

Curriculum Vitae

RICHARD D. GASKALLA
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EDUCATION INFORMATION

- B.S., Biological Science, Florida State University, 1975
- A.A., Florida Junior College, 1972 (Tennis Scholarship – Captain Tennis Team 1971-72)
- Paxon Senior High School, Jacksonville, Florida, 1970

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **1988 – Present**
Division Director, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry – served as chairman of the Special Task Force on Citrus Canker, as a member of the Joint State/Federal Citrus Canker Technical Advisory Committee, and as chairman of the Florida Brown Citrus Aphid/Citrus Tristeza Virus Task Force. Currently serving as chairman on the Regional Tropical Soda Apple Task Force.
- **1983 – 1988**
Assistant Director, Division of Plant Industry – responsible for assisting the Director in overseeing all division programs, including emergency pest and disease eradication activities and other various administrative functions.
- **1980 – 1983**
Agricultural Products Specialist Supervisor II, Division Headquarters, Gainesville, FL
Responsible for interpretation and dissemination of plant import and export regulations, post entry quarantine programs, and the Bureau of Plant Inspection's interactions with the Division of Inspection, Bureau of Road Guard Agricultural Inspection Stations.
- **1970 – 1980**
District Agricultural Products Specialist – Fort Lauderdale and Stuart, Florida.
Responsible for plant pest detection.

SPECIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Edward T. Berger Regulatory Entomology Award, 2007
- Florida Nursery and Landscape Association's Friend of the Industry Award, 2005.
- Award of Merit – Gamma Sigma Delta, 1993.
- United States Department of Agriculture Honor Award, 2000. Mediterranean Fruit Fly Eradication.
- Florida Gift Fruit Shippers Special Recommendation Award, 1999.

- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Honor Award, 1996.
- Distinguished Achievement Award – Entomological Society of America / American Association of Nurserymen, 1990.
- Employee of the Year – Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 1987.
- Citation of Special Recognition for exceptional performance during emergency programs – Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 1986.
- Outstanding Service Award – Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 1984.
- Citation of Special Recognition for handling especially difficult regulatory problems – Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 1980.
- Formulated several successful export certification procedures designed to allow for the certification of previously prohibited agricultural products to foreign agricultural markets while an Agricultural Products Specialist Supervisor.
- Detected two new state records for insect pests while a District Agricultural Products Specialist.

AFFILIATIONS AND OFFICES HELD

- Entomological Society of America
- Florida Entomological Society
- Gamma Sigma Delta
- Florida Horticultural Society
- Regional Tropical Soda Apple Task Force - Chairman
- Southern Plant Board – Secretary/Treasurer 1989-91 and Chairman 1991-92
- National Plant Board
- National Plant Board Advisory Council

SERVICE TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Mr. Gaskalla is a conscientious, dedicated, knowledgeable and progressive leader in the field of plant pest regulatory programs. Under his direction, the Division of Plant Industry is in a perpetual state of preparedness against possible invasion by serious agricultural pests or diseases. His participation and association with many agencies and organizations at the state, regional, and national levels has given him the opportunity to provide input into policies and programs that have or could have impacted directly or indirectly on the horticulture industry. He served on the Safeguarding American Plant Resources Review as a panel member. This comprehensive review set forth over 380 recommendations designed to improve United States Agriculture Protection Programs. Mr. Gaskalla served on the National Plant Board Advisory Council from 1988 – 1994, which meets quarterly with the USDA/APHIS. This access provides a direct line for input and communication on policies, issues, quarantines (Imported Fire Ant, Gypsy Moth, Sweet Potato Whitefly, Quarantine 37, White Rust of Chrysanthemum, etc.) that might affect the horticultural industry as well as other agricultural industries.

Mr. Gaskalla has formulated several successful export certification procedures designed to allow for the certification of previously prohibited agricultural products to foreign agricultural markets.

In July 1988, under his direction, the Division of Plant Industry entered into a cooperative Imported Fire Ant Certification Program with the USDA which benefits the nurserymen by allowing the shipment of nursery stock into or through non-regulated areas.

Mr. Gaskalla and his staff have worked hard and diligently to serve the nurserymen and the industry in Florida by appearing on programs or serving on committees involving nurserymen or other horticultural groups to inform them regarding plant pest programs and ways and means whereby regulatory can assist them in shipping and receiving healthy, pest free nursery stock. He and his staff also interact closely with university research and extension personnel on horticultural matters such as the sweet potato whitefly which has been a problem on foliage plants in Florida.

Under his leadership, the Division of Plant Industry worked with the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association to conduct a complete review a revision of the Grades and Standards Program for nursery plants and to develop standards for Florida produced foliage plants.

The nursery inspection program has been improved through the addition of new personnel which provides for more frequent contacts with the nurserymen, county extension directors, and others to effectively and efficiently deal with regulatory problems; by regulation and quarantine revisions; through implementation of a computerized program of Florida nurserymen and stock dealers.

Mr. Gaskalla has been a leader in his commitment to support biological control activities. In Gainesville, we have a Phase I biological control laboratory where exotic parasites and predators are received and cleared for shipment to other scientists for testing. Also, we now have a Phase II biological control laboratory where exotic predators and parasites are raised and tested. These facilities are available for use by scientists from the Division of Plant Industry, University of Florida, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

He has also had the responsibility to provide oversight of the department's Florida Linear Accelerator Research Center, a seven million dollar agricultural commodity irradiator designed to demonstrate the use of irradiation as an alternative to post harvest fumigation, its use as a food safety treatment, and other applications. This facility was made available to cooperating scientists from other agencies as well.

In his tenure with the Division of Plant Industry, Mr. Gaskalla has been directly involved in six successful Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) campaigns, and as director, he oversaw the Medfly Eradication Projects in Dade, Hillsborough, Lake, Orange, Polk, Highlands and Manatee counties. Due to the use of effective and efficient resources, including an extensive public education program, the Medfly Project was a successful eradication.

In 1993, Solanum viarum, Tropical Soda Apple (TSA), was detected. In response to this exotic noxious weed detection, action was taken to form a TSA task force to develop effective management strategies. The task force was expanded to a regional group in 1999 and has been an effective partnership between the southern states, state and federal regulatory agencies, and research institutions to further refine TSA management.

Mr. Gaskalla has been directly involved with the Citrus Canker Eradication Project and has served as Chairman of the Special Task Force on Citrus Canker and a member of the Joint State/Federal Advisory Committee since their inception. He has been steadfast in his commitment to the development of reasonable regulations, working with the USDA/APHIS to mitigate the impact of this unwanted citrus disease.

Mr. Gaskalla was involved with the development and implementation of the 2006 Citrus Health Response Program, a program designed to help mitigate the impact of citrus canker, citrus greening and other exotic citrus pests and diseases.

In addition, he has leadership responsibilities for other regulatory programs involving honey bee inspections, boll weevil eradication, Caribbean fruit fly protocol, and commodity treatments.