



NORTH FLORIDA OLIVE FIELD DAY



PROGRAM

Welcome to the North Florida Olive Field Day hosted by Florida Olive Council, LAA and Green Gate Olive Grove. Our program includes presentations by Florida olive growers and scientists from University of Florida. In addition there we will have an olive oil tasting and a tour of Green Gate Olive Grove, the oldest commercial olive grove in Florida. Thank you for joining us!

ALL TIMES = CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME

8:00 am – 8:45 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:45 am – 9:00 am	Welcome and Orientation
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Keynote Speaker – Aurelien Rifaut
10:00 am - 10:15 am	BREAK
10:15 am – 11:30 am	UF/IFAS Academic and Extension Panel
11:30 am - 1:30 pm	LUNCH (Grove Tour and Olive Tasting)
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Grower Panel
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	BREAK
3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Propagation and Grafting
4:30pm - 5:00 pm	Summary and Conclusion

WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

Don Mueller, a retired engineer is the godfather of Florida olive growing. He established the Green Gate Olive Grove in 1999 after a trip to Italy. Over the years he cultivated beautiful Frantoio, Leccino, Ascolona and several other varieties. olivegodfather@gmail.com

Sally and David Gist purchased Green Gate Olive Grove from Don Mueller in 2016 and began expanding operations to include a venue for weddings and special events, catering, cooking demonstrations and olive oil sales. greengateolivegrove@gmail.com

Michael O'Hara Garcia is president of the Florida Olive Council, LAA. The Council is a non-profit agricultural advocacy and research organization supporting Florida olive growers and UF/IFAS Research. michael@floridaolive.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Aurelien Rifaut is Co-Founder and Director of Agrigrada Corp. an international agro-industrial design and management company. He designs and oversees execution of large agricultural projects focused on perennial and annual cash crops. Rifaut now directs operations at a 4,000 acre high density commercial olive grove 30 miles north of Tallahassee in Colquitt, GA. Mr. Rifaut holds Masters' degrees in agronomy, environmental science, engineering and management. a.rifaut@agrigrada.com

ACADEMIC PANEL



Dr. Glenn Aiken is the Director of UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center. He manages University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences campuses located at Quincy, Marianna and Live Oak. He provides leadership and support for the research and extension programs meeting challenges of the extremely diversified agriculture of North Florida. gaiken@ufl.edu



Julie McConnell is a UF/IFAS Extension faculty member based in Bay County. She advises local commercial and home growers on Florida Friendly Landscaping and Green Industry Best Practices Management. She also leads the Bay County Master Gardner program. Ms. McConnell holds a Master of Science degree in Entomology and Nematology and a Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture. juliebmcconnell@ufl.edu



Eleanor F. Phillips is a Gainesville-based UF/IFAS scientist focused on creating and validating a taxonomic survey of arthropods in north central Florida olive groves. Through her studies with Dr. Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman (UF/IFAS) and Dr. Sandra A. Allen (USDA) she provides insights into integrated pest management plans for Florida olive growers. Ms. Phillips is now completing her doctoral program at UF. eleonorphillips@ufl.edu

GROWER PANEL



Tom Oleson (St. Johns County). Tom is one of the longest-serving olive growers in Florida. He established his grove over 20 years ago near Hastings, FL and has faced and overcome many challenges. Tom's unique insights based on long personal experience are invaluable to the Florida olive grower. When not tending to his olives, Tom is a sailor and custom sign-maker. shipscarver@hotmail.com



Dana Venrick (Orange County) is a pioneer olive grower from the Orlando area. A retired agriculture agent, Dana began working with olives over 20 years ago. He has helped establish and maintain groves throughout Florida and provides customer care services and soil nutritional products for olive growers. danavenrick@yahoo.com



Guy Burgetto (Alachua County) operates one of the most productive olive groves in north Florida. His 10 acre grove produced an outstanding crop of Arbequina and Koroneiki olives this year. After making several gallons of beautiful oil, Guy plans to prune his grove this year, begin construction of a small olive mill and sell the oil at his NY Pizza restaurants in Gainesville and Alachua. sburgetto@gmail.com

PROPAGATION-GRAFTING



Myles Albritton (Hardee County) is the farm manager for the Hardee County Industrial Development Authority research farm located near Wauchula, FL. The farm hosts over 1000 olive trees and several other alternative crops (Pongamia, Pomegranate, Turmeric, Hops). Mr. Albritton is a long time citrus grower and has mastered olive nutrition and cultivation.



Michael O'Hara Garcia is president of the Florida Olive Council, LAA and participates directly in olive propagation activities. Garcia rooted 40 olive cultivars from Middle East and North Africa and assisted Mr. Albritton with an extensive grafting program in Hardee County focused on discovering new low chill olive cultivars.

ALLIED VENDORS



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