

MEET THE AQUACULTURE REVIEW COUNCIL (ARC)

The Aquaculture Review Council is comprised of representatives from aquaculture industries in Florida. The Council compiles research and development priorities for Florida aquaculture, solicits Statements of Interest for grant funding that address these priorities and provides updates from their industry.

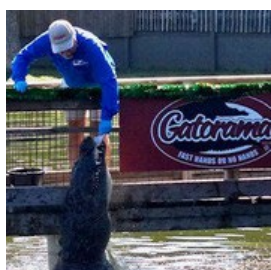


Geno Evans - Chair - Food Fish

Evans Fish Farm

(386) 749-0392 - Geno@EvansFishFarm.com

Geno Evan's family has been farming in Florida since he was a young man. His family and he built the current Evans Fish Farm in 1982. He likes all aspects of farming from building ponds, spawning fish to making caviar. He has always believed that aquaculture has a bright future for Florida agriculture. He appreciates being appointed to the Aquaculture Review Council to help Florida Aquaculture continue to grow.



Allen Register - Vice Chair - Alligators

Gatorama

Allen@Gatorama.com

J. Allen Register is a fifth generation Floridian. After ten years of service in the Navy, he has spent over thirty years in Florida's alligator industry. Besides ARC, he is on the board of multiple committees and advisory groups for agencies such as FDACS and FWC to enhance the industry.



Joe Cardenas - At-Large

Telchine Energy Technologies

(561) 866-7092 - Joe@telchine-rd.com

Joe Cardenas has over 10 years experience as a commercial aquaculture owner in Florida. He founded Aquaco in 2025 and raised Florida Pompano in a RAS facility based in Fort Pierce, Florida. After a successful exit in 2025, Joe is currently helping grow Telchine & Full Spectrum, a full service manufacturer of LSS and RAS equipment that builds, designs and constructs system in zoos, aquariums and aquaculture throughout the U.S.



Pierre LePochat - Aquatic Plants

WaterScapes Aquatic

Info@WaterscapesNursery.com

Pierre LePochat has been a wholesale aquatic plant nursery owner since 2002. They sell plants to pet stores, garden centers and for mitigation across the US and several other countries. Pierre has also been on the Florida Tropical Fish Farms Association Board for over 20 years and works with several aquatic ornamental and native plant nurseries around the state.





Damon Moore - Commercial Fishing

Oyster River Ecology

(941) 567-8738 - Damon@oysterriverecology.org

Damon Moore is a Restoration Ecologist based in Hillsborough County, Florida, where he leads innovative coastal habitat restoration efforts through Oyster River Ecology, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. His work blends ecological science, public policy, and on-the-ground implementation to build resilient coastal environments across Southwest Florida. Currently, he is working on a 10-acre restoration aquaculture site in the Manatee River, which was the first aquaculture restoration management agreement for oysters issued by FDACS.



Ryan Schelb - Tropical Fish

Spectrum Brands, Inc.

Ryan.Schelb@spectrumbrands.com

Ryan Schelb is from Hillsborough County, Florida. He got his first aquaculture job in 2005 at the University of Florida Tropical Aquaculture Lab. He has worked at a number of farms raising hybrid striped bass, sturgeon and countless species of ornamental fish. In addition to ARC, he currently serves on the boards for the FTFFA and FAA.



Timothy Solano - Shellfish

Cedar Key Aquaculture Farms

(352) 740-5678 - T.SolanoSeaFarms@gmail.com

Timothy Solano is a 14th generation Floridian and a proud 2nd generation clam farmer. He is proud to serve the shellfish industry and help with looking over research proposals to find the ones that will work effectively and efficiently. He strives to help modernize and advance not only the clam industry, but also help with growing the Florida oyster industry as well.



Marty Tanner

Aquatica Tropicals

(863) 660-3391

Marty Tanner has been in the aquaculture industry for over 35 years. He has owned and operated one of the largest production ornamental hatcheries in the US. With an early background in accounting and tax preparation, he left to start his first farming operation in the early 1990's. He grew the operations to 4 sites in Polk and Hillsborough Counties. He recently sold those operations and in 2023 founded Seagrass Restoration Institute to put his years of production experience to work to support the declining aquatic environment.

