstances develop during the beginning of 2021.

We have been learning during this pandemic more zooming and less flying and this may continue. Perhaps this is a new way to expand the society and be able to expand our net of International researchers and students. One initiative is already in place to offer a hybrid meeting for 2021. In theory the cost savings alone will be worth it as well as the flexibility to attend from remote

areas. Conferences are increasingly being organized online, and people is getting more used to them but there is truly nothing better than in person meetings to improve friendship and relationship.

As this coronavirus continues to sweep the nation and the globe, wakeup calls circulate in the media that are related to all professionals in horticulture.

Food: one of the best defenses we can build is a healthy body and immune system. Ensure you are getting your daily dose of fruit, vegetables, and nuts to maintain nutrition levels and boost your immune system. Dietarians and doctors particularly recommend any citrus fruits, broccoli, garlic, ginger, spinach, and almonds.

We are all privileged to work, shoulder to shoulder, in an industry whose mission is to bring people the sustenance and nutritional well-being that is embedded in what we do. After all, "horticulture" comes from the Roman words for "garden" and "cultivation." It is a noble tradition.

We are looking forward to meeting you in in Daytona Beach next June after we all emerge from this crisis more empathetic, more compassionate, a more understanding of our role as a horticulturist.

Kind regards,

Noris Ledesma
FSHS President



Chair's Note

By Jeff Williamson,
Chairman of the Board

First, I'd like to thank all those who attended and participated in the 133rd annual meeting (our first virtual annual meeting) of the Florida State Horticultural Society. Thanks to the hard work from our FSHS Board members and numerous other volunteers, leadership from our Board Chair Gene McAvoy, and technical support from the IFAS IT group, I believe our meeting was a success, especially given the unusually difficult circumstances. As you know, the Florida State Horticultural Society relies on volunteer service from its membership to function effectively. As such, I would like to recognize and thank some of our members for volunteering their service as they move into key positions this year- President, Noris Ledesma; President-elect, John Griffis; members-at-large, Craig Campbell and Richard Campbell; poster coordinator, Prissy Fletcher; all of our new sectional VP's; and all of our new sectional VP-elects. Welcome all and thank you for agreeing to serve. This year's meeting is scheduled for June 6 through June 8 with an in-service training (IST) program planned for IFAS/Extension faculty and staff on Wednesday June 9. The details of the IST are not available at this time, but the general topic area will center around soil health, biostimulates, and effects on plant growth and productivity.

This year we hope to hold a traditional face-to-face meeting at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort in Daytona Beach, Fla. However, given the uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation, and concern for the health and safety of our membership, we will leave open the possibility of a virtual meeting, or even a hybrid meeting. Regardless of the meeting format, your Board remains committed to organizing and implementing a meeting that will provide a venue for agents, faculty, students, and industry representatives to present and discuss their latest research results and important events impacting the many horticulture-related industries throughout the state. Please pay special attention to several key dates and/or deadlines found elsewhere in this newsletter including membership renewal, call for titles and abstracts, and conference registration. Let's hope that 2021 is a healthy and prosperous year for all.

Happy Holidays,

Jeff Williamson, Chair

Change is Coming... Abstract Submissions

By Cami Esmel McAvoy, Program Coordinator

JotForm, the previously used platform for abstract submission to FSHS' annual meeting proved to be cumbersome, unwieldy and time consuming to use. In 2019 a discussion on how to make abstract submission easier and less cumbersome for participants and meeting attendees was undertaken with former secretary, Jamie Burrow. It was suggested that the web-based survey software, Qualtrics, a UF licensed product was an acceptable alternative.

Like the quote by Robin Sharma, "Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end".

For 2021, FSHS will be partnering with ASHS staff to accept titles and abstract through their website (<https://ashs.org/>). The ASHS website allows for the location of both title/abstract submission and payment for fees in one general place. The information requested for submission has been streamlined to include only vital data.

In addition, the FSHS board of directors has decided to implement an **abstract fee of \$75 for each abstract submitted**. This fee **must be paid** for the abstract to be placed in the program. As many of you are aware, the society has a hard time collecting page charges as well as papers to publish in our annual proceedings. The abstract fee is part of the overall proceeding content changes (scientific note vs full publication or reprint).

The board is hopeful that the messy middle will be a just short blip in time and look forward to our gorgeous annual meeting in Daytona Beach, FL. Finally, as a reminder the **deadline to submit titles is February 15, 2021** and **abstract deadline is March 15, 2021**. Please do not rely upon past extension of deadlines and remember each section is allowed 25 presentations. Sections that fill up quickly will be on **first come, first serve basis**.



Membership and 2021 Conference Announcements

Check your calendars, register and make your hotel reservations for the **134th annual meeting of FSHS** that will be held at the **Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort** (100 N Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach FL 32118; (386) 254-8200) on **June 6 to 8, 2021**.

The 2021 Meeting of FSHS will feature presentations of applied research pertaining to horticultural and agronomic crops and products, and new developments and practices that have been put into use by growers, processors, allied industries, and other horticultural interests in Florida.

Don't hesitate — **renew your membership**, **submit your abstract**, and **register early**:



Membership Fees for 2021

CATEGORY	MEMBERSHIP FEE		
	Jan-Feb 15	Feb 16*	Annual Meeting (First Day)
Professional	\$60	\$80	\$105
Patron	\$200	\$200	\$200
International	\$70	\$90	\$115
Student	\$25	\$35	\$50

**Up to the day before the annual meeting.*

Call for Titles and Abstracts to the 133rd Florida State Horticultural Society

Annual Meeting: <https://fshs.org/call-for-titles-and-abstracts/> *****Due February 15th*****

FSHS Conference Registration

	Early Bird	April 16 - June 5	On Site
Member Basic	\$200	\$250	\$275
Member Full (includes 2 meals)	\$300	\$350	\$375
Non-Member Basic	\$300	\$350	\$400
Non-Member Full (includes 2 meals)	\$400	\$450	\$500
Student Member	\$125	\$150	\$175
Student Non-Member	\$175	\$200	\$225



The IFAS VP Promise for Every CALS Student

Dr. J. Scott Angle
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@IFAS_VP

By J. Scott Angle

For Conor McKee and Jacob Ewert, the physical demands of greenhouse work were a surprise. It's one thing to be told a greenhouse is hot. It's another to swelter in one for hours.

Conor and Jacob, plant science majors in the UF/[IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences](#), have learned hydroponics and experimented with soil amendments under the tutelage of Dr. [Kim Moore](#) in her greenhouses at the [Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center](#). They also proved they can handle the heat.

I will insist all day long that CALS is the best in the business. Not only do our [award-winning](#) faculty offer top-notch instruction, but [Dean Elaine Turner](#) has consistently supported ways for students to learn outside traditional classrooms. That includes undergraduate research, internships, study abroad, leadership conferences and professional symposia.

Moore, with some help from FNGLA members, provides the kind of hands-on learning that supplements a CALS education. Dean Turner and I want to expand and enrich these opportunities.

We call it the [Vice President's Promise](#). It's our pledge that every CALS undergraduate will have a real opportunity to engage in at least one meaningful beyond-the-classroom experience during their time with us.

When Conor and Jacob weren't running experiments in her greenhouse, Moore had them visit [Black Olive East Nursery](#) to talk with professionals about growing ornamentals and hardwoods. She also asked Conor and Jacob to step back for a few days and think, and to come back to her with their ideal job descriptions.

Conor had a notion that he was interested in growing plants, but the assignment crystallized his vision for the future. After graduation, he wants to run a commercial greenhouse hydroponics operation. Three to five years later, he wants to own one. Jacob enjoys

teaching, and he used the time to think about a career in environmental education.

Moore could pay Conor and Jacob in part because of support from the National Horticulture Foundation. Getting paid to immerse themselves in research and industry outreach means they didn't have to look for part-time jobs in addition to interning.

We all know opportunity costs. We want these to be opportunities that *all* students can afford. Dean Turner and I launched the fund-raising portion of the initiative at the UF/IFAS virtual Dinner of Distinction, and Conor and Jacob were among the students who testified at the event about the value of their experiences with Moore.

The money we raise will defray the cost of outside-the-classroom learning—providing a stipend so a student can afford an unpaid internship, or covering travel costs for study abroad, for example.

This is so important to me and my wife Kay that we have pledged \$10,000 to start the initiative. I hope you'll consider joining us as donors. Visit <https://give.ifas.ufl.edu/VPPromise/>, email advance-ment@ifas.ufl.edu or call 352-392-1975.

There are some things students can learn best from potential employers. It's better if they start learning it before they've been hired. Internships are one way to audition a prospective future employee.

I made a promise to our undergraduates they'll get opportunities like Conor and Jacob's. I'm counting on partners statewide to donate to our growing fund to support those opportunities and to offer students real-world experience to help me keep that promise.

[Scott Angle](#) is the University of Florida's Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and leader of the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

Secretary's Report

By: *Fernando Alferez, Ph.D.*

Assistant Professor, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC), University of Florida, Immokalee, FL



Dr. Fernando Alferez
alferez@ufl.edu

Please let me introduce myself. My name is Fernando Alferez, Assistant Professor of Citrus Horticulture at the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida SWFREC since February 2017 and current Secretary of FSHS. As this is my first Secretary report, I would like to share some thoughts regarding our Society.

Some 20 years ago, as I was working towards my PhD in Valencia, Spain, I had access to a very good library at my research center. It treasured a very complete collection of the Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society. As a citrus horticulture student, it was invaluable being able to access papers published in the Proceedings from researchers such as Bill Castle, Gene Albrigo, Jim Syvertsen and Ed Etxeberria, among many others. These papers were boots-on-the-ground knowledge and were talking directly to the work I was doing. They inspired my experiments and illustrated my results. Many colleagues, including myself, wondered why these works were published in the Proceedings of the FSHS and not in other fancy or indexed journals. I did not have a clear answer then.

Today, it is a privilege to be Secretary of a Society that was founded in 1888, and a big responsibility to continue a thread of service that started with George L. Taber and has developed over the years with many professionals like Herman Reitz, Jeffrey Brecht, Chris Oswald, or my immediate predecessor, Jamie Burrow.

After working with my colleagues on the Board during the past 18 months, what I have seen has given me confirmation of what I always suspected was the answer to the question I shared with you at the beginning of this note. The answer is pride. All these years, world class horticultural researchers have been proudly publishing excellent papers in the right place, their Society Proceedings.

Our Society is proud of its members, who each year present, publish, and contribute to expand the body of knowledge in horticultural sciences, including students who are increasingly presenting and publishing also. Therefore, FSHS recognizes students and professionals annually for their work and service.

This year's awardees, as presented in our Annual Meeting, are:

Chairman of the Board:

Gene McAvoy

Presidential Gold Medal Award:

Shawn Steed

Outstanding Commercial Horticulturist Award:

Noris Ledesma

President's Industry Award:

Nicholas A. Larsen

(Continued on page 6)

Secretary's Report continued



Best Paper Sectional Awards	
<p style="text-align: center;">Citrus</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Handling & Processing Section</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Krome Memorial Institute</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ornamental, Garden & Landscape Section</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vegetable Section</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agroecology & Natural Resources</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Seed and Seedling Nursery Characteristics for 10 USDA Citrus Rootstocks Rayane Barcelos Bisi, Ute Albrecht, and Kim D. Bowman</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Optimizing Essential Oil Applications to Prevent Postharvest Decay In Strawberries Anna Marín, Xiuxiu Sun, Marcela Miranda, Chris Ference, Elizabeth Baldwin, Jinhe Bai, Mark A. Ritenour, Jiuxu Zhang, and Anne Plotto</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Use of Sparkleberry as a Potential Rootstock in Commercial Blueberry Production Jeffrey G. Williamson and Rebecca Darnell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rain impacts Container Plant Irrigation Thomas H. Yeager</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improved Productivity and Economic Advantages of Advanced Cabbage Production on Plasticulture Wendy Mussoline, Bonnie Wells, Gary England, and Lincoln Zotarelli</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Herbicide Efficacy on the Small Floating Weeds Redroot Floater and Feathered Mosquitofern Lyn A. Gettys, Kyle L. Thayer, Joseph W. Sigmon, Ian Markovich, and Mohsen Tootoonchi</p>
Best Student Papers 2018	
	<p>First Place: Stephen Deschamps</p> <p>Second Place: Yanlin Wang</p> <p>Third Place: Prabhjot Kaur</p>
Best Student Papers 2019	
	<p>First Place: Lan-Yen Chang</p> <p>Second Place: Rayane Barcelos Bisi</p> <p>Third Place: John M. Santiago</p>
Best Student Oral Competition Awards	
	<p>First Place: Jose Vladimir Hernandez Monterroza</p> <p>Second Place: Samuel Kwakye</p> <p>Third Place: Susmita Gaire</p>

Editor's Update *By: Mary Lamberts*

The initial deadline for submitting papers and scientific notes was 31 October 2020. As Editor, I emailed authors who had not yet submitted their papers following the December Board meeting on 3 December 2020. Several papers were submitted after that date while some authors, mostly from the Poster Section, indicated that they wanted to publish in a specific section. The table below is the current status of papers from the 2020 conference. Authors who have not yet replied to my earlier email should email me as soon as possible at editors@fshs.org.

Section	Program + transfers	SN	Papers	Other	ASHS	No information from author(s)
ANR	8	3	3	1 EDIS	1 HT in review	none
Citrus	17	(3)*	4		2 HS: 1 published + 1 in review 1 in internal review 4 to ASHS later	3
HP	7	2 (1)	1	1 published elsewhere in 2018 1 will go to Plant Phys	2 HS: 1 published (from 2018 conference) + 1 in review; 1 to ASHS later	none
Krome	14 + 2 = 16**	3(1)	8(1)	1 not publishing	1 HS published	2
OGL	11 + 2 = 13	2(1)	2(1)		2 HS: 1 published + 1 in review; 1 to ASHS later	1
Veg	24 + 7 = 31	15(4)	9(2)		1 to ASHS later	8
Poster	5	1	1	3 as poster pdfs		none
Totals	94	23 (11)	28 (4)	4 not in an FSHS publication 3 posters published online only	4 published; 3 in HS/HT review; 1 in internal review; 7 to ASHS later 15 total	14

* SNs and Papers in parentheses have not been submitted as of 16 December 2020, but should be submitted very soon.

** The number after the + indicated papers were presented in another section, but will be published in the one indicated.

FSHS Board of Directors

Board Chair: Jeff Williamson
President: Noris Ledesma
President Elect: John Griffis
Secretary: Fernando Alferéz
Treasurer: Kevin Athearn
Board Member-at-Large: Craig Campbell
Board Member-at-Large: Richard Campbell



FSHS Sectional Vice Presidents

Citrus:
 Vice President: Davie Kadyampakeni
 VP Elect: Manjul Dutt

Ornamentals, Garden & Landscape:
 Vice President: Kaydie McCormick
 VP Elect: Michelle Leonard-Mularz

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 Vice President: Ali Sarkhosh
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