

ANNUAL MEETING EDITION

JULY 8, 2014



WEDGWORTH
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
Developing Leaders for Florida Agriculture & Natural Resources

A Message from our President:

WLIAA: Past, Present, and Future

Greetings fellow Alumni,

Twenty years ago, Class I graduated from the Florida Leadership Program for Ag & Natural Resources. Since then, FLPANR has evolved to become WLIANR - the Wedgworth Leadership Program for Ag & Natural Resources - and our alumni association has grown to include over two hundred exceptional Ag leaders. All those involved in our success – especially Dr. Trotter and Dr. Long - would be proud of our growth as individuals and as an organization.

Let's Reflect: Our Accomplishments

In the almost 8 years since I joined WLIAA's board, I've seen our members launch

the WLIAA website, Facebook account and Twitter account; implement alumni dues; develop the alumni assistance fund; establish the executive and finance committees; expand the board's leadership to include both a Secretary and Treasurer; establish annual fundraising initiatives like the alumni weekend auctions and golf tournament; develop the Youth Leadership Institute; begin a tradition of holding WLIAA mixers at other Ag organizations' annual meetings (FFVA, ENGLA & more); establish the Burl Long Award; review and update both our by-laws and Strategic Plan; and hire Laurie Hurner to serve as WLIAA's first Alumni Coordinator.

...and this is just what I can come up with off of the top of my head. It's been inspiring to see what a group of talented leaders

can accomplish, especially when we all move in the same direction.

Let's Celebrate: Upcoming Annual Meeting

Celebrating 20 years of the WLIAA is the theme of this year's annual meeting, which will take place at the Hyatt in Bonita Springs. The property is very much in line with what we have enjoyed (and, let's face it, come to expect) over the last few years. The hotel is extremely family friendly, plus we have an extraordinary Youth Leadership Institute program planned, so please bring your children. For alumni and current class members: this upcoming meeting is chock full of great programming designed to help guide our course for another successful 20 years. We need your input!

*Continued on page 4...

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Register on the web at <http://2014wlialumniannualmeeting.eventbrite.com> THE LINK IS NOW WORKING CORRECTLY!**
- **Book your hotel room by July 18, 2014 to receive the \$149 a night rate.**
- **The Deadline for meeting Registration is July 19th.**
- **The Deadline for the Youth Program is July 15th. Please contact Kristin Brantley at Sbrantley1@tampabay.rr.com**

WHERE WERE YOU IN 1994?

Class I was graduating from the leadership experience of their lives. Their class laid the ground work for a phenomenal program that has grown to serve 9 classes and over 200 graduates.

This year's reunion is a tribute to these trail blazers!

Each of us has a huge THANK YOU to offer them. Saturday nights activities will give us all an opportunity to raise our glasses, have a few laughs and reminisce a little.

In preparation for this event we would like every class to

submit pictures from your class experiences so we can take a look back.

Contact Laurie Hurner at wlialumniassociation@gmail.com to submit pictures. We have a DROP-BOX account that we can give you access too as well!

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WLIAA BOARD—DISTRICT ELECTIONS



Are you ready for the next step of service to WLI? Following tradition, we will be electing District Directors at this year's annual meeting.

Below you will see a map of the state divided into Districts. The following Districts will be holding elections at this year's meeting: Region 4 with 2 positions open and Region 6 which will have at least one position open. Each member serves a two-year term and can be re-elected

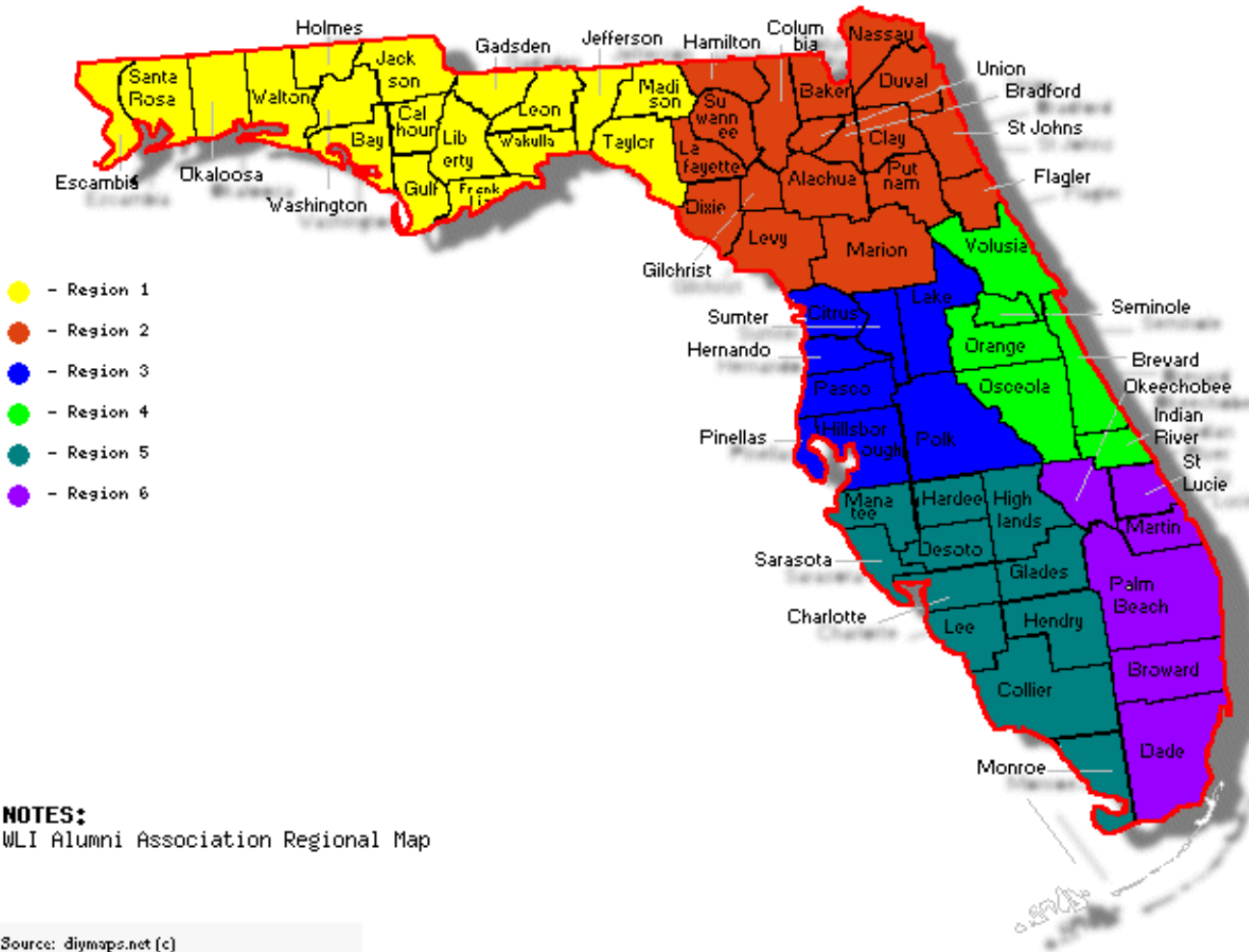
once before rolling off the board.

The Board would like to thank Clay Archey (Class VII), Lisa Lochridge (Class VII) and Jennifer Helms-Shelley (Class VIII) for their service on the Board. Their input and hard work is much appreciated.

We hope that you will consider serving on the board and help the Alumni Association continue to grow and

move to the next level.

If you have any questions about serving on the board, feel free to contact Stephen Basore stevebasore@yahoo.com or Laurie Hurner at wlialumniassociation@gmail.com.



NOTES:
WLI Alumni Association Regional Map

Source: diymaps.net (c)

WLI ALUMNI ASSISTANCE FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thanks to Will Womack (class VIII) Golf is Back! The tournament will take place on Saturday afternoon at the Raptor Bay Golf Course at Coconut Point.

Proceeds from this tournament will go to the WLI Alumni Assistance Fund. This fund was created by the board to provide a helping hand to any alumni of the program that comes on hard times and needs our help.

Make sure that you fill out the registration form included in the Meeting Registration Packet!!

If you or your company is interested in being a "Hole Sponsor" for this year's tournament, let us know. You can include that sponsorship in your meeting registration. All "Hole Sponsor" sponsorships must be turned in by July 18th.

A Time to Remember ...

The WLI Alumni Association wishes to express its deepest sympathies to the Wedgworth family at the passing of Peggy Rawls Wedgworth on July 2, 2014.

Peggy is survived by her husband of 65 years, George H. Wedgworth; sons Douglas K. Wedgworth (Teresa) of Jupiter, FL, and Dennis G. Wedgworth (Becky) of Wellington, FL, daughters Deborah W. Altman (Thomas) of Belle Glade, FL, and Diane W. Triplitt (Tom) of Travelers Rest, SC; a sister, Dorothy R. Williams of Lafayette, LA; eleven grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 17 nieces and nephews.

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

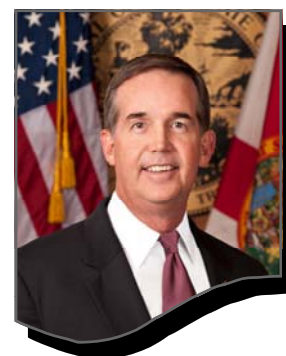
Florida's CFO, Mr. Jeff Atwater has accepted our invitation to speak at the Saturday night dinner.

Prior to serving his fellow Floridians in public office, CFO Atwater worked as a community banker for more than 25 years, giving him unique insights into banking, insurance, finance, fiscal responsibility and the burden

that taxes and regulations place on small businesses and families. CFO Atwater received his Bachelor's degree in Finance and Masters of Business Administration from the University of Florida. CFO Atwater has been an active member of the community, serving on several advisory boards including United Way of Palm Beach County, Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica, Children's Home Society of Broward County, 5-Star Magnet Program of Palm Beach Gardens High School, and Roger Dean Stadium. Additionally, he served on the board of directors of the Northern Palm Beaches Chamber of Commerce.

CFO Atwater and his wife, Carole, have four children.



BRANTLEY TAPPED TO LEAD ASSOCIATION

Sean Brantley has been tapped to be the next President of the Wedgworth Leadership Institute Alumni Association.

Sean is a third generation pest control operator from Pinellas County, FL. The family business started in 1971 and continues on today. Sean is the Vice President of the company and runs the fumiga-

tion department. He is also actively involved in the industry associations and policy making. Sean is the Chairman for the Florida Fumigation Advisory Committee, holds a seat on the Government Affairs committee and is active in his region through the Florida Pest Management Association. He holds a seat for the National Pest Management

Association's Fumigation Committee also. His company performs structural fumigation as well as commodity fumigation. He is a Class VII WLI alum. He has been a Regional Director for WLI and served on the board. He worked with the team charged with creating the Wedgworth Youth Leadership program.





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*ALUMNI in
the NEWS:*

- ◆ *John Barben, WLI Class VIII, has been named The Okpechobee/Highlands Farm Service Agency COC Chairperson.*
- ◆ *Francisco Pines, WLI Class V, has been named to the Florida Citrus Commission.*
- ◆ *Erin Wilder, WLI Class VII, was recently named President of the Florida Turfgrass Association.*
- ◆ *Mark Greeff has recently gained his United States Citizenship.*
- ◆ *Laurie Hurner, Class VII, has been named to the search committee for the next UF Associate Dean for Extension-Agricultural Program Leader & Professor*
- ◆ *Michael Babb, WLI Class VIII, is the incoming chair of the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.*
- ◆ *Bonnie Marshall (Class VII) has taken a new job with Speedling.*
- ◆ *If you have news that would like to share with your WLI Alumni family, please send information & pictures to: wlialumniassociation@gmail.com*

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the upcoming business meeting, I will step down as WLIAA President. The thought of cycling off of the Board is bittersweet. I've greatly enjoyed working with so many talented and energetic alumni during my time as Regional Director, Secretary, and President. It has also been a real pleasure working with Dr. Carter and Janice Barner. I don't believe any of us can fully appreciate the numerous ways they have selflessly supported the Wedgworth Leadership Institute Alumni Association over the years. They've nurtured us to our current state of success and sustainability, and made such a difference

during my time with the WLIAA Board.

I'm excited about the new enthusiasm and creativity our incoming President and Board of Directors will bring. Though I will no longer serve on the Board, as Past President, I look forward to continuing to support this organization in any way I can.

On the horizon...

In spite of the fact that WLIAA has grown tremendously since its inception, I feel we are only beginning to scratch the surface of our potential. With strong leadership from our Board of Directors and committees

along with the support of our new Alumni Coordinator, we have a foundation to gain a new level of strength and independence.

Now, more than ever, the key to our success will be the continuing camaraderie of our members that has made the WLIAA such a great group to be part of. The Wedgworth Leadership Institute Alumni Association must continue to nurture our culture of cooperation and respect while remaining open to fresh ideas and diverse perspectives.

As we continue to evolve, we must not lose sight of the fact that *how* we accomplish our objectives is just as im-

portant as actually achieving them. To successfully move our organization forward, it is essential that we – as individuals and as classes – move forward together as one alumni association, with a shared vision of our future.

It's been an honor serving as your President for the past two years. Thank you for making it such a memorable experience. I look forward to seeing you all at the Hyatt in Bonita Springs!

Stephen Basore

WLIAA President