



FLORIDA *Aquaculture* ASSOCIATION

Advancing environmentally sound technology and high quality products for today's aquatic farmer.

SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you probably know by now, in an unusual move the Florida House of Representatives adjourned three days early without passing a budget. As it stands now, the Legislature will go back into a special session on June 1, in an attempt to settle their differences whether to expand the Medicaid program in Florida. Of course with no budget approved means that funding for the ARC projects, FAME program, and the IFAS extension services for aquaculture are in limbo. There is a rumor that some of IFAS's budget may be reduced, so we are staying in contact with key leaders to try to be sure that the additional recurring funding bill that was passed two years ago to support aquaculture research stays intact. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find a final regular session legislative update.

The Aquaculture Review Council will meet in mid-June at the DACS Bartow office for a final review of projects to be selected for funding in FY 2016-17. The ARC recommendations will be submitted to the Department of AG which in return will include them in their budget for final approval and funding by the legislature. Over twenty two proposals were submitted for consideration to the ARC and that list has been reduced to eleven for final consideration. A lot of the proposals were very worthy of funding; however it is the ARC's mission to select those projects which have the most potential return to Florida's aquaculture industry and the taxpayers of Florida.

Pentair Aquatic Eco-Systems held an open house in mid-May to show off their new World Aquaculture Technology Engineering & Research (WATER)

center of excellence. On display was the newest aquaculture technologies and systems designed to produce sustainable food with less waste, energy and water. The grand opening was a big success with over 100 people in attendance. Elsewhere in this newsletter is some photo highlights of the grand opening of PAES WATER facility.

Now that spring is upon us, all of the ornamental fish farms have removed their fall poly they used to cover their ponds from a potential freeze. Fortunately, this was another mild winter for Florida farmers. With the exception of three cold spells in December and January we once again were spared a very cold winter such as they had in the mid-west and north-east. At our March 18 board meeting in Tallahassee all of the Commodity Representatives reported that business was at last year's level or better. The warm winter certainly helps the livestock to reproduce and grow at a faster rate.

Speaking of Tallahassee, FAA once again took part with a display and aquaculture product samples at the Florida Farm Bureau Agriculture Reception on the courtyard of the State Capital. The weather was ideal and resulted in a record turnout for this event. Many Ag commodities including FAA ran out of food and samples to give away. Next year's legislative session will start in early January and everyone is crossing their fingers for good weather at this important event.

If you are a member of the Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association be sure to make your pre-registration to attend the Annual Membership Meeting/Dinner on June 13 at the Cypress Creek Golf Club in Ruskin. For more information go to FTFFA.com.

Sincerely,

Marty Tanner



Florida Aquaculture Association
P. O. Box 1519
Winter Haven, FL 33882
863-293-5710
863-299-5154 Fax

David Boozer • Adm. Assistant

2014-2015 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Marty Tanner, Plant City, (813) 757-0289

VICE PRESIDENT

Barry Hurt, Winter Haven, (863) 604-1891

SECRETARY

Allen Register, Palmdale, (863) 675-0623

TREASURER

Daniel Solano, Riverview, (813) 546-1186

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Jane Davis, Lake Buena Vista, (407) 560-7534

Paul Wills, Ft. Pierce, (772) 465-2400

Reggie Markham, Ceder Key, (352) 697-0412

Jim Michaels, Sarasota, (941) 388-4541

Craig Watson, Ruskin, (813) 671-5230

One Seat Open

COMMODITY REPRESENTATIVES

Alligators - Allen Register, Palmdale, (863) 675-0623

Aquatic Plants – Brandon McLane, (954) 472-5120

Food Fish - Geno Evans, (386) 775-3051

Shellfish - Leslie Sturmer, Cedar Key, (352) 543-5057

Suppliers—Dennis DeLong , (919) 578-4155

Tropical Fish - David Rawlins, (813) 737-3418

Lobbyist – Joe Spratt, (863) 517-0235

FAA Announces Aquaculture in the Classroom Grant Program

Florida Aquaculture Association is offering grants to Florida's Middle and High Schools who have an aquaculture curricula with a supplemental funding grant from \$250 to \$500 to assist the school in acquiring supplies and materials to facilitate the aquaculture course.

A grant application is attached and is available on the Associations website: flaa.org . The deadline for submitting application for the 2015-16 school year is June 30, 2015.



What's on Your Bumper?

Thousands of dollars have been raised from the sale of the Aquaculture license plate to benefit aquaculture education, research and development programs. Don't forget— the Florida Aquaculture Association receives funding from the Florida Aquaculture license plate to carry out important educational programs. Learn more about it at: http://www.hboi.edu/aqua/aqua_home.html.

