**2024 FBGA Fall Meeting and Short Course**

**Thursday, October 24, 2024**

**Bonnet Springs Park, Lakeland, FL**

**8:00 a.m.** Visit Trade Show

**9:00 a.m.** Welcome – *Dr. Nathan Boyd, Associate Center Director (Gulf Coast Research and Education Center) and Professor of Horticulture, IFAS, University of Florida, Wimauma, Fla.*

**9:15 a.m.** Research update on the nitrogen fertilization of evergreen blueberry - *Dr. Gerardo Nunez, Assistant Professor, plant physiology, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida. Gainesville, Fla.*

**9:45 a.m.** FBGA research committee update – *Dr. Phil Harmon, Professor, Plant Pathology Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.*

**10:00 a.m.** Break – visit trade show

**10:30 a.m.** Exploring the opportunities ahead with USHBC, *Ms. Amanda Griffin, Vice President Engagement and Education, U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC).*

NABC advocacy and the dynamics of passing the Farm Bill, *Ms. Alyssa Houtby, Government Affairs Director, North American Blueberry Council (NABC).*

**11:30 a.m.** Summary of the 2024 Florida blueberry season - *Mr. Doug Phillips, blueberry Extension coordinator, IFAS, University of Florida, Wimauma, Fla.*

**11:45 a.m.** FBGA business meeting - *Mr. Leonard Park, FBGA President presiding*

**12:00 p.m.** Lunch and trade show

**1:15 p.m.** Choosing a herbicide program for Florida blueberry – *Dr. Peter Dittmar, Associate Professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida. Gainesville, Fla.*

**1:45 p.m.** UF blueberry breeding program update: current and future – *Dr. Patricio Munoz, Associate Professor, Horticultural Sciences Department, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.*

**2:15 p.m.** Retailer Insights with USHBC – Video of Kasey Cronquist interview with Albertsons Companies National Vice President of Produce Shawn Peery.

**2:45 p.m.** Workforce Updates for Agricultural Employers – *Mr.* *Jamie Fussell, Director of Labor Relations, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association (FFVA)*.

**3:15 p.m.** Research update on chilli thrips management, *Dr. Oscar Liburd, Professor and Program Leader, Fruit and Vegetable Entomology, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.* and *Mr. Allan Busuulwa , PhD Student, IFAS, University of Florida, Wimauma, Fla.*

**4:00 p.m.** Distribution of signed CEU forms.