

# News



Fall 2018



## Citrus and AG Celebration at FGCU



see page four



## Gulf Citrus Growers Association Elects 2018-2019 Officers

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association (GCCGA) elected its officers to serve the organization for the 2018-2019 season at its 32nd Annual Meeting. Elected to lead the regional citrus association are the following:

### **President**

Ron Mahan  
Tamiami Citrus, LP

### **Vice President**

Danny Sutton  
Alico, Inc.

### **Secretary**

Lee Jones  
Gardinier Florida Citrus

### **Treasurer**

Rob Atchley  
A. Duda & Sons, Inc.



### **Gulf Citrus 2018-2019 Officers**

Left to right: Ron Mahan, President; Danny Sutton, Vice President; Lee Jones, Secretary and Rob Atchley, Treasurer.

Ron Mahan was reelected president for the coming year. Mahan is Chief Financial Officer for Tamiami Citrus, LP, a 7,400 acre grove development company with groves in Southwest Florida. With over 30 years of experience in the citrus and agricultural industries, Mahan is leading his

company's efforts to develop citrus groves using the latest in variety research, grove design and management technology. He earned his bachelor of science and master of science degrees in Agriculture, Food & Resource Economics from the University of Florida.

## Gulf Citrus Growers Association Elects New Directors



### **2018-2019 Gulf Citrus Growers Association Board of Directors**

Standing, left to right: Steve Smith, David Wheeler, Lee Jones, Bob Newsome and Danny Sutton.

Seated, left to right: Dale Johnson, Ron Mahan, Julie Paul Obney, Rob Atchley and Wayne Simmons.

Board members absent from photograph are: Joe Hilliard II, Tom Kirschner, Dan Pool, Jr., and Emery Smith.

At its 32nd annual meeting on June 6, 2018, at the Verandah Country Club in Ft. Myers, Florida, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association "officially" seated its 2018-2019 board of directors for the coming season. The newly elected leadership will direct the association as it works to repre-

sent the citrus growing industry in Southwest Florida's "Gulf" region, including Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. Each director has been elected to serve a one-year term.

GCCGA board members are volunteers and work on behalf of the "Gulf" region's

citrus industry. Please support these leaders during the upcoming season. The association's board encourages your input as to how to improve the organization's service to its members. Please contact the office or one of the board members if you have suggestions.



# Association Holds 32nd Annual Meeting at Verandah

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association held its 32nd Annual Meeting at the Verandah Country Club in Ft. Myers on June 6, 2018.

GCGA Vice President Danny Sutton presided over the session in the absence of President Ron Mahan. Sutton explained that President Mahan was on an annual family mission trip assisting the children's malnutrition center in San Juan, Guatemala. Mahan and his family have been assisting an organization called "One More Child" for the past eight years. The malnutrition center serves a very poor population in an agricultural production region where childhood malnutrition is the worst in the Western hemisphere!

Before hearing from our speakers, LeAnna Himrod, with the Florida Department of Citrus, presented grower videos that were created for the department from our region. The videos featured Aaron Himrod: *A Fresh Start*; Paul Meador: *A Sense of Pride*; Wheeler Brothers: *Family First*; David Wheeler: *A Family Business* and Mark Wheeler: *Growing Perseverance*. All videos can be found at [www.floridacitrus.org/oj/growers/](http://www.floridacitrus.org/oj/growers/).

Candidates for Commissioner of Agriculture Denise Grimsley and Baxter Troutman were present and delivered brief presentations on their vision for citrus and Florida agriculture. Matt Caldwell was represented by Terry Miller, his campaign manager, due to a conflict in his schedule.

Also speaking were Congressional District 17 candidates Greg Steube and Julio Gonzales. Florida District 17 is the district



**Mike Hyser with PRIDE Enterprises is recognized as a 25 year grower member**

currently represented by Congressman Tom Rooney, and ranks as one of the state's most important citrus and agricultural districts.

GCGA Treasurer Rob Atchley presented the financial statement as prepared by Boy, Miller, Kisker and Perry, CPAs. Atchley reported that GCGA's leadership continues to make sound financial decisions necessary to keep the association active and viable. He noted that any member can review the annual financial statements by contacting the office.

Executive Vice President Ron Hamel, along with Vice President Danny Sutton, recognized the association's members and leaders for their support.

Outgoing director, Aaron Troyer, was recognized for many years of service as a board member and Treasurer from 2014-2017.

Moore River Grove (Ben Moore), PRIDE Enterprises (Mike Hyser) and Townsend Grove (Ed Lassiter) were recognized as 25-Year Grower Members of the association.

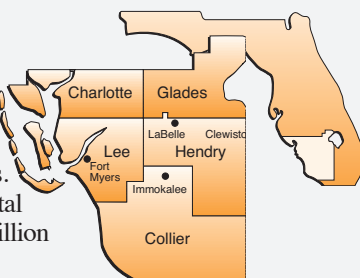
Recognized as 10 Year Associate Members were Bruce Hendry Insurance (Bruce and Karen Hendry); Cutrale Citrus Juices USA, Inc. (Dean Evans, Keith Hinkle and Mike Whitney); Fletcher Flying Services, Inc. (Steve Fletcher) and Lykes Insurance, Inc. (Chris Tritt).

Twenty Year Associate Members recognized were Carden & Associates, Inc. (Rick Lear); Collier Environmental Services (Will Elliott) and United Agricultural Services (Mark Pecsenska).

Josh Culpepper, with Prudential Agricultural Finance, who chaired GCGA's Associate Member Committee during 2016-2017, was recognized for his leadership.

## 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 over 25% of Florida's total citrus fruit production, and generates nearly \$1-billion of total economic impact!



## GCGA 2018-2019 Board of Directors

### Collier County

Tom Kirschner  
Cooperative Producers, Inc.  
Ron Mahan  
Tamiami Citrus, LP  
Bob Newsome  
Barron Collier Partnership

### Glades County

David Wheeler  
Wheeler Farms, Inc.

### Hendry County

Rob Atchley  
A. Duda & Sons, Inc.  
Lee Jones  
Gardinier Florida Citrus  
Julie Paul Obney  
Jack Paul Properties  
Wayne Simmons  
LaBelle Fruit Co. LLC  
Danny Sutton  
Alico, Inc.

### Charlotte County

Emery Smith  
Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.

### At-Large Directors

Joe Hilliard II  
Hilliard Brothers of Florida, LTD  
Dale Johnson  
JEBSCO Citrus  
Dan Pool, Jr.  
Custom Citrus Care



## Gulf Citrus Growers Association, Inc.

Established in 1985, Gulf Citrus Growers Association is a trade association representing the citrus growers of Southwest Florida. The association addresses key issues of economic importance to the sustainable growth and development of the citrus industry in the region. These issues include land and water use, environmental regulation, farmworker relations, transportation, marketing and domestic and international trade programs.

*Florida Gulf Citrus News* is published biannually by the Gulf Citrus Growers Association, 11741 Palm Beach Blvd., Suite 202, Fort Myers, FL 33905. 239-690-0281, Fax 239-690-0857. [www.gulfcitrus.org](http://www.gulfcitrus.org). Postmaster: please send address changes to the address above.



# Citrus and AG Celebration at FGCU!!



The Gulf Citrus Growers Association held its CELEBRATION event on August 15, 2018. The well-attended event gave special recognition to Congressman Tom Rooney for his relentless support of Florida citrus on Federal issues. We cannot thank Congressman Rooney enough for representing Florida Citrus in Washington DC.

On hand to honor Congressman Rooney were Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, Florida Department of Citrus Executive Director Shannon Shepp, Florida Citrus Commissioner Ned Hancock, and Gulf Citrus Growers Association's own Ron Mahan and Ron Hamel. The Department of Citrus presented Congressman Rooney with a wooden U.S. flag and GCGA made him a lifetime honorary member of the association complete with framed certificate and logo jacket. The association also committed to sending the Rooney family a basket of Florida Citrus Fruit every year for Christmas.

Also recognized at this year's CELEBRATION was the retiring of Executive Vice President Ron Hamel after 30 years of service to Gulf Citrus Growers Association. Captain Ron was presented with a commemorative flag to hoist on his sail boat and flowers for his lovely wife Kathryn. A surprise video presentation of Ron's past 30 years with GCGA brought out a few misty eyes.

Dr. Jack Payne gave an overview of IFAS activities and introduced new COO of the Citrus Research and Development Foundation Rick Dantzler who presented his vision for CRDF. Dr. Payne also reiter-

ated IFAS's commitment to being "ALL IN" for Florida Citrus.

Serving as Master of Ceremonies Dr. Mike Martin announced FGCU's plan to start a Center for Agribusiness utilizing the three endowed Alico Chairs. Dr. Fritz Roka was hired as Director of the Center and Ron Hamel will serve as a part time consultant to help promote the new center. FGCU and

President Martin are committed to serving the entire business community in the region which includes agriculture.

Newly hired Gulf Citrus Growers Association Executive Vice President Steve Smith gave closing comments. Smith thanked Florida Gulf Coast University for hosting the event, and the sponsors for their support which made it all possible.

## Platinum Sponsors

Duda ♦ Farm Credit ♦ First Bank ♦ Florida Citrus Mutual  
Florida Department of Citrus ♦ Lipman ♦ Southern Gardens Citrus

## Gold Sponsors

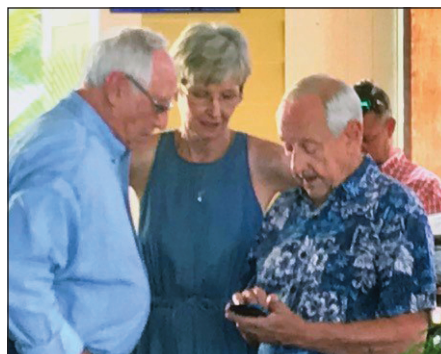
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CFS Roofing Services LLC ♦ Chemical Dynamics, Inc.  
Consolidated Citrus, LP ♦ Cutrale Citrus Juices USA, Inc.  
Everglades Harvesting & Hauling, Inc. ♦ Florida's Natural  
Harrell's Fertilizer ♦ Howard Fertilizer & Chemical Co., Inc.  
Peace River Citrus Products, Inc. ♦ Prudential Agricultural Finance  
Stallings Crop Insurance ♦ Syngenta Crop Protection  
Triangle Chemical Company

## Silver Sponsors

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Chemical Containers, Inc. ♦ Crop Production Services ♦ Edison National Bank  
Everglades Equipment Group ♦ Fletcher Flying Service, Inc.  
Florida Grower Magazine ♦ Florida Southwestern State College  
Florikan ESA LLC ♦ FMC Corporation ♦ Gallagher Lutgert Insurance  
Gardinier Florida Citrus ♦ GOWAN USA ♦ Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC  
Land Solutions, Inc. ♦ Maxijet, Inc.  
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Pacific Tomato Growers, Ltd ♦ Packers of Indian River, Ltd.  
Pavese Law Firm ♦ Phytelligence ♦ Plant Food Systems, Inc.  
Tamiami Citrus LLC ♦ Tropicana Products, Inc. ♦ Valent USA LLC  
Wedgworth's, Inc. ♦ Yara North America, Inc. ♦ Zaxby's Restaurant



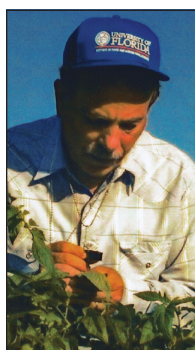
# Hamel Retires after 30 years with Association



Ron Hamel's friends and family gathered at Beef 'O'Brady's restaurant on Friday, September 28th, to help him celebrate his last day with Gulf Citrus Growers Association. Folks from all around Florida stopped to congratulate Ron and wish him all the best. Ron is looking forward to his new role as consultant to FGCU President Mike Martin to help promote the newly formed Center for Agribusiness. Special thanks to Sydney Pitman for helping arrange for use of the Beef 'O'Brady's patio area.



# Dr. Phil Stansly Entomologist Extraordinaire!



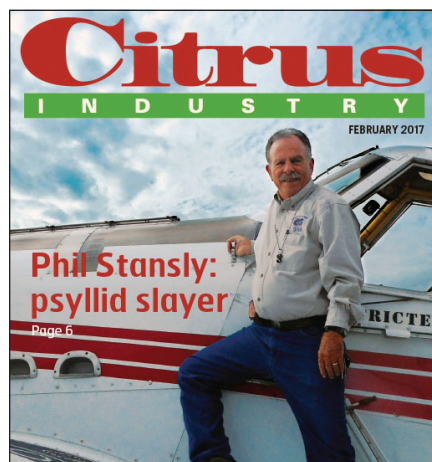
Gulf Citrus Growers Association and the entire citrus industry lost a friend and colleague on September 12, 2018. As an entomologist for UF/IFAS at the SWFREC in Immokalee, Dr. Phil Stansly spent 32 years working on behalf of growers to find solutions against pests such as the Asian Citrus Psyllid. He will be deeply missed.

## From Dr. Jack Payne

We are all saddened by the death of our colleague Phil Stansly on Wednesday night. Phil told me this was coming. Sort of. I saw him at the Citrus Expo last month in Ft. Myers and he said to me that I was going to need a new entomologist in Immokalee sooner than later. I told him it wasn't so - how else could I have responded?

His last noble gesture of service to IFAS, alluding to his own passing not by focusing on himself but by thinking about how it would affect IFAS.

I'll remember Phil as the guy who posed for a magazine cover standing on the wing of a plane in a conqueror's pose with the



words "Phil Stansly: Psyllid Slayer" teasing the article inside. On another occasion at an IFAS night at First Magnitude Brewing Company, he gave a lecture in the yard on the psyllid - with PowerPoint - and drinkers sat down and watched! PowerPoint and Pints with Phil. He'd talk bugs anywhere, anytime.

It's a loss to the entire IFAS family when an employee passes. Even at 74, Phil's death Wednesday night has the feel of unfinished business. It would be a great tribute to Phil's 32 years with this organization and to his enthusiasm for science if IFAS could become that psyllid slayer.

## From Dr. Kelly Morgan

Dr. Stansly served the agricultural industry as a member of the UF/IFAS SWFREC team for 32 years. Phil's passing is a great loss to IFAS and the growers of southwest Florida. We at the center and those that worked with and respected Phil mourn his passing and offer our sincere condolences to his family. Dr. Stansly's work included research and extension on integrated management of pests affecting major crops grown in southwest Florida - with an emphasis on citrus and vegetables. He was dubbed "Phil Stansly: Psyllid Slayer" on the cover of *Citrus Industry* magazine's February 2017 issue, which featured a story about his work to combat Huanglongbing (citrus greening disease), which is vectored and transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid.





# 22nd GCGA “Gulf Classic” at Verandah

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association hosted the 22nd Annual “Gulf Classic” May 11, 2018, at Verandah Country Club. Twenty-eight (28) 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 our key “special events” which financially support the organization’s community and governmental relations programs in the region. “Our association is truly thankful for the continued sponsorship and volunteer support of the “Gulf Classic” by both grower and associate members,” said Ron Hamel, GCGA executive vice president. “The Associate Member Committee is to be commended once again for putting on a first class event,” he added.

The 2018 “Gulf Classic” Tournament Committee included **Cathy Atchley**, On Point Ag, Inc.; **Josh Culpepper**, Prudential Agricultural Finance; **Gary Grant**, Farm Credit of Florida; **Sage Gray**, Rabo Agri-Finance; **Cody Hoffman**, Crop Production Services; **James Holland**, Northwestern Mutual; **Morgan McKenna**, Syngenta Crop Protection; **Sarah Markle**, Valent USA LLC; **Bo Meador**, AgroSource, Inc.; **Alison Pool**, Insurance Office of America (IOA); **Bernadette Rashford**, GCGA; and **Wade Timpner**, Southern Gardens Citrus.

This year’s “Gulf Classic” featured a \$1,000 cash prize drawing for registered golfers, a 50-50 putting contest, individual “special hole” prizes and team “awards” for the lowest gross score, lowest net score and blind draw.

The team with the “lowest net” score



Team with “Lowest Net” sponsored by Car Two



Team with “Lowest Gross” sponsored by KeyPlex



Bob Richardson Wins \$1,000 CASH!

was sponsored by Car Two and included **Jason Dyess**, **Mike Halloran**, **John Post** and **Greg Stacy**.

This year’s team with the “lowest gross” score was from KeyPlex and included **Lee Shekels**, **Ryan Armstrong**, **Adrian Jahna** and **Johnny Sedlock**.

Winners of the individual awards were: Most Accurate Drive, **Mike Sheffield**; Longest Drive, **Tyler Pugh** and **Tara McKenna**; Longest Putt, **Charlie Hurst**; and Closest to the Pin, **Bryan Creel**. **Steven Nole** won the putting contest, collecting \$250.

**Bob Richardson** was the lucky winner of the “Gulf Classic’s” \$1,000 cash prize for participating golfers. Sarah Markle, Associate Committee Member and Grand Prize Sponsor, presented the “big bucks” to Bob.

## Thank You 2018 “Gulf Classic” Sponsors!

### Orange Juice

Tropicana Products

### Photographer

Stallings Crop Insurance, Corp.

### Individual Coolers

Farm Credit of Florida

### Koozies

Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC

### Visors

Bayer CropScience

### Lunch

Crop Production Services

### Water

Live Oak Analytics, LLC

### Beverage Cart

AgroSource, Inc.

CFS Roofing Services

G.P. Solutions

Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC

Nextran Truck Centers, Ft. Myers

### Hospitality

Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC

Syngenta Crop Protection

### Closest to the Pin

Everglades Equipment Group

### Longest Putt

Insurance Office of America

### Hole in One

Creel Tractor Company

### Putting Contest

Rabo AgriFinance

### Grand Prize

Valent USA LLC

### Tee/Green

Ag-Tronix, Inc.

AgroSource, Inc.

Brandt Consolidated

Central Life Sciences

Chemical Containers, Inc.

Citrus Applications, Inc.

Contract Citrus Care, Inc.

Creel Tractor Company

D&K Harvesting

DUDA

Everglades Equipment Group

First Bank

FGCU

### GOWAN

G.P. Solutions

Grandma’s Grove

Gulf Citrus Harvesting & Hauling, Inc.

KeyPlex

Oakley Groves

Old Florida Citrus

On Point Ag, Inc.

Peace River Citrus Products, Inc.

Prudential Agricultural Finance

Southern Gardens Citrus

Wallace International Trucks, Inc.

Wedgworth’s, Inc.

Wheeler Brothers, Inc.

### Raffle Prize

Agricultural Risk Management

On Point Ag, Inc.

Wheeler Brothers, Inc.





First Place team was sponsored by G.P. Solutions

## 2nd Annual “Florida Citrus Cup” Right on Target

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association and the Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association hosted the 2nd Annual “Florida Citrus Cup” on November 9, 2018, at the Bermont Shooting Club in Punta Gorda. Twenty-three (23) teams competed in this year’s fun shoot.

The “Florida Citrus Cup” was coordinated and directed by Steve Smith and Bernadette Rashford with the Gulf Citrus Growers Association and by Kait Shaw, Peace River Valley Citrus Growers Association’s new Executive Director. We are truly thankful for the financial and volunteer support of both grower and associate members.

This year’s “Florida Citrus Cup” awarded the First Place Team, First Place “B” Flight Team, the First Place “C” Flight Team and the First Place Individual Shooter. There was also an option to participate in a special contest where the shooter could win a Taurus Judge Revolver.

The First Place team, sponsored by G.P. Solutions, scored 356 out of 400, and included Mark White, Lee Jones, Peter Jones and Robert Bentley.

This year’s First Place “B” Flight Team was from Duda and included Curtis Slade, Clint Welker, Rob Atchley and Tim Cuellar.

The First Place “C” Flight Team was sponsored by WR Howard Jr. P.E., Inc. and included Bob Howard, Carol Howard, Dick Johnson and Gabe Smoak

Winners of the individual awards were: First Place, Hooker Browning. The winner of the Taurus Judge Revolver was Wayne Simmons.

Both associations want to thank all those who came out and participated and to all our sponsors who supported the event. **The date for next year’s “Florida Citrus Cup” is already reserved for November 1, 2019. Please make sure that you have this date and event on your calendar!**



First Place “B” Flight Team was from Duda



First Place “C” Flight Team was sponsored by WR Howard Jr. P.E., Inc.

### Thank You 2018 “Florida Citrus Cup” Sponsors!

#### Platinum

AgroSource  
Barron Collier Companies  
Farm Credit of Florida  
TriYield

#### Golf Cart Rental

Lenny Lempenau

#### Juice

Joshua Citrus

#### Water

Ag-Tronix, Inc.

#### Hats

Syngenta Crop Protection

#### Photographer

Ag-Tronix, Inc.

#### Judge

TriYield

#### Station

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Ag-Tronix, Inc.  
Assured Partners  
FGCU Center for  
Agribusiness  
PYGAR USA, Inc. /  
FELCO  
TradeMark Nitrogen

#### Individual

Agricultural Risk  
Management, LLC  
Central LifeScience  
Plant Food Systems, Inc.  
WR Howard Jr. P.E., Inc.

#### Team

Chemical Dynamics

#### Duda

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Hi Hat Ranch  
Himrod Citrus Nursery  
Howard Fertilizer  
Jackson Citrus  
Krause Services  
Lenny Lempenau  
Lykes Insurance  
Nufarm Americas Inc.  
Oakley Groves  
RMEC, LLC  
Southern Heritage Real Estate  
Syngenta Crop Protection  
Tamiami Citrus, LP  
Wedgworth’s, Inc.  
Wheeler Farms  
WR Howard Jr. P.E., Inc.



# News



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Assn. Inc.

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## GCGA Scholarship Foundation Holds 18th Annual Meeting

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association's Scholarship Foundation held its 18th Annual Meeting in conjunction with GCGA's 32nd Annual Meeting at the Verandah Country Club in Ft. Myers.

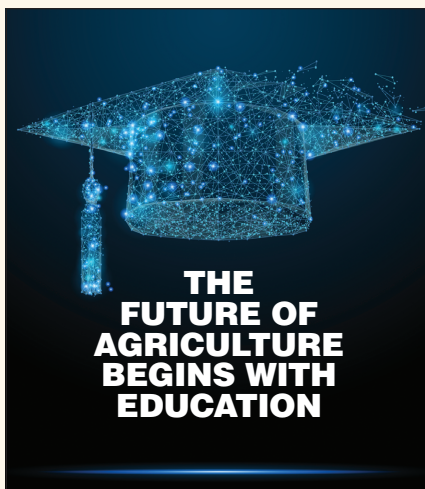
Vice President John Hoffman called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and noted that several foundation leaders and members were present, and that the organization had a very positive year. He reported that during the 2017-18 year, \$4,500 was awarded to six deserving students, bringing the foundation's accrued total dollars given in scholarships to \$103,850.

Students receiving GCGA scholarships were Seth Joiner, Peter Jones, Taylor Sorrell, Danielle Sprague, Megan Winfree and Iman Zekri.

At its fall board meeting, the foundation re-elected Callie Walker, president; John Hoffman, vice president and Joe English, secretary-treasurer. Norm Todd and David Wheeler also serve on the foundation's

board of directors.

Membership in the GCGA Scholarship Foundation, as well as contributions, are welcome throughout the year. Please contact the GCGA office for details and information.



**December 31, 2018, is the next deadline for scholarship applications.** For an application, please contact Mongi Zekri at 863-674-4092 or Bernadette Rashford at 239-690-0281.

### **DUDA Donates \$5,000 to Foundation**

The GCGA Scholarship Foundation would like to thank DUDA for its recent \$5,000 donation.

In a letter to DUDA's corporate executive leadership, the foundation expressed its sincere thanks for that very generous contribution.

This has been the second year that DUDA has generously donated this amount to the foundation.