

Extension Comings and Goings
From the Office of the Dean for Extension
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Streaming Presentation for May

Our special Extension Symposium was attended by a good number of faculty. Although we had some challenges to overcome, overall, it was very successful. If you missed hearing our Keynote Speaker Mr. Steve Siebert, please tune in to his talk on "Helping Florida be a Sustainable State": <http://pdec.ifas.ufl.edu/symposium/2008/keynote.shtml>

Meet Your Specialist - Megan Dewdney



*Megan Dewdney, Ph.D. ([photo](#))
University of Florida - Citrus REC - Lake Alfred
Email: mmdewdney@ufl.edu Tel: (863)956-1151*

Megan Dewdney came to the University of Florida from Cornell University, where she completed her dissertation on forecasting fire blight infections and studied the epiphytic phase of *Erwinia amylovora*. Her specialty is tree fruit pathology and she also takes special interest in the epidemiology and management of fungal and bacterial plant pathogens. In 2008, she received her degree in Plant Pathology from Cornell University.

"I grew up in the apple producing region of British Columbia Canada and have been working with apples for the majority of my academic and professional career. In addition to working with fire blight, a bacterial disease of apples, I also completed a masters project where we investigated the relative susceptibility of apple cultivars to *Venturia inaequalis*. During the summers of my undergrad I aided the horticultural extension agent in my home area in various apple related tasks. I am still getting used to citrus production where one of the biggest differences is that citrus does not usually lose all of its leaves. It is very exciting to learn all of the new information. My program will be focused on the mitigation of the effects of Citrus Canker and Citrus Greening in Florida."

2008 FAITC Volunteer Grants Competition - Florida Agriculture in the Classroom (FAITC) recently announced the results of the FAITC 2008 Volunteer Grants competition. Fourteen of the 24 grants awarded went to county Extension agents in Florida. Congratulations to the following counties that received funding: Baker, Clay (2), Duval (2), Flagler (2), Jackson, Leon, Palm Beach, Santa Rosa, St. Johns, Taylor, and Washington.

4-H: Save the Dates!

Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc./ 4-H Golf Classic (Chairman-Michael Kenney, Honorary Chair-Commissioner Charles Bronson)

Monday, August 11, 2008 - 12:30pm shotgun start
Disney's Lake Buena Vista Golf Club, Orlando, Florida

4-H Sporting Clays Classic Shootout

Friday, November 14th - 12:00pm
Quail Creek Plantation, Fort Pierce, Florida

12th Annual 4-H Tallahassee Reception & Auction

Tuesday, March 10, 2009 - 5:00pm
Mary Brogan Museum of Art & Science, Tallahassee, Florida

Pier Extension - Since January, the Collier County Sea Grant agent has set up a monthly educational display and demonstration session on sustainable fishing practices in front of the Naples Pier in Collier County. Each winter and spring, the Naples Pier is visited by thousands of anglers, many of whom are from out of state and are not familiar with the local fishery and its regulations. In addition to signage on proper handling techniques, habitat conservation, and fish identification, the agent demonstrates how to use various conservation tools and answers questions about regulations, fishing licenses, marine life. Due to the number of pelicans that get hooked at the pier during peak season, the agent also hands out reference cards that educate anglers on the proper method of removing hook and line from caught birds. Since January the agent has interacted with approximately 300 anglers and handed out over 100 copies of the state salt water fishing regulations and 60 pelican rescue techniques cards. Feedback from about the agent's presence at the pier also prompted the

City of Naples Natural Resource Department to ask him to increase the amount of time he spends doing outreach at the pier next season. [Contact: Bryan Fluech]

Financial Empowerment Through Education and Coaching - Low-moderate income working people often carry large amounts of debt relative to their income and have little savings. Financial education and personal counseling can help these folks better manage their incomes. Tampa Bay Saves, which is coordinated by UF/Hillsborough County Extension in partnership with Consumer Federation of America, received a grant from JPMorgan Chase to provide financial education and coaching in order to help low-moderate income individuals improve their financial situation. University of Florida/Hillsborough County Extension will partner with Bright Beginnings and Genesis Financial Management on this project. The first phase of the project involved Bright Beginning's Family Support Caseworkers. Thirty-four caseworkers received seven hours of financial education training. As a result of this training, 76% of caseworkers attending reported they are better able to evaluate financial products and debt management options (average pre/post evaluation gain was 30%). The caseworkers were also more aware of the value of financial education and will help promote the financial education classes to the 850 families that they serve. The overall success of the program will be measured by how many participants start following a budget, increase their savings and/or decrease their debt, and move away from high cost financial services and towards accounts at banks and credit unions. Success will also showcase Extension's ability to coordinate education projects that enable families to move up the economic ladder. [Contact: Lisa Leslie]

Commitment to Distance Education - According to the outcomes of the 2007 Pinellas County Citizens Survey of more than 800 citizens, the number one preferred communication method for learning about services was through the website and 79% of the respondents have used the internet. Providing distance education opportunities through e-learning to clientele is a priority of Pinellas County Extension. Recently Extension staff participated in strategic planning, which led to re-organizing staff to provide 4 FTE's for distance education, the formation of an office-wide distance education team, program areas developing prioritized deliverables to reach clientele, and a minimum of 25 hours of training in technology/distance education for each staff member to be completed annually. Distance education is important because it will offer existing and new clientele an increased access to learning, provide opportunities for life-long learning, quick access to expertise and a tremendous database of knowledge, and sustainability benefits including saving time and fuel. Our Distance Ed. Strategic Plan can be viewed at: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/technology/Strategic%20Direction%20Distance%20Education%20\(4\).pdf](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/technology/Strategic%20Direction%20Distance%20Education%20(4).pdf) . [Contact: Janet Golden]

Small Livestock Producers Now Have Access to Handling Equipment - Small farm cattle producers have limited equipment resources for proper management of beef cattle. In Polk County, approximately 85% (1,100) of cattle producers operate on a "small farm" (less than 200 acres). Many small farm producers lack the equipment, such as working cow-pens and

livestock restraining systems, necessary to implement various herd management practices, including a herd health program. These cattle operations are less productive and cost efficient. The Polk County Cattlemen's Association donated a livestock restraining system (valued at \$3,500) to the Livestock Extension Program for loan to producers located in Polk County; therefore eliminating the need for the producer to purchase this equipment. It is expected that approximately twenty-five producers will take advantage of this resource thereby saving approximately \$87,500 that may have otherwise been spent on the purchase of the equipment. Producers that implement a herd health management system can also recognize an average return of \$60 to \$80 per head. Twenty-five producers with an average herd of thirty-five head would on average recognize a total return of \$61,250. [Contact: Bridget Carlisle]

When Master Gardener Claudia Cannon visited the Cyesis Teen Parent Program, she saw a campus of portable buildings, concrete and only sparse turf vegetation. Claudia's initial goal was to create to a small garden for the toddlers to discover nature and grow vegetables. The "Mommy and Me" curriculum time now includes a special time for young parents to work and bond with their children in a garden setting while gaining an appreciation for the importance that nature plays in the developmental life of their children. For most of the parents, this is their first gardening experience and they are learning about nutrition and providing healthy meals for their family. Claudia's gardens have touched countless lives: children, parents, volunteers, teachers and staff. She has partnered with other community-based groups: All Faiths Food Bank, Healthy Start Kids, NAEYC, and SPICE to teach other daycare centers how to incorporate gardening into their programs. [Contact: Patricia Porchey]

IFAS IMAGE Awards - Congratulations to Alyssa Dodd, Ron Rice, and Laura Adams of the Palm Beach County Extension Service on receiving the Grand IMAGE Award for 2007:
http://emr.ifas.ufl.edu/grand_winners_2007.html

Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals - The Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (FANREP) has announced its winners of the annual FANREP Awards of Excellence. The FANREP Awards of Excellence Program fosters high standards among its members and helps expand the use of high quality, innovative educational materials and programs by honoring the outstanding members and partners who developed them. Winners in the various award categories are listed below.

Short Publication

First Place: Annemarie Post, Sarasota County
Second Place: Bob Swett, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
Third Place: Joan Bradshaw, Citrus County

Series of Newspaper Articles

First Place: Joan Bradshaw, Citrus County
Second Place: Bryan Fluech, Collier County

Slide Set

First Place: Christian Miller, Miami-Dade County
Second Place: Christina Verlinde, Santa Rosa County
Third Place: Maia McGuire, Flagler County

Website

First Place: Mary Campbell & Robert Spencer Curtis, Pinellas County
Second Place: Bob Swett, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
Third Place: Elizabeth Staugler, Charlotte County

Promotional Materials

First Place: Christina Verlinde, Santa Rosa County
Second Place: Joan Bradshaw, Citrus County
Third Place: Mary Campbell, Betty Lipe, Pam Brown, Nan Jensen, Janet Golden, Pinellas County

Long Publication: Bill Giuliano, Dept of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Video: Bryan Fluech, Collier County

Early Career Leadership Award: Fitzroy Beckford, Lee County
Innovative Program Award: Andrew Diller, Escambia County
Individual Program Leadership: Elizabeth Staugler, Charlotte County

New Faculty - Please welcome the following new faculty:

Sherri Hood, FCS/4-H Extension Agent II, Wakulla County, 6/02/2008
Shelley Swenson, FCS/EFNEP Extension Agent II, Wakulla County, 6/30/2008

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

Janet Bargar, Indian River County, Water Quality Extension Agent II, 05/01/08
Christine Rainbolt, Palm Beach County, Master Gardener Courtesy Extension Agent I, 05/04/08

Retirement - After many years of service and dedication Gary Brinen (Alachua County Horticulture Extension Agent IV) has retired. We want to thank him for all of his contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.

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.