

FLORIDA CITRUS HALL OF FAME

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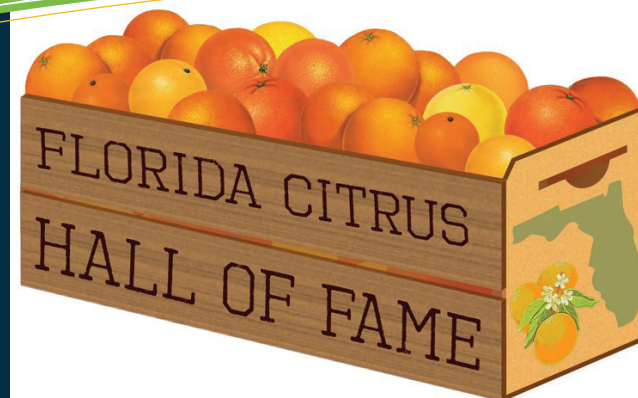


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*Honoring those distinguished
leaders who have made
significant contributions to the
Florida Citrus Industry and to
preserve and share the rich
heritage of Florida citrus.*

UPDATES FROM
**THE FLORIDA
CITRUS
HALL OF FAME**

Citrus On!



this issue

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Unique Partnership with Florida Southern College

In 2008, the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame partnered with Florida Southern College to create a home at the Sarah D. and L. Kirk McKay, Jr. Archives Center, which houses the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame display along with the State of Florida Citrus Archives, Florida Southern College's Governor Lawton Chiles Center for Florida History, the Frank Lloyd Wright Archives and the Florida United Methodist Conference Archives. We created an endowment to fund Florida Southern College students and faculty to research and supplement the information on all of the Citrus Hall of Fame inductees, as well as create access to this information through our web site:

FloridaCitrusHallOfFame.com

The mission of the Hall of Fame is to recognize those distinguished leaders that have made significant contributions to the industry AND to preserve and share the rich heritage of Florida citrus. To this end we are deeply involved with and committed to an outreach program to tell the story of citrus and highlight the people that have done so much to make the industry a dynamic force in Florida. We need your help to accomplish our mission. We hope you will enjoy "Citrus On!" and help us carry the fantastic story of Florida citrus forward.

2017 Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Inductees

James H. "Jim" Ellis, of Bartow, Fla., **T. Ralph Robinson** (deceased), and **Michael W. Sparks**, of Apollo Beach, Fla., will be honored during the 55th Hall of Fame Luncheon on Friday, March 10, 2017 at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Hollis Wellness Center.

Jim Ellis has led a distinguished career for decades in the Florida citrus industry as a grower, packer, industry representative and historian. He is currently in charge of the Citrus License & Bonds in the Division of Fruits & Vegetables for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. A graduate of Florida Southern College, he was president of the Citrus Club and received the Florida Citrus Mutual Award for Outstanding Achievement in the field of citrus studies. As general manager of Lake Garfield Cooperative, he introduced the first electronic sorter to the state of Florida, experimented with cutting and

scoring grapefruit, applying a sweetener and shrink wrapping them to market as a breakfast item, along with different forms of automated fruit harvesting equipment. He served on numerous boards, including stints as president for the Polk County Farm Bureau, Florida Citrus Showcase and the Interior Seald-Sweet Shippers, Inc. His passion for the citrus industry and its history has led him to collect numerous artifacts, and he has one of the largest collections of Florida citrus crate labels in the world, which is the nucleus for the Florida Citrus Label Digital Collection at Florida Southern College. His collection has been used in three books on citrus labels, and in the newly developed Polk County Citrus Label Driving Tour, which is part of the county's History & Heritage program. Dr. Calvin Arnold noted "Jim really gives to the industry from his heart, with no expectation of personal gain – his passion IS the citrus industry."

FLORIDA CITRUS
HALL OF FAME



Citrus Hall of Fame



Thank You to Our Induction Ceremony Sponsors!

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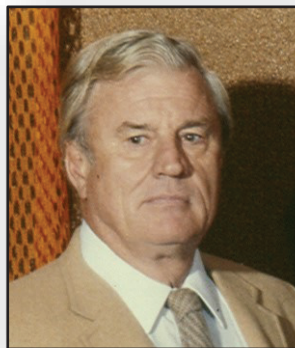
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Oral History Project

Made possible through a grant from the Frank S. Bouis Family



Frank S. Bouis

John Jackson, President of the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, and Brenda Eubanks Burnette, Executive Director, have been actively doing video interviews with people in the industry as a way to preserve the history of how citrus has developed throughout the state. To date, there are over 30 interviews on tape that are in the process of being transcribed before editing them into manageable 20-30 minute segments that will eventually be available on the Hall of Fame website. So far, the videos encompass everything from the

development of the Southwest area of Florida to mechanical harvesting, nursery operations and the development of the FAWN program, to name just a few topics.

If your family has a longtime history in the industry and would be interested in participating in this project, or if you or someone you know has been instrumental in various developments in the industry, please contact Brenda at (561) 351-4314 to schedule a date for a video interview. Also—*please* remember us if you are cleaning out offices, filing cabinets, attics, storage areas, etc. Let our archivist decide if it should be thrown out or not!!! Correspondence, bills, photos, and other such items depict what was happening during that particular timeframe and are important pieces of history in their own right.

FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

FELLOWSHIP STUDENTS

The school year has started and with it comes our fellowship students who help us with all of the research, preservation and archival efforts on the Florida Citrus Archives. This year, we have Emma Morton, who works on our social media outreach through creating blogs and Facebook posts. (Yes—we have a Facebook page!) Jayden Rodriguez has also been working with us over the summer and our newest fellowship students are Kaitlynn Hoffman and Kelsi Shanks. So if you call looking for anything in the Citrus Archives, chances are that these students will be the ones fulfilling your research requests. Thank you to the Bouis, Chicone and Knight families for the endowments that make these fellowship opportunities possible!

"We need to not only honor our industry leaders—we need to preserve and promote our industry heritage."

- John Jackson



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DO YOU HAVE FAMILY RECORDS AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM?

Donate them to the Florida Citrus Archives so they'll be preserved and become a part of our citrus heritage!



Ft. Lauderdale CGA



Avon Park CGA

Inductees (cont.)

T. Ralph Robinson (1876-1967) was a native of Syracuse, NY, but moved to Terra Ceia, Fla. in 1910. A graduate of Syracuse University, he went to work for the USDA in 1901 working in plant physiology investigations. He spent over 30 years working on the development of new citrus varieties, managing test plantings in 25 different sections of the state. He was primarily responsible for the commercial production of Orlando and Minneola tangelos, and the Robinson tangerine was named for him because of his expert work in citrus breeding. He was part of a team of scientists that included Hall of Fame member Walter Swingle who were among the earliest to experiment with cross-pollination in citrus to develop new varieties. He was a past president of the Florida State Horticultural Society and his biography is listed in "American Men of Science" and in "Who's

Who," along with approximately 80 titles of papers he wrote on horticultural subjects.

Mike Sparks has dedicated his entire professional career to the Florida citrus industry, starting with the Florida Department of Citrus (FDOC) where he worked for 29 years in various capacities: as CFO, Director of Administration, Deputy Executive Director and Interim Executive Director. As such, he worked under six different Executive Directors and 87 Citrus Commissioners during very tumultuous times, which resulted in restructuring within the FDOC. For the last ten years, he has been the Executive Vice President and CEO of Florida Citrus Mutual (FCM) in Lakeland, Fla., which is the largest citrus grower trade association in the world. Under his leadership, FCM has been able to secure

unprecedented funding both on behalf of the Florida citrus industry and for national USDA programs such as CHRP, MAC and APHIS, as well as citrus and marketing programs. His efforts also led to significant long-term appropriations for pest and disease research, including \$125 million in mandatory Farm Bill funding directed primarily at citrus greening research, and trade victories on tariff protection, including anti-dumping actions, which resulted in almost \$16 million to FCM members. Dan Gunter, former Executive Director of the FDOC, noted: "Mike is energetic, intelligent and he has integrity. He's always served the industry and his work has had a positive impact on a number of challenging issues."

Tickets to the luncheon, which is co-sponsored by Florida Citrus Mutual and The Florida Department of Citrus, are \$100 for Patron

Seating or \$1,500 for a Sponsor Table, which includes preferred seating for 8, table signage and a listing in the program. The event will be followed by the Florida Citrus Processors' Association's OJ "Meet & Greet" with the inductees as they unveil their names on the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame Tree, located in the McKay Archives Center. An educational citrus exhibit will be featured during the month of March and tours of the Citrus Archives will be offered. Shuttles will provide transportation between the Hollis Wellness Center and the McKay Archives Center, where the main parking lot is located. A portion of the proceeds from all ticket sales will go to fund our Educational Outreach program to promote the history of the Florida citrus industry. Tickets may be purchased on our website or by calling Florida Citrus Mutual, (863) 682-1111.

FLORIDA CITRUS HALL OF FAME



Update: FloridaCitrusHallofFame.com



We have been working with several historical museums to lend citrus memorabilia for inclusion in various educational exhibits on the Florida citrus industry. These displays were part of the Manatee County Agricultural Museum's exhibit entitled "Citrus Kitsch: Memories of Old Florida," which runs through February 18th in Palmetto. For the second year in a row, the Florida State Fair will also be using artifacts from our collections as part of their citrus exhibit in Cracker Country. If you have artifacts you'd like to donate, please let me know!



2017 Miss Florida Citrus Scholarship Pageant



The Miss Florida Citrus Scholarship Pageant is looking for contestants for the 2017 pageant, which takes place at 7PM on March 18th in Winter Haven at Theatre Winter Haven. Contestants must be young women between 17-24 years of age, never married, and either reside in Florida or attend a Florida school at least six months out of the year. The pageant is a Miss America preliminary and competition is based on talent, interview, swimsuit and evening gown. The winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship award and will be paid for appearances throughout the year on behalf of the Florida citrus industry. To book Miss Florida Citrus for your next event, please contact Brenda Eubanks Burnette at BBurne1003@aol.com or (561) 351-4314

MAJOR DONORS Special Projects

Upcoming Book:
"Florida Citrus Pioneers: 55 Years & Counting" - A compilation of biographies on members of the Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, as part of the 55th Anniversary Celebration events in 2017.

Please consider making a donation to our Outreach and Endowment Efforts!

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