The History of Grapes in Florida and Grape Pioneers

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- **Carl Van Ness** – University of Florida's University Archivist and Official Historian provided exceptional expertise in the photo and text archives at UF and in Florida as well as advice in organizing and formatting our final work. His perspective has been most helpful and we thank him for his time and assistance. He recently co-authored a book entitled, "Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future" which depicted UF's history from 1853 to 2003.

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- **Debra Herrera** – Faculty Development Program Coordinator and Training Coordinator at the Center for Instructional Technology and Training (CITT) provided important details on photo and text scanning, handling, and formatting techniques. Her expertise

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An absolutely essential participant, whose talent and endeavors have substantially increased the focus, depth, and detail of this treatise, is **Mana Watanabe**. She was employed to handle routine literature searches and copying duties. However, in view of her keen insights into our needs and devoted commitment to the project, she is a valued contributor, whose ideas and findings are incorporated throughout the text. Mana graduated from the Food Science & Human Nutrition Department and is now a graduate student in Public Health. We consider her a proficient coauthor and accomplished professional. We have learned much and benefitted greatly from her outstanding services - while she maintained a full academic course load.

PREFACE

In 2006 we submitted a proposal to the Viticulture Advisory Council to provide a history of grapes in Florida and the people behind the Florida Grape Industry. The project was approved in 2007 with the objectives:

- Produce a comprehensive, well illustrated article, "The People Behind the Florida Grape Industry" or "Florida Grape Pioneers" that recites the history of grapes in Florida from the ancient past, pre-colonial epoch to the present, stressing individuals and their accomplishments.
- Provide a historical narrative that can serve as an inspiration and basis for documenting the efforts and accomplishments of future contributors to the industry.
- Archive this information in forms - print, photographs, Internet, and disk - that can be utilized by the Florida Grape Growers Association (FGGA), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and other professional organizations in describing and promoting Florida grape activities, programs, and potential.

In the process of addressing these objectives, we have accumulated a considerable amount of information pertaining to the historical background, individuals and organizations involved, and the various phases of the grape industry in Florida up to the present. In fact, we have uncovered so much text and graphic material available that it is important to make it part of a permanent record to maintain and build upon. In addition, the task of identifying information sources and individuals is time consuming and should extend far beyond the project termination. Indeed, by providing information and identifying individuals who are part of the story, we hope to uncover

more details from interested parties (yourself included) and fill in many of the historical gaps that exist.

How to use this narrative and navigate the Digital Universe

The impressive and ongoing advances in Information Technology have both enhanced and complicated our task of collecting, organizing, and presenting this historical information. The traditional step of perusing library archives, requesting documents/copying from cooperating libraries, and assimilating the results in print are now easier. Documents either exist on line or can be scanning and both integrated into easily accessed and edited files. Furthermore, online services – either free or available through University of Florida library or other nation-wide links **-** put hitherto unavailable or unknown material at one's fingertips.

However, ease of access has also expanded the amount of material requiring perusal and evaluation. Over one and a half century of archives – texts, microfilm, even well indexed and reproduced periodicals (unfortunately, the minority) have been identified. Much is not indexed and some almost unreadable due to the condition of the original documents or poor original microfilming – focus and lighting. Then there are frustrating gaps in useful publication series containing potentially valuable articles, even missing promising volumes.

Mana Watanabe, our capable document locator laboriously went through available resources at the University of Florida libraries and interlibrary loan requests. The accessibility of documents is as follows:

Florida Dispatch- University of Florida has the most complete set of volumes and they were viewed through microfilm and online sources. However, there were missing issues and volumes scattered within and although we had tried to tie up some of the loose ends, it is impractical to search for all missing articles, particularly when information contained might be redundant or trivial.

The Florida Agriculturist- UF has all of the volumes in hard print and on microfilm from 1878 to 1911 as well as a few years digitized through the online library. All have been reviewed.

The Florida Grower- Was obtained through hard print and microfilm. The University has a complete set of the publication from its beginnings to present day. Volumes from 1998 to present are digitized and available through the library catalog also.

Florida Experiment Station Reports- Were obtained through microfilm at the University. The reports from 1869-1950 were viewed and skimmed for grape related articles.

The Florida Times Union- UF has a complete (or fairly close to complete) set of the Times Union issues on microfilm. However, to skim through even a year of this daily publication for grape related articles was impractical, so we relied on available indexes of the Times Union. Unfortunately, there were only limited indices, as they were made sporadically through the years of the publication. Indices from other state libraries were unavailable and not able to be viewed. The available indices at the University of Florida were- 1895-1911, 1915-1924, 1929, 1938, 1941, 1943-1945, 1948-1952, 1956-1959, 1961-1963, 1966-1967, 1976-1980.

Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society - The UF library has all volumes of the proceedings of the FSHS meetings. They were viewed in hard copy and all pertinent grape articles digitized up to the late 1990s. The digitized volumes are available for viewing on the FSHS website at http://www.fshs.org/ (Click back to view old volumes).

Florida Historical Quarterly – This journal, published since 1908 by the Florida Historical Society is online at http://palmm.fcla.edu/FHQ/ . "The FHS is dedicated to preserving Florida's past through the collection, archival maintenance, and publication of historical documents and other materials relating to the history of Florida and its peoples." Fortunately, issues are on line and well indexed, so grape topics were searched and pertinent information is reported here.

Perhaps someday robots (people aren't up to it) will automatically scan and, just as importantly, index all surviving copies and microfilm of pertinent material in all libraries - for our purposes Florida city, county, and state libraries will do. Then, by judicious use of key words, the sought material will appear legibly on screen – or if the robots are smart enough, in edited, readily usable form!

Since we're not there yet, here are some hints for navigating this publication:

- A large number of pertinent references have been scanned and are available in pdf form. Many are cited in the text – narrative, bibliography, and/or Timeline by published date. Other dated material is linked to on line library sources available to Internet users. Some references are on line, but limited access due to various library restrictions. A minority of cited references are neither linked nor scanned, so traditional off -line access is necessary. These are identified (In Green=go to library).
- If it is in printed (hardcopy) form, the photos and reference links will be online as indicated.
- If you're on line, just click on the links. Remember, some may be in limited-access locations.
- If you're viewing a disk or portable memory device, most links are there, or on line as indicated above.

The material is organized in six parts:

1. The **Text**, as presented here, incorporates all of the above to tell a coherent story with particular emphasis upon the individuals involved – those pioneers who put and kept grapes on the Florida scene. Much of this can be inferred from the records, the personal recollection of old timers still around, and as yet undiscovered information or articles. The final task, now underway, is to organize and prepare the cited components in a form amenable to continuing identification, acquisition, and presentation. The aim is to make everything available to the Florida Grape Community and all others interested in the topic. We propose an open, well publicized website of the material linking all parts to the text and linked to the major organizations noted. In addition, portions of this material will be available for editing and inclusion in future Florida Grape Growers Association Newsletters.
2. The **Bibliography-Chronology** consists of a listing of all documents and sources with pertinent information derived from books, journals, bulletins, news articles and clippings, or other printed or electronic sources. As feasible, all obtained material (too large to print) have been scanned, organized, and recorded. These are available in pdf form, linked to websites, or otherwise made as accessible as possible to the general public. Documents so acquired dates back to Colonial Florida and increases through the late 1800s to the present. To date are well over 1,000 pdf files and scores of Word and jpeg documents consisting of text, photos, and figures – in excess of 3 gigabytes, and growing.

3. A **TimeLine,** where the documents are put in perspective with people and events interpreted from the 1500s with items almost annually from about the 1870s, refers to the **Bibliography-Chronology** (digitized documents/archives). Some copied or scanned portions are very difficult to read, due to the condition of the original or accessed document; we'll try to interpret.
4. A **PeopleLine** has descriptive information about individuals and their activities and contribution to the Florida grape industry. A concerted effort is being made to strengthen this section - locate, interview, and collect documents and photos from these remaining few or their descendants.
5. [Comments [so enclosed] are personal observation relating to the text.] Notes in red indicate material that is questionable or still being sought from contributing individuals or known sources.

OK, let's get started.

I. INTRODUCTION

With a dynamic, growing Florida grape industry, with so much potential, why are we interested in the past? Particularly in view of the several comparatively short lived booms and busts over the preceding century and a half, what relevance do the struggles of those early grape pioneers have to do with today? Our rationale follows, as we wish to introduce you to fascinating chapters in the development of grapes in Florida and, most importantly recognize those individuals who set the stage for the present and future.

The story is continuing and some of you, by your efforts and commitments to Florida grapes will become part of the narrative. In all grape functions involving the Florida Grape Grower Association (FGGA) and other organization with a focus on grapes, there is a record of active and informative meetings, conferences, and field days. These stress the technical, business, and legal challenges facing the Florida Grape Industry. Those involved in the past and we today must be doing something right, since the industry continues to grow and thrive. However, we usually tend to neglect the personal aspect. That is, those people who have pioneered the industry (and even some presently active, on whose shoulders the future strongly depends). We seem to take people for granted, and that's unfortunate. Therefore, we intend to identify some past and present Florida Grape People of Distinction, recognize their accomplishments, and provide a cogent history of grape progress in Florida.

The FGGA was officially founded in 1923 [Actually, a few years older as we'll see], but the history of grapes in Florida go back much further, in fact to 1565 with the first mention of wine from grapes in the New World. Over the centuries, particularly since the 1870s, the efforts of many distinguished, dedicated individuals have resulted in the dynamic industry that now exists. The conditions under which Florida grape pioneers worked and the legacy which they left is well worth recording as an impressive reminder to present and future generations of Florida grape growers and the industries they serve.

There is an impressive and continuing record of Florida grape research in the literature archives, yet it is often difficult to identify the individuals involved and their contributions receive scant mention, particularly in recent documents. (The older literature is much more personal, albeit

less technically focused.) Neither research scientists, dedicated growers, nor committed FGGA members are emphasized in the literature. The time frame is likewise obscure. We wish to introduce a historical perspective and knowledge about those individuals responsible for the Florida Grape Industry's current status, the challenges they overcame, and the legacy they left. Through the literature, personal recollection, FGGA archives, and colleagues (those few still around) there is an exciting, inspiring story of how these Grape Pioneers developed or contributed to the successful industry that exists today.

We can only convey the record by interpreting text and continuing the search for obscure articles. You may be able to do likewise. Thus we invite those of you with insights into the past history of grapes in Florida and the people involved to contact us with additional information or corrections. We've observed errors in past documents, and ourselves are not immune to glitches in transcribing or interpretation. Events, spellings, dates, or locations occasionally do not match known facts (or cast doubt upon them). This is frustrating since it requires quite some detective work – back tracking, deduction, even guessing to resolve the contradiction. Personal memories fade with time and clarifications may be impractical.

Let's put the past in perspective. As you sit in a comfortable, well lit, temperature and humidity controlled environment to read, or effortlessly access text, photos, or video on your computer (or cell phone - eventually even on devices not yet developed) and follow links over the Internet, reflect on the challenges faced by our predecessors. Figure 1 shows the home of a notable grape pioneer, **Emile DuBois** near Tallahassee in the late 1880s and Figure 2 is an upper middle class dwelling of a prominent farmer involved in grapes in Waldo over 100 years ago, ~1890-1900 (Buchholz,1929 pp 178-9,343) . Note that there is no electricity, phone, air conditioning, carport, etc. These are points to ponder when modern conveniences are temporarily disrupted.

Figure 1. Emile DuBois in front of San Luis home, ~ late 1880s

Figure 2. Home of T.K. and Sally Godbey, Waldo, ~ 1900 (FlaStateArchives**)** Sally standing in front of house

Books and technical literature were scarce and the exciting work of **George Husmann** (Husmann, 1883) in California and **T.V. Munson** (Munson, 1909) in Texas, and other viticulturists took weeks, if not months to reach end users. Back and forth communications were likewise slow; "snail mail" was the norm. Similarly, individual travel, especially in Florida while the rail system was being developed was painfully slow. At that, the train trip from Gainesville to Savannah, Georgia took about 11 hours, now covered by car in a few hours. The routine trip between Jacksonville and Tallahassee, a direct shot on the Interstate highway, was a rugged day or so. Heading far south into the peninsula interior was even more of a challenge.

Consequently, print media and organizations evolved to provide the necessary information transfer. These communications proved to be surprisingly effective and perusing them provides an intriguing picture of Old Florida. Since agriculture was the primary industry in state, there is a fairly complete record. Those of you with farm backgrounds will recognize the severe challenges

faced by our ancestors and the commendable efforts they took to overcome them. Grapes played a prominent role in those times and we'll now address them.

II. PREHISTORY

A. Origin and development of *Vitis*

Vines existed 60-70 million years ago, presumably evolving during the transition from Upper Cretaceous to Tertiary era. How did the Vitis genus evolve and specific species get to the New World? Actually, there is some indication that Vitis originated in North America. The rationale is that there was more Vitis species diversity in this continent than in any other land mass. Hence, North America was probably the origin of the genus, possibly before the Atlantic Ocean widened appreciably – that's a very long time ago.

Vitis vinifera has been traced to Eurasia, the Caspian Sea region, or the Mid-East. However, although the most popular species and widely cultivated wherever practical (and in some locales where it's highly impractical), *vinifera* is less disease resistant and more delicate. Hence, it probably evolved later in a more benign environment than other more rugged Vitis species that populated North America and had to survive during many severe climatic changes - glacial cooling and tropical heating epochs, and accompanying substantial sea level fluctuations.

As far as grape species in what is now Florida, the selective pressures of climate and environment severely limited the spread of Vitis species indigenous to northern North America. (Rogers and Mortensen, 1979; Halbrooks and Mortensen, 1989). Even Vitis vinifera didn't make it – or evolved in Eurasia later. Instead, the more adaptable, hardy Muscadine, *Vitis rotundifolia* evolved, spread, and prospered. As natives and early settlers discovered, the rugged nature of this tough-skin, firm-pulp species was a distinct regional advantage and is still extremely pertinent. However, early explorers didn't think much of them – "The wild grapes of America are of little worth, they usually run up the trees of the forests." (Stork, Undated, citing Bartram, pg 28). It is unclear if arbors or any grape cultivation existed before the introduction of European or northern grape species, but wild grapes were abundant (Fairbanks, 1868 pg 32, 35).

Other rugged bunch grape species indigenous to Florida grew wild and may have interbred with V. vinifera introduced by settlers from colonial times on. However, the quality of these original wild grapes was generally unacceptable, so muscadine consumption dominated. An example of the inedibility of these wild bunch grape species is reflected in a sample found in Central Florida in the 1980s. Berries on an unblemished, compact bunch were about the size of small blueberries (~5mm diameter), slightly reddish when ripe, and contained about 19% sugar. That is surprisingly high for a wild grape and acceptable for eating or wine. However, the fruit was extremely sour; the pH was about 2.9 and acidity (expressed as tartaric acid) was over 2.5%, more than twice the level desired for consumption. Perhaps this composition explains why the species survived in the wild. Nevertheless, the rugged nature of such wild stock should warrant the attention of breeders and molecular biologists today.

B. Indigenous people's involvement in dissemination and propagation

Pre-colonial Florida, according to a comprehensive historical record of agriculture in Florida (Cresap, 1982) was populated by a number of native tribes. Some were hunter gatherers with only scant involvement with agriculture. Less nomadic tribes established villages and practiced community agriculture. When farming did exist, it involved corn as the basic stable along with beans, gourds, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, watermelon, pears and "other fruits and roots". Tobacco was the focus of some production and fowl and deer were also partially domesticated. Grapes, of course were abundant as the indigenous wild species, and undoubtedly were consumed - collected or grazed, but not domesticated or cultivated – and mentioned only in passing in these early narratives. However, wild grapes were part of the diet and dried grapes used as a stored staple and during expeditions. (Ober, 1906 pp 191, 296)

III. COLONIAL ERA GRAPE DISSEMINATION AND PROPAGATION

The situation didn't change much with early colonizers who were focused on conquest, pacification, and conversion of the natives – but primarily on exploitation of the fabled New World resources. Ironically those sought-after riches were lacking, but a far more valuable treasure – Florida's agricultural potential was literally and figuratively under their feet.

The first Spanish arrivals to Eastern and Western Florida (roughly coastal regions from what is now Pensacola to St. Augustine) were soldiers and adventurers with little interest in or appreciation for Agriculture. Due to encounters with aggressive natives (who had every reason to act inhospitably), shipwrecks, and poor preparation these colonization efforts failed.

French adventurers to Eastern Florida in the mid 1500 fared even worse, with starvation being almost as much of a threat as their Spanish competitors and, in the case of Fort Caroline their executioners (Gissendaner, 1996, pp134,146). The Huguenots legacy was production of the first wine recorded in the new world- around 1565 near present Jacksonville. Their leader, Laudonniere reported abundant wild grapes in 1562 probably around what is now known as St. John's Bluff in Duval County (Fairbanks, 1868 pg 96).

A quote from the Fort Caroline narrative in 1564 indicates the intent to utilize the wild grapes for wine – "The woods are so full of vines that you can scarcely walk two steps without finding quantities of grapes just now beginning to ripen, so that we hope soon to make some wine, which will be good for something." (FlaHistQuarterly: 41(3)279-280 Jan 1963)

In order to enforce ownership of Florida and promote self sufficiency, the Spanish Crown finally encouraged farmers and non military settlers with land and other incentives. However, faced with hostile natives and belligerent French and English military excursions, they barely avoided starvation.

Similar debacles were being played out in Western Florida. (What we now call the Panhandle.) Colonists were largely confined to fortified enclaves near the coast and a coherent agriculture policy was in limbo. Nevertheless, sustenance was available from Spanish possessions in the Caribbean, where less conflict favored agriculture based on local crops together with plants, seeds and livestock shipped from Spain. Hence came citrus to Florida, along with grapes, which failed even mention, with one exception. Grapes were "raised" near St. Augustine in the early

1600s (Corse, 1935 p23,26), presumably due to the influence of Spanish missionaries. [We can assume grape growing was attempted, since similar Spanish cargo bound for South America and the West Coast eventually resulted in thriving grape industries elsewhere in the New World, even El Paso, later part of Texas (Hendricks, 2004).]

An early indication of Florida grape observations/activities can be gleaned from articles appearing in the Florida Historical Quarterly (http://palmm.fcla.edu/FHQ/) Search for grape*). This publication offers excellent articles covering all historical aspects pertaining to the state, practically from time zero. Relevant grape information is detailed in the TimeLine Section.

After over 200 years of strife and starvation, the agricultural situation improved somewhat due to English settlers encroaching from the north and eventually, to England gaining temporary possession of the Florida territory in 1763. These settlers were more agriculturally oriented and engaged in serious farming. They were joined by English immigrants from the northern United States who, due to their loyalty to the Crown, were displaced by the Revolutionary War. At last grape growing, even a grape arbor in St. Augustine was mentioned – circa. 1767, it was probably muscadine (Cresap, 1982, Chapt.3 pg 25; Pinney, 1989 pg.60.; Fairbanks, 1868 pg. 96). Later, "..grapes of all kinds.." were reportedly growing in St. Augustine prior to U.S. ownership (East Florida, 1819).

Figure 3. Grape Harvest in Florida, 1871 (FlaStateArchives**)**

These activities spread down the east coast to New Smyrna and west to Pensacola. In any case, imported grape vines were reportedly flourishing by 1770 (FlaHistQuarterly: 62(1)70 July 1983).

The resulting mix of successful and failed English colonization efforts ceased in 1783 when Florida was ceded back to Spain and not much progress was reported until Florida became U.S. territory in 1821. Nevertheless, insights into successful agriculture had been gained and persistent settlers and settlements had survived.

As the territory was settled, turbulent times continued. In the interim between the conclusion of the Seminole War in 1842 and Civil War hostilities, Florida entered the Union in 1845. Agriculture progressed dramatically. Implicit in these activities were the expansion of water, rail, and road transportation and the opening of the less accessible interior. By 1865 the stage was set for Florida agriculture development and grapes came on the scene.

IV. EARLY INTRODUCTIONS – SUCCESSES AND FAILURES

Ever since the initial colonization of Florida, settlers have attempted to grow grapes from their native regions of origin. Indeed, even recent arrivals attempt the same, with similar dismal results. Initial introductions were *Vitis vinifera* from Europe. Although this species barely survived in the north and did spectacularly well in California (due to a comparatively dry growing season and mild winters), Florida plantings from the 1500 to present were largely

unsuccessful. Nevertheless the people involved and their trials and tribulations are well worth emphasizing.

The first recorded mention of grapes in what is now Florida, described wine made from wild grapes by French Huguenots near present Jacksonville (Adams, 1985). Actually, this may be the first written mention of wine produced in the New World - the entire Western Hemisphere. Neither the Huguenots nor the wines did well, since neither survived the Spanish colonial epoch. The grapes involved were undoubtedly muscadines and little is known regarding their propagation. They were probably collected from vines growing up tree trunks (Figure 4).

Figure 4. MuscadineCovered Oak. ~1900

Of course, Florida was not the only southern region experiencing grape industry devopment, just the most extreme and difficult. An excellent description of parallel viticulture and wine development throughout the Southeast, including some in Florida, is presented by **de Blij** (De Blij, H. J., 1987). Neighboring Southeastern states were likewise subjected to similar demographic and political trends and their respective industries also progressed by fits and starts. However, grapes did much better in these other states, particularly in the highlands, where even some vinifera varieties at least survived.

The record becomes much clearer in the latter half of the 19th century, essentially after the Civil War. Here "The French Connection" merits attention (Thompson, 1987; Paisley, 1968). As a reward for his services during the Revolutionary War, the **Marquis de Lafayette** was given a large land grant in the Florida Territory around Tallahassee by the U.S. Congress in 1824. **Lafayette**, with the encouragement of the Florida Territorial Governor **W.P. Duval**, chose a group of 50 to 60 Norman peasants to settle on the shores of Lake Lafayette in 1831. Their farming endeavors included the planting of grapes [presumably French varieties] with the intent of producing wine. These efforts failed and the surviving participants either returned to France or settled elsewhere – around Tallahassee or New Orleans.

Figure 5. Lafayette Grant, 1831. (Alvers and Mahaffey, 1995 pg. 25**)**

There was some mention of grapes as early as 1875 pertaining to successful vineyards. **Jno. A. Craig**, Tallahassee spoke highly of his experience with some labrusca varieties. He cited local success and mentioned that grapes were introduced on Merritt's Island in 1875 (*Semi-Tropical* 1: 18-20, 1875). **Craig** and his partner, **Bradford** in 1882 sold some of their Tallahassee vineyard property to a prominent individual who soon made his mark. **Craig's** article provided cultivation suggestions, called Florida "The Italy of America", and closed with a poem honoring Florida and wine.

Beautiful Florida! Land of our dreams
Earth's fairest daughter; beside thy bright streams,
Ponce de Leon wandered in search of the truth
Of that mythical water, the "Fountain of Youth."
We erect to the alter garland with flowers,
Around which are clustered the vine laden bowers,
And ask for thy children, where they can find
This fountain of youth, the desire of mankind!
We fill high the goblet, whose roseate hue,
Vies with thy flowers, in their setting of dew;
We drink to thy hillocks, we drink to thy plains,
To thy sparkling rivulets and flowering vales;
We drink – thou hast answered, we feel it incline,
Our hearts to their Spring time; 'tis thy own native wine.

In an accompanying article, also speaking highly of Florida and its grape potential, Col. **Malachi Martin** was doing well selling scuppernong wine at $2.25/gallon and making $1,000/acre. **E.H. Mason** and **A.I. Bidwell**, Duval County and **W.K. Cessna**, Alachua County confirmed his view. **Bidwell** indicated that his bunch grape, 'Hartford Prolific' was making $400/acre and other non muscadine were valued at $300/acre (*Semi-Tropical* 1: 23-28, 1875). **Martin's** Gadsden County grape plantings were initiated in 1869 and his vineyard and wine business continued successfully after his death (Davidson, 1889 pg 153).

A.J. Bidwell, a prominent horticulturist who merits attention later, provided a useful overview of the Florida viticulture situation around 1875 (Bidwell, 1876 pg 263). He settled near Jacksonville in 1867 and successfully planted a labrusca vineyard that served the local market. He mentions several vineyards on the St. Johns River prior to 1860 that existed but were abandoned during the Civil War. [**Bidwell's** presentation was a paper read before the Florida Fruit Growers Association Convention in 1875 and curiously appended to (Lanier, 1876) – a fascinating yet convoluted description of: "Florida: Its Scenery, Climate, and History".]

A number of bunch grapes (primarily labrusca) and muscadines were recommended for various regions of Georgia (FlaDispatch 2(14)1, 1877), although Florida was not ignored (Figure 6). Around this time throughout the South there was interest in attracting immigrants, especially those with agricultural experience and financial resources. So a very rosy picture was painted to attract people of means. Of course the Scuppernong was well known and popular from Pensacola to Ocala with residents, if not with those brought up on vinifera or labrusca (FlaDispatch 2(26)1, 1877; FlaDispatch 3(11)2, 1878; FlaDispatch 3(12)2, 1878; FlaDispatch 3(28)1, 1878). Bunch grapes were also grown, but local availability was apparently somewhat limited. An 1878 list of seedmen were exclusively in the North (FlaDispatch 2(39)1, 1878), since the state nursery industry was just getting started. However, that soon changed as Agriculture Associations were initiated and nurserymen from the North settled in.

Figure 6. Valdosta Ad (FlaDispatch 2(15)4, 1877**)**

Note dupious claim of total Florida adaptability**.**

Growers in East Florida were actively planting vinifera and labrusca and experimenting with native rootstock. The Florida Fruit Growers Association meetings discussed grapes and areas such as Welaka, Indian River, and Duval County were mentioned. Topics such as varieties, grafting, pruning, and soil requirements were discussed. Most importantly, results, ideas, and opinions (often strong and conflicting) were communicated. Transportation was becoming easier and the rail lines now connected East and West Florida (Figure 7).

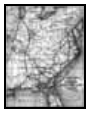

Figure 7. Rail System in 1877 (FlaDispatch 2(1)3, 1877**)**

Where there are grapes, wine can't be far away, and that was certainly on the mind of growers. Many **Timeline** and **Bibliography-Chronology** articles mention wine, and Florida growers were looking enviously at California statistics and harboring enological ambitions (FlaDispatch 2(35) 1878; FlaDispatch 1(1)12, 1882). [The *Florida Dispatch* began a new series in 1882, hence volume numbers started over, but volume numbers didn't match years.] With Florida wine statistics at 83 acres and 11,000 gallons to California's 33,000 acres and 14 million gallons, there was a long way to go. California had 2/3rds of total U.S. wine production – and was just getting started (FlaDispatch 1(7)108, 1882). In 1882 a person arrived in Florida with ambition, skill, and modest resources. Fortunately, he didn't choose to settle in California, although there are indications that he evaluated other U.S. locations prior to settling on Florida.

Figure 8. Pensacola 'Scuppernongs' (FlaDispatch 3(11)2, 1878**)**

It is unknown if there was any connection or prior information about the 1831 fiasco , but about 50 years later, after that **Lafayette** farm enterprise around Tallahassee, in 1882 another group of French settlers arrived. Prominent among them was **Emile DuBois** who came "with the intention of testing her [the South, specifically Florida's] capability as a grape growing country" (Paisley, 1967 pp 49-51; Wood, 1970). **DuBois**' diligent efforts met with more success than those before him, and his influence extends to today.

DuBois, who presumably had the necessary financial resources, proceeded to purchase part of the Andalusian Plantation from partners **John A. Craig** and **John Bradford** who operated a nursery and had been experimenting with 'Concord' grapes since 1871 (Craig, 1875). These growers had already established a vineyard and in 1875 were offering vines and boxed 'Concord' and 'Ives' grapes for sale. Around the same time Col. **Malachi Martin,** Chattahoochee prison warden, reported successful sales of Scuppernong wine (at $1.25/gallon) [later $2.25/gal] from his 160 acre vineyard in Mt. Pleasant (Paisley, 1968).

Figure 9. State Fair Depicted (FlaDispatch 2(6)105, 1883**)** Note wines shown – probably before **Dubois** was in production.

Dubois then bought the old San Luis Mission Fort west of Tallahassee, which he named Chateau San Luis and started viticulture in earnest. [The Mission had an interesting history before **DuBois**' involvement and is now a 48 acre "Living History" museum and park http://www.taltrust.org/san_luis.ht). The Mission's history and **DuBois**' role is very well documented in an interesting and informative article by **Julie Bettinger**, a Tallahassee writer and distant relative of **Emil DuBois,** GrapeHistoryProject\SanLuisVineyardHistory_Bettinger.pdf.]

In a few years **DuBois** was a significant producer and marketer of wines from his *Vitis labrusca* plantings, and shipping vines to other locations in Florida and elsewhere (Figures 10 to 14). **DuBois** became a vocal spokesman and champion of Florida grapes by reporting on his experiences in the existing agricultural publications. His wines were recognized in competition, achieving prizes as the best of Florida in an Ocala competition.

DuBois exhibited grape and orange wines at the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition and served as chairman of the judging committee. When, after six years the Exposition Official Report was not published, he took it upon himself to publish his report, "Wines and Brandies of the World at the World's Columbian Exhibition" in 1900 (DuBois, 1900). Perhaps at his prompting the the entire 1700 page, two volume "Report of the Committee on Awards of the World's Columbian Commission" was published in 1901. It is fascinating in it's relevance to the 21st Century - emphases, similarities, and differences. **DuBois'** 29 page article (similar to his book), "History of the Vine, the Grape, and the Wine", is a marvelous snapshot of the 1893 wine scene (DuBois, 1901).

DuBois exhibited 11 Florida wines, but did not submit them to competition (to maintain impartiality). He was quite disappointed that French wines were withdrawn from competition (award system disagreements) and not more prominently displayed. His quote, "A wine jury without the wines and brandies of France is about like a boat without a rudder", reflects **DuBois'** pride in the wine reputation of his native country (Pg. 1026). [Would he have similar feelings about today's Florida wines? And what would he think of wines from the 'Blanc DuBois' variety, named in his honor?]

Figure 10. Vine and Wine Ad, 1887 (FlaFarmer&FruitGrower 1(29)227, 1887**)**

Figure 11. Emil DuBois' San Luis Vineyard near Tallahassee Circa 1900 (FlaStateArchives**)**

Figure 12. Harvest time at the San Luis Vineyards (FlaStateArchives, 1885**)**
Note shotgun –was this protecting against birds or humans?

Figure 13 & 14. DuBois's wine and brandy ads. Note the restriction on sales at the vineyard in the 1904 ad (right) probably signify that Leon County was dry.

Figure 15 & 16. FlaDispatch 4(20)407,1885 and FlaDispatch 7(33)688,689,690Ads, 1887

In fact, **Emile DuBois** was involved in the foundation of the Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS). Much of the information pertaining to grape developments in state can be derived (or inferred) from the *Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society*, founded in 1888. By this time, **DuBois** was a frequent contributor of articles and comments pertaining to grapes in the *Florida Dispatch*. During the First (initial) proceedings of the FSHS, **DuBois** was listed as Vice President and a Committee on Grapes was formed, undoubtedly with his involvement (FlaStateHortSoci 1:3-4, 10, 1888; Table 1.). The 2nd proceedings in 1889 didn't mention the Grape Committee, but a paper by **DuBois**, as Chairman, was read (he didn't attend) providing a comprehensive overview of grape varieties growing in Florida, (FlaStateHortSoci 2:24-28, 1889).

In these intriguing narratives grape euphoria is evident and we can see that there were quite a few individuals, organizations, and publications involved. Available literature from the latter half of the 19th century onward provides a reasonably detailed look at the pulse of Florida grape developments. In addition, news clipping from **Loren Stover's** scrapbook and others provided valuable insights decades later. Combined they tell an interesting story and identify key grape contributors. Some of the earliest publications are very difficult to decipher, as indicated in Figure 17.

Figure 17. The Earliest *Florida Dispatch* on Microfilm. (FlaDispatch 1(48)1, 1860)
Published in Newnansville 1860, Later Jacksonville

These early FSHS, and to some extent FD reports were either oral presentations or submitted papers read at the meetings (if the author was not attending), usually by a member of the appointed committee – in this case Grapes (Table1). Presentations, mostly based on antidotal experiences, perhaps with some attention to formal experimentation (the Scientific Approach), were followed by questions and informal discussions, which were recorded. The scientific rigor involving replication, statistics and 3rd person narrative evolved later. Nevertheless, the personal discourse provides an excellent insight into the speaker's perspective and opinions, in contrast to the impersonal presentations expected in technical papers today. Some of the discourse might

today be termed a Blog, slower moving but with the same motive. In contrast, from the start, Agricultural Station reports were mostly factual and impersonal.

The accompanying **Bibliography-Chronology** contains the cited articles and relates to the **Timeline** which summarizing pertinent details.

Table 1
Composition of the FSHS Standing Committee on Grapes

Year	Grape Committee Members	Remarks
1888	Committee formed, but members not yet appointed	**Emile Dubois** FSHS Vice President
1889	Members not identified	A paper by **DuBois** read in his absense
1890	Members not identified	Grape Committee reports read
1891	Members not identified	**George A. Wright** FSHS Vice president
1892	**H. Von Luttichau** **George A. Wright** **G. P. Healy**	**George A. Wright** FSHS Vice president
1893	**G. W. Peck** **L. E. Haynes** **E. C. Hammond**	**George A. Wright** FSHS Vice president
1894	**Emile DuBois** **Frank E. Boncher** **H. P. Walker**	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1895	**H. Von Luttichau** **I. B. La Montague** **James Carnell**	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1896	**C. A. Bacon** **O. R. Thatcher** **W. A. Emmons**	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1897	**I. B. La Montague** **J. H. Leslie** **L. Q. Kermode**	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1898	**E. E. Pratt** **L. H. Armstrong** **A. V. Clubbs**	**C. A. Bacon** Vice President
1899	Standing Committee on Grapes Figs and Kaki	**C. A. Bacon** Vice President Committees on Grapes, Figs, and Kaki combined
	W. S. Hart A. B. Harrington **W. H. Mann**	
1900	Standing Committee on Grapes Figs and Kaki	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
	H. Von Luttichau W. D. Griffing	

	G. A. Danley	
1901	Standing Committee on Grapes Figs and Kaki **C. A. Bacon** A. B. Harrington A. G. Goodbody	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1902	Standing Committee on Grapes Figs and Kaki **H. Von Luttichau** Irving Keck C. F. Barber	First proceedings without a grape report
1903	Standing Committee on Grapes Figs and Kaki **J. Earle Bacon** Wm. H. Earle C. M. Terrell	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1904	Standing Committee on Grapes Figs and Kaki **H. Von Luttichau** J. H. Girardeau J. H. Wyley	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1905	Standing Committee on Grapes Figs and Kaki B. M. Hampton **J. E. Bacon** A. J. Pettigrew	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1906	Standing Committee on Grapes Figs and Kaki P. J. Westes **W. C. Steele** **J. E. Bacon**	No Grape Committee members were FSHS Officers
1907	Standing Committees were reorganized more along discipline lines. Grapes combined with Peaches and Deciduous Fruits	This was the last Grape Committee report
1908	Grapes not mentioned much except in passing	Grapes not mentioned prominently until 1919

At the 3rd FSHS meeting, **DuBois** made several cogent statements on wine. His average wine yield/acre was 250 gallons. [Seems to be a very low by today's standard of ~140-180 gallons/ton and at least 3 tons/acre.] Although he had made a scuppernong [muscadine] wine and liked it, he could sell 40 gallons of common [bunch grape] wine to one of muscadine. Furthermore, the muscadine required the addition of water and sugar to extract the juice, and in **DuBois'** opinion, that wasn't wine (FlaStateHortSoc 3:10, 1890). Interestingly, a surviving wine recipe from a **DuBois** descendent (Table 2) provided an indication of Scuppernong wine production at that time – with plenty of sugar!

Table 2
Etienne (Stephen) Beroud's Recipe for Scuppernong Wine
San Luis Vineyards, Tallahassee, Florida, [Undated and combined from several sources]

Large amount
1 Barrell [sic] (about 4 bushels) Grapes
[Crush Grapes]
Put 45 lbs of sugar in ten gallons of water and dissolve it. Pour water over grapes and let ferment three days and nights. Every day pushing the grapes back from the top of the water.

Small amount
1 peck [crushed] grapes, fully ripe
2 ½ lbs. of sugar
2 ½ quarts of water
Strain
To each gallon of juice add 1 ½ lbs. of sugar.
Cover with cheese cloth.
Let ferment until bubbling stops (one to three weeks).
Skim occasionally but be careful not to disturb it.
Siphon off to bottle.
Leave an air space in top of bottle and insert tube (rubber) in this. Do not let the tube touch the liquid. Seal tube entrance into the cork with parrafin. Put other end of tube in a bottle of water. When gas bubbles stop passing into water it is ready to bottle in smaller amounts. Siphon off, then seal.

This should be done in a cool dark place.

Recipe acquired from
Maybelle Beroud Folson, daughter of
Etienne (Stephen) Beroud

[**Stephen Beroud**, brother of **Marius** managed San Luis Vineyards for Emile DuBois in the early 1900s. See following descriptive paragraphs.]

[Note that inoculation with yeast is not mentioned (standard practice today), so relying upon wild yeast was necessary. Pasteur's classic research was only recently reported ~1870 and pure strains were probably unavailable. Indigenous yeast sometimes ferment OK, but to follow this recipe successfully, we recommend a pure strain of quality wine yeast.]

By the 4th FSHS Proceedings in 1891 **DuBois** reported (again, paper read, since he didn't attend) on his viticulture experiences and cogently summarizing data from other publications (FlaStateHortSoc 4:7-12, 1891). [Did **Dubois'** viticultural/enological duties keep him too busy, or was it travel difficulties?] **DuBois** participated regularly in FSHS meetings and correspondence published in the *Florida Dispatch* up to about 1894. He was last mentioned in the FSHS membership list in 1896 (FlaStateHortSoc 9:vii, 1896) after which **DuBois** (Figures 18-20) disappeared from print, except being quoted and recognized as Florida's first premium winemaker and viticulture pioneer.

Figure 18 - 20. Emil DuBois (Paisley, 1968**)** photo and sketch

Sadly, **Emil DuBois**' pioneering efforts in Tallahassee didn't prevail. Leon County voted dry in 1904 and without a wine market, he moved to New Jersey and later returned to France, where he died. [Nevertheless, there is evidence that **DuBois** was in Tallahassee on August 28, 1906, by his signature on a check (Figure 22).] There is some indication that these extensive plantings were experiencing difficulty before **DuBois** left. **Etienne Beroud,** the brother of **DuBois**' son-in-law, **Marius Beroud** (died in 1903**)**, continued to manage the vineyard before it faded (Figure 21). Even before 1904, wine production in Leon County was decreasing, probably due to vine decline. Despite this abrupt ending, around a century after **DuBois** left Florida, his dream is being realized and his influence still felt.

Figure 21. Possibly DuBois' Vineyard in 1906 (FlaStateArchives**)**

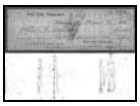

Figure 22. Check cashed by E. DuBois, 1906. Courtesy, Gary Cox.

At about the same time that **DuBois** was promoting viticulture near Tallahassee, other progressive grape growers were active in East Florida near Gainesville, around the St. Johns river south of Jacksonville and in the Orlando area (South Florida). The generalized distribution of vineyards from 1870 to 1900 is well depicted in Figure 23 (Lewis, 1979). Note the concentration of bunch grape cultivation around Tallahassee and Alachua County and the Jacksonville – Orlando – Tampa Corridor, reflecting the more publicized activities in these regions. Muscadine growers were more broadly dispersed, smaller, less vocal regarding their activities, and addressed the local demand for grapes. [They were also more likely to be long time, established Florida residents, in contrast to recent arrivals from the Northern U.S. or Europe - who did not yet appreciate muscadine grapes.]

Figure 23. Vineyard Locations 1870-1900 (Lewis, 1979, pg 630**)**

Developments around the Orlando area were spearheaded by **Haynes, Young**, and **Bailey**, who had experience with 'White Niagara' in New York. They migrated from Rochester New York in 1885 and initiated a vineyard planted to 'Niagara' the following year (FlaDispatch 8(14)268 1888; Gore, 1891, Grapes pp. 39-45; FlaStateHortSoc 2: 28, 1889). Their success, where others had failed, resulted in a 30 acre Niagara Villa vineyard and formation of the Niagara Vineyards Company and the Orlando Grape and Fruit Company (Figures 24 & 25). **Ink** & **Babcock** vineyard also came in and other local and northern interests resulted in around 500 grape acre

planted or planned (FlaDispatch 4(28)545 1892, FlaDispatch 4(29)565 1892; FlaGrower 34(5)5,10 1926).

Adjacent regions were also promoting grapes, or at least reflecting pride in the fact that grapes, among other crops, grew well in their respective area. The plug for Alachua County has frequent, but general mention of grape suitability (Myers, 1882 pp 2, 6, 11-12). And grapes fair even better in an Ocala publication calling for not only varieties from Spain and Italy, but transplanted viticulturist and enologist to accompany the grapes (Neck, 1888).

An early text, "Florida Fruits and How to Grow Them" appeared (Harcourt, 1886). A chapter on grapes dealt reasonably accurately with varieties and cultivation practices. 'Bullace' or *Vitis vulpine* were cited as native and canopy management advice was provided, with labrusca needing to be handled differently. Some labrusca and muscadine varieties were recommended, and a promising future for raisins and wine was predicted. [Raisin production was soon recognized as quite inappropriate for the rainy, humid Florida environment.]

In addition, a prominent winery almost came on the Orlando scene. **Emil DuBois** observed the Orlando plantings and, although he didn't think much of northern labrusca for wine, was confident enough to plan a winery. The idea was to use cull and late season fruit, since market price dropped substantially once California and other regions harvest began. **DuBois**' partner was **C.G. Frasch**, winter resident from New York, who had produced a notable Orange Champagne (Gore, 1891 pg 45). What became of this planned wine venture is unknown, since nothing more was heard. Both **DuBois** and **Frasch** were quite capable viticulturists/enologists, so an Orlando winery would have been quite logical – and potentially successful, even if they had to resort to other fruit.

Frasch felt that the freeze of 1895 opened the door for grapes to replace citrus in North Florida and promoted both muscadine and bunch grapes for wine. He suggested that Florida should become the equivalent to Italy in grape and fruit growing. He also opined that "The temperance cause would be largely advanced if a light wine became the national drink instead of whiskey." (FlaAgriculturist 29(13)194, 1902) [Interesting observation – Perhaps this approach could have softened the absolute nature of prohibition several decades later.]

Figures 24 & 25. Niagara Villa Vineyard Orlando (Gore, 1891)

Grape presentations and articles during the last 2 decades of the 19th century were extremely upbeat. **L.E. Haynes, Garey, G.A. Wright**, **Mott** all cited favorable experiences with certain labrusca varieties in the Orlando area. The Niagara Villa was a Show Place that impressed visitors and viticulturists (FlaDispatch 4(26)504, 1892). By this time other dedicated viticulturists were likewise reporting their experiences. Most importantly, these presentations and the discussions that followed led to the exchange of cultivation information and grape germplasm among viticulturists. Words of caution were in the minority. **W.C. Steele**, a nurseryman in Switzerland, FL, reminded participants that the laws of supply and demand affected shipped fruit, using strawberries as an example. If grape growers expanded production in anticipation of a lucrative northern market, economics would be sure to change. He also

cautioned that bunch grapes required more care and attention than muscadines (FlaDispatch 8(16)306 1888).

The 3rd Proceedings of the FSHS in 1890 contained quite a few grape articles and discussions. A presentation titled "The Past and the Future of the Grape in Florida" by Rev. **James H. White** of Island Home provided a useful summary of past grape activities. He mentioned that **A.I. Bidwell** was growing bunch grapes near Jacksonville in 1867, followed by **E.H. Mason** who planting several thousand vines in Duval County a few years later. **White** referred to **George W. Atwood's** 1867 success near St. Augustine and cited the 1874 Florida Fruit Growers Convention (FlaStateHortSoc 3:21-26, 1890).

White also brought up the Indian River Horticultural Society. The discussion then turned to economic potential, wine and Florida opportunities. A cited quotation by **Bidwell** is worth noting today, "The bunch grapes themselves are too valuable to make them into wine." One member, **Mann**, "made an earnest prohibition protest against making the society a wine-making one. (Applause and hisses in about equal measure.)" (FlaStateHortSoc 3:10-11, 1890).

A presentation on "Grapes in South Florida" by **George A. Wright** of Chuluota followed (ibid, pp 21-27). He described land and vineyard preparation and vine planting and care. [Curiously, Chuluota – near Orlando would hardly be classified as South Florida today. Middle Florida was the northern section around Leon County.] A few pages later, a note of skepticism (letter) was interjected by **Livingston**, who apparently had little success growing grapes in Waldo. The response by **H. Von Luttichau** of Earleton suggests strong differences of opinion between the two and even involved **DuBois** (ibid pp 29-35 [a 19th century Blog?].

Baron **Hans Von Luttichau** (1845-1926) came on the scene in 1887. This influential German botanist created the "Collins-Belvedere Azalea Gardens" in Earleton and introduced Formosa azaleas to Florida. He was the son-in-law of General **Elias B. Earle**, founder of Earleton, about 12 miles west of Gainesville (See <Earleton> in: http://www.flheritage.com/preservation/markers/markers.cfm?ID=alachua).

It is unclear from where in Germany or his title of Baron came from, but **Von Luttichau** played a very active and vocal role in Central Florida grape developments, as a participating member of the FSHS Committee on Grapes and contributor to the Florida State Horticultural Society Proceedings and *Florida Dispatch*. **Von Luttichau** planted his first vines in 1880 (FlaDispatch 1(19)243-45, 1889), experimented extensively with labrusca, researched the northern markets, but was only guardedly optimistic regarding vinifera ("Foreign grapes", as he called them). In subsequent proceedings he liberally offered his insights into all aspects of grape breeding, cultivation, and marketing.

However, by 1893, **Von Luttichau** had a distinctly negative opinion of northern market potential and later led off a grape discussion in 1896 by stating, "I had to give up grapes: they did not pay me well." (FlaStateHortSoc 9:67-69, 1896). Despite these comments, he didn't drop grapes completely. **Von Luttichau** was the 1900 and 1904 FSHS grape representative and in 1901 he reported on the Grape Experiment Station set up on his Earleton property in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, Division of Pomology. The main focus was on a careful evaluation of numerous *V. vinifera* grown on native rootstock. The USDA representative was **George C. Husmann**, son of **George Husmann,** the noted viticulturist, enologist, and author.

G.C Husmann, as representative of the USDA, was cooperating with (certainly providing stock, encouraging and advising) **Von Luttichau** in the operation of the Government Viticultural Experiment Station at Earleton. This is a good example of private industry – government joint research. It preceded the establishment of the University of Florida and the Agricultural Experiment Station in nearby Gainesville by over a decade. By his 5th year, certain varieties were doing quite well and **Von Luttichau** was preparing to release some for dooryard use, although not for large scale planting. He noted some vine decline after the fifth year, but attributed it to location and improper vine management. After this 1904 report there was no further mention of **Von Luttichau,** or the experimental vineyard cited in FSHS proceedings, except indirectly in 1907.

The FSHS Proceedings listed a Catalogue of Fruits annually from 1895 to 1907 and included grapes. Species mentioned were labrusca, aestivalis, and rotundafolia. Curiously 'Cynthiana' and 'Norton' were listed as separate varieties, both recommended for wine. [They are the same grape.] Vinifera (European) varieties were cited as an "entire failure" in 1895 (FlaStateHortSoc 8:XIII-XIV, 1895). However, in 1907 citing **Luttichau**'s experimental planting of 550 vines of 175 varieties on riparia or rupestris rootstock, the vinifera were deemed, "so far are remarkably successful" (FlaStateHortSoc 20:XIII-XIV, 1907).

It would be of interest to describe the grape input of the other individuals participating in grape developments at this time. Most seemed articulate and knowledgeable viticulturists, but the records of their contributions and accomplishments are less well known than **DuBois**' and **Von Luttichau's**. There are bits and pieces of information regarding some of these grape pioneers in the various accumulated reports, so we can infer in a general way their contributions and, to a lesser extend their backgrounds and contributions as part of the first sustained Florida Grape Community.

A good many of those horticulturists mentioned were nurserymen involved in citrus and a number of fruits besides grapes. The ads suggest the scope of their businesses; Figure 26 (FlaDispatch 7(33)688-9, 1887) illustrates their wares. Note the names associated with these businesses, they come up continually in noted reports and conversations.

Figure 26. Typical Nursery Ads circa 1885-87

Now we'll digress. The last three decades of the 19th Century saw dramatic grape developments all over the nation. In 1870 **T.V. Munson** (Figure 27) initiated his epic career leading up to the Munson Hybrids. By 1883, **George Husmann**, of the Talcoa Vineyards in Napa Valley, California (Pinney, 1989 pg 346 +) had published the second edition of his landmark book, "*American Grape Growing and Wine Making: with Several Added Chapters on the Grape Industries of California*" (Husmann, 1883). **G. Husmann**, came out of the Herman, Missouri German wine tradition. He wrote the first publication on winegrowing, *Grape Culturist*, was involved in viticulture and enology practices as a winery principal, and founded the Mississippi Valley Grape Growers Association. He was also quite instrumental in supplying phylloxera-resistant rootstock to France, thus saving the French wine industry. **Husmann** ultimately brought

his experience and talent to California, where he battled phylloxera and contributed significantly to the burgeoning grape industry. His page 78 note on our old standby, the Muscadine, bears mention:

Figure 27. T.V. Munson (Munson, 1907 preface**)**

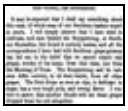

Figure 28. George Husmann's opinion of muscadines. (Husmann, 1883 pg 78**)**

Hussmann's vinifera chauvinism didn't extend to his son, **George W. Husmann**, a prominent viticulturist in his own right who, as a scientist with the USDA, played a key role throughout the U.S. by systematically evaluating the grape potential of various regions, including Florida. He was instrumental in Baron **H. Von Luttichau's** Earleton experimental vineyard and spearheaded the U.S. Agricultural Department's long term research commitment to grapes nationwide.

The initial demise of grapes is evident from the attention paid the crop in the FSHS Proceedings (Table 1). In 1899 the Standing Committee on Grapes was combined with figs and kaki (Japanese persimmons), still with a prominent grape spokesman represented. As early as 1894 problems were surfacing and a mix of good and bad experiences cited (FlaStateHortSoc 7:25-34, 1894). Poor condition of fruit and shipping problems were blamed. **Lyman Phelps**, Orlando with viticulture experience in central New York tried growing in Orange County, but after 4 years he lost money, saw the light [darkness?] early, and got out of grapes. By the 20th meeting in 1907, the Standing Committee no longer mentioned grapes, although there was a report from the grape, fig, kaki committee. **P.J. Whister** spoke on vine decline and urged a breeding focus on wild species. **W.C. Steele** commented on unfavorable shipping rates (FlaStateHortSoc 20:27-34, 1907).

Then from 1908 until 1920 "the FSHS line went dead", except for **F.P Henderson's** 1910 observation that past varieties and cultivation errors were problems amenable to solution (Henderson, 1910). Nevertheless, grapes received some attention as reflected in sporadic *Florida Grower* reports from the first volume in 1911 up to present issues.

The downfall of grapes in Welaka might have been not been solely due to vine decline, as the following narrative suggests (Reeder, 1976 pg. 13):

"Madame **De Breast** of France had a grape vineyard northeast of town. She made wine and shipped it to Jacksonville. In the early days, some of the people made their living from huge grape vineyards, often consisting of forty or fifty acres. Wine was made from these grapes and sold and nearly all of the fine homes had wine cellars."

"The "Big Freeze" in 1895 came, killing overnight the grape vines, orange groves, even the swamps were frozen. Entire families moved away, leaving their homes and everything they had in them. The forgotten homes soon decayed and fell."

Wine was a popular home and business pursuit, spearheaded (at least in Welaka) by another French compatriot, Madame **De Breast**. Thus, although **DuBois** was the predominant grape grower and wine producer in state and some distance from the east coast, the folks in East Florida didn't lack for grape euphoria nor wine made from local grapes. Apparently, government control of wine was far from strict, so distribution, sales, and consumption were prevalent. Local grapes were put to good use, but not indefinitely. It's unusual that the cited freeze that would surely have decimated the maturing citrus crop, would have affected dormant grape vines so severely.

In any case, if the "Big Freeze" of 1895 didn't do it, the even worst one in 1899 certainly put a stop to semi-tropicals in Putnam County. Still, barring spring freezes of budding vines, grapes throughout Florida are surprisingly hardy. A century later, grapes did quite well in the December 1989 freeze. This was the worst of the 20th century and pushed the Citrus Belt further south. [In fact, in the last third of the 20th Century - even before 1989, it is almost inconceivable that tropical fruits could have survived, let alone flourish near Jacksonville.]

Extrapolating from the recorded experiences, thoughtful discussions, insight from early growers, and, of course, with the benefit of hindsight, it is clear what went wrong. Growers, for the most part had dismal experience with vinifera. The more adapted labrusca did better, especially on native rootstock. Growers were experimenting with a number of vine management systems, in various soils, overcoming or at least handling many insect and disease threats. They were juggling a lot of variables, combining trial and error, gradually moving to a more systematic approach.

When initially successful plantings failed, viticulturists or interested observers could point to one or more contributing factors, often reflecting, for better or worse on the viticulture skills of the grower. Just about the time that the influence of one major grape cultivation variable – variety, rootstock, soil, location, insect attack, disease occurrence, etc. - was reasonably understood or at least felt amenable to control, something else cropped up to complicate the viticulture scene. Stoner (1952) provides useful insights into grape disease epidemiology and explains why even experienced horticulturists were confused by this mysterious vine decline.

Nature bats last, and the yet unrecognized Pierce's disease (PD) bacterium, *Xylella fastidiosa* and its vector, Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (Figure 29). *Xylella fastidiosa.*progresses slowly but almost inevitably (Adlerz and Hopkins, 1977, 1979, and 1981a,b; Adlerz, 1980). The modifying term is "almost", because the sharpshooter vector for PD was not too prevalent in marine environments. Hence, susceptible vine on the Keys and barrier islands lasted longer (Mortensen and Knight, 1967). Even recently, isolated plantings of less rugged, PD susceptible grape varieties/species may survive inland for some time, giving rise to the assumption of vigor. Eventually Nature catches up and these vines decline, to the dismay of the optimistic viticulturist

Figure 29. The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (Univ. California, Riverside, 2008**)**

Ultimately, even the more progressive, technically skilled viticulturists, cognizant of the challenges of the Florida environment, saw their vines decline. Many were nurserymen with a firm business commitment; they could and did emphasize other horticulture crops that fared better than grapes. Citrus, of course, was dominant, although freezes punctured North Florida optimism in 1895-6 and for good in 1899. In contrast to the struggling bunch grape species, rotundifolia and native species were thriving. Nevertheless, disappointed viticulturists didn't take the next logical step which might have saved the industry – switching to PD resistant muscadine varieties, but vinifera chauvinism (to be mentioned later) prevailed.

H.T. Fisher, FGGA President 1922-25, provided an insightful review of the rise and fall of grape growing in this period (Fisher, 1924). Later, an excellent description of the psychology behind these grape expectations is given in "Cultural Conservatism and Pioneer Florida Viticulture" (Lewis, 1979). However, we would certainly qualify the author's theme, which she presents quite cogently. That is: Immigrants to Florida from other regions brought their culture with them (in this case, homeland viticulture practices) and maintained them until forced to adapt to the new environment. This was possibly the case with inexperienced grape growers or those influenced by fly-by-night realtors. In contrast, serious viticulturists with homeland experience were well aware of climatic differences facing them in Florida. Although they led with the vinifera and/or labrusca from their native areas, they soon modified strategies by introducing wild rootstock and native germplasm and carefully screening varieties for adaptability.

Also, those grower who committed large acreage in anticipation of the northern market were faced with high shipping rates, irregular transport of a highly perishable crop (mechanical refrigeration had not yet arrived), and unscrupulous buyers, which made early efforts a money losing proposition (FlaStateHortSoc 7:25-34, 1894). The logistics of coordinating harvest, packing, transport, etc. are challenges even for experienced grape producers today. It is possible that with a better marketing system and distribution infrastructure the debacle could have been avoided, or at least slowed down. What if these early shippers had adequate profits to direct research into variety improvement, even renewing vineyards, or switching to muscadine varieties? Access to the more hardy Munson hybrids was just beginning, and the science of agriculture progressing rapidly.

After reading the reports and following the efforts of these pioneers, we have a much greater respect for what they accomplished. Aside from the euphoria and hype generated by rank amateur growers and real estate interests, serious growers fought back. They could and did respond fairly effectively to unforeseen challenges such as phylloxera and Florida-unique pest, insect, and disease problems. Actually, the better selections thrived and bore crops that exceeded expectations. The unseen enemy which eventually caught up with even the most astute grower, including more knowledgeable viticulturists three decades later (who had the benefit of the more adaptable Munson hybrids) was Pierce's Disease and its helpful vector, the sharpshooter. It wasn't until the 1950s that the epidemiology of PD infection was understood. Even today

apparent resistant vines can last a number of years in isolation, but woe be the grape grower who expands plantings without PD trials or without listening to the voices of experience.

By about 1910, the naysayers were proved right. So, what did these very early grape pioneers accomplish? Quite a lot - Perusal of the cultivation practices at the time show that many were sound, and growers amazingly prescient. Attempts to reach the early season northern markets were nominally successful. Rail transport systems were evolving, quality control was emphasized, and economic studies developed. Arguably, the developments of the 1920s and the momentum of the 1950s would not have occurred or been substantially diminished had it not been for these viticulturist and enologists pioneers who labored in Florida from 1565 to about 1920.

V. THE SECOND GRAPE BOOM- Realists, Optimists, and Scientists

Shortly after the turn of the century FSHS emphasis devoted to grapes faded along with the progression of vine decline. A few general grape articles were noted in the early issues of the *Florida Fruit and Produce News* (Later called the *Florida Grower*). These were answers to questions and pertained mostly to muscadines. Grape interest in state was resurrected about two decades after the first decline, thanks to the availability of the Munson hybrids - promoted by **F.J. Zimmerman** as early as 1913 (FlaGrower 9(3)4 Oct 18, 1913). A new generation of inspired viticulturists came on the Florida scene a few years later.

Grapes again surfaced in the FSHS Proceedings in 1920 with a key presentation by **Charles Dearing**, USDA Washington, DC. In "Muscadine Grape and Grape Products", he provided a very comprehensive overview of the USDA Muscadine Grape Project, commenting on his research with muscadines 11 years earlier around Ocala, New Smyrna, and Glen St. Mary (Dearing, 1920). The Ronnoc grove vineyard was still yielding practical results after 20 years (Rhoads, 1926 p.76). The aim of the USDA Bureau of Plant Industries was to develop a fruit industry in Southeast states, in cooperation with other Agriculture entities – State, Industrial, and Educational. This consisted of Production Investigations (**Dearing's** paper) and Muscadine Grape Utilization Investigations, the subject of a following paper (Partridge, 1920). Considerable discussions regarding propagation and varieties followed **Dearing's** talk. [Although not mentioned, **George C. Husmann** was probably a prime mover in these USDA efforts, since he was still active and referred to later in the 1920s.]

Charles Dearing's breeding research with muscadines had long term relevance to Florida and is well described in a fascinating text by **Thomas DeWolf** (P9-15: The Lure of the Vine) dealing with muscadine – vinifers hybrids. **DeWolf** follows the development and pedigree of these crosses terminating in P9-15 (male progeny to 'Southern Home', Mortensen, John A., J.W. Harris, and D.L. Hopkins).

Despite **Dearing**'s plug for attention to muscadines and the experiences of many decades attesting to their greater ruggedness and ease of cultivation, bunch grapes were seen as the wave of the future. Leading this surge were growers in Central Florida. The **Zimmerman** brothers **F.J.** and **E.L.** of Oldsmar, having worked with the **Munsons** in Texas, were familiar with the characteristic of those hybrids. Consequently, they introduced some of the preferred selections to

Florida and described their durability and quality after eight years of observation (Zimmerman, 1920). Other growers demonstrated impressive result and the second Grape Boom was on.

Figure 30. The Sylvester Vineyard, Lakeland. (FlaGrower 27(23)6, 1923**)**

Figure 31 & 32. Mathison's (or Mathewson's) Vineyard, DeFuniak Springs, July 1926. (FlaStateArchives**).** [**Mathison** was elsewhere identified as the Walton County Agriculture (Extension) Agent, so that's probably the spelling.]

Several years later **Dearing** again recommended muscadines and cautioned about lack of long term Florida experience with even the better hybrids (Dearing, 1922). However, other opinions favored select Munson hybrids, so bunch grapes prevailed (Lord, 1922; Fisher, 1922). By this time, the Florida Ag Station was accumulating information on improved grape disease control and cultivation practices. So with the benefit of Munson's research and growers' enthusiasm, bunch grape acreage again exploded around Orlando. Grape progress in the 1920s was based on a more sound technical understanding of and experience with Florida viticulture, as reflected in technical and vineyard articles in the FSHS Proceeding – more sound, but not infallible.

This grape boom was accompanied by a lot more publicity and more aggressive advertising, Figure 33. Compare the ads with those of the late 1800s- Figure 15 & 16.

Figure 33. Grape /Land Promotional Ads. (Primarily Zimmerman Bros. Ads ~1923-24**)**

Following **Zimmerman's** lead several progressive growers– **George Burnham** and the **Sylvesters** in Lakeland; **Paul Hawkins**, Eustis; **E.E. Truskett**, Mt. Dora; **H.T. Fisher**, Eustis initiated vineyards (FlaGrower 34(5)5,10 1926). Their success led to talk about shipping carload lots for the Northern market. This was achieved before or on July 1926, when **Demko** Bros., Altoona shipped a well publicized lot (Figure 34). [Was this the first shipment or simply a promotional announcement?]

Figure 34. 1926 July - Demko Ad- Altoona Station Atlantic Coast Line.

More followed, as the **Dickson-Truskett** vineyards, Montverde and the **Stover & MacKenzie** vineyards, Lady Lake and Fruitland Park, were supplying grapes to a packing house cooperative in Montverde. The Panhandle growers were also expanding and shipping to the Chicago and New York areas (Truskett, 1929). The Montverde region cooperative developed marketing standards and even provided ice packing for grapes headed long distances by rail (Figures 34, 35, 36).

Figures 35. Florida Commercial Grape Operations circa 1926. (FlaStateArchives**)**

Figure 36. Grape Packing, Montverde ~1927. (FlaStateArchives**)**

Along with increasing grape production to meet existing or anticipated market demands, the more progressive growers were diligently conducting research to improve upon existing varieties. In their experimental vineyards **W.A. MacKenzie** of Leesburg and Col. **W. J. Stover** of Fruitland Park in 1924 started comprehensive studies of most grapes known in America in order to find varieties appropriate for Florida. Shortly thereafter Dr. **Charles Demko** initiated similar endeavors in Altoona, along with vigorously pursuing the commercial market. (Truskett in Williams, 1988).

This enthusiasm was evident from Pensacola to the Keys, as many Counties provided glowing reports from growers, county agents, and/or chambers of commerce (Figures 37-40). Although not as well reported as in Central Florida, where the FSHS, and later the FGGA served as focal points for grape interests, similar developments were underway in the Panhandle, with reference to a potential fresh grape demand in Birmingham (FlaTimesUnion 58 Aug12 Pg.4 1924). By 1929 it was reported that Bay County's Seminole Plantation shipped 8 carloads of grapes, equivalent to about 45,000 gallons of juice (FlaTimesUnion 64 Aug19 Pg.3 1929). Individuals active in West Florida were not identified and it is unlikely that they actively participated in the FGGA. Nevertheless, they were closer to the Central U.S. market, and after 10 years of Prohibition, there were a lot of very thirsty mid westerners to whom early season Florida grapes would have been quite welcome.

Figure 37. Grape Activities, plantings or promotionals in Florida Counties 1920-29 (FlaStateArchinves**)**(L to R - Bay County harvest; Ockaloosa County new planting; Taylor County promotion; 'Carmen' vines, Oldsmar; Gamble's farm, Medart; Razier vineyard, Milton)

With the initiation of a Grape Growing Club in the 1920s, grape activities resurfaced again in Putnam County - as in the 1890s before "The Big Freeze" of 1885 (Michaels, 1986). The enthusiasm of this club is evident in articles in the Palatka Daily News. On June11, 1928 a

motorcade of 25 cars and 111 people from Putnam County traveled to Marion and Lake Counties to view vineyards, notably the Dickson-Truskett operation. All cars survived the 305 mile journey with only a few tire problems delaying the caravan. [Consider the Florida road system in 1928!] (PalatkaDailyNews 38 June 12 1928)

Subsequently, the Club planned 57 additional acres and ordered over 30,000 'Florida Beacon' for planting (FlaTimesUnion 64 Jan27 Pg.6 1929). The idea was for club members to systematically follow plantings in 25 vineyards, collect data, and plan to eventually join the FGGA. [This would have been the first County Chapter, had it occurred.] **W.J Stover**, a respected viticulturist in Fruitland Park, visited Putnam vineyards, found growth to be impressive, and commended these efforts (FlaTimesUnion 64 Apr7 Pg.6 1929; NewsClip PomonaGrapeClub 3-22 1928).

By 1930, there were well over 3,000 (some say ~5,000) acres of grapes planted or bearing in state, primarily the **Munson** hybrids 'Beacon' and Carmen', with some 'Florida Beacon' and 'Csaba' (A Hungarian grape on 'Beacon' rootstock) available. [There was some confusion regarding variety naming. 'Florida Beacon' was later found to be **Munson's** 'Extra' and not his 'Beacon'. The 'Carm**e**n' variety designation was also questionable. **DeVries** stated that the variety was named by **Munson** to honor a contributing New York horticulturist, Prof. **C**a**rmen**. In contrast, a New York labrusca variety was developed and named 'Carm**a**n' – far less hardy and Florida-adaptable than Munson's 'Carm**e**n' (FlaGrower 18(18)18-19, 1918). Later, the opposite opinion was also given by Mrs. **Slyvester**, citing **Munson**'s friend as **E.S. Carman**, Editor of the Rural New Yorker and a prominent horticulturist (FlaGrower 27(23)6-7, 1923). [We'll side with **Slyvester**, and it was definitely the Texas hybrid, not the New York variety.]

Concurrently, land development companies were getting into the act, selling land, much in areas or topography completely unsuitable for grapes to outsiders, some with no clue on grape cultivation or agricultural experience, just wild hopes and cash. The flames of Grape Euphoria were fed and fanned by prominent ads in the *Florida Grower*. Figure 33 shows some from the 1923-26 issues. The aggressive sales thrust was in contrast to ads in *Florida Dispatch* 40 years earlier (Figure 15 & 16) that advertised vines. The mid 20s ads inferred, even guaranteed easy riches with little effort. In hindsight, these "Get rich quick" inducements certainly went too far and didn't enhance the image of Florida grapes or Florida land. Even an individual with national stature, **Roger Babson** was cited as an inducement (FlaGrower 29(15)23, 1924). [This renowned economist was credited as predicting the crash of 1929, but not the accompanying Florida Grape Bust.]

It is not surprising that with all the emphasis on grape cultivation and utilization there was no mention of wine. Prohibition was in full swing, so wine was certainly a "politically incorrect" topic, more so than a generation earlier when grape proponents had mixed emotions regarding wine making and consumption. Nevertheless, the major focus of efforts to establish fresh grape markets in the north was to satisfy the demand for juice – not necessarily as "unfermented wine". This is a curious designation, talking around the obvious; grape juice is highly perishable. If not carefully processed and packaged, juice is one small, simple, almost inevitable step from wine, albeit rather mediocre - unless carried out by skilled practitioners. The strong demand for early season grapes in the north was certainly not driven by an unquenchable thirst for grape juice.

As commercial activities increased, so did the supporting research from both the Federal (USDA) and state (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and private growers. In this complementary effort, the USDA and University of Florida emphasized insect and disease control, while growers expanded variety improvement through breeding work, although there was much overlap and exchange of information among and between involved parties (Figures 38 & 39). Central in these efforts were the vineyards mentioned above. Despite substantial research support those state and federal agencies, horticultural scientists were at best guardedly optimistic, or less. **Dearing** favored muscadines [and was chastized for his opinion], **Rhoads** cautioned that the ideal variety was yet to be found, and **Lord** was concerned that growers were moving too fast (Lord, 1931). They were right.

Figure 38. Experimental Vineyard University of Florida, Gainesville ~1923 and Wiersdale, 1926 [UF, USDA, or private?]**.**

Figure 39. Vineyard assistance from UF Baker County Agent **J.S. Johns** shown [Titled "grape field", but where are the grapes?]

The unexpected vine decline (Pierce's disease) was not as precipitous as 3 decades before, and possibly could have been ameliorated by frequent replanting and control of other disease and insect stress. However, there were additional barriers in place. These were: (1) Expense - Grape growing in Florida is considerably more costly than in most other environs. (2) Transportation - Rail transportation efficiencies improved California and Texas competitive advantage. (3) The development of 'Thompson Seedless' dramatically decreased the demand for seeded grapes. (4) The repeal of Prohibition made legal wine buyers out of countless clandestine wine makers.

P.H. Rolfs in his insightful overview of Florida Agriculture (Rolfs, 1935 pg142) added another issue that we must deal with today - "Table grapes have been marketed from Miami to Pensacola, but the vines and grapes have need of so much coddling that other lines of endeavor have been more attractive." That was putting it mildly, especially before Pierce's Disease was recognized as the principle villian.

There is an eerie similarity between the grape bust of the early 1900s and that of the 1930s. In both cases many people, both farmers with respectable horticulture credentials and less experienced novices were committing to grapes – full speed ahead, despite words of caution from professional horticulturists and some experienced growers who continued to favor the hardier muscadine varieties. Enthusiasts were dealing with somewhat more rugged bunch grape stock (Munson hybrids) and had the benefit of substantial research backstopping. The hardy vines provided copious yields of attractive bunches and the vineyards appeared as prolific as any in California [Note the luxuriant growth in vine photos.]. The rail transportation problems had largely been solved, and the increasing northern and local populace demanded grapes – early and

lots. But, as emphasized, Nature bats last and Pierce's disease, spread by the leafhopper vector was far from remission, only slow adapting to these more hardy, yet still susceptible varieties.

The bubble was burst, or at least started to deflate rapidly in 1929 when the very promising fresh market was derailed by the finding of USDA investigators that grapes are susceptible to Mediterranean fruit fly infestation; this necessitated a fresh fruit shipping quarantine (FlaGrower 37(7)13, 1929). The **Demkos** responded rapidly by obtaining processing facilities and turning to grape juice. Other growers in the Central Florida affected area did likewise and hoped to dovetail with the citrus processing industry (FlaGrower 38(6)5-6,20-21, 1930). Unfortunately, although the concept of complementary harvest seasons is attractive, the processing logistics couldn't be put in place and a more serious problem faced growers. [Complementary citrus/grape processing is still impractical for similar reasons.]

The inevitable vine decline that doomed grapes 3 decades earlier was neither as rapid nor severe with the Munson hybrids, but it did occur. As late as 1930, 600 tons were shipped from Lake County (FlaGrower 38(11)30, 1930), but this represented only a small fraction of the cited 2,000 bearing grape acreage. [At a low yield of ~2 tons/acre, that's only 300 acres.] Concurrently, the Northern market weakened, as competition from other Southern states and California, all with lower production costs, ramped up.

The Great Depression, originating in 1929, certainly didn't help, nor did the end of prohibition in 1933. Without doubt a substantial amount of the grapes shipped north from Florida and other producing regions found their way to buyers – native and recent immigrants - with enology skills and wine consuming traditions. This unquenchable thirst was not for "unfermented wine", aka grape juice. Florida's early season advantage continued, but much of the incentive for American "Beaujolais" (first fresh and newest wine of the season) was trumped by national and international access to traditional wine markets.

Thus, the vast grape acreage and accompanying euphoria faded around the mid 1930's. Although local sales were promising (FlaGrower 45(12)8, 1937), the required volume was nowhere near the optimistic forcasts of a decade earlier. Unfortunately, thousands of acres again disappeared, along with the investment and hopes of many growers (and the wild dreams of duped investors). As previously, there was a bright side that is reflected in the status of the Florida grape industry today. An optimistic article appeared in 1934 (*Lake County Citizen*, 1934) and even as late as 1938 there were some positive articles (FlaGrower 45(12)8, 1937; FlaGrower 46(7)6,13 Jul and 46(8)7,13 Aug 1938) and focused breeding efforts in South Florida emphasizing native and tropical stock (Fennell, 1938).

The grape growers of the 1920s and 30s were versatile agriculturists. When grapes yielded disappointing results, many turned to citrus, watermelons, or other crops. Florida's early season advantage also holds for winter vegetables, without viticulture's complexities – appreciable capital investment and production lag time. Some growers persisted with grapes, and that was a good thing. In that pursuit they initiated and were part of an essential organization. That was the FGGA, the most important and enduring legacy of the 1920s.

Figure 40. Grape Optimism of the late 1930s (FlaStateArchives, 1938) [According to the photo caption, "Grapes Yield Abundantly in Central and West Florida and Find Ready Market"]

IV. FOUNDING OF THE FLORIDA GRAPE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

A. Background

Unfortunately, there is much more background information available on grapes in Florida from the Civil War up to the present than there is on the details of the FGGA from 1920s to about 1970. FGGA documents and articles with details of the FGGA foundation and the early years were carefully collected, stored in Gainesville, but sadly discarded, several years prior to the decision to prepare this article. Some of this earliest material is now derived and extrapolated from journals, grape reports, and news articles. The search is continuing, but it will involve laborious perusal in periodical archives, located throughout the former grape producing counties [and the cooperation and involvement of Florida grape history aficionados].

The best source of all, FGGA Newsletter, proceedings, and minutes from annual and semi-annual meetings from time zero through most of the 1980s, were either discarded in Gainesville, or were never collected. [For the purpose of the historical record time zero is taken from the 1870s.] We're filling in the blanks, as acquired information permits. If these blanks exist, they are probably stored with the possessions of former FGGA members or descendents. Nevertheless, information is being accumulated and we have lots to work with.

Let's trace the origin of the FGGA. In the older literature there is frequent mention of the need for an association devoted to grapes. The Florida Fruit Growers Association's 3rd Annual Meeting Proceedings is described in a *Florida Dispatch* article (FlaDispatch 2(36)1, 1878), along with their Constitution and Bylaws. The presiding Chair was **A.I. Bidwell** of Jacksonville. (The President was **C. Codrington** and committee members ranged from Tallahassee to Jacksonville, down to Tampa.) According to the narrative, the Association first met in January 1875 and the initial President, **C.H. DuPont**, died before the 3rd meeting. The focus was on organizational matters and more attention was given to oranges and northern markets, but grapes were on the agenda. Dr. **Kenworthy** reported on grape cultivation and disease with comments from **Bidwell, Reid, White,** and **Barnett**. Dr. **Kenworthy** and Judge **White** (not **J.H. White** of Island Home) were charged to report on grapes at the next meeting, scheduled for Gainesville, April 8-10, 1875. [The University of Florida was just an unfunded legislative idea. Also, 1875 was well before its 1887 founding in Lake City.] None of these individuals were mentioned in subsequent available *Dispatch* articles or FSHS Proceedings. The *Dispatch* was listed as the official organ of the Florida Fruit Growers Association and its officers were listed in the 1888 *Dispatch*.

There was serious attention paid to grapes even earlier. Scuppernongs (the generic designation for bronze muscadines) were frequently mentioned and a nursery in Valdosta, Georgia advertised scuppernong rootlets "recommended for any region of Florida" (FlaDispatch 2(15)4, 1877; Figure 6). Muscadines were noted in early American history (USDA, 2007) and North Carolina

seems to have the earliest established muscadine tradition, dating from 1810 (http://www.crfg.org/pubs/ff/muscadinegrape.html). [NC expertise benefitted Florida almost 170 years later (Nesbitt *et. al*., 1976; Mortensen et. al.,1976.]

Prompted by the development of rail lines (Figure 7), Agricultural Associations were cropping up all over North Florida, An 1878 issue listed eight Florida Agricultural Societies and by 1882 there were 28 listed (**Table 3**). These organizations were promoting the agricultural interests of their respective locales; in one, viticulture was on the agenda. The Indian River Agricultural and Pomological Society met at Rev. **J.H. White's** Merritt's Island vineyard to view his grapes and pineapple and form a committee on grapes in 1879 (FlaDispatch 4(10)2, 1879). A Grape Committee did exist as part of the Florida Fruit Growers Association, and was mentioned in an 1887 article (FlaDispatch 7(17)358-9, 1887). Presumably, this committee was retained when the FSHS was formed the following year, but these groups were only committees and part of other associations with a much broader horticultural focus than just grapes.

Table 3. Florida and Neighboring Agricultural Associations 1882 (FlaDispatch 1(3)11, 1882**)**

Florida Fruit Growers Association (Jacksonville, the Dispatch is its official journal)
Florida State Grange (Statewide)
State Park Association (Jacksonville)
Orange Park Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (Orlando)
Lake George Fruit Growers Association (Georgetown)
Picolata Agricultural and Horticultural Society
Micanopy Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Tropical Fruit Growers Association of Monroe County
Levy County Immigration Society
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical Association (Jacksonville)
Pinellas, Florida Fruit Grower's Association
Bronson Agricultural Union
Central Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association (Arredonda)
Evergreen Horticultural Society (Dunedin)
Decatur County Fair Association (Georgia)
Lake Weir Agricultural and Pomological Society
Welaka Horticultural Society
Southwest Georgia Industrial Association
Sumter County Agricultural and Fruit Growers Association
Florida Central Agricultural Society (Gainesville)
Archer Agricultural Association
Middle Florida Agricultural and Mechanical Association (Tallahassee)
Indian River Agricultural and Pomological Society
Madison County Agricultural and Mechanical Fair Association
Orange County Fair Association
Albion Agricultural and Fruit Growers Association
Gadsden County Fair Association
South Georgia Agricultural and Mechanical Association

[The **Florida State Horticultural Society**, founded in 1888, served to provide a statewide focus for many of these local horticultural interests, which then faded from the scene. Also, improved transportation and communication facilitated a broader FSHS membership and attendance base.]

In fact, participants active in viticulture around that time were either nurserymen with an interest in a number of fruit crops or hobbyists, some of whom later evolved into commercial growers. Many were recent migrants from the North or Europe with some viticulture experience. It was the Nurserymen's Association that combined with the Florida Fruit Growers Association to form the Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS), probably because of increased interest by the membership in fruits, especially citrus and including grapes. The literature and ads indicate some were both nursery owners and fruit growers and shippers (Figure 15 & 16, Grape-related ads of the 1890s).

After the 1888 formation of the FSHS, in 1892 **G.H. Wright** mentioned the formation of a Grape Growers Association in Orange County, representing over 350 acres, where 6 years previously there hadn't been a single acre (FlaStateHortSoc 5:31, 1892). The vineyard of **P.P. Ink**, Secretary of this Orange County Grape Growers Association (OCGGA) was described (FlaDispatch 4(28)545, 1892). The following year The OCGGA met with representatives from New York Grape Commission (**J.R. Travis**) and Southern Express (**C.L. Myers**) to discuss handling and shipping of early season grapes (FlaDispatch 5(4)72, 1893). Presumably the OCGGA was actively involved in establishing that elusive northern market for Florida grapes, an endeavor that was to take on new meaning about 30 years later. No details were given and there were no subsequent references to that group. None of the 28 Agricultural Organizations listed by the *Florida Dispatch* were devoted exclusively to grapes (Table 3), although there were later discussions citing the need for such an organization in Florida when **J. Leahman** made such a proposal (FlaDispatch 7(16)338, 1887).

Then it happened – the Florida Grape Growers Association was formed. But the record is as fuzzy as the cited precedents. **Truskett** complicates the origin by stating a 1921 meeting of the "….newly formed Grape Growers Association in Oldsmar the fall of that year…" (Truskett in History of Lake County, Florida, p 124). The origin date gets even murkier in a November 11, 1921 *Florida Times Union* article (FlaTimesUnion 56 Nov11 Pg.11 1921). The "Best meeting in history" of the FGGA is described with **W.E. Bolles,** Oldsmar identified as President and 104 members in attendance. Also present and participating were the same individuals associated with subsequent FGGA meetings, including the 1922 President, **H.T. Fisher.** A related article by **Bolles**, with photo, cited the FGGA formation in Lakeland and the recent 2nd meeting in Tampa attended by 65 interested growers (FlaGrower 23(22)6, 1921). A confounding article the following year (FlaTimesUnion 57 Nov17 Pg.4 1922) cited the "sixth annual meeting" with **H.T. Fisher** as president, **F.J. Zimmermann** as secretary, and about 100 members attending. In these pre 1923 articles the organization was reported interchangeably as "state grape growers association", "grape growers association", or "Florida grape growers association", but certainly focused only on grapes, a clear indication that the FGGA existed perhaps as early as 1916 and had over 100 members by 1921.

Some of the same people were mentioned in the newspaper articles and **Truskett**'s narrative (Truskett in Kennedy, 1988). What happened to **W.E. Bolles?** Was there a coupe, disagreement,

dissolution? Surely, a viable organization with ~100 members didn't just disappear without an explanation. The only clarifier is **Truskett**'s use of the term "newly organized". Another clue is the citation of a ~1924 text by **W.E. Bolles** of Oldsmar, "Commercial Banana Growing", published by the Florida Banana Growers Association. **Bolles** was also cited in "Bananas: An American History", V.S. Jenkins, 2000.
http://search.barnesandnoble.com/Bananas/Virginia-Scott-Jenkins/e/9781560989660#CHP
"In 1921 W. E. Bolles of Oldsmar, Florida, organized the Florida Banana-Growers Association to try to grow bananas on a commercial scale. Bolles saw an enormous market tot Florida bananas sold at the same wholesale prices as imported fruit, as much as "$1,400 per acre per year, when they get going good." No one came to the first meeting, twenty people attended the second meeting, and over two hundred attended the annual association meeting in October 1923.

The 1920s' Florida land speculation boom, fueled by eastern investors, may have had something to do with this sudden interest in banana farming, and growers reported making more per acre from bananas than from oranges and grapefruit. Soon an estimated two thousand acres were planted to bananas. Bolles believed that "there are reasonable probabilities of growing bananas commercially not only in all Florida, but in southern Louisiana and southern Texas, and the plant can be made to fruit in southern Georgia and California."

Was there a conflict between grapes and bananas? Bananas have not fared nearly as well in Florida as grapes in the following 85 years.

At any rate, the FGGA was incorporated in 1923 and that's the date on the Association's emblem (Figure 41). Most members had vineyards in the Central Florida area. Col**. Hiram T. Fischer** of Eustis, who attended the earlier 1921 meeting, was president by 1922. He was identified as the first FGGA President for 1923-24, followed by **E. L. Lord**, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station at Gainesville, who held the position for 12 years. He was probably the most visible UF grape expert for several decades, as his cogent summary of viticulture research suggests (Lord, 1939).

Figure 41. Florida Grape Growers Association Emblem

B. FGGA Presidents

Table 4 shows the evolution of the FGGA, initiators or principles/presidents, and their term of office, using the older information. In some cases the details available are limited or even contradictory. We'd like to devote some attention to each of these individuals, albeit with gaps where the written records are shallow. Unfortunately, some remain just a name with little or no description regarding their background, contributions, or personal history, except that before, during, and after their Presidential tenure they and their anonymous colleagues – other FGGA officers and members - kept the Association viable.

The most important elected position in an association such as FGGA is the President. That individual has the leadership role which to a large extent defines the direction, vitality, even survival of the organization. The President is assisted by and clearly dependant upon other elected officers such as spelled out in an old set of By-Laws (FGGA, 1977) or the newest revision (http://fgga.org/fggabylaws.html). In large associations continuity is provided by an executive administrator - perhaps a full time, paid position, depending on the society.

Although effectiveness depends upon an active, responsive membership and capable elected officers, the president sets the tempo and is ultimately responsible to the electorate for the success and vitality of the organization. Consider the many activities which must be orchestrated – membership recruitment and retention; newsletter; website (comparatively new but of growing importance); annual conference, regional, national, and other meetings; social functions; delegated interactions with other organizations; industry and government liaison, to name a few. These duties add up to a full time job – for a volunteer, likely with other undiminished personal and professional responsibilities.

The President must also be politically savvy and diplomatically handle inevitable differences in opinion and conflict between and among members and outside interests. Is the term "herding cats" pertinent? What are the rewards? Perhaps the respect and goodwill of colleagues and some citation after years of service are earned. Most important – a well recognized and respected association that fulfills the needs and aspirations of members and the industry they represent. From the available record, at least 24 persons held the position of FGGA President. If they and other elected officers worked as diligently and effectively as those we personally knew over the past half century, we owe them all a debt of gratitude. Let's not take them or those who will follow for granted! In addition, present and future presidents merit encouragement and support from the entire Florida Grape Community.

Table 4
Evolution of the Florida Grape Growers Association

President or Principle	Date or Term	Remarks
A.I. Bidwell	1878-?	3rd meeting of Florida Fruit Growers Association- Grapes discussed and planned in future agenda (FlaDispatch 2(36)1, 1878)
James H. White	1879	Indian River Horticultural and Pomological Society sent grape sample to Dispatch to promote their district; grape committee formed (FlaDispatch 4(10)2, 1879)
?	1887	Reference to a grape committee at Florida Fruit Growers Association meeting in Orlando (FlaDispatch 7(17)358-9, 1887)
J. Leahman	1887	Formation of a state grape growing association suggested to Dispatch Editor (FlaDispatch 7(16)338, 1887)
Dudley W. Adams & Emil DuBois	1888	Florida State Horticultural Society formed and a Committee on Grape appointed; **Dubois** FSHS Vice President (FlaDispatch 8(16)312-13, 1888)
P.P. Ink **G.H. Wright**	1892	**Ink** was secretary of the Orange County Grape Growers Assoc. (FlaDispatch 4(28)545; FlaStateHortSoc 5:31, 1892) Was **Wright** President?
W.E. Bolles	1921	Cited as FGGA President, **E.L. Zimmerman** Secretary, **N.W. Chadwick**, Treasurer, Membership was 104 (FlaTimesUnion 56 Nov11, 1921). Or was it 65? (FlaGrower 23(22)6, 1921)
?	1921	**Truskett** cited attendance at a fall 1921 meeting of the "newly formed FGGA" in Oldsmar (Williams, 1988, pg 124)

H.T. Fisher	1922-1925	Cited as 6th Annual Meeting of FGGA, so the first was in 1916?? Called H.T. **Fisher** P.T. so accuracy questionable. (FlaTimesUnion 57 Nov17, 1922); Membership about 100; Cited as 9th FGGA meeting; puts founding back to 1914 or, if 2/year, ~1918 ? (FlaGrower 28(24)8, 1923) **Fisher** reelected for 1924.
E. L. Lord	1925-1937	FGGA mentioned as over 8 years old (FlaGrower 38(6)5-6, 1930), so founded ~1921? **Lord** was president for the last 6 years (FlaStateHortSoc 44:177, 1931). **Lord** reelected for 10th term (FlaGrower 40(8)15, 1932)
A.E. Pickard	1938-1939	FlaGrower 61(6)10, 1953. Cited tenure of **Lord** from UF and **Pickard**, an Orange County grape grower (FlaGrower 44(7)6, 1936)
Dr. **Charles Demko**	1940-1954	*Sentinel-Star*, July 11 1948; FlaGrower 58(4)10,27,28, 1950; FlaTimesUnion, undated, ~1952 President for 14 years
Joseph L. Fennell	1954-1956	(*Times-Union*, undated, ~ 1956?); **Fennell** reelected in 1956 (*Orlando Sentinel, Lake Sumter Edition*, July 19, 1956.)
Charles W. Demko	1961-1968	Dr. **Demko's** son possibly President multiple years - anyone between **Fennell** and **C.W. Demko?**(*Orlando Sentinel* Jul 19, 1956)
C.L. McCormick	1968 – 1971	Anyone between **Demko** and **McCormick**? (FlaTimesUnion July 11 1971)
		[The Presidents and their tenure are correctly recorded from here on.]
Thomas J. Hughes, Sr.	1972-1974	**Tom** championed U-pick and fresh market quality. Multi-generation contribution with son, **Tom, Jr**. still active
Esmond Grosz	1974-1976	**Esmond** brought substantial business skills record keeping and was involved in wine making and attracting wine interests to Florida.
Florence Hall	1977-1978	**Florence** achieved legislative recognition and support for FGGA and developed regional marketing organization. Championed FAMU grape research program
Levin Darden	1979-1980	**Levin** persisted with legislative recognition and followed through with **Hall**'s initiatives
Clara-Jane Smith	1980-1981	**Clara Jane** promoted the fresh market needs and communicated the value of grapes to legislators (with husband **Bill**)
Harold Crevasse	1982-1983	**Harold** developed regional meetings and organized fresh market sales cooperative
Jim Eckhart	1983-1987	A former legislator himself, **Jim** strengthened ties with the FDACS and development of the Viticulture Policy Act
Gary Ketchum	1987-1988	As an early Principal in Lafayette Winery and attorney, he was prominent in addressing legislative matters and FGGA support
John Holloway	1989 - 1990	**John**'s vineyard expertise and familiarity with the Florida legislature saved the Viticulture Trust Fund from oblivion
Joe Spinelli	1991-1994	Very proactive regarding workshops, wine-food popularization, and state wide promotional activities
Joe Stephany	1995-1996	Centralized the FGGA office and streamlines administrative proceedures
Byron Biddle	1997-	Emphasized the statewide nature of the FGGA and provided a

	1998	Panhandle winery and presence for events
Gary Cox	1999-2000	Successfully initiated several wineries and instrumental in Viticulture Trust Fund development and survival
Bob Paulish	2001-2006	Brought Information Technology skills to the FGGA and refined newsletter and Wine Competition (with wife, **Bonnie Jean)**
Donnie Nettles	2007-2008	Popularized and excelled in Hobby wine competition
Bob Paulish	2009	Agreed to another term to maintain ongoing programs

C. The Dynamics of Volunteer Organizations

Let's now consider the environment under which associations such as the FGGA evolve and operate.

Over its ~ 90 year history, thousands of individuals have been members of the FGGA. Many have conspicuously left their mark and are noted here. Others by their FGGA membership and activities in growing, processing, marketing and/or promoting grapes have contributed to the industry. Less visible members, by serving as active FGGA members or officers, providing ideas and thoughtful discussion, and supporting the leadership have been and/or are an essential part of the organization. To use a rough analogy – Generals and their officer-staff direct battles, noncoms and privates win them.

Associations start with a perceived need by a few with a common interest – they associate. The need resonates with others sympathetic to the cause, and informal meetings result in a leadership group which takes the initial steps to formalize an organization. This may involve soliciting support from known backers (starting from scratch), changing the structure or goals of an existing organization, forming an allied/competing group (breaking away), or going outside the originating group for members and support. In any case, this is a common, reasonably democratic operation repeated as frequently as new issues and challenges affect special interest groups and society. Apparently there were many in Florida in the 1870s on. An interesting listing along with officers and their location of state/regional agricultural organizations grew from two when first reported (FlaDispatch 2(36)4, 1878) to 26 in the last such report (FlaDispatch 6(36), 1882), and peaked with 28 cited, (Table 3, FlaDispatch 1(3)11, 1882).

What makes a successful organization? Sadly, it is much easier to destroy a viable association consisting of members with a common purpose than it is to form and maintain it. Even when the association is based on an obvious need, well articulated in its charter, and strongly led, failures occur. The change in business or personal circumstances - employment, serious illness or death of key personnel - can be devastating to an organization, as can unresolved business, political, or personal controversies. Additionally, issues change and dynamic leadership can switch focus or simply run out of steam – burn out. Fortunately, when some falter due to profession, economic, or personal reasons, others step in to fill the gap and keep things moving.

All of the above have occurred within the FGGA. Fortunately, the organization has depth - members capable of stepping in to fill the gap, often with changes in direction and emphasis.

Membership retention and recruitment are the constant survival needs of any organization; volunteers can and do walk away from organizations that do not meet their personal or professional needs. The current FGGA viability reflects well on the attractive proposition of grape growing in Florida and the people involved. Although grape growing (farming) is central to our focus, many contributors come from other careers, having developed an interest in grapes after or concurrent with their primary profession. All bring much to the organization, even as they cycle in and then move on.

The process by which organizations are initiated, maintained, and modified is analogous to "Open Source Software" in the computer industry - a system by which users and aficionados individually and collectively, informally and formally work on an open source code available to all and continually improve its operation and functionality. So too FGGA officers, members, and advisors with the common goal of improving the Florida grape industry, have since inception (and even before, as we have seen), added to the focus and operation of the organization. These are the individuals we wish to recognize and whose accomplishments merit emphasis.

In addition, it is essential that the ideas generated, used, modified, and/or discarded be documented. That is the second purpose of this text. Although times and conditions change there are some procedures, policies, and programs that have worked well for the FGGA. We'll discuss these in closing, since by modifying to meet existing or anticipated circumstances their open source nature should be of value in the future.

Florida is a large, long state covering several vastly different climatic zones from semi tropical to almost temperate. Consequently, growing conditions vary dramatically from Key West to Pensacola, a land distance of over 700 miles, and from marine coastal to continental inland. Thus, the adaptation of grapes and growers is equally diverse. Although the early work was around Jacksonville, Tallahassee, and Orlando [East, West, and South Florida, respectively, as they were known at the time], many vineyards were established throughout state and growers cooperated regionally. Eventually local chapters developed, facilitating vineyard visits, meetings, and exchange of germplasm and information. These activities preceded the FGGA, and were the likely catalyst for its formation and success.

The Florida State Horticultural Society (FSHS) formed in 1888 preceding the FGGA by ~35 years and itself, grew out of Agriculture focused organizations initiated even earlier. In fact, from the earliest years the FSHS had a Committee on Grapes. Active committee members, who reported on grapes in the FSHS Proceedings, were some of those pioneers we now recognize. The annual reports and related conversations provide a fascinating record of the ups and downs of grapes in Florida from the 1870s on.

Individuals active in the foundation of both the FSHS and FGGA were for the most part private parties interested in horticulture from a business or hobby standpoint. Later, as agricultural research was promoted and funded by the federal (USDA) and state governments (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and later Florida Department of Agriculture and FAMU) a healthy mix of educators, research scientists, commercial grape growers, wine makers, and hobbyists were attracted to grapes. This synergism exists today – another example of "Open Source" cooperation.

The early FSHS Proceedings had informative articles on grape propagation and sales, primarily in West and Central Florida (Tallahassee and Orlando). Then around 1907 there was scant mention of grapes, except to note that muscadines were much more amenable to Florida conditions and recommended over other species. In the early 1920s grapes again received some attention regarding activities in Central Florida. This petered out by the late 1930s.

These early FSHS Proceedings are fascinating reading, as there were many historical recollections by early members that described the contributions of their colleagues to the success of agriculture in Florida from the 19th century on – the type of narrative we're aiming for here, albeit without the benefit of grape old timers. Unfortunately or perhaps inevitably, the articles on personal recollections and biographical information (as part of the Necrology section) diminished as scientific rigor and 3rd person, impersonal narratives took over. Thus, although the scientific knowledge and technical accomplishments increased dramatically and continue today, the identification and contributions of those prominently involved is much more impersonalized.

To the surprise of no one who has been or is involved in growing grapes in Florida, it is an extremely difficult undertaking, compared to other agricultural endeavors or even viticulture practiced in favorable regions - practically anywhere else on the planet. Everything grows well in Florida: the vines, competing vegetation (weeds), insects, nematodes, birds, varmints, larger predators, pathogenic bacteria and virus. If one or a combination of these cited factors wasn't a sufficient deterrent, add the vagaries of weather – too much or too little rain in volume, time, or location; untimely frosts, hurricanes - certainly complicate the enterprise. To these now add environmental and 21st Century sustainability concerns – some legitimate, others unrealistic.

The challenges met and overcome belie the comparatively minor (but increasing) contribution of grapes to Florida's total agricultural output. It is an underappreciated accomplishment, yet ever pertinent to viticulturists in more hospitable environments for whom the Florida viticulture research findings and practices are valuable guides. "If you can successfully grow grapes in Florida, you can grow them anywhere" (Quote, personal recollection circa 1980)

D. The Triad

The success of major Agricultural endeavors such as Viticulture is based on science and technology and depends on three entities. These are:

(1) Industrial component – businesses and entrepreneurs willing to invest time, resources, and capital in an enterprise. They take the risk and reap much of the rewards. To this category we must include Hobbists – individuals committed to a pursuit (in this case, viticulture/enology) simply due to an absorbing interest in the subject. Their challenge is overcoming obstacles, creating new knowledge, associating with like minded protagonists, and earning the respect/recognition of their peers. They have and continue to contribute much (Dunstan, 1962; DeWolf, 2003).

(2) Scientist and technologists capable of providing the expertise necessary to overcome technical problems, maintain progress, and foster competition.

(3) Government infrastructure to support (or at least not hinder) private enterprise. A given is the legal framework to insure an orderly business landscape and avoid social disrupting (dishonest), environmentally unsound, or unsafe practices.

As the grape industry developed in Florida, these three features came together and allowed the industry to at least survive the hard times and prosper during good ones.
First, there were dedicated growers who felt that grapes could and should be a Florida crop. Some liked the idea of growing grapes for fun, others for profit. Many had experience or aspirations based on successful grape ventures elsewhere, and recognized the potential inherent in Florida's appealing climate and natural resources. Just as important were the hobbyists, likewise committed to grapes and the "Romance of the Vine". Together, these were the pioneers who planted vineyards and committed to overcoming the challenges involved. Initially they communicated informally and later formed a number of horticultural oriented organizations which evolved into the FSHS and the FGGA.

The second pillar of strength was the scientific community. Some growers had or acquired the necessary technical background, allied themselves with those that had, or relied upon the expertise in the available literature. Initially trial and error was the learning mode, and worked well on an individual and collective basis. Information was reasonably effective, dissipated - first informally from neighbors and nurserymen and later formally through the evolving agricultural institutions and associations.

Agriculture is progressively based on the physical, chemical, and biological sciences; behavioral sciences such as economics, business, and sociology now play an increasingly important role. Educational institutions, which were expanding across the nation, provided graduates trained in agriculture and related disciplines. Whether trained graduates went to industry, joined family farm operations, or academic pursuits, their technical contribution substantially increased the scientific and technical level of farming, including viticulture and enology. As scientific knowledge accumulated and was put to use, it became clear that grape cultivation in Florida is a much more complex undertaking than in most global regions, hence the third contributor.

The third partner is government. Thanks primarily to the Morrill Act of 1862 and subsequent Federal and State investments in Agriculture support. The combined effort of the USDA and State Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension Services, plus the essential involvement of Colleges of Agriculture, is to a large extent responsible for the global dominance of U.S. Agriculture – a fact often taken for granted, but strikingly evident when contrasted to the developing or undeveloped world. This brought financial support and a degree of regulatory control to Florida agricultural enterprises.

However, in the early days all was not sweetness and light between the Agricultural Community and State Agriculture Colleges (Marcus, 1986). The pragmatic needs of farmers and the goal of expanding knowledge in the Agricultural Sciences met head on, and through a combination of cooperation, competition, and communication was reasonably well resolved. Although, even today the priorities of scientific and business interests require mutual understanding and compromise, as the FGGA narrative well illustrates.

It is highly unlikely that a viable agricultural industry, let alone a grape industry, would have developed had it not been for the fortuitous combination and strength of this triad. It continues today and we are exploring its components – with emphasis on the people who made/make it happen.

E. Federal and Florida Agricultural Research and Extension Services

Governmental involvement in viticulture was slow coming to Florida. However, the need for agricultural research was recognized even before Florida was U.S. Territory and voiced continually thereafter. The 1862 Morrell Act and subsequent federal legislation set the stage although Civil War and Reconstruction turmoil prevailed for the following 3 decades, (Cresap, 1982 Chap15; Ferleger, 1990). The idea of an Agriculture College jelled in 1870, but it was 1884 in Lake City before a physical facility existed (Proctor, 1962) and 1891 before grape research was reported (Bull. 14, Figure 42; ibid pp11-12). Results were disappointing in the 70 variety vineyard (presumably in Lake City), and not much was reported about grapes for awhile.

Figure 42. First Annual Report Florida Experiment Station

The burden of grape research and development (R&D) was carried by the private sector, as well described in publications of the time. Nevertheless, the Federal government through the Department of Agriculture was actively involved in Alachua County. A prominent viticulturist, Baron **H. Von Luttichau**, was very active in promoting grapes at his estate in Earleton, about 12 miles northwest of Gainesville. **Von Luttichau** participated in the FSHS as a contributing author and member of the Committee on Grapes. From the 1880s to 1905 he reported and published frequently.

In 1887 **Von Luttichau** initiated plantings on his "Government Experiment Station", established in consultation with **George C**. **Husmann**, Department of Agriculture, who was charged with evaluating grape variety adaptability and promoting their cultivation in various states. Caution, **G. W. Husmann's,** father **George Husmann** contributed significantly to grape and wine developments in Missouri, California, and even France (phyloxella resistant rootstock) but not Florida (Pinney, 1989 has many citations on both Husmanns). His son continued exploring grape potential throughout the U.S. (Husmann, 1916; Husmann, 1932). The USDA continued grape investigations in Florida, as implied by later authors (Dearing, 1922; Fisher, 1924).

Curiously, in 1896 **H. Von Luttichau** lead off a FSHS presentation with the surprising statement, "I had to give up grapes; they did not pay me well." (FlaStateHortSoc 9:67-69, 1896). But in the 1905 proceedings, he reported again on "The Government Viticultural Experiment Station". He noted that vines did well through the 5th year and then declined (FlaStateHortSoc 18:60-62, 1905). He blamed it on improper pruning, variety, soil, or location and recommended replanting after 6 or 7 years. This was the last **H. Von Luttichau** was heard from regarding grapes, although his avocado endeavors were noted as late as 1916. (The Avocado in Florida).

Von Luttichau was much more than a viticulturist, since he was cited as growing avocados and demonstrated considerable knowledge of citrus culture and cover crop usage, as reflected by his cooperation with **H. Harold Hume**, horticulturist and botanist at the University of Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville (Hume, 1911 pg. 290).

Von Luttichau, was cited (Buchholz, 1929 pg. 178) as "**Von Ladisha** [sic], foreign botanist and horticulturist [bought **Earle's** Belvedere Nursery site on Lake Santa Fe] and began experimenting with the introduction of foreign tropical fruits. His place was famous for its wealth of flowering plants, especially azaleas. In 1880 the state supplemented his work, and there established its first experiment station." [Was it the State or Federal Government or both?]

1. University of Florida Grape Research 1891-1929

The first mention of grapes by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station was in the 1891Annual Report from the original Lake City site. Sixty varieties planted earlier were so affected by freezes, drought, and disease that the fruit quality wasn't worth reporting (Fla Ag Exp Sta Report, pp 11-12 1891). The 1893 Annual Report indicated that 40 Italian grape vines received from California were planted and the old vineyard had some surviving vines of unknown varieties (Fla Ag Exp Sta Annual Report, pg. 15 1893). Presumably, the location was on the Lake City farm, and nothing more was mentioned. In 1896 Annual Report, 23 varieties were set out at the Myers Sub-Station (Fla Ag Exp Sta Annual Report, pg.78-79 1896). Most were labrusca with some aestivalis and rotundifolia, but most didn't do well.

The Agricultural College moved to Gainesville in 1905. There was scant mention of grapes until several decades later when a 1924 report cited mixed results with 62 bunch grape (mostly hybrids - probably **Munson**'s) and 16 muscadine varieties under observation (Figures 33 ABC) (Fla Ag Exp Sta Annual Report, pg.61R-62R 1924). These vines were followed for several years with mediocre results. Nevertheless, the resurgent interest in grapes was very dramatic – see (**Timeline** and **Bibliography-Chronology** circa 1921-1930).

The most cogent summation came in 1926. **Arthur S. Rhoads**, assistant Plant Pathologist, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Cocoa published Bulletin 178, Diseases of Grapes in Florida (Rhoads, 1926). This comprehensive publication provided an overview of previous viticulture efforts, spoke optimistically about the potential of **Munson**'s hybrids as breeding stock, and cautioned that the ideal commercial variety had yet to be developed - due to disease problems. **Rhoads** then detailed fungal diseases and means of combating them.

Coinciding with the decline in grape interest between about 1905 and 1920, there didn't seem to be much federal or state Agricultural Experiment Station reporting on grapes, although research did go on. In 1920 **Charles Dearing** of the USDA encouraged muscadine grape production and utilization. He cited his earlier muscadine breeding work in Florida around 1909 for the Bureau of Plant Industries and the rationale for emphasizing native Vitis species over those introduced from elsewhere (Dearing, 1920). [**Dearing**'s opinion of bunch grapes potential in Florida was disdained as overly pessimistic and discouraging for about 20+ years, although events eventually proved him to be correct.]

In 1922 **Dearing** again addressed the FSHS, reinforcing the value of muscadines and citing previous failures with vinifera and northern species (Dearing, 1922). By this time there was strong interest in **Munson** hybrids among another generation of Florida growers. At this meeting **E.L. Lord,** UF College of Agriculture, Gainesville provided an update on bunch grapes and indicated that propagation research was underway at several state experiment stations (Lord, 1922). **H.T. Fisher**, Eustis followed with an upbeat article on grape potential, citing grafting and labrusca-native breeding work 12 year previously (~1910) by **Frank W. Savage** of the Government Station in Eustis (Fisher, 1922).

The early level of grape research and extension support from the state is unclear. A 1923 FSHS presentation cited helpful information from Gainesville Ag Station (Sylvesters, 1923) and another presenter mentions advice against bunch grape propagation by the USDA and little encouragement by state agents, except to save existing vineyards (Burnham, 1923). **Lord** then addressed disease control (Lord, 1923), as did **C.L. Shear**, USDA (Shear, 1923). This was followed by a paper on grape insects by **J.R. Watson**, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville (Watson, 1923). So clearly the message was getting through and both USDA and the Ag Station were ramping up grape research and extension efforts. Growers now had much more information and tools to deal with insects and diseases than their predecessors 30 years prior.

2. IFAS Today

It is worthwhile to look briefly at the changes that the Agricultural College, Agricultural Research and Extension Services since the early 1900s, as recently cited (*Florida Trend*, 2008 http://floridatrend.com/article.asp?aid=49429).

"IFAS traces its roots to the 19th century. The U.S. Morrill Act of 1862 established land-grant universities in an effort to bring advanced practical research to Americans who didn't have access to higher education. Over time, Congress also asked the universities to build agricultural experiment stations and cooperative extension efforts that sent agents into rural areas to bring research to farmers.

Today, in addition to housing UF's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, forestry, natural resources and other academic divisions, IFAS maintains offices in every one of Florida's 67 counties, as well as 13 research and education centers in 19 locations around the state. In Homestead, for example, IFAS professors teach and research tropical and subtropical crops from papayas to passion fruit. In Lake Alfred — the largest citrus-research center in the world — IFAS faculty battle the citrus greening disease that threatens to wipe out Florida's signature crop."

Teaching: IFAS' primary academic unit is the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, with more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students in agricultural and biological engineering; agricultural education and communications; animal sciences; entomology and nematology; environmental horticulture; fisheries and aquatic sciences; food science and human nutrition; microbiology and cell science; plant pathology; forest resources and conservation; soil and water science; wildlife ecology and conservation.

Research: IFAS pulled in about $72 million in research, teaching and extension grants last year, both on campus and in its 13 research and education centers around the state. The largest contributor was the U.S. Department of Agriculture, followed by the Florida Department of

Agriculture & Consumer Services. The academic departments that landed the most grant funding were: Fisheries, $6.2 million; microbiology, $5.3 million; horticultural sciences, $4.8 million; agriculture and biological engineering, $4.3 million. IFAS researchers have brought to market nearly 300 new cultivars and inventions over the past five years, the majority of them plant germplasm.

Extension: IFAS manages Florida Cooperative Extension Service offices in all 67 counties. Extension agents specialize in everything from traditional row crops to growth management and land-use. The service coordinates volunteers in programs such as the Master Gardener program. Extension volunteers work the annual equivalent of 672 full-time employees. IFAS youth programs such as 4-H focus on youth leadership development. Its Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program helps homeowners create and maintain efficient landscapes.

3. Florida A&M University Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research

In 1978 another grape research partner came on scene, thanks to FGGA efforts to be described. The center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research was established in the College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture in 1978 by the Florida Legislature (Florida Viticulture Policy Act, 1978, to assist in the development of the Florida grape and wine industry through research, extension service, and student training.

The Center is to focus exclusively on viticulture research until more recently when small fruit research was added to the program in 1999. Over the years, the Center has undergone extensive improvement to enhance its research capability and capacity. With the support of Florida A&M University and Florida Viticulture Industry, the Center was relocated in 2001 from the main campus of Florida A&M University in downtown Tallahassee to its present location on Mahan Drive (the Former Lafayette Winery), with 40 acre vineyard and a 15,000 ft^2 lab and office space. The center has since continued to grow and is becoming the largest and best equipped facility dedicated to viticulture – warm climate grape research in the south and southeastern United States.

Mission

To conduct research and provide service and support that will help the viticulture industry in Florida become a viable industry.

Goals

1. Develop new and improved grape cultivars and selected small fruits suitable for fresh fruit and processing.
2. Improve the disease resistance of Florida grapes through classical breeding and biotechnology.
3. Promote the marketability of Florida grapes and value-added products through research and extension.
4. Develop best management practices for Florida grapes and selected small fruits.
5. Establish a small fruit improvement program with emphasis on blackberries and raspberries.
6. Promote a strong graduate research program through research and student experiential learning.

Missions and Research Objectives

Located east of the main FAMU campus on US 90, the Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research is situated on the site that was formerly Lafayette Vineyards. This has provided researchers with an ideal facility for viticulture research, with well-established vineyards and a state-of-the-art laboratory where they can work on everything from genome research to the development of seedless muscadine varieties and the development of other small fruit varieties adapted to north Florida.

The mission of the Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research is to conduct research and provide service and support that will help the Florida viticulture industry to become an economically viable industry. To achieve that, the Center has developed six goals that researchers will be addressing for the next few years:

- Develop new and improved grape cultivars for fresh fruit and for processing
- Improve the disease resistance of Florida grapes
- Promote the marketability of Florida grapes and value-added products
- Develop best management practices for vineyard operations
- Establish a small fruit program with emphasis on commercial potential
- Provide extension and outreach services to grape growers and processors

These research goals are aimed at helping Florida grape growers improve their marketing and production, and at helping to put the viticulture industry in the state on a sound economic footing. The Center's research projects are directly tied to industry needs as they have been identified by the Florida Viticulture Advisory Council.

Research projects address many aspects of grape and wine production in Florida; program emphases are on both wine and table grapes. One effort has been the development of a seedless muscadine with large berries and good quality fruit that will have edible skin and good disease tolerance for making wine, juice, and jelly.

Muscadines, of course, are the most common native grape in north Florida, but they're not the only grape that the Center works on. Researchers also are working with bunch grapes, some of which also are native to the region. Different research projects look at various management and cultural practices, to determine the effects of different kinds of trellis systems, canopy management, vine density and pruning on fruit production and fruit quality for both muscadines and bunch grapes.

The wine industry is not new to Florida. From the 1880s to the 1920s, Florida grape growers planted more than 12,000 acres of vines. The rich, highly-flavored muscadine wines that those growers produced became a well-known regional specialty. However, by the 1950s, most of that acreage had been decimated by Pierce's Disease, which causes vine degeneration and death.

Although breeding programs have developed improved varieties of native muscadines with natural resistance to Pierce's Disease, researchers at the Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research are working to identify genes that offer resistance to both Pierce's Disease and other fungal diseases. This project, known as the Grape Genomics and Bioinformatics Research and Training Program, is aimed at identifying and sequencing groups of genes from native American grape species that can provide disease resistance and stress tolerance; researchers will be able to

use this information to improve grape cultivars that are susceptible to several diseases and to stress. Other projects are aimed at determining ways to manage the glassy-winged sharpshooter, an insect that helps spread Pierce's Disease from plant to plant.

The Center also works to disseminate information to growers through a formal and informal outreach program. An annual Grape Field Day at the Center provides growers and the general public with the opportunity to see what researchers are working on and learn new management practices that will help them in their vineyards. Faculty and staff also help growers on a one-to-one basis with production and management problems.

In a unique approach to making the public aware of research being done at the Center, faculty members have offered introductory and advanced courses in the Art and Science of Enology. Participants who complete 70% of the course lectures and review sessions and take the final exam receive two credit units of the University Outreach Program.

Besides grapes, researchers at the Center are field-testing north Florida-adapted varieties of fruits such as blackberries, blueberries, kiwi, and other non-traditional fruits; growers also have asked researchers to look at raspberries. Administrators expect this program area to expand over the next few years to include a breeding component for new hybrids that will provide new economic crops for small farmers.

That's the grape research situation today, with multiple state and federal programs capable of addressing grapes industry problems. But let's look back ~80 years when the research efforts and involvement of State and Federal agricultural professionals in the FSHS was increasing. Their participation coincided with and was undoubtedly related to the formation of the FGGA. Still, the majority of reports originated from private growers, who were as optimistic as their counterparts were 30 years earlier. However, the stage was now set for an essential increase in Florida viticulture knowledge, coming from the underappreciated Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.

4. The Leesburg Station

The contribution of this research center closely mirrors the successful development of the Florida grape industry. It was the driving force behind Florida grape developments for about 70 years. The Leesburg Field Laboratory was founded as a branch unit of the University of Florida Agriculture Experiment Station system in 1929 (IFAS, 1982) Leesburg ARC Research Report WG-82-1. The initial research emphasis was on disease and insect problems threatening the thriving watermelon industry. It wasn't until the 1933-34 when, prompted by the FGGA, attention was turned to grape pests. [The date could have been as early as 1931, according to a researcher involved (Loucks, 1944, 1st paragraph).] It was reported that 3 men went to Tallahassee (1933-34) to request legislative support to deal with diseased vineyards (IFAS, 1982- Mortensen, pg13).

"In 1933 three men went to Tallahassee…" This was the quote that prompted us to ask an intriguing question – who were these men? Possibly **H.T. Fisher**, former FGGA President and Dr. **Charles Demko**, active grower and future FGGA President were two. The third was possibly **E.E. Truskett** or Col. **W.J. Stover** (**Loren Stover's** father), partner in the **MacKenzie-Stover**

vineyard operations. We earlier speculated that Dr. **W.A. MacKenzie,** elsewhere identified as Mayor of Leesburg and a representative in the Florida Legislature, was probably involved (FlaGrower 32(12)5, 1925). However, **MacKenzie** left the scene in1929, killed in a firearm accident (FlaGrower 37(6)3, 1929) and nothing more was heard from the **MacKenzie-Stover** experimental vineyard. Nevertheless, grape growers certainly had political connections and, independent of their identity and date, these three men [and their behind the scene colleagues] did their work well.

Although capable scientists from the USDA and Florida Agricultural Experiment Station had contributed significantly in addressing the grape problems in the 1920s and early 30s, they were scattered – **Hussmann** had national responsibilities out of Washington DC; **Dearing** was based in North Carolina and in and out of Florida; **Lord** was at the Ag Experimental Station, Gainesville; **Rhoads** was at the Florida Experiment Station, Cocoa, and **Loucks** at was at the Leesburg Station. The Lake County extension agent, **C.R. Hiatt** and his counterparts in neighboring counties worked closely with growers. **Hiatt** was FGGA Secretary in the early 1930s and **Lord** was President from 1925 to 1937.

The modest appropriation of funds ($3,500) to study grape diseases at Leesburg, eventually led to an interdisciplinary group of scientists with a grape research focus. Although a "critical mass" wasn't reached for some time, the Leesburg Station was central to the growing region and convenient to many grape growers.

As today, these State and Federal professionals provided material and moral support to commercial and hobby grape growers and grape aficionados to promote the industry. However, government research scientists usually don't go directly to state or federal legislators asking for support. [Although **Lord's** tenure as FGGA President encompassed that time frame, we speculate that it is unlikely that, as a state employee, he was one of the three who went to Tallahassee.] That's the job of commercial growers with business interests affecting the economic well being of their locales – employment, taxes, sustainable community growth. Businessmen (and women) are in a much better position to champion the benefits of agricultural research focusing on their problems, amenable to research solutions or government policy directives. When the right people are involved in thoughtful dialog with legislators, it works. It did in the early 1930s and again about 45 years later, as we'll see.

One caveat – Government programs, be it teaching, research, extension, or marketing are very sensitive to the funds available. Support levels wax and wane in response to the condition of state and federal treasuries, which in turn depends on local, national, global economies (now increasingly). Furthermore, even in good and especially in bad times, funding levels are never enough and priorities must be set. Thanks to political savvy FGGA members and enthusiasts, grapes have done reasonably well, and the support justification is evident in the vitality of the industry. Yet the job is never done; a number of other agricultural entities can lay stake to the same persuasive arguments. Maintaining economic vitality and political connectivity is the continuing challenge of FGGA officers, members, and businesses.

It's worth emphasizing that state and federal professionals actively support practically all agricultural organizations. By their membership and participation as volunteers, elected officers,

and committee members, these government employees are visible, active supporters of professional societies. They provide continuity. From its 1888 founding, the rolls of the FSHS illustrate this commitment as does the history of other commodity and/or profession focused associations throughout the nation. The **Bibliography-Chronology** listing of FSHS Officers is replete with Federal and State horticulturists and administrators, many with strong grape interest and involvement.

Now, back to Leesburg - The station was designated as the Watermelon and Grape Investigations Laboratory in 1941-42 and had several name changes associated with changing research emphasis. The original 77 acre farm near Whitney was moved to its final station location, off Route 27, 6 miles south of Leesburg in 1958 (FlaGrowerAndRancher 63(7)12-13, 1955). By 1972 the facility had expanded to 262 acres.

Figure 43. Initial Florida State Experiment Station Facility, Whitney ~1938

Figure 44. Whitney Laboratory ~1938.

It was in these two environs that the landmark research started, leading up to Pierce's disease (PD) resistant cultivars and supporting studies that made bunch grape cultivation possible (Figures 43 & 44). In 2000 the property was sold and the research operation moved to the Mid Florida Agricultural Research and Education Center in Apopka (MREC).

The Leesburg Watermelon and Grape Lab (later the IFAS Leesburg Agriculture Research Center - we'll call it the Leesburg Station for simplicity.) was the driving force behind Florida grape developments for many decades. And the effort continues in Apopka today. The MREC research program areas are considerably broader that at the old Leesburg Station, yet grapes are still a prominent research focus. The primary objective is the development of marketable, productive, and long-lived bunch and muscadine grape cultivars, maximizing production efficiency, and control of Pierce's disease by chemical or biological means including genetic modification of grapes and in controlling the insect vector (IFAS, 1982-Mortensen, pg 13).

It should be emphasized that the classic research in defining PD as bacterial in nature and identifying the insect vector was accomplished at Leesburg and these findings are applied by research scientists and viticulturist globally. A number of notable scientist well worth mentioning addressed grape issues at Leesburg. Early contributors and their dates of service are noted below. Many of these individuals deserve credit for the recovery and present viability of the Florida grape industry after the last grape boom and bust of the 1920s and 30s. Their research contributions are evident in the accompanying bibliography and, in the case of several individuals noted, continue today.

Plant Pathologists Dates?
M.N. Walker – 1929-1942
G.K. Parris – 1945-1951
J.M. Crall – 1952-1977

W.B. Shippy – 1929-1937
K.W. Loucks – 1929-1943
N.C. Scherick – 1956-1969
D.L. Hopkins – 1969-present

Entomologists
C.C. Goff – 1930-1939
J.W. Wilson – 1930-1937
W.C. Adlerz – 1958-19??
C.H. Curran – 1961-1971
S. Webb – 19??-??

Horticulturists
L.H. Stover – 1941-1965 (actually 1939 to mid 1970s, see below)
C.F. Balerdi – 1966-1972
G.W. Elmstrom – 1969-19??
M. Halbrook – 1984-1989
James Harris - ??

Geneticists
J.G. Buchert – 1959-1960
J.A. Mortensen – 1960-1991
D.G. Gray – 1984-present

Agronomists
E.E. Harrwig – 1942-1943
C.G. Helms, Jr. – 1950-1955
H.A. Peacock – 1957-1958

F. The Successful Search

Now back to the Leesburg Station. One standout was **Loren H. Stover. Loren's** father, **W.J. Stover**, himself an early grape pioneer as indicated, undoubtedly involved **Loren** in those vineyard efforts. [There's some indication that **W.J.** spent time in Jamaica and Australia, probably before **Loren** was born, but details are vague.] Although the **Stover-MacKenzie** experimental vines didn't survive, **Loren Stover's** commitment to and expertise in grapes did. Hence, literally and figuratively, the seed for success was sewn at that time. In 1939 **Stover** was hired by the UF Lab in Leesburg as a field hand – a fortuitous decision indeed. By painstakingly collecting Florida grape germplasm from wild vines selections with productive vines from elsewhere, **Stover**, whose dedication was recognized by his promotion to Assistant in Horticulture, and Leesburg researchers, notably **K.W. Loucks**, slowly defined past problems and set the path for future solutions. During the war years, resources and personnel were scarce, so **Stover** was both caretaker and research hand.

As is common with traditional breeding, most crosses, requiring years of careful cultivation and evaluation, lead nowhere. Successes are all too rare, measuring in one per many thousands of

attempts, but they do occur. The following quote by **T.V. Munson** puts these labors in perspective (Munson, 1909 pg 6):

"Special Study of Grape Botany Necessary"

"It was at once apparent to me that a thorough botanical investigation of all species of our wild grapes must be made before much valuable work in this field could be done.
The characters and properties of each species must be learned; the climatic and soil conditions under which each thrives best; the climatic and soil conditions in general of the various sections of country, so that varieties best suited to each may be produced, must be sought and thoroughly studied.
Such work requires long continued and extensive investigation. The pioneer originator must travel much in the woods of every section where wild grapes grow, and study the habits; search out and collect together the best varieties from every region and breed up their good properties if he would most certainly produce varieties best adapted to those sections.
At various times during the past thirty years, the writer traveled through forty of the states and territories of the Union, never neglecting any opportunity to hunt and study the wild plants, especially the grapes and other wild fruits. In these journeys not less than fifty thousand miles were traveled by railway, and many hundreds on horseback and on foot, -and thousands of vines of nearly every species of American grape were studied growing in their native habitats.
Correspondence was had with botanists, vineyardists and other good observers in nearly every state and territory.
Botanical specimens and vines of all American and most of the Asiatic species were collected.
Seeds and plants of the best varieties were obtained of all these species and grown in experimental vineyards."

The release of "Lake Emerald" by **Loren Stover** (Stover, 1954) was, in retrospect, a significant landmark and turning point in a 200+ year quest. This introduction was the first bunch grape with adequate disease resistance, and is still prominent as a wine grape (Figure 45).

Figure 45. The 'Lake Emerald" release. (Stover, 1954**)** [Shown is **Stover**'s personal copy. The Bulletin is online at: http://www.mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/CultivarBulletins/Lake%20Emerald%20circularS-68%201954.pdf]

The background is fascinating and illustrative of the patience and dedication of **Stover** and colleagues. In 1942, **K. W. Loucks**, plant pathologist at Leesburg, collected a number of native grape species for the station's grape breeding program (Fla Ag Ext Sta Report, Pg.125 1942). Among them was a green selection of *Vitis simpsoni* Munson, later named Pixiola, since it was initially discovered growing wild near Picceola Island, Lake Griffin. This selection proved significantly more rugged and disease resistant than 'Florida Beacon' [actually **Munson's** 'Extra], formerly the hardiest bunch grape available.

In 1945 **Stover** crossed the female, 'Pixiola', with 'Golden Muscat', itself a *V. vinifera* x *V. labrusca* cross. Of the 20 seedlings resulting from this cross, only the one resulting in 'Lake Emerald' was noteworthy. 'Golden Muscat' also made important contributions to **Stover's** and subsequently **John Mortensen's** breeding program. The terpene-like muscat character surfaced

in ‘Blanc du Bois’ (Mortensen, 1987), a commercially successful white wine grape in Florida, which does even better in Texas and other gulf coast states (http://news.ufl.edu/2006/07/12/uf-grape/).

Subsequent releases based on these efforts resulted in: ‘Blue Lake’(Stover, 1960); ‘Norris’ (Mortensen and Stover, 1966) - In honor of **Robert L. Norris**, Lake County Extension Agent and FGGA Secretary for many years; and ‘Stover’ (Mortensen, 1968) – named in honor of **Loren Stover**, who retired in 1965, but continued assisting growers and grape propagation at Leesburg and his home in Lady Lake for several decades. The green bunch grape, ‘Stover’ is a remarkable wine grape and remains popular to this day – a tribute to an exceptional grape pioneer. In 1981 **Joe Midulla**, proprietor of Fruit Wines of Florida, dedicated a wine from the ‘Stover’ grape as Lorenz Blanc in honor of **Stover** and his breeding efforts and planted it extensively in his vineyard near Brooksville.

Are there other wild vines out there with similar or superior disease resistance, growth habits, and inherent fruit quality capable of contributing valuable germplasm toward the success and viability of the industry? Florida lacks the grape tradition of Italy, yet “ancient vines” by our standards should be of historical interest and practical value (Italy’s Ancient Vines).

Loren Stover certainly wasn’t operating in a vacuum and the entire Leesburg staff should be lauded for the contributions of this Experiment Station over its 60+ year existence. Leesburg scientist also established vine decline to be Pierce’s disease and of microbial origin. [It was originally thought to be a virus, later identified as bacterial and spread by the sharpshooter Hopkins and Mollenhauer, 1973;Hopkins, 1977).]

VII. REBOUNDING FROM THE 1930s - MOVING AHEAD

Except for the breeding work of **Demko** in Altoona and **Joe Fennell** in South Florida (later in Lady Lake) and **Loren Stover** and **Kenneth W. Loucks’** vital efforts at the Leesburg Station, grapes in Florida were practically in limbo during the late 1930s and not of high priority during the war. These were, nonetheless critical, as future events proved. **Loren Stover** was much more than a caretaker for the Leesburg Station during and immediately after the war. He and **Loucks** continued grape breeding work and cooperating with growers.

The 1947 and 1948 mid winter FGGA meetings didn’t receive much press notice and grapes even less, since the prominent topic was persimmons (FlaGrower 55(8)7, 1947; FlaGrower 56(1)9-10, 1948). Unlike the Leesburg Station, most Florida vineyards in general had not been well cared for. Then the pace picked up or, in the case of the **Demko** and **Fennell** vineyards never let up. These viticulturists had maintained their breeding and vine selection efforts. Far from slowing down, they were vigorously pursuing the goal of disease resistant bunch grapes for Florida. In fact, there might have been a race going on between **Demko** and **Fennell**; maybe even **Stover** was involved - “Grapevine Derby” (*Tampa Sunday Tribune*, July 12, 1953). If as implied indeed it was a race, **Stover** and the Leesburg Station won.

It’s more likely that these grape breeders were cooperating, albeit pursuing their own instincts and methodology applied to personal selections. By 1951 **Stover** had a good indication that one of his lines, eventually resulted in ‘Lake Emerald’, was hardier than ‘Florida Beacon’, the best of

the older hybrids (Stover and Parris, 1951). Furthermore, Leesburg scientists had established that vine decline was Pierce's disease and reasonably site specific. Thus, planting promising selections in areas where decline was most evident was a good test of PD resistance (Stoner and Stover, 1951).

'Lake Emerald' was released in 1954 and enthusiastically greeted by both growers and the public. The *Orlando Sentinel-Star* promotion (Orlando Sentinel 1955) - to distribute 'Lake Emerald' vines to the public at cost - was a novel idea that might be relevant for exciting future grape variety releases. It would be interesting to know what ever happened to the many thousand vines distributed in 1956. Do any survive? Did the event publicity prompt any recipients to take up serious grape growing?

How about the equally dedicated breeding endeavors of **Demko** and **Fennell,** who were also employing native wild bunch grapes? In fairness and recognition of their long time efforts and dedication, we'd like to say that some of their selections survived and are thriving in Florida vineyards today. Apparently, with one exception from Fennell's work (Chart, DeWolf, 2003) this is not the case, and their vines are lost to history - or reverted to wild stock. [In which case, they may to need be rediscovered, if they are to contribute in the future.] We now have much more sophisticated means of both identifying PD resistance and incorporating desirable traits into breeding lines (Gray et. al., 2007). Still, as preached by **Demko** and **Fennell** and successfully demonstrated by **Stover**, wild grape stock is of considerable value and should not be neglected.

Nor should some of the more rugged Munson hybrids 'Carman', 'Florida Beacon' (actually Munson's 'Extra'), or other vines that produced such high quality bunches. These lines, along with Fennell's 'Tamiami' and 'Largo' and Demko's 'Dunstan' and 'Taylor' also showed great promise (except for PD resistance). If these lines haven't faded completely, perhaps the surviving germplasm has potential in the hands of 21st century scientists.

In recognition of this important breakthrough, **Loren Stover** was honored, even called "The Grandfather of Florida Grapes" (Mortensen, in *Grape Times*, June 1993; Answer Man, 1985). **Stover** continued his productive breeding effort (Stover, 1960) and the research really accelerated when **John Mortensen** joined the Leesburg Station as plant breeder in 1960. Clearly, those "3 men [who] went to Tallahassee" to request grape industry support, and the Florida Legislatures they persuaded made a wise decision.

VIII. THE SECOND HUNDRED YEARS

A. The Wine Revolution

If we consider that the first Grape Boom lasted from about 1870 to 1905, the second from about 1920 to 1935, a convenient place to start another grape era is around 1950 with the breakthroughs cited above. From the very start Florida grape growers looked covetously to California as a model of what could be accomplished in Florida (FlaDispatch 2(23)1, 1877; Florida Dispatch 1(1)12, 1882 (New Series). Prohibition, followed by the Great Depression, and the World War didn't help California grape growers either. When Prohibition ended, wine quantity and visibility increased throughout the nation (where local laws permitted Repeal), but the general quality was abysmal. The less discriminate thirsty citizens wanted alcohol - cheap and fast, and grapes filled the bill. Then World War II logistics further impeded wine quality.

That was about to change when a notable journalist, **Leon Adams** started writing about his favorite beverage.

Leon Adams introduced the concept of 'The Wine Revolution" by emphasizing the simple, obvious fact that wine was a food and as much a part of fine dining as anything on the table. In his writings and personal efforts that was his central theme (Adams, 1985; Pinney, 1989). Moreover, as he traveled the nation, visiting wineries in all states having viniculture, he encouraged those involved. Even the smallest Boutique winery visited was given an enthusiastic boost by his presence and in his writings. **Leon** founded in San Francisco the Medical Friends of Wine – physicians with an interest in wine (http://www.medicalfriendsofwine.org/). This prestigious group recognized and promoted the health benefits of wine well before the French Paradox became common knowledge (Renaud and de Lorgeril, 1992).

Leon Adams wasn't alone. Vintners, viticulturist, enologists, and scientists associated with the industry and land grant universities around the country – primarily California, New York, and other traditional wine growing states - applied their talents to improve grape and wine quality. The results were dramatic, and soon reflected in the quality and popularity of U.S. wines. It certainly got the attention of French vintners, who were more inclined to feature tradition over science and technology in their well regarded world class wines. The message got through when California wines began to receive accolades and awards in competitions, even in France. The public responded and wine sales soared. This was the Wine Revolution.

Slowly but surely it reached Florida about 1970. The scientific expertise of **John Mortensen** and the field experience of **Loren Stover** was a fortuitous combination. In short order more PD resistant bunch grape varieties were released, one of which turned fresh attention to Florida grapes. Appropriately enough, it was named in honor of **Loren Stover.** The 'Stover' grape, released in 1968 (Mortensen, 1968) had a pleasant vinifera character (probably derived from some vinifera stock in 'Golden Muscat'). The Leesburg Station had a very effective means of introducing varieties and demonstrating their work. The informative Field Days which accompanied the summer FGGA meetings served to popularize the new breeding selections and provide the public the opportunity to sample promising grape selections, evaluate the fruit, and discuss their merits (Figures 46 & 47).

Figure 46. Bunch Grape Field Day Cultivar Evaluation, Leesburg Station.

Figure 47. Bunch Grape Field Day Vineyard Tour, Leesburg Station – Mortensen (center) presiding**.**

That feature caught the attention of a new UF faculty member. **Robert P. Bates,** a food technologist joined the Food Science Department in 1967 with a focus on the processing and utilization of existing or potential Florida foods and crops, including tropical. He was exposed to grapes for the first time at the 1968 FGGA Field Day in Leesburg. **Bob Bates** didn't know much about grapes, but he knew wine, having worked in Hawaii and Central America and made wine from numerous tropical fruits. Several months after sampling 'Stover' and acquiring fruit, a state

project on wine from Florida grapes was underway utilizing a number of bunch and muscadine varieties and breeding lines from **John Mortensen's** dynamic breeding program.

Wine has a way of attracting attention and within a few years grape growers, wine hobbyists, and other interested parties were busy looking at the wine potential of Florida grapes. While many of the varieties and breeding lines made quite acceptable wine, 'Stover' was exceptional and was publicized. Actually it was over publicized, since it was quoted once in the National Press as being "superior to the best offerings from California", a statement that neither **Bates** nor his colleagues ever made. The closest was a research report indicating that Stover wine ranked equal to common jug California Chablis, used for comparative purposes in taste panels (Bates and Mortensen, 1969; Grosz et. al, 1973).

The clear quality advantages of the bunch grapes coming out of Leesburg and muscadines available throughout the south caught the attention of nurserymen and U-pick operators. This was reflected in growth of the FGGA and welcome attention to all aspects of grape utilization – fresh market, U-pick, juice, jams, jellies, and of course, wine. By 1983 there were five commercial wineries in Florida employing Florida grapes (Bates, 1983). [The qualification "Florida grapes" is important, since there are wineries in state that have no interest in local or even regional grapes. They bulk in grapes, must, juice or even wine from other major wine producing states for all of their products. This is not Florida wine from Florida grapes, as grown and produced by Florida Farm Wineries!]

As part of his extension responsibilities and in cooperation with FGGA programs, **Bates** offered wine making workshops at various IFAS Centers. In parallel grape growers found a ready market for their grapes with hobby winemakers, and a few commercial wineries were established (Bates, 1983). It didn't stop there. Due to the attention paid to the improved bunch grapes and wine, the demand for fresh grapes increased and the existing and new U-pick operations expanded. These developments had quite a beneficial impact upon FGGA activities and membership.

B. Back to Tallahassee

Recall that back in 1931-33 "three men went to Tallahassee" to request support for the grape industry, resulting literally and figuratively in the industry's survival and progress that transpired from then until the late 1970s. Well, in 1977 some men and women went to Tallahassee and accomplished an equally impressive feat.

One woman started it. **Florence** and **Jack Hall** operated a U-pick vineyard in Lake Wales and were active in the FGGA. **Florence Hall** was elected the first woman President in 1977 and immediately focused on increasing the visibility of the FGGA. The first steps were requesting a grape survey, putting out a grape information brochure, and getting it out to prospective FGGA members and supporters (Hall, 1977a). She then worked diligently to get the FGGA admitted to the Florida Agricultural Council. This body represents the state's agriculture industry and meets with legislators, Commissioner of Agriculture, and the FDACS to promote Florida Agriculture and deal with issues affecting its viability (Hall, 1977b; AgBill, 1977). She persuaded influential legislators to support FGGA admission, updated FGGA ByLaws (FGGA, 1977), generated Articles of Incorporation (Hall, 1977c) to legitimize the Association, and demonstrated that grapes were an agricultural crop worthy of Council membership and state support. Fortuitously,

many of the records from **Hall's** tenure have survived; these are referenced here and included in the **Bibliography-Chronology** to illustrate her diligence and persistence.

Florence Hall used her boundless energy to address the fresh market needs of the industry. In cooperation with other Florida U-pick growers and those aware of the fresh market potential in Florida and Georgia, she organized and presided over an organizational meeting in Griffin, Georgia that brought growers with fresh marketing interest and experience together from a number of southern states (Hall, 1978a;Hall,1978d) The outcome was formation of the Southeast Grape Growers Association involving primarily grape growers from Florida and Georgia. The organization functioned effectively for a number of years providing a reliable fresh market for the members. [Details of this venture are being sought, since it is relevant today.]

Hall subsequently promoted a muscadine research agenda emphasizing the needs of Florida and southeast states (Hall, 1978b; Hall,1978c). Then, as the FGGA representative on the Ag Council, **Hall** addressed the need for greater research emphasis on grapes first by approaching a University of Florida IFAS administrator at an Agricultural Council meeting. He was not very helpful or communicative. In view of that unacceptable response, a group of proactive FGGA members, some with legislative connections and knowhow, set in motion some far reaching legislation.

Furthermore, Florida A & M University (FAMU) administration was much more receptive to FGGA needs than an unprepared IFAS administrator, so a research thrust was initiated. Through a special legislative appropriation the Viticulture and Small Farm Development Center was formed at FAMU in 1978. This effectively increased Florida grape research and extension (It must be noted that the IFAS scientists devoted to grape research totally supported FGGA desires and were working harmoniously with growers and vintners. The IFAS communication glitch was at the top.) Nevertheless, the Tallahassee approach certainly helped the grape community and brought additional resources to bear on industry needs.

As if essentially doubling grape research and enhancing grape visibility wasn't enough, **Hall** proceeded to initiate a vineyard survey and suggest research priorities. These were undertaken by UF, FAMU, and USDA investigators. Although the stage was set for grape industry support, there were myriad details and compromises to be worked out. **Florence Hall** was the prime mover in getting grapes on the legislators' radar screen, but the needed support was piecemeal for some time and things sometimes move very slowly in legislative halls, but the picture brightened somewhat.

The time was ripe. The enthusiasm of FGGA members was contagious. At grape meetings, in vineyards, and where ever grapes and wine were discussed the message that the Florida grape industry was on the move was clear. Thanks to vineyards near Tallahassee and FGGA members, **Doyle Conner**, Commissioner of Agriculture and even the Governor, **Rubin Askew** were well aware of this budding industry. The FGGA became quite active by exhibiting at the annual Legislator Appreciation Days. The attractive display featured vineyard photos, information and, of course, the wine display. The Florida wineries provided samples, so the booth was a very popular location for socializing and learning more about Florida grapes (Figures 48 - 50).

Figure 48. FGGA Exhibit at Legislator Appreciation Day (behind table **Clara Jane Smith** and **Mary Saunders)**

Figure 49. FGGA Wine and Juice Exhibit at Legislator Appreciation Day (**Harold Crevasse** in booth)

Figure 50. FGGA Wine and Juice Exhibit at Legislator Appreciation Day (**Mary Saunders** presiding)

C. The Viticulture Policy Act

It took time and considerable behind the scenes work by grape growers and their legislative supporters, but finally in 1984 the Viticulture Policy Act was signed into law. This was about 7 years after **Florence Hall** started her proactive grape campaign and it required intense efforts and patience by a number of FGGA Presidents, their capable Board of Directors, and grape industry representatives from wineries and vineyards.

The Act created the Viticulture Advisory Council (VAC) and stipulated the development of a statewide Viticulture Plan for submission to the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture. The first plan was developed by the initial VAC members – **Bill Smith**, Chairman and Fresh fruit representative; **Harold Crevasse**, Vice-chairman and Processed fruit rep; **Bill Doherty**, FGGA rep; **Jim Eckhart**, Agricultural Advisory Council rep; **Esmond Grosz**, nursery rep; **Joe Midulla** Winery rep; **Clifton Savoy**, FAMU; and **Jim Davidson**, UF/IFAS. Details of this well thought out plan, much of which is still pertinent today, were summarized by **Jim Eckhart** (FGGA Newsletter 12 1985).

Continuing funding support was anticipated from tax revenues on the state excise tax on wines from Florida agricultural crops. It's no great surprise that tax consideration drive most business decisions. Back in the 1970s, Florida had one of the highest state taxes on alcoholic beverages. An exception was made for alcoholic products from Florida agricultural products in 1979. Although this was a favorable situation for Florida wineries using Florida fruit, it opened the floodgates. It actually greatly benefited distillers, who could ferment and distill citrus molasses, a large volume byproduct of the citrus industry, to make neutral spirits, thus saving part of the $2.25 excise tax on in-state consumption. The resulting shortage of citrus molasses subsequently affected the cattle feed industry, where this byproduct is used to enhance the cohesiveness and palatability of citrus peel based feed.

By special appropriations, some of these tax monies ($0.05 of the $2.25 collected on each gallon of wine sold in Florida) were directed toward FGGA operations, grape industry promotions, and grape research support for both FAMU and UF. However, this tax bonanza was under attack, as California alcoholic beverage interests successfully contested Hawaii's similar tax break. Consequently, the Florida state tax waiver was deemed a restriction of interstate commerce and disallowed in 1988. It then looked like all the ambitious plans for funding grape industry

developments were for naught. Then, **John Holloway**, FGGA Board member proposed a clever, workable arrangement that saved the day, but it wasn't easy.

D. The Viticulture Trust Fund (VTF)

Working patiently with legislators the FGGA interests were able to develop a mechanism for utilizing a portion of that tax revenue collected on Florida wines to serve industry needs. Individuals who worked diligently to develop, structure, and oversee the initiative were: **Clara Jane** and **Bill Smith**, **John Holloway**, **Harold Crevasse**, **Joe Midulla**, **Bill Doherty, James F. Eckhart, Felicity Trueblood, Esmond Grosz, Jim Hammond, Clifton Savoy, Gary Ketchum, Jeanne Burgess**, **Mike Clark**, and others – all members of the VAC or FGGA Board of Directors. Essential guidance and moral support was also forthcoming from friends and colleagues of the above FGGA members who were familiar with legislative proceedings and policy. Clearly, the good will of the entire Florida Grape Community was needed and applied to good use.

Many states support their grape/wine industry with similar programs, since it is a cost effective way to promote in state business and ultimately increase tax revenue – generally a win-win situation. After much tweaking and focused effort by the entire Florida Grape Community, and interested legislators, it worked! The VAC, whose members are appointed by the Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, has the responsibility of setting priorities and administering these funds.

The VAC was well described in a FGGA Newsletter report by **Jeanne Burgess**, who served as Chair and/or active member for many years (Grape Times, December Pg.3 1992):

"The Viticulture Advisory Council is an advisory body to the Commissioner of Agriculture. It is charged with directing the positive growth of the viticulture industry and with administering the Viticulture Trust Fund. The legislature established the Trust to be funded from fifty percent of the excise taxes collected on wine produced by Florida manufacturers from Florida agricultural products. This fund is to be used for promotion and research to benefit Florida's viticulture industry."

E. Viticulture Trust Fund (VTF) and the Viticulture Advisory Counsil (VAC)

This was the origin of the Viticulture Trust Fund (VTF) with the VAC directed to administer it. The state tax collected on wine produced from Florida agricultural products (presumably mostly grapes) would go into a Viticulture Trust Fund, half of which would be made available to support research and promotion benefitting Florida farm wineries, vineyards, and grape growers. (Much of the background information cited was derived from FGGA President **Gary Ketchum's** Newsletter, November-December 1988.) As originally proposed the VTF was set to expire in five years – 1994. Fortunately, the dynamic progress of the grape industry and resulting economic benefits to the state led to a degree of permanence now in place. And grapes were now a visible crop and on the FDACS agenda – an essential supporter of all Florida Agriculture.

F. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

This is the largest state department of agriculture in the country with over 3,700 employees. FDACS has a broad and varied statutory mission in Florida that covers everything from food safety and forestry to consumer services and aquaculture. These are in addition, of course, to the plant and animal duties borne by most state departments of agriculture. Put another way, they

have a great deal of "boots on the ground" that can be activated quickly and efficiently to assist federal agencies during times of crisis.

The Marketing arm is well described in a number of FDACS and linked websites:
http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/about/history.html;
Florida Agricultural Promotion Campaign – “”Fresh from Florida”
http://www.florida-agriculture.com/marketing/fapc.htm
http://www.florida-agriculture.com/pubs/pubform/pdf/FAPC_Recruitment_Brochure.pdf
Downloaded Version
Marketing Florida Agriculture
http://www.florida-agriculture.com/pubs/pubform/pdf/Marketing_Services_Prospectus.pdf
Downloaded Version
Winery information
http://www.florida-agriculture.com/consumers/wineries.htm
http://www.floridatravelusa.com/articlespdf/sepoct08/079-081%20Wineries.pdf
Downloaded Version
Century Pioneer Family Farm Program (**Ashley Wood**, but no FGGA folks evident)
http://www.florida-agriculture.com/marketing/century_pioneers.htm
FGGA Site and Winery Directory http://www.fgga.org/
http://www.fgga.org/wineriesdirectory.html
Florida Winery Map
http://www.florida-agriculture.com/pubs/pubform/pdf/Florida_Wineries_And_Vineyards_Map.pdf
Downloaded Version

G. Small Acreage - Big Results

With the Viticulture Policy Act in place and a modest but reasonably reliable source of funding for grape projects the FGGA’s attention turned to setting priorities. One was enhancing the visibility of Florida grapes. When outsiders and even residents learn that quality grapes grow in state, they are often surprised and then intrigued. After sampling the fruit or products, many become regular consumers and/or enthusiastic supporters. FGGA membership consists of many persons who, after sampling grapes, decide to grow their own, make wine, or get involved in the Florida Grape Community. They have certainly enriched the Association and contributed impressively. However, it is first necessary to introduce potential enthusiasts to our grapes.

The first step was a comprehensive survey of Florida grape acreage – amount, location, end use, growers, and varieties bearing, planted, or planned, etc. Much of this information existed in a FAMU report (Savoy, 1977). However the situation changes rapidly and it is critical to continually update the statistics from season to season – a difficult task at best. An early use of VTF support was a survey compiled by the Florida Agricultural Statistics Service, published in 1990 (*1989 Florida Vineyard and Winery Report*). There were also plans for an FGGA Executive Director position to handle and coordinate the anticipated increased services.

However, nothing is easy or permanent regarding legislative funding. With changes in the state wine tax structure and vastly reduced revenues due to the wine coolers manufacturer switching from wine-based alcohol, the VTF receipts were greatly reduced. Thus, the position of FGGA

Executive Director was not initiated (FGGA Newsletter Nov 1989) although **Tom Hughes, Jr.** filled in admirably as Program Administrator. Nevertheless, important long term program initiatives were in place and the State Fair Wine Competition was established.

An especially valuable feature of the VAC – FDACS grant was the small vineyard initiation program operated by FAMU. Those wishing to put in a small vineyard and make the necessary commitment could obtain modest financial support and the services of professional FAMU viticulturists in setting up a vineyard.

FAMU Grape Demonstration Project: Free set up of a ¼ acre vineyard of selected muscadine grape cultivars. FAMU provided all the necessary materials for vineyard establishment including posts, trellis wire, irrigation tube, and grapevines etc. In addition, FAMU also provided technical support such as designing the vineyard, demonstrating how to put the post, trellis wire together, and planting. The participants would get the land ready and provide labor for the vineyard establishment. The project lasted 6-7 years, and a total of 94 demonstration blocks were established. (Notable results – information about vineyards still in existence, expansions, etc being sought.)

The importance of small vineyards cannot be over emphasized. We have seen some early examples worth recalling:

- Lost in time are those Floridians, Northern "Snowbirds", and retirees from the 1800s and early 1900s who, after viewing Florida vineyards, settled here and made long term grape commitments.
- Dr. **Charles Demko** from Missouri visited Florida in the early 1920s to attend an optometrist meeting in St. Petersburg. He saw grapes growing and, relating to his family vineyard in Missouri, started a vineyard, and eventually settled in Altoona.
- **Thomas J. Hughes, Sr.** as Editor of the *Florida Grower & Rancher* covered a Grape Field Day at the Leesburg Station in the early 1960s. **Tom** became a staunch supporter of the FGGA, opened Tom Hughes U-Pick Vineyard east of Tampa in 1967, and became FGGA President in 1972. Reflect upon how many visitors **Tom's** vineyard introduce to Florida grapes over the years.
- **Esmond and Malinda Grosz** operated a successful U-pick vineyard in Tennessee and moved to Florida in the early 1970s to initiate a large planting at Orange Lake. Their U-pick operation was instrumental in attracting visitors to grape growing. They weren't able to follow through with winery plans, yet the Grosz's involvement in wine research and FGGA administration had long- term, continuing industry benefits.
- **Rosa** and **Antonio Fiorelli** typify another approach where the business emphasis is a farm winery (Geraci, 2000). At Rosa Fiorelli Winery near Bradenton visitors are introduced to all aspects of viniculture, from vine propagation to finished wine. As active supporters of the FGGA and the Manatee County Chapter the Fiorelli's provide demonstrations on all aspects of grape growing and wine making; their operation serves the grape community well.

- We'll continue to survey existing and former grape growers to build this list.

There are a number of ways to popularize Florida Grapes and all are important. Some are traditional, having evolved with the FGGA. Others are the fairly recent result of the Viticulture Policy Act and FGGA program initiatives. These are:

1. Grape Field Days as sponsored by the research establishment – The University of Florida at the Leesburg Station routinely had a Bunch Grape Field Day each July when the bunch grapes ripened and a second one in August, Muscadine Field Day when the muscadines came in. That research vineyard no longer exists, but the operation is now at the Apopka Station. Similarly, the FAMU research facility and experimental vineyard near Tallahassee has initiated popular annual open house/vineyard events.
2. U-pick vineyards offer customers the opportunity to observe grapes on the vine, select their own fruit, and most importantly talk to the grower and other grape aficionados in the vineyard. These are friendly, sociable people whose enthusiasm for their crop is contagious. They'll talk about varieties, propagation techniques, and maybe even have a little wine around – or show you how to make your own.
3. Harvest Festivals are sponsored by individual wineries, private growers, and/or FGGA County Chapters. These events highlight grapes, grape products and the fascinating people involved and are fun, popular events that put Florida grapes in the headlines. Modest VAC grant support encourages sponsors to get people out in the vineyards.
4. The Annual FGGA Winter Conference likewise attracts attention. Although the vines are barren, then is the time for pruning and preparing for the next crop. Also, wine from the previous season is aging well and may be ready for sampling, so there is much to learn indoors and in the vineyard.
5. The Florida State Fair Commercial and Hobby Wine Competitions are extremely popular annual events that now attract over a thousand commercial entrants, several hundred hobby entries, and thousands of visitors to view the competition. The FGGA information booth at the fair, staffed by knowledgeable, enthusiastic FGGA members is also well attended.
6. Wine making workshops and hobby wine competitions serve as additional reminders of uses for local grapes.
7. Florida Farm Wineries are popular tourist (and resident) attractions. They are open year round and serve as a constant reminder of what can be done with Florida grapes (http://www.fgga.org/wineriesdirectory.html).
8. Promotional literature and recently information on the Internet can help make the general public aware that – "Yes, grapes do grow in Florida, they're a fine crop and you should sample our grapes and grape products, maybe put a few vines in yourself". In this regard the FDACS Marketing Division has an excellent campaign to introduce and popularize all Florida agricultural products. "Fresh from Florida" means a lot in quality and availability. In addition, through the VAC, in print or on line (http://www.fgga.org/index.html) is information on U-pick vineyards, nurseries for grape vines, and winery brochures. Unobtrusive highway signs in the vicinity of commercial vineyards and wineries are another helpful indication that travelers are in Florida Grape Country.

Although the VTF funds are modest, especially compared to that generated by major grape growing states, by careful project selection and execution, the promotional results have been impressive.

Promotion

There are three small vineyards, all in Putnam County that played a very big role in the viability of the FGGA over the last 3 decades. All were planted way before the VAC incentives were in place and served as effective "Grape Magnets" far beyond county lines.

The Putnam County Chapter of the FGGA was the first and it is still quite active. In fact, the County was a major center of grape expansion in both the 1890s and 1920s with considerable activity. A Chapter there was first mentioned in a NewsClip 3-22 1928 and later (FlaTimesUnion, 64 Jan27 Pg.6 1929; and Aug 19 Pg. 3). Of course there was no continuity, but from the late 1960s there were a number of vineyards initiated, including Meadomere Farms by **Felicity Trueblood** in Melrose, Comer Vineyards by **George Comer** in Grandin, and the **Sirvent's** vineyard in Florahome, followed around 2007 by Tangle Oaks Winery, Grandin and Log Cabin Winery in Satsuma around 2008.

The first was Meadowmere Farms, a 3 acre vineyard planted by **Felicity Trueblood** in 1976. She was close to vines while growing up in France and Chile, so grapes came naturally and Florida benefitted. Meadowmere, a popular U-pick designation in Melrose, was named after the family homestead in Scotland. Curiously, in the 1970s **Felicity** had to include cattle on her farm to qualify for farm zoning. Fortunately, stand-alone vineyards now qualify. **Felicity Trueblood** served as FGGA Secretary for many years and was instrumental in developing Harvest Festivals. These events are based on the social nature of community U-pick ventures where participants share knowledge on all aspects of grapes – varieties, cultivation, wine making, etc.

After the season **Felicity** held an informal annual wine tasting at her farm. The wine, together with superb music from local talent was an excellent venue for introducing locals to Florida grapes (Figures 51 & 52). Five people shown are or were intimately involved in Florida grapes, probably because of events as shown.

Figure 51. Meadowmere Farm get-together. (Front left, **Bob Thropp**, late proprietor of Log Cabin Vineyard and Winery, Satsuma; **Felicity Trueblood**; Back to, **John Sirvent**, proprietor Sirvent Vineyard, facing **George Comer**, late owner of former Comer Farms Vineyards and Nursery.

Figure 52. Meadowmere Farm get-together. (**George Comer** presiding)

Around the same time **George Comer**, a retired Marine put in a 3 acre muscadine U-pick vineyard in Grandin. George had a strong interest in wine and jellies and experimented intensively. Soon he was making very well regarded muscadine wines. As an active member of the FGGA, he championed wine workshops and was instrumental in organizing the Hobby section of the Florida State Fair Wine and Juice Competition. Through these competitions in Tampa, **George** influenced many attendees to turn to grapes and later helped the Highlands County FGGA Chapter get started.

The third Putnam County vineyard in Florahome is more recent, dating from 1990 and continues to attract people to grapes. **John** and **Lois Sirvent** have combined their three acre U-pick vineyard with a popular home wine and beer supply business – a very appropriate attraction where customers can get grapes and enology supplies. Just as important, visitors can get wine making advice (Figure 53). Over the years the number of winemakers (beer also) attracted by the **Sirvent's** enthusiasm have increased as well as the quality of the resulting winemaking efforts which is impressive and reflected in hobby competition awards (Promotional material).

Figure 53. Tasting, Sirvent's Vineyard

Based on the influence of these three small vineyards and the capable services of the committed proprietors, who typify the best in Florida grape growers, there are several new wineries in Putnam County and many customers are now FGGA members and either growing grapes or making wine and favorably inclined toward the crop.

Another recent illustrative example contributing to Florida grapes promotion has been the Highlands County Chapter of the FGGA. The Chapter evolved in 1997 from a Highlands County Master Gardeners class, taught by **Davis DeVoll**, County Horticulturist, attended by **Jerry Million** and **Don** and **Mary Johnson**. They were joined by another grape enthusiast, **Bob Walker.** These participants, most semi retired and grape knowledgeable were persuaded by **George Comer**, president of the Putnam County Chapter of the FGGA to form a County Chapter. The first meeting, October 1997 attracted 26 prospective members. Popular events, such as the 1998 seminar, "Growing and Marketing Muscadine Grapes", sponsored by the Highlands FGGA Chapter, attracted close to 100 participants After 10 years of activities, membership stood at about 150. Most were also active in FGGA events such as the Annual Meetings and State Fair Wine Competitions. Meetings consisted of practical grape cultivation and wine making/tasting workshops offered by specialists from the USDA, Florida A&M University, University of Florida, and Lakeridge Winery. Upon occasion experienced grape growers provided input and encouraged planting and visits to their vineyards. **George Comer** and **Bob** and **Bonnie Jeanne Paulish** in particular offered advice and their resources.

The establishment of Henscratch Farm and Vineyard in 1999 by **Joanne Lauchman** sparked the chapter and grape events in Highland County rapidly expanded with several more vineyards and the opening of the Henscratch Winery (Figure 54).

Figure 54. Promotional Information from Henscratch Farm

Semiretired is certainly a misnomer as applied to grape aficionados. In fact, many of the past and current Florida grape pioneers turned to grapes after prominent (often parallel with) careers in

other fields. These individuals contributed personal insights and diverse skills – entrepreneurial, business, management, computer, and most important leadership. The FGGA and the industry are much better for it.

Research

The other VAC funding thrust is research, a less visible, but no less important priority. Small grants to both UF and FAMU scientists are increasing the grape knowledge base. For example, the annual research results as reported in the Annual Meeting of the South East Regional – Information Exchange Group devoted to grapes (SERA-14 IEG) at: http://sera-ieg-14.tamu.edu/ indicate that Florida grape research is serving not only the state, but the entire South. Of course, even before the founding of the FGGA, since the early days of the State Agriculture Experiment system and USDA involvement in **Von Luttichau's** operation, the state and nation have supported viticulture research in Florida (FlaAgExpStaReport, Pg.11 1891; FlaStateHortSoc 18:60-62, 1905). The results are well reflected in the Bibliography.

H. The Romance of the Vine

Grapes and wine are inevitably linked, and have been since ancient times. In a pragmatic sense, grapes sell wine and wine sells grapes. The synergistic relation between fresh grapes and the most popular processed product is evident in U-pick vineyards. Customers often are picking to make wine, usually encouraged by the owner, who likely has enology experience and sometimes offerings. The FGGA has greatly benefitted from this relationship, which was most eloquently expressed by H.J. de Blij, 1987:

"The growing of grapes for the purpose of making wine involves terrains and tradition, climate and culture, experience and experiment. Viticulture is not simple another form of farming. As the ripening grape's sugar content and acid balance change, environmental hazards to the vintage intensify. Every harvest becomes an exercise in game theory in which timing is the key."

"Thus the creation of a superior wine is not merely a matter of harvesting the crop and packaging the product. It is a complex process that begins in the vineyard, continues in the winery, and concludes in the bottle. Such a wine can be one of civilization's highest achievements, a work of art as well as science; it is to the senses of smell and taste what painting is to the eye and music to the ear."

What successful vintner doesn't echo that sentiment? Nevertheless, there is a downside in the establishment of commercial wineries. It is a very challenging enterprise from a legal, economic, and business standpoint. "It's a damnsite easier to make good wine that it is to sell it, but the converse is unacceptable." (Bates, frequent citation). Many wine enthusiasts with good business sense and impressive accomplishments in other endeavors seem to throw caution to the wind when considering setting up a winery. A substantial part of advising such would-be winery owners is to dissuade them from pursuing the idea, or at least researching all aspects of the venture very, very carefully.

This is not just a local phenomenon, since diving head first into the wine business occurs frequently and everywhere that grapes are grown- and some places where they're not. As indicated, out of the five promising Florida wineries that started or expanded operations in the early 1980's (Bates, 1983), none are in existence today. Yet the industry progressed as others move in to take their place (Bates, et al, 1990). Not all experienced financial (Chapter 11)

difficulties, nor was the quality of the wine the failure factor. Distribution, sales, and the 24-7 routine were more to blame; several principals essentially withdrew for health reasons.

Sitting on your patio overlooking an attractive vineyard while sipping your finest wines with impressed visitors is the reward sought by all vintners, but that's very hard to earn. So it certainly isn't an easy business, yet those who survive and persevere, seem to be well rewarded. Currently there are about 17 Farm Wineries in Florida and a few more in the planning stage (FDACS, 2008). We hope that looking back a few decades hence will show that all these vintners entered cautiously and were amply rewarded for their optimism, perseverance, and efforts.

I. Vinifera Chauvinism

It is clear from earlier discourse that many early grape pioneers didn't think much of muscadines, Figure 28 (Husmann, 1883 pg 78) or even labrusca/hybrid bunch grapes. Speaking of wild bunch grapes - "But the fruit that they produce is often deficient in sugar, or high in acid, and sometimes full of strange flavors, so that the wine pressed from it is thin, unstable, sharp, and unpleasing—if drinkable at all. Wine from the unadulterated native grape is not wine at all by the standards of *Vitis vinifera* ." (Pinney, 1989 pg 6).

This is a continuing world-wide phenomenon, in part due to the exceptional quality of vinifera grapes and wines coming from successful growing regions. The several millennia cultivation and enological experience with that species didn't hurt either. Florida is an especially good training ground for vinifera aficionados. Newcomers are going to try anyway and old timers are waiting for the Holy Grail – that rugged vinifera, resistant to PD and all other Florida environmental challenges. (Fresh and wine quality vinifera varieties with the cultivation ease of the best rotundifolia.)

Unfortunately, there's a mindset among most wine connoisseurs that premium wine can only be made from Vitis vinifera. That "only" is not the case. With several thousand years of experience, vinifera has a head start, but as **Emil DuBois** showed over 100 years ago, and others continually demonstrate, highly acceptable wines can be produced from bunch hybrids and muscadines. A good example from the South is Virginia. More than any eastern state, Virginia has a climate suitable for many vitis species – far enough south to avoid severe cold and far enough north to avoid the hot humid summers (especially in the highlands). Vinifera, labrusca, hybrids, and muscadines do well there.

Nevertheless, in Virginia there was a Vinifera Wine Growers Association and an accompanying Vinifera Wine Growers Journal (now ceased publication) devoted exclusively to vinifera. Initially it was sacrilege to mention any other Vitis species. [This stance softened appreciably in time, before the journal ceased publication.] Similarly, one of the first 19th century wine pioneers in New York State wouldn't give any credence to non vinifera. Unfortunate, since 'Cayuga White' a hybrid developed at Cornell University can match most vinifera white wine. Both states can produce excellent wine more economically from hybrids – equal to their vinifera offerings.

In fairness to winemakers, customers often ask for common varietals and it's a real sales job to dissuade them. In fact, wineries in several southern states that do an impressive job with hybrids have taken the more technical and costly challenge of growing vinifera. Sadly, at the expense of

their successful hybrids which made at least as good, if not better wines. Nevertheless, the vinifera tradition prevails for sound business reasons

When, and it is inevitable, scientists at the Apopka Station and FAMU develop vinifera cultivars or cultivation procedures with satisfactory Pierce's disease resistance, quality attributes, and cultivation economics, the same may occur in Florida. Hopefully, not at the expense of those **Stover/Mortensen** non-vinifera hybrids and fine muscadine varieties that pulled the industry out of the 1930s doldrums. And not precluding the exciting potential of combining the inherent ruggedness of native wild grapes with the modern tools of the grape geneticist to rapidly screen and achieve superior bunch, even muscadine hybrids.

VIII. THE NEW MILLENNIUM

We're barely one decade into the New Millennium, so let's look back a hundred years to 1908. This was a very low point for Florida grapes, lower even than the nadir that occurred about 25 years later. At least in 1933 the groundwork for breeding successes was being established.

- The first Grape Euphoria had faded
- **Dubois** had left Florida, and other vocal supporters were silent
- County prohibition was increasing and the worst, National Prohibition, was yet to come
- The FSHS proceedings had neither a grape committee nor any grape reports
- Missing from the FSHS officers listing and membership roster were those viticulturists who reported so frequently and enthusiastically a few years earlier. [Only **W.C. Steele** and **H. von Luttichau** were still listed (FlaStateHortSoc Proc. 21:7-10, 1908), probably as practicing nurserymen and horticulturists with other fruit interests.]
- Munson's hybrids were a decade away from widespread distribution

Truly, grapes were in limbo.

Fast forward to 2008 – what hasn't changed?

- We now have a good (but not perfect) understanding of Vine Decline, aka Pierce's disease
- A number of promising varieties with PD resistance are available, with others in the pipeline
- Vineyard management practices are understood with viticulturist capable of improving and disseminating this information
- Means of eliminating, or at least managing other environmental threats to grapes exist
- A viable state association is devoted to promoting the grape industry - FGGA
- Two universities with a grape research and extension mandate are involved - UF and FAMU, with additional USDA support
- Through the Internet and advances in information technology, researchers now have practically instant access to grape findings on a global basis
- A Florida agriculture department with an effective marketing thrust involving grapes is at hand - FDACS
- A number of viable Farm Wineries utilizing and selling wine from Florida grapes are located statewide and garnering competition awards in and out of Florida

- The state and tourist population are favorably inclined toward local grapes and grape products
- Thanks to the Viticulture Policy Act, there are modest grape research and promotional funds and a system for prioritizing industry needs is in place – VTF via VAC
- Florida has many as yet unidentified potential grape enthusiasts, needing only information and encouragement to get them started growing and/or utilizing local grapes
- There is a grass roots movement to buy local instead of relying upon energy intensive transportation systems that tap the global food supply. This is not a fad and should certainly include grapes
- The phytochemicals in Florida grapes and wine, especially muscadines, have health benefits that are at least equal to other grape species

Over a century of change, that's an impressive list of favorable features. Thanks to the people we've identified as prime movers in the Florida Grape Community (and some we've neglected or been less successful in identifying or highlighting) the industry has come a long way. And there's a ways to go. Will grapes ever rival citrus? Hardly, and citrus is in decline as Florida becomes more and more an urban state with agriculture coming under environmental, regulatory, labor, land, and political pressure. The destruction of wild grape habitats has accelerated far beyond that which early viticulturists, who worried about that possibility, could ever have imagined.

So a combination of fresh and old challenges faces the Florida Grape Industry. Where do we go from here? Let's look to the past with an eye to the future.

IX. WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THE PAST - IS IT A PROLOG?

A. Lessons

First, Grape Euphoria works two ways. It, "The Romance of the Vine" gives grapes an advantage over practically all other food and industrial crops. It attracts talented people to grapes and instills them with remarkable enthusiasm and a strong commitment. When tempered by careful planning, patience, fortitude, focused efforts (hard work), and reasonable expectations, grapes folks can succeed. Otherwise, as the previous busts demonstrate the outcome can be sad, if not tragic. The grape business in Florida is not for wimps!

In fact, it must be a multi-generation endeavor. Many of the grape pioneers cited eventually ran out of time, with age and health considerations terminating their efforts. Even recently the momentum, provided by some prime movers within the FGGA, whose ideas and leadership set such good examples, has been lost when they were no longer around. Turnover is inevitable, and we'd best plan accordingly.

Consider the makeup of the current FGGA membership or Board of Directors. The average age is certainly over 60 and increasing. Two authors of this publication well exceed that, and a major reason for this treatise. It is very important that young folks with an enthusiasm and commitment to grapes be attracted to the field. It is no exaggeration that the past booms and busts could have been ameliorated (not necessarily eliminated) had there been a new generation cognizant of the

cultivation, marketing, and other stifling problems around to step in. Continuity is key, and required today as much as in the past.

We're amused by the fable of Ponce De Leon scouring Florida in search of "The Fountain of Youth", a biologically unachievable goal that violates the 2nd law of thermodynamics. Yet shouldn't any organization with an important mission that wishes to survive and thrive insure itself by doing the next best thing to drinking from that Fountain of Youth? Namely, devote continuing effort and resources to the next and future generationsof the Florida Grape Community (in our case).

There will be breakthroughs with advanced science and technology to combat grape cultivation issues, albeit no magic bullet to make grape growing "idiot proof" or even as comparatively straight forward as in prime vinifera country. Still, as we have seen in good times and bad, people are just as important. Where are these future Florida Grape Pioneers, and what can we do to attract and motivate them?

Based on the cited Florida grape history and the endeavors of past pioneers, here are a few suggestions:

1. Continuity of FGGA administration – One of the most dynamic and progressive periods of the FGGA occurred when **Florence Hall** was President and subsequently the Viticulture Policy Act was initiated. The FGGA members who came together at that time and shortly thereafter did an amazing job of attracting people and resources to grapes. The Viticulture Trust Fund (VTF) provided the incentive and set the stage for viable program that continue today – Harvest Festivals, planting incentives, research and promotion projects. Nevertheless, there was one proposed, but missing component.

Originally an FGGA Executive Director was proposed, but not initiated due to less than anticipated VTF funding. **John Holloway**, as President managed to obtain support for a part time Program Administrator. That person was **Tom Hughes, Jr.** who performed admirably in handling the Newsletter, Conferences, and State Fair Wine Competition for about 18 months. When Tom moved on, he left a legacy and gap that has not been completely filled, despite the good, capable services of later Presidents, Board of Directors, and volunteers.

The FGGA needs an Executive Director – someone (ideally full time) to work with elected FGGA Officers and volunteers. We owe a debt of gratitude to **Tom Hughes, Jr.** who set the standard for such a position. In the name of continuity and efficiency we feel that someone of Tom's caliber is essential, if the FGGA is to realize and continue the full potential of the Florida grape industry.

2. Continuity of research efforts – Where would we be today without the fore mentioned research? Clearly this is essential in good times and bad. As reflected in recent Southeast grape research reports, many Southern states have more going on than Florida (SERA-14 IEG http://sera-ieg-14.tamu.edu/ ; http://winegrapes.tamu.edu/resources/resources.html). Those FGGA folks who went to Tallahassee in 1931-33 and 1977 -89 accomplished much, yet there's much to do. If Florida seedless bunch and muscadine grapes or PD resistant vinifera are to be a reality, it'll most likely have to come from Florida scientists. Those impressive grape research

establishments elsewhere won't do it for us. Even dramatic breakthroughs will have to be "Florida-ized".

3. Continuity of extension and outreach – Hand-in-hand with research are dissemination of information and promotion of grape programs. It's a constant battle to enhance grape visibility and profitability. County extension agents have been national agents of change in agriculture for well over a century. Grapes in Florida have benefitted from the dedicated individuals mentioned previously. Whether they're supporting or leading programs, extension professionals are essential catalysts worth encouraging. It's important to note that extension works two ways. Agents provide information, but they and the research establishment also learn from progressive growers and hobbyists - that "open source" system at work.

4. Munson's $10 Prize – In 1882 **T.V. Munson** offered a $10 prize for the best quality wild grape for inclusion in his breeding program (Munson, 1909 pg 184). What a great idea! Although wild habitats have shrunk appreciably over the last century, surely wild grapes exist in Florida, perhaps now interbred with surviving failed introductions. Nature is always experimenting, so it behooves us to take advantage of it. Of course, $10 isn't much of an incentive now, yet some comparable incentive and popularization might be worth the effort, both in tangible findings and grape promotion.

5. Attractive local events – The activities of FGGA County Chapters wax and wane with the local leadership. We've seen what can be accomplished in Putman and Highlands Counties and by several wineries in grape focused Harvest Festivals or promotional events. Despite the less than ideal environment in a Florida vineyard during summer harvest, there are innovative ways of attracting the public and turning them on to Florida grapes. It's a never ending task, but worthy of the grape community.

6. Vine distribution – In 1955 the Orlando Sentinel, in cooperation with the Leesburg Station and local growers, sponsored a program to provide the newly released and PD resistant 'Lake Emerald' vines and planting instructions to the public at cost (Orlando Sentinel 1955). The 14,000 vines at $1.00 apiece sold out rapidly. Could a similar program be initiated to accompany the release of new or highly popular varieties now? Even one vine well cared for in an urban back yard counts as a grape grower – remember "The Romance of the Vine".

7. Balance wine and fresh grape promotion – Since well before Prohibition there has been conflict between grapes and wine, and there always will be, depending upon the life style of those involved. Grapes are a versatile crop with many uses, with wine being only one. Since the VTF is generated by the tax on Florida wines, it is natural that the wineries have a claim on these funds, but not at the exclusion of fresh market, U-pick, or other interests. Our philosophy "Grapes sell wine and wine sells grapes" leaves plenty of room for individual choice. It must be a win-win situation; a healthy industry demands it.

8. Buy locally and healthily – The present trend in food consumption favors sustainability and a new term, "Locavore" is in vogue. This means buying and consuming locally grown crops for economic and environmental reasons. Farmers markets and local growers see an appreciable increase in sales, even from nearby urban dwellers for whom agriculture is a foreign yet

appealing concept. This is not a fad and the FGGA should be proactively involved and cognizant of the attendant food safety and legal implications. In addition, grapes and wine are now recognized as having health benefits that go far beyond basic nutrition (Pezzuto, 2008). This is particularly the case with red, purple, or black colored grapes, and especially black and even a few bronze colored muscadine grape cultivars whose desirable phytochemical profile is exceptionally high in the compound ellagic acid (Lee and Talcott, 2004) and its various precursors (Lee at al., 2005). Ellagic acid is present in many common and exotic foods such as raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, pomegranates, and several types of nuts. Ellagic acid has been identified as one of several important compounds in muscadine grapes that may potentially help to prevent cancer, coronary heart disease, and inflammation (Mertens-Talcott et al., 2006) and makes becoming a locavore by muscadine grape consumption a welcomed advantage.

9. Keep the FGGA viable – Since it was founded between1916 to1923, (take your pick of the actual year) membership has varied from around 100 to over 300. While quality is more important than quantity, numbers and involvement drive programs, so member recruitment and retention are always issues. The newsletters on an annual basis remind readers to renew membership – it's a never ending task. The Internet make dialog with members and potential members both easier and more difficult, as anyone inundated by e-mail can attest. That "Fountain of Youth" doesn't exist. Attracting new blood, especially committed young folks to viticulture, encouraging their efforts, and maintaining enthusiasm is the closest alternative. How do we do it? We hope these cited examples from the past will help.

B. The 30 Year Itch

It certainly wasn't evident when we initiated this article, or even during the final organization and editing. But by now there seems to be a curious trend in the ups and downs of grapes in Florida occurring at approximately 30 year intervals. As noted, the first Grape Euphoria centered about the mid 1890s, the second around mid 1920s. We detect a third in the mid 1950s after the release of 'Lake Emerald'. The fourth was mid 1980s as wineries expanded.

Each peak was followed by a downturn that lasted about a decade before grape interest perked up. The dip was devastating in the late 1890s and 1920s, but less so in the 1950s and 1980s, but does it take a stretch of imagination to suggest that it occurred? With **Stover**'s release of 'Lake Emerald'in 1954, Florida finally had a PD resistant bunch grape, with more in succession. This was not a fluke, since 'Lake Emerald' vines have been shown to survive 30 years. None of the **Stover-Mortensen** releases are nearly as hardy as muscadines. **Rolfs** was right – it takes exceptional care to keep them going, and only the most astute patient, viticulturist (and there are some) will persevere (Rofls, 1935). Florida bunch hybrid grapes are also a more costly proposition than muscadine growing, roughly twice the cultivation expense. Yet, those new releases didn't explode and result in the predicted large industry – just as dooryard vines and small commercial and experimental plantings. But, as in the 1940s, critical backstopping efforts at public and private institutions were underway.

New and high quality varieties continued to be developed at Leesburg and wine research and workshops provided incentive for a new generation of viticulturists and enologists. Then it happened again. By the mid 1980s there were a number of bunch and muscadine based vineyards and wineries on the scene – enough so that **Leon Adams** visited Florida and wrote favorably

about them in his 3rd Edition, *Wines of America*, 1985. The endeavors of FGGA members were successful, as reflected with the Viticulture Policy Act in place and Viticulture Trust Funds available.

About that time the existing wineries were experiencing financial difficulty. Most were out of business, not due to wine quality or vine decline, simply because of work overload and sales issues. Promising, viable fresh market options, primarily with muscadines were just getting off the ground, but also suffered due to distribution difficulties and high expenses. [Cultivation costs are substantially lower in neighboring southern states with larger vineyards, lower land costs, and less severe climate-induced stress.]

So where are we now; and is a peak due around 2015? Certainly, there is a build up of adequate (not ideal) bunch and muscadine varieties. Scientists at both UF and FAMU are making progress on variety development, cultivation problems, and grape molecular biology. Surviving and new wineries are doing OK, and the VTF provides some funding for promotion and research. However, the current global financial crisis doesn't promote short-term optimism. As we view that 30 year cycle, at least since 1950 the downturn has been relatively modest. Let's see what develops during the next decade.

Postscript

OK, this brings us to a pause, certainly not the end in Florida' fascinating grape history; much is ahead to be written by others. It will be interesting times – We invite you to add to this story!

[Information and details are being solicited from FGGA members and their relatives in order to allow us to fill in gaps and extend this text to the present – and keep it current.]

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Truskett, E. E. 1988. History of the Grape Industry in Lake County, pp123-127. In "History of Lake County, Florida: Narrative and Biographical. Ed. Wm. T. Kennedy. Tavares, FL: Lake County Historical Society, 1988.

University of California, Riverside, Accessed 2008.The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter.

USDA, 2007. America's First Grape: The Muscadine. http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/nov97/musc1197.htm

Vine, R.P. 1981. Commercial winemaking, processing and controls. Avi Publ. Co. Westport, CT.

Wood, J.A. 1970. Our French Heritage. Lewis State Bank, Tallahassee.

TimeLine

Prehistory – Not much information except generalities

1500s

As derived from available publications

Pre Colonization – The History of Florida Agriculture: The Early Era. (Cresap, 1982. Chapter 1. Indian Agriculture) Excellent overview of Florida agriculture developments – grapes not mentioned anywhere.

A treatise on the location of Ft. Caroline, site of the Huguenot massacre, indentified as St. John's bluff and characterized by abundant wild grapes (Fairbanks, 1868 pg 32, 35).

A quote from the Fort Caroline narrative in 1564 indicates the intent to utilize the wild grapes for wine – (Florida Historical Quarterly: 41(3)279-280 Jan. 1963).

1600s and 1700s

Colonial Times – Cresap, 1982. Chapter 2. Early Colonial Agriculture to 1763 and Chapter 3. Early Colonial Agriculture to 1821. Time period covered well, no mention of grapes.

Evidence of planted grape vine arbors from around the 1640s were found at the ruins of the San Luis mission in what is now Tallahassee are mentioned in the following four citations: Florida Historical Quarterly: 6(2)116 Oct. 1927. ; Florida Historical Quarterly: 4(1)19 July, 1925; Florida Historical Quarterly: 17(4)266,268 April 1939 ; and Bettinger, 2009 . It is unclear if surviving vines were found.
FlaHistQuarterly: 23(1)13, July 1944- A description of the persistent and ultimately futile colonization efforts of **Denys Rolle** mentions grape plantings at Rollestown (abandoned – situated above present Palatka on the St. Johns River) around 1765.
Fairbanks, 1868 pg 96- Grape arbors noted in St. Augustine ~1769
FlaHistQuarterly: 64(2)176 Oct. 1985- William Bartram, noted naturalist and explorer, visited Francis Philip Fatio's Switzerland FL plantation in 1774 and mentioned a European grape vineyard.
FlaHistQuarterly: 65(2)151,161 Oct. 1986-Wine and local grapes were part of the hospital rations in a St. Augustine hospital during the Spanish epoch 1783-1821.

The 1800s

As derived from available publications

1824-1831

Marquis de Lafayette awarded a land grant around Tallahassee by Monroe's Congress in 1824. His designated French farmers migrated in 1831 and attempted grapes, among other crops. Efforts failed, although some French settlers remained in the area. (Sharyn Thompson's draft to Jeanne Burgess, March 5, 1987; Paisley, 1968; Alvers and Mahaffey, 1995).

1830

FlaHistQuarterly: 21(3)240 Jan. 1943- **George J.F. Clarke**, prominent settler and land owner of St. Augustine, promoted grapes around 1830.
FlaHistQuarterly: 67(2)155 Oct 1988- In the 1830s near Arcadia, **Timothy Twitchell**, a settler from New Hampshire, was raising grapes [presumably muscadines].

1837

FlaHistQuarterly: 61(2)165 Oct. 1982- Bromme, a German professional traveler, mentioned grapes growing around Pensacola and Tallahassee.

1845

FlaHistQuarterly: 61(2)314 Oct. 1982- **Caleb Lyndon Brayton** had high hopes for grapes around what is now Ft. Pierce around 1845 as described in his correspondence. Trials and tribulations of this early pioneer dealt with hostile natives, as well as his own poor health.

1860

FlaDispatch 1(48) May1, 1860- indicates the poor condition of many accessed microfilmed material.

1868

Fairbanks, 1868 pg 32, 35- A treatise on the location of Ft. Caroline, site of the Huguenot massacre, indentified as St. John's bluff and characterized by abundant wild grapes.
ibid pg 96- Grape arbors noted in St. Augustine ~1769.

1871

John A. Craig & **John Bradford** experimented with and sold Concord vines near Tallahassee (Paisley, 1968 pp 49-51).

1873-74

FlaHistQuarterly: 56(3)329, 336, 338 Jan 1978- An article dealing with **Malachi Martin's** carpetbagging exploits describes his grape and wine endeavors from 1873 (possibly earlier) until his death in 1884.

Paisley, 1968 pp 49-51- **Col. Malachi Martin,** Chattahoochee prison warden reported on successful sales of Scuppernong wine on 160 acres in Mt. Pleasant, Gadsden County. **Martin** is mentioned in the **PeopleLine** [due to his notoriety, not his wine].

1875

Semi-Tropical 1:18-20, 1875. In an article "The Vineyard in Middle Florida", **Jno. A. Craig**, Tallahassee spoke highly of his experience with some labrusca varieties. He provided cultivation suggestions, called Florida "The Italy of America", and closed with a poem.

Semi-Tropical 1:23-28, 1875. A discourse was given on the Florida potential of some crops, including grapes. **Col. Martin** was selling scuppernong wine at $2.25/gallon and making $1,000/acre. **E.H. Mason** and **A.I. Bidwell**, Duval County and **W.K. Cessna**, Alachua County confirmed his view. **Bidwell** indicated that his bunch grape, 'Hartford Prolific' was making $400/acre and other non muscadine valued at $300/acre.

Semi-Tropical 1:203-206, 1875. A.L. Eichelberger lauds wine with a brief history, promotes his, and describes in glowing terms his muscadine vineyard.[Later described as in Idlewild Grove, Marion County, near Lake Panasoffskee.]

1876

Florida Dispatch 1(5) May 8, 1876. **Bidwell** was mentioned as active in Florida Agricultural and Fruit Grower's Association. He was later identified with grape growing, but more prominently as a peach breeder.

1877

[There were only scattered issues of the *Florida Dispatch* available on microfilm through 1881, when more, but still incomplete volumes and issues are available on line. See:
The Florida Heritage Collection

FlaDispatch 2(1)3, 1877. Railroad map of Eastern U.S. Lines show line was only in North Florida – Fernandina and Jacksonville to Cedar Key.

FlaDispatch 2(14)1. 9/19/1877. Essay on "Fruit Growing" by Col. **H.M. Sims**, Columbia, S.C. urging horticultural enterprises, including grapes, cited GA Hort. Soc. Recommendations for grapes in certain regions of GA – not FL.

FlaDispatch 2(15)4, 1877. Two year old scuppernong rootlets offered for $8/100 in Valdosta – "recommended for any region of Florida".

FlaDispatch 2(22)2, 1877. Poor results with foreign grapes (vinifera, even crosses) was cited in the East (*Practical Farmer,* Florida not mentioned). Only 'Concord' did well and no green varieties were available.

FlaDispatch 2(23)1, 1877. Wine developments in Europe cited and California forecasted to be nation's best wine region. *Wine and Fruit Reporter*

FlaDispatch 2(25)1,2,4, 1877. Items – Ohio grape prices; New York - brewers cooling machine – replaces ice; Vine pruning.
FlaDispatch 2(26)1, 1877. Alabama article on promoting and growing scuppernong cited.

1878

T.V. Munson initiated his plantings in Denison, TX "*Foundations of American Grape Culture*" p. 52,109,127.
FlaDispatch 3(11)2, 1878. Scuppernong was promoted in an article mentioning a vine grown on Captain **Petersen**'s place at Bayou Chico and **Dansby**'s place, western suburb of Pensacola.
FlaDispatch 3(12)2, 1878. Cites Ocala Banner article - **A.L. Eishenberger,** "Horticultural Prince of Marion County" wa**s** growing fine citrus and scuppernong grapes around Lake Panasoffskee – mentioned also as ideal for tropical fruits.
FlaDispatch 3(28)1, 1878. **C.F. Quina**, Pensacola growing purple grapes and hybrids.
FlaDispatch 2(35), 1878. California fruit industry, including grapes described
FlaDispatch 2(36)4, 1878. Two Florida Agricultural Societies listed; Vegetarian article.
FlaDispatch 2(36)1, 1878. Listed Florida Fruit Growers Association Constitution and 3rd Annual Meeting Proceedings – **A.I. Bidwell** chaired. **Kenworthy** reported on grapes **Bidwell, Reid, White, Barnett** contributed. Meeting format & committees were similar to FSHS, founded 10 years later. Wine production quote suggest great U.S. potential – U.S. = 14,000,000 gal and France = 1,176,000,000 gal.
FlaDispatch 2(39)1, 1878. Lists many seedsmen – none from the South.
FlaDispatch 2(49)1, 1878. List of 9 FL Ag Societies & Better RR map.

1879

FlaDispatch 3(29)2, 1879. **N. Woodworth**, Welaka cautions growing bunch grapes on their own roots and provides suggestions to prevent phylloxera. Suggests grafting on muscadine -??
FlaDispatch 3(52)2, 1879. Proceeding of the Florida Fruit Growers Semi-annual Meeting, June 4-5, no grape business, but **Bidwell**, **Manville**, and others were involved in organizing procedures for State Fairs.
FlaDispatch 4(7)2, 1879. Dispatch Editor was sent samples of quality grapes from the Indian River Agricultural and Horticultural Society and another offering from **M. Martin**, Mount Pleasant. An associated promotional article cited Merritt's Island as being the "Italy of America" for grapes and other fruits.
FlaDispatch 4(10)2, 1879. Note on scuppernong wine making from Georgia. **Wm. P. Browne**, Chairman reported that the Indian River Agricultural and Pomological Society met at Rev. **J.H. White's** Merritt's Island vineyard to view his grapes and pineapple and **form a committee on grapes**. **White** brought vine stock from Tennessee 4 years ago (~1875) and now had 400 vines of 32 varieties, mostly Roger's varieties and planted 1500 cuttings. **Allen,** nearby also had equally good success.
FlaDispatch 4(17)3, 1879. Ag societies list & RR map. **NW** suggested grafting and cold protection techniques.
FlaDispatch 4(21)1, 1879. Controversy about grapes around Tallahassee by "**Leon**". Ag Societies listed.
FlaDispatch 4(23)2, 1879. **J.C. Player** defends grapes and wine – response to "**French**", as above.
FlaDispatch 4(24)2, 1879. "**Florida**" defends state and scuppernong versa comments by "**Leon**".

FlaDispatch 4(26)2, 1879. More above controversy. **James H. White** clarifies details regarding his "Island Home" plantings, noted in (FlaDispatch 4(10)2, 1879). Also, Fruit and vegetable growers met June 2, 1879.

1880

FlaDispatch 4(39)1, 1880. **Pelargus**, Eau Gallie reported favorably on 1 year cuttings from California; he is grafting on 'Bullace'. There is a graphic description of Italian winemaking.

1881

FlaDispatch 6(8)1, 1881. **C.J. Kenworthy**, Jacksonville responds aggressively to **James H. White's** correspondence/accusations regarding Florida climate, etc.?
FlaDispatch 6(28)1, 1881. The *Bartow Informant* suggests scuppernong wine and vinegar as a good business for Polk County, citing **J.S. North's** experience in Welaka.

1882

FlaDispatch 1(1)12, 1882 (New Series). A table listed U.S. acreage and volume devoted to wine. Florida had 83 acres and 11,180 gallons, in contrast to California's 33,000 acres and 14,000,000 gallons – 2/3rds of U.S. production. [Assuming all reported acreage was wine grapes, that's ~132 gallons/acre for Florida and ~424 for California – not very competitive.]
FlaDispatch1(1)13, 1882**. Arnold Puetz**, Jacksonville advertised potted vines of Black Hamburg and White Sweetwater for 25 cents each.
FlaDispatch 1(5)80, 1882. **Arnold Puetz**, Jacksonville advertised potted vines of Black Hamburg and White Sweetwater for 40 cents each. [After 4 months growth, plants were worth 15 cents more.]
FlaDispatch 1(7)106, 1882. Glowing report of Middle Florida's (Tallahassee & Leon County) bountiful mentions many flourishing crops, including grapes.
FlaDispatch 1(7)108, 1882. Mention of the dynamic growth of the California grape industry – table, raisins, but primarily wine.
FlaDispatch 1(10)154, 1882. A listing of Agricultural, Horticultural, and Pomological Associations numbered 26, mostly in Florida, several in Georgia.
FlaDispatch 1(15)229, 1882. **Bidwell** was mentioned as a citrus expert also.
FlaDispatch 1(18)276, 1882. **J.H Norton**, Jacksonville insurance agent, growing citrus and also labrusca grapes without Phylloxera problems and making wine.
FlaDispatch 1(22)338, 1882. A section entitled, "The Vineyard", had a chapter on Californian wines mentioning their increasing quality, but still inferior to French offerings.
FlaDispatch 1(29)447, 1882. Eleven North Florida counties report good scuppernong yields.
FlaDispatch 1(29)452, 1882. "A very good claret" from North Carolina scuppernong cited as indicative of that state's potential; wine recipe given.
FlaDispatch 1(31)483, 1882. Vine training advice.
FlaDispatch 1(38)593, 1882. Wine judging competition awards table.
FlaDispatch 1(38)595, 1882. **D.S. Chase**, South Lake Weir grape letter
FlaDispatch 1(38)591, 1882. **D.S. Chase** of South Lake Weir sent a grape sample to the Dispatch publisher and provided a glowing report on his 3rd crop indicating success with both vinifera and labrusca grafted onto native rootstock.

E. DuBois came to Tallahassee to grow grapes and make wine, bought part of Andalusian Plantation from partners **John A. Craig** & **John Bradford**, then bought San Luis Mission fort for Chateau San Luis west of Tallahassee. By 1889 he was producing 4,000 gal at San Luis Vineyard, aka Chateau San Luis or San Luis and Andalusia Vineyards. **DuBois** also operated Florida Brandy Distilling Company. All these ventures petered out by 1904 with Leon County prohibition (Paisley, 1968 pp 49-51).

T.K. Godbey settled in Waldo, bought property from **Rogers** containing grapes. Wasps ruined grapes in 1889, so he turned to other crops. He later built holdings to 1,000 acres, specializing in flowers and fruits, and said to have planted the first vineyard in Florida? [Definitely not – literary license!] (Buchholz, 1929 pp179 & 343)

1883

George Husmann of Napa, CA published his New and Enlarged Edition, "*American Grape Growing and Wine Making: With Several Added Chapters on the Grape Industries of California"*. Although **Husmann** didn't mention Florida, his opinion regarding Vitis rotundifolia and the Mustang of Texas were less than favorable! (Figure 28) Later, his son, **George C. Husmann** was involved in Florida grape developments as a USDA viticulturist from about 1899 (FlaStateHortSoc 14:82, 1901) until at least 1929 (FlaStateHortSoc 42:83, 1929). (Pinney, 1989)

There was a gap in the on line availability of *Florida Dispatch* issues from Volume I, issue 44 until Volume VII, issue 11, 1887. Some (scattered issues) are available on microfilm – reproduced as such.
FlaDispatch 2(4)69, 1883. **W.S. Hart's** exhibited honey at State Fair. He also grew grapes.
FlaDispatch 2(4)70, 1883. **Parrish**, Orange City grafting vinifera successfully on wild rootstock, but **J.C. Thorpe,** Orange City with vinifera on own roots were failing.
FlaDispatch 2(6)105, 1883, Mar 5- Depiction of State Fair included wine bottles.
FlaDispatch 2(6)110, 1883. Proceedings of Florida Fruit Growers' Association at State Fair, Tampa. The FFGA supported the Regent's intent to establish a State Agricultural College. Changed name to the Florida Fruit Growers and Agricultural Association.
FlaDispatch 2(8)145, 1883. Huge vine from Cochin, China described as suitable for fruit and wine in U.S., *San Francisco Bulletin*.
FlaDispatch 2(9)170, 1883. Bee keepers in New Smyrna mentioned.
FlaDispatch 2(23)404, 1883. Question by **E.T. Robinson,** Yalaha, Lake Harris answered on grafting scuppernong to vinifera or wild grape. [Answer only partially correct - wild grape, yes; muscadine, much more difficult, see Dunstan, 1962.]
FlaDispatch 1(41)645, 1883. An article sings the praises of California as grape paradise, rivaling Europe.
FlaDispatch 2(43)722, 1883. **Jas. H. White** mentions grape prices and reflects on those obtained for pineapple.

1884

FlaDispatch 3(19)362, 1884. Railroad Gainesville to Live Oak opened.

1885

FlaDispatch 4(1)9, 1885. Niagara vines from Fredonia, NY advertised.

FlaDispatch 4(13)271, 1885. Rev **Jas. A White**, Merritt's Island writes treatise on pine-apple [sic.]. He was as optimistic about pineapple as he was with grapes.
FlaDispatch 4(14)290, 1885. **White** continues on pineapple in issues 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 50, 51, and Volume 5, issue 3.
FlaDispatch 4(20)407, 1885. Grape vine ads placed by **Aaron Warr**, Georgetown and others. Ads also placed in other issues.
FlaDispatch 4(22)429, 1885. **Steele**, Switzerland, FL reports growing healthy northern grapes (labrusca).
FlaDispatch 4(28)527, 1885. In response to **Steele**, **E.K.T**. reports similar success with northern grapes. Editor remarked that reports of good growth are invariably followed by vine die off after several years.
FlaDispatch 4(28)530-1, 1885. **B.F. Livingston**, Waldo lamented on poor citrus stock being offered.
FlaDispatch 4(29)549, 1885. **A.I. Bidwell** cited as an eminent horticulturist and nurseryman. He owned the Arlington Nurseries in Jacksonville and then moved to a 160 acre farm near Orlando in 1882 to concentrate on tropicals. The *Orlando Reporter* recommended his nursery stock. [Try concentrating on tropicals in Orlando now!]
FlaDispatch 4(36)662, 1885. **A.F. Styles**, Orange Bluff Groves, Duval County cited for quality citrus; he also grew muscadines.
FlaDispatch 4(40)733, 1885. Vine Ad San Mateo.
FlaDispatch 4(40)733, 1885. A description of champagne making in California suggests doing the same with scuppernong.
FlaDispatch 4(45)804-5, 1885. California article mentions making "unfermented wine" – pasteurized or concentrated juice – with prohibition sentiments.
FlaDispatch 4(52)924, 1885. **C.J. Kenworthy** expounds on pear blight and its microbial nature. He wished that the Agricultural College would devote efforts to fruit insect and fungal problems.
FlaStateArchives, 1885. (Figure 12) Good photo of harvest time at the San Luis Vineyards. Note shotgun –was this protecting against birds or humans?

1886

FlaDispatch5(20)345-6, 1886. Article describes vineyards and wineries in Georgia and South Carolina, citing great potential. Vine and wine section contains articles on cultivating scuppernong, the California 1885 vintage, scuppernong wine, bogus raspberry wine. A letter from **T.V. Munson** mentioned a new species of grape discovered in Florida by **Halsey** around 1830 and rediscovered by **J. H. Simpson**, Manatee, who **Munson** called "an excellent amateur botanist". **Munson** classified it as distinct from V. rotundifolia and designated it V. Simpsoni in honor of **J. H. Simpson.**
FlaDispatch 5(24)416, 1886. **A.I. Bidwell**, Orlando nurseryman was vice president of the Florida section of the American Association of Nurserymen which met in D.C.
FlaDispatch 5(25)427, 1886. Rev**. J.P. DePass,** mentioned as "a well known peach grower in Archer" comments on peaches. He was the first Director of the Agriculture Experiment Station. The Bidwell peach, developed by **Bidwell** at his Arlington Nursery, Jacksonville, was being grown around Orlando (p. 443).
FlaDispatch Volume 5 had a number of communications by **Steele, Mott, Hart, Armstrong**, **White**, and **Bidwell** pertaining to other crops and farming practices.

FlaDispatch 5(31)524-5, 1886. **J.H. White** had an extensive article on Livestock – he was into many farming pursuits. Fairfield Nurseries, San Mateo, **O.R. Thatcher** had an ad for grape vines, pg. 530.
FlaDispatch 5(32)538, 1886. **W.C. Steele**, Switzerland, FL, suggested Floridians procure seeds of grapes and raspberries from northern growers and plant them. He indicated raspberries as also potentially lucrative and gave planting instructions for both, pg. 540. **Jas.H. White**, Island Home wrote on poultry also, cited as "an experienced Florida poultry raiser", pg.544. **H. Von Littichau**, Waldo corrected a news item regarding variety shipped north. It was a nameless seedling from his home in Germany (location not mentioned) and brought 30 cent/lb net from **Marx Bros**. in Jacksonville. He felt that shipping rate of $3.75/100 quarts to Philadelphia was excessive. Manatee Advocate cites Rev. **Lee** growing a wild vine that "beats scuppernong as far as the 'Concord' does the 'Delaware'".

FlaDispatch 5(33)554, 1886. **James Mott**, Orlando cites his experience with peaches in Minnesota and Florida. **W.C. Steele**, after another year, reaffirms his success with labrusca, pg. 555. An interview with **G.W. Livingston**, a progressive fruit grower in Waldo He was doing well with labrusca and cited other growers – **Renault**, Waldo and Col. **Roper**, Gainesville as also having good results, pg. 556. An item, "What to plant in Florida" elicited comment from **Herman Jaeger**, Missouri to stick with scuppernong or Southern aestivalis, but do site specific experimentation. He mentioned **Munson**'s classifications as useful. [Munson's hybrids were under development at this time.]
Anonymous articles mentioned 'Norton' aka. 'Cynthiana' as being the best American wine grape – American Burgundy, and recommended for Florida. Directions for dealing with grape mildew were given by **Norman S. Coleman**, U.S. Commerce Dept. Several notes – About 1,000 varieties now grow in Europe from Vitis vinifera, originally from wild stock- the same should be attempted with native Florida stock. Over the last 6 years wine production in France has fallen dramatically. Madeira wines could be replaced by 'Scuppernong', pg.560. **W.C. Steele** complained about high shipping rates and growers (of fruit in general) undercutting each other.
FlaDispatch 5(35)589-90, 1886. An article, under the byline Wine and Fruit Grower, provided a detailed method for making Scuppernong wine. **H.L. Wheatley**, Altamonte described his post system and **W. C. Steele** commented on stakes vs. trellises for vine training. 'Scuppernong' was defended as a wine grape. **DuBois** provided an update on his expanding vineyards and winery operation in Tallahassee. He stated that one could do as well on well drained land anywhere in Florida.
FlaDispatch 5(36)611, 1886. Vine ads – 100 varieties from Fredonia, NY. pg 612. Shell Pond Nurseries, Archer offering many plants, probably grapes also by **Jas. P. DePass.**
FlaDispatch 5(38)635-6, 1886. A description was given of grafting on wild rootstock. An article from the *Floridian* describes **DuBois**' operation and compares it favorably to a vineyard in France. Waldo mentioned as a promising grape center.

1887

Florida Farmer and Fruit Grower 1(29)227, 1887. Contained ads for **DuBois**' San Luis and Andalusia Nursery vines and wine.
Florida Farmer and Fruit Grower 1(29)229, 1887. Scuppernong jelly, jam and wine recipes.

FlaDispatch 7(11)241, 1887. A number of ads (pages 234, 235, 252) mentioned grapes - **A.H. Manville** & Co. of Lakeland and Drayton Island, Putman County featured "Fruit Trees, Vines,

and Plants adapted to the climate of Florida, including…..”; “Hammond’s Grape Dust Kills Mildew” from Fishkill, NY.; Fairview Nursery, managed by **O.R. Thatcher** at San Mateo offered citrus and many fruits, including grapes, as did Georgetown Nurseries, Georgetown, Valrico Nurseries and Bay View Nurseries, Hillsborough County, Sunset Hill Nurseries, Indian River, Deer Island Gardens and Nurseries, Oakland, Lakeland Nursery Co., **Manville** Nursery Co., Crescent City, and Glen St. Mary Nurseries. Even Georgia nurseries mentioned grapes, in one case, “specially adapted to Florida”. A like number of ads promoting citrus implied the availability of many other fruit plants, probably including grapes.
Baron **H. Von Luttichau** of Earleton was quoted in the “Vineyard” section as indicating that vinifera could be grown, under careful cultivation and management practices. Following was a communication by **W.C. Steele**, Switzerland, FL regarding ‘Ives’ and ‘Perkins’ grapes in response to **E. DuBois** of Tallahassee’s grape variety recommendations. Apparently, there was strong disagreement between these gentlemen.
FlaDispatch 7(13)278, 1887. **H.E. VanDeman**, Chief USDA Division of Pomology lauds fruit growers, insults Spaniards and Italians, promises support, but questions grape cultivar choices of ‘Ives’ and ‘Perkins’ over better labrusca and vinifera. **Jas. N. Marshall**, DeFuniak Springs (?), encourages diverse plantings, including grapes.
FlaDispatch 7(13)279-80, 1887. **J. Leahman**, South Lake Weir continued “Grape Culture in Florida” citing experience from 1881 and methods on acclimatization of selected hybrids; **Jas. H. White**, Island Home disputes **Steele’s** classification of grapes; **Von Luttichau**, Waldo corrects misprint; **A. M. Howell** provides pruning advice in *Southern Cultivator*.
FlaDispatch 7(16)338, 1887. **J. Leahman** concludes narrative and suggests formation of a **“state grape growing association”**. **W.C. Steele, (**who was in the nursery business in Indiana, New Jersey, and Long Island and came to Florida in 1883) questions some of **Leahman’s** details and **White’s** propagation and classification information; Following was a continuation of the nomenclature uncertainties with comments by **Von Luttichau, DuBois,** and **Steele. Steele** then cautioned about overbearing young vines. An anonymous paragraph commented favorably on the grape and wine potential in Florida and a 10 acre planting near Welaka.
FlaDispatch 7(17)358-9, 1887. **White** writes to comment on Orlando meeting, citing his experiences and exceptions to statements by **Cessna, Mott, Du Bois,** and **Steele.** He cites **DePass** as being surprised that the Grape Committee hadn’t recommended more varieties and he (**Steele**) was surprised at the varieties they did recommend. [Apparently, this committee was formed prior to the FSHS – was the pre formation meeting at Orlando?] **White** scolds fellow grape growers for repeating the same mistakes – planting vinifera or labrusca. He felt that select hybrids (Rogers’) were more promising – combined with very careful cultivation practices in proper soils. He concluded by warning about phylloxera, quoting the experience of Dr **Davis**, Jacksonville regarding 1872 plantings and citing well designed, but failed experiments with vinifera and labrusca and phylloxera problems encountered (*Florida Agriculturist*, September 29, 1877 - Not available).
FlaDispatch 7(21)436-7, 1887. The response to **White’s** scolding came rapidly. **Von Luttichau** emphasized proper rootstock for labrusca to prevent phyllorexa problems and **Steele** cited success with labrusca in his Switzerland FL locale, **Dubois** provided information showing that vinifera had failed in his experiments. **Steele** responds to **White** regarding labrusca quality and suggest regenerating vinifera on resistant rootstock; Anonymous response to **DuBois** planting suggestions; An article on “Hybridizing the Grape” by **J.C. Neele** of Archer, reprinted from *The Farmer and Fruit Grower* followed.

FlaDispatch 7(23)476-7, 1887. Professor **E.M. DuBois** (the title was honorary or due to his affiliation with **Berlitz**, the language guru, Bettinger, 2009) details his experience in "Grapes in Florida", partially in response to **James White's** earlier talk. He provided conflicting data regarding Rogers' hybrids and detailed his experience with other species and hybrids. Some were promising, but not vinifera; **Von Luttichau**, Lake Santa Fe, Waldo, was only slightly optimistic regarding certain vinifera varieties.
A report from the *Floridian* described grape and wine developments near Tallahassee. It mentioned the intent of **E. DuBois** and **A.J. Lemort** to increase their Andalusia acreage on Lake Hall to 100. A 5 acre vineyard on that lake belonging to **Collum** was unattended, although flush with fruit.
At the San Luis vineyards, 2 miles west of Tallahassee, **E. DuBois** and **Helly B. Dodd** were increasing nursery plantings to over 130,000, destined for state-wide sale. A 300 acre portion of the Fort San Luis plantation was being divided into lots for sale to prospective grape growers. **J. Lemoine**, from France had already purchased one lot and planted 5 acres. On an adjacent lot **C. Lankey**, having sold an orange grove in South Florida to concentrate on grapes, set out 3,000 vines. **DuBois** also set up fig, persimmon, olive and other fruit plantings.
FlaDispatch 7(29)597, 1887. In the "Vineyard" section, **W.C. Steele** reported on grape culture in Orange County. He visited many vineyards, mentioning a curious vine from Cochin, China planted by **A.I. Bidwell**; V. vinifera near Altamont; and **Haynes, Young,** and **Bailey's** labrusca plantings – planned for northern markets when vines mature.
Sherman Adams, Gabriella reported favorably on the prolific growth of labrusca and muscadine vines in **J.C. Wamble's** Oviedo vineyard and the great Florida potential of fruits other than citrus.
W.H. Ashmead of Jacksonville identified two destructive insects sent him by **W.C.Steele** and suggested washes to destroy them.
P.W. Reasoner, Marco Pass, spoke favorably of 'Goethe' grapes in **Collier's** vineyard, doing well in rainy weather.
The Editor of *Gardener's Monthly* spoke favorably of 'Ives' – a counterpoint to **Steele's** opinion. **Dubois** was reportedly getting 20 cents/lb for Ives in New York.
J.H. Giradeau, Monticello promoted 'Niagara' by sending a box to The Dispatch office.

FlaDispatch 7(33)687, 1887. The transformational meeting of the Nurserymen's Association and the Florida Fruit Growers Association into the Florida State Horticulture Society – many prominent viticulturists (as nurserymen) involved.
FlaDispatch 7(33)688-9, 1887. Wine ad, **O.R. Thatcher**, San Mateo and Vines by **DuBois** etc.
FlaDispatch 7(34)702, 1887. 'Cynthiana' and 'Norton' cited as different varieties by **DuBois**. [Wrong!]
FlaDispatch 7(40)817, 1887. **W.C. Steele** answered grape propagation questions and commented on Florida grape prices and preferences in New York.
G. H. Norton, Eustis, reported favorably on vinifera types, including raisin varieties. [**Norton** was the viticulturist who provided **Munson** with Florida specimens (Munson, 1909 pp 30-31).]
FlaDispatch 7(40)825, 1887. **D. J. Mitchell**, Daytona produced a fine orange wine.
FlaDispatch 7(44)896, 1887. **M.B. Wever**, San Antonio, described an unusual training system using trees as stakes and indicated his intent to grow vines. **Walter Cooper** of Sorrento submitted a pruning question, answered by **Dubois. Haynes, Young,** and **Bailey**, proprietors of the Niagara Villa Vineyard near Orlando, reported favorable prices (25-40 cents/lb) for their

early season labrusca in Orlando and project a good northern market. **Von Luttichau** gave a very optimistic overview of the grape industry in Florida, citing his own, **Dubois'**, and others success. He opined that the greatest need now was the importation of European vintners to promote the wine industry. **W.H. Haskill**, who moved from Tallahassee to DeLand, listed successful varieties as: 'Delaware', 'Ives', 'Cynthiana', 'Black Hamburg', and 'Niagara' He also spoke favorably of 'Southern Scuppernong', 'Thomas' and 'Tenderpulp', and added that **DuBois** was planning an additional 200 acres. **Sherman Adams** reported that **S. Farr** of Lake Hiawassi was planting 'Niagara'.

FlaDispatch 7(49)1005, 1887. **DuBois**, in a strongly worded article defended the 'Ives' grape, providing data regarding its shipping value and sales potential. This was to counter **Steele's** low opinion of that variety. **E.A. Schwartz** and **L.O. Howard**, Department of Agriculture Entomologists, provided information on grape insects and recommended whale soap suds spray as a deterrent.

FlaDispatch 7(50)1023-7, 1887. The "Vineyard" section commenced a series by **DuBois** entitled, "The Grape in Florida: A practical treatise on grape growing and wine making in this state" Chapter I, Classification; Chapter II, Varieties Recommended for Florida; Chapter III, Starting a Vineyard; and Chapter IV, Pruning and Training the Vines were presented in Issue 50, December 12, 1887.

Steele commented on the China tree trellis system and Dr. **Blanchard's** unique cane rooting system near Umatilla. He also countered **DuBois'** suggestion for setting two year vines, preferring himself to set one year vines.

FlaDispatch7(51)1054, 1887. **I.J. Brokaw** was growing all types of fruit, including grapes in Anthony.

Florida Farmer and Fruit Grower 1(29)227, 1887. **DuBois** ad for vines and wines at his San Luis and Andalusia Nurseries. Page 229 had a scuppernong wine recipe - not **DuBois**'.

1888

FlaDispatch 8(3)47, 1888. **DuBois** treatise continued with Chapter V, Fungus Diseases, indicating that the cited information had been quoted or condensed from *Bulletin No. 11* from the Department of Agriculture, Botanical Division.

FlaDispatch 8(7)127, 1888. **DuBois** continues and concludes on Fungal Diseases. Unattributed mention that **Wm. Oldfield** of Suwannee County has a 589 foot long 'Niagara' vine.

FlaDispatch 8(14)268, 1888. Article, "The Profits of Grapes in South Florida", cites success and optimism of three viticulturists from Rochester, NY - **Haines, Bailey,** and **Charles F. Young** in their Niagara Villa operation near Orlando.

FlaDispatch 8(16)306, 1888. **W.C. Steele** provided a word of caution regarding the glowing profit picture depicted by the previous article on the Niagara vineyard. He reminded readers that the laws of supply and demand affected shipped fruit, using strawberries as an example. If grape growers expanded production in anticipation of a lucrative northern market, economics would be sure to change. He also cautioned that bunch grapes required more care and attention than muscadines. **Dubois** commented on the best and earliest grapes for market. He recommended 'Delaware', Ives', and 'Empire State' as preferred varieties, and their grafting on wild rootstock. There was reference to an unusually large grafted 'Delaware' vine by Mrs. **O. Kennedy** of Sorrento; deep planting techniques by **D.R. Pilsbry**, Sanford; and question on scuppernong pruning.

FlaDispatch 8(16) 312-3,316-317, 1888. Experiment Station funding was encouraged. A later article describes the organizational meeting of the FSHS by the Florida Nurserymen's Association. They met April 10, 1888 in Ocala for a regular session and reconvened that evening to form the Florida Horticultural Society. A constitution was adapted and officers appointed. Among those present with known or inferred involvement with grapes were: **J.P. DePass**, Archer; **Lyman Phelps**, Sanford; **J. B. Anderson**, San Mateo; **A.H. Manville**, Jacksonville; **P.W. Reasoner**, Manatee; **Geo. A. Taber**, Glenn St. Mary; **I.J. Brokaw**, Anthony; **Em DuBois**, Tallahassee; **K.W. Cessna**, Gainesville; and **A. Eichelberger**, Ocala. Standing Committees were formed, consisting of: I. Citrus Fruits, II. Peaches and Plums, III Grapes, IV. Figs, V. The Kaki (Japanese Persimmons), VI. Apples and Pears, VII. Tropical Fruits, VIII. Wild Fruits (Indigenous or naturalized), IX. Flowers and Ornamental Shrubbery, X. "Ad Interim". President **D.W. Adams,** Tangerine had not yet made committee appointments. Professor **J.N. Whitner** of the State Agricultural College discussed the present status and plans for the Experiment Station; branch stations had not yet been funded. Members then commented on research needs. **A.B. Mann**, President and other officers of the Withalacoochee and Wekiva Land Company, invited attendees to tour their facilities by rail.
FlaDispatch 8(17)326, 1888. **James Mott** commented on large bearing vines and verified the 150 lbs from the **Kennedy** vine, but indicated that dieback was evident later. Quality fruit from a Niagara vine by **Thomas Lucas**, St. Thomas was noted; **J.S. Browne** commented on newer varieties; **Von Luttichau** requested identification of a submitted insect which affected grapes less than other fruit plants – it was identified as a thrip.
FlaDispatch 8(19)366-7, 1888. **Steele** questioned **Mott's** estimate of the yield of **Kennedy's** large vine and cautioned to guard against over bearing. **S. Sanders Neck**, Ocala suggested methods for treating 'Scuppernongs'. Based on **Steele's** letter, the editor toned down the glowing report on Niagara Villa vineyard. **John C. Chambers**, Orange Lake, suggested searching for and using the earliest ripening wild grape in breeding experiments. A new grape, 'The Mills' was mentioned for northern growers (*American Agriculturist*).
FlaDispatch 8(19)378-382, 1888. These advertisement pages listed about 30 nurseries, most of which offered grape plants. Some of the contributors or persons mentioned in Dispatch articles were listed as nursery principals. [Any relation between K.W. Loucks at Leesburg Station 1929-1942 and the Dunedin Villa Franca Nurseries ad, p.382?]

Florida State Horticultural Society First Meeting, Ocala, 1888
Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society - Published in the FlaDispatch 8(16):312-317, 1888. See **Bibliography-Chronology** file for copied sections and pages of all FSHS Proceedings relating to this narrative.
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine
Vice-Presidents-
W.K. Cessna, Gainesville
E. DuBois, Tallahassee
Jas. P. DePass, Archer
A standing committee on grapes was formed, but members were not identified.
E. DuBois offered quality blackberry plant to interested members. Professor **Whitner** reported on the State Experiment Station – progress is being made, but no branch stations now planned,
The Florida Dispatch Farmer and Fruit Grower online issues had gaps after Vol. I (44) January 22, 1883 to March 14, 1887,VII(11)-7(23) (24,31,47,) missing and series ends with VIII(19)

April 23, 1888. This last issue had The Vineyard and other articles by **E. DuBois**. His wine & brandy announcements & price lists, photos are used in figures.

1889

FlaDispatch 1(19)242, 1889. **DuBois**'s vine and wine ads. More issues were available in microfilm. The Following is how the publications are numbered:
1888 ended with
Dec 31- Vol. 8 No. 42 Pg.1014
1889 began with
Jan 7th- Vol. 9, No. 1 Pg. 1
Jan 14th- Vol. 9, No. 2
Jan 21st- Vol. 9, No. 3
Jan 28th- Vol. 9, No 4 (goes up to page 84)
Feb 7th- Vol. 1 No. 1 (page numbers start at 1 again)
FlaDispatch1(19)243-5, 1889. There was a detailed description of **Dubois**' San Luis plantation and winery. **Dubois** promotes grapes and describes his travels to other Florida vineyards. He warns against unscrupulous promoters of untried varieties. **Von Littichau** describes his plantings and success in Earleton. Others mentioned experience in and outside Florida – Rev. **J.H. White**, on Merritt's Island, **Mott** on **Haynes, Young, Bailey** Niagara Villa, and **J.E. Reagan** on his huge Bonifay vine. Northern viticulturists also contributed information.
FlaDispatch 1(19)250, 1889. Prominent viticulturists and their efforts mention optimistically.
FD ?:?, 625 August 8, 1889. Poor copy, unavailable in Archives for scanning, but good detailed information. Written by **S. Sanders Neck**, Marion County - **DuBois** credited with introducing grape wine to Florida. Mentioned were: the historical background to 1562 and **Laudonnjere's** observations of wild grapes; **A.I. Bidwell's** 1867 prediction of thousands of acres in grapes; varieties to plant. Other persons cited were – Col. **Norton**, Baron **Von Littichau**, **Haynes**, **Young**, **Bailey**, Captain **Samuel Agnu**, Ocala (He sold 80 acres to 8 Italian families who obtained grafts from Texas and proceeded to cultivate them.) A note on the grape craze by **A.J. Aldrich**, Orlando cautioned this euphoria, citing grapes perishable nature and competition with other fruits. Other comments, queries, and testimonies followed. **George Wray**, Orlando mentioned that, as a piano tuner he traveled widely, and found grapes growing well everywhere. Several excerpts from the *Country Gentleman* were an article on grapevine diseases and one attributed to the Ocala Meeting of American Pomological Society (This was the first [organizational] FSHS meeting). **George W. Campbell** of Ohio cited his many years of experience and experimental work with varieties, crossings, and hybridizations. **Campbell** saw no reason that "…with proper selection of varieties, and the aids in command, the "sunny South should not be both the garden and the vineyard of the North American continent." In the following discussion most agreed, but some pomologist, including the FSHS President (**Adams**) remained in doubt.

Second FSHS Proceedings, Orlando
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine (Other officers not identified)
E. DuBois - cited, but not attending. His report on suitable varieties was read, followed by **L.E. Haynes** report on his Niagara vineyard in Orlando. Later, some attendees toured this Niagara Villa vineyard (FlaStateHortSoc 2:24-29, 1889).

1890

Third FSHS Proceedings, Deland
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine
Vice-Presidents-
Theodore L. Mead, Oviedo
G.L. Taber, Glen St. Mary
Geo. A. Wright, Chuluota
James H. White, Island Home presented "The Past and Future of the Grape in Florida" with some interesting historical information, citing earlier efforts from 1867. He made the point that fresh grapes for the early northern market were the future for Florida and far more profitable than wine. **George H. Wright,** Chuluota reported on "Grapes in South Florida" by detailing vineyard preparation and management (FlaStateHortSoc 3:21-27, 1890). [South Florida was then the Orlando area.] **H. Von Luttichau,** Earleton on "Grapes for Market" provided grape preference and price information for northern markets. In a following article, **Von Luttichau** contradicts **B.F. Livingston's** poor opinion of grape growing in Waldo, naming successful growers - **Cushing, Geo. Minnich, Godbey,** Dr. **Ambrose, Sparkman, Lever, Demmitt,** and Capt. **Dale** (FlaStateHortSoc 3:29-35, 1890). At the conclusion of these presentations " Mrs. **M.M. Lindley** read a paper (not recorded) on grape growing." [This was the first mention of a woman being involved. Although obviously active, woman's role received little notice until fairly recently. As we'll see, some very important contributions are noted from the 1970s on.] **DuBois** stated that the average wine yield was about 250 gallons/acre. [This is very low by today's standards, where at least 130 gallons/ton of grapes is expected.] **DuBois** also commented that, "he had made a scuppernong wine and liked it, but he can sell 40 gallons of common wine to one of scuppernong" (FlaStateHortSoc 3:10-11, 1890).

1891

UF Experiment Station – Bulletin 14, July 1, 1891 p11. **DePass** reported 60 varieties planted on Live Oak farm. Freeze of 1890, poor land, and lack of attention cited as complications.
FL Dispatch 2/26/91, good rundown on local plantings- Unavailable.

FSHS Fourth FSHS Proceedings - 1891, Interlachen
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine
Vice-Presidents-
Theodore L. Mead, Oviedo
G.L. Taber, Glen St. Mary
Geo. A. Wright, Chuluota
Grape communications from: **E. DuBois** - San Luis Vineyard, Tallahassee, sent a report, "Grapes: New and Old Varieties" in which he cautioned about introducing northern varieties without extensive testing. **L.E. Haynes** - Niagara Villa, Orlando provided an update report on "Grapes in South Florida" and **Von Luttichau** added his vineyard experience in Earleton (FlaStateHortSoc 3:7-12, 1891).
Gore, Mahlon. "A pen and camera sketch of Orlando, Florida" was published, including a comprehensive section on grapes with photos of Niagara Villa (Gore, 1891, pp 39-45)

1892

FlaDispatch 4(26)504, 1892. "Beginnings in Orlando" - **Haynes, Young, Bailey** vineyard management and operations described. **J.B. Montagne** cautioned on selling green unripe grapes.

FlaDispatch 4(28)545, 1892. **P.P. Ink**, Secretary of the **Orange County Grape Growers Association** has 10 acres at home and 40 more vinifera acres planted for **Babcock & Ink**. **H.M. & R. Frith**, Lane Park forwarded grape packing article in South Africa to editor.
FlaDispatch 4(29)565, 1892. "Beginnings in Orlando" continued. **I.P. Wescott's** 10 acre vineyard described by **DuBois**. Other vineyards (and acreage) mentioned in the Orlando area were: **Geo. Macy** (2), **Geo. Archer** (2), **W.M. Peck** (8), **Babcock & Ink** (40), **Fletcher** (2), **Griffin**, (4), and **Camden** (3). A note by **William Saunders**, Superintendant of Gardens and Grounds, USDA comments on canopy management.

Fifth FSHS Proceedings - 1892, Ormond
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine
Vice-Presidents-
Theodore L. Mead, Oviedo
G.L. Taber, Glen St. Mary
Geo. A. Wright, Chuluota
Standing Committee on Grapes- **H. Von Luttichau-** Earleton, **Geo H. Wright-** Chuluota, **G.P. Healey-** Seville
H. Von Luttichau reported positively on his growing system and later provided a rather negative reading of his experiences selling grapes to New York buyers, although he felt that early season fruit had the best opportunity. **G.H. Wright** mentioned the formation of a **Grape Growers Association in Orlando** representing 350 of the total 450 county acres (members not identified). Pertinent discussions involving **Healy, Haynes** (Alluded to his attraction to Florida grape potential, as did **Wright**, below.)**, Bostrom, Bacon, Mott, Bieley, Phelps**, and **Peck** followed. **Wright** cited an exceptionally fine Orlando area vineyard owned by **Wescott** (FlaStateHortSoc 5:29-35, 1892. In the following section **G.H. Wright** commented on the prohibitively high freight rates and suggested a State Railroad Commission and nationalization of the rail system (FlaStateHortSoc 5:121-127, 1892).

1893

FlaDispatch5(1)16, 1893. Grape Ads, **DuBois** Ad
FlaDispatch 5(1)12, 1893. **Holmes Erwin**, Putnam County has a fine winery, vineyard, and orange grove – 5,000 gallons of a dozen wine types. (*Palatka Times*)
FlaDispatch 5(2)25, 1893. Scuppernong poem. An excellent sherry made from oranges reported. **William Chambers,** Winter Haven is growing and selling muscadine varieties.
FlaDispatch 5(4)72, 1893. "The Vineyard" mentioned cuttings and fertilization. The **Orange County Grape Growers Association** met with representatives from New York Grape Commission (**J.R. Travis**) and Southern Express (**C.L. Myers**) to discuss handling and shipping of early grapes.
FlaDispatch 5(5)85, 1893. Vineyard advice from **DuBois.**
FlaDispatch5(6)116, 1893. Ad for foreign vines from Asia, Africa, and Europe by **J.B. Montague**, Winter Park.
FlaDispatch 5(6)110, 1893. After a cold snap, the Orlando Grape and Fruit Company and Niagara Villa set out 150,000 and 80,000 tomato plants, respectively. These growers were apparently quite diversified.
FlaDispatch 5(7)125, 1893. "Vineyard" promotes grapes for peninsular Florida.

FlaDispatch 5(8)144, 1893. The Lake City Agricultural Station was criticized – Director **DePass** (not an agriculturist and dual responsibilities with **Yocum,** Ag College President), poor location of farm, and conflict with local farmers by selling crops. [**DePass** was a fruit grower in Archer, so he surely had agriculture experience.]
FlaDispatch 5(9)164, 1893. Ad by **N. Woodworth**, Welaka selling 5 acre orange grove. [Was he getting out of grapes also?]
FlaDispatch 5(9)157, 1893. "Vineyard" – notes on grafting and pruning by **DuBois** and citing **Husmann**.

Sixth FSHS Proceedings - 1893, Pensacola
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine
Vice-Presidents-
G.W. Mellish, DeFuniak Springs
Geo.L. Taber, Glen St. Mary
Geo. A. Wright, Chuluota
Standing Committee on Grapes- **G.W. Peck,** Winter Park, **L.E. Haynes,** Orlando,
E.C. Hammond, Jaffery
L.E. Haynes submitted a report (read by secretary) on his Orlando vineyard development and management. In the subsequent discussion after **G.P. Healy's** comments, a move to end grape discussion was opposed by **Schubert** and **Chandler**. **McGowen** of Defuniak Springs and **Mellish** of Walton County provided additional information. After interjection of a contentious World's Fair resolution, the discussion returned to grapes with **Mellish** and **T.H. Hastings**, **Hamlin**, **Stewart**, and **Taber** contributing (FlaStateHortSoc 6:41-50, 1893). [Clearly, a number of FSHS members at the cited locations had favorable experience and interest in grapes, while others wished to move on – little has changed.]

1894

Seventh FSHS Proceedings - 1894, Jacksonville
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine
Vice-Presidents- No grape growers
Standing Committee on Grapes- **Emile DuBois,** Tallahassee, **Frank E. Boncher,** Orlando,
H.P. Walker, Auburndale
Geo. H. Wright, Chair of Standing Committee on Grapes of the FL State Hort. Soc. Read report prepared by **A.W. Stewart**, Galt on 1887 plantings of 'White Niagara' in Orange County with vine selection and cultivation advice. A detailed report, "Marketing of Grapes" by **G.A. Wright** was presented. He involved son-in-law **George A.** Robinsonin vineyard operations. The 1893 season started out good, but poor shipping conditions (lack of refrigeration [ice?] and high rates) forced abandonment of about half the vineyards. Wright acknowledged **H.P. Hand** as 3rd member of Grape Committee and **Stewart** as missing. Subsequent discussions by **Wright, H.S. Williams, G.W. Mellish, G.P. Healy, Mott, Cooper, Lyman Phelps, W.H. Mann, and R.W. Pierce** established that better cultivation practices, quality varieties, more efficient and economical, refrigerated shipping are necessary. There was a mix of very cautious optimism and resignation - some got out of grapes altogether. **Wright** opined that transportation was the key and white vinifera grapes were suitable for wine only. **Phelps**, with experience in the grape region of New York, tried in Orange County from 1882-86, then gave up. In contrast, **Dodson** of Haines City had succeeded. The gist of this conversation was the feasibility of growing and

shipping grapes north from various regions of Florida. Pros and cons, successes and failures were cited (FlaStateHortSoc 7:25-34, 1894). [This session is well worth reading today!]

1895

The *History of Welaka 1853-1935* mentioned that Madame **De Breast** of France had a vineyard and made wine which was shipped to Jacksonville. Other "huge grape vineyards" of 40 to 50 acres existed and owners were selling grapes and wine. Unfortunately, the "Big Freeze" of 1895 wiped out the vineyards and orchards overnight (Reeder, 1976).

Eighth FSHS Proceedings - 1895, Jacksonville
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine
Vice-President- No grape growers
Standing Committee on Grapes- **H. Von Luttichau,** Earleton; **I.B. La Montague,** Winter Park; **James Carnell,** Ormond
A late report by **G. W. Mellish** on his Defuniak Springs vineyard was included in the Proceedings (FlaStateHortSoc 8:74, 1895). The Catalog of Fruit Appendix, initiated in 1895 included a listing of recommended grape varieties - Specified that vinifera were unacceptable (FlaStateHortSoc 8:XIII-XIV, 1895).

1896

Ninth FSHS Proceedings - 1896, Jacksonville
President- Dudley W. Adams, Tangerine
Standing Committee on Grapes-**,** Ormond; **O.R. Thacher,** Avon Park;
W.A. Emmons, St. Andrews Bay
The discussion session involved viticulturists from various parts of the state, **H. Von Luttichau** lead off with the surprising statement, "I had to give up grapes; they did not pay me well." He cited transportation difficulties. Others present chipped in: **P.H. Rolfs** suggested grafting on Muscadines; **A.H. Stewart** cited labrusca successes in West Florida; **C.A. Bacon** lauded the Scuppernong as easily grown; **Wright**, obviously unimpressed by muscadines, retorted that his labrusca were successful and wine most promising. However his "unfermented wine" (i.e. grape juice) didn't sell well for sacramental purposes. [Even back then, prohibition sentiments were in the wind.]; **Lyman Phelps** cited his failures due to wet seasons; and **H.E. Anderson** mentioned dooryard success with both bunch and muscadine varieties (FlaStateHortSoc 9:67-69, 1896).

1897

Tenth FSHS Proceedings - 1897, Orlando
President- George Taber, Glen St. Mary
Standing Committee on Grapes- **I.B. LaMontagne,** Winter Park; **J.H. Leslie,** Panasoffkee; **L.Q. Kermode,** Gulf Hammock
C.A. Bacon, Grape Committee Chairman admitting that he had no grape experience, concluded that Florida grapes were suited well for wine and juice. A paper by **O.R Thacher**, Avon Park reviewed recent failures and suggested door yard and hobby operations, but not commercial enterprises. He did suggest a future for local wild grapes as potential rootstock. **J.B. LaMontagne**, Winter Park cited his failures with vinifera imported from France and later success when grafted on native species rootstock (FlaStateHortSoc 10:88-93, 1897).

1898

Eleventh FSHS Proceedings - 1898, Orlando
President- George Taber, Glen St. Mary
Standing Committee on Grapes**- E.E. Pratt,** Limona; **L.H. Armstrong,** St. Nicholas; **A.V. Clubbs,** Pensacola
Jas. H. Leslie, of Panasoffkee summarized his 10 year bunch grape experiences as 5 good years followed by disappointment with grapes. He lauded muscadines for their growth characteristics and wine potential. Despite the growing prohibition attitude, he felt that eventually someone would make wine "one of the most profitable industries in the state." **Bacon** suggested grape juice as a better alternative and Dr. **Kerr** added the juice might be healthier than wine (FlaStateHortSoc 11:103-106, 1898). [No, moderate wine consumption seems to trump juice (Pezzuto JM. 2008). Nevertheless, **Kerr's** sentiments provide an early indication of grape's health benefits.]

1899

Twelfth FSHS Proceedings - 1899, Jacksonville
President- George Taber, Glen St. Mary
Standing Committee on Grapes was now combined with Figs, and Kaki (Japanese persimmons). **W.S. Hart,** Hawks Park was the grape representative.
Dr. E.E. Pratt of Limona sang the praises of "The Scuppernong Family" – Vitis rotundifolia. He mentioned resistant bunch varieties from the Mediterranean and referred to Professor **Webber** of the Agriculture Department, who vaguely cited disease resistant breeding work (FlaStateHortSoc 12:84-86, 1899).

1900

Thirteenth FSHS Proceedings - 1900, Jacksonville
President- George Taber, Glen St. Mary
Von Luttichau was the grape representative.
W.S. Hart, (cited as Chairman of the Committee, although **Von Luttichau** was listed?) emphasized the superior adaptability and juice quality of muscadines. Although, he felt that muscadine's appearance detracted from its fresh fruit appeal compared to the more delicate bunch grape. A later discussion dealt with "unfermented grape juice" (FlaStateHortSoc 13:102-108,1900)
Florida State Archives has photo of **Emil DuBois'** San Luis Vineyard near Tallahassee Circa 1900- Photo (FlaStateArchives) (Figure 1).

1901

The Florida Agriculturist 28(1)1, 1901 published excerpts from Secretary **Wilson's** Department of Agriculture report. An upbeat overview of USDA accomplishments made brief mention of ongoing efforts to test the adaptability of quality European grapes in the southern states. A few very general references to cultivating, harvesting, handling, shipping, processing of grapes followed in Volume 28 issues. Scuppernong called "the apple of Florida" (Fla Agriculturist 28(28)456, 1901).
FlaAgriculturist 28(31)50, 1901. **I. Wichtendahl**, West Orange experimented for 5 years at his Gotha place presented a new and promising red grape to Col. **C.G. Frasch** New York winter resident in Orlando and grape expert, active in the CA wine industry. **Wichtendahl** had 500 vines of this variety. **W.H. Haskell**, DeLand commented on grapes around Orlando (28(28)584,

1901). The origin of 'Concord' and other grapes, including scuppernong was explained. California "the wonderland of the vine" (28(41)660-1, 1901). [Gold Cure for alcoholism, pg 381!]

Fourteenth FSHS Proceedings - 1901, St. Augustine
President- George Taber, Glen St. Mary
C.A. Bacon, Ormond was the grape representative.
H. Von Luttichau presented a talk, "A Grape Experiment Station". He described his initial efforts starting two years prior (1899), sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Division of Pomology to grow Vitis vinifera on native rootstock at Earleton. **W.D. Griffin** briefly reviewed the grape status. During discussions **W.A. Cooper** described unsatisfactory experiences shipping grapes to the Chicago World's Fair, **Porscher** felt later season Niagara might work, while **Embry** was successfully shipping to St. Petersburg (FlaStateHortSoc 14:82-85, 1901).

1902

FlaAgriculturist 29(13)194, 1902. **C.G. Frasch** reviews grape problems, blames 'Niagara' introduction for failure, lauds native grapes and scuppernong, and compares Florida grape and wine potential to Italy's. [Earlier partnered with DuBois for a planned Orlando winery (Gore, 1891, pg 45).]
FlaAgriculturist 29(52)826, 1902. Tribute to **A.I. Bidwell** and his contribution to Orlando area horticulture by **Robt. A. Mills**, former resident, now in California (quoted from *Farmer and Fruit Grower*). Many general articles in Volume 29 on grapes – health value, wine recipe, need for seedlessness, and scuppernong promotion.

Fifteenth FSHS Proceedings - 1902, Tampa
President- George Taber, Glen St. Mary
Standing Committee on Grapes, Figs, and Kaki-
H. Von Luttichau, Earleton represented grapes
This was the first meeting without a report on grapes, although they were listed in the Catalog of Fruits and there was a grape representative (FlaStateHortSoc 15: IV-XIII and FlaStateHortSoc 15:5-11, 1902)

1903

Sixteenth FSHS Proceedings - 1903, Miami
President- George L. Taber, Glen St. Mary
J. Earle Bacon, Ormond briefly commented on grapes. Baron **H. Von Luttichau** reported favorably on "The Government Experiment Station" in Earleton. He cited a visit by **George C. Husmann**, Department of Agriculture. **Irvin Keck** was optimistic regarding 'Lenoir' and lauded muscadines. After some discussion on figs, the matter of the Bolton or Key grape was brought up by Rev. **E.V. Blackman** and grapes suitable for Miami mentioned (FlaStateHortSoc 16:56-60, 1903). A later section published general growing information, citing **A.J. Bidwell**, 1888: **DuBois**, 1889 and 1894; **H. Von Luttichau,** 1892; and **E.W. Amsden,** 1894 (FlaStateHortSoc 16:168-172, 1903).

1904

Seventeenth FSHS Proceedings - 1904, Jacksonville

President- George L. Taber, Glen St. Mary
H. Von Luttichau, Earleton represented grapes.
Boggs suggested the Key grape "of the European type" be added to the Fruit Catalog. Grapes were not mentioned otherwise (FlaStateHortSoc 17:48-49, 1904).

1905

Eighteenth FSHS Proceedings - 1905, Jacksonville
President- C.T. McCarty, Eldred
J.E. Bacon, Ormond represented grapes.
H. Von Luttichau reported on "The Government Viticultural Experiment Station" and cooperation with **G. C. Husmann**. Vines did well through the 5th year, decline was then noted. He blamed it on improper pruning, variety, soil, or location and recommended replanting after 6 or 7 years. A discussion on the St. Augustine grape and bird damage followed. **J.H. Wylie** reported favorably on muscadine and popular labrusca at Interlachen (FlaStateHortSoc 18:60-61, 1905).

1906

Nineteenth FSHS Proceedings - 1906, Jacksonville
President- C.T. McCarty, Eldred
Vice-President-
Prof. **P.H. Rolfs**, Lake City
Presumably**, W.C. Steele,** Switzerland represented grapes.
B.M. Hampton discussed grapes in general, mentioning the elusive St. Augustine grape as being as hardy as muscadines. The Key grape was said to be even more elusive, Rev. **Bolton's** vines said to have died out in Coconut Grove (FlaStateHortSoc 19:60-61, 1906).

Ober, Fredrick A. Ferdinand De Soto and the Invasion of Florida. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1906. 157-186, 256-272. Ober's text puts native grapes in context of the 1500s

Possibly DuBois' Vineyard in 1906 (FSA) (Figure 11)
Check cashed by E. DuBois, 1906. (Courtesy, Gary Cox. Figure 22)

1907

FSHS Proceedings, Volume 20, 1907, held at St. Petersburg
President- Prof. **P.H. Rolfs**, Gainesville
Standing Committees no longer listed grapes, but there was a report from the combined Grape, Fig, and Persimmon Committee by **P.J. Whister**. Cultivation and vine decline were noted in all bunch grapes, even in the Key grape. He encouraged breeding work with wild grape species. **Gibbs** mentioned rugged wild none muscadine grape growing on the Indian River near Melbourne. He hypothesized that it might a **Munson** type, introduced by an earlier settler, **Hall**. **W.C. Steele** indicated that unfavorable shipping rates and seasonal competition in the north contributed to grape's demise – grapes had to compete there with many other fruits. In contrast, strawberries ripen when other fruits are scarce. Niagara wine continued to be made at Moultrie, GA and advertised in St. Augustine papers (FlaStateHortSoc 20:27-34, 1907). Last grape catalog listing (FlaStateHortSoc 20:III-XIII, 1907).

1908

Twenty-first FSHS Proceedings - 1908, Gainesville
Standing Committee neither list grapes nor provide any reports.
Fla Fruit & ProduceNews1(13)1, 1908 Mentioned grapes profitable in some locations and muscadines more widespread.

1909

T.V. Munson published his classic text, 'The Foundation of American Grape Culture" (Munson, 1909). Munson hybrids were starting to be available and spreading in the South.
Fla Fruit & Product News 1(20)9 Feb 12, 1909. "Lesson from the Grape Growers" by Mrs. **H.W. Thomas**, DeFuniak mentions Chautaugua New York Grape Organization as a good model for citrus. She emphasizes their attention to cooperative marketing and quality. [This is pertinent advice for grape growers 100 years ago or today.]
Twenty-second FSHS Meeting- 1909, Daytona
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
Standing Committee neither list grapes nor provide any reports.
Fla Fruit & ProduceNews 1(28)5,1909. Large scale grape potential in Hillsborough investigated by CA grower, **Vincent Ciavola**.

1910

Twenty-third FSHS Proceedings - 1910, Orlando
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
F.P Henderson opined that grapes could be grown in Florida, but past inappropriate varieties and improper vine management were the problem. He felt deciduous fruits, including grape merit more attention (FlaStateHortSoc 23:152-153, 1910).

1911

Twenty-fourth FSHS Proceedings - 1911, Jacksonville
No grape reports
FlaStateHortSoc 24:119-120, 136-7, 1911 **Effie Stone Rolfs (Rolfs**' wife?) reported recipes for jellies, including scuppernong. **A.J. Mitchell** presented "Weather Bureau" dealing with freezes – a pertinent topic for all growers (FlaStateHortSoc 24:151-57, 1911).
FlaGrower 4(52)15 Sep 28, 1911. Article, "Sour Grapes" describes poor results of the Rochester, NY Growers and Shippers Exchange due to packing and shipping immature grapes. This unacceptable practice killed the market, independent of later high quality shipments. [Same inattention to quality in Florida ~80 years later devastated a promising muscadine market.]

1912

Twenty-fifth FSHS Proceedings - 1912, Miami
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
No grape reports

1913

Twenty-sixth FSHS Proceedings - 1913, held at DeLand
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary

No grape reports
FlaGrower 9(3)4 Oct 18, 1913. A note by **F.J. Zimmerman** lauds **T.V. Munson** as one of the greatest viticulturists that ever lived and, recommends 'Carmen' as a profitable grape for Florida. [**Zimmerman** had recently moved to Florida from Texas. By 1918 he was involved around Tarpon Springs.] A few FG articles asked questions or commented about muscadines/scuppernong.

1914

Twenty-seventh FSHS Proceedings - 1914, held at Palatka
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
No grape reports

1915

Twenty-eighth FSHS Proceedings - 1915, Tampa
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
No grape reports
FlaGrower 5(22)4 Mar 2, 1915. An article on "When and How to Plant Grapes" didn't mention varieties at all – a very serious omission.

1916

Twenty-ninth FSHS Proceedings - 1916, Arcadia
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
No grape reports
FlaGrower 14(3)4, 1916. Photo shows luxuriant 'Concord' vines in DadeCity.
FlaGrower 14(17)20, 1916. A Californian viticulturist with 40 years experience is moving to Tampa area and plans vinifera planting, since Floridians don't seem to know much about them. [Over 90 years later, it still happens!]
FlaGrower 14(26)20,22, 1916. In response to inquiry about growing 'Carmen', Editor: "Note – grape growing in Florida is an assured success". [Perhaps 40 years premature, at best.]

1917

Thirtieth FSHS Proceedings - 1917, Arcadia
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
No grapes report
FlaGrower 15(13)22 Mar 31, 1917. Question on grape growing in Suwannee County answered by recommending scuppernong and labrusca varieties. Past failures blamed on improper varieties and shipping problems.
FlaGrower 15(17)22, 1917. Similar question on varieties for Florida with 'Niagara' recommended.
FlaGrower 15(20)18, 1917. 'Carmen' questioned and deemed acceptable due to American parentage.
Other FG Volume 15 issues answered or commented on growing problems with above cited varieties. In general, scuppernongs (muscadines) grow better, but demand for them is much less than for bunch grapes.

1918

Thirty-first FSHS Meeting- 1918, Fort Meyers
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
All Standing Committees discontinued. No grape reports
FlaGrower 17(1)17 and (3)29, 1918. **F.J. Zimmerman** presented article, "Practical Grape Growing in the South – How to Start a Vineyard" providing details on set up and varieties.
FlaGrower 17(25)17 Jan 5, 1918. – **G.M. De Vries,** New Port Richie wrote "The Future of the Carman Grape" in which he recommends that variety and similar hybrids and solicits other grower experiences.
FlaGrower 18(18)18,19 Nov 2, 1918. **G.M. De Vries**, Postmaster Port Richey and grape grower clarifies the confusion between the varieties. 'Carmen' was a Munson hybrid suitable for Florida and named by **Munson** after a cooperating colleague from New York, Professor **Carmen**. In contrast, 'Carman' was a labrusca developed about the same time in a Rochester, NY nursery and highly inappropriate for Florida. [However, in an earlier article the same year **De Vries** uses the designation 'Carman' throughout (FlaGrower 17(25)17 Jan 5, 1918).]

1919

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 54 Pg 6, July 11, 1919. The *Kissimmee Valley Gazette* reported that **Clark Howell** was getting an abundant crop of 'Carman' grapes from his 125 vines near Kissimmee. [actually 'Carmen'?]
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 54 Pg 6, July 17, 1919. *Sarasota Times* cites **M. Roth's** fine grapes as an indication of the Sarasota region's fruit potential. *St. Petersburg Independent* mentions that **E.I.** and **F.J. Zimmerman**, Tarpon Spring are selling quality grapes locally and anticipate a good market the next season.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 54 Pg 6, July 24, 1919. *Florida Advocate* reports **L.G. Egger**, Zolfo selling 'Concord' profitably. The *Suwannee Democrat* lauds and photographs (not available) the **J.W. Blume** vineyard near Live Oak and suggests that grapes may rival citrus in the future.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 54 Pg 6, July 29, 1919. **F.J. Zimmerman** delivered another load of grapes from the Carmen Grape Company of Tarpon Springs, stating the grapes are easily raised in Pinellas County.

Thirty-second FSHS Proceedings - 1919, Orlando
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
No grape report
FlaGrower 19(18)42 and (23)14, 1919. Briefly cites grapes in Florida and muscadine potential.
FlaGrower 20(3)21 Jul 19, 1919. **Chas. W. Lamb**, Wachula presented "Grape Growing on Original Stock", citing success in growing vinifera after 4 years experience.
FlaGrower 20(3)36 Jul 19, 1919. In contrast to the above, this article states that vinifera or labrusca will fail, but the newer hybrids will succeed commercially.
FlaGrower 20(13)8 Sept 27, 1919. The Carmen Grape Company moved from Tarpon Springs to Oldsmar to expand "fancy early bunch grape" production.
FlaGrower 20(13)11 Sep 27, 1919. This article cites the background on Prohibition and why wine (originally excluded) ended up being prohibited.
FlaGrower 20(19)9 Nov 8, 1919. "Table Grapes in Florida" by **E.L Zimmerman** plugged the profit potential. (Photos of brothers)

1920

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 55 Pg 11, Dec. 25, 1920. **Albert Beekman**, a successful, experienced grape grower with large plantings in Hammondsport, NY moves to Miami and acquires 10 acres. He anticipates initially growing 'thick skinned" grapes (muscadine?) and then better varieties on wild rootstock for the northern market. Five families accompanied him. [Will they grow their own grapes or assist him?]
Thirty-third FSHS Meeting- 1920, Ocala
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
Charles Dearing, USDA presented "Muscadine Grapes and Grape Products", comprehensive history of developments in Florida and the South. He referred to Miss **Partridge's** work on juice and canned grape products (FlaStateHortSoc 39:154-160,1920). Conspicuously missing was any reference to wine (FlaStateHortSoc 33: 146-153, 1920). **F.J. Zimmerman** of Oldsmar described his work with the **Munsons** in Texas and indicated that he had success with some of their introductions at Oldsmar (FlaStateHortSoc 33:213-214, 1920). According to **Truskett**, these hybrids were introduced to Florida about 1910.

1921

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 56 Pg 9, July 13, 1921. **W.L. Watson**, Duval County extension agent reported that Mr. And Mrs. **T.D. Cone** in their grape arbor had a vine on wild rootstock that produced four separate varieties – 'Moore Early', 'Delaware', 'Concord', and 'Niagara'. [Poor reporting or hype?]. He evidenced this as indication of the county's potential, as several other farmers were growing grapes extensively.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 56 Pg 11, November 11, 1921. "Best Meeting in History of Grape Growers Association" announced. Held in Oldsmar, FGGA President **W.E. Bolles** called for a review of progress. Professor **E.L. Lord** praised Munson hybrids with aestivalis lineage as being suitable for Florida and Dr. **Dearings's** USDA work with muscadines. [Crossing vinifera with muscadine mentioned – apparently the chromosome incompatability not recognized at the time.] His presentation is to be published in FGGA Proceedings. **F.J. Zimmermann**, Carman Grape Company, Oldsmar talked on cultivation and marketing. Other speakers listed were: **James H. Thompson**, Reiods Farm Company, Oldsmar; Col. **H.T. Fisher**, Eustis; **Otto Lestino**, Haskell; **F.A. Ritter**, Katherine; **Paul Winsor**, Bradenton; **John Gottschling**, **August Miller, Charles O. Goenthel** and **William Beiersdorfer**, Orange Center; **E.F. Ehrlich**, Tampa; **C.C. Morris**, Auburndale; Dr. **P. Phillips**, Orlando; **N.W. Chadwick**, Tampa; Dr. **G.W. Sylvester**, Lakeland; and others. In recognition of their active interest, **E.L. Lord**, UF; **Robert W. Bentley**, Managing Editor *Tampa Morning Tribune*; and **Edgar A. Wright**, Editor and Manager of the *Florida Grower* were elected honorary members of the FGGA. New members, Dr. **P. Phillips**, Orlando and **E.E. Truskett**, Mt. Dora were recognized. FGGA Secretary **E.L. Zimmermann** announced that membership was now 104 and Treasurer **N.W. Chadwick** indicated the Association was comfortably solvent. Orlando was chosen for the next meeting in February (1922). Later, President **Bolles** stated that practically all growers were planning to double or triple their grape acreage and some citrus growers thinking of planting grapes between rows in young groves.

Dickson & Truskett and **Dr. P. Phillips** in Orlando attended newly organized **Grape Growers Association** at Oldsmar 1921. (Truskett, 1988) **Zimmerman Brothers** introduced Texas varieties into Pinellas County; **Dr. P. Phillips** of Orlando & **Dickson & Truskett**, Inc. of Montverde saw commercial potential and imported Munson hybrids – chanced upon 'Florida

Beacon', one of the better varieties. [Misidentified and renamed – it was probably Munson's 'Extra'.]

Proceedings FSHS Volume 34, 1921 held at Miami President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary
No grape reports

1922

FlaGrower, 25(6)5,20-22, 1922. **E.L. Lord** made his first FGGA presentation - an optimistic appraisal on Florida at an FGGA conference - "Grape Growing and Breeding". [He was identified as an Assistant Professor, University of California. Did he just come from CA or is this an editorial error?] By November Lord was identified as affiliated with UF (FlaGrower 25(6)23,26, 1922).

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 57 Pg 4, Sep14, 1922. The Southern Adapted Nurseries, Polk County announced planting 30 acres of grape stock, 10 of blackberries and blueberries, and a 50 acre commercial vineyard. Officers were: **T.G. Lockwood**, Barstow, President; **F.J. Zimmerman**, Oldsmar, Vice President; **E.L. Zimmerman**, Secretary Treasurer; **U.A. Lightsey** and **J.J. Swearingen**, Bartow, Board Members. **Lockwood** was cited as growing vegetables commercially and the **Zimmermanns** as having years of experience with grapes in California, Texas, and Florida, with recent success in Florida. Based on Dr. **Sylvester's** nearby grape crop, 5 tons/acre is anticipated. The planting of the other fruits was seen as a hedge.

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 57 Pg 4, Nov. 17, 1922. Sixth Annual FGGA Convention announced in Eustis with **H.T. Fisher** as President and about 100 members attending. [This places the FGGA founding back to 1916!] **Fisher** emphasized Florida's early season advantage over 'Thompson Seedless', available in the north from California in mid July. The Shipping and Marketing Committee, consisting of **M.P. Brophy**, Crystal Springs; **F.M. Francolm**, Dade City; **McMahan**, Orange City; **F.J. Zimmermann**, Tampa; and Dr. **Phillips**, Orlando. The Committee discussed enabling legislation with ideas from **E. F. Debusk**, Lake County Extension Agent; **E.L. Lord**, UF; **E.E. Truskett**, Montverde; **J.F. Gulliver** Eustis; and others. A committee was appointed to establish a grape shipping crate style – **M.H. Brophy**; **P.H. Ritter**, Bartow; **Charles Guenthal**, Orange City; **George Foster**, Orlando; and **Paul Winsor**, Bradenton. **F.M. Francolm** talked on home marketing. A resolution to secure a horticulture agent [presumably devoted to grapes] was brought up. There were other talks by **E.L. Lord** and **Ritter. E.L. Zimmermann** addressed the question, "Will Grapes Live Long in Florida?" by detailing the **Zimmermann Bros**. experience. He emphasized careful cultivation of selected varieties as being essential, yet practical.

FlaGrower 26(20)11, 1922. **Zimmerman** plugs grapes and requests the Agriculture College initiate a State Horticulture Department.

Thirty-fifth FSHS Proceedings- 1922, Lakeland
President- H. Harold Hume, Glen St. Mary

Charles Dearing, USDA presented a summary, "Grape Growing in Florida", dealing with past failures and lessons learned. He cited USDA work 30 years earlier by Dr. **William A. Taylor** and later referred to **Von Luttichau's** estate plantings. **Dearing** concluded by promoting muscadines and cautioning growers about bunch grapes (FlaStateHortSoc 35:121, 1922). **E.L. Lord,** College of Agriculture, Gainesville spoke on "Grape Varieties" and suggested that V. aestivalis has promising breeding potential (FlaStateHortSoc 35:127-130, 1922) GrapeVarieties_Lord.pdf. He mentioned **E.P. Powell**, Sorrento as successfully growing quality

Munson hybrids for many years. **H.T. Fisher** of Eustis addressed the question, "Can Grapes be Successfully Grown in Florida?" (FlaStateHortSoc 35:131-135, 1922) His answer was most positive and optimistic. He mentioned successful breeding work by Mr. **Frank W. Savage**, superintendant of the Government Station at Eustis 12 years prior (~1910). [Any information about this or other USDA operations in Florida? Dearing was doing pertinent landmark breeding work in North Carolina (DeWolf, 2003).]

1923

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 58 Pg 5, March 31, 1923. Polk County, "Grape Culture Will be Big Industry" describes Southern Adapted Nursery formation with officers: Col. **T.L. Wilson**, President; **John J. Swearengen,** Vice President; **E.L. Zimmermann**, Secretary; **Eric L. Wirt**, Treasurer; **F.J. Zimmermann**, General Manager; **T.G. Lockwood**, General Superintendant. Seventy acres are planted and another 20 in nursery stock for sale. The parties involved are experienced and there is adequate room for expansion.

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 58 Pg 13, April 2, 1923. **O.V. Zangen**, Orlando, experienced horticulturist is closing on large tract near Umatilla to establish the largest vineyard in Florida and sell in 5 acre plots.

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 58 Pg 9, May 11, 1923. FGGA Annual Meeting was described. Col. **H. T. Fisher**, Eustis, President reported that grapes were being grown in about 25 Florida counties with encouraging results and promise of support from state government. **L.M. Rhodes**, state marketing bureau spoke on the need for a cooperative arrangement similar to the Citrus Exchange. The results of an informal survey of growers and acreage were reported [mostly unreadable]. The *Florida Grower* was adopted as the official FGGA publicity outlet and published detailed grape-related reports, including articles appearing in the FSHS proceedings. [As such, the *Florida Grower* took over the role for the FSHS that the *Florida Dispatch and Fruit Grower* had several decades earlier for the Florida Fruit Growers Association. It served as the pre Internet web log, or for our purpose, a highly informative "Grape Blog".]

Col. **H. T. Fisher** was reelected president with **Paul Windsor**, Bradenton, Vice President; **R.L. Zimmermann**, Bartow, Secretary; and **A.T. Patillo**, DeLand, Treasurer. The next meeting set for December in Plant City.

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 58 Pg 9, May 22, 1923. **F.J. Zimmermann** extols Florida's 3 to 6 week early grape season advantage. Ag Station Bulletin 35 on grape insects and diseases available.

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 58 Pg 13, July 1, 1923. Pasco County article on county vineyards and grafting on native roots also mentions grafting on muscadine(?). **W.W. Myers** blames dieback on his original grafting system with 'White Niagara'. **J.C. Mitchell** has new vines and will employ improved grafting system. **Z.P. Brant**, Trilby has good growth on new vines. The initial county grower, **George L. Vernon**, a truck farmer has 20 years of success with grapes. **J.R. Pillar**, growing ungrafted grapes has earlier ripening in his 30 acre vineyard, is experimenting with 8 varieties, and gets 20-40 cents/lb in Tampa. Ibid, Pg 15 - Note encouraging persons interested in grape growing for profit to contact **J.I. McMahone**, FGGA Publicity Director for information.

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 58 Pg 3, July 6, 1923. **Harry Hatton**, Mineola, Lake County Chamber of Commerce demonstrates fine samples of peaches and 'Carmen' grapes to promote new industry.

Fla Ag. Exp. Sta. Bulletin 294, 1923- Spraying Experiments for Control Grape Disease- **Loucks**

President- L.B. Skinner, Tampa
George Burnham of Lakeland presented his experiences, emphasizing the rainy season challenges and the need for intensive research to establish "the ideal varieties" from native species. He faulted USDA and State Experiment Station for not doing more with bunch grapes, in view of past failures (FlaStateHortSoc 36:91-93, 1923). He promoted native species and referred to USDA Bulletin 471 by **Husmann.** Dr. and Mrs. **S.A. Sylvester** of Lakeland provided insights into their success with Munson varieties and plans to increase acreage for the northern market (FlaStateHortSoc 36:94-97, 1923) **E.L. Lord** from the College of Agriculture, Gainesville spoke on dealing with grape diseases, as did **C.L. Shear,** USDA. **J.R. Watson,** Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville, spoke on grape insects.
The *Florida Grower* had numerous articles pertaining to grapes as follows:
Adapted Nurseries ads promoting the profits in grapes with their vines. FlaGrower 27(5)30, 1923; 27(15)29; 28(17)23; 28(19)27; 28(23)18; 29(1)27. Another firm, John H. Wolf advertised quality 'Carman' vines, indicating an inventory of 500,000 plants for the next season (FlaGrower 29(1)14, 1923). [Some were pushing dubious claims.]

Grape question and comments from reader were published regularly, as were reports of northerners buying land and planting grapes, as well as vegetables and citrus. Mentioned in Pasco County was the Florida Grape and Land Company (FlaGrower 27(5)19, 1923) and folk migrating in to plant vineyards.
FlaGrower 27(6)8, 1923- In a comment about the recent FGGA meeting, **E.E. Ehrlich**, Tampa complained that few really understood grape cultivation. **G.W. Seally**, Arcadia offered to provide demonstrations and plant donated vines, with the help of 10th and 11th grade students.
FlaGrower 27(7)9, 1923- **E.L Zimmermann** compared Florida's grape potential to that of California.
FlaGrower 27(7)10, 1923- **N.W. Chadwick** plugged Volusia County for grapes.
FlaGrower 27(15)8, 1923- There was a good background article describing the goals and strategies of the FSHS.
FlaGrower 27(20)10, 1923- **J.L. McMahon**, FGGA Publicity Director did just that in writing "Progress in Florida Grape Industry". He followed up with "Great Demand for Grapes", referring to an unlimited market (FlaGrower 28(1)8, 1923).
FlaGrower 28(3)6, 1923- **McMahon** also requested production cost and price data from growers to build a data base. He later took exception to comments by a USDA viticulturist who had reservations about bunch grape propagation and favored muscadines [This was **Dearing** and he was proven right!] (FlaGrower 28(21)8, 1923).

An item mentioned 'Thompson Seedless' demand and cites Florida's advantages. [Curious idea, since seedlessness is highly preferred over most seeded varieties, independent of other quality attributes.] **R.A. Carlton**, Arcadia reported his procedures and success with vines – after he poisoned marauding rabbits. [Try that in Florida today!] **A. Birnbaum**, Jacksonville compared his 'Carman' to Champagne grapes of Germany (FlaGrower 28(13)8, 1923).
FlaGrower 28(14)8-9, 1923- **Wm. J. Helm**, Tampa expounded on the proper varieties for Florida, a topic about which there was some controversy and **H.G. Gardner**, Bartow provided disease protection suggestions [he was off base when stating, "Fewer diseases and insects attack grapes in Florida than in California…"].

FlaGrower 28(20)8, 1923- In a highly pertinent note **L.C. Hanna**, Naples complained about unripe 'Carman' grapes he purchased and cautioned on the effect of such practices on the market.
FlaGrower 28(24)8, 1923- The ninth FGGA meeting was described . [If this was 9th annual meeting, 1914 was first year, or if semi annual, 1918. Clearly several years before 1923.].
FlaGrower 28(26)9, 1923- **N.C. Hanna** defended his concern about selling unripe grapes, referring to the obvious detrimental results on the reputation of such suppliers.
FlaGrower 27(23)6-7, 1923- Mrs.**S.A. Sylvester** in "Experience in Grape Growing" indicates that **Munson**'s 'Carman' grape was named after **E.S. Carman**, Editor of The Rural New Yorker. This contradicts **De Vries** (FlaGrower,18(18)18,19, 1923). [Apparently 'Carmen' and 'Carman' were used interchangeably referring to the Munson hybrid, since the labrusca variety was impractical. In any case, the variety lacked PD resistance and is no longer relevant.]

1924

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 59 Pg 7, July 13, 1924. At the close of the FGGA Conference, elected officers for the next meeting in Dade city were announced: **H.T. Fisher**, Eustis, President; **E.F. Lord**, UF, Vice President; **Norman G. Nicoll**, Bartow, Secretary; **A.T. Patillo**, DeLand, Treasurer. The Executive Committee was: **George Burnham**, Lakeland; **W.H. Brophy**, Crystal Springs; **E.E. Truskett**, Mt Dora; **R.E. Hart**, Winter Haven; and **D.R. Nichols**, Ocala. The Committee of Marketing consisted of: **Thomas N. Bushy**, Yahala; Dr. **Dickson**, Mt Dora; **Frank O. Brando**, Greenville; **H. Gardner**, Bartow; and **A.F. Smith**, Arcadia.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 59 Pg 4, August 12, 1924. Article cited that grapes were profitable around Pensacola for sale in Birmingham and could be grown "with little or no trouble".
Thirty-seventh FSHS Proceedings- 1924, Tampa
President- L.B. Skinner, Tampa
(FlaStateHortSoc 37:150-153, 1924) **E.L. Lord,** Gainesville in "Grape Culture in Florida" provided a good overview of the situation to date and emphasized the need for a plant breeder to address grape problems (also in FlaGrower 29(11)4, 5, 1924). **Arthur S. Rhoads,** Citrus Blight Laboratory of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Cocoa, described chemical means of combating grape ripe rot (FlaStateHortSoc 37:154-159, 1924).

"Bunch Grapes in Florida" **H.T. Fisher, 1924,** FGGA President – upbeat overview; varieties found by **A.H. Norton** near Lake Eustis, **G.H. Norton** of Eustic, **J.H. Simpson** of Manatee; Tribute to **T.V. Munson** (out of 75,000 seedlings, only <100 were promising). Prof. E.L. **Lord,** UF grape expert; **Joseph Y. Porter,** reported on grapes growing in the Keys; **J. W. Mathison**, Walton County extension agent reported favorably[This is the **Mathison** vineyard in photos, so not spelled Mathewson]; **E.P. Powell** growing Ellen Scott near Sorrento. In 1907 **W.G. Steel** was reporting for *The Florida Dispatch***.**

Dr. **W.A. MacKenzie**, Leesburg and Col. **W.J. Stover**, Fruitland Park initiated comprehensive studies of most grapes known in America (~200 varieties) in order to find varieties appropriate for Florida. Shortly thereafter **Charles Demko** started a similar endeavor in Altoona (E.E. Truskett, History of the Grape Industry in Lake County p123-7 in History of Lake County). The operations of a grape cooperative based in Montverde is described and going well when the article was written 1924-1926?

Florida Times Union, Vol. 59 Pg 5, September 9, 1924. Almeria grapes from Spain quarantined by USDA due to Mediterranean fruit fly concerns.

FlaGrower 29(2)24; (5)67; (5)105- The *Florida Grower* "Grape Blog" continued with many revealing articles:
The Southern Adapted Nurseries put out a number of enticing, aggressive [if not dubious] promotional ads in Volume 29, 1924.
FlaGrower 29(9)27; (15)23- There were several more even more questionable ads, and a potentially useful one - (8)21.
FlaGrower 29(3)8, (5)26, and (10)27- **H. Gardner**, Bartow opined that Florida needed 50,000 bearing acres of grapes to satisfy the early northern market.
FlaGrower 29(5)26- As a warning to Florida growers, **H.T. Fisher** sent an article citing California's statistics, oversupply, and intent to open new markets.
FlaGrower 29(8)6, 1924- **George Burnham**, Lakeland wrote an article, "Some Essentials for Success Growing Grapes in Florida". He criticized both the USDA and State Experiment Station for not being more positive and supportive of bunch grapes and called for much greater emphasis on employing native bunch grape stock in breeding efforts.
FlaGrower 29(11)4-5, 1924- **E.T. Lord** in "The Grape Industry in Florida" provided a useful overview. He made some variety and cultivation suggestions and noted that nurserymen weren't the best source of advice on varieties. He stated that Florida badly needed an organized, directed grape breeding effort.
FlaGrower 29(19)8- The FGGA was putting together a vineyard survey and making plans to hold a grape exhibition, encouraged by **Charles Dearing**, Director of the Grape Experiment Station, at Willard, NC and **George C. Hussmann**, USDA viticulturist, who were expected to attend. **N.E. Stevens** and **J.R. Winston**, Plant Pathologists at the Orlando-based Fruit Disease Investigation Laboratory, Bureau of Plant Industries corrected a grape disease diagnosis and offered to identify samples sent from growers. **T.G. Lockwood**, Bartow suggested that to reduce grape variety and specie confusion, **Munson's** nomenclature be adapted.
FlaGrowr 29(20)7- **George Burnham**, Chairman of the FGGA Exhibit Committee made a call for participation, citing that prominent viticulturists would attend.
FlaGrower 29(24)7- **Wm. J. Helm** stated that a 2,000 acre venture, capitalized by New York-Tampa interests, would be initiated in Pasco County.

1925

FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 60 Pg 8, July 2, 1925. Fifth Annual FGGA Meeting in Orlando announced in Orlando. Col. **H.T. Fisher**, President featuring grape exhibits and addresses by prominent growers.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 60 Pg 10, July 5, 1925. A "Fine Grape Crop" reported from **B.A. Morris'** ¼ acre vineyard in Jefferson County.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 60 Pg 19, July 11, 1925. Professor **M.R. Ensign**, UF Extension Plant Pathologist and **Leo H. Wilson**, County Agent inspected Lake County vineyards and found them in good condition. Production was double from last year and 10,000 to 15,000 boxes will be shipped.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 60 Pg 16, July 19, 1925. **George M. Bishop**, Duval County was getting 10,000 lbs of grapes from his 3 acre vineyard. He has shipped as far as Montana, New York, and Boston, also has a good local demand.

Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville mentioned continuing evaluation of plantings and introduction of additional varieties (Fla Ag Exp Sta Annual Report. 61R,62R,1924).

FSHS Thirty-eighth Proceedings – 1925
Paul Hawkins, Eustis reported on "Experiments on growing California grapes in Florida" He chose vinifera over other species, blaming humidity for past failures. He uses native rootstock in his Grand Island planting of over 100 varieties and 8,500 plants. His upbeat report suggested that, with care and perseverance vinifera would succeed and the resulting quality far exceeded hybrids (FlaStateHortSoc 38:177-189, 1925) . A different perspective was provided by **E.E. Truskett** of Mt. Dora, talking on "Grape problems of Florida". He also spoke favorably of the commercial potential and the need for appropriate rootstock, but favored Munson hybrids, with little regard for vinifera or labrusca (FlaStateHortSoc 38:195-199, 1925).

FlaGrower 31(2)42, 1925. - "Easy money has been made on grapes in Florida by many persons, although knowledge concerning types and varieties in limited." This was the first sentence of an article that went on to praise muscadine's growing vigor, and suggesting it for a dooryard arbor, but not for its eating quality.
FlaGrower 31(3)52,54, 1925. Article described the Fruitland Park vineyard of Dr. **W.A. MacKenzie**, containing experimental plots of 50 varieties under evaluation. Munson rootstock was used and commercial shipping looked promising. Experiments were under the supervision of **W.J. Stover**, from California, cited as an experienced grape and citrus grower with extensive planting experience with the United Fruit Company in Jamaica and the Australian government in Australia. [His son, **Loren Stover** merits prominent mention later.]
FlaGrower 31(6)43, 1925. **F.J. Zimmermann** compared prices of California table, wine, and raisin grapes. He concluded that table grapes had the best potential for Florida. A question on achieving carload lots and shipping was referred to **MacKenzie**.
FlaGrower 31(11)20, 1925. The Pensacola Journal announced that 2,900 acres near Milton had been acquired by **James Ouzoonian**, a successful grape grower from Kingsberg, California. He lauds Florida grapes as superior and plans to plant 100 acres/year to meet the anticipated early season northern demand.
FlaGrower 31(16)8, 1925. Article describes Polk County Holly Hills Nursery experimental plantings directed by Profession **E.L. Lord**, UF. In addition to varieties selected by **Lord**, 46 Texas (Munson's) selections and some from New York, California, North Carolina, and Florida were added to the trial – consisting of 70 varieties and several thousand vines.
FlaGrower 31(25)6,13, 1925. **E.E. Truskett** presented, 'Some of the Grape Problems of Florida", with information similar to his other presentations – a mixture of optimism and caution.
FlaGrower 31(25)9, 1925. A note stated that Bartow vineyards were preparing to ship 100 tons of grapes north within 60 days. The contract with a St. Petersburg produce house was at 20 cents/lb.
FlaGrower 31(26)6,18, 1925. Article by **Ralph Stoutamire**, "The Grape May Rival Citrus in Florida" illustrates Grape Euphoria at its peak, emphasizing Southern Nurseries (Formerly Southern Adapted Nurseries?) claims.
FlaGrower 31(26)19, 1925. Glowing ad for grape property near Lake Wales – **Wm. Dudley Putnam**, The Putnam Vineyard Plan.
FlaGrower 32(2)4, 15, 1925. FGGA Annual Meeting in Orlando described – **H.G. Gardner** said the several hundred grape exhibit, featuring most varieties grown in Florida, was the largest ever.

An executive marketing committee was appointed to investigate sales problems and explore cooperative options. Committee consisting of: **T.N. Bussey**, Yahala; **E.E. Truskett**, Mt Dora; and **A.R. Morris**, DeLand. Officers reelected were: Col. **H.T. Fisher**, President; Professor **E.L. Lord**, Vice President; **Norman G. Nicoll**, Secretary; **A.T. Patillo**, Treasurer; and **George Burnham**, **W.H. Brophy**, **E.E. Truskett**, Dr. **H.C. Nichols**, and **R.E. Hart**, Executive Committee.
FlaGrower 32(3)24, 1925. **Harold Mowry**, UF Gainesville reported on the experimental vineyard. It consisted of 44 bunch grape varieties and 13 muscadines, planted in 1923, all treated similarly, and now under observation.
FlaGrower 32(4)3, 1925. Article lauding **F. W. Barber** who came to Escambia County with nothing 6 years previously and now had a thriving 20 acre farm with phenomenal grapes, among other fruits.
FlaGrower 32(12)5, 1925. Article, "What Profit Grapes" provided detailed cost data compiled by **W.J. Stover** on the **MacKenzie** vineyard that he operates. **MacKenzie** was identified as Mayor of Leesburg and a Representative in State Legislature. **Stover's** reasonable cost estimates and assumptions are worth comparing today (see table).
FlaGrower 32(18)14, 1925. **L. S. Stover**, cited as "one of Florida's foremost authorities on grape culture", proposed a Hernando County development of 1,200 acres in 5 to 40 acre vineyards as part of an offering by local land holders. [**Loren** was **W.J. Stover's** son and then 26 years old. Did the article really mean **W.J. Stover**?]
FlaGrower 32(25)6-7 and FlaGrower 32(26)6-7,20, 1925. A two part article, "How to Grow Florida Bunch Grapes for Profit" by **Frank Whitman** in collaboration with **John H. Wolf** and **J.L. McMahon** provides information from vineyard layout to marketing, including profit estimates.

1926

Thirty-ninth Proceedings FSHS- 1926, Cocoa
President- L.B. Skinner, Tampa
(FlaStateHortSoc 39: 215-220,1926) **E.E. Truskett** of Mt. Dora presented "The next step in the development of the Grape Industry". He cited past failures and lessons learned, and felt that the stage was set to move forward with the better Munson varieties and improved cultivation practices. [He also expressed appreciation for Zimmerman for introducing Munson hybrids, but applauded "better financed and more competent growers" for carrying these forward. This presentation, less FSHS member comments was also published in "Bunch Grapes in Florida", Truskett 1926, pp 27-35.]

Arthur S. Rhoads, assistant Plant Pathologist, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Cocoa published Bulletin 178, Diseases of Grapes in Florida.
Photo and label of **Demko Bros**. shipping Carman grapes in 20 lb lugs from Altoona Station on Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

Altoona vineyard – **Demko Bros**. **Stover (Loren's father) & MacKenzie**'s vineyard, Lady Lake. **Charles Demko** experimented in Altoona
E.E. Truskett, Mt. Dora – 1880 failures with Concord & Niagara, but success with Munson hybrids. 'Beacon' and 'Carman' were 90% of FL shipments. **Zimmerman Bros** established vineyards and nurseries in Pinellas County and promoted grape and land deals there and in

adjacent counties. **Truskett** presented a number of talks before the FGGA and elsewhere. He dealt with earlier failures and followed with a section, "Suggestions for the Commercialization of Florida Grapes" in his pamphlet (Truskett, 1926)

1927

Grape Euphoria continued with many pertinent *Florida Grower* articles and photos – many included in the **Figures** file (Lake County News clipping& Photos) January 1927. **Dickson-Truskett** vineyards at Monteverde – first full carload of grapes shipped 7/27/26, 4 more followed. Photos of Monteverde vineyard, harvesting, and packing house.
FlaGrower 35(13)5-6, 1930. **George H. Dacy** wrote "Primary Pointers about Florida Grape Growing" and covered key aspects, including cost data.

1928

FlaGrower 36(4)15, 1928. Lake County Chamber of Commerce advertises "Grapes Yield Big Returns in Lake County, Florida".
FlaGrower 36(5)20,32, 1928. Dr. **Charles Demko** in "What We Have Learned Growing Grapes" cites his positive experiences and methods. That year he made over 600 field grafts of over 25 European varieties (V. vinifera) on 10 different rootstocks. His experimental vines were European cuttings provided by **George C. Husmann**, USDA.
FlaGrower 36(6)7-8, 32, 1928. A revealing interview of Dr. **Charles Demko** notes details of his family background in Hungary, vineyard in Missouri, and developments in Altoona.

Our Place in Time, 1928 Pg. 146. "Putnam County placed an order for 21,069 grape plants; plans were made to plant 57 vineyards during the year"
(News Clip 1928) Encouraged by the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, the Putman County grape growers club was formed, **C.C. Middleton** President ; **F.K. Knight**, Crescent City, Treasurer; **Chas. E. Harris**, Palatka, secretary. Temporary Board of Directors were **J.W. White**, Lake Como; **S. W. Freeman**, Welaka; **E. Stacey**, Peniel; Mrs. **S.J. Harris** and **William Baker**, Satsuma; **D.M. Gautier**, Crescent City. The 19 charter members have pledged a total of 30 acres to be planted and others are being solicited. The club will reorganize as a branch of FGGA when grapes start bearing. Initial members listed were: **C.L. Snyder**, **Chas. Baker, Adolphe Linke, J.W. Tucker, G.W. Andrews, W.S. Middleton, C.O. Shepherd, Mrs. I.B. Baker, C.C. Middleton, J.L. Davidson, Carrie Jenkins, D.M. Gautier, T.M. Douglass, Clendenin Eckhart, S.W. Freeman, J.W. Hurst, E. Stacey, D.B. Bardin,** and Mrs. **S.J. Harry.**
PalatkaDailyNews 38(213) June 12, 1928. - Cites a multi car motorcade from Putnam County to vineyards in the Orlando area and lists the over 100 participants.

1929

FlaGrower 37(3)13, 1929. Dr. **W.A. MacKenzie** in "Grape Growing Succeeds in Florida: Industry Has Come to Stay in This State" paints a very rosy picture.
FlaGrower 37(5)7, 1929. Based on impending harvest of anticipated crop of 600 tons, a grape marketing association is planned. Details and officers for this Orlando based Florida Grape Marketing Exchange are spelled out, incorporation and contracts are in process. The Cover depicted grapes and the noted article implied progress. However, the cited fruit fly article would have serious consequences (FlaGrower 37(5), 1929). Dr. **W.A. MacKenzie** killed in a firearm accident. [Coincidence or business related?]

FlaGrower 36(4)15, 1929 A second severe blow to the Grape Euphoria came with the announcement from the USDA that Florida grapes are Mediterranean fruit fly host (FlaGrower 37(7)13, 1929). The resulting shipping restrictions put a damper on the grape show planned for the 14th annual FGGA meeting and put the Marketing Exchange in limbo. Fortuitously, the same article announced that **E.E. Truskett**, Mt. Dora and **J.W. Hunter**, Tavares sold 1,000 acres to northerners planning to plant vineyards.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 64 Pg 23, January 6, 1929. **Edgar E. Dunn**, Secretary Treasurer of Florida Grape Nurseries, Inc. announced nursery operations in Volusia and Brevard Counties to supply about 90,000 pedigree 'Beacon' vines derived from **Dickson** and **Truscott's** breeding program. **W.R. Briggs**, Brevard County Agent assisted with about 45,000 plantings in Brevard, and a similar number are planned for Port Orange. In this arrangement the counties supply land and labor and the nursery the cost of planting. The profits will be shared.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 64 Pg 6, January 27, 1929. **C.C. Middleton,** President Putnam County Grape Growers Club reported over 20,000 one year 'Florida Beacon' vines delivered for planting in Putnam County with 10,000 more due for a total of 80 acres. Other citizens are proceeding with dooryard and larger plantings.
(2005 Clipping) - 74 years ago, March 1929 More vineyards being planted near Pomona by **A. Linke** and Secretary **Harris**. The vineyards will be inspected by grape authorities, **W.J. Stover** and **A.E. Granger** of Fruitland Park.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 64 Pg 6, April 7, 1929. **W.J. Stover**, Fruitland Park with **F.K. Knight** and **Charles E. Harris**, Putnam County club members viewed the old and new plantings and deemed growth quite satisfactory. The club will keep careful records of the 25 in-county vineyards.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 64 Pg 4, June 1, 1929. Grapes from Montverde and Fruitland Park vineyards are reaching county markets and fetching 25-28 cents/lb with 'Casaba' the earliest.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 59 Pg 22, June 25, 1929. **George M. Bishop**, owner of Edgewood Vineyard presented Jacksonville Mayor Alsop with the first fruit of the year, anticipating a 1,200 lb crop.
FlaTimesUnion, Vol. 64 Pg 3, August 19, 1929. Bay County Seminole Plantation shipped 8 carloads of grapes, equivalent to about 45,000 gallons of juice [or at least that much wine, depending upon the persuasion of the buyers]. Prohibition Repeal was four years away.
The Florida Legislature established the Leesburg Field Laboratory as a branch unit of the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Florida. The initial mission was to address disease and insect problems affecting ornamentals and watermelon, both major crops in central Florida (IFAS, 1982).

FlaStateHortSoc 42:80-87, 1929. **E.E. Truskett** of Mt. Dora provided an update, "The Present Status of the Grape Industry in Florida". He reiterated the potential in Florida, citing progress in variety selection, cultivation, and handling. He felt that although close attention to all aspects of production and shipping quality was important, marketing was the primary obstacle to industry profitability. **Truskett** noted that during recent visits to Montverde these developments had impressed both the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. **Jardine** and **G.C. Husmann** of the USDA whose optimism had previously faded. **Husmann** had promoted grape introduction and encouraged **Von Littichau's** experiments about 30 years earlier. Based on vine decline of practically all introductions , **George** C. **Husmann**, had become skeptical of Florida's commercial opportunities; he was now more favorably inclined.

1930

FlaGrower 38(5)12,32, 1930. **Charles.S. Adams** interviewed Dr. **Charles Demko** regarding his breeding work in developing improved varieties for Florida. Dr. **George C. Husmann**, USDA, in charge of grape investigations supplied most of the test varieties from the government vineyard in Oakville, California. He cited vineyard cost data and 'Ribier' as his most promising variety. The previous year, due to his proximity to the fruit fly zone, **Demko,** on short notice had to build a juice facility to produce grape juice and successfully sold 2,000 gallons, instead of marketing his grapes.
FlaGrower 38(6)3,1930. & (7)18. The Central Florida Grape Corporation announced a land and vineyard management service for prospective grape growers. Principles were Dr. **R.W. Dickson** and **E.E. Truskett**.
FlaGrower 38(6)5-6, 1930. **Charles S. Adams** urged combining viticulture with citriculture, citing **Demko's** success with grapes and **Lord's** (FGGA President) opinion regarding the potential. Grape byproduct producers mentioned were **W.J. Stover** with canned grapes and **A.E. Pickard** making grape juice from his 100 acre vineyard. Only late season material and fruit unfit for fresh market were so utilized.
FlaGrower 38(7)15, 1930. The Florida Grape Growers Exchange elected new officers – **A.E. Pickard**, Orlando, President; **H.C. Brown**, Clermont, Vice President; Dr **Charles Demko**, Altoona, Secretary Treasurer; **William B. Turner**, Oxford; **Loren Stover** and **W.B. Gibson**, Fruitland Park, Executive Committee.
FlaGrower 38(11)30, 1930. **C.R. Hiatt**, FGGA Secretary reported on the 1930 Lake County grape harvest; close to 600 tons were shipped.
FlaGrower 38(7)12, 1930. Upcoming FGGA Annual Convention program announced – similar to those today.

Forty-third FSHS Proceedings – 1930 (No grape reports)

1931

Forty-fourth FSHS Proceedings
E.L. Lord, College of Agriculture, Gainesville, provided and update on "The Grape Industry in Florida", stating that economic realities dictate a very careful, gradual expansion of acreage in select locations. The euphoria expressed by **Truskett** several years earlier was nowhere evident in **Lord's** talk. He mentioned that he had been President of the FGGA for the last 6 years (FlaStateHortSoc 44:176-178, 1931).

FlaAgExpStaReport, 1930. These briefly cited progress on:
The Agriculture Station report on grapes unenthusiastically mentioned a few survivors vines and fruit jelly properties were evaluated. (By 1933, only 11 out of the original 63 varieties planted in 1923-24 had survived.)
FlaGrower 52(7)6,11,12, 1944- The State legislature allocated funds at the request of the FGGA in 1931 and **Kenneth W. Loucks** was assigned to the Leesburg Station to investigate grape pests. [According to **Loucks**' account the FGGA requested and obtained legislative support before the oft cited 1933 date.]

1932

FlaGrower 40(8)15, 1932. FGGA annual meeting report – **E.E. Lord**, UF reelected President for his 10th term; Dr. **Charles Demko**, Altoona and **B.K. Eaton**, Tallahassee, Vice Presidents; **C.R.**

Hiatt, Tavares, Secretary; and **G.P. Hoffman**, Penny Farms, Treasurer. Half of the 100 members attended. Estimated 1932 crop was 500 tons, compared to 900 tons in 1931. This was due to March cold and high winds. There was concern that the market suffered as growers were offering under ripe fruit. **Lord** injected a note of optimism, stating that with prohibition ending, Florida grapes, particularly 'Florida Beacon' would have good wine potential. [On the other hand, those clandestine winemakers now had access to legal commercial wine.]
FlaAgExpStaRpt,147-148, 1932, **K.W. Louks**, reporting on grape disease control indicated that over 30% of the 1931 grape crop was lost due to disease.

1933

FlaGrower 41(1)18, 1933. FGGA Winter Meeting report – Attendance was over 100 in anticipation of Repeal. Morning technical sessions were followed by pruning and grafting demonstrations in **Joe Church's** vineyard, Lady Lake.
FlaGrower 41(2)13, 1933. **Demko** is holding onto his juice processing equipment for wine; his ancestors were winemakers in Hungary for generations.
FlaGrower 41(5)9,18, 1933. Cross Florida canal route chosen with big agriculture dividends predicted.
FlaGrower 41(10)11, 1933. Shalimar vineyard near Valparaiso is planting 100 acres of wine grapes and installing winery equipment.
Louks continued pest control experiments and field evaluation of 225 varieties. These investigations continued by **Louks** until about 1942.
IFAS, 1982- The Watermelon Investigations Laboratory received a $3,500 annual appropriation for grape pest research, thanks to FGGA efforts.

1934

Lake County Citizen 51(16)5 1934. No FGGA Winter meeting was planned, but the Executive Committee met to plan the annual meeting. Member present were: **E.L. Lord**, President, **C.R. Hiatt**, County Agent, Dr. **Charles Demko**, A.E. **Pickard**, and **Lawrence Stover**.
Lake County Citizen 51(16)8, 1934. Based on cooperative research conducted in Lake County, "BigGrapeGrowingFuture" was predicted by Dr **F.E. Gladwin**, viticulturist from the NY State Experiment Station, Geneva. He praised 'Beacon' and suggested 'Fredonia' be evaluated.

1935

FlaStateHortSoc 48:129-151, 1935. **P.H. Rolfs'** provides a fascinating personal history of the FSHS, mentioning grapes and indicating that **Luttichau** "ducked out" (pg 142.). At the Homestead Subtropical lab several hundred European and American grape varieties were evaluated under **Hussmann**'s direction. The grapes grew well, but the cost of bagging and spraying were commercially unattractive. **Rolfs** cited high production costs as the main disincentive for bunch grapes.
FlaGrower 43(6)12 and (11)19, 1935. **A.F. Camp**, UF horticulturist answered reader's questions on suitable varieties for Florida.

1936

FlaGrower 44(7)6, 1936. **Spencer Mosher** cited high freight rates as being responsible for the decrease in grape acreage. Grapes from Argentina seemed more popular, yet lower quality than local grapes. **A.E. Pickard**, Orange County grower and FGGA President felt shipping rates

should be 1/3 to ¼ the present small fruit rate. He had to post guards and use dogs to protect against theft – "Finger Blight".

1937

FlaGrower 45(12)8, 1937. **E.L. Lord**, FGGA President cited best cash returns for grapes. Apparently Florida food chain store purchases and a stable market price were responsible. USDA Circular 437 American Grape Varieties by Dix and Magness published. Good overview on varieties, characteristics and region of adaptability, but little information about Florida-specific varieties.

1938

FlaGrower,46(7)6,13, 1938. Peter E. Chopin spoke enthusiastically about Florida Agriculture Advantages and mention an unidentified grape from New Orleans with superior quality for the extreme south – [near Miami?]. He felt this grape could fill the market gap from the end of grape imports from Argentina and the earliest California shipments.[Was he referring to New Orleans or South Florida?]

FlaGrower 46(2)8, 1938. **Demko** cited as doubling his Altoona juice processing facilities to handle Mandarin juice and slices. No mention of his grape activities.

FlaGrower 46(8)7,13, 1938. "Florida Grape Culture – A Growing Industry" by **Bert Livingston** cites past failures (including **Von Luttichau**'s attempts), but sees better prospects with **Munson** hybrids. Recognizes contributing pioneers: **W.J** and **L. Stover**, Fruitland Park; Dr. **W.A. MacKenzie**, Leesburg; and **E.E. Truskett.** Also mentioned are other contributors: Col. **H.T, Fisher,** Eustis; **Paul D. Hawkins**, Eustis; **F.J. Zimmerman**; **N.J. Nicoll**; **George Burnham**; Professor **E.L. Lord**, Orlando; **E.E. Erlich**, Tampa; **John Diero**, Montverde; **W.R. Crisp,** Holly Hills**;** Dr. **H.C. Nichols**, Ocala; **R.E. Hart**, DeLand; **W.J. Brophy**, Crystal Springs**;** Dr. **W. Dickson**, Mount Dora; **F.W. Davidson**, Mount Dora; **A.T. Patillo**, DeLand; **H.C. Brown**, Clermont; Dr. **A.H. Rhodes**, Cocoa; Dr. **Charles Demko**, Altoona; **Fred Smith**, Oxford; **Thos. N. Bussey**, Clermont; **A.E. Pickard**, Orlando; **B.K. Eaton**, Tallahassee; **R.W. Wheeler**, Orlando; **George P. Hoffman**; and **W.B. Gibson**, Leesburg. Planting details are given, with mention of a stake system by **R.E. Hopson**, Lutz. **K.W. Loucks** discussed disease control. Author mentions Winery operations of **Katherine Page** of Eustis- expected production 25,000 gallons. **A.E. Pickard** demonstrated wine samples at FGGA meeting, which at $2/quart were "superior to fanciest imported wines at $7 to $8 per quart". Author acknowledged **Loucks** for information, **Demko, Karl Lehman**, Tavares, and **Hopson** for photos.

FSHS Fifty-first Proceedings – 1938

Joseph E. Fennell of Miami spoke on "Breeding Experiments with the South Florida Native Grapes" (FlaStateHortSoc 51:73-76, 1938). He felt that early ripening in South Florida provided a market advantage over even Central Florida and described breeding work employing wild Vitis species indigenous to his area. **Fennell** was then with USDA, but grapes were separate – his hobby. Formerly Chief, Division of Food Crops, Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, Cost Rica.

1939

FlaGrower 47(4)10, 1939. **K.W. Loucks** provided early season suggestion for grape growers. Article was taken from his radio address on the topic.

FlaGrower 47(5)14,27, 1939. **R.D. Dickey**, Asst. Horticulturist, Leesburg Station in "Grape and Berry Production in Florida" provided an update on varieties and markets. He also mentioned progress with blueberries and how the market grew rapidly and then retracted – similar to grapes over the same period.
FlaGrower 47(5)14,27, 1939. **K.W. Loucks** provided information on cold storage for shelf life extension of grapes (from press bulletin 530).
FlaGrower 47(5)14,27, 1939. **Jerome F D'Arpa** calls for more grape research emphasizing native wild stock, cautions to jealously guard them from "foreign interests", and laments the loss of habitat due to fires and land development.

1940

FlaGrower 48(3)18, 1940. Dr. **Demko** mentioned his 16 year experience testing 280 different out of state introductions. The best results involve creating hybrids with Florida stock. In order to produce the one million gallons of wine consumed in Florida in 1939, 20 million pound of grapes were required. [This is the Florida vintner's dream - would that even 1 percent of present day state wine consumption were from Florida grapes!]

Winery in Clermont (no grapes mentioned). In mid 30s **P.J. & Charles M. Pool** developed citrus winery – 80,000 gal in 1939 and exhibited in NY World's Fair. Produced 250,000 gal in 1940 and operated until late 50s (Johnson andYoung, 1984).

1941

FlaAgExptSta Annual Report 1941pg 17.
1941_FlaAgExptSta_Pg17_GrapePestInvestigationExpenditures.pdfGrape pest investigation expenditures totaled $3,500
FlaGrower 49(5)5,9, 1941. **Loren Stover's** article, "Practical Grape Growing in Florida" covered all aspects from variety selection to marketing, based on best practices at the time.
FlaGrower 49(10)13, 1941.Classified ad still promises easy money in grapes.

1942

FlaAgExptStaRpt,124-125, 1942. **Loucks**' report, "Investigation of Fruit Rot & Propagation of Grapes" mentioned collection and evaluation of wild grape specimens. [The 'Lake Emerald' progeny may have been one.]
FlaGrower 50(3)4, 1942. Article by **W.M. Fifield**, UF stated that Florida Agriculture was prepared and eager to support the war effort. [**Fifield** was later Director of the Experiment Station and Fifield Hall, Horticulture Sciences location is named in his honor.]
FlaGrower 50(5)10,13, 1942. **K.W. Loucks** provided advice on proper grape spray practices.

1943

FlaGrower 51(5)9,12, 1943. **K.W. Loucks** presented another article on spray techniques.

1944

FlaGrower 52(2)8, 1944. **H.G. Clayton**, Chairman USDA War Board lauds U.S. farmers for their productive war effort.
FlaGrower 52(2) 12, 1944. **H.G. Blackmon,** State Experiment Station Horticulturist advised and described proper vine dormancy care.

FlaGrower 52(7) 2, 1944. Cover article shows 'Beacon' vine from **S.J. Stoughton's** Vine Villa 2.5 acre vineyard near Lutz as representative of what an inexperienced grower can accomplish.
FlaGrower 52(7)6,11-12, 1944. **Kenneth W. Loucks** reviews progress at the Leesburg Station since grape investigations started in 1931. [Loucks stated that at FGGA request, he was assigned to the Leesburg Station and started grape pest investigations then – not 1933 as other records state. He left there and joined the Citrus Commission in 1942.] He stresses the importance of wild vines to the breeding program and is concerned about their survival in the face of fire and development.

1945

FlaAgExptStaRpt,113. Investigation of Fruit Rot of Grapes was continued by **G.K. Parris**, and **L. Stover**.

1946

FlaGrower 54(7)9, 1946. **J.R. Watson**, UF Entomologist cited for his pioneering work and his death reported.

1947

FlaAgExptSta Bulletin436, 1947.The original Bulletin 324,"Grape Growing in Florida" by – **R.D. Dickey** and **K.W. Loucks** was revised by **R.D. Dickey**, **L.H. Stover**, and **G.K. Parris**.
FlaGrower 55(7)6 and (8)7, 1947. Announcements of FGGA meeting; decreased acreage due to lack of care; and Dr. **Demko** presided over meeting at which other Florida small fruits were mentioned (no details). Speakers were: **L.H. Stover**, **G.K. Parris**, **H. Harold Hume**, and **R.E. Norris**.
Leesburg Commercial Ledger, 1947. Dr. **Charles Demko's** breeding experiments in Altoona mentioned with his photo.

1948

FlaGrower 56(1)9, 1948. Mid winter FGGA meeting dealt with persimmons with no mention of grapes. [This was possibly the low point in grapes due to war priorities and dislocations – then things picked up.]
FlaGrower 56(5)22, 1948. **H.S. Wolfe**, UF gave an overview "Grape Varieties for Florida".
Unidentified clipping, May 1948. A news article cited **Loren Stover** as "Farmer of the Week" with brief bio and description of ongoing research in cooperation with **Demko** and farm superintendent duties under Dr. **G.K. Parris** at the Leesburg Station.
Sentinel-Star, July 11, 1948. Photo of speakers at the FGGA summer meeting at Eustis: **L.H. Stover, G.H. Blackman**, Horticulturist UF Ag Expt. Sta.; **R.D. Dickey**, Asst. horticulturist, Ag Station; Dr. **Charles Demko**, FGGA President; and **R.E. Norris**, County Agent.

Sixty-first FSHS Proceedings – 1948
G.K. Parris and **L.H. Stover**, Leesburg Watermelon and Grape Investigations Laboratory, described grape spraying experiments on an experimental bunch grape planting at Whitney, citing **K.W. Louck's** earlier work.
Sentinel-Star, Orlando, July 11, 1948. Photo **Charles Demko**, FGGA President.

1949

Sixty-second Proceedings- 1949, Held at Tampa
President- Frank Stirling, Davie
FlaStateHortSoc- Vol. 62 Pg. 112-117, 1949. **J.L. Fennell**, Lady Lake presented "Progress for a Better Viticulture for Warm Climates", postulating that, based on his experience in Central America, the introduction of tropical species into Florida grape breeding is a necessary thrust.
FlaTimesUnion 84(7)12 Jul 15, 1949. Midsummer FGGA meeting announced for Eustis and Leesburg Station. Dr. **Demko,** President. Figs and pear growers are also exhibiting at the accompanying grape show (FTU 84(7)20 Jul, 1949).
Unidentified, January 27, 1949. Overview article and photo of FGGA mid-winter conference, Leesburg. Dr. **Demko** on rootstocks….

1950

FlaGrower 58(4)10,27-28, 1950. Article by **Harris H. Mullen** "What About Grape Growing in Florida" neatly summarizes problems. The interviews with **Joseph L. Fennell** (rather detailed), Dr. **Charles Demko,** FGGA President, and **Loren Stover** emphasize breeding efforts underway. They all optimistically stress utilization of native stock.
Eustis Lake Region News, July 20, 1950. FGGA met in Eustis – Photo of Dr.**Charles Demko**, FGGA president, **Joseph Fennell**, Lady Lake grower, and others.
FlaTimesUnion 85(7) 29,30 Jul 13, 1950. A report on the 25th Annual FGGA Conference and Show [Was the show a conference add-on in 1925 or poor subtraction (1950-1923=27th conference)?] featured over 100 varieties of grapes grown in Central Florida. Peaches, plums, and sub-tropical fruits were also mentioned. The Leesburg Station displayed 21 varieties and strains and **Willard F. Fifield**, Director of the UF Ag Experiment Station, Gainesville and other UF horticulturists outlined ongoing research.
Unidentified, undated ~1950s. Article on melon show photos of 'Florida Beacon' vineyard and **Stover** grafting.

1951

Unidentified, February 8, 1951. Photo of speakers at winter FGGA Conference at Altoona: UF researchers and commercial breeders.
FlaGrower 59(3)7, 24, 1951. Article, "New Grapes for Florida" by **L.H. Stover** and **G.K. Parris**, cited success with crosses employing the female 'Pixiola' vine leading to 'Lake Emerald' (yet unnamed) – **K.W. Loucks'** wild selection and later breeding efforts.
FlaGrower 59(8)17, 1951 A report on the summer FGGA meeting with 75 attending – Dr. **Demko**, President; **Loren Stover** Vice President [mentioned erroneously as being in charge of the Leesburg Station]; and **R.L Norris**, Secretary Treasurer.

1951 – Sixty-fourth FSHS Proceedings
Warren N. Stoner, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Everglades Experiment Station, and **Loren H. Stover,** Watermelon and Grape Investigations Laboratory, Leesburg, established that "vine decline" the major cause of all previous failures of home and commercial efforts in Florida was caused by Pierce's disease (PD), thought to be a virus [later established to be bacterial in origin]. Furthermore, they demonstrated that PD resistant hybrids had been developed and were thriving in both experimental and commercial trials. In a following article, **Stover** reviewed the historical background, origin of the wild grape, hybridization details, and

acknowledged a number of grape growers whose persistence and cooperation resulted in the reported successful and continuing breeding effort (FlaStateHortSoc 64:266-271, 1951)

1952

FlaGrower 60(4)7, 42-44, 1952. **Joseph L. Fennell**, Plant breeder, Lady Lake presented "Paying Florida Grape on Way". Based on his wide international experience, he emphasized hot, humid climate species, but warned about mistaking similar appearing fruit for Vitis species. **Fennell** was concerned about fires and land development threatening wild vines in Florida.
FlaGrower 60(8)8, 1952. Report on FGGA summer meeting cited **Stover** and **Demko's** breeding progress. Dr. **W.R. Roy**, Research Director, Minute Maid, Plymouth mentioned pectin removal as being a necessary criteria for producing grape juice concentrate.
FlaTimesUnion 87(7)63, 64 Jul 20, 1952. Article, "State Grape Industry Heads for Comeback" cites past history and provides optimistic assessment by **Demko** and guarded opinion by County Agent **Norris.**
ProcFlaStateHortSoc,65,193-196,1952. **Stoner** and **Stover** presented additional details and described further work on vigorous hybrid development, promising other valuable releases.
Tampa Tribune, 5/25/52. Photo and story about **Loren Stover** and 'Lake Emerald' showing promise.
Tampa Tribune, July 20, 1952. **Loren Stover** urges caution and **Norris** patience regarding the 'Lake Emerald' breakthrough and availability.
Unidentified, undated ~1952. Articles cite the promise of 'Lake Emerald' (prior to its release) and the successful breeding approach used. One erroneously suggests trying some labrusca varieties.

1953

FlaGrower 61(6)10, 1953. **R.E. Norris**, FGGA Secretary and County Extension Agent wrote on "Grapes as Summer Cash Crop". He emphasized the match with citrus for labor and lauded FGGA past officers and viticulturists. Most important for us, he cited several FGGA Presidents and their terms of office – **E.L. Lord**, 1925-1937; **A.E. Pickard**, 1938-1939; and Dr **Charles Demko**, 1940-present. Despite his optimism, **Norris** said he wouldn't rush to buy land and plant grapes, instead encourage and follow the ongoing research developments.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 61(18)11, 1953. Journal is now called *Florida Grower and Rancher*. Article described FGGA meeting and the 'Lake Emerald' background. The variety was undergoing extensive evaluation in various Florida locations prior to the release in early 1954.
Orlando Sentinel, June 7, 1953. Photo of **Stover** and **Crall** with ripening 'Lake Emerald'.
Unidentified, 7/1953. Between 75 and 100 FGGA meeting attendees heard about great juice, wine and table possibilities for new varieties, if quality, quantity, and consistency can be maintained. Photos of participants were included.
Tampa Sunday Tribune, July 12, 1953. Article on "Grapevine Derby" – anticipated release of new variety releases for 1954 – **J.H. Fennell** with 'Tamiami"; Leesburg Station with 'Lake Emerald'; and **C. Demko** with several unnamed varieties.
Unidentified, 1953 Article, "Big Grape Future Seen for Florida" cited Dr. **Charles Demko** as FGGA president for 14 years. He is more optimistic as he prepares to release hybrid varieties 'Taylor' and 'Dunstan' after 33 years and 3,500 separate crosses. **Demko's** ancestors raised grapes in Hungry, he worked his parents vineyard in Missouri, and gave up optometry to grow grapes in Florida. Altoona vines now 14 years old.

1954

FlaAg Expt Sta.Circular S-68.The ‘Lake Emerald’ Grape, **L.H. Stover**. The release of “Lake Emerald” by **Loren Stover** was, in retrospect, a significant landmark and turning point in a 200+ year quest. This introduction was the first bunch grape with adequate disease resistance, and is still prominent as a wine grape. [For online publications of all University of Florida variety releases from 1954-1994 see: http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/CultivarBulletins/]

FlaGrowerAndRancher 62(3)16,22,24, 1954. At the FGGA winter meeting Dr. **Charles Demko**, FGGA President and his son **Charles W. Demko** demonstrated grafting and insect protection of the graft. Dr. **Demko** mentioned that out of over 3,000 crosses 28 were selected, but only 5 proved of value

The Leesburg Station will provide **A.E. Pickard** about 35,000 cutting of ‘Lake Emerald’ to produce 70,000 vines which will be sold to the public at cost a year later.

Tribune and *Fort Meyers’ News* Press Jan1_31 Photo and article quoting **J.M. Crall** about 1954 release of ‘Lake Emerald’ citing breeding work by **Fennell** and Dr, **Demko**.

1955

FlaGrowerAndRancher 63(4)26, 1955. Clay County Agent, **Charles C. Below** states the County 4-H Clubs have 500 ‘Lake Emerald’ cuttings to plant as a demonstration project.

Leesburg Commercial, July 13, 1955. Photo of Leesburg Field Day, **Stover** honored for ‘Lake Emerald’.

Sentinel-Star, undated, 1955 Photo and article cited **J.L. Fennell**, Lady Lake as FGGA President and **A.E. Pickard**, Orange County and **Charles Demko** as past FGGA Presidents. Newly formed grape marketing association for Central Florida mentioned with **Pickard** President and **Demko** Secretary. [Date and paper unidentified, but ‘Lake Emerald’ being raised by Col. **A.H. Rogers**, Lockhart to be made available “next December and January”.]

Sentinel-Star, undated, ~Fall 1955. Article on growing ‘Lake Emerald’ plants for public sale sponsored by Sentinel-Star described. County agent **Fred Baetzman** and **A.E. Pickard**, who had 100 acres in grapes prior to the blight, enlisted Col. **Art Rogers** with land at Lockhart to handle propagation. With planting supervision from **Loren Stover** and help from **C.D. Wilder**, Orlando, 14,000 vines will be sold at cost for $1 each.

Sentinel-Star, undated, ~Fall 1955. A follow up article indicated a sell-out, but those still wishing to purchase plants could get them from **John Martin’s** nursery in Crescent City or **M.H. Hicks** in Earleton.

Sentinel-Star, undated, ~1955-6? Photo of grape cuttings to be sold by Sentinel-Star in project to revive grape cultivation in Central Florida.

St. Petersburg Times, undated, ??. Photo of **Loy Faircloth**, Whitney Road, Clearwater, showing his Scuppernong vineyard - one of the largest in county.

Sentinel-Star?, July 1, 1955. Photo and article about **Charles LaBella** growing French hybrids, said to be earlier than ‘Lake Emerald. He will present data at upcoming FGGA meeting.

1956

FlaGrowerAndRancher 64(3)17, 20- 21, 1956. **J.L. Fennell** provide cogent arguments for taking advantage of hot humid climate wild grape species in Florida breeding efforts.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 64(3)16, 18, 1956. **J.H. Christie**, Nematology Department UF described nematodes problems in grapes.
Orlando Sentinel, Lake Sumter Edition, July 19, 1956. **J.L. Fennell** reelected FGGA President, **John W. Martin**, Crescent City 1st Vice president, **Charles W. Demko,** Altoona 2nd vice president, **R.E. Norris**, Tavares Secretary-Treasurer and Lake County Agricultural Extension Agent. (**Fred Aufford**, Lake Wales foiled birds with polyethylene bags.
Sentinel, undated, ~1955-6?. **Burton I. La Roy** of DeBary, Volusia County's only FGGA member, lauds **Stover** for 'Lake Emerald' and is shipping vines throughout the south
Unidentified, July 15, 1956. Article, "Interest in Grapes Soars in Florida" cited mid-summer FGGA meeting. Photos of **Stover** and **Fennell** viewing **Fennell's** selections, and other growers – Dr. & Mrs. **R.D. Rands** and **F.A. Auford**, Lake Wales, **L.B LaRoy**, Orange City, and **Jim Pruitt**, Leesburg Station.
FlaTimesUnion 91(1)22 Jan 29, 1956. Article reviews past grape failures and mentions the promising work of **Fennell**, **Demko**, and **Stover**. Photo of Leesburg 'Lake Emerald' test plot.
FlaTimesUnion 91(7)14 Jul 30, 1956. "Big Grape Future Seen for Florida" article cites Dr. **Demko** predicting a multi-million dollar Florida crop. He mentions his family's 5 centuries of grape growing in Hungary, the Missouri vineyard, and states that after 33 years and 3,500 separate crosses his 'Dunston' and 'Taylor' varieties are almost ready to go.
FlaTimesUnion 91(8)25 Aug 5, 1956. Background on the Leesburg Station with description of watermelon and grape research. **J. M. Crall** came as Director in 1952.The purchase of 165 acres for Leesburg relocation mentioned.
Times-Union, undated, ~ 1956 citing Mid-winter FGGA meeting – **W.A. Scott** of Leesburg cautioned that 'Lake Emerald' lacked the berry size and were too delicate for fresh market. **Joseph L. Fennell**, FGGA president, emphasized the value of native wild stock. The meeting adjourned to **Demko's** vineyard.

1957

Proceedings FlaStateHortSoc, Vol. 70 Pg. 300-302. **L.H. Stover** described his grafting technique, applied to previously reported studies.
1957~News Clip, "UF's Melon and Grape Lab at Leesburg to get New Home". The new site off Route 27 south of Leesburg and Lab's accomplishments described.

1958

Proceedings FlaStateHortSoc- Vol. 71 Pg. 344-348. "Effect of Bedding and Mulching on Lake Emerald Grapes". **N.C. Hayslip,** Indian River Field Laboratory, Ft. Pierce and **L.H. Stover,** Leesburg, reported on flatland experiments with 'Lake Emerald', providing additional evidence of the variety's durability.

1959

FlaGrowerAndRancher 67(9)2 September cover shows W.H. Swango, Ocala harvesting his prolific 'Lake Emerald' vine.
USDA Bulletin 2123, "Growing American Bunch Grapes" by N.H. Loomis- didn't say much about southern grapes or mention Florida at all.

1960

FlaAgExpSta. Circular S-120. 'Blue Lake'-A new bunch Grape for Florida home gardens. **L.H. Stover**.

FlaGrowerAndRancher 68(2)55, 1960. Vines and cuttings of 'Blue Lake', developed by **Loren Stover** were released to Florida nurseries. It was cited as "virus resistant". [Actually PD resistant, the infectious bacteria had not yet been identified.]

FlaTimesUnion 95(1)22 Jan 24, 1960. **Stover** cited and the release of 'Blue Lake' announced.

FlaStateHortSoc 73:320-323, 1960. **L.H. Stover** Provided an overview, "Progress in the Development of Grape Varieties for Florida", outlining strategies and aims of the Leesburg Station's breeding program.

1961

1961, TampaTribune 7-19 Jul 16. "Bright Future Predicted for Grape Growers". FGGA meeting with **Charles W. Demko, Jr.** as President (**Demko Sr.'**s son). **Jim Crall** indicated that fresh market and processing opportunities were attractive. A book on grapes in Florida by Dr. **Demko** published by the State Dept. of Agriculture was mentioned.

1962

FlaStateHortSoc Proceedings 75:281-283. **L.H. Stover** and **R.A. Dennison** reported on the juice potential of 'Blue Lake', the first red grape hybrid from the Leesburg breeding program.

News Clip 7-14,1962. Report of FGGA Annual Meeting - **Charles Demko, Jr.** reelected as President; **Thomas Nordman**, Vice President; **Bob Norris**, Secretary; and **D.H. Oswald**, Ocala, Treasurer. **Stover** indicates more grape plantings initiated – photos of **Demko, Jr**., his wife, and **Stover**.

1963

FlaGrowerAndRancher 71(8)4, 1963 Aug. Cover shows 'Blue Lake vine at **Tom Hughes's** home near Tampa.

FlaStateHortSoc Proceedings, 76:341-345. "Four Promising Grape Selections" **Stover** and **Mortensen** reported on additional promising grape selections and described their breeding procedures.

Unidentified clipping, ~1963. **John Mortensen** described progress toward quality table and juice grapes. Photos showed **Stover** and **Crall.**

1964

[No grape publications or FGGA activities reported – They certainly exist(ed), but haven't been located.]

1965

8-News Clip, August. "'Lake Emerald' and 'BlueLake' are Tops but New Varieties Tested". **Mortensen** indicates other releases are in the pipeline.

FlaTimesUnion 100(9)18 Sep 5, 1965. **Frank Ellis** reports, "Biggest Best Crop in Callahan" from his 36 year old 3 acre muscadine U-pick vineyard. His father had planted 30 varieties and named one 'Ellis Imperial'.

[**Loren Stover** retired from the Leesburg Station, but continued to participate in FGGA events, consult and, provide his expertise to interested parties.]

1966

News Clip, July - **John Mortensen** interviewed on breeding approach and results.
FlaAgExpSta CircularS177- The 'Norris', variety released **by J.A. Mortensen** and **L.H. Stover** in honor of **Robert L. Norris**, Lake County Extension Agent and FGGA Secretary for many years.

1967

Procccedings of FlaStateHortSoc 80:348-350. **Mortensen** and **Knight** established that supposed PD resistance of vinifera in a marine environment was due to the lack of the PD vector and not inherent, since exposing the vines to a PD environment resulted in infection (Mortensen and Knight, 1967).
Bob Bates joined IFAS and was introduced to Florida grapes during his first FGGA meeting at Leesburg.

1968

'Stover', 1968 – named in honor of **Loren Stover**, who retired in 1965, but continued assisting growers and grape propagation at Leesburg and his home in Lady Lake for several decades.

1969

FlaGrowerAndRancher 62(5)21 May. **John Mortensen** announces the release of the bunch grape variety 'Stover' and comments on its commercial and dooryard potential.
FlaStaHortSoc 81:182-187. **Bates** and **Mortensen** reported on processing and utilization research with grape varieties and breeding lines from **Mortensen's** program at Leesburg. A number of lines were acceptable as juice and wine, but 'Stover' stood out.

1970

News Clip July. At summer FGGA meeting **James Crall** indicated that the Leesburg Station is studying means of minimizing pollution and pesticide use in grape cultivation.
1970 FlaGrowerAndRancher 63(11)33 Dec. Classified ad for Scuppernong New Hybrids, six for $5.00, Helena, Georgia (close up)

1971

News Clip August. **Tom Hughes Sr.** descriped his U-pick operation and comments on the wine potential of Florida grapes. The current 100 acres total would increase if home winemaking were allowed.
FlaTimesUnion 107(7)B-6 Jul 11, 1971. FGGA Annual Meeting announced. **C. L. McCormick**, President invited public to attend. Presentations by **John Mortensen**, **Carlos Balerdi**, and **Loren Stover** are planned. **Ralph Weaver** from Bartels Winery in Pensacola will talk on commercial winemaking.
October 1971 list of Florida Grape Nurserymen published by Leesburg ARC

1972

January 2, 1972 letter from **J.A. Mortensen** to **Thomas Hughes, Sr.** describing plans and tentative program for the 1/16/72 FGGA meeting in Tavares. Copies of meeting programs - January 20, 1972, Tavares; January 16, 1973, Tavares; July 19, 1973, Leesburg and ARC; January 17, 1974, Tavares; July 18, 1974, Leesburg and ARC; January 16, 1975, Tavares; and August 19, 1993, Leesburg ARC.
Lists of Florida Grape Nurserymen for October 1971, November 1981, March 1983, and February 1986.
News Clip, July. Annual FGGA meeting at Leesburg reported. **Tom Hughes, Sr**. elected President; **Hal Davidson**, Kissimmee, Vice-President; **Andrew Rose**, Leesburg, Acting Secretary; and **Loren H. Stover**, Lady Lake, Treasurer. **Ben H. Ervin**, FDAC described legislation permitting home winemaking.

1973

FlaStateHortSoc.86 – several articles. The Leesburg Station was also evaluating muscadine cultivars and reported on 48 under evaluation (Mortensen and Balardi, 1973) and machine harvest suitability (Balardi and Mortensen, 1973). Additional wine evaluation pointed to promising muscadine and bunch varieties (Grosz, et al., 1973). Detailed cost analysis data on a small Tennessee U-pick operation was presented (Grosz and Crocker, 1973). [**Grosz** had moved to Orange Lake, put in a comparable vineyard, and became active in the FGGA – President 1974-76.]
January 16, 1973 copy of FGGA program cited in 1972 letter [Actually 1973]**Mortensen** to **Tom Hughes**, President
July 19, 1973 FGGA Summer Meeting program in Leesburg, **Tom Hughes**, President.
Tribune News article and photo, undated (1972-74, Hughes-That LittleOldWinemaker DeLaParte). **Thomas J. Hughes**, FGGA President is showing State Senator **Louis da la Parte** vines. The Senator was presented a vine and lifetime FGGA membership for facilitating a bill permitting home wine making.
Joseph D. Midulla Sr. owner of Tampa Wholesale Liquor Distributor, Inc. founded Fruit Wines of Florida and later established a vineyard near Port Ritchie, where he planted mostly 'Stover'. He bottled Lorenz Blanc in 1981 in honor of **Loren Stover**.

1974

January 17, 1974 copy of FGGA Winter meeting, Tavares
July 18, 1974 copy of FGGA Summer meeting in Leesburg, then Ag Station, **Tom Hughes, Sr.** President

1975

January 16, 1975 copy of FGGA Winter meeting, Tavares, **Esmond Grosz**, President
Announcement and details for the Second Annual Florida Amateur Wine Competition, sponsored by the FGGA and American Wine Society.

1976

Proc. FlaStateHortSoc 89:253-254. Planting and Care of Hybrid Muscadine. **Florence Hall** provided a how-to talk on the planting and care of a muscadine vineyard and stressed the need for more grape research support, a message she later articulated and amplified effectively before Florida legislators (Hall, 1976).

FlaTimesUnion 112(7)A-9 July 16, 1976. – Optimistic description of State's grape industry with quotes by **John Mortensen**, **Jim Crall**, and **Loren Stover**, Leesburg Station and **Calvin Arnold**, Monticello ARC. The viticulture plans of **Clara Jane Smith**, Gadsden County and **Fred Iaukea**, Jefferson County mentioned – just starting with plantings.
FlaTimesUnion 112(8)A-1,13 Aug 27, 1976. – Article on **Jeff May's** vineyard on Herlong Road [Circa Jacksonville] reports an 8 ton harvest. His grapes survived past freezes that damaged peaches, so he concentrates on muscadine U-pick.
Mortensen, John A.; Nesbitt, W. B.; Underwood, V. H. 'Dixie', a bronze muscadine grape variety. Fla. Agric. Expt. Sta. Circ. S-244, 1976. A joint Florida-North Carolina muscadine release.

1977

FlaStateHortSoc 90:228-230, 1977. A marketing study of Florida bunch grapes indicated modest potential (Stover, et al., 1976)
March 24, 1977 copy (poor) of FGGA Articles of Incorporation listing officers. **Florence Hall** was President. **Hall** also initiated a vine survey and started the Southeast Muscadine Grape Growers Association

1978

FlaTimesUnion 114(8)B-2 Aug 28, 1978. Article and photo of a FGGA and FAMU sponsored Grape Stomp with **Doyle Conner**, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture and Wayne Mixson, State Representative stomping. Following is an interview with **Esmond** and **Malinda Grosz** describes their plans for a vineyard and winery on their 100 acre property in Orange Lake. Currently U-pick, but winery plans. [They moved from U-pick to a plant nursery and eventually out of grapes entirely and into real estate.]

1979

Ninty Second Proc. FlaStateHortSoc. A survey provided customer characteristics and product preferences for U-pick grape, blueberry, and peach establishments (Crocker and Wall, 1979). Although it was now known to be of bacterial origin, efforts to overcome Pierce's disease in susceptible vines by the use of antibiotics were ineffective (Hopkins, 1979). Rogers and Mortensen, 1979 reviewed classification criteria and provided an updated review of the native species of Florida.

1980

Minutes of the Annual FGGA Business Meeting, July 12, 1980, **Clara Jane Smith**, President. Submitted by **Felicity Trueblood**, Secretary. Board of Directors listed with discussion of dues and program planning.

1981

FlaGrowerAndRancher 74(3)11, 34 Mar. Article describing the **Grosz** vineyard in Orange Lake. **Esmond** and **Malinda Grosz** has a successful nursery and fresh grape operation, but later went into the mortgage business.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 74(11)19, 1981. Article, "Grape Industry in Resurgence" notes renewed FGGA activities and **Harold Crevasse's** muscadine marketing plans.

Ninety Fourth Proc. Florida State Hort. Soc. A symposium, "Grapes in Florida" provided an overview of most aspects (FlaStateHortSoc 94:328-353, 1981). These were: Grape cultivar trials and recommended cultivars for Florida viticulture (Mortensen and Andrews, pp 328-331); Grape insects and diseases in Florida (Adlerz and Hopkins, pp 331-336); Grape weed research and recommendations (Arnold and Aldrich, pp 336-339); Postharvest physiology and senesces in muscadines (Saunders et. al., pp. 340-343); Grape processing and utilization in Florida (Bates et. al., pp. 343-347); Muscadine grape marketing alternatives: Fresh vs. processed vs. direct market (Mathis et. al. pp 347-350); Florida's grape industry: A sleeping giant (Hughes, pp.350-352); IFAS Extension informational delivery system for grapes (Crocker and Jackson, pp. 352-353).

November 1981 list of Florida Grape Nurserymen by Leesburg ARC
Minutes of the Annual FGGA Business Meeting, July 11, 1981, **Harold Crevasse**, President, submitted by **Felicity Trueblood**, Secretary. Board of Directors listed – no changes until the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws revision is completed.
June 1981 FGGA Newsletter, **Clara Jane Smith** was President. Groundbreaking announced for:
Foster and **Rebecca Burgess'** Alaqua Vineyard, Walton County
Dr. and Mrs, **Robert C., Price's** Florida Heritage Winery, Anthony
"Cultural Practices in the Vineyard" authored by **John Mortensen** provided May and June schedules. [Presumably this was a Newsletter series covering other months in missing issues.] This was the earliest FGGA Newsletter available – we're actively seeking earlier ones. The information is very useful! Those available and items of interest are noted.]
Paisley Clifton, 1968. From Cotton to Quail: An Agricultural Chronical of Leon County, Florida 1865—1967. FSU Book, Reissue 1961. (Actually, reissued in 1981, not 1961) Pertinent information on **DuBois** and his efforts.

1982

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, February 12, 1982. Members listed, actions involved – revised dues schedule; board reorganized; 3 geographical zones set up; wine competition and summer meeting scheduled; FGGA to join Florida Agricultural Council [A member in ~1977. Rejoin or renew membership?]; **Roslyn Norris**, FAMU appointed FGGA Newsletter Managing Editor; **Clara Jane Smith** was appointed permanent FGGA representative and **Bill Smith** as official FGGA spokesman in Tallahassee. All FGGA officers are to be elected for 2 year terms.
Summer 1982 FGGA Newsletter, **Harold Crevasse**, President reported that **Florence** and **Jack Hall** are selling their vineyard (moved to Arizona for health reasons). State Bill 54 would allow grapes from Baldwin County, Alabama to be used in Florida wine without FL wine tax.
FGGA 1982 information pamphlet describes 3 Florida zones and mentions existing wineries – Fruit Wines of Florida, Tampa; Florida Heritage Winery, Anthony; and Alaqua Winery, DeFuniak Springs. [Alaqua was in Niceville, so probably Chautauqua Winery which is in DeFuniak Springs?]
FlaGrowerAndRancher 75(7)18 Jul, 1982. FAMU Grape Symposium and accompanying FGGA meeting announced.

1983

FlaStateHortSoc 96. An analysis of the profit potential of Florida muscadines indicated the factors that potential growers must consider before getting involved (Hewett, 1983). A report on

the emerging Florida wine industry cited five in operation and provided information about ownership, location, and volume (Bates, 1983). None mentioned survived for more than 10 years.
Coleman et. al. 1983- USDA workers described a novel mobile processing line for southeast grapes and indicated the Citrus and Subtropical Products Lab's activities with grapes.
Savoy et. al., 1983- With the assistance of research centers in Arkansas and California, FAMU explored the feasibility of manufacturing raisins from muscadines and found it impractical, given current circumstances.
March 1983 list of Florida Grape Nurserymen published by Leesburg ARC
Autumn 1983 FGGA Newsletter, **James F. Eckhart**, President. Representative **James T. Hargrett, Jr.**, Tampa expressed interest in supporting legislation to aid the Florida grape industry. **Bill Doherty** is preparing a computerized list of FGGA members to streamline information and correspondence. [How did we ever do without it?]
FlaGrowerAndRancher 76(6)14,15,20 Jun, 1938. An article, "There's Money in Muscadines" describes **Foster Burgess'** vineyard and winery operation. Starting in 1977 he has 9 acres in production and one year of wine sales. Cost figures are provided and those interested are encouraged to contact the FGGA's President, **Harold Crevasse** and get the manual on grape growing by **Edsel Thomaston,** Walton County Extension Agent.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 76(8)21 Aug, 1983. – The Yakima Valley Grape Processors Coop joined the Citrus Central Citrus Coop in order to provide a source of grape concentrate and mutual markets.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 76(9)22 Sep, 1983. – Article described Grape Field Day at the Leesburg Station. John Mortensen announced new releases – 'Conquistador' Suwannee', and 'Daytona'. FGGA membership exceeded 300 and five Florida wineries were in operation.

1984

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, July 14, 1984, **James F. Eckhart**, President. Participation in Agriculture Appreciation Day to continue. Commissioner of Agriculture should appoint members to the VAC, based on his judgement without recommendations from the Board.
Summer 1984 FGGA Newsletter, **James F. Eckhart**, President announced that the Viticulture Policy Act had passed. (See Chapter 599, Viticulture for up to date details.)
The official opening of Lafayette Winery, Tallahassee was announced by **Gary Ketchum**, general partner.
A group of viticulture and enology consultants were invited to visit Florida and report of the needs of the grape industry. They were: **Vince Petrucci**, Founding Director of the Viticulture and Enology Research Center, California State University, Fresno, CA; **Justin Morris**, Founding Director of the Institute of Food Science and Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR; **Len Mattick**, Professor, Food Science and Technology, Cornell University, Geneva, NY; **Bruce W. Zoecklein**, Extension Enologist, Missouri (now at VPI). After a 2 week review, these gentlemen provided a comprehensive report outlining and prioritizing program needs. Much of the subsequent developments followed their guidelines. Both **Petrucci** and **Morris** continued to participate in FGGA activities for many years and formed lasting friendships within the Florida Grape Community.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 77(12)26 Dec, 1984. **Bill Smith** elected as Chairman of the Viticultural Advisory Council. The VAC charged by Commissioner of Agriculture **Doyle Conner** to develop a plan to enhance Florida's Grape Industry.

1985

Winter 1985 FGGA Newsletter, **James F. Eckhart**, President. The State Viticulture Plan, developed by the newly formed Viticulture Advisory Committee (VAC) was prepared and submitted to the Commissioner of Agriculture, **Doyle Conner**. The initial VAC members were: **William C. Smith**, Executive Director; **Harold Crevasse**, Vice Chairman; **Clifton Savoy**, FAMU; **James M. Davidson**, UF; **Esmond Grosz**, Nurseries; **Joseph Midulla, Sr**., Wineries; **William J. Doherty**, FGGA; **James F. Eckhart**, VAC.

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, July 13,1985, **James F. Eckhart**, President. VAC members reelected – **Jim Eckhart, Bill Doherty, Joe Midulla, Harold Crevasse, Esmond Grosz, Bill Smith.** Concerns about funding and Board communications and coordination were discussed. General activities and the Viticulture Policy Act were reported.

Minutes of the Annual FGGA Business Meeting, September 28, 1985, **Jim Eckhart**, President. The Viticulture Plan and associated programs were discussed.

FlaGrowerAndRancher 78(6)18-19 Jun, 1985. Article, "Alternative Crops for Growers" cites **Jim Eckhart**, FGGA President discussing initial plans to use 5% of the $2.25 state excise tax on wine and $3.50 on champagne to support research, development, and promotion of the Florida grape industry. The amount was to be reduced by 1% each two years with the hope that after 10 years the industry would be self-sufficient in funding - like the citrus industry. Grape acreage was now around 800, in contract to 12,000 at the 1920s peak. [This figure seems at least double the actual late 1920s to early 1930s plantings.] Acreage expansion is anticipated to deal with fresh grape and juice demands. There is mention of **Dennis Gray** joining the Leesburg Station and a photo of **Bob Bates** discussing UF wine research.

FlaGrowerAndRancher 78(9)48 Sep, 1985. **Jim Eckhart** wrote an article, "Muscadine Grapes: an Alternative for Citrus". He provided cultivation information, mentioned the need for a grape coop, and suggested fresh, U-pick, and juice markets as being promising. As FGGA President and VAC member **Jim Eckhart** had a 20 acre vineyard in Havana, FL. He was a past member of the Florida Legislature and a key player in resolving viticulture policy issues and obtaining legislative support.

1986

Proc. FlaStateHortSoc. 99:189-192, 1986. A survey of Florida grape growers indicated about 510 and 475 acres of bunch and muscadine respectively, with 80% of the bunch going to wineries. Plantings are expected to double in the next year (Halbrooks, 1986).

February 1986 list of Florida Grape Nurserymen by Leesburg ARC

Spring 1986 FGGA Newsletter, **James F. Eckhart**, President. Annual Viticulture Symposium announced for Leon County Civic Center, June 12-13, 1986. New membership fee structure announced - $10 for hobbists, $25 for commercial growers and industry.

July-August 1986 FGGA Newsletter, **James F. Eckhart**, President. **Pierre Casamayor**, Enology Professor at the University of Toulouse, France visited Florida to observe wine operations. He was unimpressed by muscadine wines, but saw potential in 'Stover' and 'Suwannee' from Lafayette Winery. His favorite was an unnamed cultivar, H18-37 – later named 'Blanc DuBois'. **Charlie Sims** joined IFAS with grape research responsibilities.

FlaGrowerAndRancher 79(8)20,23 Aug, 1986. **Jim Eckhart** followed up on his muscadine article with "Bunch Grapes in Florida" where he provided similar information on 'Blue Lake' 'Conquistador', 'Lake Emerald', 'Stover' and 'Suwannee'.

1987

Spring 1987 FGGA Newsletter, **James F. Eckhart**, President. Florida wines introduced at1987 Walt Disney World Wine Festival and featured by the Florida Shop in the Tampa International Airport.

Minutes of the Annual FGGA Business Meeting, June 5, 1987, **Jim Eckhart**, President. Newly elected officers and upcoming programs announced.

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, June 6, 1987, **James F. Eckhart**, President. Submitted by **Dan C. Gander**,Vice President/Secretary. New officers and Board members discussed program innovations

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, July 15, 1987, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Submitted by **Dan C. Gander**, Vice President/Secretary. **Jeanne Burgess** will organize Treasurer's Reports, Complaint aired to IFAS relating to lack of extension support for grapes.

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, September 21, 1987, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Submitted by **Dan C. Gander**, Vice President/Secretary. Greater Grape Conference planning described by **Mary Holbrooks**.

Fall 1987 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Ketchum**, President. **Loren Stover** was presented a plaque by the FGGA in recognition of his years of service and accomplishments in advancing the Florida grape industry.

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, December 12, 1987, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Submitted by **Dan C. Gander**, Vice President/Secretary. Greater Grape Conference details finalized.

1987 FlaGrowerAndRancher 80(8)8 Aug. **Mary Halbrooks** provided some brief Florida grape history notes from 1860 to the 1920s from information sources already noted.

1988

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, April 29, 1988, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Committee reports and handwritten notes. Submitted by **Jeanne Burgess**, Vice President/Secretary.

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, June 16, 1988, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Submitted by **Dan C. Gander**, Vice President/Secretary. Viticulture Trust Fund is near becoming a reality. A proposal to change the FGGA name to "Florida Wine and Grape Growers" was discussed then dropped.

Spring 1988 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Ketchum**, President. The Florida Supreme Court struck down provisions allowing lower excise tax on Florida wine. However, the door was open to allowing some to this tax income to support the industry. **Doyle Conner**, Commissioner of agriculture appointed new members to the VAC – **Tom Hughes Sr.**, Chairman; **Wesley Cox**, Vice President; **Jeanne Burgess**; **John Holloway**; **Gary Ketchum**; **Sola Lamikanra**. **Jack Varick** serves as secretary. It was announced that a new winery, Lakeridge was being established on 100 acres off U.S. Route 27 in Clermont. The initial 25 acre vineyard will be in 'Blanc DuBois' and 'Suwannee'.

Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, July 20, 1988, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Trust Fund and other matters discussed.

Summer 1988 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Board of Directors working to develop a Viticulture Trust Fund derived from the tax on Florida wine to support grape industry activities. Lakeridge Vineyards and Winery in Clermont planted 25 acres of 'Blanc BuBois' and

'Suwannee' and plans additional 25 acres/year for 3-4 years. **Jeanne Burgess** describes the historic **Lafayette** Land Grant and **Emile DuBois's** activities.
Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, August 15, 1988, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Submitted by **Jeanne Burgess**, Vice President/Treasurer. Plans for the initial Florida State Fair Wine Competition firmed up.
August 1988 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Ketchum**, President. The Viticulture Trust Fund legislation passed and will be administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture directed by the Viticulture Advisory Council. The Leesburg Central Florida Research and Education Center was awarded the Perpetual Monteith Trophy 1988 for pioneering work in grape breeding for quality wine. **John Mortensen** accepted the award for the Leesburg Station, honoring superior performance in the fields of viniculture or enology. **Stephen Leong** joined the FAMU grape program and will study the economic aspects of our industry.
Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, October 3, 1988, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Submitted by **Jeanne Burgess**, Vice President/Treasurer.
Joint meeting FGGA and VAC, October 30, 1988. Treasurer's report, no minutes.
Winter 1988 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Florida grape acreage reached 1200 with about 60% in bunch grapes. About 70% of planting will be devoted to wine. There are presently 5 commercial wineries in operation with 2 additional planned.
November-December 1988 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Ketchum**, President. The initial Florida State Fair Wine & Grape Juice Competition announced for February 7-8, 1989 at the Tampa Fairgrounds. Commercial and Hobby Divisions are open. **Jeanne Burgess** wrote a fascinating article, "Florida's Grape Industry: Past, Present, and Future". Included were background and details regarding the 1984 State Viticulture Policy Act, citing members of the VAC.
1988-89 FGGA Board of Directors list
Minutes of the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, December 3, 1988, **Gary Ketchum**, President. Submitted by **Jack Varick**, FDACS Representative. Updates given on Wine Competition, office rental, and grape conference. FGGA Program Director position planned.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 81(2)45 Feb, 1988. Farm Review indicated 1,000 acres of grapes predicted to reach 5,000 in state within the next 5 years with the greatest activity in Lake County. Five wineries now in operation and another (Lakeridge) planned for 1990.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 81(8)12,13 Aug, 1988. FAMU 11th Viticultural Science Symposium covered with details on grape disease presentations.

1989

Agenda for the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, January 19, 1989, **John Holloway**, President. No minutes available.
Agenda for the FGGA Board of Directors meeting, March 16, 1989, **John Holloway**, President. No minutes available.
Spring 1989 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. Results of the first Florida State Fair Wine & Grape Juice Competition announced. Florida wine garnered 13 medals; wineries, judges, and volunteers recognized. The formation of the North Florida Fruit and Nut Growers Association was announced by **Kinney Harley**, Monticello, President. The aim is to develop value adding processes to crops through a grower cooperative. **Mary Halbrooks** left the Leesburg Station for a horticulture position at Clemson University.
Agenda for the FGGA Board of Directors meetings, May 17, July 20, September 7, October 16, and November 30, **John Holloway**, President. No minutes available but 9/7/89 where VAC

budget was discussed and funds allotted to: Trade show, $21,063; Newsletter, $10,385; Information pamphlets, $23,163; Industry Directory, $11,163; and Wine Competition, $14,763. The November 30, 1989 meeting dealt with **Tom Hughes, Jr.** services as FGGA Program Director

Harvest 1989 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. First priority for the Viticulture Trust Fund is a grape survey. The fund will sunset in 1994, so it is essential to demonstrate progress. **Joe Spinelli**, restaurateur and viticulturist joined the FGGA Board of Directors. Joe operates 2 restaurants where fine wine is emphasized and a vineyard in St. Cloud. Bid for an FGGA Executive Director announced. The FDAC released the first Florida Wine Brochure, featuring the 5 wineries. Lafayette Vineyards and Winery won the area Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award for significant contributions to community economic vitality and donation of services and products. The Chautauqua Vineyards & Winery in DeFuniak Springs is planning to open in January, 1990. Eden Vineyards announced an expansion. Lakeridge hosted over 30,000 visitors during its first year. The first Florida Wine Brochure, *Florida Wines – An Adventure* featuring 5 wineries was published by the FDACS.
November 1989 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. Trust funds were not adequate to hire an executive director, but **Tom Hughes, Jr.** agreed to serve as FGGA Program Administrator and handle important duties involved in an expanding organization.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 82(4)47 Apr 1989.Farm Review cited the February opening of Lakeridge Winery near Clermont and expansion of Chautauqua Winery, DeFuniak Springs.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 82(12)44,45,48, 1989. Article and photos of Grape Field Day at the Leesburg Station. **Bob Bates** was cited commenting on Florida grape, juice, and wine potential.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 82(12)53 Dec, 1989. – A classified ad from TyTy, Georgia offered Florida bunch grape varieties 'Daytona', 'Orlando Seedless', and 'Suwannee' for $5.75 each, 10 for $55.

1990

A number of reports by **Tom Hughes** to President **John Holloway** relating his activities as FGGA Program Director are available. These demonstrate the exemplary efforts necessary to accomplish all these duties and the glitches he overcame to put the Newsletter, Annual Conference, and Wine competition on an organized path.
January 1990 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. The first distribution from the Viticulture Trust Fund was received by the FGGA. Readers are recommended to visit the 6 Florida wineries with directions provided.
Agenda for the joint FGGA Board of Directors, General Membership and VAC meeting, February 6, 1990., **John Holloway**, President. Dr. **Conover**, introduced as IFAS representative to the VAC and after reports, the business at hand was the State Fair Wine Competition judging.
March 1990 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. The 1989 Florida Vineyard and Winery Report funded by the VAC and compiled by the Florida Agricultural Statistic Service has been published and available. The 1989 harvest consisted of 1,935,000 pounds, valued at $821,000. State Fair Wine Competition winners announced.
FGGA Board of Directors meeting,March 22, 1990, **John Holloway**, President. **Tom Hughes** reported on program activities – State Fair Wine Competition success, newsletter budget, ad revenue, and bylaws. **Bates** and **Crevasse** suggested a Distinguished Service Award honoring **Joe Midulla**.

May 1990 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. At the Legislative-Agricultural Appreciation Day Commissioner of Agriculture, **Doyle Conner** was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding support of the Association and genuine interest in our industry by **Wesley Cox**, VAC Chairman and **John Holloway**. **Dennis Gray** provided an article, "Overview of Grape Biotechnology Research at the University of Florida".
July 1990 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. **Joe Spinelli** appointed as Chairman of the VAC and lauded for actively promoting grapes in all his activities.
FGGA Annual Meeting, July 18, 1990, **John Holloway**, President. Bylaws were discussed and modified based on membership suggestions. Board appointments were made and approved.
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, August 9, 1990, **John Holloway**, President. Bylaws, planning, and annual programs were discussed.
September 1990 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. New Board of Directors introduced: **Steve Alcorn, Kinney Harley, John Henline, Bill Nordman, Charles Sims,** and **Clara Jane Smith.** Programs announced were the Wine Competition, Annual Conference, and processed products available – juice, jams, jellies, and wine workshop.
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, September 27, 1990, **John Holloway**, President. Agenda items were: Budget, liability insurance for FGGA events, Articles of Incorporation, voting rules, and next conference.
Agenda, FGGA Board of Directors meeting, October 23, 1990, **John Holloway**, President. No minutes available.
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, November 15, 1990, **John Holloway**, President.
Joe Spinelli resigned as Secretary and was nominated for President. **John Henline** nominated for Secretary. Both were elected unopposed.
Conference Update 1990 FGGA Newsletter, **John Holloway**, President. The program, agenda, and details of the upcoming November 15-17, 1990 Conference was announced.
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, December 11, 1990, **John Holloway**, President. Bylaws modifications adopted, new Program Administrator contract approved, **George Comer's** jelly operation licensed and 1,000 jars purchased for FGGA promotional use.
1990-91 FGGA Board of Directors list
1990 FlaGrowerAndRancher 83(8)12,13 Aug. An article, "Viticulture Old, Yet New Idea" covered **Earl Kiser's** Eden Vineyards & Winery with emphasis on his wines and 'Lake Emerald' as his favorite wine grape.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 83(9)44,45 Sep, 1990. The July Grape Field Day at the Leesburg Station was described with an update on root borer (**Susan Webb**), disease control (**Don Hopkins**), disease resistance (**John Mortensen**), rapid propagation (**Dennis Gray**), and juice and wine research (**Bob Bates** and **Charlie Sims**).

1991

January, 1991 FGGA Newsletter, Joseph J. Spinelli, President. The goals for 1991 were:
(1) Design and implement long range plan to increase public awareness of grapes in Florida
(2) Make FGGA activities and personnel more visible and accessible to the public
(3) Increase membership participation in events
(4) Increase membership
(5) Expand annual conference and wine competition
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, February 5, 1991, **Joe Spinelli**, President. Retirement party for **John Mortensen** planned. Winery representatives will meet at Lakeridge Winery to discuss

problems and priorities. Winery representatives expressed concern about administration of the wine tax and distributor complications. Conference organizing committee formed. Legislative Appreciation Day planned.
March, 1991 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. The Wine Competition grew to almost 600 entries with 10 Florida winning medals. Upon his March retirement, **John Mortensen** was recognized and made a lifetime honorary member of the FGGA. Dakota Vineyard, as the largest non-pesticide vineyard in the southeast, was selected as a research site for micropropagation studies by UF.
May, 1991 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. After 18 months as Program Adminstrator, during which time he initiated many innovative policies, procedures, and programs, **Tom Hughes** stepped down as program administrator. Fortunately, his FGGA interest and commitment continued, as he took an administrative position with the Florida State Fair Authority. FAMU initiated a grape newsletter and published "Muscadine Grape Production Guide for Florida".
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, May 14, 1991, **Joe Spinelli**, President. After resigning as Program Administrator, **Tom Hughes** was elected to the Board as a non-commercial representative. Arrangements were made to fill the gap. Due to budget constraints, the FGGA will not participate in Legislature Appreciation Day.
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, June 18, 1991, **Joe Spinelli**, President. Budget matters dominated the meeting, along with Viticulture Trust Fund project bidding policy, annual conference, and wine competition matters.
Copy of the FGGA By-Laws, Revised June 2001.
July 1991 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. Insect control article, "Caught in the Webb" by **Susan E. Webb**, Leesburg ARC. **Clara Jane Smith** heading future FGGA goals committee.
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, September 24, 1991, **Joe Spinelli**, President. A call for Program Administrator candidates had low response. New membership procedures and nominations discussed.
FGGA General Membership Meeting, October 26, 1991, **Joe Spinelli**, President. **Joe Spinelli** summarized activities: Conference attendance doubled; Wine Competition sponsored again by FGGA; all Florida grape entities – FGGA, FDACS, IFAS, FAMU cooperating in programs; Membership up 30% and list streamlined; Association promoting legislation for state logo and off premises wine sales; **Mortensen** Scholarships will be awarded to 2 students. Election results announced.
November 1991 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. New Board members elected were: **Lawrence Carter,** FAMU; **Martin Chaney**, Clermont; **Gary Cox**, Tallahassee, **Tom Hughes**, Florida State Fair Authority. Board for 1992 consists of: **Steve Alcorn, Martin Cheney, Lawrence Carter, George Comer, Gary Cox, John Henline, Bill Nordman, Charles Sims, Clara Jane Smith, Joseph J. Spinelli, Mary Studt, Jack Varick, and Tom Hughes, Jr.**
FGGA Board of Directors meeting, December 10, 1991, **Joe Spinelli**, President. Follow up on items previously mentioned.
A copy of FGGA membership information.
A list of nurseries selling grape varieties recommended for Florida, ~1991.
FlaGrowerAndRancher 84(11)44 Nov, 1991. – Mechanical muscadine pruner tested at Crevasse Vineyard.

1992

January 1992 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. **Susan Webb**, Leesburg ARC presented "Vineyard Sanitation and Pest Management". Results of Hobby Wine & Jelly Competition announced.

April 1992 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. FAMU announced its Grape Growing Incentive Program. This encourages farmers to set up trial ¼ acre vineyards. The Center for Viticulture Science will provide trellis wire, vines, other materials, and most importantly, hands on assistance. State Fair Wine Competition results announced – Florida wines earned 11 medals.

August 1992 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. Newsletter naming contest announced. **Jiang Lu** joined the FAMU Center for Viticultural Science and Small Farm Development to accelerate the grape breeding program. Florida Farm Wineries now qualify as official tourist attractions, providing for directional road signs. Fees for signs, placement, and permit will go into the Viticulture Trust Fund. Thanks to FGGA efforts, Florida wineries can now obtain permits allowing them to sell wine at Florida fairs, trade show, exhibitions, and special events. Lakeridge Winery held the first Blessing of the Harvest, attended by 500 visitors.

October 1992 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. Brochures publicizing vineyards, wineries, U-pick operations will be prepared for FGGA member entities upon request and without charge. **Jack Varick**, secretary of the VAC and FDACS liaison to the grape industry retired after serving the industry exceptionally well for 6 years.

December 1992 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. **Joe Spinelli** was elected President for another 2 year term and new Board of Directors: **Charlie Sims**, UF; **John Henline** and **Art Lange**, Non-commercial; **Bill Nordmann** and **Joe Spinelli**, Nursery; **Mike Clark**, Winery; **Steve Surowitz, Rob Rittgers, John Iaukea, S.J. Stephany, Bernd Jung**, Commercial. **George Demetree** was appointed FDAC liaison to the VAC by the Commissioner of Agriculture, **Bob Crawford**. **Jeanne Burgess**, VAC Chair provided a VAC update report. **John Mortensen** was inducted into the prestigious Florida Agriculture Hall of Fame in recognition of his 30 years of outstanding service to the industry and grape breeding productivity.

1993

February 1993 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. VAC reported Viticulture Trust Funds were down due to winery sales decline. **Fred Iaukea** reported on his pruning experiences at his Windy Hill Vineyards near Tallahassee. Report from DuPont states Benlate was not the cause of crop losses 1990-91. **Pete Andersen** reported on mechanical pruning studies.

April 1993 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. Almost 700 wines were judged in the State Fair Competition, with 10 Florida wines receiving medals. **Jaing Lu** and **Lloyd Schell** reported on Propagating Florida Grapes.

June 1993 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. Harvest Festivals planned for several vineyards and wineries. The 'Florida Fry' release described by **Mortensen**, **Harris**, and **Hopkins**. **Charles Sims** reported on the sediment observed in muscadine juice and wine as ellagic acid and ways of minimization. A comprehensive article by **John Mortensen** describes **Loren Stover's** career and calls him "The Grandfather of Florida Grapes".

August 19, 1993 copy of Grape Field Day at Leesburg REC and a June 28, 1993 letter inviting vendors to exhibit grape-related products at a Marketplace during the meeting at no cost.

October 1993 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. The 'Florilush' release described by **Mortensen**, **Harris**, and **Hopkins**. **George Cowey** described wine and juice stability terms.
December 1993 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. **Joe Spinelli** provided a year end summary, reporting on the State Fair workshops, other workshops, Legislative Appreciation Day, and newsletters. **Pete Anderson** and **Charlie Sims** reported on grape yield and quality as related to vine management practices. **Jeanne Burgess** described the manufacture of a muscadine Beaujolais.

1994

Spring 1994 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. **Jiang Lu** presented "Grape Breeding at FAMU" and excerpts from an IFAS Pesticide Management publication followed.
Summer 1994 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. The 17th Viticultural Science Symposium at FAMU was summarized. **J.B. Rodin**, FAMU reported on "Bioconversion of Grape Waste Into Animal Feed". **C.A. Sims** and **R.P. Bates** reported "Effects of Skin Fermentation Time on Noble Wine".
Fall 1994 FGGA Newsletter, **Joseph J. Spinelli**, President. FGGA Board of Directors member and Workshops Chairman, **Joe Stephany** was lauded for his effective coordination of these events. Several FAMU program overviews followed.

1995

Spring 1995 FGGA Newsletter, **S. Joe Stephany**, President. **Joe Spinelli** introduced **Joe Stephany** as incoming President. **Spinelli's** December address reported on the General Membership Meeting and listed officers and their roles. The State Fair competition attracted about 800 entries with 12 Florida wines earning medals. It was followed by a series of workshops on pruning & Grafting, Winemaking, Wine Appreciation. An article on Fungal diseases, by **D.M. Gadoury**, Cornell University was printed

1996

Undated copy of FGGA newsletter by **Joe Stephany**, President, citing **Joe Spinelli's** untimely death in October 1995. The FGGA office was moved to Lake Wales with **Jerrie Williams** handling grape business.
A flyer announcing "The Spirit of Leadership" Seminar planned for February 4, 1996 at the Tampa Fairgrounds.
A February 18, 1996 draft of the **Joseph J. Spinelli**, Sr. "Scholarship" Fund Endowment

1997

May 1997 FGGA Newsletter, Byron Biddle, President. The State Fair Wine Competition had over 600 commercial and 40 amateur entries. Florida commercial wines gained 13 medals. Putnam County Chapter president, **Fred Medlock** elected to FGGA Board of Directors. The Chapter exhibited at the County Fair. With FAMU assistance, they will establish a U-Pick vineyard at a Boys Ranch. An FGGA Chapter was established in Manatee County; officers elected were: **Antonio Fiorelli**, President; **Malcolm Shepard**, Vice President; **Joseph Thompson**, Secretary, and **Pat Galiger**, Treasurer. Dr. **Joseph Mazza** approved as wine consultant.

September 1997 FGGA Newsletter, **Byron Biddle**, President. U-Pick Festivals are drawing well and there is increasing interest in County Chapters. Dakota Winery in Chiefland certified as the 6th Florida Farm Winery.

1998

June 1998 FGGA Newsletter, **Byron Biddle**, President. The Newsletter will be composed and distributed from the FGGA office in Lake Wales by **Jerry Williams**. Criteria established for Harvest Festivals. The State Fair Wine Competition had 449 commercial wines with 17 medals awarded to Florida wineries. The out of state wine entries were down due to Florida's controversial felony legislation regarding interstate wine shipment. Highlands County Chapter held a successful seminar, "Growing and Marketing Muscadine Grapes" with 95 attendees. The same seminar, conducted by FAMU is planned for the Manatee Chapter this month. The Putnam County Chapter will hold a workshop at Comer Farms and the 3rd annual Melrose Grape Festival, sponsored by Meadowmere Farms, Melrose and Comer Farms, Grandin is planned for Labor Day.

September 1998 FGGA Newsletter, **Byron Biddle**, President. The FGGA will exhibit at the USDA sponsored Florida Small Farm Conference & Trade Show. The FAMU conducted seminar, "Growing and Marketing Muscadine Grapes" held at the Fiorelli vineyard had 90 attendees, including members of the Highlands County Chapter. The FGGA Website was initiated – http://fgga.org and a Florida Vine Locator will be updated.

November 1998 FGGA Newsletter, **Byron Biddle**, President. The 1997 Blanc Du Bois wine from Lakeridge Winery and Vineyards earned a Double Gold Medal at the Indiana International Wine Competition, involving over 2,000 wines. The Rosa Fiorelli Winery near Bradenton commenced operations, making the 8th Florida Farm Winery.

1999

March 1999 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. The State Fair Wine Competition reached 529 commercial entries, with Florida Wineries garnering 34 medals. The Hobby competition also flourished with 70 entries and 40 medals, reflecting continual improvement in Floridian's enological skills. **Jeanne Burgess**, VAC Chair announced grape research and promotion grants totaling $130,000. The FDACS through the VAC is offering $500/acre grants for those committed to planting new commercial acreage. The minimum is 5 acres and maximum grant amount $5,000. **Gary Cox** listed FGGA Committees with responsibilities and assigned members – a good summarization of organizational needs.

June 1999 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. FAMU is conducting an all day Grape Growing Conference in cooperation with the Highlands County Chapter. In response to the new vineyard grant, several planting are planned in Highlands County. The Putnam County Chapter is planning a promotion at the annual Labor Day community festival in Melrose. "The Health Benefits of Moderate Wine Consumption" was reported by **Charlie Sims** and **Sue Percival**, UF. They have initiated research on the topic, involving of course Florida grapes.

September 1999 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. The Grape Growing Conference in Highlands County, as described by **Joanne Lauchman**, was a huge success with 174 attendees. The Manatee Chapter increased membership and the Old Mission Vineyard initiated plantings.

December 1999 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. **Bill Nordmann** orchestrated a well attended FGGA exhibit at the Volusia County Fair. Putnam Chapter elected **Felicity Trueblood** as President. Highlands Chapter President is now **Don Johnson**.

2000

March 2000 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. The State Fair Wine Competition had 520 commercial entries and Florida Wineries earned 36 medals. VAC member and website updates mentioned. Annual Conference program "The Beginning of a New Era" announced.

May 2000 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. In the Hobby competition of 63 wines, 33 medals were awarded. Commissioner of Agriculture allowed $30,000 for new vineyard grants. **Felicity Trueblood**, FGGA Secretary announced that the FDACS magazine, *Fresh from Florida* would be a good venue to feature FGGA activites. She encourages submitting grape interest articles. The Farmers' Market program was also mention as worth grape growers' attention.

August 2000 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. **Gary Cox** mentioned that 1999 grape prices in California averaged $588/ton, but Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon fetched between $3,000 and 4,000/ton. What is Florida's niche and potential? The upcoming 5th Annual Melrose Grape Festival with FGGA and Putnam County participation was announced and the Highlands Chapter reached 29 members with plans for increased acreage. FAMU described progress with developing a seedless muscadine.

October 2000 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. The Melrose Grape Festival attracted over 6,000 visitors and grapes were well presented. **Bob Walker**, Highlands County provided a good description of **Bob** and **Bonnie Jean Paulish's** 20 acre Blue Heron Vineyard in Lithia. The guidelines to qualify for the Florida Farm Winery Program was described and is available at: http://www.leg.state.fl.us (Go to the Florida Statues, Title XXXV, Chapter 599 Viticulture for 599.004). **Gary Ford** joined the FAMU program as Extension Viticulturist.

December 2000 FGGA Newsletter, **Gary Cox**, President. Various County Chapter events were announced and listing of FGGA and other websites given. [This was Pre Google – now it's easier to access grape related sites.]

2001

February 2001 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. The State Fair Wine Competition had 824 commercial entries with Florida wineries achieving 9 medals, including several Double Gold. The Hobby Competition reached 87 entries with Florida grape wines earning 18 awards. Recent FGGA wine makers did quite well in the competition. FAMU and both Putnam and Highlands County Chapters reported on successful past activities and announced upcoming programs.

April 2001 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. Featured were **John** and **Lois Sirvent**'s Florahome vineyard and **Jeanne Burgess'** Double Gold award for her 1999 Lakeridge 'Blanc Du Bois' wine. Along with County Chapter activities, the Minutes of the VAC and FGGA meetings were published. [A useful communication idea]

June 2001 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. **Dennis Gray** received a patent for genetic material development to address Pierce's disease. Updates provided on the VAC and FGGA Board of Directors meetings. Sustainable Agriculture defined as the wave of the future and relevant to grape growing and utilization.

September 2001 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. There were reports on the inaugural Highlands County Harvest Festival and FAMU Field Day. **John Sirvent** provided detailed instructions for "Making Muscadine Wines John's Way". Good advice, since he frequently gets gold medals in competitions.

November 2001 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. **Joanne Lauchman** reported on a successful Highland's Agri-Tourism Day at her farm that highlighted grapes and grape products. **Marcia Price** described vineyard activities in West Florida in cooperation with FAMU. FAMU announced the upcoming "Introduction to the Art and Science of Enology" course and **A.K. Jain** wrote, "Prospect of Biotechnology in Grapevine Improvement". **George Comer** provided a 7 step process for planting potted vines.

2002

February 2002 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. **Bob Paulish** reported on 2001 accomplishments – A new winery, Florida Estates opened, vineyards expansion of 40 acres, 146 total FGGA membership. The FGGA Mission Statement and Goals and New officers were listed. The first **Joseph Spinelli** Scholarship, honoring the late FGGA President was awarded to a UF student, **Janel Rivera-King**. FGGA Annual meeting was held at the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center. The Leesburg Station vineyard, staff, and attendant grape research were transferred to this new facility in Apopka. News articles described the planned winery in Manatee County (later aborted) and the opening of the Florida Estates Winery in Pasco County.
March 2002 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. The Wine Competition grew to almost 900 commercial and 84 hobby submissions with Florida commercial wineries earning 31 medals. FGGA Board of Directors 10/5/01 meeting minutes included.
May 2002 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. **Bob Bates** in an article, "The People Behing the Florida Grape Industry" cited some grape pioneers and requested additional information from *Grape Times* readers. [The feedback resulted in initiating this Grape History project.] Lakeridge Winery is contracting for Florida grapes – Hybrids $700/ton, muscadines $400/ton. FGGA Chapters in Putnam, Hillsborough, and Manatee Counties reported innovative activities and or future plans to get people in their vineyards and wineries. An excerpt from the *FDACS Marketing Bulletin* lauded the 'Blanc DuBois' grape and **Jeanne Burgess'** wine from Lakeridge which won a Double Gold Award at the State Fair Wine Competition. The VAC criteria for Harvest Festival support was outlined.
July 2002 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. Dennis Gray described the new 4+ acre research vineyard at the Apopka UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC). This vineyard research will continue the productive work initiated at the Leesburg Station over 70 years ago. The MREC and Highlands, and Putman Counties all announced FGGA events for August.
September 2002 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. It was announced with an accompanying obituary that **Joe Stephany**, former FGGA President, member of the Board of Directors, and VAC died in August. The minutes of the June 28, 2002 Board of Directors teleconference meeting were given. The focus was on upgrading the newsletter and member retention and recruitment. **Joe Stephany** had participated with his usual thoughtful comments. Successful Putnam and Highlands County Chapter events were described.
December 2002 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. FGGA Annual Meeting Program announced for January 2003. Wine Competition and County events publicized.

2003

March 2003 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. The State Fair Wine Competition reached 1092 commercial and 116 hobby entries. Florida wineries achieved 39 medals, including a double gold for the Lakeridge 'Crescendo' sparkling wine. Hobby winemakers from Highlands

and Putnam Counties did well in the competition and their respective Chapters reported well attended local events. **Bob Walker**, Highlands Chapter winemaker developed and presented recipe for 'Mascacit', a combined muscadine/citrus wine.
June 2003 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. **Bob Bates** retirement announced, although he continued pursuing grape interest, as this and related documents indicates. Calhoun County held its first annual amateur wine competition with more planned. **Ruthann Thropp** provided a 1928 article mentioning the Putnam County Grape Growers Club formation (Crescent City Journal, March 22, 1928). The FGGA participated in the 2003 Florida State Horticulture Society annual meeting by presenting an FGGA Display and providing wine (courtesy Lakeridge and Florida Estates) at the Industry Reception.
October 2003 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. He reported that Florida reached 14 wineries, with a comparable demand for grapes. An article from the Orlando Sentinel on winery expansion, highlighting Lakeridge, Eden wineries, and IFAS/FAMU research was described. Kellie Thropp recapped Putnam County summer activities; FAMU announced a program, "Growing and Marketing Florida Grapes and Wine" to the Manatee FGGA Chapter.
December 2003 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. Two texts "Best Practices for Florida Wineries", an IFAS/FAMU publication and "Muscadine Grapes" by Fouad M. Basiouny and David G. Himelrick were announced. Putnam and Highlands County Chapters recapped events and **Don Hopkins** provided winter disease control information.

2004

February 2004 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. The State Fair Wine Competition reached 1165 commercial and 115 amateur entries. Florida wineries was the topic of the annual conference at which **Bonnie Jeanne Paulish** previewed the Winery Production System that she has developed to offer free to Florida wineries. The University of Florida Mid-Florida Research and Education Center Apopka announced their first muscadine harvest. A FGGA Citrus/Marion County Chapter was initiated with **Frank Ascolillo** as Chair. **Jeanne Burgess**, Vice President Winery Operations at Lakeridge Winery, Clermont was given a Special Achievement Award for her outstanding contribution to the Florida Grape Industry.
April 2004 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. Articles were presented on the Grape root borer, organic wine, growth tubes ("Benefits of Using 'Growth Tubes' for Newly Planted Muscadine Vines" by Jiang Lu and Zhongbo Ren, FAMU).
June 2004 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. This issue was primarily devoted to interstate shipment of wine a continuing controversial subject.
October 2004 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. More information of interstate wine shipping. Sustainabile viticulture featured with an article on **Byron Biddle's** Three Oaks Winery operation in Vernon. Many planned Harvest Festivals were cancelled due to the procession of hurricanes that hit Florida in 2004. The Apopka IFAS Station website was announced – http://www.mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/. [This address provides an excellent overview of grape activities, publications, and links to related sites.]
December 2004 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. "*The Winery in Action* ", data management system by **B.J. Paulish** described. A quote from **Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings** "Cross Creek" referring to muscadine wine making was submitted by the **Thropps**.

2005

February 2005 FGGA Newsletter, **Bob Paulish**, President. **Bob Paulish** was reelected for a 3rd term. Wine Competition results indicated an impressive showing by both Florida commercial (>1200 submissions) and amateur (>150 entries) winemakers.

Additional FGGA Newsletters up to August 2008 have been located, added to the Bibliography-Chronology, but not reviewed here.

PeopleLine

Last but not least - In the process of describing the people behind grapes in Florida, we are attempting to compile pertinent biographical information on the cited individuals, and put their activities and contributions into perspective. Unfortunately, there are many gaps that our perusal of the historical record has not filled, although we're continuing to work on it.
Any information that interested readers may have, or suggestion as to sources, people to contact, or surviving relatives will be most appreciated. We especially need information on individuals indicated by asterisks***.** Of greatest importance are those involved after the formation of the FGGA - around1920, even up to the present.
We need details on:
Origin – where they came from
Background – profession or avocation
Location – where in Florida or elsewhere they were prominently involved
Grape or FGGA involvement – what role they played in or for the Association
Period of activity and final status – business or personal
Photographs – nice if they exist

The Florida Grape Growers Association Presidents and Term
*** Indicates information being sought**

President	Term	
***W.E. Bolles?**	**1921 or before?**	
***Col. Hiram T. Fisher**	**1922? 1923-24**	
***Mr. E.L. Lord**	**1925-1937**	
***Mr. A.E. Pickard, Sr.**	**1938-39**	
***Dr. Charles Demko**	**1940- 1954**	
***Mr. Joseph Fennell**	**1955-58+?**	
***Mr Charles Demko (son)**	**1961-2**	
***Mr. C.L. McCormick**	**1968**	
***Mr. Thomas J. Hughes, Sr.**	**1972-74**	
Mr. Esmond Grosz	**1974-76**	
***Ms. Florence Hall (Jack)**	**1977-1978**	
***Mr. Levin Darden**	**1979-1980**	
***Ms. Clara-Jane Smith (Bill)**	**1980-1981**	
***Mr. Harold Crevasse**	**1982**	
***Mr. Jim Eckhart**	**1983-1987**	
***Mr. Gary Ketchum**	**1987-1988**	
***Mr. John Holloway**	**1989-1990**	**Tom Hughes program coordinator**
***Mr. Joe Spinelli**	**1990-1994**	
***Mr. Joe Stephany**	**1995-1996**	

***Mr. Byron Biddle**	**1997-1998**
Mr. Gary Cox	**1999-2000**
Mr. Bob Paulish (BJ)	**2001-2006**
Mr. Donnie Nettles	**2007-2008**

<u>Other Notable Grape Pioneers</u>

***Col. W.J. Stover**
***Baron H. Von Luttichau**
Tom Hughes, Jr.
Foster Burgess
***Warren Adlerz**
Frank & Carroll Ascolillo
Jeanne Burgess
***George Comer**
***Doyle Conner**
***Charles Cowart**
George Cowey
***Jim Crall**
***Robert Dunstan**
Antonio Fiorelli
***Earl & Mike Kiser**
***Joe Midulla**
Bill Nesbitt
***Robert E. Norris**
***Tony Pizzo**
***Bob Price**
Max & Rob Rittger
Dee Roberson
***Mary Studt**
Felicity Trueblood
***Jack Varick**
Don & Mary Johnson
***G.W. Husmann**
Loren Stover
Tom Hughes, Jr.

A. Grape Families

One of the most serious problems facing the Florida Grape Community is continuity. No matter how dynamic an individual or important his/her contribution, when that person leaves the scene lots of experience and some momentum is lost. Fortunately, there have been and are a number of grape pioneers whose influence extends past a single generation, and the family connection bears mention.

- **The Hussmanns** are one. It is unclear if this **George Husmann,** Missouri viticulturist who later became prominent in California ever visited Florida, but his son certainly did, and had quite an impact. **George W. Husmann** was a prominent viticulturist with the USDA for many years, authored many publications on grapes, and oversaw USDA efforts to promote grape introduction and commercialization in appropriate states. **G.W. Husmann** was a close cooperator with **Baron Von Littichau** in his early vine introductions experiments at Earleton, 1899-1905, and closely followed Florida viticulture thereafter (until at least 1929).

- A nearer father-son Florida relationship was that of Col. **W.J. Stover** and his son **Loren**. The Stovers migrated in the other direction – Originally from Canada, **W.J.** spent some time in Australia and Jamaica, then California, accumulating viticulture experience, then east to Florida. Col. **W.J. Stover** (died in 1937, **Loren Stover** 1/12/85) disappointed that his grapes withered [Where did title Col. come from?]. **W.J. Stover** together with partner, Dr. **W.A. MacKenzie** operated a commercial and experimental vineyard in Lady Lake around 1924. The experience gained there by **Loren Stover** surely contributed to his dramatic breeding breakthrough several decades later.

- A longer family viticulture tradition is that of Dr. **Charles Demko** and his son, **Charles W. Demko**. Both were FGGA presidents, and the line goes way back. The **Demkos** were said to be grape growers and wine makers in their native Hungry for 5 centuries. The **Demko** family operated a vineyard in Missouri prior to and concurrent with Dr. **Charles Demko** settling in Altoona. As described elsewhere, the **Demkos** were major players in the Florida Grape Community from the mid 1920s to the late 1960s. [Is or was there any continuing family involvement in either Florida or Missouri?]

- More recently we have **Tom Hughes**, FGGA president 1972-74. His son, **Tom Hughes, Jr.** worked the family U-Pick vineyards near Tampa and attended FGGA meeting with his father (who covered these events as Editor for the *Florida Grower and Rancher*). **Tom Hughes, Jr.** later became the FGGA Program Coordinator. As such he played a prominent role in refining FGGA administrative procedures and the successful development of the annual Florida State Fair Wine Competition. The cover of the August 1963 *Florida Grower and Rancher* shows another member of the **Hughes** family. **Mary Jane Hughes**, niece of **Tom Hughes, Sr.** is shown with **'**Blue Lake' from **Tom**'s small homestead vineyard. The vines together with 'Lake Emerald' and 'Stover' were later moved to the **Hughes** commercial vineyard and survived for at least 20 more years.

- The grape business isn't exclusively a male vocation. Although women received scant mention in the early literature, they were certainly quite active and supportive, albeit practically invisible in the old records, but certainly not now. **Foster Burgess'** daughter, **Jeanne** is a very prominent and highly visible example as the most successful wine maker in Florida and essential member of the Grape Community both in and out of state. We'll have more to say about the **Burgesses** in the **PeopleLine** which follows.

- Mentioning wineries and the **Burgess** brings up another father-son pair. **Gary Cox**, cofounder of Lafayette Vineyard and Winery in Tallahassee, brought his son, **Charles Cox** into the business at a young age – well before he could consume the family efforts. Gary announced

one day that the family was going to put in a vineyard. Even before the vines were ripe, the idea of a winery replaced U-pick and fresh market plans and Lafayette was in operation by 1983. Thus **Charles** learned the business from the ground up – literally and figuratively. **Gary Cox** is currently President and CEO of Seavin Corp.which operates both Lakeridge and San Sabastian wineries and **Charles** is Program Director at San Sebastian Winery.

- Also, recently in the wine business we had Dr. **Bob Thropp** and his wife **Ruthann** who were proprietors of Log Cabin Vineyard and Winery in Satsuma. Their daughter, **Kellie Thropp** is winemaker at that newest Florida Farm Winery. All are active in the FGGA, **Ruthann** is secretary and both **Kellie** and **Ruthann** are on the FGGA Board of Directors. Sadly, **Bob Thropp**, after retiring from a successful dentistry practice and contributing much to the Florida Grape Industry, passed away in 2009. In 1999, he started the Vineyards and later obtained a versatile machine harvester for FGGA member use. In 2008 the **Thropps** began the Log Cabin Winery. Both **Ruthann** and **Kellie** remain active in the FGGA and the Log Cabin winery is an impressive testimonial to **Bob Thropp** and the **Throop** family commitment to grapes.

- Another family link that must be mentioned is that of the **Mortensens**. Dr. **John Mortensen**, who spent a very productive career at the Leesburg Station and developed most of the successful Florida grape varieties now in use, came from Texas. There, his father, **E. Mortensen** a county extension agent planted out grapes for **T.V. Munson** in evaluations that eventually led to Munson hybrids and the resurgence of grapes in Florida in the early 1900s. It is fitting that the **Mortensen** endeavors and Texas strategies played a role in Florida grape developments that continues today.

- **F.W. Loucks**, Plant pathologist at the Leesburg station was actively conducting research on diseases affecting grapes and developed important control methods. It was he who initially gathered and propagated the wild grapes, one of which was a parent of 'Lake Emerald'. **Loucks** left University service in 1942 to join the citrus industry in a similar capacity. We speculate that he was related to the **Loucks** mentioned in a Villa Franca Nurseries, Dunedin ad for insect control (FlaDispatch 8(19)382, 1888) more than a generation earlier than when **K.W. Loucks** joined the Leesburg Station in 1929.

- **Ray** and **Gladys Shook** and their son **Vince** operate the Florida Orange Groves Inc. and Winery, a family owned business that had its beginnings in the packing and shipping of fresh citrus in the early 1970's in St. Petersburg, Florida. Their location eventually grew to include retail sales of fresh squeezed juice and a gift shop. The winery opened its doors in 1997 and is Florida's original tropical fruit winery. Florida Orange Groves, Inc. and Winery manages 10 acres of muscadine vineyards in Altoona, Florida. Using the Nobel variety of muscadine grown there, the Shook family makes a sweet and a dry red muscadine wine called "Sinfully Noble." The winery also makes 33 other unique tropical, citrus and berry wines (35 varieties total) including Key Lime, Mango, Blueberry, Kiwi, Guava, Pineapple and Passion Fruit. To date, the winery has won over 200 medals (including 7 Best of Shows and 3 Best of Class) for its wines. Given the popularity of their "Sinfully Noble" wines at their tasting bar, the winery looks forward to the day when Florida muscadine wines are as popular outside the state of Florida as they are in select locations within the state's borders. Vince Shook

is currently FGGA Treasurer, Viticulture Advisory Council Secretary and is an important participant in FGGA Conferences.

- **Max** and his son **Rob Rittgers** operate the environmentally friendly Dakota Vineyards and Winery in Chiefland. Dakotah is a family business, initiated in 1985 when **Max** established the vineyard with a planting of 200 muscadine grape vines. The first grapes produced were sold onsite from a board across two five-gallon buckets. Today Dakotah Winery is a 12-acre site with over 6,000 grape vines. Orginally, the Rittgers intended only to sell fresh grapes to the public. But, as the business grew over the years the making and selling of wine became the focus. First operating out of an 8 x 10 shed, then a barn a finally a "Florida Cracker style" tasting room with adjoining wine cellar. The tasting room is decorated with historical agricultural/winery related items collected by **Max**, while the adjoining wine cellar is comprised of the latest in wine making equipment. Dakotah winery is honored to continue the tradition of families making wine commercially in Florida. For visitors, winery ambience and the **Rittgers**' cordial greeting is a pleasant and effective introduction to Florida grapes.

- **The Kiser Family** first planted vitis vinifera bunch wine grapes in Lee County, Florida in 1967, in a three-acre experimental vineyard. After learning about Pierces Disease, first by experience and then in consultations with Profs. **Lauren Stover**, **John Mortenson** and **Donald Hopkins**, UF, IFAS, Leesburg, Fl, the **Kisers** planted ten acres of the Florida developed Lake Emerald (hardwood cuttings from Leesburg mother vineyards) in the mid 70s. Those vineyards flourished under the watchful eyes and efforts of "grape farmer" son, **Mike Kiser** and reached their peak in 1989 when twenty seven (27) acres were planted in Lake Emerald and other Florida developed hybrids.

  In the late 80s, early 90s, during the early stages of the outbreak of PD in California, officials in Florida were aggressively consulted and Eden Vineyards was the first vineyard, outside Calif. to become a member of the PD Task Force. Through the years Eden Vineyards has progressed and benefited by its association and collaboration with UF, Leesburg and later as the new laboratories were constructed in Apopka, Fl, as Dr. **Dennis Gray** guided Florida into a leadership position in genetic engineering. From 1999 through 2007, major flooding and multiple hurricanes caused major damage in south Florida and left only remnants of the former vineyards. In 2008, Eden again began planting test vineyards, this time with a grape still in development and unreleased by UF, IFAS.

  Eden's wine interests have grown as the family partnered to form with the new Florida Estates Winey in Pasco County. Today, Eden Winery makes six wines and is the oldest operating Florida Farm Winery in the state. Several of Eden's wines have been featured and served at Florida's finest four-star restaurants, including Disney's Grand Floridian, the Palm Beach Breakers Hotel and the Ritz Carleton. Conducted tastings and sales are held every day, by **Mildred Kiser** and daughter **Lynn**; the Winery is open 11AM- 4PM, 7 days a week (except major holidays). For directions and additional info see our websites at www.edenwinery.com and www.flewn.com

  Grandsons **Taylor, W.E**., and granddaughter **Shelby** can be seen, in the cellars, vineyards, lab and bottling rooms at Eden. They are each engaged in promising careers, but obviously

are at ease in the winery and as Granddad says. “Who knows what the vineyards can produce”.

[What other grape family connections should we mention here?] There are undoubtedly other cases of families with a multi-generation connection to grapes with relevance to Florida. We’d like to learn about and recognize them.

B. Grape Individuals

- **Leon Adams** – now here’s a very special late friend worthy of a toast every time we raise a glass of Florida wine. Leon and I (RPB) share the same birthplace – Cambridge, MA, albeit a few decades apart. As a journalist, he migrated to California and wrote extensively about wine. He predicted the “Wine Revolution” of the 1970s, formed the “Medical Friends of Wine”, and championed local wines as a normal part of good dining. I had the honor of accompanying Leon as he researched southern wineries for his classic book, “Wines of America” (Adams, 1985). Florida is well covered in his 3rd edition. Entering a winery with Leon was an unforgettable experience. All winemakers knew and respected his reputation and anxiously awaited his appraisal of their wares. None were disappointed, as he always had something positive to say (even if it related less to the wine and more to label or venue). Most importantly, Leon encouraged all wineries in their endeavors and provided extremely valuable technical and business suggestions. He vigorously championed wine as a food, to be sold wherever food is available and considered an integral part of fine dining – a focus well worth noting today. In my trips to or through California, I always brought sample from Florida, which we’d thoughtfully evaluate together (along with some of his magnificent inventory).

Leon Adams visiting Midulla Vineyard – L to R **Bates, Newbern, Adams, Midulla**

Early 1970s Experimental wines. Shared with **Leon Adams** in Florida or California

Leon Adams visiting **Felicity Trueblood**, Meadowmere Farm 1982

Leon Adams visiting **Malinda Grosz** and **Dan Mills**, Malinda’s Vineyard 1982

Leon Adams visiting **Rebecca** and **Foster Burgess**, Alaqua Vineyard and Winery 1982

Figure 55. Photographs related to Leon Adams

- **Warren Adlerz**
- **Frank/Carroll Ascolillo 352-249-9116**
- **Byron Biddle 1997 850- 535-9463**
- **Bidwell** Came to FL in 1867 FSHS 3,22,1890

- **Jeanne Burgess** was trained in viticulture and enology at Mississippi State University. She worked with **Dick Vine** (appropriate name for an enologist), well respected wine consultant and author of "Commercial winemaking, processing and controls" (Vine, 1981). **Jeanne's** first job was winemaker at Florida Heritage Winery in Anthony. As that operation ran down, she joined Lafayette Vineyards and Winery in Tallahassee, where she gained a reputation for excellent wines. She particularly impressed **Leon Adams** with her 'Stover' champagne. With the same firm **Jeanne** later moved to Lakeridge Winery and Vineyards in Clermont where, as Vice President of Winery Operations, she supervises enology activities at both Lakeridge and San Sebastian Winery in St. Augustine – by far the largest wine producer in-state. Jeanne was involved in the initiation of the FGGA Florida State Fair Wine Competition and still plays an important role in orchestrating this annual event. She also garners impressive awards at the Florida competition, as well as similar competitions in other states. A visit to the Lakeridge showroom graphically displays these many medals. (Wine judging is conducted as objectively as possible, with judges unaware of the identity of the wine until after they have scored it, so administrative involvement does not influence results.) Jeanne is also a member of and chaired the Viticulture Advisory Council for many years and plays an important role in FGGA affairs.

Florida Heritage Winery ~1982

Jeanne Burgess evaluating wine at Lafayette Winery 1987

FGGA Wine Competition Staff – **Robbie Roberson, Mary Studt, Jeanne Burgess, Bob Paulish**

Figure 56. Photographs relating to Jeanne Burgess

- **Foster Burgess, Jeanne Burgess'** father is a respected viticulturist and enologist in his own right. A physicist by trade and real estate developer, Foster operated the Alaqua Vineyard and Winery at Niceville for many years, producing exceptional muscadine wines from his seven acre vineyard. His September Welder, made late in the season from the second crop, was one of the most phenomenal muscadinewines some have tasted. Foster and his wife did it all – planted the vines, managed the crop, conducted the harvest, made and bottled the wine, and sold it on premises and locally. The latter is the most difficult part and the combination of so many duties caused **Foster** to cease his operation, although he continued to consult for other in-state wineries.

- **George Comer**, a former marine bought property in Grandin and planted his muscadine vineyard in the early 1970s. **George** brought his marine tenacity to the vineyard and soon established a popular U-Pick operation. He built a small jelly plant and experimented intensively with wine and jellies. Based on his experience, he offered wine making sessions for visitors. **George** was extremely proactive within the FGGA, serving many years on the Board of Directors, and later as an active member of the Viticulture Advisory Council. He was instrumental in founding the Putnam County Chapter of the FGGA and, by his enthusiastic support of grape growers everywhere, also helped form the Highlands County FGGA Chapter. Based on his wine making skills, **George** demonstrated that quality wines could be made from muscadines. His teaching, encouragement, and leadership resulted in the

inclusion of a hobby wine division as a popular part of the FGGA Florida State Fair Wine Competition, along with the Commercial division. Submissions now reach several hundred amateur and several thousand commercial entries. **George's** wine won frequent awards and his students continue to present wines of exception quality. In fact several wine makers, impressed by **George's** skill and enthusiasm have either gone commercial or influenced colleagues to take that step. His dedication to grapes over 3 decades certainly impact many of the developments we see today.

Figure 57. George Comer at Meadowmere Farm

- **Doyle Conner,** Florida Commissioner of Agriculture from 1961 to 1991 was a prominent supporter of the grape industry. Under his administration the Viticulture Policy Act was passed and farm vineyards and wineries encouraged by favorable legislation. Doyle was a frequent visitor and/or speaker at FGGA events and he demonstrated a genuine personal interest in grape growers and their programs. The close cooperation between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which administers the Viticulture Trust Fund and the Viticulture Advisory Council which sets project priorities was to a large part due to Commissioner Conner's advice and efforts.

Figure 58. Doyle Conner Florida Commissioner of Agriculture 1961-1991

- **Dan Carroll**, Food Scientist at North Carolina State University, conducted grape research in cooperation with **Bill Nesbitt.** Much of the early information on muscadine chemical profile, pigment composition, processing and utilization was obtained by **Dan** and his Food Science colleagues. He was active in promoting wineries in the South and helped form the SERA-14 Grape Information Exchange Group. **Dan** is a long time judge of both Amateur and Commercial divisions at the FGGA Florida State Fair Wine Competition and a valued member of the Florida Grape Community.

- **Gary Cox** ended the long wine hiatus in Leon County when he initiated plantings and cofounded Lafayette Winery and Vineyard in 1983– about 100 years after **DuBois**' efforts in the same area – Leon County. **Jeanne Burgess** was hired as the winemaker and impressive wines and appealing Harvest Fests soon followed. Layfayette Winery closed in 1990 and the facility now houses the FAMU Viticulture research labs. **Gary** then initiated the Lakeridge winery in Clermont in 1989, a popular, well located tourist attraction and the largest winery in Florida. He followed up in 1996 with San Sebastian Winery in St. Augustine, adjacent to the historical section – highly appropriate, since it was north of here that wine was first made in the New World, certainly in Florida. Trained as an accountant, **Gary** has a keen insight into grape and wine economics which he readily shares with FGGA members. His wineries contract grapes from other growers and encourage quality production of both bunch and muscadine grapes. **Gary** served as FGGA President in 1999-2000 and frequently on the board of directors and VAC, where he is now Chair. **Gary Cox** has done as much, if not more to

promote Florida grapes and wine than his predecessor **Emil DuBois** a century ago. What's more his wineries are still thriving and prohibition is now a very unlikely damper.

- **George Cowey** has been the winemaker at Chautauqua Winery in DeFuniak Springs since its founding in 19??. George is a Razorback out of **Justin Morris'** viticulture and enology program at the University of Arkansas, and a classmate of **Charlie Sims** at UF. As well as obtaining sound training at Fayetteville, George was exposed to the business earlier, since in 19?? his father founded and successfully operates a winery in Paris, Arkansas. Chautauqua produces muscadine wines and blends that consistently receive awards at the Florida and in other state's competitions. George's versatility is evident in the range and quality of wine and juice products that he has developed. He is a frequent speaker as FGGA functions and a respected Florida enologist.

- **Jim Crall** joined the Leesburg station as a plant pathologist in 1952 for a productive 25 years during which grape and melon research played a vital role in the success of both crops statewide. As director of the facility **Jim** was instrumental in hiring and supervising most of the key scientists and staff over that critical three decades and beyond. His encouragement and support of **Loren Stover** and **John Mortensen** led to the development of those bunch and muscadine varieties that support the industry today. He played an important part in obtaining funds and legislative support to move the Whitney research facility to larger quarters south of Leesburg in 1958. A listing of grape publications over his tenure indicate **Jim Crall**'s direct and indirect influence (Gray, 2001), as did his strong involvement in FGGA programs and administrative efforts that made the Leesburg Station the focus of Florida grape research and development during his tenure and beyond.

- **Harold Crevasse** planted a 7 acre muscadines vineyard on family property in Archer in 1978. He joined the FGGA and actively promoted fresh marketing by forming the Florida Grape Marketing Association. Thanks to his tireless efforts in contacting distributors and markets, a modest trade developed. Harold conscientiously emphasized quality and uniformity in his picking and carefully harvested, inspected, and refrigerated his grapes. He followed the local market closely, communicated well with buyers, and incorporated their needs and observations into his delivery system. Unfortunately, some other growers did not follow his example nor adhere to the high quality standards that he preached, so the market eventually went to (and still resides with) larger growers in Georgia. As president of the FGGA in 1982, Harold encouraged meetings throughout the state and frequently visited fellow viticulturists. He was a prime mover in expediting the Viticultural Policy Act, active in the VAC, and a vocal voice for Florida grapes.

  Harold's vineyard was on family property, which figured in local railroad history and noted in historical archives as Cotton Wood Plantation, the original owner being David Yulee http://www.afn.org/~archer/ and http://www.yuleerailroaddays.org/. There's a legend that Civil War Confederate treasure is buried on the property http://www.afn.org/~archer/arch014.htm. Our treasure was **Harold Crevasse's**, friendship, FGGA leadership, grape marketing knowledge, and the numerous grapes samples he so

generously supplied to UF over several decades. He was a well appreciated, perceptive critic and reliable contributor to our research program.

- **Tim Crocker** was the statewide Extension Agent with the Horticultural Science Department, University of Florida. Although he had responsibilities for many other crops, he served grapes well as FGGA secretary, program planner, and speaker. Tim's expertise was of value to countless grape growers and his grape publications are still primary references for growers. He could invariably answer their technical questions, direct them to authorities who could, or initiate research to address the issue. Extension professionals are behind the scenes of many professional organizations and rarely receive the recognition they merit. **Tim Crocker's** efforts over 3 decades certainly qualify him as a respected colleague and grape pioneer.

- **Dave DaCasto**

- **Charles Demko, Sr.** (1893-?) was one of the most prominent grape growers from the 1920s to the 50s. The **Demko** grape tradition was said to go back five centuries in Hungary and extended to Missouri where around 1884 his father set a 15 acre vineyard in St. Louis County. It was still family operated 45 years later in 1929 (FlaGrower 36(6)7, 1928). [Does the Demko grape tradition still exist anywhere?] A 1922 optometrist (his profession) meeting in Florida, provided the incentive for a vineyard in Altoona. For awhile **Demko** practiced in St. Louis, Missouri and farmed in Florida but later devoted full time and more to grapes. By 1928 he had a 33acre vineyard, 3 experimental acres, and 77 acres in citrus. A year later the **Demko** vineyard was probably the largest, most successful commercial operation in Florida. He also actively conducted grape propagation and breeding research in cooperation with state and federal viticulturists. **Demko**'s tenure as FGGA President lasted over 14 years, from 1940 through 1954. His brother, Dr. **William Demko** was a partner in the Altoona operation. His son, **Charles W. Demko, Jr.** was active in his father's Altoona vineyard and serve as FGGA President for an undetermined period from the late 1950s into the 1960s (This period is the major gap in characterizing FGGA activities.) Dr. **Demko** published a comprehensive, well regarded treatise covering his impressive grape experience, http://nsdl.org/resource/2200/20061002153857719T
- **Thomas DeWolf** is a good example of the "Romance of the Vine". A Florida attorney by profession, **Tom** has an absorbing interest in horticulture as a hobby. Grapes in particular sparked his interest in breeding. One result was his laborious research on the people involved in grape breeding pertinent to Florida, culminating in his fascinating, informative text, "P9-15: The Lure of the Vine" (DeWolf, 2003).
- Here we see an example of the camaraderie, dedication, and influence of the grape breeding community – both amateur and professional. The results are impressive and continue to advance viticulture globally.

- **Dewolf** descripes his efforts to trace the background of a breeding selection, P9-15, which subsequently led to 'Florida Home', released by **John Mortensen** in 1994 (HortScience, 1994). **Tom** provides a detailed look into the trials, tribulations, and rewards of grape breeding. Figure 59 depicts the trail persistently followed to successfully recover and propagate this selection. It goes back to **Dearing** in 1916, **Fennell** in the 1930s, and **Mortensen** in 1990s – with involvement of **Dunstan** and other breeders. We owe much to

the efforts of folks like **Tom DeWolf** and those he mentions ("Grape Nuts" as he calls them) – truly, a labor of love.

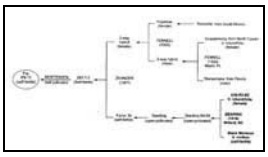


Figure 59. Chart tracing the breeding selection P9-15. (DeWolf, 2003)

- **Robert T. Dunstan** is a noted grape pioneer who came to viticulture by a circuitous route. As a linguist student at Old Trinity College (now Duke University), he was exposed to grapes when his major professor returned from France with prized wine grapes. **Dunstan** was intrigued and became involved in propagation efforts. This sparked his life-long interest in plant propagation and led to remarkable accomplishments in plant breeding. As a proficient language professor at Greensborough College in North Carolina **Bob Dunstan** continued grape breeding work. He was fluent in 6 languages and soon became fluent in horticultural science and plant genetics.

  Consulting with **Haig Dermen**, a noted USDA cytologist, **Dunstan** made a major contribution by successfully hybridizing of bunch and muscadine grapes. He overcame the chromosome incompatibility by inducing chromosome doubling with colchicine, which promotes polyploidy in plant cells during cellular division (Dunstan, 1962, 1964).

  Unfortunately, the vinifera: muscadine crosses lacked disease resistance and cannot be effectively propagated in Florida. Nevertheless some material was used in IFAS breeding work (DeWolf, 2003); their exceptional characteristics and high quality are the basis for fruitful grape breeding efforts in more benign environments. **Dunstan's** grape plasm is still highly valued and actively employed by professional and amateur grape breeders worldwide. His legacy is renowned and he is held in honor by those continuing his efforts (http://www.grapebreeders.org/Gb/Articles/Bob_Zehnder/Bob.htm). An impressive bio by his daughter covers **Bob Dunstan's** career quite well.
  http://floridagrapes.com/dunstan/dunstanbio.html
  http://floridagrapes.com/dunstan/dunstanlist

  Upon retirement, **Dunstan** joined his daughter and son in law **Aurelia** and **Al Wallace** (late UF scientist and IFAS dean) in Alachua, Florida to continue his productive breeding research, including many crops - grapes, apples, persimmons, and chestnuts. Actually, his early work with chestnuts in Greensboro led to overcoming the chestnut blight that had decimated billions of mature trees throughout the Eastern U.S. in the early 1900s. After crossing surviving American chestnut with germ plasm from blight resistant Chinese chestnuts in the 1950s and patient backcrossing to emphasize the desirable characteristics of the American species, the revival of the chestnut tree and industry in the U.S. is well underway. In fact, the family tradition is continuing in Alachua under the direction of **Dunstan**'s grandson, **Bob Wallace** http://www.chestnuthilltreefarm.com/History.html.

Figure 60. Bob Dunstan in his Alachua, FL vineyard ~ 1980s

- **Jim Eckerd**

- **Gary Elmstrom**

- **Joseph L. Fennell,** formerly Chief, Division of Food Crops, Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, Costa Rica was with the USDA in South Florida when he first reported on his grape breeding efforts (Fennell, 1938). Based on his experience in Central America and the Caribbean, he began his studies in 1935 and, recognizing the potential of native wild species, aggressively pursued breeding work as a hobby. Later he operated commercial and experimental vineyards in Lady Lake, where he continued breeding studies, emphasizing grape durability to hot humid climates. Some of his breeding stock survives in current lines (Figure 59) and DeWolf, 2003). **Joe** published extensively on his research and was FGGA President in 1954-56. **Fennell's** efforts were recognized by C.O. Foerster,Jr. of the Vitis Research and development Center(~1991) http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/htmldocs/RMM06763.html .

- **Antonio Fiorelli (941) 322-0976** and his wife **Rosa** own and operate the Rosa Fiorelli winery near Bradenton. In the Italian tradition, Antonio is a superb grape grower, producing 'Blanc Du Bois' grapes of the highest quality which he turns into appealing wine. He also does well with muscadines, to which visitors to his winery attest. Antonio is quite active in the FGGA and served on the board of Directors. He is one of the founders of the Manatee County Chapter. Antonio participated in the FGGA hobby wine competition before turning professional.

- **Dennis Gray** joined the UF/IFAS grape program at Leesburg as an Assistant Professor in 1984 and was eventually promoted to Associate, then Full Professor. He was charged with applying the emerging field of biotechnology to grape improvement and, in this, he worked directly with **Mortensen** to integrate breeding with biotechnology. The Grape Biotechnology Laboratory is in operation today at the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, Apopka. The laboratory pioneered the genetic engineering of disease resistant grapes and is applying biotechnology to develop seedless muscadines. With an eye towards commercialization, **Gray** and colleagues have patented much of the foundational technology. Through efforts of the laboratory, the University of Florida holds approximately 50% of US patents in the field. **Dennis** is active in the FGGA as a member of the BOD, frequent conference presenter, and resource for inquiries concerning grape breeding and cultivation. He brought to Apopka and

continues the impressive tradition of service to the Grape Community started by the staff of the Leesburg Station almost 80 years ago.

- **Esmond and Malinda Grosz** came to Florida with the intent of operating a vineyard complete with a winery and restaurant. They previously owned a U-Pick operation in Tennessee and anticipated taking advantage of the expanding Gainesville-Ocala community and winery appeal. In this pursuit **Esmond** and **Malinda** visited many vineyards and wineries throughout the country, advising them of his plans and publicizing Florida grapes. These visits led to many valuable contacts and reciprocal visits by influential viticulturists and enologists, some of who later became active in-state. **Malinda Grosz** was FGGA secretary where the **Grosz's** business expertise was valuable in putting the FGGA management on a more efficient bookkeeping and financial basis. As well as procuring land near Orange Lake and planting an extensive vineyard, **Esmond** also volunteered to assist in ongoing grape research in the University of Florida Food Science Department. In this role he contributed significantly in the evaluation of many breeding lines for wine. As FGGA President in 1974-76, **Esmond** was involved in early ideas to develop wine making workshops and eventually to the Commercial and Hobby wine competitions.

- **Florence and Jack Hall** operated a successful U-Pick vineyard in Lake Wales. As FGGA President in 1977-78, **Florence** had a keen sense of what FGGA's role should be in Florida Agriculture and political matters. She focused all her time and talents to that end in the service of the FGGA. She was instrumental in getting the FGGA into the Florida Agricultural Council – the organization which meets with legislators, Commissioner of Agriculture, and the FDACS to promote Florida Agriculture and deal with issues affecting its viability. After her term as president, **Florence** maintained her position as grape representative to the Ag Council. Her inquiry into the grape funding, or lack thereof (and persistence in extracting reasons why) resulted in the FAMU grape program and eventually the Viticulture Policy Act. While FGGA President and after she devoted considerable time and effort in organizing an FGGA sponsored Southeastern Muscadine Grape Growers meeting with like mind growers in Georgia and put together a symposium devoted to that topic. Her aim – to develop a southeast association to coordinate fresh marketing of regional grapes – was successful and resulted in a viable fresh grape marketing organization in South Georgia and North Florida that lasted for many years. Health reasons caused **Florence** and **Jack** to leave state, just about the time her legislative efforts began to bear fruit.

- **John Holloway** served as an engineer with the Florida Public Broadcasting and was involved in televising Legislative proceedings from Tallahassee. He got interested in grapes and operated a small U- pick vineyard in Leon County. John's committment to grapes lead him to serve on the FGGA Board of Directors, Viticulture Advisory Council and as FGGA President in 1988. These were difficult times, since the Viticulture Trust Fund was in danger of oblivion. **John's** quick thinking and persistent involvement with FGGA members and legislators resulted in the preservation and efficient administration of the Viticulture Trust Fund.

- **Don Hopkins**

- **Thomas J. (Tom) Hughes, Sr.** was introduced to Florida grapes as the editor of Florida Grower & Rancher magazine, based in Tampa. After covering a Grape Field Day in Leesburg in the early 1960s, he caught the Grape Bug and it never left him. Tom became a very successful U-pick grape grower at his vineyard on I-4 at McIntosh Rd., just east of Tampa. The easy access and visibility from the Interstate gave him a wide area market with a very large population. He was unique, at the time, in treating grape vines as ornamental plants and developed a thriving retail vine business in compliment to fresh fruit in his beautiful vineyard. Tom specialized in muscadines, which reminded him of his Georgia youth, and provided field testing of Dixie, Triumph and other varieties before release. Tom Hughes' Vineyard utilized micro emission irrigation and fertilization early on and enjoyed substantial yield increase for doing so. He served in as an FGGA officer, including an effective term as President 1972-1974. **Tom's** thriving operation inspired many to enter grape growing. **Tom** continued to promote U-pick operations, resulting in a number vineyards devoting acreage to that use, as well as to fresh market distribution. After a number of years as happy grape growers, the Hughes family sold the vineyard to commercial interests. Even after leaving his vineyard, **Tom** kept his grape clippers always near.

- **Tom Hughes Jr.** inherited his father's interest in grapes by working in the family commercial U-Pick vineyard - Tom Hughes Vineyards, east of Tampa, founded in 1967. As a youth, Tom accompanied his dad to FGGA and other grape events and visited (prowled) the vineyards, thus gaining practical grape experience. **Tom** also acquired editorial and promotional skills in writing about the vineyard, since the quality of grapes, attractive vineyard layout and efficient business operations brought much favorable publicity to local grapes. With this impressive background and a law degree, **Tom** was well suited to serve as the FGGA Program Administrator. He defined the position and functioned effectively in that capacity until offered a challenging opportunity to join the Florida State Fair Authority. **Tom's** commitment to grapes didn't end there, since he continued on the FGGA Board of Directors and was instrumental in the success of the FGGA Florida State Fair Wine Competition, now in its 20th year. There are few people with **Tom Hughes, Jr**.'s tradition, understanding of, and commitment to the Florida Grape Community.

- **George Husmann, 1883 p.78** and authored "*American Grape Growing and Wine Making: with Several Added Chapters on the Grape Industries of California*". New & Enlarged Edition 1883 (presumably 2nd) had 189 pages on grapes, 110 pages on wine making. The 4th Edition, revised and rewritten in 1907 didn't have the cited derogatory section on *V. rotundafolia*, but did include 136 pages on grapes and 126 on wine.

- **George W. Husmann** son

- **Gary Ketchum**

- **Earl/Mike Kiser** The Kiser family began planting fine bunch wine grapes, developed by the University of Florida, over thirty years ago. Today, Eden Winery makes six wines and is the oldest operating Florida Farm Winery in the state. Several of Eden's wines have been featured and served at Florida's finest four star restaurants, including Disney, the Breakers Hotel and the Ritz Carleton. Conducted tastings and sales are held every day; the winery is open 11AM-

4PM, 7 days a week (except major holidays).
Edens Florida wine interests have continued to grow, as the Kiser family partnered in the establishment of Florida Estates Winery in Pasco county in 2001. Many of the wines from Eden's "sister" winery can also be purchased at Eden in Alva. For directions and additional info see our websites at www.edenwinery.com and www.flewn.com.

- **Johanne Lauchman** was one of the sparkplugs behind the rapid evolution and success of the Highlands Chapter of the FGGA. She served as Chair of the chapter and FGGA Treasurer. Most importantly, Joanne and her husband Chris King initiated Henscratch Farms in 1999.

- **Steve Leong**

- **Jiang Lu**

- **Malachi Martin** is one of the few early grape pioneers for which there is detailed information - albeit due to his notoriety, not his wine skills. "He was born in Ireland in 1822 and immigrated to New York in 1847. After a brief time in the dry cleaning business, he joined the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant and was an assistant quartermaster by the end of the Civil War. He moved to Gadsden County in 1868 and was elected to the legislature in 1872. In 1874, after aligning himself with Democrats and some other white Republicans who didn't want blacks to hold power, he was elected to the speakership of the House. During his tenure the House approved a series of constitutional amendments which reformed the state judiciary, put state finances on a sound footing, and provided for the legislature to meet every other year. He sought the speakership again in 1875, but Democrats had won a majority in the 1874 elections. The House elected Thomas Hannah, who started a 122 year run of Democratic speakers.

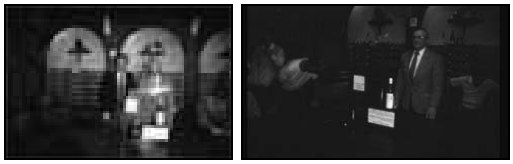
  Martin used his connections in Tallahassee to win appointment as warden of Florida's prison in Chattahoochee, a position he held until 1877. He earned a reputation as a cruel and corrupt warden who used prisoner labor for his own benefit. "The American Siberia," a book written in 1891 described the prison as a place of almost unrelieved barbarity. Martin used inmate labor to build his home in Mt. Pleasant, west of Tallahassee, and to assist in his vineyards and winery from which he made a vast fortune." (Florida State Archives)
  A later treatise on **Martin** provided additional details and softened somewhat his poor reputation (FlaHistQuarterly: 56(3)329, 336, 338 Jan 1978).

Figure 61. Malachi Martin ~1873
Early Florida winemaker and infamous prison warden

- **Joe Midulla** was the proprietor of the Tampa Wholesale Liquor Distribution Company. In the 1970s he also established Fruit Wines of Florida, devoted to wine from Florida fruits, including grapes. Joe planted a vineyard near New Port Richie in the late 1970s. He expanded to 50 acres, mostly 'Stover' and 'Lake Emerald' and an experimental plot of research vines from the Leesburg Station. His winemaker, **Mary Studt** collected data for possible use as wine varieties. 'Stover' excelled and the first vintage was introduced in 1981, named Lorenzo Blanc in honor of **Loren Stover**. He generously supplied grapes, bottles, and other equipment

and supplies for the University of Florida grape research program. The **Midulla** commitment to grapes was well publicized and led to a substantial increase in vineyards, wineries, growth in FGGA membership, and general public interest in Florida grapes. **Joe's** business insights and familiarity with political matters made him a valuable ally in obtaining legislative support for the industry. He was a valued member of the VAC and given an award recognizing his contribution by the FGGA in 1988. A promotional video depicting his winery operations aired on local TV stations and provided a classic view of those days in Tampa. When Joe later retired from the family business, the distributorship and winery property was sold and in now part of Harbor Island.

Joe Midulla receiving Midulla Award from **John Holloway-**FGGA President, **Vince Petrucci**, and **Harold Crevasse**



Joe Midulla (R) and son with Midulla Award

Midulla Vineyard and Wine display Legislature Appreciation Day, Tallahassee

Figure 62. Photographs related to **Joe Midulla**

- **Justin Morris** is another special friend of the Florida grape community. Justin is a renowned viticulturist, enologist, and food scientist, and founder of the Institute of Food Science and Engineering at the University of Arkansas. He works closely and consults with the grape and wine industry nationally and internationally. Even areas he's not directly involved with probably have graduates from his productive program which turns out top notch viticulturists and enologists. We're fortunate to have a number in Florida – including **Charlie Sims** at UF and **George Cowey** at Chautauqua Winery, DeFuniak Springs. His graduates are prominent in most grape regions. **Justin** first looked at grapes in Florida in the late 1970s and served on a consultant team consisting of him, **Len Mattock**, Cornell University, **Vince Petrucci**, Fresno State, and **Bruce Zeocklein**, VPI in1984. Their charge was to evaluate the status and needs of the Florida Grape Industry. They did their job well as the results show. From then on we've called upon **Justin** regularly as a participant in FGGA programs, advisor to academic programs and valued judge in the FGGA Florida State Fair Wine Competition. **Justin's** expertise in mechanization of vineyard operations from pruning to harvest is well recognized world wide. He also organized and administrates the USDA-sponsored Southern Extension Research Activity-14, Grape Information Exchange Group. This consists of grape researchers from most all southern states who meet annually to exchange ideas and address problems of common interest throughout the region. (See http://sera-ieg-14.tamu.edu/). Many successful

southern vineyards and wineries, particularly in Arkansas, Missouri, and including Florida owe a debt of gratitude to **Justin Morris**.

Justin Morris with wife **Ruby** receiving The Nesbitt Award

Justin Morris and **Harold Crevasse**

L to R
Justin Morris, **Charlie Sims**, **Vince Petrucci**, **Joe Midulla**, **Joe's wife**, **Bob Bates**

Figure 63. Photographs related to **Justin Morris**

- **John Mortensen** Grape Times Dec. 1992 p.5**.**
  Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame-http://www.florida-agriculture.com/news/john-mortensen.htm.

- **T.V. Munson**- See narrative for comments about this noted grape pioneer.

- **Bill Nesbitt** served on the faculty of the Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, from 1966 until 1983. His grape breeding efforts produced numerous *Vitis rotundifolia* cultivars, including 'Noble', 'Carlos', 'Dixie', 'Sterling', 'Regale' and 'Doreen'. Dr. **Nesbitt** was extremely dedicated to his breeding work, research and furthering agricultural advantages for growers in North Carolina and throughout the Southern Region. 'Dixie' was a joint release with **John Mortensen,** UF Leesburg Station. 'Noble' is still the premium red wine grape in the South.

  The Nesbitt Award is designed to honor the career of a professional member of the SERA 14 grape working group for significant research and/or extension contributions to the grape industry in the Southern Region. The Award is named in honor of **William Belton Nesbit**t, 1932 - 1983. Fittingly, **Justin Morris** earned the Nesbitt Award in 200?.

  Bill was a classmate of **Justin Morris** at Rutgers University, both had **Norm Childers** (prolific author of many horticulture publications, including "Modern fruit science: orchard and small fruit culture", which went through 10 editions) as their major professor. **Norm** later came to UF as an Emeritus Professor. Since Justin was **Charlie Sims'** professor and, **Norm** was **Justin's** professor, that makes **Norm Charlie's** Grandprofessor.

- **Donnie Nettles**, 2007 president of the FGGA, has been known to wine judges of the Florida State Fair hobby competition through the impressive number of awards that his wines have achieved. Over the years he has consistently submitted wines that the judges find to be outstanding. Donnie has garnered more medals at this competition than anyone else. He and his wife **Betty** are active FGGA volunteers in the competition and also on the board of directors.

- **Bob** and **Bonnie Jean Paulish** brought their collective talents to the FGGA fairly recently, but with very impressive results. Both **Bob** and **Bonnie Jean** had a strong computer and information technology background. They arrived and set up Blue Heron Vineyard at just the right time – when the Internet was expanding and computer use became essential in running any business. **Bob** was President of the FGGA for 6 years, from 2001 to 2007 and is presently Editor of the FGGA Newsletter, *Grape Times*. **BJ**'s talents were dramatically displayed by *Winery in Action*, a winery management computer program that she developed in cooperation with commercial interests. This comprehensive program allows wineries to follow all operations, from the legal reporting requirements to following harvest, wine making, even inventory. **BJ** offers the program free to Florida wineries and it is well received both in and out of state. The **Paulish's** contributions go further. The Florida State Fair Wine Competition is a fascinating event to watch or participate in. It takes the full effort of more than three dozen FGGA volunteers – judges, stewards, glass washers, and data recorders for 4 days, not counting receiving and delivering entries to the Fairgrounds. Each bottle submitted must be recorded, categorized, and given an identification code. When submitted for judging by 3 experienced judges every single sample generates 3 separate evaluation forms, also requiring recording. If a medal is earned, more paper work follows. Then the Best of Show requires more categorization. Finally, the results for all submissions from both Hobby and Commercial divisions are listed and Competition participants notified. **BJ** with her computer skills has refined this procedure to a fine art – and earned the gratitude and respect of all involved, especially those who battled with this chore in the dark ages – BC, Before Computers. Both **Bob** and **BJ** work tirelessly from the time the competition wines are received for flight assignment and identification until the final judging results and best of show chosen. Minutes after the competition ends judges have a complete rundown of all results; contestants are notified soon after. Recent FGGA newsletters – *Grape Times* also reflect the **Paulish's** commitment to our industry, as does a news article describing their vineyard operation (2008 Blue Heron Vineyard Article). [Would that similar information could accompany all worthy Grape Pioneers!]

Florida State Fair Wine Judges 2009

1999 FGGA Commercial Wine Competition Judging, Florida Sate Fair

FGGA Wine Competition Judging, Florida State Fair
Upper left – Hobby judging, Center seated, **Joanne Lauchman** and **Bob Walker**

Figure 64. Photographs of Wine Competitions

- **Vince Petrucci** is another great friend of the Florida Grape Community. Vince, Professor Emeritus and founder of the Viticulture Research and Education Center, California State University, Fresno, has been instrumental in the growth and prosperity of viticulture in California, and likewise contributed to viticulture progress around the world. As a teacher, mentor, and researcher his impact is truly global. Vince was brought to Florida to help initiate the FAMU program. Later he teamed with **Justin Morris** and others in advising the UF program. He continued to consult with Florida and regional wineries and serve as an esteemed judge in the FGGA Florida State Fair Wine Competition. During his illustrious career **Vince** has worked with practically all the prominent figures in the grape industry. Still, he gladly donated his time and talents to the needs of the smallest, even amateur, grape grower. His boundless optimism and genuine feeling that Florida grapes have an unrecognized potential was contagious and carried many wavering growers over the hump. His friendship and loyalty to FGGA folks is extremely important to all of us.


Vince Petrucci, **Mike Kiser**, **Mary Studt**
1992 Pruning demonstration Eden Vineyards

Vince Petrucci receiving FGGA recognition from **Bob Bates**

Micky Parish, **Vince Petrucci**, **Marie Griffin**, **Justin Morris** -FGGA Hobby wine competition judging Florida State Fair

Figure 65. Photographs related to **Vince Petrucci**

- **Tony Pizzo** was **Joe Midulla's** Right Hand Man at Fruit Wines of Florida and vitally involved in developing the winery, vineyard, and dealing with legislative matters. Furthermore Tony was an accomplished historian who helped put Ybor City on the map. There is a statue of him in Ybor City attesting to his dedication to that area.

- **Max/Rob Rittgers 352-493-9309**

- **Dee Roberson** is Executive Secretary of the Home Wine and Beer Trade Association, representing proprietors of those supply shops that serve the local needs of hobby brewers and vintners. Members also provide information and conduct workshops for their clientele. **Dee** and her husband **Robbie** operate a shop in Valrico and have been involved in the FGGA competition since its initiation. As well as being knowledgeable in commercial and hobby wine standards, **Dee** and **Robbie** have instilled this interest in their two daughters, who also volunteer for competition duties. **Dee**'s exceptional organization skills are vital in FGGA Conference planning and execution. The **Roberson** family is strong supporters and promoters of the FGGA, Florida grapes for wine, and local supply businesses.

Figure 66. Dee Roberson, **Joe Spinelli**, **Bob Bates**
FGGA Wine making workshop, Florida State Fair

- **John** and **Lois Sirvent** started a small 3 acre vineyard, U-pick, and nursery in Florahome in 1992. They soon branched out to include a home wine and beer supply operation that complements the vineyard quite well. Not only can customers obtain fresh grapes, but all other equipment at one place. There is an additional service available. **John** is not only an accomplished viticulturist who willingly advises customers and competitors regarding all aspects of grape growing, he is also an experienced winemaker. Through wine making workshops and tasting session, the **Sirvents** have attracted many to grape growing and wine making. Several of their clients have started commercial wineries. **John's** own wines consistently win awards at hobby competitions. The **Sirvents** are strong supporters of the Putnam County FGGA chapter and involved in Harvest Festivals, initiating popular events at their vineyard

2008 Tastings at the **Sirvents**

Lois and **John Sirvent**

Figure 67. Photograph related to the **Sirvent**s

- **Clara Jane** and **Bill Smith** are long time Tallahassee residents who had a local vineyard and for many years supplied grapes to the wineries and for fresh market. As president of the FGGA in 1980-81, **Clara Jane** worked with other growers to promote the fresh market. The **Smiths** were instrumental in obtaining increased legislative support for grape research, the initiation of the FAMU grape program, formation of the Viticulture Advisors Council, and survival of the Viticulture Trust Fund. **Clara Jane** was quite active in the annual Legislature Appreciation Day, where the FGGA set up a display with information for legislators and their staffs. **Bill** Smith was appointed by Doyle Conner 1984.

- **Joe Spinelli,** a restaurateur, viticulturist, wine maker, and wine columnist brought together the main features of fine wine and dining. Wine food parings and tastings at either of his two restaurants, St. Cloud and Kissimmee were an entertaining and informative treat. **Joe** was accomplished in both viticulture and enology, not to mention journalism. An industrial engineer by training, he operated Spinelli Vineyards and Nursery in St. Cloud. He was appointed to the FGGA Board of Directors in 1989 and Secretary in 1990, elected as president from 1991 to 1994. He served as Chairman of the VAC from 1990 to 1992 and was the driving force behind innovative FGGA programs until his untimely death in 1995. As a successful businessman, **Joe** understood the need to motivate and applied those skills to the FGGA. His newsletters were inspiring and well written and workshops that he organized for members brought favorable attention.

An impressive indication of Joe's commitment to fine wine was his response to achieving the Wine Spectator Grand Award in 1983. This prestigious award was given to only 11 restaurateurs throughout the U.S. Spinelli's Restaurant was the only one recognized east of the Mississippi.

Joe stated, "I consider myself a serious restaurateur; serious enough to offer my customers only the finest available products adaptable to my concept of total uniqueness. I also consider myself very serious with regard to the complex and diverse subtleties of wine and its vinification. I refuse to offer the simplistic and ill defined domestic "jug wines or the over-priced imported "brand-name" wines which are highly advertised and promoted for national distribution. I find the principal of the price-value relationship difficult to accept."

True to his principals, Joe served wines from 10 states, including CT, NY, PA,VA SC, ID CA, OR, WA, and of course, Florida. His house wines were French-American hybrids from Virginia and South Carolina. These diverse selections reflected a serious commitment when most eastern U.S. restaurants would hardly acknowledge wines of local or regional origin, let alone non-vinifera varietals.

Joe Spinelli being recognized by FGGA, **Bates** presenting(L) **Tom Hughes, Jr.** officiating(R)

Joe Spinelli presenting pruning demonstration FGGA Grape Day, Florida State Fair

Figure 68. Photographs related to **Joe Spinelli**

- **Joe Stephany** ended an impressive career as Captain in the U.S. Coast Guard and later as civil director of emergency services in several Florida Counties. Upon phased retirement from public service he developed a vineyard in Altoona on property previously owned by the **Demkos**. (FGGA *Grape Times*, Spring 1995). He was Chair of the VAC in 1993 and on the FGGA BOD from 1993 on. As FGGA President in 1995, Joe effectively consolidated the records and operations of the FGGA at the location in Lake Wales of the USDA National Resource Conservation Service's Central Florida Resource Conservation and Development Council. The FGGA and Council shared office space and help. Mrs. **Jerrie William** very effectively operated the FGGA office for many years. It is these files, centralized in Lake Wales and later added to by later FGGA officers that are now lost. **Joe** orchestrated or expanded valuable grape activities such as Internet training, Harvest Festivals, Regional workshops, and U-Pick promotional programs. His devotion to Florida grapes was exceptional. **Joe** served FGGA as a conscientious, thoughtful voice on administrative matters well into his terminal illness (Grape Times, September 2002).

- **W.J. Stover** was **Loren Stover's** father. **Loren**, cited as the "Grandfather of Florida Grapes" is so prominently mentioned, and his accomplishments so central to our theme, that he receives brief mention here. However, Col.**W.J. Stover**, his father ["Great Grandfather of Florida Grapes"?] merits more attention that our current sources of information have provided [Where did title Col, come from?]. **W.J. Stover** graduated from Ontario Agriculture College, spent 10 years in Jamaica as a Horticulture Specialist for United Fruit working with tropical

fruits, worked in the California Imperial Valley, then Australia, and migrated to, Fruitland Park, Florida in 1921. He supervised Dr. **MacKenzie**'s 15 acre experimental vineyard, plus his own 3 acres, developed field packing for fresh grapes (FlaGrower 33(10)10,11, 1926). **W.J. Stover** also perfected a process for canning grapes without seeds (FlaGrower 38(6)5-6,20-21, 1930). **Loren Stover** remarked that his father died in 1937, dispondant because of the failure of his breeding experiments (1985 News Clip about L. Stover). **Loren** himself pursued an active, productive retirement for several decades and was well lauded in his obituary (1995 News Clip).

- **Mary Studt,** one of **Vince Petrucci's** premium graduates from Fresno State, was winemaker at Fruit Wines of Florida from 1980 to 1985 and involved in both grape, fruit and dessert (fortified) wine manufacture. She developed Lorenz Blanc, the 'Stover' based wine honoring **Loren Stover** and an exceptional champagne (In defference to French dictates, it now must be called sparkling wine.)**.** Later Mary joined Eden Vineyards, where her broad experience with Florida grapes, and other fruit resulted in an impressive line of popular wines, many from 'Lake Emerald'. This variety was not well though of for wine, but at Eden, Mary allowed the grape and wine to come into its own. She also developed a special natural wine from Carambola (Star Fruit), a very challenging task, given the fruit's composition. Carambola wine is a boon to that industry, since it provided a welcome use for misshapen but otherwise sound, palatable fruit. **Mary** excelled in matching wine styles to the chemical profile of the specific grape – which changes depending upon harvest time, season, and vineyard location. Florida lost an experienced enologist when **Mary Studt** left Florida in 1995, but not completely. She returns each year in February as Judge Coordinator to manage the FGGA State Fair Wine Competition. This means organizing all volunteers, assigning judges, arranging the tasting schedule, working closely with **BJ Paulish** and **Jeanne Burgess**, and settling judging disputes. This is no mean task, as it requires a keen palate, comprehensive knowledge of wine styles, and a certain amount of diplomacy.

Figure 69. Mary Studt and **Jeanne Burgess**
Acknowledged for FGGA State Fair Wine Competition Management

- **Felicity Trueblood** has played a key role in FGGA activities for many years. Developer of Meadowmere Farms and Vineyard in Melrose, **Felicity** has served on the FGGA Board of Directors in the capacity of Secretary and as Treasurer. In these positions, her organizational skills and keen perspective regarding FGGA administrative policies, needs, and priorities helped many presidents and officers through successful tenures. She initiated Harvest Festivals and Workshops on all aspects of grape production and utilization at her popular vineyard well before these were FGGA programs. These get-togethers emphasized fresh grapes and products, including wine and sparked interest in viticulture. Many participants planted vines and continue active in the Putnam County Chapter of the FGGA, in which Felicity and **George Comer** were instrumental in founding and supporting; their vineyards were where the grape action was (in Felicity's case, still is) before, during, and after harvest. Over the years many quality hobby viticulturists and/or winemakers and several commercial

vineyards wineries came out of these sessions. Felicity also promoted grapes at other events - on the University of Florida campus, at Youth Fairs, and local community events.

Figure 70. Felicity Trueblood
Hosting wine tasting at Meadomere Farm

- **Don** and **Mary Johnson** are the type of FGGA members that attract others to the FGGA and spark everyone's interest in Florida grapes. The **Johnsons** became involved through the Master Gardner program in Highlands County and were founding members of the Highlands County Chapter. As willing volunteers in the State Fair Wine Competition their friendliness and grape enthusiasm is contagious with members and attracts many visitors. Their presence at local and state FGGA events always contributes to its success.

- **Jack Varick**

- **Bob Walker** called himself "hobbyist grape grower and winemaker", but he was much more. As an active and enthusiastic founder of the Highlands County FGGA Chapter, Bob typified the best of FGGA members. His reports of Chapter activities in the FGGA Newsletter (*Grape Times*) were interesting and informative and surely enticed readers to get involved. **Bob** organized several Chapter wine competitions and successfully submitted his own award winning wines to the State Fair Competition. Sadly, for health reasons his tenure was short, but his contribution significant and continuing.

- **James H. White** is one of the few really old timers from the 1880s about which there is sufficient information for more than a sentence. Due to his prolific pursuit of and reporting on diverse agricultural enterprises there's quite a record. After researching Florida grapes by communicated with **Craig** (Tallahassee viticulturist circa1870s), Rev. **Jas. H. White** came to Merritt's Island in 1875 from Tennessee, as an invalid, around 60 year old with little money (FlaDispatch 4(10), 1979). Three years later he demonstrated an impressive planting of quality grapes, citrus, and pineapple at his Island Home plantation and was active in, if not founder of the Indian River Horticultural and Pomological Society. Pineapples were **White's** primary source of income and in 1883 he initiated a comprehensive treatise in a series on pineapple (FlaDiapatch 2(43)722, 1883). He experienced a serious illness in 1885 that delayed the writing for about 6 months and then concluded a very impressive 12 chapter series (FlaDispatch 5(3)41, 1886). This amazingly versatile agriculturist also wrote perceptively on sweet gum, livestock, and poultry. However, he didn't ignore grapes and commented cogently on grape nomenclature, indicating that illness had preventing him attending the Orlando meeting [FSHS preliminary meeting?] His paper, "The Past and the Future of the Grape in Florida" (FlaStateHortSoc 3, pp21-26, 1890) is a fine summation. **Jas. H. White** was a volunteer weather observer for the U.S. Signal Service and disappeared from the FSHS membership rolls in 1895.

- **W.C. Steele** bears mention as one of the more vocal spokesman for grapes in the late 1800s. He was in the nursery business in Indiana, New Jersey, and Long Island and came to Florida in 1883 (FlaDispatch 7(13)338, 1887). He had a nursery operation in Switzerland and routinely offered advice on varieties, propagation, marketing, and other matters – often contrary to other stated opinions. **Steele** was somewhat more cautious than others in the business, provided warning about forcing vines and over production. He managed (owned?) the Switzerland Nursery in St. Johns County offering a range of fruit plants – peach , plum, grapes vines, blackberry, and strawberry (FlaDispatch 7(33)688, 1887). [**Steele** was associated with the Florida Dispatch probably as a frequent contributor and editorial advisor.]

- **T.V. Munson** was another grape pioneer with a significant impact on Florida Viticulture, indeed throughout the word. Those of you into viticulture are well aware of this pioneer's grape breeding work in Texas. He set the stage for European/Native American grape crosses that made grape cultivation practical in the South. Although his hybrids did not survive extensively in Florida, they contributed to the Florida grape boom in the early 20s. The **Munson** breeding strategy was successfully applied in combating many grape diseases, even slowing down Pierce's Disease. Munson's classic work, "*Foundations of American Grape Culture*" is still revered today. In fact, although this text is available on line, from the B**ibliography- Chronology** (Munson, 1909), certain sections are so relevant and reflect on the early Florida grape pioneers that they merit quoting below.

  It's disappointing that nothing can be said about four Floridians who were enough involved and committed to grapes in Florida that they are prominently mentioned by **Munson** (below). These are: **G. H. Norton**, Eustis who provided him with specimens identified as *Vitis coriacea* from near Lake Eustis and other samples from Ashtabula; **J. H. Simpson**, Manatee who supplied numerous grape specimens and cogent observation from his collection; Prof. **Curtiss,** Indian River; and **G. S. Rowleye**, contributing from Lake Worth. **Simpsom** was particularly active in collecting, classifying, and forwarding grape specimens. So valuable was his contribution that **Munson** named *V. Simpsoni* in his honor. Curiously, none of these evidently knowledgeable grape enthusiasts were mentioned in grape literature. And how about the environs from which these wild species were collected - Do the vines still exist?

C. Excerpts from "Foundations of American Grape Culture" By Munson, 1909

[The following material merits mention and is derived from (Munson, 1909). It pertains to **Munson's** philosophy and the native grape species of Florida.]

Dedication (Page4)

At beginning of mans civilization, ages old,
When the Sumerian, Canaanite savage, dark,
Strolled along the banks of Euphrates,
And, tired of wandering, settled Nippur town,
He longingly remembered the wild sweet grapes.
That climbed the trees upon the hills he left,
And which, all lovely, fringed the Caspian, so grand.
He sought a holiday and hied himself away to seek
Among the dear old hills of Ararat, for grapes,
Where Noah landed safe, and later got so drunk, poor man!
(His better sons, walking backward, to hide his shame,

Soft spread in charity over him a lions skin.)
Reaching the loved old haunts, all weary and worn,
He ate his fill of many juicy grapes so sweet,
As long before, when roving wild in Bactrian.
And then on camels back great loads of grape-filled vines
He took to treat his wives and babes in Nippur town.
The seeds were scattered round the huts of mud;
Some grew and clambered up the walls, and bloomed all sweet,
At length bore fruit, and cooled the huts with shade;
Some few bore better grapes than from the wilds he brought;
Such vines he loved and saved and kindly trained, betimes.
He always gathered from the new and better vines,
And planted vacant places with their seeds, select;
He gave to kith and kin, who likewise grew and gave.
Thus on and on, through old, ten thousand years,
Have come adown to all mankind the twining vines
Of Ararat, in Muscats, Flame Tokays and Cornichons.
The sons of men still hand them on with loving care,
Well mingled with those from our free American hills.
And now, to all who love the vines and grapes and wines,
This book is dedication fruit of one of Noahs sons,
Who wishes cause no more to backward spread the lions skin,
But plant and eat and drink, and neer get drunk.

Preface (Page 5)

For so great a nation as ours, both in expanse of territory and demand for every variety of vineyard product, the foundation of grape culture should be laid most intelligently broad and deep. It is quickly apparent to any practical vineyardist, that the chief material structure of American Viticulture must necessarily be, The Native Grapes of America

The Passion for Experimentation with Grapes Aroused (Page 5)

In the fall of 1873, the writer visited the vineyards of Dr. **Robert Peter**, residing near Lexington, Kentucky. In these vineyards were all the leading and nearly all the then introduced varieties of American grapes.

The vines were bearing generally, and the fruit on nearly all was ripe or ripening. The Doctor, having been my instructor in Chemistry in Kentucky State Agricultural College, in which I had completed the scientific course in 1870. The Doctor gave me clusters of all wished, some thirty or forty kinds. The seeds of these were carefully saved, separately labeled, and noted as to varieties standing near the vine which bore the seeds. These seeds were planted at my new home in Nebraska, but the season and other conditions being adverse, all were lost, yet the kindled flame of passion for experimentation continued to burn. The timbered belts along the streams of that bleak country were ransacked for the few wild grapes

Coming to Denison, Texas, in April, 1876, a rough piece of dark limestone, timbered land on the bluffs of Red River was improved. In the woods surrounding, innumerable wild grapevines grew. On the higher sandy lands, covered with post-oak, black jack, hickory, scarlet oak and other timber, grew many Post-Oak Grape vines (V. Lincecumii), generally climbing the post-oak trees, hence the name of Post-Oak Grape.

Along the ravines of the uplands, and in the river bottoms, were numerous vines of the Mustang Grape (V. candicans), the Sour Winter Grape or Frost Grape (V.~ cordifotia),

(Page.6) and Sweet Winter Grape (V. cinerea), the latter penetrating and growing luxuriantly in the lower bottoms, where the others were seldom found. Directly along the high banks of Red River were found vines of the Sand, or Bush Grape (V. Longii), drifted down from the Texas Pan-Handle regions, where it grows in great profusion. Hybrids of it with the Mustang Grape are often found along Red River. Occasionally are also found vines of the Riverside Grape (V. vulpina, or riparia), along Red River banks. There were rarely found on the high bottoms of Red River and larger creeks in this, Grayson County, when the writer came to the State, wild vines of the Southern Muscadine (V. rotundifolia), and this appears to be its western limit of distribution along Red River. Here were six or eight good species of wild grapes, several of which had not been seen by me previously. I had found my grape paradise! Surely now, thought I, this is the place for experimentation with grapes!

Viticultural Observations and Remarks (Pages 30-31, relating to a description of *Vitis coriacea*)

Germination medium to late, little earlier than V. candicans, nearly with V. Simpsoni, feeble; foliation at Manatee, Florida, about February 20. First species after V. Munsoniana there to leaf out, the other species being V. Simpsoni, V. rotundifolia, V. cordifolia; inflorescence at same place, about April 25th to May 1st; fruit ripens there about July 15th. At Denison, Texas, it foliates, flowers and ripens late, about with V. Lincecumii or a little earlier than V. cestivalis. Cuttings grow with the greatest difficulty. Young plant slender, feeble, but becomes vigorous with age, stronger than V. cestivalis, not so strong as V. candicans, but of similar habit; endures drouth and heat well but very senst-ive to cold, about the same as V. -vinifera, not enduring the harder winters at Denison, Texas, without protection; resistant to Phylloxera. It appears to me that this species offers good material upon which to base a valuable strain of table and wine grapes for the Gulf regions where few northern varieties succeed. A variety) with lobed leaves, found by **G. H. Norton** near Lake Eustis, bears fruit nearly as large as the Concord, clusters of medium size, qualityfair. Birds in Florida are very fond of the fruit of this species, scarcely allowing it to ripen.-~This species, in characteristics, stands between V. candicans and V. Simpsoni, with smaller, more leathery, more generally not lobed leaves than either, but more nearly allied to V. candicans than V. Simpsoni. This species has been found often naturally hybridized with V. cordifolia, var. sempervircns, V. Simnpsoni, and V. cincrea, var. Floridana, in Manatee County and other parts of Southern Florida. One of these hybrids with V. Simpsoni found by Mr. **J. H. Simpson** and sent to me is very vigorous, bears well, of a medium sized, good very late fruit, ripe here at Denison, Texas, in September. Found naturally in rich woods of south half of Florida where nearly all the lands are more or less sandy.

(Page 50) VITIS CORIACEA, Shuttleworth. Leatherleaf Grape. Of Florida.

Viticultural Observations and Remarks

Germination medium to late, little earlier than V. candicans, nearly with V. Simpsoni, feeble; foliation at Manatee, Florida, about February 20. First species after V. Munsoniana there to leaf out, the other species being V. Simpsoni, V. rotundifolia, V. cordifolia; inflorescence at same place, about April 25th to May 1st; fruit ripens there about July 15th. It has been found hybridized naturally with V. cordifolia, V. cestivalis, V. coriacea, V. cinerea, var. Floridana.
It is confined almost entirely in Florida, and with V. coriacca and V. Munsoniana, is

abundant all over the southern half of that State.
One vine growing at Ashtabula, Florida, appears to be a hybrid of this species with V. cortacea. It was brought to my attention by **G. H. Norton**, of Eustis, Florida. Young vines of it with me have borne abundantly a very good grape, little inferior in appearance or quality to Norton Virginia, and might furnish the basis for a noble strain of extreme southern grapes. Another from **J. H. Simpson**, of Manatee, Fla., found wild by him, appears to be of same hybrid character, with later and larger, good fruit. It is a valuable species for experimentation in the extremeAt Denison, Texas, it foliates, flowers and ripens late, about with V. Lincecumii or a little earlier than V. cestivalis. Cuttings grow with the greatest difficulty. Young plant slender, feeble, but becomes vigorous with age, stronger than V. cestivalis, not so strong as V. candicans, but of similar habit; endures drouth and heat well but very sensttive to cold, about the same as V. -vinifera, not enduring the harder winters at Denison, Texas, without protection; resistant to Phylloxera. It appears to me that this species offers good material upon which to base a valuable strain of table and wine grapes for the Gulf regions where few northern varieties succeed.

(Page 64) **Viticultural Observations and Remarks**

So far, except where noted otherwise, this description is made from specimens of leaves, branches old and young wood, and fertile flower cluster in bloom, collected for me near Kingston, Jamaica, by Dr. **D. Morris**, Director of the Botanical Gardens at that time, and others collected in Honduras by Mr. **A. Bauer**. These specimens bear every evidence of being the typical V. Cariba?a of DeCandolle. After the most diligent inquiry for this form in various parts of Florida and other Southern States and securing specimens of the vine which Prof. **A. H. Curtiss** has taken to be V. Caribcea (sent me by him for examination), I am unable to discover the slightest traces of this species in the United States. Prof. **Curtiss** vine seems to be a hybrid between V. Simpsoni and V. cinerea (?). It is said to produce a medium sized fruit of fine quality, while V. Cariba?a is small and acid. I place this species here as it is so nearly allied to V. cinerea and is found well- distributed according to **Planchon** along the coast of Mexico, Central America and among the West Indies, but not in the United States, as classified by Dr. **Engelmann**, from Prof. **Curtiss** Indian River (Fla.) specimens; nor according to **Durands** Report of finding it in Arkansas, which Prof. **A. Millardet** speaks of with doubt in his work upon American vines.
I find in my Arkansas specimens of V. cinerea forms approaching V. cinerea, var. Floridana, and further eastward the change becomes very marked, and finally the Florida variety prevails, which latter Mr. **J. H. Simpson**, botanist of Manatee, Florida, took for a time to be V. Caribcea; but upon receiving and comparing the true V. Caribwa sent me by Dr. **Morris** from Jamaica and sharing the specimens with Mr. **Simpson**, he at once agreed with me that what he had found and sent to me as V. Caribcea was distinct and he is now positive that in many years residence in Florida he has never seen the true V. Caribcea (as described by Mac Fadeyn and illustrated by Dr. **Morris** specimens) in Florida. Certainly the species offers nothing interesting or valuable to viticulturists in the United States.

(Page 68) I have noted as V. cinerea, var. Floridana, Munson, with the following synonyms:
V.Caribcea, Engelmann, and Curtiss, Bushberg Cat., p. 15, 1883.
V.Cariba?a, Millardet, Especes des Vignes, p. 231.-
V.Simpsoni, Munson, Proceedings S. P. A. 5., 1887, p. 59.

Having grown numerous fully developed, fruiting vines of this form, it proves to be identical with V. cinerca, Engelm., except that the young tips are always red, rusty, tomentose, and the lower surface of leaves rusty cinereous, instead of light cinereous, as in more western and northern forms, and is very much less enduring in cold than the more northern form. Leaf-folder defoliates it at Denison, Texas; difficult of propagation from cuttings. This variety has been found by **J. H. Simpson** (the discoverer of its distinct character), naturally hybridized with V. coriacea, V. Simpsoni, and V. cordifolia. It is native in Florida and Southern Georgia, proceeding westward along the Gulf Coast and northward, gradually taking the form of V. cinerea. It is quite probable that the vine reported from Arkansas and described by Durand as V. Caribcea, was this form of V. cinerea.

The following notes are arranged from Mr. **Simpsons** pen:

The fruit is useless for the table, but would make fair wine. The best grape I have found in this section was one of its hybrids with V. coriacea, the vine being the most vigorous one I have seen, the bunches and fruit of good size and flavor, ripening earlier than the species pure, an excellent bearer, and I have no doubt if the vine were properly cultivated it would be far superior to any native grape we have in the State. Another hybrid with V. coriacea grows a short distance from it, and might prove valuable in cultivation, though it is later and not so valuable in other respects. This form resembles V. cinerea in many points, in others V. Caribea, of the West Indies, while there are often vines that resemble V. Simpsoni so much that it takes close observation to tell them apart by the leaves alone. It is very abundant in Southern Florida in the hummock woods and seems to prefer moist land. In some cases the vines grow with crowns but a few inches above water, even during the dry season and where the roots must occupy ground perfectly saturated during the rainy season.

Viticultural Observations and Remarks (Page 77, relating to VITIS CORDIFOLIA, var. sempervirens, Munson.)

Germination early to medium,those from Florida (b) quickest; foliation early, medium to late, usually with or a little earlier than V. Lincecumii and after V. labrusca; inflorescence just after V. labrlkscz, before V. Lincecumii; ripening of fruit very late, long after V. cestivalis, about with V. cinerea; foliage and wood mature in a very early, about the first of our native species, leaves turning yellow before frost, falling and exposing the fruit for ripening, while in b the leaves persist very late. Vigor great; plants attain an immense size, one in Kentucky was measured by the writer, which at six feet from the ground was sixty-six inches in circumference; endures cold about equally with V. cinerea; found in same locality, those native in Illinois a, being very hardy, while b is quite tender in Northern Texas; resists Phylloxera fully, also mildew and rot. Its hybrids with V. rupestris have been found eminently resistant to Phylloxera by Prof. **A. Millardet**. Some of its wild hybrids with V. labrusca* and V. Lincecumii show much amelioration. Cuttings grow with difficulty. The immense size and age it may attain well suit it for graft-stocks, though the difficulty of rooting the cuttings makes it less desirable than the

easier rooting hybrids with V. rupestris and V. vulpina; mixed with V. Longii and V. Doanianet it doubtless would be most excellent, as stocks in dry soils, and with V. Champini would be most excellent in very limy soils, though may be no better than pure V. Champini. Numerous natural hybrids of this species with V. rupestris, V. vulpina, V. Lincecumii, and V.cinerea were found by **H. Jaeger** in Southwest Missouri; in Northern Texas by myself with V.cinerea and V. Lincecumii; by **J. H. Simpson** in Florida, with V. coriacea, V. Simpsoni, V.cestivalis, and rarely even with V. Munsoniana, and it has been

obtained from Virginia and Georgia hybridized with V. cestivalis, V. labrusca and V. csnerea. The foregoing analysis is from specimens obtained from Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, many parts of Texas, Georgia, and Florida, which show its range. Its northern limit is about 40 degrees, its westward, is through eastern Kansas, central Oklahoma and the Trinity River in Texas.

Viticultural Observations and Remarks (Page 109-110, relating to VITIS MUNSONIANA, Simpson)

Germination early to medium; foliation begins about February 5th, continuing to March 15th, at Manatee, Florida; infiorescence at Manatee continuously from May 15th to October, **J.H. Simpson**. At Lake Worth, Fla., commences blooming earlier and continues still later, having flowers, green and ripe fruit on same vine into December ,**G. S. Rowleye**. Hence it is called Everlasting Grape. This everbearing characteristic does not belong to V. rotundifolia only in a limited degree, and in the same region it begins blooming 6 to 7 weeks later and ceases blooming earlier,**J. H. Simpson**. Fruit begins to ripen about August 1st at Manatee; exfoliation very late. In the open ground at Denison, Texas, V. Munsoniana holds its leaves much later than V. rotundifolia and is the last species among all the rest to have the leaves killed by frost. It there begins blooming and ripening about a week later than V. rotundifolia and continues to bloom and make fruit much later, often till stopped by frost. Vigorous but slender, more upright when young than V. rotundifolia, which is less branched and more sprawling in young vines, but becomes much more drooping, or weeping on trellis than V. rotundifolia, the lateral branches very slender, almost filiform. The ever-blooming character of this species, with its smaller seeds, larger clusters, more vinous and acid than V. rotundifolia, and its freedom from disease, may render it an excellent material with which to hybridize the finer V. vinifera varieties to secure valuable grapes for the extreme south and the tropics. Hybrids of this with V. coriacea and probably with other species have been found. It is often intermingled with V. rotundifolia in Central Florida where the two coalesce. It has been regarded by Dr. **Chapman** as being only a variety of V. rotundifolia* but a comparison of the characteristics of each, and their distribution as here given froni extended observation, demonstrate that these forms differ as widely, if not more widely, especially in a most vital point,berry and seeds,than V. rupestris and V. vulpina, which are well acknowledged, and than V. cestivalis and V. Lincecumii now separated by Planchon. *Flora of the Southern States, p. 71. I at first thought this might be Rafinesques V. Floridana, but after writing Dr. **A. Gray** and Prof. **Thos. Mechan** concerning it, their opinion written me in reply was to the effect that Rafinesques description is so meager and indefinite that it had no certainty of application. Prof. **P. Viala** (in Une Mission Viticole, p. 166) expresses the opinion that it is Rafinesques V. Floridana, but is in doubt and no means of identifying it as his species, and as Planchon recognizes V. Munsoniana and M. Viala also gives V. Munsoniana preference, I still hold to it. V.Munsoniana is rarely found north of Central Florida, but in all Southern Florida it is by far the most abundant species. It grows equally well in various locations and soils in South Florida from near streams to the poorest pine soils, though found chiefly in rich woods. It is not found native in pine lands until it is cleared and cultivated, when it springs up along fences, etc., where birds drop the seeds, hence called Bird Grape,**J. H. Simpson**. It has grown and borne well here at Denison, Texas, several years, proving nearly as hardy as V. rotundifolia.

The above excerpts indicate Munson's familiarity with Florida wild grapes and his interactions with Florida, Southern, and Tropical viticulturists. In addition, he

promoted a brilliant idea that, despite the vast urbanization of Florida, might well be pursued today, albeit with a prize worth more than $10. The winning vine was used in subsequent successful breeding work.

(Page 184) **TEN DOLLAR PRIZE**. In 1882 I offered a prize of $10 to the one who would show the best ripe wild Post-Oak Grape (section of vine in fruit), on a certain day in August, with the understanding that I was to become sole owner of the vine getting the prize. A committee of five good grape and wine judges was selected. There were Concord and Delaware sections of vines, full of full ripe fruit, supplied as standards of comparison. The day came, bright and fine. The show was grand. All around the hall were hung the vines full of fruit, and foliage, some twenty or thirty kinds. The committee tasted long and repeatedly, showing some close competition. The decision fell on a variety growing in the grounds of Mr. **John Hopkins** (deceased Oct. 20, 1883), living a mile southeast of the city. It was named Ten Dollar Prize, and in November following, was moved into my vineyard, and from this many hybrids have been produced, some now in the third generation just completing most rigid test of several years, a few of which will be described further on. (, -h). The vine of Ten Dollar Prize was vigorous, stocky, perfectly healthy in leaf and fruit, exceedingly prolific; cluster large, shouldered, cylindrical, compact; berries of good medium size, round, black, very persistent, skin thin, tough, pulp meaty, but tender, and juicy, of pure, high quality, tho somewhat astringent, seeds small, ripe exceedingly late. Original vine lost.