

News



Fall 2014



“Gulf Citrus” CELEBRATION 2014!



see page five

Gulf Citrus Growers Association Elects 2014-2015 Officers

At its 28th annual meeting on June 4, 2014 at Verandah Country Club in Fort Myers, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association (GCGA) elected its officers to serve the organization for the 2014-2015 season. Elected to lead the regional citrus growers' association are the following:

President

Wayne Simmons
LaBelle Fruit Co., LLC

Vice President

Paul Meador
Gulf Citrus Partners, L.P.

Secretary

Bob Newsome
Barron Collier Partnership

Treasurer

Aaron Troyer
Troyer Brothers, Inc.

Wayne Simmons was re-elected GCGA's president for the coming year. Simmons, president of LaBelle Fruit Co., LLC, owns



Gulf Citrus 2014-2015 Officers

Seated: Aaron Troyer, Treasurer
and Paul Meador, Vice President.

Standing: Bob Newsome, Secretary
and Wayne Simmons, President.

citrus groves in Hendry, Collier and Hillsborough counties. He has over 30 years' experience in the citrus industry, and has served on the GCGA's board of directors for several years. In addition to his leadership at GCGA, Simmons currently serves on the Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF) board of directors, and on several CRDF committees/sub-committees. Recently, he was elected to serve on the Farm Credit board of directors. Previously, Simmons served as president of both the Florida Citrus Production Managers Association and the Hendry-Glades Farm Bureau. Simmons is a graduate of the Hendry/Glades Leadership Program.

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association represents citrus growers in Florida's "Gulf" production region including Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. The region accounts for about 25% of the state's total citrus production, and generates nearly \$1-billion of total economic impact.

"Gulf Citrus" Thanks Evans and Pool

At its 28th annual meeting, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association recognized and thanked two leaders who served the region's citrus growers for several years.

Emmett Evans III served on the "Gulf Citrus" board of directors from June 1998 to June 2014, a total of 16 years. Evans initially served as an "at-large" director, and then he was elected to serve the association as the Charlotte County director. "Through Emmett's leadership and engagement, all Charlotte County citrus growers have lower annual ad valorem taxes on their citrus properties," said Ron Hamel, GCGA's executive vice president. "As Evans Properties, Inc. led the charge to 'educate' the Charlotte County Property Appraiser's Office regarding the valuation of groves in the county."

Ali Pool served as chairperson of the GCGA Associate Member Committee from June 2012 to June 2013, which was her second term in that leadership position. The association relies on the Associate Member Committee to assist in supporting the GCGA staff in the creation and implementation of the organization's social events and activities, including the annual "Gulf Classic" golf tournament.



Evans Thanked for 16 Years!
GCGA recognized Emmett Evans III for his 16 years of service on the association's board of directors.



Association Recognizes Ali Pool
Wayne Simmons, GCGA's president thanks Ali Pool for her dedicated service to the association.



Gulf Citrus Growers Association 2014-2015 Board of Directors

Wayne Simmons, President

Paul Meador, Vice President

Bob Newsome, Secretary

Aaron Troyer, Treasurer

Joe Hilliard II

Sam Jones

Ron Mahan

Mike Murphy

Bryan Paul

Carey Soud

Danny Sutton

David Wheeler

Ron Hamel

Executive Vice President

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Gulf Citrus Growers Association Elects 2014-2015 Directors

On June 4th, GCGA held its 28th annual meeting at the Verandah Country Club in Fort Myers. The Gulf Citrus Growers Association “officially” seated its 2014-2015 board of directors for the coming season. The newly elected leadership will direct the association as it works to represent the citrus growing industry in Southwest Flor-

ida’s “Gulf” region, including Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties.

The “Gulf Citrus” board of directors and their respective counties of representation are listed below. Each director has been elected to serve a one-year term.

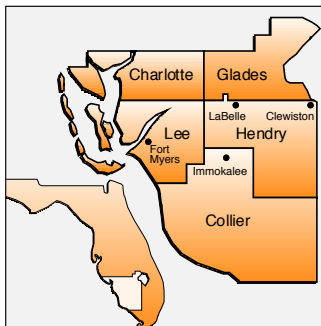
The board members are volunteers and work on behalf of the “Gulf” region’s

citrus industry. Please support these leaders during the upcoming season. The board encourages suggestions to improve the association’s service to its members, and is also identifying leaders to serve on GCGA’s operating committees. If you are interested in serving on an association committee, please contact the GCGA office.



2014-2015 Gulf Citrus Growers Association Board of Directors

Back, left to right: Ron Mahan, Carey Soud, Bryan Paul, Joe Hilliard II, Danny Sutton and Ron Hamel. Front, left to right: Paul Meador, Sam Jones, Aaron Troyer, Wayne Simmons and David Wheeler. Board members absent from photograph are: Mike Murphy and Bob Newsome.



Florida’s Gulf Citrus Production Region

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association represents thousands of acres of citrus groves in Southwest Florida’s “Gulf” region, which is officially designated as a production region in state statutes. The region accounts for about 25% of Florida’s total fruit production. The region’s citrus industry generates nearly \$1-billion of total economic impact.

GCGA 2014-2015 Board of Directors

Charlotte County

Ron Mahan
Orange-Co, LP

Collier County

Paul Meador
Gulf Citrus Partner LP

Mike Murphy
Cooperative Producers, Inc.

Bob Newsome
Barron Collier Partnership

Hendry County

Joe Hilliard II
Hilliard Brothers of Florida, LTD

Sam Jones
A. Duda & Sons, Inc.

Wayne Simmons
LaBelle Fruit Co. LLC

Carey Soud
Soud Family Partnership

Danny Sutton
Alico, Inc.

Glades County

David Wheeler
Wheeler Farms, Inc.

Lee County

Aaron Troyer
Troyer Brothers, Inc.

At-Large Director

Bryan Paul
Bryan Paul Citrus

Committee Chairs Appointed to Serve for 2014-2015 Season

GCGA President Wayne Simmons appointed the following leaders to chair the association’s operating committees for the coming year.

Please contact these volunteers for updates and information related to their respective committees.

Associate Member

Wade Timpner

Governmental Affairs

Garrett Wallace

Labor Relations

Paul Meador

Long Range Policy & Planning

George Austin

Research and Production

Tom Kirschner

Tax

Cliff Bowen

“Gulf” CHMAs “Team Captains” Plan ACP Sprays

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association’s Citrus Health Management Area’s (CHMAs) “team” recently met to review the 2013-14 season’s efforts to reduce Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) populations within the five-county “Gulf” production region. Following last fall’s establishment of 11 CHMAs within the region to more intensively attack the psyllids vectoring “greening,” the “team” reviewed all the data provided by the USDA/FDACS and UF/IFAS/SWFREC. The consensus of the GCGA “team captains” is that “stepped-up” efforts are successfully reducing ACP populations as planned.

Commenting on the most recent Citrus Health Response Program (CHRP) data, Dr. Phil Stansly, UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center’s entomologist, noted that the more intensive effort is paying off. “The good news is that psyllid numbers were down in all ‘Gulf’ CHMAs,” said Stansly, who has been a pivotal leader in GCGA’s fight against the tiny bug. GCGA Production and Research Committee chairman, Tom Kirschner, who has taken on the leadership of the association’s efforts in the ACP/HLB battle, reports that establishing the 11 CHMAs, each with a “team captain”, is having very positive impact in reducing ACP populations. However, he feels that more area-

wide sprays are needed to achieve even greater success.

Following review of the past season’s cooperative spraying throughout the 11 CHMAs, the “team captains” discussed plans for 2014-2015 season. Dr. Stansly noted that although ACP numbers are lower...the percentage of psyllids positive for HLB in early fall are usually high...and he suggested that growers need to protect young flush during this time period.

GCGA’s CHMA “team captains” are targeting two (2) area-wide, dormant sprays for the beginning of the season. The “first” spray should be timed for after the last flush...mid-November through Christmas according to Dr. Stansly. “We usually recommend an organo-phosphate (OP) except in blocks being harvested, in which case a pyrethroid (Mustang, Danitol or Baythroid) with a one-day post-harvest interval (PHI) is a better choice,” he said.

“The “second,” or follow-up dormant spray in January after the organo-phosphate (OP), would then be the pyrethroid,” Stansly advised.

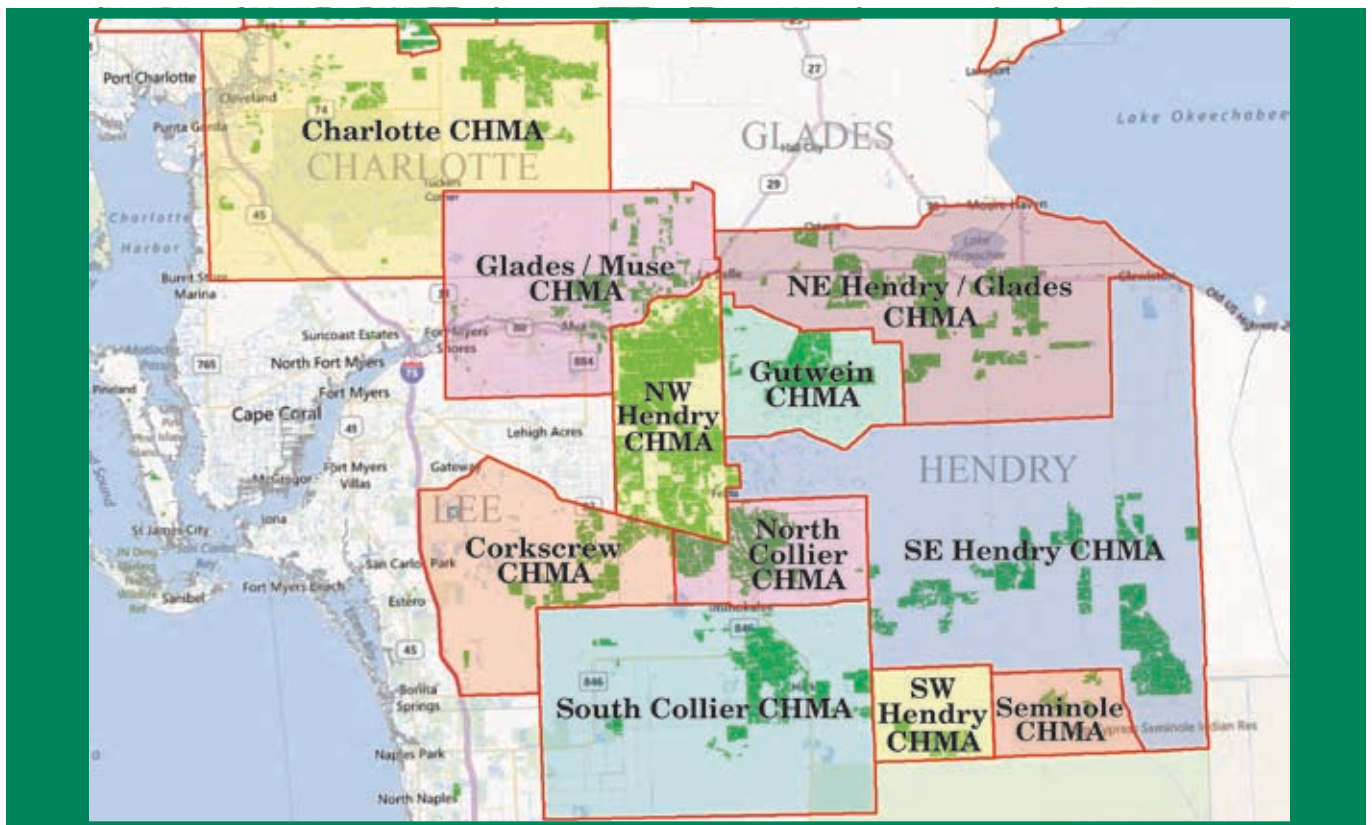
Further, he suggested that growers wanting to use an OP between now and November could go with back-to-back pyrethroids for their two dormant sprays. “This would not necessarily violate the rule against spraying successive ACP generations with

the same mode of action, given little or no ACP reproduction until spring,” Stansly added. However, he noted, the down side of the back-to-back pyrethroids could be more problems with rust mites or spider mites later on. The entomologist also suggested that alternatives to the early OP treatment, depending on what had already been used and what other pests are prevalent... could be the materials APTA, Movento or Micromite.

In addition to the initial two dormant sprays of the season during the mid-November through January time frame, GCGA “team captains” are promoting additional post-bloom and post-harvest area-wide, cooperative sprays this year.

GCGA, FDACS/DPI and UF/IFAS multi-county citrus agent, Dr. Mongi Zekri will be providing additional information regarding the upcoming dormant sprays. The association will be working through the Production and Research Committee’s CHMA “team captains,” FDACS/DPI and UF/IFAS to continue to reduce ACP populations in efforts to slow the impact of HLB in the “Gulf” region.

“Gulf” grower cooperation and participation is vital to the continued success of the program!



“Gulf Citrus” CELEBRATION 2014!

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association hosted its inaugural “Citrus CELEBRATION” event the evening of August 13th in conjunction with the 2014 Citrus EXPO. The new “social” event replaced GCGA’s traditional “Gulf Citrus Industry Banquet,” which the association previously hosted for 22 years. The “Citrus CELEBRATION” was held at the Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers.

In his welcome, Wayne Simmons, GCGA’s president, noted the association’s leadership listened to suggestions for a more casual and relaxing evening event...following a day at the Citrus EXPO. “We have changed the evening... from a more formal banquet, to this more informal, casual event,” Simmons said. “We encourage you to visit with your friends and colleagues, network with your customers... and enjoy the fun that we have in store for you,” he added.

Billed as “an evening of fellowship, dining and dancing”...the “Citrus CELEBRATION” truly met the expectations of the 300+ attendees. From the extended “social hour” and tasty appetizers to the buffet dinner...guests were excitedly pleased with the evening’s changes.

One of the “banquet” features retained for the new “Citrus CELEBRATION” was the inclusion of an inspirational speaker. GCGA was honored by Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam’s participation as both Master of Ceremonies and keynote speaker. The Commissioner reminded growers that they are truly an important part of Florida history...as citrus was introduced nearly 500 years ago by the European settlers. “Today,” he said, “citrus is a \$9-billion industry that supports over 75,000 jobs.”

Noting that Florida’s citrus industry has faced some tough times...including freezes, hurricanes and citrus canker...the Commissioner stated, “If history has taught us anything...it’s that we can overcome any challenge that comes our way...even citrus greening. We are all in this together. Our department wants to do everything possible to be part of the solution, including stepping out of traditional roles and assisting with field research or any other areas that show promise,” he added. “We must use every tool in our toolbox...that means every available technology, every available therapy and every available option that may help us slow the progression of citrus greening.”

Commissioner Putnam highlighted several efforts and initiatives that FDACS is employing in the battle against HLB. And, he recognized his appointment of Callie Walker as chief of DPI’s Bureau of Pest Eradication and Control.

In closing, the Commissioner said, “I know times are tough, but know that we are your partner in this fight against greening. I am optimistic that history will repeat itself. And, like we have so many times before...through droughts, freezes, hurricanes and other pests and disease... we will overcome the challenge of HLB.”

Following his uplifting presentation, Commissioner Putnam turned the evening over to the disc jockey, Sean Corey, who cranked up the volume of his sound system to the classic Kool & The Gang song, “Celebration”! The dance floor was “officially” opened to the lyrics... “Let’s all celebrate and have a good time...”!

And so the first GCGA “Citrus CELEBRATION” was successful and is now history! Plans are underway for next year’s event August 19th...any suggestions???



“Gulf Citrus” Industry Celebration Sponsors

Platinum

Farm Credit of Florida ♦ Florida Department of Citrus
Southern Gardens Citrus

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Alico, Inc. ♦ Chemical Dynamics ♦ Consolidated Citrus
Cutrale Citrus Juices USA, Inc. ♦ Duda ♦ First Bank
Florida Citrus Mutual ♦ Florida’s Natural Growers
Monsanto BioAg ♦ Orange-Co
Peace River Citrus Products, Inc. ♦ Plant Food Systems
Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. ♦ Triangle Chemical Company

Silver

Aglime Sales, Inc. ♦ Agriculture Risk Management, LLC
AgroSource, Inc. ♦ BASF ♦ Bayer CropScience
BB Hobbs, Inc. ♦ Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.
Brandt Consolidated ♦ Chemical Containers, Inc.
Citrus Expo / *Citrus Industry Magazine*
Conestoga-Rovers & Associates ♦ Crop Production Services
Dow AgroSciences ♦ DuPont Crop Protection
Elizabeth C. Pines, P.A.
Everglades Harvesting & Hauling, Inc.
Fletcher Flying Service, Inc. ♦ *Florida Grower Magazine*
Florida Southwestern State College ♦ Gowan USA
G.P. Solutions, LLC ♦ JBT FoodTech
Johnson Tamney Group at Morgan Stanley ♦ Oakley Groves, Inc.
Pacific Tomato Growers ♦ The Andersons, Inc.
The Carol Group ♦ The Packers of Indian River Ltd
Tropicana Products, Inc. ♦ Valent USA
Wedgworth’s, Inc. ♦ Yara North America, Inc.

Association Hosts 18th “Gulf Classic” at Verandah

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association hosted the 18th Annual “Gulf Classic” May 9, 2014 at Verandah Country Club. Twenty-nine (29) teams competed in this year’s tournament, reflecting continuous industry-wide support of this GCGA event.

The “Gulf Classic,” coordinated and directed through the association’s Associate Member Committee, is one of key “special events” which financially supports the organization’s community and governmental relations programs in the region.

“Our association is truly thankful for the continual sponsorship support of the “Gulf Classic” by both grower and associate members,” said Ron Hamel, GCGA executive vice president. “The Associate Committee is to be commended for once again putting on a first class event,” he added.

The 2014 “Gulf Classic” Tournament Committee included **Sarah Markle**, Valent USA, Chairman; **Jeff Campbell**, Campbell Insurance; **Julie Forrest**, Stallings Crop Insurance, Corp.; **Cody Hoffman**, Syngenta; **James Holland**, Northwestern Mutual; **Stacey Howell**, Bayer CropScience; **Stacy McCullough**, Rabo AgriFinance; **Shane Miller**, Farm Credit of Florida; **Robert Murray**, Actagro, LLC; **Alison Pool**, Insurance Office of America (IOA); **Wade Timpner**, Southern Gardens Citrus and **Bernadette Rashford**, GCGA.

This year’s “Gulf Classic” featured a \$1000 cash prize drawing for registered golfers, a 50-50 putting contest, individual “special hole” prizes and team “awards” for the highest gross, highest net and blind draw.

This year’s team with the “highest gross” was sponsored by D&K Harvesting, Inc. and included **Larry Marsh**, **Ross Flemming**, **Chris Tritt** and **Andy Paulet**.

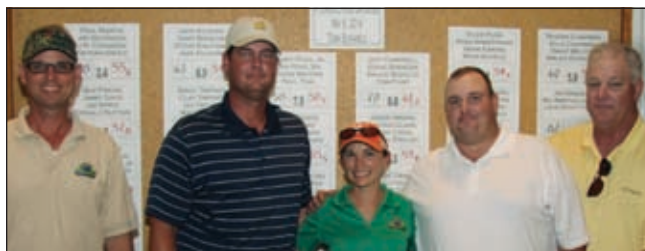
The team with the “highest net” was from Wedgworth’s, Inc. and included **Shawn Barley**, **Jim Belflower**, **Jay Belflower** and **Heath Prescott**.

The team that was chosen for the “blind draw” this year was from Tropicana Products, Inc. and included **Aedan Dowling**, **Robert Black**, **Mitch Willis** and **Steve Riffle**.

Winners of the individual awards were as follows: Most Accurate Drive, **Scott Harding**; Longest Drive, **Mark White** and **Kyle Chapman**; Longest Putt, **Mitch Willis**; and Closest to the Pin, **Paul Meador**. Five individuals won the putting contest, the chosen winner out of the five was **Kyle Chapman**.



Team with “Highest Gross” sponsored by D&K Harvesting, Inc.



Team with “Highest Net” was sponsored by Wedgworth’s, Inc.



Tropicana Products, Inc. Team was chosen for the “Blind Draw.”



Gravely Wins \$1000 Cash Grand Prize!

Jim Gravley of Arcadia Citrus Enterprises was the lucky winner of the “Gulf Classic’s” \$1000 cash prize for participating golfers in the tournament. Sarah Markle, chairman of the associates committee presented the “big bucks” at the luncheon.

2014 Gulf Classic Tournament Sponsors

Beverage

Arcadia Citrus Enterprises
Everglades Harvesting
and Hauling, Inc.
Helena Chemical Company
KeyPlex
Steele Truck Center, Inc.

Water

Culligan Water

Orange Juice

Tropicana

Hospitality

Helena Chemical Co.
Syngenta Crop Protection

Luncheon

Alico, Inc.
Citrus Expo /
Citrus Industry Magazine
The Andersons, Inc.
Tropicana Products, Inc.

Individual Cooler

Farm Credit of Florida

Koozie

Syngenta Crop Protection

Visor

Bayer CropScience

Photography

Stallings Crop Insurance

Hole in One

Creel Tractor
Florida Coast Equipment

Closest to the Pin

Everglades Farm Equipment
Gulf Citrus Growers
Association

Most Accurate Drive

Valent USA

Longest Putt

Insurance Office of America

Longest Drive

Car Two
Heller Bros.

Raffle Prizes

Actagro, LLC
Beef O’Brady’s at the Verandah
Chemtura Agro Solutions
Wallace International Trucks
Wheeler Bros., Inc.
Wellmark International

Tee / Green

Aglime Sales Inc.
BASF Corporation
Beef O’Brady’s at the Verandah
Campbell Insurance
Chemical Containers, Inc.

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Culligan Water
Cutrale Citrus Juices USA, Inc.
DeSoto Auto Mall
Evans Properties
First Bank
Florida Grower Magazine
Gowan Company
JBT FoodTech
Oakley Groves
Orange-Co, LP
Peace River Citrus Products
Rabo AgriFinance
Stallings Crop Insurance
Stantec
Sun Country Citrus Hauling, Inc.
Triangle Chemical
Wallace International Trucks
Wheeler Bros., Inc.
Yara North America, Inc.

“Gulf Citrus” Thanks 25-Year Grower Members

As an important part of the Gulf Citrus Growers Association’s 28th annual meeting, the organization recognized and thanked five citrus grower members who have supported “Gulf Citrus” for 25 years.

These five members were each pre-

sented with commemorative citrus grove prints created by artist Bill North for the association in recognition of GCGA’s 25-year anniversary.

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association appreciates the years of interest, support

and leadership provided by these five citrus-growing companies. These five members joined GCGA in 1989. GCGA President Wayne Simmons and GCGA Vice President Paul Meador presented the citrus grove prints.



Alico, Inc.
Represented by Danny Sutton



Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.
Represented by Emery Smith



Ultimate Citrus.com LLC
Represented by Chet Townsend



Green’s Citrus Grove
Represented by Frank, Ben & Nancy Green



Silver Strand North
Represented by Gary Briscoe and John Hoffman

Callie Walker Recognized for Years as Treasurer

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association recently recognized Callie Walker for her nine years of service on the organization’s board of directors, and as its treasurer for seven years during her tenure in leadership.

The presentation was made during GCGA’s inaugural “Citrus CELEBRATION” event held the evening of August 13th at Harborside Event Center in Fort Myers.

In his presentation remarks, Ron Hamel, GCGA’s executive vice president, noted the many hours of volunteer leadership that she “invested” in the organization, often spending hours reviewing financial details necessary for sustaining the association at the highest level.



“Thank You” for Your Leadership!
Callie Walker was recently recognized for her years of service. Ron Hamel, GCGA’s executive vice president, thanks Callie for her outstanding service and support.

The inscription on the laser-engraved plaque read, “A lady whose leadership as Treasurer of the Gulf Citrus Growers Association reflects her interest, enthusiasm and dedication to the citrus growers of Southwest Florida’s ‘Gulf’ region!”

Callie was recently appointed by Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam to the position of “Chief” of the Bureau of Pest Eradication and Control, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In her new leadership role, she will assist the industry in addressing the challenges of citrus greening, as well as other pests and diseases.



News



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Growers**
Assn. Inc.

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Association Conducts 28th Annual Meeting at Verandah

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association held its 28th annual meeting at the Verandah Country Club in Fort Myers. The session was held on June 4th, and was well attended by grower and associate members, and special guests.

GCGA President Wayne Simmons thanked the association's members and leaders for their support during his third term as president. Simmons stressed that the association's leaders have been closely monitoring the industry's efforts to fight citrus greening, and making the needed adjustments to the "Gulf" CHMAs to better control psyllid populations in the region. Specifically, he noted that the initial "Gulf CHMA" has been broken into 11 CHMAs, for more intensive management. He also commended state and federal elected officials for their support of research funding aimed at HLB, and pointing to the \$125-million in the Farm Bill to fight greening, he thanked Congressman Tom Rooney for his tenacious efforts.

Simmons also updated the membership on the public and governmental relations programs that GCGA is implementing on behalf of the region's citrus growers. He noted the association's leaders are engaged with the South Florida AG Council to support the re-



Dr. Calvin Arnold

talization of the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center.

A statement from Boy, Miller, Kisker and Perry CPAs was presented relative to the firm's annual review of the association's financial statements. The review indicated that the association is in a strong financial position, and that management continues to make sound decisions.

Dr. Calvin Arnold, director of the SWFREC, presented his "vision" for the revitalization of

the center. As guest speaker, he reported that efforts to prepare the center's facilities for the projected increase in faculty positions are underway. He explained that the \$2-million in non-recurring funding that was allocated for the center in this year's state budget would be used to expand lab space and for other major improvements. He also reviewed his priorities for new positions based on input from the region's agricultural leaders.

Aaron Troyer, recently elected Chairman of the South Florida AG Council, discussed the council's efforts in working to support the revitalization of the SWFREC. He urged GCGA's members to become more engaged in the effort, and noted that meetings have already been scheduled with the UF/IFAS administration to work on the funding needed to enhance the center's research and education programs.

**Gulf Citrus appreciates
the support of**

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