



Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

April 2013

Dean's Notes and Quotes

FCS Extension Program Leader

First, I want to thank Dr. Elizabeth Bolton for serving as Interim FCS Program Leader along with her role as Interim FYCS Department Chair. She has done a very good job with these assignments during this past year since the retirement of Dr. Nayda Torres. She has represented the Department along with the FCS Extension program interests very well during this interim period. She will be remaining in this role until the FYCS Department Chair and FCS Program Leader positions become finalized.

As you are aware, we are currently conducting interviews for a FYCS Department Chair. There are three candidates interviewing for this position, and I highly encourage you to take an active role in this interview process. As this FYCS Department Chair position description was created this past fall, it was determined that the duties as FCS Program Leader would be separated from the FYCS Department Chair responsibilities. Consequently, we will be taking steps to cover this major Extension responsibility in an alternative fashion. It is important to note that we are not able to create a new position at this time. As a result, we will be setting this up in a way for a faculty member to have a portion of time to cover this statewide leadership responsibility.

To get this started, I will be facilitating a discussion at the upcoming FCS Summit that will take place the week of May 6. I'd like to hear from the FCS faculty in regard to their interests and expectations for this position. This discussion will be an opportunity for us to have dialogue that will

Table of Contents

Dean's Notes and Quotes	1
Deadlines & Events	2
Meet Your Specialist	2
Local School goes Wild	3
Easy As PIE	3
Collaborative State Partnerships	4
Extension and Ag in Action	5
Beekeeping in the Panhandle	6
4-H Day Camp	6
Turf Tuesdays NW District	7
Tropical Soda Apple	8
GI-BMP Workshop	9
Aquaculture Workshop	9
New Hire/New Positions Resignations/Retirement	10

allow us to describe what we see as the major opportunities and leadership needs for this critical position. This input will be critical in framing how we can best move forward in a way that will advance and strengthen our UF/IFAS Extension FCS program.

So, I am looking forward to this dialogue and hearing from our state and county faculty on May 6. Depending upon what we receive and the level of participation on May 6, I may follow up with a short survey if additional input is necessary. I'll keep you posted as this develops. Keep in mind also that Dr. Bolton will be continuing in her interim role until this decision is finalized.

Quote to live by:

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant." *Robert Louis Stevenson*

Best Regards,
Dr. Nick Place

Deadlines & Events

May 6-9, 2013 - FCS Summit (<http://fyics.ifas.ufl.edu/>)

August 26-30, 2013 - Extension Professional Associates of Florida (EPAF) Conference at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL (<http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu>)

Meet Your Specialist

Jiri Hulcr

Forest Entomology

Ph.D. Michigan State University and University of South Bohemia (Czech Republic) in Systematic Entomology

Email: hulcr@ufl.edu
Tel: 352-273-0299



I came to the University of Florida from North Carolina State University where I did my postdoc. But before that I worked on bark beetles in five different US states, and also in Papua New Guinea, and originally in the Czech Republic where I grew up.

My specialties are forest and tree pests and I also take a special interest in trees, fungi, bacteria, molecular biology, and science communication to the public, including children.

In 2008, I received my degree in Systematic Entomology from the University of South Bohemia (Czech Republic) and in 2009 I got another PhD in Systematic Entomology from Michigan State University.

My work focuses on relationships between forest organisms. I am especially interested in symbioses between forest insects and microorganisms, which is a wonderful biological system, but sometimes it goes out of balance and destroys a continent-worth of forests. That's when you need a forest entomologist to find out what happened and how to prevent it next time. And that's why I am at the University of Florida: to study, understand and interpret what's happening with forest pests in this rapidly changing world. Just as we seem to have gotten the upper hand on the good-old pine bark beetles, a new wave of exotic insects and tree diseases is invading our forests, and we know virtually nothing about them. So if you have a question about any forest pest, please get it touch with me - I may or may not have an answer.

Besides work in the amazing forest in Florida, my most important focus is my family - my wife Andrea who is also an entomologist, and a baby Sabina, who also likes bugs. And in the spare time that I don't have, I like fine arts, non-fiction, and traveling to wild places around the world.

Local School goes Wild

Local school goes wild over 4-H 2012 National Youth Science Day experiment. What started as an after-school group taking on the 4-H Eco-Bot Challenge led to a school-wide Invention Convention training for youth and their parents. The 4-H



Eco-Bot Challenge is engaging engineering design experimentation with an autonomous robot to clean up a simulated environ-

mental spill – a mission that, in real life, would be too difficult or dangerous for humans to carry out. As the teacher in charge of this year's Invention Convention watched



Parents working together to explore Science, Technology Engineering and Math.

the 4-H agent working with a group of youth, she realized it would be a great learning experience for all the 4th and 5th grade students. She requested additional training and equipment to help her accomplish this goal. As a result, a parent night was set up so the school could explain what the Invention Convention was all about Youth utilized the Eco-Bot science experiment to reinforce the problem-solving skill necessary in inventing. During the parent night, the 4-H agent assisted non-English speaking parents with the hands-on part of the project. After learning about how the experiment worked, a 5th grade youth interrupted the agent trying to explain to the parents, stating "I am an expert at this. I did this with you after school and in my class, so I can teach my par-

ents." This youth did an excellent job working with the group and participants were able to complete their task. At this time, two other schools have contacted the agent about utilizing this project as well.

Jean Hink, 4-H Youth Dev EA IV, Pasco Cty

Save the Date! Easy as PIE Webinar Series

Save the Date! Easy as PIE Webinar Series

Date: May 28

Time: 2-3 pm Eastern

Topic: Immigration

Speaker: Mike Carlton, Director, Labor Relations Division, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association.



The immigration debate is heating up. Will the number of allowed temporary nonimmigrant-born farm workers be increased or decreased? Will an immigration deal be announced next week or months from now? How will a particular reform impact agriculture

and the market for hired farm labor?

Join this session to learn the answers to these questions and more including the latest about immigration reform and what it means for agriculture in Florida. Mike Carlton, Director of the Labor Relations Division with the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association will share his experience representing his association on labor related legislative efforts at the federal level.

As director of FFVA's Labor Relations Division, Mike Carlton's primary responsibility is representing the association in labor related legislative efforts on the federal level. Carlton also assists the vice president of Labor Relations in coordi-

nating members' use of the H-2A guest worker program and assisting with compliance efforts with labor laws affecting agriculture. In addition, Carlton serves as executive director of the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation, where he manages the foundation's activities in funding research and in educational and philanthropic endeavors. An industry veteran, Carlton held numerous management positions at Florida Citrus Mutual in Lakeland for 26 years before joining FFVA in 2007, including serving as director of production and labor affairs and director of grower relations. This session will be approved as a UF/IFAS Extension in-service training.

Visit our website to learn more about the Easy as PIE Webinar Series: <http://www.centerpie.com/easy-as-pie/>. Contact Nicole Dodds for more information: ndodds@ufl.edu or 352-273-3139. Registration for the webinar is required and will begin on April 17th.

Collaborative State Partnerships Assist Agricultural Producers

State-funded projects for two Flagler County Farms will provide \$340,000 of financial support for farm upgrades and improvements. Farms located within the western portions of Flagler County are part of a watershed known as the Lower St. Johns River Basin. This watershed, extending from the Ocklawaha River to Jacksonville, is now part of a Basin Management Action Plan that is charged with the responsibility of improving the water quality for that part of the river. Agricultural producers from across the region are already adopting practices to support this mission by participating in a voluntary, state recognized Best Management Practices (BMP) program. In addition to the adoption of these practices, state agencies including Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the St. Johns River Water Management District offered financial assistance

to farms that have interest in exploring more innovative technologies that may benefit the region.



Projects bring new technologies to local farms

There are two Flagler county farms in different phases of the approval process, but both are being strongly supported. Varieties of new concepts are being proposed, ranging from prescribed precision nutrient management to alternative irrigation technologies and improved water runoff management. These practices will not only benefit the individual farming operations through improved resource efficiency and conservation, but they will also benefit the surrounding environments through reduced water consumption and reduced offsite nutrient movement. As part of these projects, a 2 to 3 year monitoring program will quantify both the economic and environmental benefits resulting from the changes. This information will then be used in field days and farm tours to educate other producers across the region about the benefits of the practices. UF/IFAS Extension in Flagler County has played a vital role in coordinating the efforts of the various state agencies, recruiting state specialists and researchers from UF and assisting the land owners through the application process.

Mark Warren, Livestock/Nat Res EA II, Flagler Cty

Extension and Agriculture in Action

Agriculture is a multi-million dollar industry and an important component of the cultural and economic environment in the state of Florida. While the overall economy took a downturn, agriculture continued to be a viable industry, and its sustained vitality is beneficial for all residents. Local agriculture generates a positive impact on the economy by supporting related businesses such as banking, real estate, legal services, transportation, packaging, equipment, seed, agricultural suppliers, services, and marketing firms.

Before moving to Brevard County to become the Commercial Horticulture Agent, I spent three years in Citrus County as their Urban Horticulture Agent. During that time, UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension offered to assist in the development of an “alliance” of agricultural commodity groups. The Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County was formed in 2009 to serve as a voice for agriculture and to build relationships through community education on the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable agriculture.

The success and strength of the Agricultural Alliance has been the group’s ability to gain support from stakeholders, governmental agencies, and elected officials in the community. Chairman Dale McClellan of M&B Dairy and Co-Chairman and past president of the Florida Cattlemen’s Association Larry Rooks bring a wealth of knowledge, charisma, and steadfast leadership to each meeting.

The Agricultural Alliance of Citrus County is committed to achieving its goals of sustainable agriculture through education, marketing and promotion, and involvement in local governmental affairs. To accomplish their goals, a variety of methods have been implemented. Some of these methods include participating in local farmers markets, participating in the AGRItunity Confer-

ence and Trade Show, allowing UF/IFAS to showcase many of its agricultural operations in an educational farms tour, serving in the County’s Stakeholders Advisory Group, and bringing awareness of agriculture to youth in an “Awesome Ag Day.”

The Agricultural Alliance is a unique and eclectic group, with each individual sharing their own set of experiences and expertise with others. Participants from the agricultural industry include blueberry, citrus and strawberry growers, dairy and juice producers, nursery and green industry professionals, vegetable growers, and cattlemen. Governmental partners included County Commissioners, State of Florida Representative Jimmie T. Smith, and representation from Congressman Rich Nugent’s office. The Agricultural Alliance is also supported by the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council and the Citrus County Cattlemen’s Association. The group has also benefitted from the support of such organizations as Florida Farm Bureau and Farm Credit of Central Florida.

Representation from governmental agencies as well as county and state elected officials is invaluable, providing a forum for extension and local farmers to address the needs of the agricultural community and create an awareness of the value of agriculture. UF/IFAS Citrus County Extension Agents also provide updates from UF, offer professional applicator training reviews and licensing opportunities, and help organize group activities and educational programming. The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor and Convention Bureau also lend their expertise in promoting agri-business and agri-tourism in the county.

This unique approach of involving community stakeholders, governmental agencies, and agricultural commodity groups has already been called a model for creating true partnerships at the local level for the advancement of agriculture. Other county extension agents have begun to use the example of the Agricultural Alliance to start similar organizations and continue extension’s mission

of delivering educational programming and increasing awareness of the importance of the agricultural industry for this generation and the next one to come.

Matt Lenhardt, Com Hort EA I, Brevard Cty

Beekeeping in the Panhandle Workshops Continue to Draw a Crowd!

As a result of the successful 2012 Panhandle Beekeeping Workshop Series, the Northwest Extension District Agriculture Agents Program Implementation Team and the UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research & Extension Lab developed a second workshop series for 2013.



Beekeeping tradeshows provide clients a chance to interact with entomologists, beekeepers, real bee hives, and beekeeping products

More than 200 clients have attended the 2013 series across the Northwest Extension District. Interest in beekeeping has expanded tremendously among both hobbyists and professional beekeepers in north Florida. These workshops have enabled clients with common interests to meet and form local beekeeping clubs, such as new clubs in Washington and Jackson counties. These workshops were offered across the panhandle in 15 counties via use of an interactive inter-



Close up view of a frame from a beehive. Inspecting the frames and bees is an important component of maintaining healthy hives.

net conferencing system. A third annual beekeeping trade show is planned for the fall of 2013. This show will provide clients a chance to interact with entomologists, beekeepers, real bee hives, and beekeeping products. Important impacts of these workshops include adoption of beekeeping BMPs that in turn strengthen hive health and establish a line of defense against invasive Africanized bees as they spread to north Florida.

Judy Ludlow, Nat Res/Home Hort/Com Dev CED EA II, Calhoun Cty

4-H Day Camp

4-H residential and day camps have gained in popularity as we continue to offer great programs at a fraction of the cost charged by other organizations. We stress to parents the importance of sharing disability and medical information with the agent so the child is provided a safe, appropriate environment in which to learn. This year, several parents asked about accepting autistic children. No child was turned away and counselors were given the necessary information and training. These youth were not separated or isolated in any way and they did wonderfully in both camp settings. M's mom enrolled him in all three day camps. Afterwards, she told us how fantastic we did with him; he only had one episode of negative behavior at camp and none at home immediately following camp; he continued the lessons or activities at home and could demonstrate what he had

learned; he was excited to attend daily and never asked to stay home; and he did not ask to call or see his mother, which is unusual. The mother stated we worked better with him than any program designed for autistic children and we made him feel welcome and normal. She was highly recommending us to other families in her network. After hearing this, we followed up with parents of other children who had reported disabilities or diagnoses such as autism, ADD, or emotional immaturity. They all agreed that 4-H camps do not leave their children feeling different or like outsiders, the lessons are presented in ways that children with different learning styles can all benefit, and the programs allows for differences and inclusiveness.

Nancy A. Moores, 4-H Agent III, Hernando Cty

Turf Tuesdays in the NW District

Turf Tuesdays was a district wide evening class series for homeowners involved in managing turfgrass.

The information delivered through the class series consisted of practical knowledge to assist homeowners in managing the complex challenges that climate, insect, and disease pose to turf culture. Information from the FYN program, especially Lawn Best Management Practices (BMPs), has been relied on heavily in the curriculum of this series.

This series was organized by the Northwest District Horticulture Program Implementation Team with seven counties participating. Since this series was taught by agents and specialists through videoconference, they were able to maximize effort and productivity while minimizing travel. Host agents included Roy Carter, Alex Bolques, Rob Trawick, Matthew Orwat, Mary Derrick, Larry Williams, Blake Thaxton, Julie McConnell and Shep Eubanks.

Four classes comprised the series. The first class, taught by Larry Williams, introduced the topic of turf management by focusing on soil pH and structure, turf type, and turf selection. The objectives of second class, taught by Matthew Orwat



Participants at the Okaloosa County Extension Office

and Larry Williams, were to educate the participants on turf fertilization and IPM of insect and disease pressures. Lawn weed

control was the main focus of the third class, taught by Beth Bolles and WFREC specialist Ramon Leon. The final class demonstrated the benefits of following UF/IFAS irrigation BMPs to reduce water use, fertilizer runoff, and insect and disease pressures. This class was taught by Rob Trawick

Matthew Orwat, Hort EA I, Washington Cty



Tropical Soda Apple

Tropical Soda Apple (TSA), *Solanum viarum* Dunal (Solanaceae), is an invasive plant accidentally introduced to Florida in the 1980s that is now found in pasture and conservation areas throughout the state. Cattle, other livestock, and wildlife feed on TSA fruit facilitating the spread of seeds in shady hammocks as well as open pastures. Pastureland invaded by TSA is less productive, wildlife corridors are blocked, and native species diversity is reduced.

According to the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser's Office, there were a total of 119,534 acres of land coded as "grazing land" in 2009. Citrus and other agricultural uses are not included within this codification. TSA was ubiquitous on these St. Lucie County grazing lands. Costs associated with this TSA infestation include direct costs such as identification, planning treatment and application of the integrated pest management plan (including follow up treatments) and indirect costs such as lost marketable and non-marketable goods and services such as reduced property values and lowered cattle stocking rates.

Land Management Response to TSA Infestation. (Medal, 2012)

Types of Response	Central Florida Region (includes St Lucie)
Proportion of cattle ranchers who reduce stocking rate (%)	6.1
Portion who controlled TSA (%)	75
Portion who take pasture out of production because of TSA (%)	6
Cost per acre for grazing land owners in central Florida undertaking a practice to manage TSA before biological control agent release.	\$19 per acre

A new weapon against TSA has been transferred to the front line in the battle against TSA: *Gratiana boliviana*, the Tropical Soda Apple Beetle. This biological control agent was found in South Amer-

ica. It was put through host specificity testing and approved by USDA for introduction to Florida. An extension agent, in conjunction with entomologists from UF/IFAS Indian River REC, a 4-H agent, and the Florida Division of Plant Industry conducted a technology transfer of TSA beetles to cattle ranchers in St. Lucie County and other sites around Florida. Site visits and educational presentations were conducted to teach ranchers how to utilize TSA beetles. In addition, a manual entitled "Biological Control of Tropical Soda Apple," YouTube videos, online courses and a TAME Tropical Soda Apple internet portal were developed. Because of these efforts, 100% of the TSA found on St. Lucie County's grazing lands have been impacted by TSA beetles.

On-going research on the economic impacts of the release of TSA biological control is pointing to significant reductions of TSA on developed pasture lands in central Florida (Medal, 2012). Research published in the UF/IFAS Tropical Soda Apple Management Plan indicates that 75% of the grazing land owners in central Florida undertook a practice to manage TSA at a cost of \$19 per acre (before biological control agent release). A follow up survey of Florida's cattle producers was conducted to document the impacts of the TSA biological control agents on Florida's pasturelands. Preliminary results suggest a conservative 50% cost savings. Statewide annual savings of \$3.25 to \$8 million are expected with a permanent total savings of \$108 to \$266 million.

In St. Lucie County, land managers undertook TSA management practices (primarily herbicidal) on 89,561 acres of grazing lands resulting in a cost of \$1.7 million prior to the release of TSA biological control. A study conducted by UF/IFAS scientists during 2006-09 in western St. Lucie County revealed that the density of TSA was reduced by as much as 90% after releasing the biological control agent (Overholt, 2010). Use of the Tropical Soda Apple beetle resulted in a 50% cost savings. St. Lucie County grazing land managers saved a total of \$850,000 as a result of the beetle release.

Ken Gioeli, Nat Res/Env EA III, St. Lucie Cty

NE Green Team Combines Efforts to Teach the Florida-Friendly BMP (GI-BMP) Workshop

In 2012, several members of the Northeast Green Team (horticulture agents) partnered to provide training to landscape professionals across north Florida who needed to become certified in the Florida-Friendly BMP for the Protection of Water Resources (GI-BMPs). The GI-BMP class is required by many counties for companies that apply fertilizer. It is now also a pre-requisite for the State of Florida's Limited Urban Fertilizer Certificate that is required for anyone in Florida who applies fertilizer for hire. Applicators must have this license by January 1, 2014.



Erin Harlow, Commercial Horticulture Agent, teaching a GI-BMP Workshop to Jacksonville Valley Crest employees.

Northeast Florida horticulture agents, led by Senior GI-BMP Instructor and Commercial Horticulture Agent Erin Harlow, have banded together to help each other teach programs. In 2012 and 2013, in Duval County alone 141 professionals earned their certification by passing an exam at the end of the six hour training. Programs are offered almost monthly across the district with the participation of more than 10 different agents. In Duval since 2006, 843 people have been certified, with a total of 19,056 across the state.

In Duval County, the 2012 estimated hourly wage for entry level landscapers is \$8.47 with the experienced landscaper earning \$12.26. Certifications such as the GI-BMPs give landscapers a chance to improve their professionalism and increase their

wages. \$1,068,780 in combined yearly salary increases are possible for the 141 individuals who completed their GI-BMP certificates based on the 2012 wage estimates for landscapers.

Erin Harlow, Com Hort EA I, Duval Cty

Introduction to Aquaculture Workshop in Cocoa, FL

An Introduction to Aquaculture workshop was held in Brevard County on Monday, February 4th. The workshop included speakers from Florida Sea Grant, the UF Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Speakers gave presentations on general topics such as Florida aquaculture overview, aquaponics, fish health management, pitfalls to avoid when investing in Florida aquaculture, state permitting, and aquaculture Best Management Practices (BMPs). Also included were more specific aquaculture topics based on the commodities of shellfish, marine ornamental fish, and baitfish. Thirty-two participants attended the workshop, all with varying interests in delving into aquaculture.

Twenty-three (72% response rate) returned surveys after the workshop. Based on the survey data, 71% (15/21) of respondents were considering starting an aquaculture operation with 10% (2/21) definitely planning on starting one. As a result of the information provided in the workshop, 36% (8/22) of respondents continued their interest in starting up an aquaculture operation with 18% (4/22) definitely planning to start up an aquaculture operation. Forty-one percent (9/22) of survey respondents indicated that they wanted to learn more about a different type of aquaculture product, and 27% (6/22) became more excited about aquaculture options in Florida. The workshop discouraged only two respondents from getting into aquaculture and did not affect the plans of two other respondents. Overall, 94% (17/18) of survey respondents were

either moderately or extremely satisfied with the workshop with only one respondent being only slightly satisfied. This workshop was the third in a series hosted by Florida Sea Grant, with previous workshops having been held in southwest (Ft. Myers) and northeast (St. Augustine) Florida. Future workshops are planned in Miami-Dade and Pinellas counties and in the Panhandle.

Holly Abeels, Marine Sc EA I, Brevard Cty

LeRoy Creswell, FL Sea Grant EA III, Indian River REC

New Hires

Please welcome the following new faculty:

Jeffrey Wasielewski, Fruit Crops EA I, Miami-Dade Cty

New Positions

We would like to Congratulate the following faculty members on their new position:

Julie Dillard, 4-H EA II to CED EA II, Washington Cty

James Davis, FYN to Res Hort EA I, Sumter Cty

Melanie Thomas, FCS EA I, Baker Cty to Duval Cty

Resignation

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

Susan Kelly, Com Dev CED EA III, Sumter Cty

Retirement

We would like to give our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement after many years of service and dedication:

Lucinda Harris, 4-H Youth Dev EA I, Martin Cty



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 Valkyrie Shah.

Please feel free to also forward any questions or comments about this periodical to Valkyrie Shah at valkyrieshah@ufl.edu.
