

**Extension Comings and Goings**  
**From the Office of the Dean for Extension**  
**March 2007**

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**Streaming Presentation by Tom Wichman**

This edition's streaming presentation is by Tom Wichman, State Coordinator for the Florida Master Gardener Program. The presentation provided syncs Tom's streaming video with his PowerPoint slides. Viewing the presentation requires Microsoft Explorer, Windows Media Player 9 and a relatively fast Internet connection. For those using dial-up access, a modem version is also supplied, which plays an audio version of the presentation synchronized with the PowerPoint slides. For more information on the Master Gardener program, contact Tom at (352) 392-1831 x 331 or [twichman@ufl.edu](mailto:twichman@ufl.edu).

[Comings and Goings March - Master Gardener Update](#) (DSL or High Bandwidth Access)

[Comings and Goings March - Master Gardener Update](#) (Modem Access)

**New Faculty** - Our Extension Family is growing. Please welcome the following new hires:

Christi Pryor, 4-H EA I, Desoto County, 2/9/2007

Julie P. Dillard, 4-H EA I, Washington County, 3/9/2007

Crystal Fincher, 4-H EA I, Putnam County, 3/9/2007

Kristen Caldelora, Wildlife/ Natural Resources, Prg EA II, Desoto County, 3/15/2007

Glenn Schaibly, Livestock EA II, M/C, Hendry County, 03/23/2007

Collin Adcock, Horticulture EA I, Washington County, 03/23/07

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

Marella Bradway - Marine Extension Agent II - Miami-Dade County - 3/30/2007

Kimberly Coldicott - 4-H Extension Agent III - Monroe County - 3/29/2007

**Retirement** - After many years of service and dedication Freddie Johnson (*Central District Extension Director*), Jan Bennett (*Collier County Courtesy Extension Educators*), and Tom MacCubbin (*Orange County Urban Horticultural Extension Agent IV*) have retired. We want to thank them for all of their contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.

### **Meet Your Specialist - Dr. Marian Marinescu**



*Marian Marinescu, Ph.D.*

*West Florida Research and Education Center*

Dr. Marinescu came to the University of Florida from Forintek Canada Corp., Vancouver, Canada where he worked as a Forest Products Economist. His specialties are forest utilization and economic sustainability and he also takes special interest in bio-energy products and processes, sustainable forest management, and optimizing the forest-to-market value chain decisions. In 2004, he received his degree in Forest Economics from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

"Since I was a lad in my native country, Romania, I have been involved in forestry and wood products manufacturing. I am appreciative of the forest environment and the products and services that the forests provide to human kind. I love being in the forest and I wish I had more time for woodcarving and cabinetry.

My career spanned across a wide range of activities: timber harvesting, road layout and design, timber supply, furniture production, marketing and economics of forest products, teaching, and research. My work experience has been decisive to my career, especially because it revealed the crucial importance of integrating the management decisions along the forest-to-product value chain.

After immigrating to Canada in 1994, during my Master's degree program, I worked on optimization and performance benchmarking of various wood manufacturing facilities. After switching to a Ph.D. program, I was involved in a wide range of forest planning projects to analyze the impacts that sustainable forest management activities had on different sets of economical, ecological, and social values.

With this experience to support me, I am confident that my new job at the University of Florida will reaffirm my conviction in a holistic approach to the utilization of forest products and services; conviction that is based on respect for the forests and the people that produce them."

### **Extension Administration Website**

We have reorganized the Extension Administration page which is linked to Solutions for Your Life. Please visit this website for up-to-date information on faculty development opportunities, internships, program highlights, extension goals for 2007-08 and many more features. The URL is <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu>.

### **2007 UF/IFAS Superior Accomplishment Awards**

We would like to congratulate this year's recipients of the UF/IFAS Superior Accomplishment Awards. These awards honor UF employees who contribute outstanding and meritorious service, improve efficiency and enhance the quality of life at UF. Each awardee received a \$200 cash prize as well as a certificate. The following are the UF/IFAS recipients of the 2007 Superior Accomplishment Awards.

### **Academic Personnel**

Joan Bradshaw	Extension Agent III	Citrus County Extension, Lecanto, FL
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### **Administrative and Professional**

Marion Douglas	Information Technology Expert	IFAS Communication Services
Lindsey Freeman	Coordinator, Academic Support Services	Horticultural Sciences
Al Williamson	Coordinator, Educational Media/Communications	IFAS Communication Services

### **Administrative/Supervisory**

Linda Cowart	Accountant	Facilities Planning & Operations
Charles Hinton	Stores Receiving Manager	IFAS Communication Services
Steve Kearn	Coordinator, Educational Media/Communications	Florida Sea Grant
Sherry Tucker	Administrative Assistant	School of Forest Resources and Conservation

### **Clerical/Office Support**

Janice Barner	Executive Secretary	Agricultural Education and
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Mary Chambliss	Office Assistant	Communication
Dacia Chisholm	Office Assistant	North Florida REC, Quincy
		IFAS County Ext. Operations, South District
Mary Garvin	Office Assistant	Agricultural & Biological Engineering
Janet Lyles	Secretary	Microbiology & Cell Science
Martha Jane Wilson	Senior Secretary	Citrus REC, Lake Alfred
Lee Esther Wallace	Executive Secretary	IFAS Human Resources

**Support Services**

Chadwick Stephens	Maintenance Specialist	Facilities Planning & Operations
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**Scientific/Technical**

Adrian Berry	Senior Biological Scientist	Horticultural Sciences
Brian Kidd	Senior Biological Scientist	North Florida REC, Quincy
Zhijian Li	Senior Biological Scientist	Mid-Florida REC, Apopka
Michael McCaffery	Senior Biological Scientist	Horticultural Sciences
Khuong Nguyen	Senior Biological Scientist	Entomology & Nematology
Chi-Wah Tseung	Senior Biological Scientist	Horticultural Sciences
Basil Wetherington	Biological Scientist	Environmental Horticulture

**New Items for Sale at IFAS Bookstore**



The Extension Bookstore now has Ladies' blouses in plus sizes and a supply of straw hats. The blouses are \$25 and the hats are \$15.

To view larger image, [please click here](#).

**Collier Ag: Blending of the Old and New** - Over 200 participants boarded 4 coach buses to attend the 2007 Agricultural Tour held on March 21 sponsored by the Collier County UIF/IFAS Extension. This year's tour highlighted the history and diversity of the county's agricultural industry. Among many stops, a visit to Lake Trafford, the headwaters of the historic Everglades provided a scenic backdrop to discussions of agriculture and water quality by the Sea Grant program and representatives of Big Cypress Basin of the South Florida Water Management District. Partnering with the Collier County Museum's Pioneer Village at Robert's Ranch, tour participants enjoyed talks on the 3Cs (Citrus, Cattle and Casinos) by

Seminole Tribal members. Finishing off the tour were visits to a local citrus grove and tomato processing facility. [Contact: Robert Halman]

**FYN's Gone Hollywood!** - Florida-friendly landscaping and the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program were featured during two, 5-minute segments that aired on WFLA's (News Channel 8) *Daytime* show. The segments were sponsored by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and focused on water conservation and turf alternatives in residential landscapes. The segments aired on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The second segment may be viewed at this link - [http://daytime.tbo.com/daytime/sponsors/swflwater\\_daytime.htm](http://daytime.tbo.com/daytime/sponsors/swflwater_daytime.htm). SWFWMD also sponsored two full-page color ads the day of the shows in the Tampa Tribune, *Home Section*. [Contact: Marina D'Abreau]

**Why Diets Don't Work** - Pasco County Clerk of the Circuit Court employees looking for ways to slim down in the new year and take on a health challenge asked FCS agent to present a program on "Food Fitness: Myths and Facts." Participants learned about the downside of popular fad diets during a one-hour, "lunch and learn" program. Advice was given on eating a healthy low-fat diet with variety of colorful foods, in moderation. Tips were shared on how to avoid excess calories when eating out. Behavior modification techniques were reviewed and emphasis placed on going slowly and steadily in adopting new practices, not all at once. The next monthly class will cover the new USDA web site at [mypyramid.gov](http://mypyramid.gov) and the importance of increasing activity levels as part of a healthy lifestyle. [Contact: Betsy Crisp]

**4-H Youth Development-** Pinellas County 4-H was recently featured in one of the leading national youth development publication. *Youth Today* published a story on the youth mapping process which Pinellas County 4-H has been participating in since 1999. We serve as the longest ongoing mapping sight in the nation. The full story can be read on the Youth Lead website. <http://www.youthtoday.org/youthtoday/Dec06/sampler.html>  
Contact: Beth Tobias

**Sarasota County Recognizes 4-H Volunteer** - On March 13 the Sarasota Board of County Commission recognized the nearly 40 years of service Elva Farrell has given to the 4-H Program by presenting her with a plaque designating her as **2007 Sarasota County Friend of Extension**. Ms. Farrell has served 4-H as an Extension Agent, 4-H Foundation Member, 4-H Advisory Committee Member, member of the Extension Overall Advisory Committee, 4-H volunteer, judge, fundraiser and donor. She currently serves as president of the 4-H Foundation and is leading the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser for the 4-H Foundation Elephant Ear Booth by introducing Fried Cola to fairgoers this year, the first in the area to bring this Texas treat to Florida. She also led the effort to raise grant funds for a major retrofit of the Elephant Ear Booth. Through this booth the 4-H Foundation raises money to support the 4-H Program in Sarasota County. [Contact: Marcia Morris]

**4H Bat Buddies** - The Sarasota County 4H Reef Rovers Club has gone batty! Awarded a grant from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program to install bat houses in Sarasota and Manatee

Counties, this Club has installed bat houses at five locations in the two counties: Pocono Trail in Nokomis, Crowley Museum in Manatee County, Twin Lakes Park and Longwood Run Park in Sarasota, and Pine View School in Osprey. The Bat Buddies program will provide an alternative habitat for bats, as well as increase public awareness about the ecological value of these native mammals. 4H club members will monitor the bat houses quarterly to check colonization, numbers of bats, types of bats, etc. The 4H Reef Rovers want to help dispel myths about bats and raise awareness of their ecological importance. As the most important natural controller of night-flying insects, the average bat consumes over 3000 insects per night. However, bats are disappearing at alarming rates due to the destruction of their habitats, which are primarily dead trees. The installed bat houses, wooden boxes mounted high on poles, offer safe, alternative roosts. [Contact: Marcia Morris]

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](mailto:lizann@ufl.edu).