

Extension Comings and Goings
From the Office of the Dean for Extension
[August 2007](#)

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Streaming Presentation by Dean Larry Arrington

This month's streaming presentation is from Dean Larry Arrington who provides an update on Extension: which includes budget topics, the Extension Symposium and next month's EPAF meeting. Viewing this presentation requires Windows Media Player, along with a relatively fast Internet connection.

[August Comings and Goings-- Dean Larry Arrington](#)

New Faculty - Our Extension Family is growing. Please welcome the following new hires:
Camille Reynolds, Environmental Horticulture, EA II, Orange County, 7/30/2007
Melanie Thomas, FCS, EA I, Baker/Bradford County, 8/10/2007
Christopher Catanzaro, 4-H, EA I, Lake County, 8/10/2007
Megan Brew, 4-H, EA I, Marion County, 8/17/2007

Resignations - We want to wish the following faculty the best of luck in their endeavors:
Shelley Humphries, Glades County, EA IV - FCS/ 4/H, 8/2/2007
Robert Strong, Marion County, EA II 4-H, 8/3/2007
Ray Rafie, Miami-Dade County, EA II Ag Development, 8/6/2007
Steffany Dragon, Hillsborough County, EA I Ag Natural Resource, 8/10/2007
Jessica Bowden, Calhoun County, EA I - 4 H/Ag, 8/10/2007
Rebecca Miller, Madison County, EA I - 4-H Youth Dev, 8/27/2007

Retirement - It was brought to our attention that an error was made in a previous issue of *Comings and Goings*. Patricia Grace was listed under those resigning, when in fact, she retired. We want to wish Patricia well and thank her for her many contributions.



Meet Your Specialist - Amanda Gevens

Amanda Gevens, Ph.D. ([photo](#))

Plant Pathology Department

Dr. Gevens came to the University of Florida from Michigan State University where she was a research associate in the Department of Plant Pathology working in vegetable disease management. Her specialties are management of field and vegetable crops and disease diagnosis. She also takes special interest in pathogen biology and spread, *Phytophthora* spp. In 2005, she received her degree in Plant Pathology from Michigan State University. Her dissertation emphases were documenting and characterizing *Phytophthora capsici* from irrigation water and bean in Michigan, and screening for fruit resistance in cucumber. In Dec 2001, she received her MS in Plant Pathology from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Her thesis emphases were the function and composition of conidial extracellular matrix material and an investigation of the interaction of *Bipolaris maydis* with sorghum followed by phytoalexin biosynthesis.

"I am excited to be working with growers, researchers, commodity groups, and Extension here in the state of Florida. The ultimate goal of my program is to generate and disseminate disease management information that is timely and important to the vegetable and field crop growers and allied industries in Florida."

Dr. Gevens is married to Stephen Jordan, a plant pathologist, and they have a new 5-month old son.

Update on SolutionsForYourLife.com - Just as SolutionsForYourLife.com exists to make Extension information and resources available to the public, the [Customer Service section](#) of SolutionsForYourLife.com exists to make the SFYL Web team's resources available to UF/IFAS faculty, staff, and agents.

On the following pages, you can find the Web team's contact information, training materials for the SFYL templates, Web writing and design guides, Extension marketing materials, accessibility information, and more. You can also check our production schedule and our progress in making the SFYL templates available to Extension offices, UF/IFAS departments, and other offices.

Check out http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/customer_service/ or <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/help/> today!



LSU Agcenter Extension - On July 23rd, Barbra Larson FYN state coordinator, Gary Knox horticulture extension specialist, and Wendy Wilber horticulture agent Alachua County traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to provide a 2 day training for Louisiana State University faculty and staff on the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program. The LSU Agcenter Extension will begin a pilot program of Louisiana Yards and Neighborhood in South Louisiana starting this August. The LSU Agcenter is committed

to implementing the LYN program across their state to reduce nonpoint source pollution in residential areas. UF/IFAS serves as a leader in this arena and the FYN team was able to share support and leadership for the new program in Louisiana and FYN will continue to partner with them in environmental education. Funding for this training was provided by a USDA 406 grant.

Pelican Rescue 101! - The Collier County marine science agent was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Florida Foundation for Responsible Angling to produce a training video for recreational anglers on how to minimize their impacts on pelicans. The county has seen a rise in the number of angling-related injuries to pelicans in recent years as the number of anglers in the area continues to increase. Specifically, the video will focus on proper hook and line removal procedures if a bird is accidentally caught and will also educate anglers on the dangers of feeding pelicans. The agent is working with members of his advisory committee and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center to produce, edit and star in the video. The video will be distributed in both English and Spanish. [Contact: Bryan Fluech]

4-H Youth Become Educated Wildlife Biologists - 4-H, in partnership with Wildlife Extension agent Kristi Candelora, held a wildlife day camp during July with the theme of "What is a Wildlife Biologist?" 4-H kids were introduced to the field of wildlife biology and the contributions made by field biologists. To be a wildlife biologist requires a lot of training, but the three most important concepts involve wildlife, habitat, and human dimensions. Our activities focused on educating the kids in these areas. Youth learned about the wildlife found in Florida, their roles in the ecosystem, and the habitats in which they

reside through games, activities, presentations, and field trips to Babcock Ranch, Buck Island, and Myakka River State Park. A highlight was the presentation by the raptor rehabilitator, Lisa Rodine, who brought in owls and hawks to teach kids about the impact that human activity can have on wildlife. (Contact: Christi Pryor or Kristi Candelora)

Real Colors: Exploring the Diversity of Temperaments - At one time or another, everyone has reached a point where they can only shake their head and wonder, "Why do people do the things they do?" Research has shown that personality is comprised of four distinct temperaments. Real Colors curriculum provides workshop participants the opportunity to identify their personal strengths and learn to recognize the strengths and differences of others. Using the Real Colors temperament assessment tools, participants were able to quickly and accurately identify their own temperament and that of others to enhance communication skills and to appreciate the diversity of temperaments in others. Agent Headlee used the Real Colors curriculum/assessment tools to discover the values for the participant's temperament colors (blue, gold, green or orange). Once their color values were identified, the participants were divided into groups and agent Headlee facilitated several group exercises that stressed the participants' strengths and challenges when communicating. One hundred and fifty-three participants attended the eight workshops Headlee has conducted, partnering with six county agencies/volunteer groups. [Contact: Karen S. Headlee]

\$6,000 Can Start Your Own Biodiesel Plant - Dream Fuels LTD of Washington, DC, recently gave the Lee County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension's Fuel Farming Project a great boost by donating 1,500 *Jatropha curcas* plants to establish a demonstration plot for biodiesel production. This complements the recent offer of two acres of county land from the Parks and Recreation Department, on which the project will be carried out. *Jatropha curcas* is an oil producing plant native to the Americas which holds the potential for producing upwards of 600 gallons of oil per acre. Dream Fuels recently imported the seedlings from a laboratory in India which has been working on high yielding hybrids. The demonstration plot will serve to increase the interest of farmers and landowners in cultivating a crop for bio-diesel as an alternative farming enterprise in Lee County, as well as provide an accessible site where decision makers and other people having an interest can see the actual plants being grown. The CEO of Dream Fuels will make an official presentation of the seedlings to Lee County Commissioners on August 21, 2007. [Contact: Roy Beckford]

Battle of the Brands - A local TV anchor looking for a story called a FCS agent to inquire: "What is the difference between generic/store/name brands?" This led to taping a segment in a local grocery store in Pasco County. Showing on screen, a mock-up of the old generic labels of the late 70's ("no frills" white or yellow with black print), they discussed how times had changed and the quality has improved. By switching from name brands, consumers can save without sacrificing quality or nutrition and may even like the "store" brand (also called "private label") better! Research shows an increase in sales of these store brands when the economy changes. So, now that gas prices, as well as milk and other things, are increasing, if

you aren't doing so already, now is the time to buy store brands and save an average of 15-20% and as much as 50% on some items. This segment ran four times in one day and was featured on the station's website for over a week, reaching an estimated total of 501,701 Tampa Bay viewers so far in July. [Contact: Betsy Crisp]

4-H Families: "Teening-Up" and at "P.L.A.Y." - Two new fun and engaging programs offered by Pinellas County 4-H Youth Development help families overcome the challenges that we all sometimes face while building a stronger family relationship. **4-H Family "Teening-Up"** is a six-week group-learning program to help parents, caregivers and teens (13-17) learn about and understand the normal development of teenagers and improve their family communication. This program focuses on the teen brain, transitions in adolescence, positive discipline, talking with teens about issues that affect their daily lives, and understanding teen anger and managing yours using the UF IFAS developed curriculum, Teening Up With Your Adolescent. **4-H Family P.L.A.Y.** (Parents Learning Along with Youth) is a four-week family experience. Through fun and engaging activities, parents, caregivers and their youth (ages 8-12) learn together about each other while building a safe, strong and healthy environment where family members flourish. Topics include building family strengths, improving communication, practicing decision-making, and getting the family more involved in the community. [Contact: Janet Golden]

Pinellas County "Sustainability in Action" - Pinellas County Extension worked with the County's Facility Management Department to look for ways to reduce energy use and costs for Pinellas County. One opportunity was through the use of light sensors in offices and restrooms that turn lights on and off automatically. The county plans on reducing energy use at a savings of \$786,000 by installing over 1,000 light sensors in 41 county buildings, lowering thermostats and shutting down buildings during off hours. The Pinellas County Extension building was the first building to request all light switches be changed to sensors. By working with county departments, Pinellas County Extension Urban Sustainability Program at the Bushnell Center has encouraged sustainable practices through various county committees and educational meetings. [Contact: Mary Campbell]

Training Center for Handicapped Citizens Nursery Goes FYN - The purpose of the Polk Training Center for Handicapped Citizens Nursery is to employ handicapped citizens to work in the nursery growing plants, taking cuttings, pruning, weeding and installing landscapes. The installation of a Florida-friendly demonstration garden at the site in Lake Alfred is 150 foot by 35 foot garden and contains native and drought tolerant plants, micro-irrigation, pervious walkways, recycled mulch, birdbaths and birdfeeders all installed by the students that work at the nursery. They enjoyed the planting as well as learning about the plants and how the demonstration garden will be used to educate the public. The micro-irrigation was donated and installed by Mister Landscaper, a company that partners with us on many projects. This landscape will serve as a demonstration for county residents and will be a place where people will be able to purchase the plants they see in the landscape. The students at the training

center nursery will be able to use seedlings and cuttings from the plants in the garden for educational purposes and to start new plants for the nursery. [Contact: Anne Yasalonis]

Quick Moves Help Save Million Dollar Landscape - Rapid responses by an Extension agent and specialists have helped to save expensive palm trees in a Sarasota community. The mild winters of the last decade have caused insects and diseases of South Florida to migrate to Central Florida. As a result, two new palm diseases were recently identified in Sarasota County: Lethal Yellowing and Texas Phoenix Palm Decline. Our Commercial Horticulture agent began working with University of Florida researchers Dr. Monica Elliot and Nigel Harrison from the Fort Lauderdale Research Center in May 2007 to identify the disease that was killing 18 Canary palms in Sarasota's Sapphire Shores community. Once the disease was identified, we quickly developed a management plan and fact sheet to alert citizens about the new palm diseases. City foresters responded to Extension recommendations and immediately injected palms with antibiotics to prevent or slow the rapid decline of infected palms within the area. In addition, the local news media provided assistance in publishing two local news articles and one television news report. Sarasota County Extension's quick response preserved 148 susceptible palms within this community valued at \$1.3 million. Sarasota and Manatee County and UF researcher Dr. Monica Elliot have partnered with Treesaver®, the sole supplier of the palm tree antibiotic, to schedule an emergency Palm Disease Update program to educate commercial landscape maintenance companies, nurseries, garden centers and arborists. This program will be held September 6, 2007, with an estimated attendance of over 400 landscape professionals. [Contact: Don Rainey]

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.