

Florida Grape History: TimeLine

<http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/history>

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 Panasoffsee.]

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" was growing fine citrus and scuppernong grapes around Lake Panasoffsee – 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.]

FlaDispatch 1(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 Cochín, 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 phyllorea 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. Girardeau, 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 Luttichau**, **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.

FSSH Fourth FSSH 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**, Superintendent of Gardens and Grounds, USDA comments on canopy management.

Fifth FSSH 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, Biele, 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. Scuppermong 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. Robinson** in 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. Kermod, 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 & Produce News 1\(13\)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 & Produce News 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 incompatibility 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. Goentel** 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. Swearingen**, Vice President; **E.L. Zimmermann**, Secretary; **Eric L. Wirt**, Treasurer; **F.J. Zimmermann**, General Manager; **T.G. Lockwood**, General Superintendent. 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. McMahon**, 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**

Thirty-sixth FSHS Proceedings - 1923, Orlando

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 Eustis, **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.

FlaGrower 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 is 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 Professor **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 Putnam 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 an 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 1/4 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 Hungary, 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

Proccedings 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.** described 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 senescence 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, 1982. 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 hobbyists, \$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 at 1987 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 of 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 viticulture 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 Administrator, 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 activities. She encourages submitting grape interest articles. The Farmers' Market program was also mentioned 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 Statutes, 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. Sustainable 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 **Thropp**s.

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.