

FBGA 2023 Annual Meeting Summary

Dear Members - for those of you who couldn't make it, we missed you and hope to see you next year. Here is what you missed:

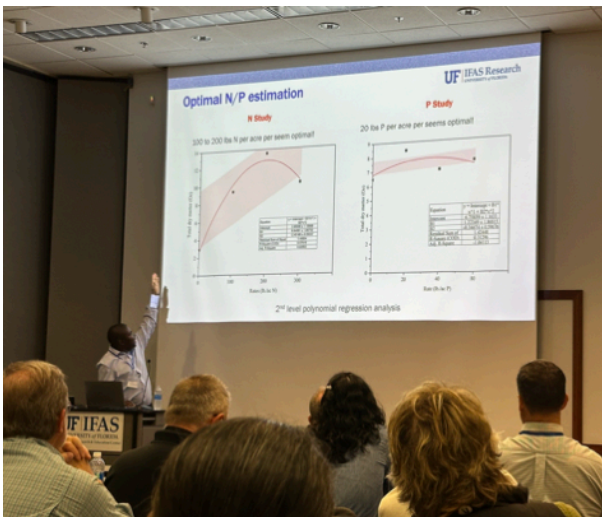
Donnie Ingram, Director, was our master of ceremonies and managed the meeting such that members could network and have time with each other, but also in respecting everyone's time and keeping the meeting on schedule.

We had Membership and Financial reports from Donnie Ingram and Peter Chaires, respectively. With 85 members we grew 63% in the last year. While our finances are small, we managed to build a beautiful website, spend most of our funds on the Key Project to prove out production, and then still have a healthy balance going into the new year.

Election - Director Rick Turner organized Nominations and the Election Process this year. We had three of our Directors (Kevin Barley, Ben Norris and Peter Chaires) rolling off this year and we were glad to have them willing to run for the next term, but also that we had three strong new candidates (Rick Aspden, Alex Marks and Lance Bennett) run. The result was that Kevin Barley, Ben Norris and Peter Chaires were elected for the next term and Kevin Barley was again elected President.



Don Rockwood presenting at our 2023 Annual Meeting



Dr. Davie presenting at our 2023 Annual Meeting

The Key Project - the focus of our presentations was the Key Project. Kevin Barley presented an Introduction explaining the story behind the project and what our 3 presenters would cover.

- Don Rockwood of FFGT designed the Key Project and he reported on what we learned about bamboo farm production in both Shoots and Wood.
- Dr. Davie of UF-IFAS covered Irrigation and Nutrition program research that was a helpful in learning what is best for growing bamboo.
- Kevin Barley, President used analytics as a way to explain what the data means and how it helped validate our proof of concept on shoot production. He was able to show not only what was produced this season but what we could expect at maturity based on the data.

The presentations can be found on our website under Events ==> 2023 Annual Meeting.

We were pleased to have an exciting sponsor this year, Casa del Rio Collection, a luxury handbag maker that utilizes authentic Florida alligator hide. This could be your source for a successful Christmas gift!

<https://casadelriocollection.com/>

Thank everyone for their participation and we look forward to working together in 2024!