

FLORIDA **AGRICULTURAL** **HALL *of* FAME**

**HONORING FLORIDA'S
GREAT AGRICULTURALISTS**



**36th ANNUAL
CEREMONIES**

**February 11, 2014
Special Events Center
The Florida State Fair**



Rep. Seth McKeel

Seth McKeel is among the fifth generation in his family to call Lakeland home. He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in November of 2006. Rep. McKeel is the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee as well as the Chairman of the Joint Legislative Budget Commission. He also serves as the Chairman of the Polk County Legislative Delegation. He formerly served on the Lakeland City Commission from January of 2001 until December of 2005.

Seth is a small businessman and active in his family's real estate and property management businesses. He is formerly the Director of the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority, and his prior professional experience includes work with Heritage Equities Incorporated and Publix Super Markets, Inc. Seth is married to Kim who also works in the real estate business as a Realtor® with Keller Williams Realty. Seth and his wife Kim have one son, Seth, III and one daughter, Caroline.

An alumnus of Lakeland Senior High School, Seth is a proud Gator and an honors graduate of the University of Florida.

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2014 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Reception – 5:30 p.m	Special Events Center
Dinner – 7:00 p.m	Special Events Center
Welcome	Reggie Brown, President Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame Foundation
Emcee	Honorable Seth McKeel Florida House District 40
Presentation of Inductees 2014.....	Honorable Adam H. Putnam Commissioner of Agriculture

Scottie James Butler



As general counsel for the Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Scottie Butler spent more than 40 years advocating for Florida agriculture. Working on a broad range of legal issues, everything from private property rights to trade to the environment, he always maintained the highest standards of professionalism and ethics and never lost sight of his purpose: to protect Florida's farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of rural life.

Butler was born in Albany, Georgia, in 1943. When he was a young child, his family moved to Florida, first to Winter Haven and then to Lake Wales, where Butler graduated from high school in 1961. He went on to college at the University of Florida, earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics in 1965 and a law degree in 1969.

After practicing law in Lake Wales for a year, Butler returned to Gainesville in 1970 and signed on with the Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF) to serve as the organization's first full-time in-house counsel. Over the course of his tenure, he handled a wide variety of legal issues impacting agriculture. He was also responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the FFBF and its staff of over 50 employees.

Butler is an expert on farm labor issues. For many years he wrote a column called "Labor Lines," addressing trends in farm labor, for *Florida Agriculture*, FFBF's monthly magazine. From 1979 to 1997, he served on the Governor's Advisory Council on Farm Worker Affairs.

Butler was heavily involved in the national conversation surrounding the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1993. He testified before Congress and served on the NAFTA Advisory Committee on Private Commercial Dispute Resolutions Regarding Agricultural Goods.

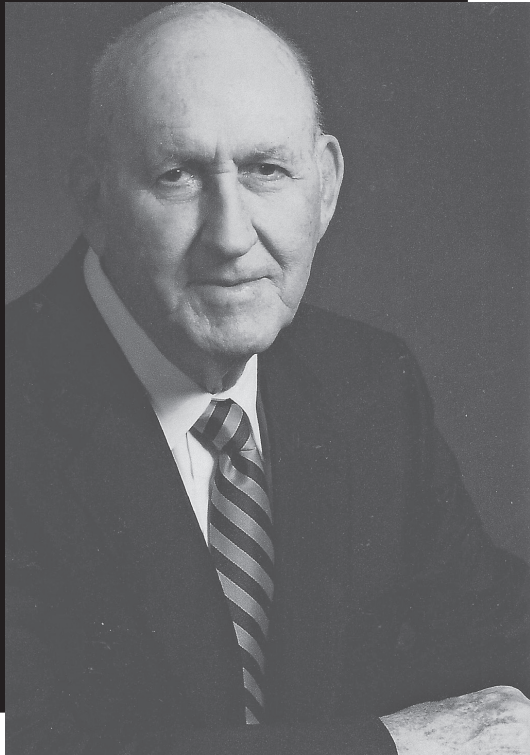
Despite his demanding work schedule, Butler always made time to mentor the next generation of agricultural leaders. He frequently served as a guest lecturer with the University of Florida's agricultural law program. He also worked closely with FFA, serving on the Florida FFA Foundation Board of Directors from 2002 to 2005. He received an honorary state FFA degree in 2004 and an honorary American FFA degree in 2005.

Butler was instrumental in the establishment of the University of Florida's Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Founded in 1991, the institute trains individuals to lead the way on issues that will shape the future of Florida's agriculture industry. The program offers students insight into the complex issues facing agriculture and provides them with the tools to bring about positive change.

Butler has been a member of the Florida Bar Association, the Alachua County Cattlemen's Association, and the National Council of Agriculture Employers. He is a founding member of the American Farm Bureau Federation General Counsel Advisory Committee and serves on the U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program Citizens' Advisory Committee. He was assistant secretary-treasurer for the Florida Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors from 1976 to 2008. The Florida Farm Bureau recently presented Butler with the Pat Cockrell Lifetime Achievement Award.

Scottie Butler and his wife, Sue, live in Gainesville and have a daughter, Jennifer.

Dr. Robert Bruce Christmas



As an agent with the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Dr. Bruce Christmas was known for his research in poultry science as well as his work as an educator. Christmas spent the bulk of his career as director of the University of Florida's Poultry Evaluation Center in Chipley, conducting field trials and keeping local farmers up to date on the latest agricultural innovations.

Christmas was born in Cottondale in Jackson County in 1933 to a farming family. He attended the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1955, a master's degree in agriculture in 1959, and a doctorate in poultry nutrition and management in 1972.

Christmas spent seven years as an Extension agent in Orange County, working with 4-H clubs and helping local farmers manage and improve their livestock. His leadership resulted in one of the most successful youth and adult education programs in the state.

Christmas moved to Washington County in 1969 to join the faculty at the Poultry Evaluation Center. His field-trial research was widely published, and his tireless efforts to disseminate his knowledge to local farmers helped them increase their production and profitability. He received a Harms Publication Award for best poultry publication in 1983 and numerous awards and citations from the University of Florida throughout his career.

Christmas was active in a variety of professional societies and industry organizations, including the Extension Workers' Association, the Animal Science Association, and the Southern Poultry Science Association. He has served in leadership positions with UF's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Association, the Florida Farm Bureau, and the Washington County Cattlemen's Association.

Despite his many professional obligations, Christmas always found time to volunteer in the community. He worked with 4-H and FFA, mentoring and coaching kids in livestock judging. He was inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame in 2010, and in 1998 he was named National Volunteer of the Year by the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association.

Christmas is a longtime member of the Kiwanis Club of Chipley and has served as its vice president and president. He was named Kiwanian of the Year in 1980. He is also an active member of the First Baptist Church of Chipley, where he has served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon and choir member.

Christmas and his wife, Ann, live in Cottondale, where they continue to work the family farm. They have four sons, Stuart, Robert, Jonathan and Scott.

Dr. Elver Myron Hodges



Dr. Elver Hodges is known for his pioneering research in the area of cattle forage. During his 39 years as an agronomist at the University of Florida's Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona, he helped develop new and improved forage plants for South Florida's cattle industry.

Hodges was born in 1912 on a farm near Lynch, Nebraska, where his family raised corn, wheat, alfalfa and hogs. In 1934 he graduated with a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Nebraska. After graduation he returned to the family farm, but the Dust Bowl soon ended his dream of farming.

He went on to Rutgers University, earning a doctorate in agronomy in 1939. After two years at the University of Hawaii, he joined the faculty at the University of Florida's Range Cattle Research and Education Center.

Hodges came to the Range Cattle REC at a time when beef production in South Florida was undergoing tremendous change. Until the 1940s, most of South Florida was open range, with cattle grazing on fence-free native pastures. The "fence law" of 1949 required Florida

ranchers to fence cattle off the roads. With fences now mandatory, cattlemen began using better management practices, including rotational grazing, the planting of improved grasses and legumes, and pasture fertilization.

Hodges' research focused on forage introduction and utilization, especially with legumes and grasses. He was involved in the development of a number of new forages, including Pangola digitgrass, Pensacola bahiagrass and stargrass. He also developed new pasture fertility programs to aid in the establishment of these plants. The forage improvement program at the Range Cattle REC revolutionized peninsular Florida beef production.

Hodges left the Range Cattle REC in 1980. He spent the final years of his career as an agronomist in Malawi for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Hodges was a member of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, the Florida Farm Bureau, the American Forage and Grassland Council, the Society for Range Management, and the American Society of Agronomy. He is a past president of the Florida Soil and Crop Science Society and has been honored by the American Forage and Grassland Council, the University of Florida, and the University of Nebraska.

Hodges is well regarded for his volunteer work and community involvement. He was a 4-H leader and helped members with their livestock projects. He has long been active in his church, First United Methodist of Wauchula, and serves on the board for Central Florida Health Care.

Elver Hodges and his late wife, Ruth, were married for 70 years. They have three daughters, Margaret, Kathleen and Lucinda Maie.



Dallas Barton Townsend

For 39 years Dallas Townsend worked as an agent with the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service. He spent his long career making sure that Southwest Florida farmers and ranchers reaped the benefits of the latest agricultural research.

Townsend was born in Fort Myers in 1939. He studied agriculture at the University of Florida, earning a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1960 and a master's degree in animal science in 1977.

He began his career as an Extension agent in Collier County, where he specialized in youth outreach. He worked with local 4-H groups, mentoring the kids and guiding record numbers of livestock- and meat-judging teams to state and national championships.

From Collier County, he moved north to Hendry County, spending 24 years as an agricultural agent and director of the Hendry County Extension Office. He worked closely with local farmers and ranchers on issues ranging from pest and disease management to marketing and worker safety.

He helped area cattle ranchers reduce their inputs and adopt new pasture fertility programs that were more economical and more environmentally friendly. He organized the Southwest Florida Beef/Forage Program to bring Extension agents from across the region together to plan and implement new programs.

Townsend was instrumental in bringing agricultural research to Southwest Florida through the establishment of the University of Florida Immokalee Field Laboratory and the Southwest Florida Research and Education Center. Scientists at these facilities conducted research in beef cattle, citrus, sugarcane and vegetable production.

Townsend was involved in a number of professional organizations, including the Florida Cattlemen's Association, the National Association of County Agents, and the Collier County Farm Bureau. He held leadership positions in the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association, the Hendry County Cattlemen's Association, and the Florida Association of Extension Professionals.

Townsend's service to Florida agriculture has been widely recognized. He received outstanding service citations from the Collier County Cattlemen's Association, the South Florida Agricultural Council, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association, and the Collier County 4-H Advisory Committee. In 1997 the Hendry County agricultural building was named in his honor.

Townsend and his wife, Doris, live in Felda. They have five children, Roxzy, Cathy, Cindy, Dallas Jr. and Robert.

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1980 - Edwin Hall Finlayson
Thomas Gilbert Lee
Nathan Mayo
Henry Oscar Partin
Hoyle Pounds
Egbert Norman Reasoner | 1992 - Edward J. Campbell
N. Curtis Peterson
Edgar H. Price
Vance V. Vogel | 2003 - Arlen Neil Jumper
Oma Richard Minton Sr.
Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts
Dr. Kenneth Ray Tefertiller |
| 1981 - Irlo Overstreet Bronson
Gilbert Andrew Tucker
J. Francis Cooper
Louis E. Larson
Pliny Ward Reasoner
Don A. Storms Sr. | 1993 - Karl Albritton
Wm. Travis Loftin
Dr. John Mortensen
Dr. Julia Morton
Dr. Marshall O. Watkins | 2004 - Thomas Richard Barber Jr.
Vick and Faye Blackstone
Donald Fariss May
Fred Y. Montsdeoca
Robert Nelson "Bob" Morris |
| 1982 - Willard M. Fifield
Robert G. Pitman Jr.
Dr. Herman J. Reitz
James N. Watson | 1994 - Elton L. Hinton
Dr. J. Wayne Reitz
Latimer H. Turner
George H. Wedgworth | 2005 - Dr. James M. Davidson
Paul J. DiMare
William D. "Billy" Long
Jo Ann Doke Smith
Frank "Sonny" Williamson Jr. |
| 1983 - Dr. Raymond B. Becker
John M. Fox | 1995 - Leroy Baldwin
Dr. Clarence L. Campbell Jr.
Latimer "Latt" Maxey
William H. Stuart Sr. | 2006 - Charles R. "Chuck" Smith
Dudley Adelbert Putnam
James Neville McAnthur
Lillie "Belle" Jeffords
Roy Gene Davis |
| 1984 - Alan James Norden | 1996 - Neal Palmer "Pal" Brooks
Snead Young Mathews Davis
Henry Gatrell
Barnette E. Greene Jr.
Gov. Wayne Mixson | 2007 - William R. Boardman
Albert Greenberg
Carroll Wayne Hawkins
Berryman "Buster" Longino Jr.
Ed and Imogene Yarborough |
| 1985 - John Duda,
Andrew Duda Jr.
Ferdinand Duda
Clinton Huxley Coulter Sr.
Doyle E. Conner | 1997 - William "Bill" H. Krome
J.R. "Jack" Spratt
Raymon F. Tucker
Robert Billingsley Whisenant
Stephen Monroe Yoder | 2008 - Otis Odell "Pete" Clemons
Hugh Malakowsky English
Fritz Stein Jr.
Alto Alfred Straughn |
| 1986 - Louis G. MacDowell
Edwin L. Moore
Cedric D. Atkins
Lena Smithers Hughes
B. Edward David Jr. | 1998 - Miles Edward Groover
Edna Pearce Lockett
Maxey D. Love Jr.
Elliott L. Maguire
Mabel M. Simmons | 2009 - Dr. James Griffiths
Richard Kelly
Kay Richardson
Mason Smoak |
| 1987 - Ben Hill Griffin Jr.
Anthony T. Rossi
J.O. Pearce Jr.
James S. Wershow | 1999 - Alto Lee Adams
Bert J. Harris Jr.
Kenneth F. Jorgansen
Copeland D. Newbern
John Powell Wallace | 2010 - Ben Hill Griffin, III
Rudy Hamrick
Dan McClure
Richard Alger |
| 1988 - Paul Beary Dickman
John Buckner Boy Sr.
Ruth Springer Wedgworth | 2000 - Tom B. Adams
Jack Monteith Berry
William A. "Bill" Graham
Henry F. Swanson | 2011 - Bill and Trudy Carey
Pat Cockrell
Paul Lyrene
Joseph Orsenigo |
| 1989 - Peter S. Harllee
Charles P. Lykes
Donald L. Wakeman | 2001 - Al Bellotto
Copeland Griswold
Fountain H. May Sr.
Bert Edward Roper | 2012 - Laurence Paul Cutts
Robert Fuchs
Gerald M. Mixon, Sr.
Sidney L. Sumner |
| 1990 - Dr. Robert Henry Harms
Raymond P. Oglesby
Carl G. Rose
Dr. E.T. York Jr. | 2002 - Bernard A. Egan
Carl B. Loop Jr.
J.R. "Rip" Graves
George F. Sorn | 2013 - Daniel A. Botts
Charles H. Bronson
Paul L. Nicoletti
Eugene E. Trotter |
| 1991 - Doyle E. Carlton Jr.
Dr. Tony J. Cunha
Julian B. Lane
Joseph M. O'Farrell Sr. | | |

..... 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Samantha Dailey
Morgan Edwards
Mylie Feaster
Nicholas Fernandez
Nathan Jameson

Erin Jones
Michelle Mack
Timothy McArter
Jared Smith
Landon Smith

..... THANK YOU

... to the following for their contribution to the scholarship program.

Mr. & Mrs. Alto Lee Adams, Jr.
Mr. Doyle Carlton, III
Ms. Joan A. Dusky
Mr. M.C. Griswold
Mr. & Mrs. Chip & Jemy Hinton
Mr. Arlen Jumper
Mr. W. Bernard Lester
Ms. JoAnn Doke Smith

Mr. Paul Willis
Florida Dept. of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Florida Tomato Exchange
Hillsborough County FFA Foundation
Stallings Crop Insurance

..... THANK YOU

*... to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences for producing
the video presentation on the 2014 inductees and to the
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
for their contributions in helping to make this event a success.*

..... THANK YOU

... to the following organizations for sponsoring the reception in 2014.

Chemical Dynamics, Inc.
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Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association
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Florida Tomato Exchange
Southeast Milk, Inc.
Stallings Crop Insurance
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stallings

..... **THANK YOU**

... to Riverview Flower Farm-Florida Friendly Plants for providing the centerpieces for the 2014 Hall of Fame Banquet. A sticker will be on one of the programs at each table to indicate the winner of the 2014 centerpiece to take home.

... to NGM Productions for providing anthuriums for presentation to the inductee's guest.

..... **THANK YOU**

... to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Youth Mentor Program - 2014 Mentor Sponsors

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John & Janet Long
Dr. Paul Nicoletti
Mr. Don L. Plagge
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Mr. Victor Story

Mr. Alto A. Straughn
Patricia M. Wilson
Farm Credit of Florida
Florida Citrus Commission
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Florida Tomato Exchange
Hillsborough County FFA Foundation
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Long Land Company
Raaw Foods International
Southeast Milk, Inc.
Story Grove Service, Inc.

..... **YOUTH MENTEES**

Tiffany Conrad
Haley Smith
Daniel Armes
Sarah Armes
Sarah Baltzell
Jacob Belisle
Michael Carter
Daphney Churchill
Linsey Clark
Austin Dailey
Lindsay Darby
Amy Emery
Alex Fernandez

James Fleming
Conor Flynn
Emily Freeman
Ashley Green
Tori Griffith
Darby Hasting
Celie Hodges
Zachery Holmes
Andrew Horvath
William Jameson
Miranda Lane
Jessie Locke
Miarina Lofley

Logan Luse
Jessica MacFarlane
Wally Martin
Savannah Menchaca
Jake Menendez
Kari Ohland
Kaitlyn Pace
Thomas Perry
Scott Read
Susan Rodriguez
Alyssa Shepherd
Austin Skipper

Jared Smith
Megan Stein
Travis Theige
Andrew Toelle
J.R. Trimm
Gabby Valentin
Caitlyn Vaughn
Chelsey Vaughn
Brett Wasden
Darius Wilson
Gordon Yoder
Haley Zvirblis

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 Ms. Sarah Childs
 Mr. & Mrs. Pete & Susanne Clemons
 Mr. & Mrs. Hugh & Beverly English
 Mr. Robert F. Fuchs
 Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Adele Graham
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 Mr. Roger Hatton
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 Mr. George Sorn
 Mr. & Mrs. Edgar and Norma Stokes
 Mrs. Gale Trotter



FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL HALL *of* FAME



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