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Biographical Information

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CAREER INFORMATION

1986 – Present: President, Arapaho Citrus Management, Inc.

Arapaho is a citrus management and grove care company in Ft. Pierce, Florida. The company has been in business for approximately 30 years, and has offered a complete range of services, including full management and customized applications, throughout the citrus areas of Florida. Along with other innovations developed over the years, Arapaho introduced Open Hydroponics Citrus Production in Florida in 2006. The web site of Arapaho is www.ArapahoCitrus.com.

Arapaho's subsidiary, Arapaho Agricultural Services, specializes in citrus and field ornamental tree planting, irrigation design and installation, and citrus grove hand labor. Each year, Arapaho Agricultural Services plants over 100,000 citrus trees.

2001- Present: Owner of The Orange Shop in Citra, Florida

The Orange Shop is a retail and gift fruit shipping operation in Citra, Florida that has been in business since 1936. Citra was the center of the Florida citrus industry at the turn of the century. Citra is located about 18 miles north of Ocala, on the southern shore of Orange Lake. The web site is www.FloridaOrangeShop.com

1986 – Present: Citrus Consultant

Consulting services are provided to citrus growers, prospective buyers, private companies, and government agencies. Experience includes new grove development, grove purchase assessments, grove rejuvenation and redevelopment, and financial projections. In addition to Florida, have provided services to growers in other states and countries.

2013-Present: Manager/Operator of G&S Fruit Packers in Weirsdale, Florida

G&S is a Gift Fruit Fulfillment packinghouse in Weirsdale that provides Gift Fruit Shipping to over 50 retail and web-based companies. G&S provides a call center, catalog publication and mailing, and marketing support. G&S is the third largest Gift Fruit Shipping operation in Florida. More information is available at www.GSFruitPackers.com.

PAST CAREER INFORMATION

1981-86: Citrus Specialist, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, St. Lucie, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties

Created educational programs for citrus growers that helped them apply new research information. Also acted as liaison between the industry and U of F and USDA research programs. Helped introduce new practices for fresh fruit production. Participated in the design and development of the St. Lucie County Agricultural Complex. Awarded tenure in a U of F faculty position.

1977-81: Citrus Specialist, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Indian River County

Agricultural Agent in Indian River County, with emphasis on citrus. Programmatic responsibilities also included beef cattle, range management, vegetable and field crop production, and ornamental horticulture. Served as Liaison for the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners with the St. Johns River Water Management District during the development of the Upper St. Johns Reclamation Plan.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Production - December 1976 University of Florida, Gainesville.

Masters Thesis: Spyke, P.D., L.K. Jackson, J. Soule, "Weed Control Practices in the Indian River Citrus Area" *Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society* 90:1977.

Bachelor of Science in Fruit Crops - December 1974 - University of Florida

Graduated with Honors
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society
Alpha Zeta Honorary Agricultural Fraternity

Associate of Arts - June 1972 - Broward Community College, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

AGE: 65

BIRTHPLACE: Davie, Florida

BACKGROUND: Native Floridian and third-generation citrus grower from Broward County. Family has been in the gift fruit shipping business since the 1940's.

INDUSTRY ACTIVITIES

Recipient of the 2010 State of Florida Environmental Leadership Award. October 2010.
Presented by Charles Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture.

Conservationist of the Year, 2006. St. Lucie Soil and Water Conservation District.

President, Florida Gift Fruit Shippers Association, 2014-16. FGFSFA is a member-owned cooperative that provides Gift Shipping support to most of the Gift Fruit Shippers in Florida. The Association owns a shipping terminal in Orlando. On shipping days the Association gathers and sorts packages from shippers, then routes direct trucks to transport the packages around the country. FGFSFA is also the industry organization for Gift Fruit Shippers.

Co-Chair, Committee for Sustainable South Florida Rural Lands Subcommittee. The CSTC was organized by Sen. Ken Pruitt to provide a vision for the Treasure Coast area in 2030. Helped organize the Rural Lands Subcommittee to develop the section of the report on agriculture and rural lands. Website: www.sustainabletc.org

Secretary, Treasure Coast Agricultural Research Foundation. The Foundation leases land surrounding the University of Florida Indian River Agricultural Research and Education Center in Ft. Pierce, and provides funding for field research on the land.

Indian River Citrus League Production Committee.

Board Member, A.H. Whitmore Foundation Farm. The Whitmore Farm just south of Leesburg, Florida was established to provide the U.S.D.A. a site for long term citrus research in the northern citrus area. The Whitmore Farm is a valuable complement to the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory farm in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Member, St. Lucie County Extension Advisory Committee.

Member, Florida Agricultural Council. The Ag Council is an advisory and resource group that supports the programs of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).

Member, University of Florida Sustainable Agriculture Task Force.

Board Member, Orange Lake Association. OLA is a group of landowners and interested citizens devoted to the restoration and management of Orange Lake, a historical resource in north central Florida.

Past Member, Florida Farm Bureau Trade Advisory Committee.

Past Member, Florida Citrus Production Research Advisory Council. The Council administered approximately \$1.5 million in grower taxes, raised to fund citrus production research in Florida.

Past Member, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. The Council is responsible for regional planning in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties. Appointed to Council by Governor Lawton Chiles. Secretary-Treasurer in 1995, Vice Chairman in 1996, and Chairman in 1997. Also Chairman of Strategic Policy Plan Development Committee, which developed a Policy Plan that has received national and international recognition for sustainable development policies.

Past Member, USDA User's Advisory Board. Served on UAB during the last two years it was active, 1994-95. Participated in the development of Science and Technology 2000 publication. The purpose of the Board was to advise the USDA on program planning, and provide the President and Congress with input on agricultural issues.

Past Member, Florida Agricultural Weather Task Force. This was a group that was formed to improve weather information available for the Florida agricultural industry. The Task Force was successful in obtaining funding from the Florida Legislature to initiate a statewide network of automated weather stations that provide information to weather forecasters and growers. The Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) includes a web site with interactive weather data displays and other useful features.

Past Member, Florida Citrus Commission Research Advisory Council. The Council was responsible for advising the Citrus Commission regarding in-house and sponsored research programs. Served as Chairman for 7 years.

Past Supervisor of the Indian River Soil and Water Conservation District. Elected in general election for 3 terms.

Also:

Indian River Citrus BMP (Best Management Practices) Sediment Transport Subcommittee Member.

Indian River Citrus BMP Implementation Task Force Member

Florida State Horticultural Society Member. Served on Board of Directors in 1997, Nominating Committee Chairman in 2002.

Florida Farm Bureau Member.

PARTIAL LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND FEATURE ARTICLES

"Practical Spray Technology at the Grower Level". Spyke, P.D. *The Citrus Industry Magazine*, May 1993.

"Aim for High Production to Achieve Low Cost Per Box", *Crop Protection Manager Magazine*, March 1995

"Genetic Improvement Needs for Fresh Citrus". Verbal Presentation to the Citrus Scion/Rootstock Improvement Group, Lake Alfred, Florida, April 3, 1995.

"Arapaho Citrus and Monsanto Design Prescription Piggyback Applicator". Spyke, P.D, and Doug Schobert, *The Citrus Industry Magazine*.

"What's In Store for the Indian River Citrus Industry". Verbal Presentation. *South Florida County Property Appraisers Association Annual Meeting*. November 9, 1994.

"Decision Information Systems for Citrus". *Proceedings of the Florida Agricultural Conference and Trade Show*, October 1996.

"Computers in Citrus". Spyke, P.D. *The Citrus Industry Magazine*. November 1996,

"Satellite Farmer Sees Every Tree". Schucman, Lisa. *The Palm Beach Post, Business and Technology Section*, January 6, 1997.

"Crop Consultants - Citrus Report". *Crop Protection Manager Magazine*, March 1997

"Citrus Grove Development in the Flatwoods Areas of Florida". Seminar, *University of Florida Production Managers Seminar*, March 19, 1997.

"Weather Measurement and Forecasting in the Age of Precision Ag for Improved Disease Management". Verbal Presentation. *Certified Crop Advisor Continuing Education Meeting*, May 6, 1997.

"Decision Information Systems for Citrus". Verbal Presentation. *University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center Faculty Seminar*, Lake Alfred, Florida, May 13, 1997.

"Decision Information Systems for Citrus". Verbal Presentation. *Florida Farm Bureau Precision Agriculture Conference*, Gainesville, Florida, September 18, 1997.

"The Role and Future of Precision Agriculture". Verbal Presentation. *American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference - "High-Tech Florida Means Business*, Orlando, Florida, September 29, 1997.

"The WELS Weather Forecasting System". Verbal Presentation. *Weather Seminar for Florida Citrus Growers*, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, Florida, October 7, 1997.

"Overview of the Florida Citrus Industry". Verbal Presentation. *Citrus Seminar Sponsored by the Turkish-American Business Association and Cine Tarim Agricultural*, Seyhan Hotel, Adana, Turkey. October 20, 1997.

"Precision By Degrees". Reeve, Stuart. *Dealer Progress Magazine*, December 1997

"A Helping Hand - Decision-making software will offer Florida citrus growers a tool for improved cost-effectiveness". Salmons, Alicia C. *The Grower Magazine* January 1998.

"Fertilizers - Let the Grove Talk to You". Neff, Ernie. *The Citrus Industry Magazine*, January 1998.

"DISC Group Making Strides Toward Precision Agriculture: New Objectives Added for Second Year of Project". Spyke, P.D. and J. David Martsolf *The Citrus Industry Magazine*, Vol. 79(20):32,34.

"Grapefruit Growers Ponder Options at Indian River and Ridge Meetings". Stover, Ed and Jack Hebb. *The Citrus Industry Magazine*, June 1998.

"DISC Make Progress with Information Integration". Martsolf, J. David, Robert M. Peart, Peter D. Spyke, Norman Todd, Chet Townsend, Howard Beck, and John K. Schueller. *Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society*, Vol. 111, 1998.

Lin, Nan, H.W.Beck, F.S.Zazueta, L.G. Albrigo, T.A.Wheaton, W.S.Castle, J.I.Valiente, J.D.Martsolf, J.J.Ferguson, R.M.Peart, and P.D.Spyke, 1999. Decision information systems for Citrus. *Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc.* 112:40-43.

"Finding Room to Grow – Examining the effects of urban sprawl on Florida’s farmers”. Morey, Lesa. *Florida Grower and Rancher*, August 2000:10-11.

“DISC – Citrus Phenology and Pest Models”. Oral presentation. *Workshop on Precision Agriculture for Florida Citrus. October 10, 2000. Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred.*

“BMP’s – What Has Been Done and What To Expect”. Oral Presentation. *Citrus Squeezer Seminar, Immokalee REC, December 18, 2001.*

“Use of Soil Moisture Sensors in Irrigation System Management”. Oral Presentation, *Florida State Horticultural Society Annual Meeting, June 4, 2002.*

Martsof, David and Peter Spyke, 2002. “Lower Freeze Risk this Winter?” *The Citrus Industry Magazine*, December 2002.

“DISC” Decision Support System. Oral Presentation. *Precision Agriculture Workshop for Agents and Industry. Cocoa, Florida. February 13, 2003.*

“Connecting Agriculture to South Florida Community Values”. Oral Presentation. *Second Agro-Ecology Conference. September 17, 2003. Ft. Pierce, Florida. Participated in planning of event, and led panel discussion.*

“New Land Development Measures to Include Agriculture”. Oral Presentation, Panel Discussion. *Rural Lands Symposium. December 5, 2003. Port St. Lucie, Florida.*

“Florida Water Issues: Lessons Learned & Future Challenges”. Oral Presentation. *National USDAf CREES Water Quality Conference. Clearwater, Florida. January 13, 2004.*

“DISC Support Systems”. Oral Presentation. *Precision Agriculture for Florida Citrus – II. January 21, 2004. Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred.*

“Presentation by Panelists on Land Use Issues: Citrus”. Oral Presentation. Florida Section of American Society of Agricultural Engineers 2004 Annual Conference. June 3, 2004. Stuart, Florida.

“The Future of Rural Lands in the Treasure Coast”. Oral Presentation. Leadership Martin County Economic Day. March 3, 2005.

“Growth Management Panel Discussion”. Panel Discussion with Audubon Society of Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Florida Soil and Water Conservation Council Meeting, Marco Island, Florida. July 18, 2005.

“Developing Connections Between Urban and Farm Communities”. Oral Presentation. 14th Citrus Expo, Ft. Myers, Florida. August 24, 2005.

“Sustainable Treasure Coast”. Panel Discussion. Growth Management and Environmental Permitting Short Course. February 16, 2006.

“Life on the Farm after TDR’s”. Oral Presentation. Pre-Public Interest Environmental Conference Workshop on Transfer of Development Rights in Florida: Conservation and Targeted Growth. University of Florida, Gainesville. March 9, 2006

Stover, E, Castle, W, and Spyke, P. 2008. The citrus grove of the future and its implications for Huanglongbing management. Proc. FSHS. Volume 121: 2008.

Morgan, K, Kadyampakeni, D, Schumann, A, Castle, W, Stover, E, Spyke, P, Roka, F, Muraro, R and Morris, A. 2009. Citrus production systems to survive greening – Horticultural practices. Proc. FSHS. Volume 122: 2009.

Roka, F, Muraro, R, Morris, A, Spyke, P, Morgan, K, Schumann, A, Castle, W, and Stover, E. 2009. Citrus production systems to survive greening – Economic thresholds. Proc. FSHS. Volume 122: 2009.