

EXTENSION

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

Growing a Greener World airs May 15 on PBS

The National PBS program called “Growing a Greener World” airs on May 15th. The Program features of professor, Dr. Ed Gilman, Orange County Master Gardener, Pam Paisley and Orange County Residential Horticulture Agent, Liz Felter along with other horticulturalists. Check you local PBS station for airing times.

Summer Camp is Fun & Profitable

During summer of 2010, the Pasco Horticulture agent and volunteers will be hosting a week-long gardening and environmental camp for school-aged youth patterned on that piloted in 2009. One participant of that camp was really enthused by the various hands-on learning, including plant propagation, creating a pizza garden, general plant care, and

understanding insects. Last fall, this young man used his newly found horticulture skills to raise several different types of plants to show at the county fair youth plant show. At the fair, he was able to show and sell four lots for a total of \$430. He plans to use the money to grow more plants for next year’s fair and to add to his college fund. He indicated that his new skills may turn into a career choice, but at 12 years old, it’s a little early to tell. Summer gardening camp was more than just fun in this case, it was profitable and is influencing career choices! Not bad for a summer camp outcome. [Contact: BJ Jarvis, Pasco County]

Tarpon DNA Seminar a Success!

In April the Collier Sea Grant Agent partnered with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Mote Marine Laboratory to host a seminar for local fisherman on the

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state's Tarpon Genetics Recovery Program. Anglers learned about tarpon life history, details of the genetics recapture program, techniques for collecting DNA samples, and how anglers' participation helps protect one of Florida's most valuable recreational fisheries. In addition, a local fishing guide provided advice and practical tips for catching tarpon. All participants received DNA sample kits as well as additional fisheries-related resources. Responses from participants were overwhelmingly positive. Forty-three anglers attended the seminar and 34 completed post-event surveys. Ninety-four percent of participants said they agreed or strongly agreed they felt confident they could properly collect samples, while 91% agreed or strongly agreed they intended to participate in the recapture study as a result of the seminar. A six-month follow up survey will be sent out to assess the extent to which anglers collect DNA samples from the tarpon the catch. Also, as a result of the Sea Grant Agent's connections with local marinas and tackle shops, anglers who participate in the program now have five new locations in Collier County to drop off their samples and get new kits, thus expanding the reach of the program. [Contact: Bryan Fluech]

Workshop Teaches Agents How to Deal with Conflict

The traditional role of an Extension Agent was to provide content and let people choose their own path, but the face of a changing Extension agents are more frequently being called upon to act as facilitators for public deliberation and group decision making on contentious issues from the county government to the advisory committee level. In March the South Central District Sea Grant Agents partnered with the Natural Resources Leadership Institute project team and the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication to offer a workshop titled Helping Agents Deal with Issues and Conflicts at Meetings. Twenty-five extension agents attended the 1.5 day training. The participants included ten County Extension Directors as well as 4-H, Horticulture, Agriculture, and Urban Sustainability Extension Agents. Participants learned critical skills and tools to plan

effective meetings to encourage buy-in and participation from all stakeholders. These skills included: 1. creating a process that encourages full participation in decision making, 2. summarizing and framing issues, and 3. identifying and addressing difficult dynamics in a group meeting. Workshop attendees' responses were overwhelming; more than one participant opined that the training should be mandatory for all agents and one participant stated it was one of the best in-service training in her 27 years as an extension agent. The organizers are in the process of planning next steps including writing several EDIS documents, offering the training again to a wider audience and creating a supplement training that addresses specific tools for inclusive decision making. [Contact: Bryan Fluech, Collier County]

4-H Market Garden Cultivates a New Beginning

A Collier County 4-H market garden program was established at New Beginnings in Immokalee, an alternative school that seeks to provide opportunities for middle grade students who have been removed from the traditional classroom due to significant disruption of the education of students within regular classroom settings. Students must show positive progress in academic, personal and social skills in order to earn the right to return to the regular school program.



The youth in the garden program work one day a week working in the garden and in their 4-H project books.

The garden consists of six raised beds that the youth built as well as various fruit trees and butterfly garden plants. The goals of the project are to teach the students the importance of plants, the uses of plants, plant growth and processes, propagation, entrepreneurship and service learning.

Over 100 pounds of produce has been harvested and sold to ITech Immokalee Technical School's Culinary Arts Program. The students are learning to take responsibility of the care of the environment and respect the balance of nature. The students are empowered by the success of their garden and take pride in what they have accomplished with their hard work and persistence. For instance, several of the students stay after school a few days a week to work extra hours in the garden. Finally, the students have learned the significance of sustainability by using what they have earned in sales to grow the program for next year and provide opportunities for future field trips and events. **Contact: Anni Galdames, Collier County 4-H**

Two Pinellas Businesses Awarded Green Business Partnership

Since April 22, 2010 marked the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, it was a great pleasure to recognize green businesses in Pinellas County that are making a difference and operating in a sustainable way. The Green Business Partnership, through Pinellas County Extension, is a voluntary assessment that recognizes businesses for their environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. It encourages conservation of resources, waste reduction, energy conservation and cost savings. The Pinellas Green Business Partnership program encourages businesses to evaluate current operations and implement sustainable practices that are feasible and beneficial. The City of Dunedin's *Lasting Impressions* and the City of St. Petersburg's *C&D Printing* have achieved Pinellas County's Green Business Partnership designation. Each business has demonstrated their commitment to operating at the highest level of efficiency that promotes sound environmental practices and cost effectiveness that benefits their business and the community. *Lasting Impressions* implemented many green practices

including installing LED lighting throughout the facility which reduced energy consumption by half and provided a significant cost savings. *C&D Printing* recycles aluminum printing plates, plastics, paper and cardboard, which not only helps the environment, but provides money back which reduces operating costs. As a result, these savings are passed on to the customer. *C&D* also changed out the printing process to eliminate harmful chemicals which provides for a healthier workplace. Like to learn more about the Green Business Partnership? Go to:

<http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/sustainability/GBP/intro.shtml>
or contact Mary Campbell at:
mcampbell@pinellascounty.org

Food Safety for Thought

On Thursday April 22, 2010, a full day program entitled "Food Safety for Fruit and Vegetable Producers" was held at Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Wimauma, FL. Program partners included Hillsborough and Manatee County Extension and a team from the Food Science and Human Nutrition and Horticultural Sciences departments. The program included topics such as microbiology of food borne pathogens, basics and issues of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), worker health and hygiene, postharvest handling and sanitation, the importance of recordkeeping, and food safety audits. A guest speaker from a local tomato packing house delivered real life advice on how to survive the audit process. Seventy five producers, packing house managers, and other vegetable industry representatives attended the meeting. Registration was available online through www.eventbrite.com. As a result of online registration, attendance numbers increased by approximately 47% from a similar program held in 2009. Meeting attendees received a certificate of attendance as well as food safety materials such as hand washing posters and worker training DVDs in English and Spanish. Florida tomato producers and packers are required to complete an annual food safety educational training session and are subject to food safety audits by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). This program satisfied the educational requirement for tomato producers present and gave all attendees the tools to keep successful

records and pass audits. Attendees will now be more prepared to survive as the industry sees regulatory changes in food safety requirements. [Contact: Crystal Snodgrass, Manatee County]

own recognition or short article of interest, please send them to Liz Rossen at lizann@ufl.edu.

New Faculty

Please welcome the following new faculty:

Jamie Cohen (jamieacohen@ufl.edu), Farm Outreach Coordinator Extension Agent I, Marion County, 4/26/10

Resignation

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

Martha Thomas, Ag/Livestock EA I, Lake County, 5/1/10

Retirement

After many years of service and dedication, Joe Pergola (Hillsborough Extension Director and FCS Extension Agent IV) and Mary Williams (Nassau County Extension Director and FCS/4-H Extension 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