



# Quarterly FSHS Newsletter

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## Meet our new president, Ute Albrecht



I was born and raised in Ingelheim, a small town in the Rhineland-Palatinate state of Germany on the left bank of the Rhine River. The Rhine valley in that area is known for its medieval castles and fortresses nestled on the steep cliffs of the river and surrounded by beautiful vineyards. Ingelheim is known for its fabulous Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir), and other delicious wines celebrated during the annual Redwine Festival. This festival is held in the historical remnants of the Imperial Palace build by Charlemagne in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Aside from grapes, Ingelheim and surrounding areas produce cherries, plums, apricots, apples, white asparagus, and other crops.

I received my BA, MS, and PhD in the Biological Sciences at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, not far from my hometown. Mainz is the official wine capital of Germany, was founded by the Romans, and is famous for its Romanesque Cathedral and half-timbered houses in the old part of the town. It is also the birthplace of Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the movable-type printing press, which is housed in a museum in the city center. Besides being a university town and its historical significance, Mainz is also famous for its carnival season, also known as the fifth season, or "Fassenacht", with round-the clock celebrations and parades.

Although my PhD research involved keyhole limpets, tarantulas, and huge (blue) blood proteins, my true passion has always been the plant sciences, especially plant physiology. After completing my PhD, my husband (who grew up in Florida) and I, and our first daughter moved to Sebastian, a small town on Florida's Treasure Coast. A few years later I joined the USDA Horticultural Research Laboratory in Fort Pierce as a research associate, where I started working with citrus.



(Continued on page 2)

## Meet Our New President...continued from page 1

In 2016, I joined the University of Florida as an associate professor and plant physiologist in the Horticultural Sciences Department, stationed at the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee. I was promoted to associate professor in 2022. My research and extension program focuses on citrus rootstocks and rootstock effects on the scion, and on finding solutions for HLB (huanglongbing), a disease that has ravaged the citrus industry. The things I like most about my job are the ability to conduct research directly with growers and seeing the outcomes being adopted in the field. But by far the most rewarding part of my job is the interaction with my students.



I have been an active member of FSFS since 2016, but my first presentation dates to 2003 or 2004. I remember that the room was packed with people (although it was the last presentation of the conference). It would be nice if we could bring back such an attendance.

We have a wonderful FSFS board, and I hope that we can implement some new ideas this year to attract new members. I am honored to serve as the president in 2023-2024 and look forward to the upcoming conference.

## Florida Postharvest Horticulture Tour March 11 to 15, 2024

The Florida Postharvest Horticulture Tour brings participants “up-close and personal” to learn how fresh fruits, vegetables and ornamental crops are handled. With exclusive, behind-the-scenes visits hosted by top management, the group will become familiar with the variety of methods and technologies employed to harvest, pack, cool, ship and receive fresh crops.



Visits will include large and small-scale operations to contrast various technologies, a fresh-cut processor, and a major supermarket distribution center.

This program is coordinated by Dr. Steven Sargent and Dr. Mark Ritenour, specialists in postharvest physiology and technology at the University of Florida-IFAS. It is designed for produce industry professionals, educators, researchers and graduate students in such diverse areas as field and packinghouse management, transportation, sales, and import/export.

To register go to: <https://PostharvestTour2024.eventbrite.com>



# Have you turned in your paper or scientific note?

By Dr. Mary Lamberts

FSHS Proceedings Editor

As of 19 September 2023.... The table below is the current status of papers from the 2023 conference.

Section	Total	Received	Not yet submitted
ANR	9 + 3 posters = <b>12</b>	1 paper + 4 SN = <b>5</b>	2 P + 3 SN + 2 other = <b>7</b>
Citrus	28 + 5 posters = <b>33</b>	2 papers + 21 SN = <b>23</b>	1 P + 2 SN + 7 other = <b>11</b>
HP	19 (-1) + 1 poster = <b>19</b>	7 SN = <b>7</b>	4 P + 3 SN + 5 other = <b>12</b>
Krome – Mango	20 + 0 poster = <b>20</b> Mango: <b>6</b>	4 papers + 7 SN + 1 Abst= <b>12</b> Mango: 4 papers + 1 SN = <b>5</b>	2 P + 2 SN + 4 other = <b>8</b> M: 1 SN = <b>1</b>
OGL	10 + 6 posters = <b>16</b>	3 papers + 2 SN + 1 Abst = <b>6</b>	3 P + 3 SN + 4 other = <b>10</b>
Vegetable	21 (-1) + 8 posters = <b>28</b>	2 papers + 19 SN = <b>21</b>	2 P + 3 SN + 2 other = <b>11</b>
Poster	23 posters		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>134</b>	16 papers + 64 SN + 2 Abstracts <b>Total received: 82</b>	14 P + 16 SN + 24 other <b>Total missing = 60</b>



## LOOKING AHEAD.....



June 9 - 11, 2024



DoubleTree  
Orlando SeaWorld

The 137th Florida State Horticultural Society Annual Meeting - we hope to see you there!

renew your membership today!

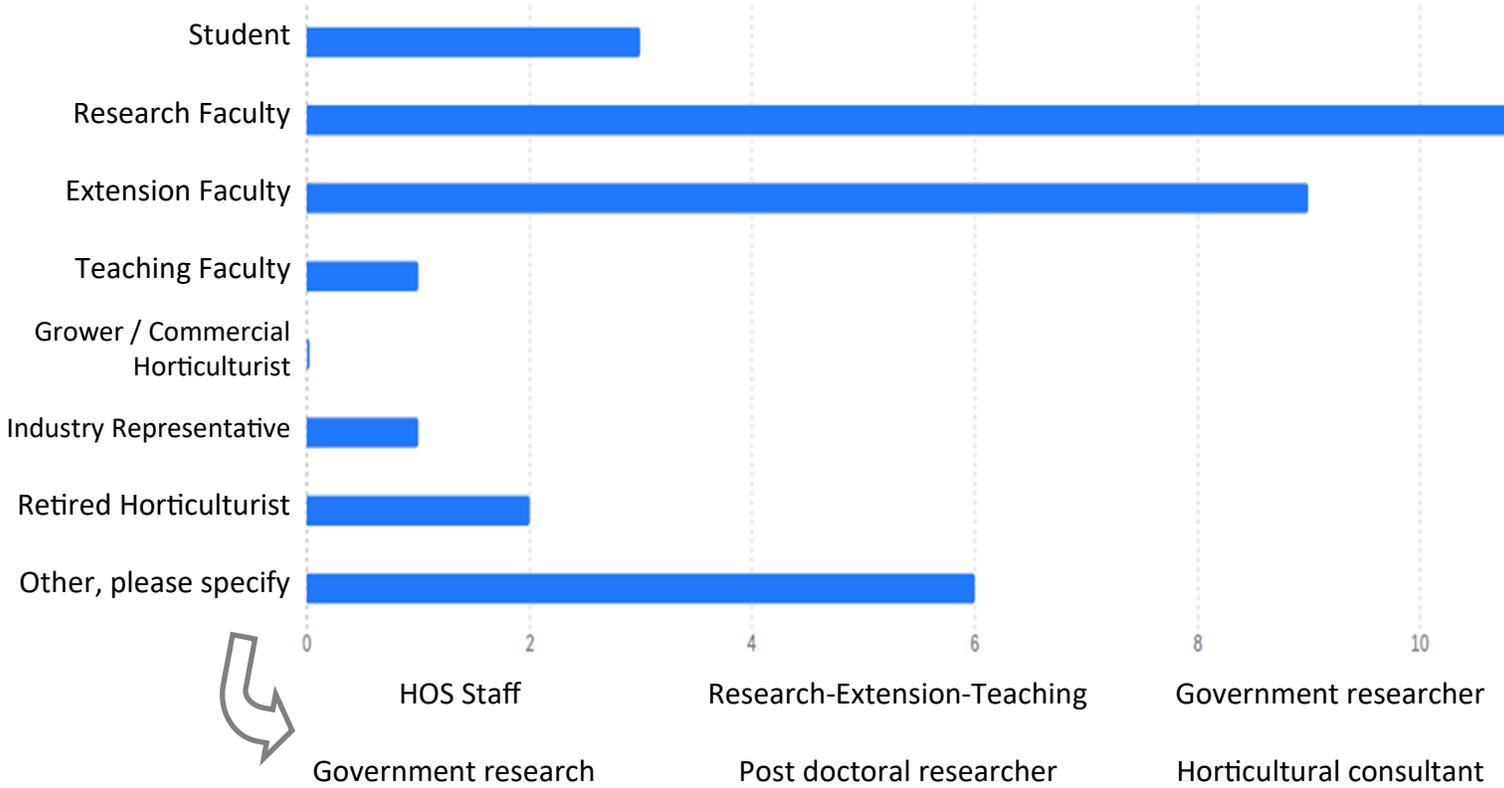
 [fshs.org](http://fshs.org)



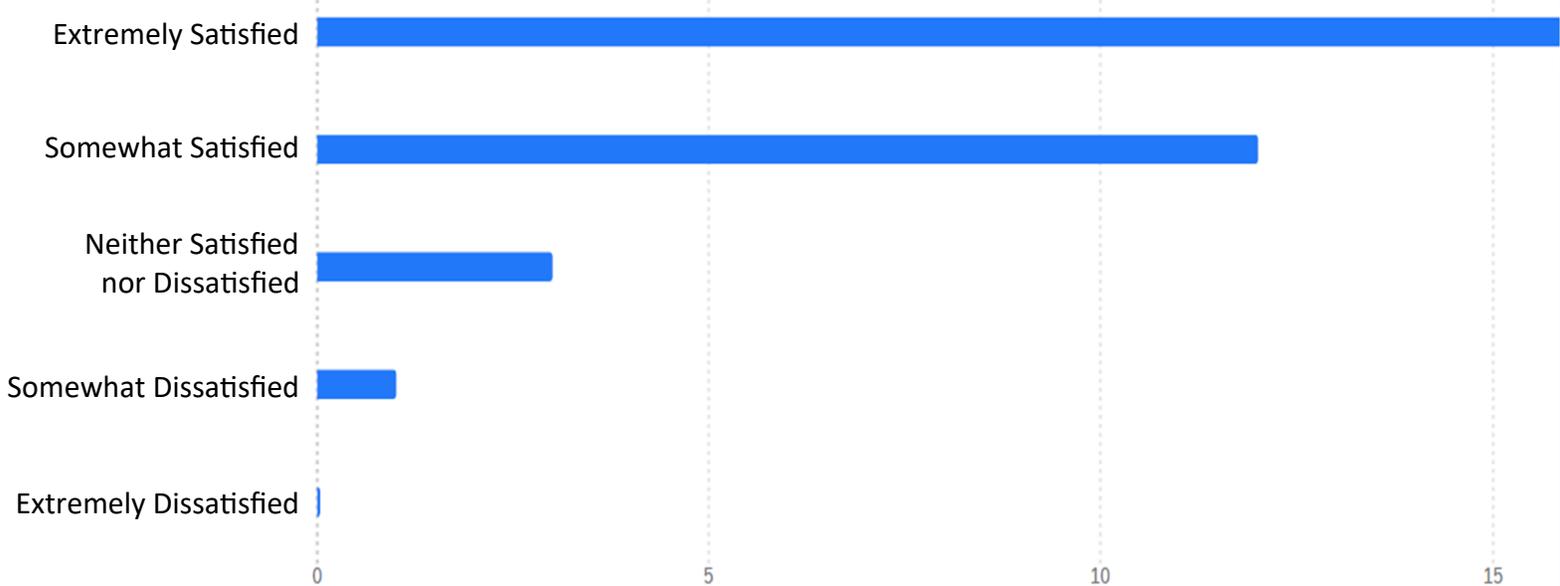
# FSHS 2023 Meeting Survey Results



## 1—You are (select one that describes you the best): 33 responses

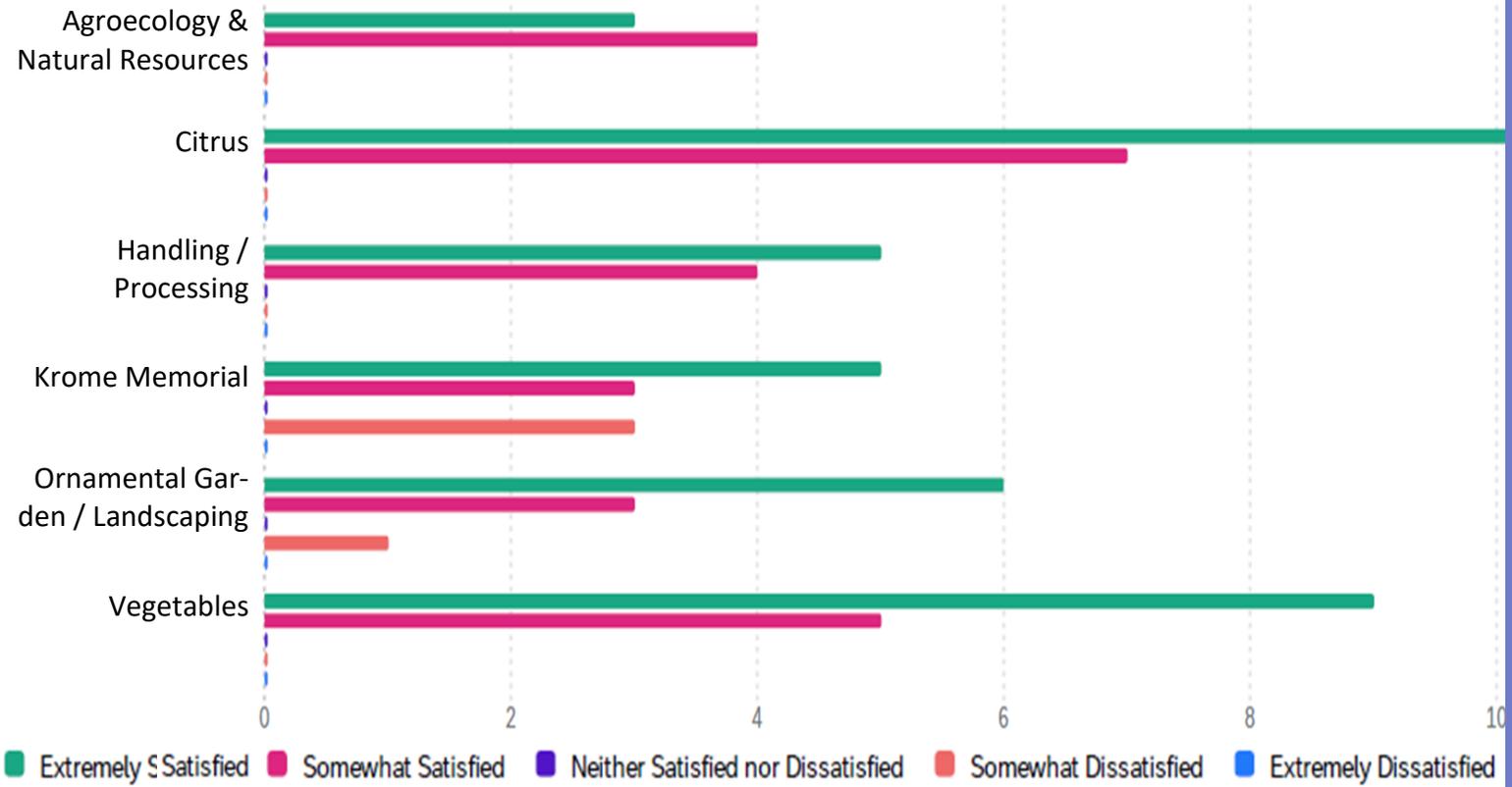


## 2—Rate your satisfaction with the overall organization of the conference: 33 responses

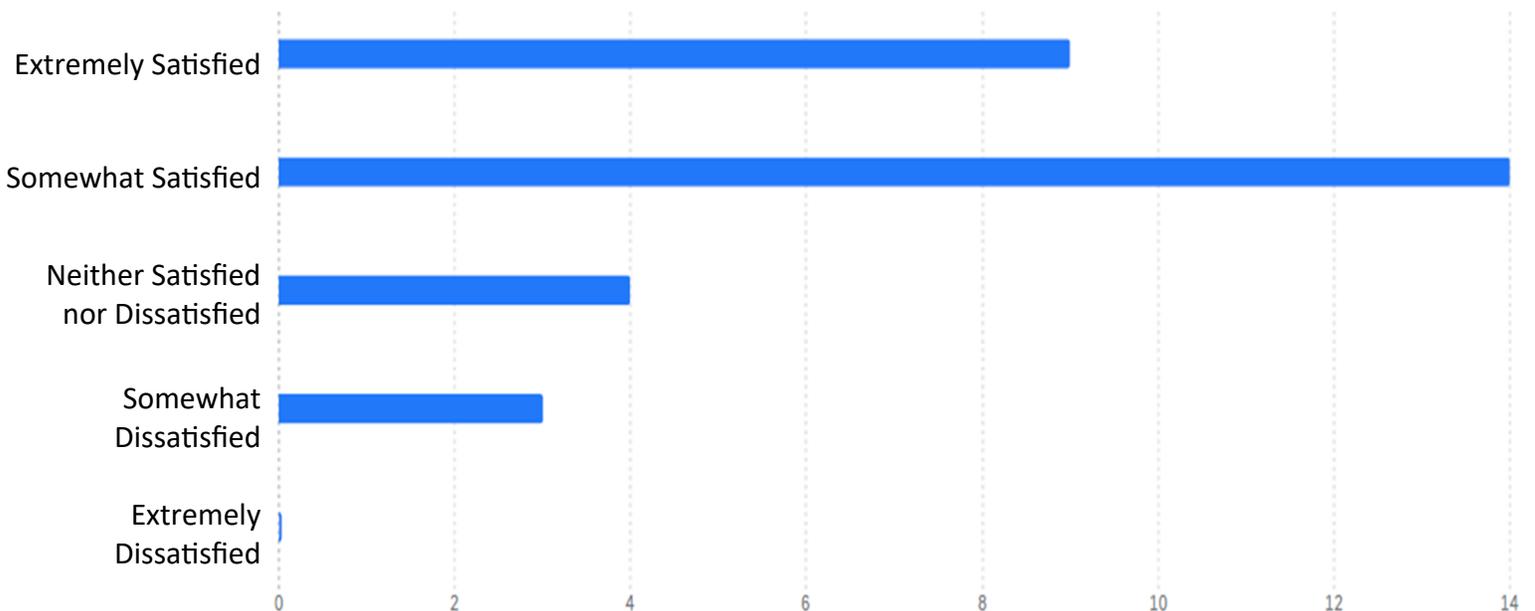


Meeting Survey Results continued...

### 3—Rate your satisfaction with the different sessions: 31 responses



### 4—Rate your satisfaction with the poster session: 30 responses



## 5—Please suggest any potential topic or speaker for the opening and the general session.

- How is Florida Agriculture facing/adapting/surviving the post-Covid dramatic northerners influx and increasing residential and commercial development that ensued? Opportunities or loss of land? Use of resources (namely water)?
- Impacts of new laws on farms: postharvest water quality, immigration changes
- Control of **invasive insect pests** of horticultural and agricultural crops
- What does **climate change** mean for Florida agriculture and natural resources?
- Topic suggestions: **Status of A.I. for horticultural crops** in Florida & **Alternative crops for Florida**
- Fred Gmitter
- Perhaps someone who can talk about **new horticultural crops for Florida**? Six or seven years ago Jonathan Crane gave a really nice talk about tropical fruits for Florida... Maybe asking him again?



Fred Gmitter

## 6—Based on your last experience, tell us what areas should be improved in future meetings.

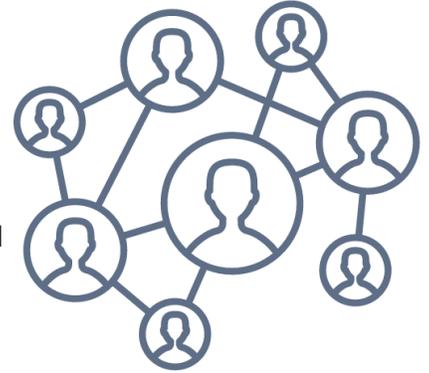
- A different hotel. Daytona Beach in the summer is not a good choice, though our selection was limited because of the change in management companies.
- The **last conference went very well**. The area where the poster competition was held was a bit small and got a bit crowded.
- I thought this meeting was very well organized. The **two receptions were particularly well done**.
- A **printed program or a proper meeting app** is needed.
- Provide **better mapping** of where the title of session and the room it will be presented.
- No time to change sessions; we have to move too fast around to other sessions. Networking this year seemed abbreviated.
- I remember 20 years ago when there were so many more attendees; the meeting seemed so much more exciting then. Sessions were longer and there were more posters. You need to get more participants somehow. Also, you should include **desserts** in your buffets.
- Just a little bit more on organization and **reaching out to industry**... I think this conference has a lot of potential but it would be great to see some of our fantastic botanical gardens in attendance.



Macaroons

## 6—Based on your last experience, tell us what areas should be improved in future meetings.

- All good.
- Communication with the new company was difficult prior to the meeting. I'm sure this will improve after they've gone through this meeting.
- **More collaboration opportunities?**
- I had some issues getting my invoice during registration process. It was not automatically delivered to the e-mail address I stated. Billing staff contacted me and solved the problem immediately though.
- Everything was good.
- This conference is becoming a UF retreat. **We should expand to other Florida colleges and universities and also to grower associations.** Poster section can be improved as well and should be in a dedicated room, not in a hallway. I think we have great potential to expand the participation of other institutions and to make this an event that can foster collaborations **between Florida universities and bordering states.**
- The **meeting is too expensive** for what you receive.
- I realize that they are trying to save paper, but there should be a printed program.
- Maybe student posters should be judged separately from research/extension posters? And placed in one area as well?
- Poster session was cramped. Difficult to move through and talk with/hear all the presenters.
- I think that in the opening/ general session, **there should be one presentation from each different groups**; i.e. agroecology, vegetables, krome etc., so that students and other people present there can get an idea of what these different fields mean and what kind of research is going on. And then they can have the rest of the presentations in different rooms. Also, I think **more monetary awards could be given to students. Either you increase the award money or include more awards.**



## Many thanks!

To Anna Meszaros for providing the survey and results!

To our membership that provided feedback!

To our board members (past and present) who continuously seek ways to improve our annual meeting!





## Incentive Program for Members

It's never too early to approach a new sponsor for our annual meeting!

### FSHS Annual Sponsorship Categories & Member Incentive

Bronze:	\$250	-	\$25 credit toward registration or member dues
Silver:	\$500	-	\$50 credit toward registration or member dues
Gold:	\$1000	-	\$100 credit toward registration or member dues
Platinum:	\$2000	-	\$200 credit toward registration or member dues
Diamond:	\$5000	-	\$500 credit toward registration or member dues



For more information, contact: Gene McAvoy, Sponsorship Chair [gmcavoy@ufl.edu](mailto:gmcavoy@ufl.edu)

## FSHS Board of Directors

**Board Chair:** George Fitzpatrick  
**President:** Ute Albrecht  
**President Elect:** Prissy Fletcher  
**Secretary:** Fernando Alferez  
**Treasurer:** Kevin Athearn  
**Proceedings Editor:** Mary Lamberts



## FSHS Sectional Vice Presidents

### **Citrus:**

Vice President: John Chater  
VP Elect: Muhammad Adnan Shahid

### **Ornamentals, Garden & Landscape:**

Vice President: David Austin  
VP Elect: Kara Krueger

### **Handling & Processing:**

Vice-President: Adrian Berry  
VP Elect: Moshe Doron

### **Krome Memorial:**

Vice President: Muhammad Adnan Shahid  
VP Elect: Jeff Wasiliewski

### **Vegetables:**

Vice President: Alejandro Bolques  
VP Elect: Wael Elwakil

### **Agroecology/Natural Resources:**

Vice President: Leslie Nicole Munroe  
VP Elect: Jay Capasso

## FSHS Committee Chairs & Administrative Contacts

**Program Coordinator:** German Sandoya Miranda  
**Marketing Coordinator:** vacant  
**Member Coordinator:** Ali Sarkhosh  
**Member Coordinator:** Davie Kadyampakeni  
**Sponsorship Coordinator:** Gene McAvoy

**Newsletter Editor:** Alicia Lamborn  
**Board Member-at-Large:** Craig Campbell  
**Board Member-at-Large:** Richard Campbell  
**Student Competition Coordinator:** Xin Zhao  
**Poster Coordinator:** Anna Meszaros