

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

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New Faculty - Our Extension Family is growing. Please welcome the following new hires:
Lelan Parker, Commercial Horticulture EA I, Orange County
Michael S. Gutter, Family Youth and Community Sciences Assistant Professor
Geoffrey C. Denny, Environmental Horticulture Assistant Professor, Gulf Coast REC
Amanda J. Gevens, Plant Pathology Assistant Professor
Andrew W. Macrae, Gulf Coast REC / Horticultural Sciences Assistant Professor
Shouan Zhang, Tropical REC / Plant Pathology Assistant Professor

Resignations - We want to wish the following faculty the best of luck in their endeavors:
Jennifer Hitchcock, Volusia County, Urban Horticulture EA I, 9/20/2007
Joel Douglas Meyers, Orange County, 4-H EA II, 9/27/2007
Adrienne Britto, Broward County, 4-H/Youth CED III, 9/30/2007
Pam Mattis, Duval County, Commercial Hort./Pest Mgmt EA I, 9/30/2007

Retirement - After many years of service and dedication Bert Henderson (Pinellas County Energy Extension Agent II) has retired. We want to thank him for all of his contributions to UF/IFAS Extension.

Meet Your Specialist - Gary Vallad



Gary Vallad, Ph.D. ([photo](#))

Gulf Coast Research and Education Center

Email: gvallad@ufl.edu Tel: (813)633-4121

Dr. Vallad came to the University of Florida from the University of California at Davis where I researched management strategies for soil-borne pathogens of lettuce as a postdoctoral scholar. His specialty is the

management of vegetable crop diseases. In 2003, he received his degree in Plant Pathology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

"I'm a native Floridian, but spent most of my childhood in rural North Dakota. However, I've always had a keen interest in Florida and fond memories of the Everglades, the Keys and citrus groves. It's ironic that after nearly 30 years of living in the Midwest, I find myself returning to the state as a vegetable pathologist. I feel fortunate to have this opportunity to rediscover Florida with my family. On the side, I'm an avid outdoorsman who enjoys fishing, hiking, camping and nature photography. I also enjoy a leisurely game of golf and sunsets on the beach."

The 2007 Extension Professional Association of Florida meeting was a great success! Congratulations again to all those award winners! It is great to recognize excellence in programming by our hard working and dedicated faculty. It was also nice to see colleagues and friends spending quality time together. Tom Wright our photographer took some fabulous photos. Take a look. Following are some links.

To view: <http://kingdom.ifas.ufl.edu/ifasphotos/EPAF2007/>

Download: <http://kingdom.ifas.ufl.edu/ifasphotos/EPAF2007/download>

Gardening Radio Show Celebrates One Year of Programming

GAINESVILLE, Fla. --- "Gardening in a Minute," the award-winning University of Florida Extension radio program, celebrates its one-year anniversary this month.

The first show aired October 2, 2006, and since then almost 260 shows have been broadcast—covering topics as wide ranging as wildflowers in the garden, organic fertilizer, mowing safety and Arbor Day.

"We make sure 'Gardening in a Minute' appeals to gardeners of all levels, and that it's friendly and fun," said Tom Wichman, the program's host and main content reviewer.

In the first year of programming, the "Gardening in a Minute" radio program and companion Web site received five national communications awards. Each show is one minute long, but the Web site has more information about each topic.

"The show is a great way to get people to the Web site, where we have tons of great research-based facts and tips for our visitors," said Wichman.

The gardening information offered comes from the University of Florida, as well as other land-grant universities and the U.S. government. Transcripts and MP3s of all the shows are also available online.

"Gardening in a Minute" is funded by the Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, which was created by the Florida legislature in 2006 to conduct research, outreach and education related to sustainable landscape management practices.

Both the "Gardening in a Minute" radio program and Web site emphasize "Florida-friendly" gardening practices, which aim to impact the unique Florida environment as little as possible.

"Gardening in a Minute" airs every weekday on NPR stations in 19 counties in North Central Florida and will be expanding to other stations in the near future.

Wichman, who is a University of Florida alumnus, was a Florida Cooperative Extension horticulture agent in Orange County for six years before he was hired in his current position as Florida Master Gardener Coordinator.

Wichman also serves as an unofficial gardening advisor to almost everyone he comes across.

"I love to garden," he said. "There's nothing more exciting to share and talk about."

Produced by WUFT-FM in Gainesville, "Gardening in a Minute" can be heard on that station and WJUF-FM in Inverness at 6:18 p.m.

For more information about "Gardening in a Minute," contact Sarah Graddy, Senior Information Specialist: sgraddy@ufl.edu / (352) 392-1831 ext. 244.

Co-existing with Florida Wildlife: Partners for protecting livestock - The Collier County Agricultural and 4-H Youth Development programs have joined forces with Defenders of Wildlife, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge, Mountain Lion Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service to increase predator awareness. Three public meetings in various regions of the county were held, covering panther history, biology and human/animal interactions and protection alternatives. One of these awareness meetings was hosted by a county commissioner. In addition, the group, with in-kind materials and funds leveraged from these partners, implemented the construction of three panther/predator pen building sessions enlisting the aid of 4-H members, local resident volunteers and agency personnel. One pen was constructed adjacent to the horticultural gardens at the county extension office as a permanent demonstration structure. Its location provides a natural backdrop for the logistical utilization of the pen in the home/farm landscape. We plan to provide descriptive signage on the pen with print materials available, as well as have it featured on our website. This Florida enclosure project provides one alternative to protect pets and livestock from predators like stray dogs, bobcats, coyotes and panthers, as well as to launch a program designed to help people co-exist with wildlife. (Contact: Robert Halman)

Master Gardener College - a reward for veteran MG Volunteers - The majority of the Pinellas County Master Gardeners find the annual Florida Master Gardener Training Conference too expensive to attend. The MG mentors asked if there was anyway that UF/IFAS specialists could provide training here in Pinellas County so that a larger number could have the benefit of training. Through collaboration with Sydney Park-Brown in Hillsborough County and Jim Moll in Hernando County, we put together three training

sessions involving specialists in Gainesville and at several research centers. These training sessions were broadcast via Polycom from these various locations to each participating county. This saved travel time and expenses for both Master Gardeners and specialists. Programs were scheduled as *General Horticulture Topics* on March 20, *Pest Management Update* on April 3, and *New or Underutilized Plants* on April 17. A survey of participants on April 17 showed that 51% attended all three sessions, 32% attended two sessions and 17% attended one session. In addition, 13% rated this training method "more effective," 60% rated it "as effective," and 25% rated it "less effective" than traditional training methods. We also asked if they would attend future MG training using this Distance Education style, and 92% answered "yes," 0 % answered "no," and 8% were "unsure." The survey results and the comments indicate that Polycom is a successful way to provide advanced training for Master Gardeners in various locations while saving time, energy and money. [Contact: Pam Brown]

Awards and Recognitions

Congratulations are in order for the following UF/IFAS Extension faculty who received 2007 recognition and awards from the Extension Professionals Association of Florida:

Recognition	Winner
Alden Hilliker Youth Development	Deborah Nistler
Alto & Patrecia Straughn Extension Educational Improvement	Stephanie Toelle
Alto Straughn Distinguished 4-H	Andrew Toelle
Art Hornsby	Tom Obreza
Seymour Goldwebber	Jonathan Crane
John & Martha Woeste	Grisel Negron
Marshall & Mildred Watkins	Elizabeth Staugler
Mary Harrison	Stephanie Toelle
Master Gardener	Terry DelValle
Sadler	Donna Peacock
Sadler	David Dinkins
Dallas Townsend	Pam Roberts
Wachovia	John Stevely
Wachovia	David Dinkins
Christine Taylor Waddill	Mary Williams
Jim App	Goal 7

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.