



Quarterly FSHS Newsletter

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A Letter from the President

By Evelyn "Prissy" Fletcher, FSHS President



Greetings my fellow FSHS members!

I am honored to represent you as the current President of our society. I have been involved for

over a decade now thanks to support by my graduate research committee advisor, Dr. K. Morgan, who served as the Chair of the Student Committee at the time. Additionally, I must thank past-president Dr. E. Exteberria, who encouraged me to make my first presentation to the society on the history of citrus in Putnam County back in 2015. This is truly a warm and welcoming membership, and I'm thrilled to carry on the tradition of encouraging collaboration and recruitment!

Professionally and academically, I am a soil scientist. I completed my M.S. research in pesticide fate and transport in citrus, and now wrapping up my PhD in phosphorus

nutrient management of artichokes, both at the University of Florida. I originally wanted to be a plant breeder but quickly realized that genetics and statistics were not my best skills, so instead I live vicariously through people like Dr. Meru and Dr. Sandoya by supporting their programs! I worked in Extension for 14 years, initially as an OPS assistant at the UF Plant Diagnostic Center, then County Extension Faculty between Putnam and St. Johns Counties. Nowadays, I am a Lecturer and Academic Advisor in the same department that educated and trained me – Soil, Water and Ecosystem Sciences.



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President...continued from page 1

I started on the board as a poster coordinator, became the next VP of vegetables, and then was fortunate to be nominated as your President. I have greatly enjoyed being an active member and hope to inspire more of us to be involved and expand our outreach!



Potato harvest



Hastings Agricultural Extension Center — Pumpkin trials

I encourage you all to entice your stakeholders, especially farmers and nursery growers, to be a part of our team. Our research and Extension outreach is intended for them – so let's do our best to market our meetings to acquire their attendance. For charity, please consider donating your edible research and demonstrations to organizations like [Feeding Northeast Florida](#), the [Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County](#), or the [Hitchcock Field and Fork Food Pantry](#). I am greatly looking forward to our progress and collaboration, thank you,

Evelyn 'Prissy' Fletcher



Regarding outreach, one of our missions or purposes as a society is charitable education. I would like to encourage you all as members to help spread the word about our activities, especially events that are open and free to the public. Take advantage of this newsletter to help promote our membership and brag about your efforts in the horticultural sciences and industry.

Speaking of industry, one goal that I am passionate about is getting our growers and consultants more involved again. Our society is very affordable and well distributed with the many sections of Florida fruits, vegetables and ornamentals.

Florida Postharvest Horticulture Tour

March 17 to 21, 2025

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, a major supermarket distribution center and a port facility. 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 diverse areas as field and packinghouse management, transportation, sales, and import/export.



To register go to: <https://PostharvestTour2025.eventbrite.com>



LOOKING AHEAD.....



June 8 - 10, 2025



Hyatt Regency
Bonita Springs

The 138th Florida State Horticultural Society
Annual Meeting - we hope to see you there!

submit your presentation title
starting December 8th, 2024

 fshs.org



You might do some Agro-ecology, too!!



Zack Brym

VP-elect, Agroecology and Natural Resources Section

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Agroecology was incorporated into the Natural Resources section in 2019 to reflect the participation of FSHS members in matters related to biodiversity and conservation through horticulture. A wide range of topics have been presented in the section since, such as environment-plant-animal interactions, landscape design, and community action. Agroecology is an expansive area that seeks to understand and encourage resilience across landscapes, or “agroecosystems”, while maintaining productivity and biodiversity.

You may have presented a paper at FSHS in Agroecology & Natural Resources and are still wondering if it was a good fit for the section. Or perhaps you are considering your work for the section in upcoming meetings. To get a better understanding of agroecology, check out the introduction article at: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG472>.

Our goal this year is to engage with folks across FSHS to help clarify the topic of agroecology and to encourage participation in the section.

- Are you maintaining a demonstration or collection that represents an important botanical, biological, or natural resource for your area?
- Is your project seeking broader context and impact that spans a topical, biological, or social boundary?
- Does your work impact conservation and community?



Agroecology Lab

Reflecting on the 2024 program, at least 31 papers outside Agroecology and Natural Resources would have been a great fit. That could be you! We would be glad to have your voice in our section as we aim to further sustainability in horticulture and natural resource management across Florida.

WHAT IS AGROECOLOGY?

Farming that works with nature for production, environment, and society

Foundational Principles



Productivity
Biomass, carbon, nitrogen, yield, and income



Diversity
Plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and cultures.



Resilience
Maintain or rebound in response to hardship or disturbance



Systems
Reflection and planning for broad and deep connections

Title Submission for the Annual Meeting in 2025 Soon to Open

The 138th FSHS annual meeting will receive titles submission, starting December 8th, 2024. The society offers the opportunity to present your research and extension accomplishments in seven sections:

- Agritourism
- Agroecology & Natural Resources
- Citrus
- Handling & Processing
- Krome Memorial Institute
- Ornamental, Garden & Landscape
- Vegetables

The society will receive titles for oral and poster presentations. This year the annual meeting will take place in a magnificent location in Bonita Springs, FL at the Hyatt Regency [Naples Resort Hotel in Bonita Springs](#) | [Hyatt Regency Coconut Point](#)



We hope to see you there!

We are looking for the next Program Coordinator!

Five years may seem a long time to be a Program Coordinator of the Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS), but it really isn't!

This volunteer position is key to address all needs for our annual meeting and the position is also a fun way to meet people. You also get a glance of all the good science conducted in the state and how our extension personnel in the Florida university system are impacting our citizens. As a program coordinator you get to interact with hundreds of researchers, extension agents, students and the public who meet every year since 1888, to deliver the latest news in horticulture.



Back in 2021 when I decided to volunteer to be the program coordinator, I was clueless on what this position was all about but eager to serve our Florida Society. During my time as program coordinator the society met in Daytona Beach, Sarasota, Daytona Beach (again), Orlando and in this upcoming meeting we will all gather in Bonita Springs. Besides people, I also got to know places in Florida that otherwise I would not visit due to our busy schedule.

The annual meeting of the FSHS in 2025 will be my last one as the FSHS Program Coordinator and I will continue to serve the society in any way possible as any other member. In the meantime, we are looking for the next Program Coordinator who will then serve for another five years 2026 - 2030. Do not need to worry if you think you are clueless like me back in 2021! I am committed to provide guidance and useful tips. In addition, you would not be alone as you will also have a wonderful board who will be happy to support your work.

It has been an honor to serve as your Program Coordinator and learn the job of this position. I am forever grateful to the society for trusting me with such important position. If you are interested to serve as the next Program Coordinator, please contact us, chair (Ute Albrecht ualbrecht@ufl.edu), president (Evelyn "Prissy" Fletcher pffletcher@ufl.edu) or myself (Germán Sandoya gsandoyamiranda@ufl.edu).

Germán V. Sandoya, Program Coordinator 2021-2025



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

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