FWGGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
January 15-16, 2027

FRIDAY, January 15th

7:00 am – 7:30 am in **Hotel Lobby** (Academics/Amateurs enter wines for competition here)

MOVE to the LYNN AUDITORIUM at Stetson for all Sessions

7:00 am – 8:00 am – **Registration** – Coffee & Pastries in lobby at Stetson

8:00 am – 10:00 am – **COMMERCIAL CORNER** Hosted by Christian Slupe, Featuring a speaker from Vinoshipper about DTC & Compliance

8:00 am – 10:00 am – **Non-COMMERCIALS** – Frank Humphries – FAMU – Lynn Auditorium - "Viticulture Ventures and Enology Essentials"

10:00 am – 10:15 am – **BREAK**

10:15 am – 10:30 am – **WELCOME** – Sarah Aschliman, President of FWGGA

10:30 am – 11:15am – **SESSION I** – Dr. Robin Back and Dr. Asli Tasci – UCF "The Muscadine Paradox: Rich in Culture, Poor in Visibility"

11:15 am – 12:00 pm – **LUNCH** (provided)

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – **SESSION II** – GOLDEN TICKET Presentations (2)

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm – **SESSION III** – FDAC/VAC NEWS – Julie Kay Charles, Update from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. FDACS Information on the Florida Wine Trust Fund, Florida Farm Winery Program, Fresh from Florida Industry Membership Program and the Fresh from Florida Marketing Plan for FY 2026-2027

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm – **BREAK**

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm – **Welcome Aboard** – Newcomers to the industry - Tuscan Rose

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm – **Session IV** – Dr. Andrew Macintosh – "An update on UF Food Science Department wine projects."

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm – **SESSION V** – Dr. Uzman Khalil, UF – "Pierce Disease- Resistant Wine Grapes: Evaluating Variety Performance in Florida"

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm – **FWGGA BUSINESS MEETING** – Election of Officers, Announcements, recognize past Presidents and Board Members, Showcase our new website & Member Benefits – by the Board

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm – **BREAK**

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – **MEET AND GREET** and **WINE COMPETITION** at The Venue 142 – **Black, White & Wine Celebration** – Food stations, wine tasting & competition party – Attire Black & White Glam!

FWGGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
January 15-16, 2027
Downtown DeLand, Florida

SATURDAY, January 16th

7:00 am – 8:00 am – **Coffee & Pastries** at Lynn Center lobby Stetson

7:30 am – 8:00 am – **Registration** at Lynn Center Auditorium Stetson

8:00 am – 9:00 am – **SESSION VI** – University Presentations – FAMU/UF

9:00 am – 10:00 am – **SESSION VII** – Greg Ison – Ison's Nursery & Vineyard – "Varieties for Commercial Production & Opportunities for the Commercial Grower"

10:00 am – 10:15 am – **BREAK**

10:15 am – 11:15 am – **SESSION VIII** – Steve Conor – Spirits & Wine Manager, Team Cone Beverage Distributors – "Distributor Relationships"

11:15 am – 12:00 pm – **LUNCH** provided

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – **SESSION IX** – GOLDEN TICKET presentations (2)

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm – **BREAK**

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm – **SESSION X** – Chef Justin Timineri – Fresh from Florida

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm – **SESSION XI** – Kachet Jackson Bell, Founder, KJB Collective, Dallas, Texas – "Find Your Lane on Social: A Storytelling Plan Wine Brands Can Repeat"

3:15 pm – 4:00 pm – **SESSION XII** – Dr. Ali Sarkhosh UF – "Freeze-dried Muscadine Fruit: A Year-Round Snack"

4:00 pm – 4:45 pm – **SESSION XIII** – Dr. Ly Nguyen, Agricultural Economist, FAMU – "Growing Florida's Wine and Vineyard Agritourism through Targeted Generational Marketing Strategies"

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

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm – "A Taste of Florida Wines" TBA