

Extension Comings and Goings
From the Office of the Dean for Extension
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Program Enhancement Award Winners – In August 2008 the Dean for Extension sent out a call for proposals to state and county faculty for the purpose of stimulating innovative program ideas. We were extremely happy to receive 76 proposals for the \$75,000 of available funds. The Extension Faculty Advisory Committee selected this year's recipients. A big thank you goes to the committee for assisting with the difficult task of choosing 13 Program Enhancement award winners.

Congratulations to the award winners. The funded proposals are:

- Financial Education for Youth and Parents, \$6,000
- Don't Release Your Pets Campaign, \$7,500
- Developing Web-based Video Components for the IFAS/Extension Mentor Curriculum, \$7,000
- Plant Identification On-line Learning Modules, \$2,500
- Multimedia Delivery of Landscape Irrigation Control Technology Programming Guidelines, \$7,000
- Pond Management Solutions, \$6,500
- Annie's Project: Entrepreneurship Program for Women in Agriculture, \$5,200
- Enhancing Small Farms & Alternative Enterprises Website with New Innovative Content, \$7,000
- SET 4-H Workshop and Training on Renewable/sustainable Energy, \$8,000
- Small Steps to Health and Wealth in Florida, \$3,500
- Expanding a university/industry alliance to educate growers about recycling water for irrigation, \$5,000
- Keeping the Good Ones: 4-H Agent Professional Development, \$4,800
- Know Your Reclaimed Water, Save Money, and Reduce Pollution, \$5,000

2009 Extension Symposium – We hope all of you received the “Save the Date” card for our upcoming Symposium to be held May 6-8. Please join us at the Hilton in Gainesville. It will be a time to see colleagues, continue forming relationships, and most importantly, share program ideas and grow professionally with faculty development opportunities.

Congratulations to NRLI Graduates - Tatiana Borisova, Assistant Professor in UF IFAS Department of Food and Resource Economics; Bryan Fluech, Sea Grant Extension Agent in Collier County; and Jennison Kipp, Resource Economist with UF IFAS Program for Resource Efficient Communities recently completed a year-long training with the UF Natural Resource Leadership Institute (NRLI). They increased their skills and knowledge in conflict resolution, meeting facilitation and explored some of Florida’s current natural resource issues through field trips to various parts of the state. They received their graduation certificates at ceremony in Gainesville on October 17. The meeting was attended by nearly 100 past NRLI graduates, UF administrators, family and friends.



AIAEE 25th Anniversary Annual Conference May 24-28, 2009

We want to invite all Extension faculty to participate in the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) 25th Annual Conference “25 Years of Strengthening International Agricultural & Extension Education” in Puerto Rico May 24-29, 2009. The InterContinental Hotel San Juan Resort, Spa & Casino, Puerto Rico

www.intercontinental.com was selected as the site for the conference. **Friday October 3, 2008** is the date for the call for

paper and poster abstracts. The annual conference will feature an exemplary Keynote presentation by Dr. **Fedro Zazueta**, Professor and Director of the Office of Academic Technology at the University of Florida, Gainesville Florida, peer reviewed Paper and Poster presentations, Committee meetings, the annual business meeting and awards presentations. Everyone will remember the AIAEE 25th Anniversary Conference highlighted by a special cultural session in downtown old San Juan. The complete conference agenda and registration information is available on the AIAEE web site <http://www.aiaee.org/conferences.html>. **Dr. Pete Vergot III**, Northwest District Extension Director and AIAEE President, pvergot@ufl.edu.

Emily Eubanks to Receive Horizon Award - Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology Communications Coordinator Emily Eubanks is the 2008 recipient of the CALS Alumni & Friends Horizon Award. This award recognizes an individual for his or her outstanding contributions and potential as a leader in the agricultural, natural resource, life science, and related industries and profession. It will be presented to Emily at TailGator on November 15.

National Recognition for Gardening in a Minute - State Master Gardener Coordinator Tom Wichman has won a national award recognizing his work as host on *Gardening in a Minute*, the UF/IFAS Extension radio program. Tom received a “Gold” in the on-air talent category from the Garden Writers Association at the organization’s recent conference in Portland, Ore. This is the twelfth

national communications award *Gardening in a Minute* has garnered in the two years since it launched.

Success Stories from the South Central District

When Alien Plants Attack, Fight Back- As a result of a request for a training on the identification and management of exotic invasive plants from the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center (CHEC), Charlotte County Extension Services presented a class entitled "Identification and Management of Exotic Invasive Plants" on Tuesday, September 23rd. The management of exotic invasive plants is of great concern to many communities in Florida, as exotic invasive plants not only compete with native plant life, but also cost significant amounts of money to control. Thirty-five (35) participants increased their understanding of exotic invasive plant identification, control strategies, and other considerations. As a result of this program, a survey recorded that 100% of the participants felt more confident about making good decisions concerning implementing invasive exotic plant management strategies, with 58% indicating that they planned to adopt at least one new management option on their own property. A great line-up of Speakers included Dr. Ken Langeland and Dr. Jim Cuda of UF/IFAS; Dr. Jim Burch with the Big Cypress Preserve; Francois Laroche of the South Water Management District; Roger S. Clark with the Six Mile Preserve; and John Rodgers of FDEP, Bureau of Invasive Plants. [Contact : Ralph Mitchell]

Seeing Is Believing - Collier County Extension, in collaboration with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), embarked on an 'X-Treme Yard Makeover' project. The goal of the X-Treme Yard Makeover project was to demonstrate creating a Florida-friendly yard is more about formulating an integrated, goal-oriented plan with plants that work toward that goal and less about sacrificing aesthetics in favor of water conservation. A 'water wasteland' yard in a high visibility area of Naples was selected. Collier County Extension personnel consulted with the homeowner and designed a landscape that maximized color and guaranteed minimal maintenance, water, fertilizer, pesticide use. Equally minimal was the use of turfgrass. Plant material was 70% native, and the non-native selections emphasized the importance of cultural compatibility. Invasive exotics were removed, a pervious paver porch constructed, and a state-of-the-art irrigation system installed, utilizing high-efficiency pop-ups for the lawn area, drip and micro-jet for the shrub beds. After establishment, shrubs will need no irrigation during summer months, and only weekly watering during the non-rainy winter months. Over 35 sponsors donated time and materials to illustrate how easy it is to conserve water and still have a beautiful landscape. More than 300 area homeowners joined the sponsors, Senator Burt Saunders and SFWMD Board Member Charles Dauray for the public presentation of the project on June 28th. The project will be monitored by Collier County Extension and SFWMD personnel through June 2009. The project expects to exceed a water savings of over 75,000 gallons per year. [Contact: Cathy Feser]

Screening for Developmental Delays of Children – The healthy development of a child is something that most of us take for granted. We expect the physical, social, cognitive, behavioral and emotional growth of a child to progress at a constant, predictable and probable rate. Unfortunately, not every child fits that mold. Many children have developmental delays that will make learning difficult or slowed unless intervention programs are recommended and started early – long before formal

schooling begins. Extension participates in monthly Child Developmental Screenings managed and conducted by the Early Childhood Council, Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Systems, USF, and county schools. Free screenings are offered to the community for delays or problems with behaviors, speech, language, motor skills, vision, hearing and cognition for children birth to five years of age in targeted rural or hard to reach populations. Extension provides a valuable service for parents with one-on-one consultations on their child's behavior and development. Parents are also taught how to work with their children to strengthen skills and encourage each child to reach his or her potential. The earlier parents receive this information, the earlier they can work with their child or be referred for help, if needed. Many delays can be removed or reduced if tackled early. There were 1,908 children screened in the 2007-08 program year, with 90% of these children referred on for further evaluation, assessment or beneficial programs and services. The screening partnership was deemed a "best practice" by the Florida Department of Education in 1996. (Contact: Diana Converse)

Good Taste Comes to Lee - The assortments of fruits that grow in Florida, and how to grow, cook and eat them remain a mystery for most of its residents. Locally grown tropical fruits are often strange in their appearance and taste. 'A Taste of Lee' exhibition was conceived to introduce the sight, smell, feel, and taste of these exotic fruits to local gardeners, landscapers, chefs, and consumers. It was also designed to introduce small farmers to market niches. Thus, other locally grown products and added value items were also exhibited at 'A Taste of Lee.' It was also intended that those who attended the 'Tasting' would be encouraged to grow the produce that delighted them. The agricultural, horticulture, and family and consumer science agents were involved in the planning and execution of the 'Tasting'. The event garnered the support of the local Caloosa Rare Fruit Society. The society members were important in planning and displaying tropical fruits at the exhibition. Success of the Tasting was measured by the overwhelming response of consumers. Within five hours, well over 1,500 people literally tasted 'A Taste of Lee' and surrounding counties. Vendors, including beekeepers and plant growers, got a shot in the financial arm. During this first year, A Taste of Lee outgrew its venue. The 2009 event will be held at a larger facility and will involve local chefs cooking locally grown produce. You are invited. For a power point presentation of 'A Taste of Lee,' go to the Lee County Extension page. [Contact: Stephen Brown, Roy Beckford, Celia Hill and Karen Headlee]

4-H Leaders Make 4-H Happen! Two of our most important teaching events occurred in the 4-H program in August. First was the annual 4-H Leaders Round Up, an annual meeting and workshop session for current 4-H volunteers. More than 60 adult volunteers (and one teen volunteer) participated in this year's meeting, and 40 returned program evaluations, indicating high levels of satisfaction with the materials and information presented. The second workshop was a six-hour 4-H New Leader Training Course. Three hours are delivered through materials sent ahead of time by mail and three hours on site with the 4-H agents. Eight new volunteers participated in that session, with the expectation of three new 4-H clubs and two existing clubs with new leadership. The great success is that although 4-H is still widely known as the "program for farm kids," it continues to expand and grow in Polk County and continues to be recognized as the leading youth development organization in the world. Polk community members view 4-H as a way to get involved in mentoring, supporting and nurturing today's youth to become productive and contributing citizens. [Contact: Nicole Walker]

New Faculty – Please welcome the following new faculty:

Lucinda Harris, 4-H/Youth Development Ext. Agent I, Martin County, 10/01/2008

Lisa Krinsky, Sea Grant/Marine Science Program Ext. Agent II, Miami-Dade County, 10/01/08

Maria Portelos-Romero, FCS Extension Agent II, Sarasota County, 10/03/08

Randall Gornto, Livestock Extension Agent I, Highlands County, 10/31/08

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

Amy Tucker-Bauldree, Program Assistant, County Operations, 10/16/2008

Kristen Candelora, Program Extension Agent II, Desoto County, 10/30/2008

Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter distributed by 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 Perez at lizann@ufl.edu.