



Wedgworth Leadership Institute

Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, April 2011

WLI Regional Meetings

For the first time in many years, all WLI regions hosted (or will be hosting) a regional event. It has been wonderful to see so many alumni (and Class VIII members) enjoy gathering together to catch up, exchange stories and further the bonds of this program. Region III & V's event will be held at the end of April—even if you are not in that region—make plans to attend! (Additional pictures of the regional events can be found on the alumni website: <http://www.wlianr.com>.)

Region III & V Event to Be Held on April 30, 2011

The final regional meeting will be held at the 7L House at Lykes Bros, which is southeast of Lake Placid in Highlands County. This event will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m. A steak lunch will be provided. Speakers for this event include:

*Jack Cowen talking about the Vercipia bio-fuel project.

*Benita Whalen (SFWMD) talking about environmental services for land owners.

* Congressman Tom Rooney giving an update on Washington.

A donation of \$10.00/person will be requested to cover the costs of lunch. Please RSVP to Ray Royce at rroyce@hccga.com. This event is open to all alumni and should be a great educational and networking opportunity!

Region I & II Recap

Alumni from Regions I & II gathered on a beautiful Saturday afternoon at Jeff & Melissa

Lee's (Class VI) farm for a wonderful b-b-q lunch and a legislative update provided by Alan Shelby (Class VI) of the Florida Forestry Association. A great group of alumni and a member of Class VIII enjoyed a delicious lunch and thought-provoking discussion of this year's legislative session. In addition, there was a WLI program and alumni association update—lots of great things happening!



Alan Shelby giving a legislative update to Regions I & II

Region IV Recap

More than 30 WLI alumni who attended Region IV's mid-year gathering on March 19 got two treats: spending time with fellow WLI grads and viewing the rise of the "supermoon" that evening. The group started off the afternoon with a special tour and wine-tasting at Lakeridge Winery in Clermont. Following the tour, everyone met at Cherry Lake Tree Farm for a reception and a splendid outdoor barbecue dinner. Gracious hosts for the evening were

Michel, Veronique and Timothee Sallin (Class VI) and Chloe Sallin Gentry (Class VII). As the get-together was concluding, the “supermoon” made its appearance – so called because it was the moon’s closest approach to Earth in 18 years. Participants said they enjoyed getting to visit with alumni from the different classes and look forward to future events.

Many thanks to: A. Duda & Sons, Inc., The Andersons, Inc. & Prudential Agricultural Investments for their sponsorship of this event!



Region IV Tour of Lakeridge Winery



Dinner at Cherry Lake Tree Farm

Region VI Recap

Region VI held their second event of the year recently as the group of 20+ enjoyed an exciting afternoon of polo-tailgating at the International Polo Club Palm Beach in Wellington. It was a gorgeous afternoon to nosh, nibble and network. Tailgaters were on the sideboards up close to the action to better appreciate the agile polo ponies speed and endurance as they thundered up and down the field. Equipped with Lyn’s *Polo Primer*, everyone became familiar with divots and chukkers, why polo players always wear white pants, are never left-handed, and the definition of a check and turn.

Great friends, great food and drink, great weather and a great venue... I can’t imagine a better way to spend a sparkling Sunday afternoon!

Many thanks to:

Farm Credit (Lyn Cacella) for coordinating the event and securing the tailgating spot and food. Callery-Judge Grove (Mark DuBois) for the champagne. Growers Management, Inc. (David Basore) for the fresh-picked Romaine lettuce for the Caesar salad. Orchid Island Juice for the fresh-squeezed orange juice

Scenes from Polo—Palm Beach Style!





WLI Alumni Legislative Reception was a Rousing Success!

Last winter, a survey was sent out to the WLI Alumni Association about what alumni members would like to see happen within the association. An overwhelming majority of alumni members indicated that they wanted more events and opportunities to interact with other alumni members. Findings of this survey were discussed during an alumni board meeting. Todd Lawrence suggested that a perfect opportunity for an alumni event would be in Tallahassee as many alumni are there for the Florida Farm Bureau reception. Quickly plans fell into place for this event and on March 22nd, the 1st Annual WLI Alumni Legislative reception took place.

This event was truly a huge success as 70+ people gathered on the back deck of the Florida Forestry Association. Class VIII was joined by 30+ alumni members who represented all classes. Some alumni stated that this was their chance to “reconnect” with the program as they had not been to many other alumni events. Dr. Jack Payne, Dr. Joe Joyce and many other IFAS administrators also joined the group for a chance to interact and enjoy a cold beverage prior to the Florida Farm Bureau Federation reception that evening. Many thanks to Todd Lawrence, Richard Schwab, David McDonald and Jeff Lee

for their hard work in making this event “happen”! It will be a highlight of the WLI Alumni Association this year!



Great representation from Class VII!



Keith Wedgworth (Class VII), Dr. Jack Payne, Mary Hartney (Class VIII) and Joe Mandernach



WLI Alumni President Jeff Lee addressing the group

WEDGWORTH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Plans are firming up for our **2011** Wedgworth Alumni Association Annual Conference. Please schedule your calendars now for the **August 12th-14th** event to be held at the beautiful Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes in Orlando, Florida.

The registration link at the Ritz-Carlton Orlando Grand Lakes, the host hotel for the 2011 annual alumni meeting, is now “live” which means you can make your reservations for the WLI Alumni Meeting. Please plan to make your reservations early as last year the block filled up prior to the cut-off date. We have secured a rate of \$135/night for the WLI Alumni Meeting.

We’ll be sending out registration flyers in May—please know that there will be great educational sessions, interesting speakers and a whole lot of fun to be had for both participants and their families.

The link to the reservation page is:
https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=3365181

The link to the main hotel site is:
<http://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/Orlando/Default>

Stay tuned for more information!

Calling All Annual Meeting Sponsors!

We rely on sponsors each year to put together outstanding programs at our alumni meetings. If you, your company or one of your suppliers would be interested in a sponsorship this year, it would be greatly appreciated. All of the sponsors’ names will be displayed on the Sponsor

Board at all events and acknowledged during the Annual Banquet. In addition, all of our sponsors will be recognized in the Annual Meeting literature, WLI website and the Alumni Association newsletter.

Sponsorships are available at the following levels:

\$2,000	Platinum
\$1,500	Gold
\$1,000	Silver
\$500	Bronze
\$250	Contributor

Please contact WLI Annual Alumni Meeting Sponsorship Chair Richard Schwab if you would like to become a sponsor of the 2011 meeting. Richard can be contacted at Richard@marigoniinc.com. His mailing address is: Richard Schwab c/o WLI Alumni Association 2365 North US 19 Perry, FL 32347

WLI Alumni Association Silent Auction

We will be having a silent auction in the hospitality suite again this year during the weekend. We are asking everyone to donate at least one item. It can be something they make, a commodity they grow or something special they pick out. It really livens up the weekend and it helps us to raise funds to support our association. For more information please contact Lyn Cacella at LCacella@farmcreditfl.com.

International Agricultural Leadership Alumni Conference Dates Set

Join other agricultural leadership program alums from all over the world at the 2011 International Leadership Alumni Conference. The conference will be held August 24-27, 2011 in Tucson, AZ. The conference theme is “Build Bridges and

Break Barriers”. Conference topics include: immigration, water, sustainability, generational attrition, conflict resolution and breaking barriers. There will also be tours available. To date, **NO** WLI alums have attended this conference! It’s open to all alumni from agricultural leadership programs. Details can be found at <http://www.ilac-conference.com/index.php?pageID=7747>.



WLI Receives Farm Credit Foundation Grant

The Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources has received \$10,000 from the Douglas D. Sims Fund for Rural Leadership. This is the second time that the WLI has received this grant award through the Farm Credit System Foundation, Inc. and we are pleased to be recognized for our continued leadership development efforts in rural leadership. Thank you to Ron O’Connor from Farm Credit of Central Florida for his assistance in helping the WLI secure this grant!



THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM FOUNDATION, INC.

Alumni In The News



Joe Collins elected Chairman of South Florida Water Management District

Class VII member Joe Collins is now Chairman of the South Florida Water Management

District. Joe, who was appointed to the district by former Governor Charlie Crist, is Vice President of Lykes Brothers, a farm and ranching operation that owns more than 300,000 acres north of Lake Okeechobee.

He will chair a governing board that is expected to have five new members appointed by Governor Rick Scott. As of March 2011, Governor Scott had not yet filled the five vacancies.



Halsey Beshears President Elect of FNGLA

Halsey Beshears, Class V, is the President-Elect of FNGLA and will become president during FNGLA’s annual meeting in June.



Mark Stowers New Vice President for Research for H.M. Clause

Mark Stowers, Class II, has joined HM Clause, a business unit under Group Limagrain. He will head up research and development and have a primary role in managing the global plant breeding activities. Mark will be based in Davis, California

but will lead a team of researchers in more than 12 countries.

Mark joins Matthew Johnston (Class II) and Bob Conrad (Class IV) as members of the HM Clause management team.



**Brad Hester
Featured in
Florida Law
Journal**

Brad Hester, Class II,
was featured in the

Florida Law Journal. Check out the link to the article:

<http://www.thefloridalawjournal.com/2011/02/1426/>



**Sylvia Gordon
Selected to Receive
FNGLA's Most
Prestigious Award**

Sylvia Gordon, Class V
has been selected to
receive the Wendell E.
Butler Award. This award
recognizes an individual
who serves FNGLA and

the industry by providing leadership, service, contributions and has shown a sincere interest in the advancement of the association and the industry.

Keep up with the WLI Alumni by joining our Facebook group!



More pictures from a very busy spring!



Region IV Meeting



WLI Alumni Legislative Reception



Region I & II Meeting