

EXTENSION

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

Ocean Hammock

Ocean Hammock and Austin Outdoor have received numerous landscaping awards on the regional and national level. Steve Hatcher, Master Gardener and former board member, was in charge of the \$400,000 project that initiated recognition to the community's beautification efforts. According to Steve, the board's vision and support were the key enablers to the success of the project. He also credits the UF/IFAS Master Gardener program as the impetus for the savings in the project. He and fellow Master Gardener Ann Butler collaborated with a team on the project. Both were by Ruth Micieli, Flagler County Horticulture Program Assistant & Master Gardener Coordinator.



Among the guidelines Steve's team developed for the landscape were to ensure it was attractive, sustainable, cost-effective and easy to maintain. By adhering to Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles, which include taking mature sizes of plants into consideration, the community achieved a consistent, unifying look to the landscape that is easy to maintain, and they saved significant funds in the process.



For more information about this

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success story, including project management, goals and guidelines for the landscape, project planning, implementation, and use and consideration of best management practices for maintenance, please visit: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter/oceanhammock.htm>

Hydrilla IPM Ramp Project Funded

The University of Florida / IFAS Entomology and Nematology Department is pleased to announce successful efforts to obtain grant funding for a new project designed to tackle one of the U.S.'s most troublesome invasive plants: The Hydrilla Integrated Pest Management Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Project (Hydrilla IPM RAMP).

Hydrilla verticillata (a.k.a. hydrilla) is an invasive freshwater plant common in Florida. It was probably brought to the Tampa and Miami areas as an aquarium plant in the late 1950s. By the 1970s, it was established throughout Florida. If left unmanaged, hydrilla is capable of creating damaging infestations which can choke out native plants, clog flood control structures (which can lead to flooding), and impede waterway navigation and recreational usage. In addition, hydrilla is showing resistance to fluridone, a systemic herbicide used to manage it for the past 20 years. According to the University of Florida / IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, millions of dollars are spent each year on herbicides and mechanical harvesters in Florida in an effort to place hydrilla under "maintenance control."

There is a need for experts to design and transfer new, innovative methods of managing hydrilla.

Thanks to a new 4-year, \$500,000 grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, University of Florida / IFAS research and extension faculty, FAMU Faculty and an Army Corps Engineer are tackling the hydrilla problem head-on. This funding will enable the team to study new chemical and biological control methods as part of an overall hydrilla integrated pest management (IPM) plan.

As part of this project, the partnership of researchers will be studying the impacts of the integrated use of a new herbicide, a naturalized hydrilla mining midge and a

native fungal pathogen.

This release is in reference to the USDA NIFA RAMP Grant 2010-02825 "Sustainable Approach for Integrated Management of Herbicide Resistant Hydrilla in the U.S."

For additional information about the Hydrilla IPM RAMP Project, please contact the cooperator nearest you:

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Extension: Citrus County Phone: 352-527-5714

James P. Cuda, University of Florida/IFAS Entomology & Nematology Department Phone: 352-273-3921

Jennifer L. Gillett-Kaufman, University of Florida/IFAS Entomology & Nematology Department Phone: 352-273-3950

Ken Gioeli, University of Florida/IFAS Saint Lucie County Cooperative Extension Phone: 772-462-1660

Stacia Hetrick, University of Florida/IFAS Osceola County Extension Phone: 321-697-3000

Raymond L. Hix, Florida A&M University Phone: 850-561-2216

William A. Overholt, University of Florida/IFAS, Indian River Research and Education Center Phone: 772-468-3922 x 143

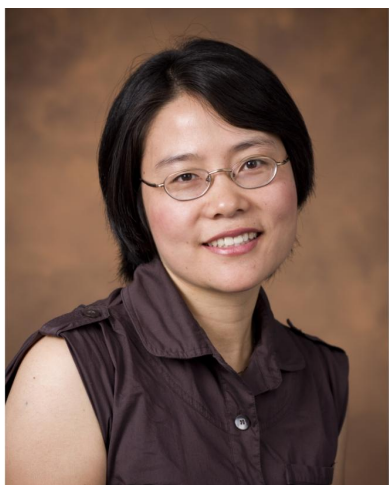
Judy F. Shearer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Research and Development Center Phone: 601-634-2516

Meet Your Specialist - Zhaohui Tong

Zhaohui Tong, Ph.D. Agricultural and Biological Engineering, Email: ztong@ufl.edu Tel: (352) 392-1864

Zhaohui Tong came to UF from Atlanta, GA where she was a process engineer in a chemical and energy business group, Ch2m Hill Engineering Company. Her specialties are bioconversion of lignocelluloses to fuels or chemicals and high value coproduct from biomass. She also takes special interest in colloid and surface

chemistry and nanotechnology. She received her degree in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.



"Currently, I am a new faculty member in Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department at UF. I am also working for UF Biofuel pilot plant as my extension. Before I joined in UF, I lived in Atlanta, Georgia for about 7 years (5 years for my PhD study and 2 years working in industry). My academic background lies in the area of pulp and paper engineering, biomass conversion and polymer composite synthesis. In terms of industrial experience, I have been working in both manufacturing and chemical process design companies for several years and have accumulated some industrial experience in bio- and chemical process design and large-scale technical development in manufacturing. My research interests lie in, but are not limited to, bioconversion of lignocellulosic biomass to fuels (like ethanol), chemicals and value-added co-products."

New Faculty

Please welcome the following new faculty:

Matthew Lollar (mlollar@ufl.edu), Com Hort EA I, Seminole County, 7/23/2010

Basil Bactawar (basilbactawar@ufl.edu), Ag/Nat Res/CED II, Union County, 7/23/2010

Brent Jeansonne (bjeansonne@ufl.edu), Com Hort EA I, Volusia County, 8/20/2010

Michael Davis (michael.davis@ufl.edu), Ag/CED II, Baker County, 9/1/2010

Sue Bartolomeo (sbartolomeo@ufl.edu), FCS Prg EA I, Palm Beach County, 9/3/2010

Stefanie Duda (sduda1@ufl.edu), 4-H EA I, Leon County, 9/3/2010

Laura Sanagorski (lsanagorski@ufl.edu), Env Hort EA I, Palm Beach County, 9/10/2010

Please also welcome Rebecca Jordi into her new position as Nassau County CED III and Environmental Horticulture agent.

Resignations

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

Willetta Lexima, Palm Beach County, Pgm EA I EFNEP/FNP, 8/1/2010

Brenda Rogers, Manatee County, CED IV/FCS, 8/27/2010

Leland Parker, Orange County EA I, Com Hort, 10/2/2010

Retirement

After many years of service and dedication Joy Borgman (Osceola County 4-H/FCS Extension Agent III) has retired. We want to thank her for all of her contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.

