

Posted on Thu, Sep. 29, 2005

DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Nursery owners honored

The Dade County Farm Bureau named George (Jr.) and Myra Butler as the recipients of the 2005 Farm Family of the Year award.

The couple began Butler's Foliage in 1961 on five acres as a part-time operation that specialized in Carissa Boxwood Beauty. Besides patenting plants, Butler identified two plant sports that only the Butlers' nursery sold: Butlerii Supreme and Butlerii Petite. Both plant species were a huge success, and they helped son George Butler III learn important lessons about propagation at age 7.

Butler Jr. graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor of science in agriculture. He served as president of the Dade County Farm Bureau from 1976-1977. He and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

Butler III graduated from South Dade Senior High School in 1982. He attended Miami Dade College and took continuing education courses through the University of Florida. He and his wife Cathy have two children who also love the nursery.

The five-acre nursery has grown to 48 acres in three locations. Unique to Butler's Foliage is a collection of patented hybrid Aglaonemas. Butler III has been working with a breeder in India, putting on trial his best hybrids for introduction in the United States. Butler's Foliage also patented another plant called Natal Mahogany which has been very successful in the interior-landscape market.

The Farm Family of the Year award will be presented at the annual membership meeting on Oct. 24 at noon at the Redland Golf & Country Club. Call Debbie Brady at 305-246-5514 to RSVP.