August 26, 2011

At the recent 20th Gulf Citrus Industry Banquet in Ft. Myers, the Gulf Citrus Growers Association presented its “special service” award to Dr. Phillip A. Stansly, a UF/IFAS entomology professor. Stansly is based at UF/IFAS’ Southwest Florida Research and Education Center in Immokalee, where he has been actively engaged in teaching and research for over 23 years.

The scientist has focused his efforts on the insects that attack citrus, vegetables and sugarcane crops inflicting diseases and economic impacts to them.

In making the presentation, Gulf Citrus Growers Association’s Ron Hamel noted that Stansly has been a true leader and “pioneer” in reducing the populations of Asian Citrus Psyllids in the “Gulf” region’s citrus groves. The inscription on the laser-engraved walnut plaque read: “For Outstanding and Dedicated Leadership in the Development and Implementation of Florida’s ‘First’ Area-Wide and Cooperative Initiative Aimed at Reducing Asian Citrus Psyllid Populations and the Spread of ‘Greening’ in the ‘Gulf Citrus’ Production Region. And, for His Tenacious Efforts to Sustain the Fight Against this Vectorial Pest.”

The Gulf Citrus Growers Association represents the citrus growers of Southwest Florida, including Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties.