

EXTENSION

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

Meet Your Specialist

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Vance Whitaker came to UF from the University of Minnesota, where he was a postdoctoral researcher on rose genetics. He obtained his graduate degrees from the same institution where he worked on the pathology of black spot disease of rose and breeding and genetics of resistance to this

disease.

"Here at UF I am the strawberry breeder. The emphasis in my extension program is to develop new varieties that will have a positive impact on the Florida strawberry industry, which involves working with other specialists to recommend the ideal production practices that optimize the performance of each new variety."

Forensic Entomology

Thirty middle school students in Collier County were introduced to the world of forensics through the University of Florida's 4-H Forensic Entomology project. The youth learned the history of forensic entomology and the ten basic rules for insect collecting. The participants learned how to define PMI (Post-Mortem Interval) by observing the insects that were attracted to their insect jars and the stage of the insect's life cycle.

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After the youth learned the basics of forensic entomology they participated in “The Black Bear Murder Mystery”, a four day lesson culminating activity for the forensic entomology project. The youth worked in teams investigating the crime scene to solve the mystery by determining the time of death of the black bear. The bear was actually a few cuts of meat wrapped in a piece of fake bear fur. The youth enjoyed the project and learned about forensic science as well as insects and the information they can provide to investigators about the time and location of a variety of criminal cases. With this new project, Collier County hopes to spark interest in learning more about science through 4-H. [Contact: Anna Galdames]

different audience and intertwined health and education in a way that will positively affect youth and provide more resources in our community. [Contact: Anna Galdames]



Four Years of Making 4-H Fitness Fun

According to the Center for Disease Control, children today are not expected to live as long as their parents due to diseases associated with lack of exercise and poor nutrition. Experts agree that obesity is a multi-faceted problem that should be addressed by promoting healthy eating and physical activity. With this in mind, Collier County 4-H is focused on increasing opportunities for activity in our community by providing an event for youth to train for and participate in the 4-H Junior Fitness Challenge. On June 5th the 4th Annual Junior Fitness Challenge, in partnership with Collier County Parks and Recreation, had approximately 340 youth between the ages of 7- 14 years old participate by swimming, biking and running in a triathlon. Preparation was accomplished by providing two three hour training sessions leading up to the event. Volunteers trained youth in the three events and on the importance of proper nutrition and hydration during exercise. Training sessions increased self-efficacy of the youth and help to create a life-long habit of exercise. According to the National Association of State Boards of Education, “people increasingly recognize that health and education are intertwined; education goals cannot be achieved without attention to health, and health goals cannot be achieved without attention to education.” We believe this event increased awareness of 4-H, reached out to a

Kids Fishing and Fish Surgery

Kids participated in the 4th annual Kids Cup tournament where red drum caught by anglers ages 10-16 were tagged and released during the tournament. The program goal is to determine post release mortality and dispersal patterns. Participants learned about fisheries science and the Redfish Tracking Program where two tagging methods are used, anchored dart tags and surgically implanted acoustic tags. The Charlotte County Sea Grant Extension Agent coordinates the tagging program and works with tournament staff and cooperating researchers from Mote Marine Laboratory, UF/IFAS and Progress Energy to implement this angler based research event. A team of trained volunteers assisted with handling, transport, post surgical recovery, water quality testing, data collection and release of red drum. Additional trained volunteers educate the spectators by telling them about the program and what they were seeing. Spectators and tournament participants also joined in guided walks throughout the surgical area. The agent presented the results of this three year event at the Florida State Chapter meeting of the American Fisheries Society in February 2010. Results showed that 44% of the tagged red drum from

2007-2009 have been observed (both tagging methods combined), with most of the observations occurring within one month of each tournament. Six months following release each year, most red drum observed were 5-10 miles from the release site. Angler recaptures reported for this project have been between 10-20% by year. This angler based research project allows kids to interact with researchers and learn about fisheries science in a fun and meaningful way [Contact: Betty Staugler].



Arbor Day Ag-Stravaganza!

The Charlotte County Extension Service and Charlotte Soil & Water Conservation District have a long partnership and history of Arbor Day Tree Sales going back decades. In the past, these sales have been held at various venues including the County Fair Grounds. This year, the May 1st “Arbor Day Expo”, morphed into an educational and plant sale extravaganza that had something for everyone. Workshops included a program on native tree selection and establishment, one featuring Specialist Dr. Bob Rouse from the UF/IFAS Southwest Florida REC in Immokalee on successfully growing peaches, plums and nectarines in our area, and one by a Master Gardener concerning growing roses in Southwest Florida. In addition to workshops, participants were able to enjoy live demonstrations outside on proper pruning techniques and the right way to plant a tree. Children also had the opportunity to make and take home their own marigold “Pillow Pack” and get a free pine tree seedling. A booth manned by the

Forestry Department featuring information on wildfires rounded out the educational experience. Once participants’ gardening minds were full, it was time to visit the vendors! From loquats to maple trees and from cypress trees to desert roses, there was a huge assortment of trees and plants suitable for our area. Well over 400 participants attended this different new Arbor Day event. The Charlotte Soil & Water Conservation District takes the proceeds from the workshops and vendor fees and puts them towards scholarships provided for local youth enrolled in an agricultural college curriculum. (Contact: Ralph E. Mitchell)

Cattle Ranching in Pasco County: Preserving History and Providing Guidance for the Future

The Starkey Center for Nature & Community (SCENIC), Pasco County Cattlemen’s Association, Pasco County Pioneer Museum and several business sponsors recently conducted the first Ranchers Roundup. The event celebrated the legacy of cattle ranching and its people in Pasco County. Ranching has been one of the anchors of Pasco life and economy for well over a hundred years, and organizers believe that it has a history that is and will become more important as Pasco County deals with future environmental, social and economic issues. One of the goals of the event was to foster respect and love for the land, while balancing the land’s natural, economic and social value for the greater community. University of Florida - IFAS Pasco County Extension provided information on both historic and current ranching activities including economic impacts as a major component of Pasco County’s \$62 million per year livestock industry. Extension faculty also coordinated a portion of the program to document and preserve historic brands registered to Pasco County Ranchers. The event was well covered by Tampa Bay area media and attended by more than 200 guests. [Contact: Ed Jennings]

Financial Fitness Boot Camp

UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Extension in partnership with the Financial Planning Association of Tampa Bay have teamed up to help people get financially fit. Boot camp includes classes, take-home exercises, and one-on-one coaching with Certified Financial Planners. The planners are volunteering their time pro-bono, so of course there is no-sales pitch attached. Program attendees have learned how to evaluate their financial situation and take steps to improve their financial stability. Participants have said that as a result of the program they feel more confident in their ability to improve their financial situation and plan to increase their savings. The program has been so successful that more boot camps are planned for the fall. [Contact: Lisa Leslie]

UF/IFAS Information and Communication Services recognized by ANREP, ACE, and NAADA

UF/IFAS Information and Communication Services has recently been recognized by the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals, the Association for Communication Excellence, and the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association for their outstanding work!

Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP)

Promotional Materials

Gold (1st Place National) - Sea Turtle Friendly Beaches - Ken Gioeli, Susan Munyan, Tracy Bryant

Association for Communication Excellence (ACE) Critique and Awards

Outstanding Professional Skill Award - Publishing Class, Tracy Bryant

Gold - Publishing, Special Reports IFAS Extension Bookstore Catalog, Tracy Bryant

Bronze - Publishing, Technical Publications - 2008 Annual Research Report, Tracy Bryant

Bronze - Publishing, Special Reports - 2010 Extension Calendar, Tracy Bryant

Silver - Graphic Design, Posters - Hernando County Canning Retractable, Michele Wood

National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association

Publications and Projects Competition

Print Media: Annual Report/Strategic Plan

2nd Place: 2009 IFAS Annual Report, Jack Battenfield, Raghu Consbruck, Mickie Anderson and Tom Nordlie

Print Media: Stewardship Materials

1st Place (tie): TailGATOR 09 – Gators and 4-H: A Florida Tradition, Cathy Carr and Michele Linette

New Faculty

Please welcome the following new faculty:

Jenny Jump (jenny.rae.jump@ufl.edu), FCS/4-H Extension Agent I, Columbia County, 5/17/2010

Evangeline Linkous, Community Sustainability Agent and County Extension Director II, Sarasota County, 6/7/2010

Please also welcome the following faculty into their new positions:

Teresa Olczyk, Ag/Natural Resources County Extension Director IV, Miami-Dade County, 6/25/2010

Tracy Tesdall, 4-H Regional Specialized Agent II, South District, 6/25/2010

Resignations

We want to wish the following faculty the best of luck in their future endeavors:

Collin Adcock, Horticulture EA I, Washington County, 6/26/2010

Alex Diaz, 4-H Youth Development EA I, Miami-Dade, 6/26/2010

Retirement

After many years of service and dedication Carolyn Gregov (Sarasota County Extension Director and Extension Agent II) and Joan Elmore (Jackson County FCS Agent IV) have retired. We want to thank them for all of their contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.



Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter of the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the Extension web site at <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu>. If you have any suggestions or would like to submit your own recognition or short article of interest, please send them to Liz Rossen at lizann@ufl.edu.
