



Quarterly FSHS Newsletter

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FSHS Chairman's Report

By Gene McAvoy, FSHS Chairman of the Board

Dear FSHS Members,

Congratulations on another successful meeting of the Florida State Horticulture Society. I think you will agree that the 132nd FSHS Annual Conference, which was held June 9 to 11, 2019, in Maitland, was a great one. It was, as always, wonderful to network and reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

FSHS brings together science, industry, academics, government and students to cultivate ideas and share new techniques.

This year, we had something for everyone and offered an exceptional variety of papers and posters on an incredible assortment of topics supplying members with the latest information on Florida horticulture ranging from agroecology, citrus, handling and processing, natural resources, ornamentals, tropical fruits and vegetables. The education con-

tent was provided via technical sessions, poster presentations, keynote speakers and workshops.

At our business meeting, membership unanimously approved revised by-laws, which among other changes separated the duties of secretary and treasurer creating the position of treasurer. Terms of office were changed from a calendar year to coincide with the annual meeting so that elected positions now run from annual meeting to annual meeting.

As I explained during our discussion, our society is at a critical point in that membership and revenues have been declining for several years and unless the board and members take steps to reverse these trends the future of the society is uncertain. The creation of the new position of treasurer should help by focusing greater attention on the financial well-being of FSHS.

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FSHS Chairman's Report continued from page 1

As chairman of the board, I am committed to proactively looking at both income and expenses and working with the board to look for ways to reduce expenditures as well as seeking opportunities to increase income. One way to do this is to increase membership and I would like to challenge current members to invite at least one new member to join the Florida State Horticulture Society.

Another area that needs to be addressed is participation on committees. This is our society and it depends on the active participation of members on committees to do the work of the society. Declining membership has reduced the pool of individuals available to serve on committees. There are a number of committees and include: Presidential Gold Medal Award Committee, Best Paper Award Committees for the six Sections, Presidents Industry Award Committee, Outstanding Commercial Horticulturist Award Committee, Student Best Paper Award Committee, Nominating Committee, and Local Arrangements Committee. While qualifications for each committee are laid out in the FSHS By-Laws, the By-Laws state that the President may appoint members lacking qualification, due to dwindling membership, this option is used frequently.

We hope to appoint committees early to allow them adequate time to accomplish their appointed tasks, so if you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please contact President Jeff Williamson to let him know of your interest.

I would be remiss to neglect to applaud several individuals for their role in making this year's meeting a success. FSHS Editor Mary Lamberts on a fantastic job of working with authors to pull the proceedings together in an efficient and timely manner. Cami McAvoy, Program Coordinator for her patience and devotion of countless hours to hammering out an outstanding program and arranging for CEU's for this year's meeting. Student Competition Coordinator Michelle Danyluk for her patience and dedication to working with a record number of student presenters.

Local Arrangements Coordinators, Kaydie McCormick, Tina McIntyre, and Richard Tyson for the lovely horticultural arrangements that provided wonderful beauty and color to the meeting. Sponsorship Coordinator, Gene Albrigo for recruiting the generous sponsors that help underwrite the costs of the annual meeting.

Many thanks to the sponsors themselves including Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc. UF/IFAS Horticultural Sciences Department, Bayer CropScience, Valent BioScience, Plant Food Systems, and McLean Agricultural Sciences.

I would also like to applaud Steve Rogers, Marketing Coordinator/Webmaster for his efforts in modernizing and streamlining the FSHS website. I am sure you have noticed many positive changes if you have had the opportunity to visit the website recently.

Last but not least, a great big thank you is in order to former Chairman Eric Simmone and former Secretary Jamie Burrow, whose terms ended with the end of the annual meeting. Both Eric and Jamie are to be commended for their hard work and dedication and years of service to FSHS.

I look forward to working with incoming slate of officers – Jeff Williamson, President, Norris Ledesma, President-Elect, Kevin Athearn, Treasurer, Fernando Alferez, Secretary, Board members at large, Tom Stopyra and Adrian Hunsberger as well as all the incoming Sectional Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents -Elect. I am confident that this team of individuals possess the talent and commitment to find and implement solutions that will help set FSHS back on solid footing.

Mark Your Calendars !

**133rd Annual Meeting of the Florida
State Horticulture Society June 7 to 10,
2020 in Sarasota, Florida**

Hope to see you there!

Time for a New Website Design!

By FSHS Web Staff

Welcome to the FSHS!



Since 1888, the Florida State Horticultural Society is one of the oldest horticultural societies in the United States. Discover new business, science and networking opportunities in Florida horticulture with over 100 years and 100 published issues of

The Florida State Horticultural Society announces its brand-new website design, completely reimagined from the ground up to provide better services and support for our members and the horticultural community. The previous site served us well since 2013, but it was just time to get a facelift. We updated the core technology and made the site easier to navigate and use. Also, we no longer require a username and password to access site features.

We've provided a brand-new look and made it easier to find our products and services. The new website brings:

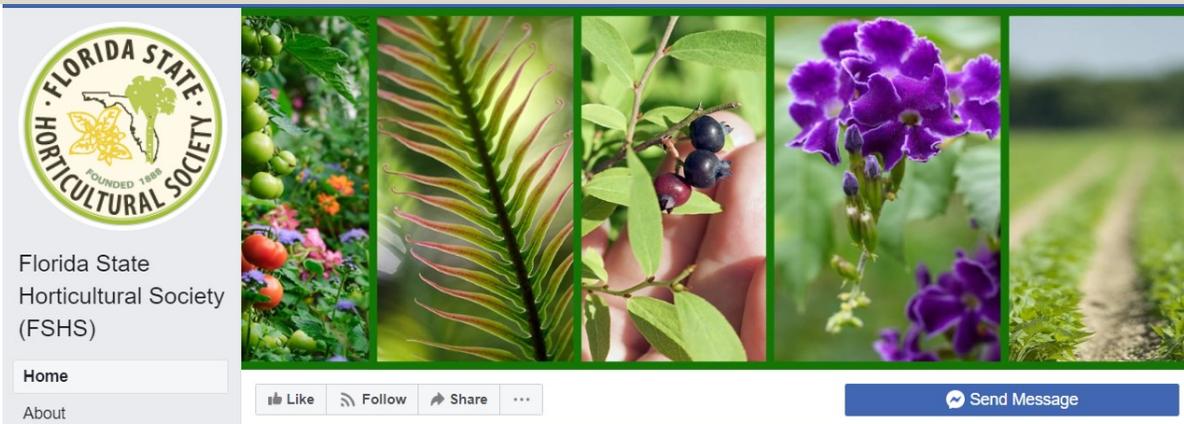
- Web technology that is up to date with current Internet standards
- Faster, better member communication
- Job and resume posting services
- Integration with social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter
- Easy-to-navigate resources, such as our annual proceedings dating back to 1888
- Improved search capabilities
- On-the-fly compatibility with mobile devices
- Website subscriptions

The Florida State Horticultural Society is one of the oldest horticultural societies in the United States, established in 1888, consisting of horticultural and agricultural industry professionals, Master Gardeners, researchers and Extension faculty, students, and gardening enthusiasts. The society:

- Keeps you abreast of important advances in Florida horticulture
- Provides resources to connect employers and talented job seekers
- Provides a wide variety of information presented at the annual meeting
- Publishes the annual Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society
- Publishes regular FSHS newsletters with feature articles, botany facts, places of interest, events, and more.

Feel free to contact us with your comments and questions, including your ideas about how the site is working for you. We hope you enjoy our new site, and we all hope it'll be a great way for us to keep in better touch with each other!

Find us on the web: fshs.org



and on
Facebook!

FSHS Editor's Report



By Mary Lamberts

I would like to thank all the authors who have submitted a paper or Scientific Note (or more than one) to FSHS and also those who have kept me up to date on papers submitted to ASHS.

I have completely revised the Instructions to Authors and have included hyperlinks to both the Scientific Note (formatting) and the Literature Cited (also formatting). These will soon be found under the Publications section of the FSHS website.

Dr. Mary Lamberts
FSHS Proceedings Editor

Papers received/sent to as of 9 August 2019, by section. The number after the slash is the total number of papers presented in that section.

Section	FSHS	ASHS
ANR	4/15	0/15
Citrus	3/23	0/23
H & P	0/21	0/21
Krome	5/23	0/23
OGI	6/23	1/23 (HortTech)
Vegetable	3/37	2/37 (1 HortSci 1 HortTech); 2 plan to submit to ASHS
Posters	9/10	1/10 (HortTech)

I have sent updated Author Agreements to each author who has submitted a paper, either for publication in the Proceedings of the FSHS or in an ASHS journal. I will be sending Author Agreements to the remaining authors shortly. Since the Instructions to Authors has not yet been updated on the website, I will send them to authors as well.

Mary Lamberts, Editor

Have you turned in your paper yet???

Plant Forensics Expert Races to Save Our State Tree

By Jack Payne



Dr. Jack Payne
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The sabal palm is everywhere, but if you blink you might miss it, since you're often passing it at 70 miles per hour. It's the tower that puts you in the tropics on your freeway drive.

Our state tree needs help. Too many are dying. That's costing you both in aesthetics and in tax dollars spent on buying, planting, removing, and replacing our roadside palms.

Fortunately, there are good detectives on the case, trained professionals who rely on public support. If a dead palm tree were a crime scene, we'd have the body, the weapon, and the time of death. We're pursuing leads on the murder suspect.

Dr. Brian Bahder of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Fort Lauderdale believes he will someday be able to pick the murderer out of a lineup of bugs. As an ornamental insect vector ecologist, he's a forensics guy who tries to figure out what kind of bug kills a plant and how it happens.

In this case, the whodunit focuses on the sabal palm. An insect is carrying from tree to tree the bacteria that causes a fatal disease called lethal bronzing.

Bahder is working on two tracks. He's fine-tuning a high-tech method for early detection of the disease so tree nursery owners can treat it before it's too late to save a tree. He's also looking at the saliva of the suspect bugs to see if he can determine which one carries the deadly bacteria.

It's only because of public support that Bahder is employed in the service of Florida's residents, tourists, state agencies, and nursery and landscape professionals. Because of state support

for agricultural science, UF/IFAS was fortunate to hire Bahder.

He wasn't a palm guy when we hired him three years ago. He was working on wine grapes in California.

When we interviewed him, though, he pitched to us his proficiency in an investigative technique called digital PCR. It tests for DNA and is most commonly used in human and veterinary medicine. Bahder uses it in plant medicine.



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Digital PCR allows for a rapid and accurate search for a certain type of DNA in a big batch of plant material. It's a technology-aided search for the needle in the haystack. In this case, the DNA of deadly bacteria is the needle and a bunch of pulp from sabal palm trunks is the haystack.

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Plant Forensics Expert Races to Save Our State Tree... continued from page 5

Bahder has a stand of sabal palms outside his office at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. They're all infected with lethal bronzing, of course. He gets federal funding, as well as the support of the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association and the International Society of Arboriculture to figure out why. And because he has the trust of the green industry, nurseries are sending him samples from their trees for his experiments.

That's how the state's premier land-grant university works. University scientists rely on government funding to work on a problem in cooperation with an industry that provides jobs, tax revenue and other benefits, such as postcard-like scenery, to a state.

The results show up in your food, your clothes, your roads, and your yard. You can eat locally grown food because public scientists help farmers overcome bad weather, pests, plant disease, and volatile markets to put it on your plate. Public scientists solve problems for Florida cotton farmers. Others are investigating whether Florida farmers can grow a mustard plant that can be converted into jet fuel.

Agricultural science helps with something more. A population soaring toward 22 million has made lawns and houses a couple of the state's fastest-growing crops. Pressure for citrus growers or tree nursery operators to sell their land to developers is increasing. When they sell, we lose more of what makes Florida special.

Agricultural scientists are determined that you won't have to rely on other nations to eat. They stay up late researching the threat to your morning glass of Florida orange juice.

Once it becomes so much more profitable to build than to farm, there's no going back. I don't know of a single mall that's been converted into a strawberry field or a pine plantation.

The sabal palm represents another part of our past worth preserving. If agricultural science doesn't keep up with the disease that's killing it, we'll notice a slow die-off of iconic scenery. Until, one day, it's gone in a blink.

Jack Payne is the University of Florida's senior vice president for agriculture and natural resources and leader of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

FSHS Board of Directors

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President: Jeff Williamson

President Elect: Norris Ledesma

Secretary: Fernando Alferez

Treasurer: Kevin Athearn

Board Member-at-Large: Tom Stopyra

Board Member-at-Large: Adrian Hunsberger



FSHS Sectional Vice Presidents

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Vice President: Wagner Vendrome

Handling & Processing:

Vice-President: Travis Chapin

Krome Memorial:

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Vice President: German Sandoya

Agroecology/Natural Resources:

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