



# FWGGA

September 2025

The latest news, views, and announcements

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## Message from the President

-By Sarah Aschliman, President, Florida Wine and Grape Growers Association

### Dear Members and Friends,

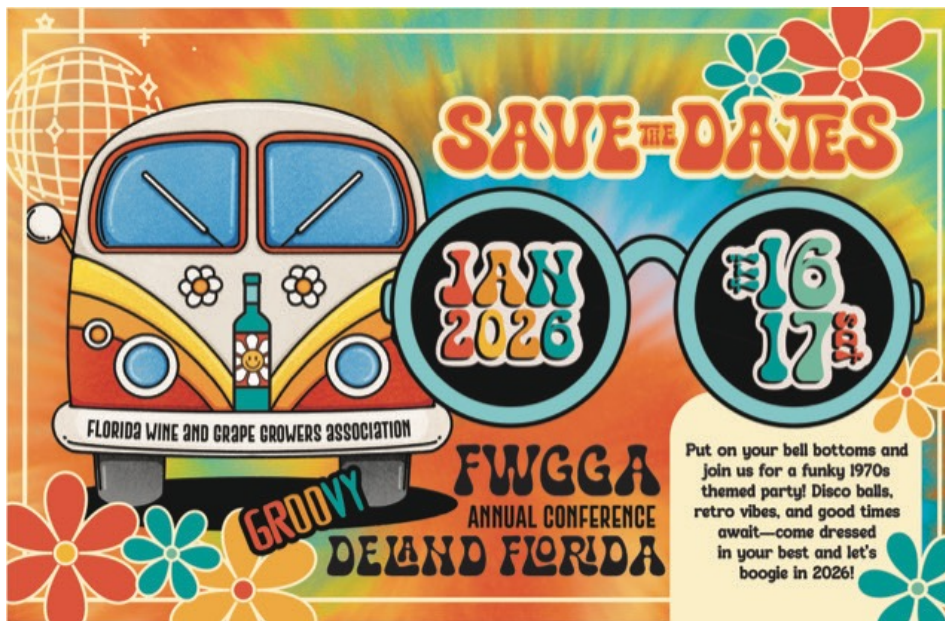
As we move into the late summer/fall season, I am excited about all the opportunities ahead for our growers, winemakers, and industry partners. Harvest is underway across the state, and we wish everyone the very best for a successful and abundant season. With October, November, and December just around the corner, we are all hopeful for a fantastic wine-selling season to close out the year strong.

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to remind you about our annual conference, taking place January 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> in DeLand. This year's theme is a "Groovy 1970's," and it promises to be a memorable event filled with education, networking, and plenty of fun. We can't wait to see everyone come together to celebrate our industry and share ideas for the future. The registration will be open this month online - and we will be sending more communication about this in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support of the Florida Wine and Grape Growers Association. Here's to a successful harvest and an exciting season ahead!

*Warm regards,  
Sarah Aschliman  
President*

*Florida Wine & Grape Growers Association*



## Conference 2026 - 16-17 January, DeLand, FL

-By Sue Elliott, Annual Conference Coordinator

### Dust off your groovy 70's duds and prepare for a fun weekend!

We have a busy schedule planned with something for everyone. We have changed things up a bit as to the locations. Same hotel, same evening party venue, and return of the friendly wine competition -by popular request- but our daytime sessions will be held at the Lynn Business Center Auditorium, at Stetson University. This location is about two blocks north of the hotel and provides an updated, comfortable environment with better technology for our sessions.

We are returning to the browsing format for our Friday evening food and social. Member wines will be interspersed with tables of wonderful food so you can taste, eat, and visit all evening. Be sure to wear your 70's duds for this year's theme.... tie-dye and bell-bottoms, etc. Also plan to bring your favorite wines to enter the friendly wine competition. More information coming soon.

Our speakers are stellar...some familiar and some new and they have lots of wonderful things to share. Their photos and bios will be in our next newsletter.

Don't procrastinate. The 2026 member discount rate will be offered and will expire on November 1<sup>st</sup>, so save some money and register early. Registration and payment is available online. Register today!

We are enclosing the draft agenda so you can plan and the Courtyard by Marriott is ready to book your stay. Contact the hotel directly and be sure and ask for the FWGGA rate.

**COURTYARD**  
BY MARRIOTT

Courtyard by Marriott DeLand Historic  
Downtown  
308 North Woodland Boulevard, DeLand,  
Florida, USA, 32720  
Tel: +1 386-943-9500

See you in January, and bring a new friend. There are lots of wineries and vineyards that are not members so invite them to come.

# FWGGA Annual Conference Agenda

January 16-17, 2026  
Downtown DeLand, Florida

## FRIDAY- January 16<sup>h</sup>

**Registration** - 8:00 am - 10:00pm in Hotel Lobby  
(Enter wines for Friendly Wine Competition here)

8:00 am - 10:00 am - **COMMERCIAL CORNER** - Breakfast meeting location TBA - **Sarah Aschliman & Christian Slupe**

**8:00 am - 10:00 am "Viticulture Ventures & Enology Essentials"** Frank Humphries FAMU - **Marriott meeting Room**

**Move to the Lynn Auditorium at Stetson for all sessions**

**10:30 am - 10:45 am - Welcome** - Sarah Aschilman, President of FWGGA

**10:45 am - 11:45 am - SESSION I** - Dr. Robin Back and Dr.Asli Tasci UCF - "Exploring Muscadine Wine as an Authentic Florida Cultural and Heritage Experience"

**11:45 am - 1:00 pm - LUNCH** (provided) and **SESSION II GOLDEN TICKET** Presentations

**1:00 pm - 2:00 pm - SESSION III** presented by The TTB "- Formula & Coda submission" **VIRTUAL** - Aniko L.Kasprian

**2:00 pm - 2:15 pm - BREAK**

**2:15 pm - 3:15 pm - SESSION IV** - Todd Steiner Ohio State University - "Wine Troubleshooting: Identifying areas of Concern for Flaws in The Production Process"

**3:15 pm - 4:15 pm - SESSION V** - Andrew Meggitt - "Port wine making"

**4:15 pm - 5:00 pm - FWGGA Business Meeting**

Election of Officers, Announcements, Recognize past Presidents and Board

**5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - BREAK**

**6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Meet and Greet and Wine at The Venue 142**

**The 70's theme celebration** - Food stations and party with 70's attire and Disco Balls.

**Fun competition** of the wines with Medals awarded

**9:00 pm - ?? - Enjoy downtown DeLand on your own Visit THE ALLEY** and other great night spots.

## SATURDAY - January 17<sup>th</sup>

**7:30 am - 8:30 am - BREAKFAST** - (on your own)

**7:30 am - 8:00 am** - Registration in Hotel Lobby (after that at Lynn Center - Stetson )

**ALL sessions at the Lynn Auditorium at Stetson**

**8:30 am - 9:30 am - SESSION VI** - Todd Steiner - "Bioprotection"

**9:30 am - 10:30 am - SESSION VII** - University Presentations FAMU / UF

**10:30 am - 10:45 am - BREAK**

**10:45 am - 11:45 am - SESSION VIII** Andrew Meggitt, "Planning for Harvest"

**11:45 am -1:00 pm - LUNCH** (provided) and **SESSION IX GOLDEN TICKET** presentations

**1:00 pm - 2:00 pm SESSION X** - "Technology & Marketing " Jamie\_Browder\_-\_Benedict Advertising

**2:00 pm - 2:15 pm - BREAK**

**2:15 pm - 3:45 pm - SESSION XI** "Specialty Yeast And What Makes Them Special" Megan Hereford, Scott Laboratories

**3:45 pm - 4:45 pm - SESSION XII** FDAC/VAC NEWS - Julie Kay Charles

**4:45 pm - 5:00 pm - PRESIDENT'S NOTES** and **CLOSING COMMENTS**

**5:30 pm - 9:00 pm - A special Wine Tasting of Florida Wines, open to the public by tickets.** Location TBD

Stay over and enjoy the many interesting sights and venues in West Volusia!

## FWGGA.Org gets a makeover

-By Shannon Richter, FWGGA Director of Communications

The FWGGA is embarking on a comprehensive website modernization initiative designed to strengthen communications, streamline operations, and deliver more value to its members. The upgraded site (at either *FWGGA.Org* and/or *FGGA.Org*) will serve as a central hub for information sharing, enabling seamless online registration for conferences, workshops, and events. A new members-only portal will provide exclusive features such as the ability to post and browse classified ads, renew memberships with ease, and access valuable resources. These enhancements will not only improve efficiency for the association but also create a more engaging, user-friendly digital experience for all members.

Beyond administrative improvements, the modernized platform will open new opportunities for collaboration, promotion, and outreach. Members and Partner wineries will benefit from enhanced advertising options, ensuring greater visibility within the industry and to the public. Expanded plug-in capabilities will allow the association to better integrate with partners and amplify joint initiatives. With these improvements, FWGGA is positioning itself as a stronger advocate and resource for Florida's wine and grape industry, providing members with powerful digital tools that foster growth, connection and long-term success.

## Florida Wine and Grape Growers Association Board Members

Sarah Aschliman, President  
Christian Slupe, Vice-President  
Mandi Enix, Treasurer  
Lou Kavouras, Secretary  
Max Elliott, Director of Member Services  
Sue Elliott, Annual Conference Coordinator  
JR Newbold III, Officer & Past President  
Liza Munion, Director of Education  
Shannon Richter, Director of Communications  
Alexa Murray, Membership Coordinator



### Florida Fruit Sangria

- A Fresh from Florida Recipe

#### Ingredients:

- 1 bottle of Florida Wine
- 1-2 cups Florida Orange Juice
- 1-2 cups Florida Berries (*such as blueberries and/or strawberries*)
- 1-2 cups Florida Fruit (*such as watermelon, passion fruit, papaya and/or mango*), cubed
- 1-2 cups Florida Fruit (*such as star fruit, and/or muscadine grapes*), sliced
- 1-2 cups ginger ale

#### Preparation

Pour the Florida wine and orange juice into a large pitcher. Add all the Florida fruit except the berries. Place in the refrigerator to chill. Before serving add the Florida berries and ginger ale. Serve in a tall glass over ice. Enjoy!

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fggasocial@gmail.com  
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amurray@secretgardenswinery.com



SCAN FOR INFO!



**VIP EVENT  
PRESENTED BY  
HAYNES PEST  
CONTROL:**

**FRIDAY 6PM TO 9PM**

**14-15  
NOV**

**A CELEBRATION OF SPIRITS, BEER & WINE**

**JOIN US IN DOWNTOWN SEBRING  
FOR A TASTING EVENT**

**FEATURING FLORIDA'S FINEST SPIRITS  
SATURDAY 1PM TO 8PM**

**TASTING  
CARDS START  
AT  
\$25**



# SAVE THE DATE!

**BEER - WINE - SPIRITS - FOOD - LIVE MUSIC - VENDORS**  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:



**863-385-8448**

**WWW.SEVERING.ORG**



ANTIQUES

DINE

BOUTIQUES

DOWNTOWN

SHOP

EATERIES

EXPERIENCE

AND MORE

SHOP DOWNTOWN ARCADIA

# jingle and mingle

SHOP . DINE . EXPERIENCE  
DOWNTOWN ARCADIA AFTER HOURS

FRIDAY | NOV 15TH | 5PM-8PM

Sponsors

