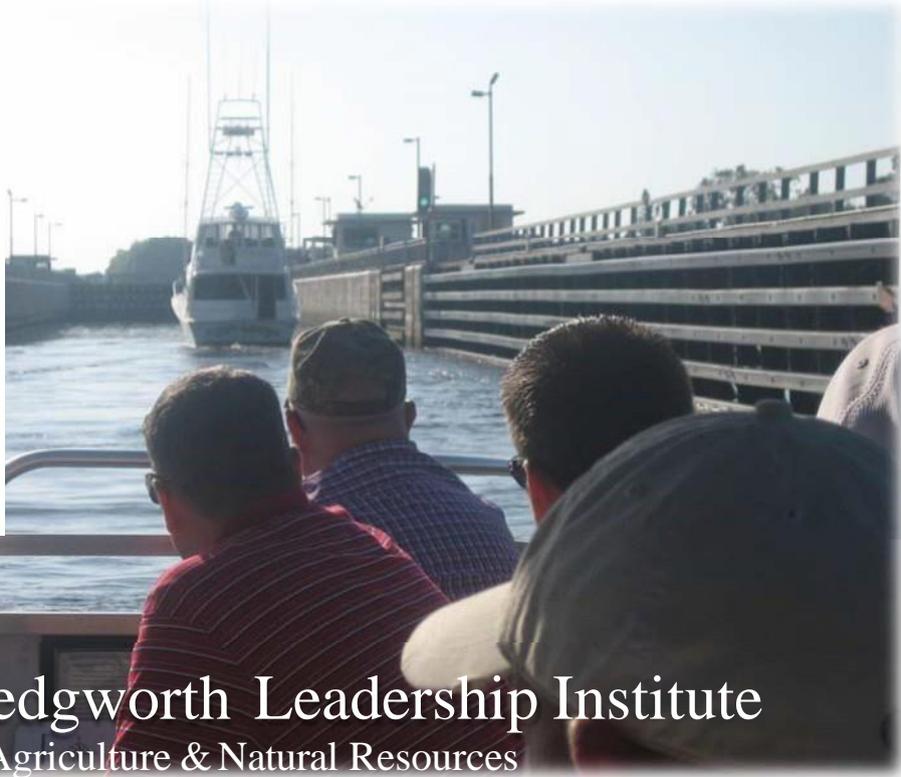


In this Issue...

Director's Dialogue
Starting on the Gulf...
Looking Deeper...
Wrapping up...
Joe Joyce's BHAG
Coordinator's Corner



Wedgworth Leadership Institute
for Agriculture & Natural Resources



Class
IX

Reflect

Director's Dialogue *Dr. Hannah Carter*

"The most important thing people did for me was to expose me to new things."
-Temple Grandin

While every three years we select a new leadership program class and within these new classes we go to new states and new countries—we have not really changed the format of the eleven study/travel seminars of this program—until now. Seminar IV of Class IX marked a brand new WLI seminar that took participants from Fort Myers and Sanibel to the north end of Lake Okeechobee. Along the journey of this seminar, we were exposed to a great number of new things—from water systems to fertilizer plants, from water storage to the Seminole Tribe, from citrus greening to the dairy and cattle industries—we ran the gamut and learned a great deal from our time at many other places, interacting with many more people

and the different ways of looking at issues. Several participants said it was their favorite seminar so far—very high praise for our inaugural run and evidence that this seminar will now be a part of the program for future classes.

It is a daunting task to start from scratch—with "typical" WLI seminars, about one-third is new programming, while the remaining schedule includes themes or issues that have been discussed with previous classes. Planning this seminar was a joy as I had the benefit of an outstanding group of WLI alumni who shared their contacts, knowledge, time and hospitality. Special thanks go to Kate English (Class IV), Keith Wedgworth (Class VII), Mary Hartney (Class VIII), Jim Snively (Class VI), Joe Collins (Class VII) and Ray Royce (Class VII). This seminar was exceptional and

it was due to these folks!

Our sights now turn our next seminar here in Gainesville in July and then our national trip at the end of September. It's hard to believe Class IX's experience is almost at the half-way mark! Soon they will be members of the WLI Alumni Association—which is celebrating a very special milestone at this year's annual alumni meeting—20 years of leadership programming! It's been 20 years since Class I graduated from this program. Come join us in this milestone and connecting with your classmates! Registration information will be in the mail in the next month—make your plans to be at the Hyatt in Bonita Springs August 8th-10th!



Starting on the Gulf... *Scott Smith*



On Monday, May 19, 2014, Wedgworth Class IX began their Southwest Florida

adventure at the North Fort Myers recreation center. Wedgworth Class IX was the first to visit Southwest Florida and we were all excited to begin learning about agriculture and natural resources in the area. We were extremely fortunate to begin the day with a presentation by Mr. Dallas Townsend (Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame member and Hendry County Extension Director IV, Emeritus) presenting an overview of the history of Southwest Florida and the importance of agriculture in the area. We were treated to the unique perspective of a lifelong resident of the area that included a detailed history of cattle, citrus, natural resources, and other agriculture in Hendry and Collier Counties. He also included a few little-known facts about Florida, including one that we all found interesting: Orange County was originally named Mosquito County. Mr. Townsend also helped us to understand how important the agricultural industry was and continues to be in Southwest Florida. Agriculture was instrumental in developing Southwest Florida and is one of the few areas in United States that can produce certain crops during the winter months. We also discussed the current threats for the area that include water supply, water quality, wildlife habitat



preservation, and the free-trade agreement which threatens our farmer's ability to stay in business.

Following Mr. Townsend's outstanding presentation, Mr. Hugh English gave our class a fascinating historical account of water in Southwest Florida and the efforts to control it based on rapidly changing cultural norms. Mr. English has an impressive list of achievements he has earned during his agricultural career. Some of his more notable achievements are: being the founding president of the Gulf Citrus Growers Association, a member of the Florida Citrus Commission, a board member of South Florida Water Management District, inducted into the Citrus Hall of Fame and also inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame. During Mr. English's presentation we learned about Florida becoming a State in 1845 and that Key West was the largest city at that time with a population of 2,000 residents. Soon after becoming a State, the Internal Improvement Trust Fund was created, as an agency of Florida Government, to oversee the management, sale and development of public lands. One of first projects of the Fund was to construct canals to drain marshes and wetlands in Central and Southwest Florida for future development. The focus on drainage to make the land more suitable for development was the norm for over a hundred years. Today, the focus of the Fund is water supply, water quality, and one of the most extensive environmental land purchasing programs in the United States. Mr. English also shared the interesting history of his ancestor's relocation from North Florida to Southwest Florida where they established themselves in the agricultural business, primarily in cattle, citrus, and vegetables. During his presentation Mr. English had several memorable quotes, but the one that drew a lot of laughter was his quote on education, "Education makes the wise a little wiser and a fool vastly more dangerous". Another quote to remember was "information is only as good as how you go about disseminating it". Mr. English continues to be an advocate for agriculture and encouraged everyone in

our class to become an ambassador for agriculture.



Following Mr. English's presentation, we were fortunate to have a presentation by Mr. Mitch Hutchcraft, representing the South Florida Water Management District serving the area containing Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry, Highlands, Glades, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola and Polk counties. Mr. Hutchcraft is also a vice president of King Ranch/Consolidated Citrus. The presentation started with a review of the mission statement of the South Florida Water Management District that includes water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply. He then explained that many of Central & South Florida's problems began in 1947 when the State of Florida requested federal assistance to prevent flooding from Lake Okeechobee after hurricanes. The solution to this problem was to create the Central & South Florida (C&SF) Project that included river channelization, the Herbert Hoover Dike, water conservation areas, protective levees and a drainage network. Mr. Hutchcraft explained that this drainage system worked very well for its intended purpose of being able to control lake levels and quickly drain water from the lake and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, there were many unintended consequences on water storage, water quality, and a negative effect on east and west coast estuaries as well as the Everglades. The Caloosahatchee River and South Florida Water Management District have to balance several competing issues such as flood protection, water supply, water quality, regulatory issues and public perceptions. The current restoration project includes a balanced approach that includes water quality, quantity, timing, and distribution.



After a great afternoon learning about Southwest Florida and the importance of agriculture, we departed for the Sanibel/Captiva conservation foundation to meet with Ms. Ray Ann Wessel. Ms. Wessel is the Natural Resource Policy Director for the Sanibel/Captiva Conservation Foundation. The title for the presentation was Southwest Florida: Defined by Water. We received many interesting facts including local statistics such as 70% of the rain in Southwest Florida occurs between mid-May and mid-October, 94% of tourists came to Southwest Florida for the beaches, and the Caloosahatchee watershed includes 11,000+ acres of lakes and marsh. We learned that too much flow from the Caloosahatchee causes lower salinity and algae blooms in the Gulf of Mexico, and too little flow results in the Caloosahatchee being too salty. We also reviewed a graph showing the main sources of water pollution, with 38% of the nitrogen coming from Lake Okeechobee and 33% of the nitrogen from freshwater sections of the Caloosahatchee. The resonating theme from Ms. Wessel was that the nitrogen and phosphorous loadings were coming from many sources and they are all cumulative. The optimal solution is for all contributing sources to develop best management practices, reducing their individual contributions.



Monday night we met for dinner at George and Wendy's Seafood Grill on Sanibel Island. Our speaker for the night was Mr. Randy Thibaut, owner and founder of Land Solutions in Fort Myers, Fl. Land Solutions specializes in the feasibility, development, acquisition, and disposition of land and improved properties throughout Southwest Florida. Mr. Thibaut started his presentation with a history of Southwest Florida building permits over the past 10 years. From 1995 until 2000 the number of building permits issued rose at a sustainable rate of 2.2% per year reaching 10,000 building permits in the year 2000. By 2005, building permits reached their peak, an unsustainable boom of 44,000 permits. By 2008 the building boom crashed and building permits plummeted to a low of 2,966. Today, the construction industry is successfully recovering and building permits are back on a sustainable trend approaching levels of the early 2000's. Anyone interested in purchasing or developing land in the Southwest Florida area could certainly benefit from speaking to Mr. Thibaut.

Tuesday morning we were all excited to begin our Oxbow River Cruise with Ms. Ray



Ann Wessel, who presented the previous day, as our tour guide. We started our cruise at the W.P. Franklin Lock and Dam that was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the early 1960's and was dedicated in 1969. The lock and dam is located on the Caloosahatchee River approximately 33 miles upstream from the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to being known as the Caloosahatchee River, the river is also called Canal C34, which is a much more accurate description of the rivers current condition. During the beginning of the tour we experienced firsthand the dredging and channelization of the river. However, it wasn't long until we began weaving our way through parts of the original river and oxbows that were very shallow and teeming with wildlife. During the cruise, we were fortunate to see many Limpkins, a native bird that feeds on Apple Snails along the shoreline. It was interesting to find out that this particular bird is best known for the

jungle sounds it makes and was used in the Tarzan films for jungle effect noises and for the Hippogriff in the film "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban". The oxbows off the main channel of the canal had a completely different look and feel than when in the straight channelized section of the canal. During our visit the river appeared to be in great shape, however, we found out from our speakers the prior day that this was not always the case. Devastation to the river system can quickly occur when there is too much or too little water flow from Lake Okeechobee. As we were finishing our tour, Ms. Wessel treated us to the song "Roll on Caloosahatchee" written by Michael Jurgensen. This delightful ballad tells the story of the dredging of the Caloosahatchee, detailing the history and legacy of the river. We were all very fortunate to have been guided by such a knowledgeable advocate for the protection of the Caloosahatchee River and its watershed.



Hannah, the alumni, and our class members from Southwest Florida put together a remarkable line-up of local experts to present historical and current issues impacting agriculture in Southwest Florida. It has been said that one of the goals of leadership is to continually improve. The addition of Southwest Florida to the class itinerary is a great example of how the Wedgworth Leadership program has evolved and improved over time. Wedgworth Leadership Institute Class IX has a more comprehensive understanding of the issues facing agriculture in Florida due to visiting this region of our State.

Reminder
WLI Alumni Meeting
August 8-10, 2014
Hyatt Bonita Springs



Looking Deeper... *Duane Mathis*



Moore Haven, FL

We began the "Second 24 Hours" (Noon Tuesday to Noon Wednesday) with a warm welcome by Wedgworth namesake and WLI

alum Keith Wedgworth, at the Moore Haven Wedgworth Fertilizer plant location.



After Ms. Hartney's presentation we geared up literally, for a tour of the Wedgworth Fertilizer plant. We broke up into 3 groups and thanks to the individual wireless headsets, we were able to hear all about how the facility brings in raw ingredients, weighs and then formulates the products and finally how the final, custom blended product is loaded and shipped out to the customer. I want to send our thanks out once again, to our distinguished tour leaders: Mr. Keith Wedgworth, Mr. Jimmy Mathews and Mr. Jeremy Fountain! The size of the operation and the volume of material they move (up to 200,000 tons during their busiest time) was really impressive!



Okeechobee, FL

Next stop on our seminar was a trip down to the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation in Okeechobee and a meeting with the Natural Resources Director, for the Seminole Tribe of FL Inc, Mr. Alex Johns.

Alex spoke about the long, proud history of the Seminoles and about their storied connection to cattle. In fact, the connection to cattle is so strong that the 4,000 member tribe, located on the 36,000 acre Brighton Reservation are referred to as the Cow Creek band of Seminoles! We also learned that all 3 Seminole Wars were fought over cattle.



Next Alex mentioned how instrumental former Extension Agent Fred Montsdeoca was in helping to bring the Tribe's cattle operation into the modern era. We learned that the cattle herd, numbering between 11,000 and 13,000 hd is operated as a co-op and is currently made up of 67 families. Alex emphasized how much influence the cattle co-op members have within the tribe.



Our class, along with a large contingent of WLI alums were treated to a great lunch, sponsored by Wedgworth Fertilizer. Under a pavilion overlooking a small lake, great food and camaraderie were enjoyed by all!

Shortly after lunch, we got a chance to listen to a great presentation by WLI alum and FFAA President, Ms. Mary Hartney. Mary touched on a myriad of issues facing not only the FL Fertilizer and AgChem industries, but the entire FL Ag industry. Issues such as; regulations on the purchase, storage and handling of Ammonium Nitrate as well as fertilizer run-off and the push for FL Ag producers to embrace Best Management Practices for fertilizer and agchem usage. Ms. Hartney's presentation was both timely and informative.



Mr. Johns was also very excited to talk with us about the Seminole Pride, branded beef program. The program is a vertically integrated program that starts with the Tribe's calves at weaning, includes the back grounding of the calves as well as the shipping of the cattle up to North Florida where they are fed out, slaughtered and processed. All of this is done in Florida and is meant to tap into the "buy local initiative" going on today in the food market. Alex says the Tribe hopes to expand this program to include about 30,000 hd by not only having Tribe cattle in the program, but also buying non-tribe, Florida cattle that meet the program's breeding and nutritional requirements.

Besides just talking about cattle, Alex spoke about some of the issues facing the tribe since 2005 when they became a \$1 Billion corporation. Keeping the children of the tribe focused on education and trying to recruit young tribal members to stay on the reservation and continue to be involved in agriculture is tough. The lure of the easy money brought in by the Hard Rock casino ventures is proving to be stronger than the connection to Agriculture and the land for many of the young in the tribe.

We had an awesome visit with Mr. Johns. We covered a wide range of topics and were able to ask a lot of questions. Thanks to the entire Tribe for allowing us a glimpse into this “foreign land” in the middle of our state.

Clewiston, FL

After our Brighton Reservation stop we headed toward Clewiston for our meeting with Mr. Jim Snively, Vice President of Grove Operation for Southern Gardens Citrus and WLI alum. The Southern Gardens/U.S. Sugar Corporation is an Agricultural giant in our state encompassing 178,000 total acres. Of the total acreage, 160,000 acres is in cane production, 14,500 acres are in citrus production and the rest is support acreage. The U.S. Sugar mill located in Clewiston is the largest sugar mill in the world, refining and packaging nearly 10% of the sugar produced in the U.S.! The citrus processing plant nearby has a 20 million box capacity, but has only been running about 3.5 to 4 million boxes annually. The plant also has a staggering 56 Million gallons of NFC storage capacity! Besides just producing citrus, Southern Gardens has a citrus nursery located in Trenton, FL. The nursery has the capacity to produce 461,000 citrus trees per year!

After Jim had gone through all the impressive figures associated with the Southern Gardens/ U.S. Sugar enterprise, we got to discuss the many challenges that he is facing on the citrus side of the operation. Those challenges include:

- 1) Disease
- 2) Consumption
- 3) Labor
- 4) Regulation

Disease- is the number one issue facing not only Southern Gardens, but the entire FL Citrus Industry! HLB or Greening is the main disease impacting growers. The Academy of Science has said that HLB is the toughest problem they have ever tried to

tackle. Right now, the only proven method to successfully beat HLB is to; 1) inspect for HLB, 2) remove infected trees, 3) control the psyllid that acts as the vector and 4) replant with clean nursery stock. Obviously this is not a sustainable way to combat the disease, so Mr. Snively went into some of the control methods they have tried. Methods such as; various nutritional programs, various psyllid control methods, high density plantings, tracking infection rates and the purchase of a PCR machine to test for HLB on site. Jim believes that to beat HLB we need a mixture of short, medium and long term research projects to be pursued. He believes the short term projects should focus on management strategies and juice quality. The medium term projects should focus on viral vector gene delivery and planting strategies. And that the long term project focus should be on HLB resistant trees.

Consumption- OJ consumption is down dramatically from about 6 gallons per person annually in the late 1990s to about 3 gallons per person annually in 2013. Jim says the industry has got to continue to address this trend if citrus is to remain a relevant crop in FL.

Labor- the shortage of domestic labor and the high cost to bring in guest workers is crippling the industry. We need a simpler guest worker program that is affordable to producers.

Regulations- go hand in hand with the labor issue. The Ag Industry needs a voice at the table when it comes to discussions on the rules and regulations coming down from Tallahassee and Washington, D.C.

Besides the tremendous discussion we had with Mr. Snively, we were treated to a fantastic supper at their meeting facility. I would like to thank Jim for his time and our meal! What a way to wrap up a jam packed day!

Glades County, FL

Wednesday morning began with the class travelling to Glades County to tour the Nicodemus Project with Lykes Bros. Vice President Mr. Joe Collins and Senior Ecologist for Lykes Bros. Ms. Linda McCarthy. The Nicodemus Project is billed as the largest public/private water storage area in the world! The size and scope of the project was amazing to see firsthand!

In 2011 the South Florida Water Management District entered into a 10 year lease agreement with Lykes Bros. Inc on the 16,000 acre Nicodemus Slough Water Management Project. The project, when completed will provide approximately 34,000 acre feet of water storage capacity. To put that into perspective, that is roughly 11 Billion gallons of water storage capacity! This water storage project will help reduce the approximately 1.3 Million acre feet of water storage needed in the Northern Everglades.



The Nicodemus Water Storage project benefits the Dispersed Water Management Program in a number of ways. Such as;

- 1) Reduces the volume and rate of flow to the local watershed.
- 2) Reduces the damaging discharges to the coastal estuaries.
- 3) Aids in ground water recharge



An interesting side note to our tour of the Nicodemus Project was our stop at what is known as the “Glades Circle”. The near perfect circle is a 764 ft diameter ditch, dug by an ancient people nearly 10,000 years ago. The center of the circle contains the human remains of some of these peoples. Why the circle was dug is a mystery, but is another hidden gem of history our state contains. Standing inside the circle and thinking about the people that created it and what the Florida they lived in was like, was a truly unforgettable experience.

Venus, FL

The final stop of the “Second 24 Hrs” was a tour and lunch at the Archbold Biological Station in Venus. Dr. Hilary Swain greeted us at the station. Her enthusiastic love for the

unique landscape at the Archbold Station was infectious. Dr. Swain spoke to us about the history of the station. We learned that the land had once belonged to the family that had designed and built the Brooklyn Bridge. And that the land had later been donated to Richard Archbold, for whom the station would later be named.

Since 1941 the Archbold Biological Station has been a place where scientist could live and conduct long term studies on the inhabitants of the unique landscape. The roughly 5,000 acre main property of the station is a nearly pristine example of Florida Scrub. This scrub landscape sits on what’s known as the Lake Wales Ridge. The Ridge was an ancient series of dunes that was once surrounded by ocean. The plants and animals that survived on these isolated dunes make the Archbold Station an amazing place for scientific research. Many of the plants and animals found at the station are not found anywhere else in the world!

Besides the main station property, what makes Archbold unique are the lands that have been added to the station over the years. Properties like the 10,000 acre Buck Island Ranch, which is a working, commercial cattle ranch that gives scientists the opportunity to observe the effects of ranching



practices on the ecology of the land. And the Reserve, which is a 3,600 acre, predominantly pasture tract of land that serves as a buffer for the main station property.

We all had a great time listening to Dr. Swain and exploring the station. Dr. Swain’s enthusiasm and knowledge made our visit to the Archbold Biological Station a real treat. Perhaps our class BHAG should be to come up with a better name than “Scrub” to describe the unique landscape at the station?



One final thought on our time with Dr. Swain is a quote from her, “Concrete is the final Crop”.

Wrapping Up... *Lauren Trad*



Wednesday afternoon found us standing below majestic oaks, enjoying the breeze off the lake on the beautiful

Williamson Cattle Company Ranch, which is a third generation cow-calf operation in Okeechobee. The ranch is producing calves with little external inputs, learning to maximize output with minimal external inputs, and producing in tune with nature by using grass as the predominate feed source. Mr. Wes Williamson, who is President of the Florida Cattleman's

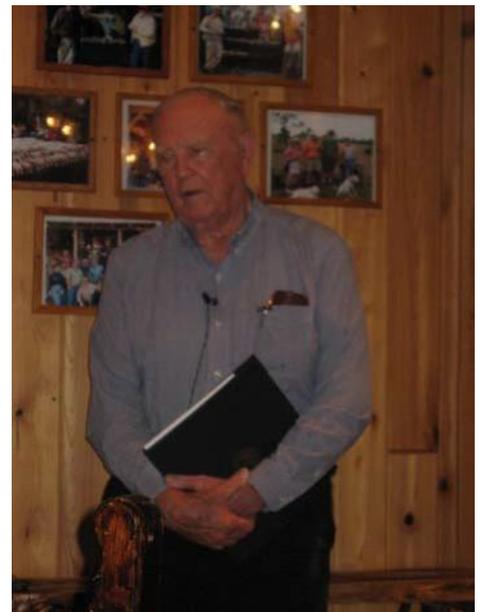


Association, was able to share the history of cattle ranching with us, while, at the same time, highlighting many high-tech advances that have been incorporated into their operation. I would have liked very much to have been able to see more of this operation!



Our final eighteen hours of Seminar IV were spent in the exquisite surroundings of Quail Creek Plantation in Okeechobee. Quail Creek is a beautiful hunting lodge with some amazing southern hospitality...upon arrival, it was snacks and sweet tea. There were buggy rides to see the property and trips to the gift shop for Quail Creek Plantation licensed shirts and Tervis cups.

After spending some time relaxing in our gorgeous surroundings, we gathered in the dining room and were given the opportunity to hear from Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame member, Louis "Red" Larson. Mr. Larson started dairy farming in Dade County after serving in World War II. After leaving Dade County he farmed in Palm Beach County before settling in Okeechobee and Highlands County. With a career spanning over 70 years, Mr. Larson was able to share a long history of the dairy industry's presence in Florida. I also had the honor of sitting next to Mrs. Larson for dinner, and she was such a sweet lady, and I very much enjoyed hearing about the multiple children and grandchildren that they have!



In addition to Mr. Larson, we were also privileged to hear from Mr. Jon Geitner, who is the Chair of the Okeechobee Economics Council. Although so many small-town stories talk about the kid who couldn't wait to leave his small town, Mr. Geitner is the complete opposite. After growing up in a big city, he moved to Okeechobee and has embraced the small-town life. With 44 years in the banking industry, he is an asset to the small town he calls home. I enjoyed hearing about the business side of Okeechobee, and how this small town is surviving and reviving itself in the process.

Dinner at Quail Creek was a beautiful sight – a beautiful grilled veggie plate for me, and huge steaks for all of my classmates! Conversations flowed freely and no one went hungry, that's for sure. After dinner and dessert, a beautiful fire was lit for our enjoyment, as our class continued to enjoy the wonderful relationships that have been forged over the past 4 seminars.

Thursday morning began with a great breakfast at Quail Creek and our class's continued discussion of

our BHAG. A BHAG, as defined by Justin Sayfie (a speaker from Seminar II in Miami) is a Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal. Our class has tasked ourselves (with Dr. Carter's "encouragement") with the lasting creation of our own BHAG for Florida. It has been an evolving process since hearing Mr. Sayfie speak back in January of this year. We know that the goal will be water-related, but the specifics of our BHAG are still being evaluated. We spent some time Thursday morning discussing how to narrow down the scope of our future BHAG.

Our final speaker of Seminar IV was Representative Cary Pigman, the Florida House of Representatives from District 55, which covers Glades, Highlands, Okeechobee, and part of St. Lucie County. Dr. Pigman shared with us some experiences he has had while representing his district, along with an interesting motivation for each and every one of us to consider running for public office – we would bring our

individual business and personal experiences with us, and that helps the entire governing body to make a more informed decision. Since he is an Emergency Room Physician, Dr. Pigman led a very interesting discussion on the impending medicinal marijuana amendment and the Affordable Care Act. As a member of the medical community in Okeechobee, Dr. Pigman had a great deal of first-hand information on both topics.

Always, the seminar was closed with a time for reflection. Many different parts of this seminar were brought up as outstanding highlights, but the predominant impression of the newest Wedgworth seminar location was extremely positive. We are a lucky group who were able to see a new seminar added to the great list of existing locations. Thanks go out to all of the alumni and current class members who provided a long list of amazing speakers to Dr. Carter, who organized the list into a whirlwind 72 hours!



Wedgworth Leadership Institute

Gainesville Florida



Class IX

Seminar 5 - Gainesville



Joe Joyce's BHAG *Joe Joyce*



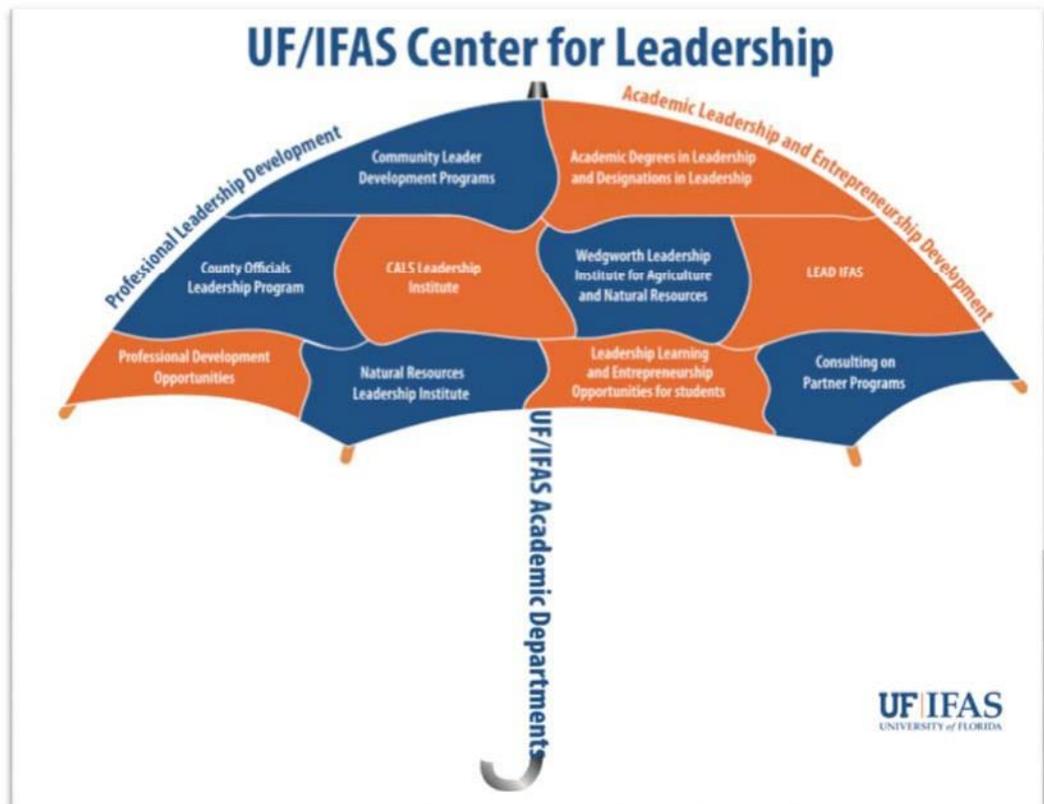
As most of you know, I have had the privilege of assisting Dr. Carter with WLI Class IX as a faculty advisor. What an honor this has been for me to (1) watch the Class IX grow as individuals and bind together and as they experience social, economic, environmental, and political aspects of agriculture and natural resources, and (2) to observe the commitment and dedication of past WLI alumni to provide access to resources and opportunities to make Class IX as successful as the past classes. Concurrently, I also have been asked to lead the UF/IFAS Center for Leadership.

The center's primary role is to coordinate the activities of IFAS' internal and external leadership programs. It is not to "take them over" or interfere with the excellent programming efforts underway but to enhance them. As shown in the diagram, all of these programs can help to construct a coordinated and integrated "umbrella" supported by faculty and staff in academic departments.

The need for the center can be seen from the aging of current industry leaders (average age of Florida farmers is 59.8) along with the increasing exodus of the next generation from rural communities during a critical juncture of agriculture and natural resources. The industries' economic, social, and environmental issues are more complex and demanding than ever before due to Florida's increasing population and urbanization. Students, citizens and policy makers must develop leadership, entrepreneurial, conflict resolution, and networking skills in order continue and

WLIANR class had 60 highly qualified individuals apply, but IFAS only had space for 30 participants. Additionally, each year IFAS denies many industry requests for leadership training due to a lack of resources and personnel.

So what is Joe's **B**ig **H**airy **A**udacious **G**oal? With the help of the WLI Alumni, commodity group members, and private citizens, IFAS hopes to: (1) obtain funding of a Legislative Budget Request (LBR) for additional leadership faculty and (2) establish a privately funded, Endowed Professorship with a suggested name of



preserve the \$130 billion economic impact the agriculture and natural industries provide to the state.

IFAS has several premier leadership programs (Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Natural Resources Leadership Institute, County Official Leadership program.) However, currently IFAS cannot adequately meet the demand for the additional leadership programs needed and desired by industry. For example, the most recent

the *Eugene Trotter Wedgworth Professorship in Agriculture and Natural Resources Leadership*. If this idea resonates with WLI alumni and supporters, we will need your personal financial and political connections to assist us in this effort. If you think this idea has merit, I'd love to hear from you with your ideas, joejoyce@ufl.edu.

Coordinator's Corner *Kevan Lamm*

As I put together the newsletter for seminar 4 I was amazed at the breadth and depth of information and experiences Class IX were exposed to! Earlier this spring my wife Lex and I found out we are expecting twins at the end of October; unfortunately due to a related situation I was unable to participate in the Southwest Florida seminar. I'm happy to report that everything is now going very well and I'm looking forward to the Gainesville seminar next month. Although I was not able to participate in person I felt like I was there through the Facebook posts and kind messages I received.

One of the amazing themes I continue to see emerge is just how interconnected all parts of agriculture and natural resources are. There are so many areas of overlap, and so many areas of opportunity! I am very encouraged at the amount of engagement that is happening across industries within

Class IX and how these conversations and networks can help to build an even more robust ANR in Florida and beyond. However, I think that there is also a mandate to extend beyond conversations.

The work that Class IX will be undertaking as part of their BHAG is an excellent example of the type of impact a group of individuals can have when they assemble their resources and focus on achieving a common goal. Too frequently issues are approached from a local or industry specific perspective, we must work to overcome these self-imposed boundaries and work together to achieve larger successes together.

Class IX

Erin Archey
Ben Butler
Joshua Craft
Josh Culpepper
Matthew Curran
Jerry Davis
Mallory Dimmitt
Tavis Douglass
John Evans
Lee Ann Fisch
Jennifer Hodges
Rod Hollingsworth
Justin Hood
Danny Johns

Brittany Lee
David Lively
Duane Mathis
Jennifer Parrish
Brian Patterson
April Porter
David Register
Emma Reynolds
Daniel Scott
Scott Smith
Lauren Trad
Baxter Troutman
Frank Wells
Leigh Ann Wynn



Class IX Enjoying Southwest Florida!