



CITRUS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION GROWER RESEARCH REPORT

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The CRDF Board will Change During the 2017-2018 Season

CRDF ends 2017 with a number of changes on the horizon. Among them are rotation of a number of board members, and the transition to new Program Management. This newsletter highlights upcoming Board changes, giving readers a chance to see the new faces that will be leading CRDF in 2018.

CRDF Board members are appointed to three-year terms by the industry or through UF and FDACS. The ten board members appointed by industry are eligible for two consecutive terms, after which new appointees will take their place. At the annual CRDF Board meeting on January 23, 2018, four original board members will be stepping off the board.



2017 CRDF BOD: Tom Jerkins, Larry Black, Rick Kress, Jackie Burns, Ned Hancock, Hugh Thompson, Bobby Barben, Wayne Simmons, Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Joe Davis Jr., Ben McLean III, and Jerry Newlin. Board Member Greg Hodges not pictured.

Among those who have completed their second board term is **Tom Jerkins**, who has served as President of Board since 2009. Tom was founding President of Board and an active participant in the organizing group that launched CRDF. Tom has served the industry and CRDF by also serving on the CRDF Executive Committee and Governance and Compensation Committee.

Tom also was a driving force in moving bactericides through field testing and regulatory approval for use in Florida against CLAs, often reminding the industry of the urgency of need for therapies to address decline of existing tree inventory. His engagement extended to participation in the CRDF/Bayer Partnership development and negotiations.

In addition to supporting CRDF, Tom serves as Chair of USDA, National Agriculture Research, Extension, Education and Economics Advisory Committee (NA-REEEAC) Citrus Disease Subcommittee, established to provide stakeholder input into the USDA, NIFA SCRI Citrus Disease Research and Education Program, that was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill and has provided \$25 million per year of support for HLB research for 4 years.



Tom Jerkins with CRDF COO Harold Browning

Hugh Thompson also will be stepping off of the CRDF Board in January 2018. Hugh is a founding member of the CRDF Board, and has served as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. Has provided leadership to staff in establishment of business accounting systems and reporting, external audits, and compliance with UF and State of Florida accounting requirements. Mr. Thompson has guided the evolution of a more complex revenue and expense management system as CRDF has grown, keeping Board and stakeholders aware of and comfortable with the necessary processes to provide good stewardship of grower funding and other support for the HLB effort in Florida through CRDF.

Hugh's leadership also facilitated continuous funding support via donations from Cutrale Citrus Juices USA and Coca-Cola to complement grower research box tax and other funding targeted to advancing solu-



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tions to HLB. Mr. Thompson has actively participated in the CRDF Executive Committee and as a member of the Commercial Product Delivery Committee.

Wayne Simmons completes his second Board term in January 2018, also having served CRDF as a founding member of the BOD. Wayne has served as Chair of Industry Research Coordinating Committee (IRCC) which CRDF assumed responsibility for in 2012. This committee conducts a U.S. citrus research inventory every two years, and associates ongoing projects with updated Florida industry priorities for HLB and other research topics. A Gaps Analysis leads to identification of how resources are being applied to priorities, and where additional needs exist. Mr. Simmons also has been an active participant in CRDF's Research Management Committee (RMC), which provides guidance to CRDF in research proposal evaluation. Wayne has kept SW Florida growers engaged in CRDF activities and communication with Gulf Citrus Growers Association, where he has served as President of the GCGA Board.



CRDF BOD members Bobby Barben and Wayne Simmons

Robert H. (Bobby) Barben, a founding Board member (2009), is completing his service to CRDF, stepping off of the Board in January 2018. Bobby has Chaired RMC from the first research project cycle, and has invested consider-

able time in evaluation of research proposals. From early cycles, more than 100 pre-proposals per year were vetted through SAB and RMC, leading to scores of full proposals. Through these cycles, Bobby maintained commitment to provide leadership to industry evaluation of the value of projects, balancing the scientific merit review provided by a Scientific Advisory Board with the practical use of information, tools, or materials resulting from the research. Mr. Barben led review meetings with professionalism and dug into details of research well beyond expectation for a grower participant in the process, often communicating with researchers and CRDF staff to better understand the research approach or what progress in the project might lead to.

New CRDF Board Members To Be Seated in January 2018

Rob Atchley, Duda and Sons, Citrus Division: Rob is well known in the industry and serves on the executive committee of the Florida Citrus Production Manager's Assn. He has presented at the Florida Citrus Industry Annual Conference's Educational Session and really impressed the crowd with his drone videos. Rob is committed and is among the leaders who are testing and adopting tools to survive with HLB, including investing in new strategies with new plantings. He currently serves on the CRDF Industry Research Coordinating Committee as a grower representative, and is respected by his peers. Rob will most directly represent the SW region of the state.

Charlie Lykes, President/CEO, Lykes Management: Charlie began working for Lykes in 1972, and has served on the Lykes Bros. Inc. Board of Directors since 1974. Charlie worked throughout Lykes companies: at the Florida Ranch, Florida and Texas Feed Yards, Lykes Agri Sales, Lykes Meat Packing, and in the audit department in Tampa. Since 1983 he has managed the Ranch Division, which now encompasses Cattle, Forestry, Land and Resource Management and the O2 Ranch in Texas. In 2012, he became responsible for the Citrus Division. On January 1, 2015 he became the President/CEO. Charlie is also on the Board of Directors of Citrus World, Inc.

David Howard, Vice President of Agricultural Operations, Graves Brothers Company: After receiving a



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Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from the University of Florida in 1986, David began work in citrus land development and grove production for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and then Dole Citrus Inc. For the last 25 years, he has been directing agricultural and land management efforts for Graves Brothers Company, based in Vero Beach. David is active in the Citrus Production Managers Association, participates in RMC and CPDC Committees of CRDF, and a member of USDA, APHIS HLB MAC as Florida grower representative. He is one of four Florida grower representatives to the NAREEEAC Citrus Disease Subcommittee that sets priorities for the SCRI Citrus Disease Research and Education Program. David and his company are dedicated to survive HLB, and manage groves in all three regions of the state. David has a command of the situation in the industry as evidenced by his presentation at the Bonita Springs Grower Panel, and is well aware of CRDF programs, goals and challenges.

John Updike III, President of Alcoma Properties, Ltd. and Updike Enterprises, Inc., Babson Park and third genera-

tion citrus grower: Mr. Updike has a bachelor's degree in commerce from Washington and Lee University and an Education for Ministry from the School of Theology at the University of the South. Updike has served on the Polk County Farm Bureau Board, Polk County Board of Adjustment and Polk County Code Enforcement Board. He is a former member of the "No Name Group" and the Ridge Runners. He is presently working with a group building a school for ESE children.

Upcoming CRDF Board & Committee Meetings

Most meetings are held in the Ben Hill Griffin Hall at the UF-IFAS, CREC campus in Lake Alfred, Florida.

12/12/2017	Executive Committee Meeting	9:00 am
12/12/2017	Board of Directors Meeting	11:00 am
01/23/2018	Board of Directors Meeting	9:30 am



Citrus Research and Development Foundation, Inc.

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NO UNSOLICITED CRDF PRE-PROPOSALS OR PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME

CRDF is engaged in a number of important processes that will help shape future directions for funding of research and delivery projects. It has been eight years since the original call for HLB proposals from the industry, and over 400 projects have been supported. These represent a wide array of topics and potential solutions, and collectively have contributed substantially to our understanding of HLB and to advancing numerous lines of intervention against the vector or pathogen. [\[Read More...\]](#)

Visit www.citrusrdf.org to learn more about the Citrus Research and Development Foundation, their board, research projects and more.