

HONORARY MEMBER



James P. Syvertsen

University of Florida, IFAS, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred

For those of you who were in attendance of last year's annual meeting, you will recall that there was not an announcement for the 126th FSHS Honorary Member of the Year. The reason, the receiving member was on sabbatical out of the country and was unable to accept his award. Realizing the time of services and his dedication to FSHS, both the 2012-2013 and the 2013-2014 BODs decided to wait to announce the 126th Honorary Member until this year's meeting. It was a difficult time keeping this under wraps as this is usually a surprise to the receiving member. I'm sure you all realize the time the BOD had keeping this from the recipient.

James P. Syvertsen, born and raised in California, earned his B.A. in Biology (1970), his M.A. in Plant Ecology (1973) from California State University, and his Ph.D in Biology (1977) with emphasis on physiological plant ecology of desert species from New Mexico State University. He recently retired from the University of Florida/IFAS/Citrus Research and Education Center after 35 years. Presently he is an Emeritus Professor of Horticultural Science. During his career with UF/IFAS/CREC, Jim specialized in the "Environmental Stress Physiology of Citrus".

Jim first presented and published a paper in the Proceedings of FSHS in 1983, and has been either the author or co-author of 33 papers and presentations throughout years as a member of FSHS. His research has involved rootstock water and nutrient relationships, citrus response to stresses from insects, diseases, pesticides, and mechanical harvesting. His research has also included environmental and nutritional effects on sheephnose of grapefruit, eradicating the condition. His most outstanding contribution have been based on benefits of shade increasing

citrus photosynthesis under hot, dry conditions and the salinity problems that have affected over-fertilized groves.

Over the years, Jim has received several awards. From 2008 to 2011 he received the University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship for "Distinguished Research Performance, Publications, Service and Commitment. In 2013, he was elected as an Honorary Member of FSHS and he received a Fulbright Research Scholarship award to research flooding tolerance in citrus rootstocks in Salto, Uruguay. Most recently he has received the ISHS Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions to Research and Education in Fruit Crop Physiology.

Under his leadership and his collaboration, several local and international meetings of horticultural focus have come to fruition. Jim was instrumental in the planning and success of the "2000 International Citrus Congress" in Orlando, The Florida Conference on Mechanical Harvesting in 2011, in addition to numerous growers meetings at CREC in Lake Alfred.

Most notably Jim has served FSHS as Vice President of the Citrus Section in 2006 and 2007, President in 2008, and Chairman of the Board in 2009. He has been a member of the Best Paper Award Committee and Nominations Committee several times. He has served as the Citrus Section editor several times and has been instrumental in the improvement of our flagship publication. Currently, Jim serves as co-supervisor of the publication of the FSHS Newsletter.

It is with honor and privilege that James P. Syvertsen has been named the 2013 Honorary Member of the Florida State Horticultural Society.

Source: FSHS Newsletter July 2014

HONORARY MEMBER



Jeffrey K. Brecht

University of Florida, IFAS, Gainesville

During its 127 years of history, few individuals have been as dedicated and loyal to FSHS as Dr. Jeff Brecht. Jeff received his B.A in Biology (1979) from Whittier College, Whittier, CA and Ph.D in Plant Physiology (1984) with emphasis on Ripening and Regulation of Ethylene Production in Nectarines from the University of California, Davis. Currently, Jeff is involved in research, extension, and the teaching of postharvest physiology and horticulture of fruits and vegetables and administration of the UF/ IFAS Center for Food Distribution & Retailing.

Jeff has always been a research leader at UF demonstrating the effects of postharvest procedures on maintenance of fruit and vegetable product quality and leading extension efforts on postharvest information through presentations at extension and FSHS meetings. Since its inception in 2004, Jeff has been the Director of the UF/ IFAS Research Center for Food Distribution and Retailing and he has been twice awarded a UFRF Professorship. He and his students have contributed greatly to FSHS. His research and extension programs have garnered many awards.

Jeff is a worldwide renowned horticulturist. He has worked with USAID, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Group, USDA FAS and has organized and/or has presented short courses in many countries. He has received many awards including: Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences, 2006; Outstanding Extension Materials Award, Video Category, Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 2006, for “Worker Health and Hygiene Training Manual for Florida Produce Industry”; Outstanding Extension Materials Award, Fact Sheet Category, Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 2003,

for the series, “Good Agricultural Practices for the Production and Handling of – Selected Fruits and Vegetables”; Extension Publication Award, So. Region, Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 2003, for the series, Good Agricultural Practices for the Production and Handling of – Selected Fruits and Vegetables; Jim App Award for Outstanding Extension Design Team. FL107 Vegetable Production, Harvesting, Handling Efficiencies and IPM in Florida, 2002; Educational Materials Award, Commercial Fruit, Vegetable and Herb Production category. Extension Division, American Society for Horticultural Science, 2000, for “D.N. Maynard and G.J. Hochmuth (eds.) 2000; Vegetable Production Guide for Florida (SP 170, revised)” (Chap. 18 author); Honorable Mention Paper Award, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, 1996; Vegetable Publication Award, American Society for Horticultural Science, 1996; American Society of Agricultural Engineers Blue Ribbon Award, Educational Aids Competition, Fact Sheets, Circulars or Bulletins, 1992, Council Memorial Tomato Research Award, Florida State Horticultural Society, 1992; Outstanding Paper Awards, Handling and Processing Section, Florida State Horticultural Society, 1985, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1995; Beta Beta Beta (National Honorary Biology Society); Dean’s List, Whittier College, 1975–79; John Greenleaf Whittier Scholarship, Whittier College, 1975–79 Fellow of the ASHS and twice University of Florida Research Foundation Professor.

Jeff has been an ardent and active FSHS member for over 30 years. With the exception of Program Coordinator, he has held every position within the society, often more than once. Jeff has been President and Chairman of the Board (2010-2011), Editor

of the Proceedings in 2002, Secretary from 2005-2009, Sectional Editor for Handling and Processing 2007-2009 and again in 2011-12, Krome 2002, Vegetables 2003-2005, Member at large and Selection Committee for various years. As a voluntary Society, the FSHS relies on individuals like Jeff who have historical wisdom to keep the Board on track.

He is a passionate advocate for the society, and always ready to step up to the plate when needed, especially in last minute requests. Jeff has attended virtually every meeting since becoming a faculty member at UF, often bringing students and making multiple presentations of his work in postharvest of fruits and

vegetables. During this time, he has authored or co-authored over 37 papers in the Proceedings. His contributions to Florida Horticulture through his work on extending shelf life and quality of produce have been numerous.

It is with honor and privilege that Dr. Jeffrey K. Brecht has been named the 2014 Honorary Member of the Florida State Horticultural Society.

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