

SYMPOSIUM FIELD TRIP

Tuesday April 12, 2016

Morning refreshments will be available 7:00am-7:30am in the Majestic Palm Foyer. Field trip buses will depart at 8:00am from the Convention Entrance of the Sheraton Hotel. Buses return to the Sheraton around 5:00pm.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

Florida weather can be hot and sunny in April. Bring a hat, sunscreen, and sunglasses. Wear comfortable clothing, such as light colored shirt, shorts or slacks, and comfortable walking shoes. Lunch and a snack will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a beverage or snack for the bus ride.

THE FINE PRINT

Participants are required to sign a field trip liability waiver prior to boarding buses. Give the signed form to the bus leader as you board the bus.

AGENDA

7:00-7:30am	Morning Refreshments
7:30am	Board Buses (Give signed liability waiver to bus leader)
8:00am	Leave Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Hotel (Convention Entrance)
9:00am	Arrive at Dundee Citrus Growers Association Dundee Citrus Growers Association is one of the largest fresh fruit cooperatives in the Florida citrus industry. Founded in 1924, Dundee Citrus Growers Association currently harvests grapefruit, orange, and tangerine varieties for marketing worldwide. Dundee Citrus Growers Association is also a member of Florida's Natural Growers – one of the largest not-from-concentrate orange juice marketers. More recently, Dundee Citrus Growers Association has started packing and marketing Florida-grown stone fruit and blueberries. The team will be packing both (peaches and blueberries) during our visit.
	CONTACTS Steven Callaham – CEO Greg Dunnahoe – COO Adam Pate – Statewide Harvesting and Hauling
10:15am	Leave Dundee Citrus Growers Association



10:30am

Arrive at Thayer Blueberry Farm

Thayer Blueberry Farm is owned by Tommy Thayer, Jr., and specializes in producing low-chill and evergreen blueberry varieties for the fresh market. The Thayer family has been a fixture in Florida agriculture for many generations. Some of the other enterprises they own and operate include Southern Citrus Nurseries and Maxijet Irrigation, Inc., a major provider of low volume irrigation supplies in Florida. At this stop, we will focus on blueberry production and management. We will see multiple varieties in season, as well as different irrigation systems.



CONTACTS

Tommy Thayer, Jr. – President
Erin Nguyen – Assistant

11:45am

Leave Thayer Blueberry Farm

12:15pm

Arrive at UF Citrus Research and Education Center

The Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) was established in 1917 after a group of local citrus growers donated land for a research station. Today, CREC employs 250 people devoted to research and extension in citrus crops. It is the largest facility in the world devoted to research on a single commodity. Over the years, many of the key developments that are utilized in citrus production today originated at CREC. Currently, the impact of Huanglongbing (HLB, citrus greening disease) bacteria is of critical importance for the future of the Florida citrus industry. We will be having lunch and a short informational program about citrus production in Florida.



CONTACT

Sarah McCoy – Education and Training Specialist

2:00pm

Leave UF Citrus Research and Education Center

2:30pm

Arrive at Five Star Family Growers Blueberry Farm

Five Star Family Growers has its farming roots much farther north – in Michigan. The original family farm, designated a Centennial Farm, was near Monroe, MI. In the early 1970s, the family moved to Auburndale, FL to pursue land development opportunities. In 2011, the family bought property in Auburndale with the goal of starting a small blueberry farm. Currently, Five Star Family Growers produces 80 acres of southern highbush blueberry with over 150 acres available for expansion. At this stop we will focus on blueberry production and management. We will see multiple varieties in season, see typical Florida blueberry production strategies, and view a new take on blueberry production in Florida using existing greenhouse structures and potted culture.



CONTACT

Bill Johnson – Farm Manager

3:45pm

Leave Five Star Family Growers Blueberry Farm

5:00pm

Arrive at Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Hotel