
# Environmental Horticulture NEWS

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The Bulletin of the Environmental Horticulture Department at the University of Florida


## In This Issue:



*SUMMER'S COMING!*

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS

## Chairman's Message

Technology has changed our lives in so many ways. Computers nearly control our lives through email, instant messaging and information from the internet. Computers in cars now tell us how to get where we're going. UF/IFAS, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Environmental Horticulture are using technology to offer full degrees in Environmental Horticulture and Turfgrass Science at six statewide locations.

Technology allows us to have live interactive lectures and discussions simultaneously from all sites. So, we are able to use our faculty throughout the state to teach courses to each location. For instance, Plant Identification is taught by Bijan Dehgan (Gainesville), Annual and Perennial Gardening by Rick Schoellhorn (Gainesville) and Plant Propagation by Sandy Wilson (Ft. Pierce) and Mack Thetford (Milton). All laboratories for these courses are taught locally by our faculty. So, we identify the faculty member most knowledgeable on a subject and they can teach all of our students statewide. We expect to begin offering some courses on the web soon. Use of web-based instruction provides flexibility for every student as the course lecture materials can be viewed and studied anywhere. The full degree, however, will not be available on the web, which will allow us to develop student communication and people interaction skills necessary in the Environmental Horticulture and Turfgrass Science industries.

Our faculty has established that Environmental Horticulture Education at the University is "Education with a Personal Touch." With new technology and instruction techniques changing the way we offer classes, we remain committed to knowing and mentoring each student for lifelong success. [see the article on our statewide teaching program pg. 2].

## Third Annual Great Southern Tree Conference Draws Nationwide Attendance

Two dozen speakers from a half dozen states as far away as Oregon gave presentations to 338 attendees of the Third Annual Great Southern Tree Conference (GSTC), held at UF this past December 5th - 6th. This educational event, designed jointly between the FNGA and UF, is intended to demonstrate the latest tree production and landscaping technologies for the southeastern United States. It is funded by growers and allied industry partners, while UF supplies the location, "cutting edge" research results, organization and personnel to make this event possible.

Presentations and demonstrations were split between the Hilton - UF Conference Center and the GSTC Demonstration Site. The site is a unique area that supplies hands-on experience and the opportunity to view about two dozen ongoing projects.

*Scott Jones gives a pruning demonstration at the Great Southern Tree Conference.*

The target audience included propagators and growers, urban foresters, allied suppliers, educators, UF students, fertilizer suppliers, and container manufacturers.

# Environmental Horticulture Teaching:

Preparing industry-ready students for the landscape and nursery industry is the primary goal of UF's Environmental Horticulture program. Placing students has been a growing pursuit of the program for the past 20 years. Currently, a BS degree in Landscape and Nursery Horticulture can be obtained from six different locations throughout the state. The program started in Gainesville in 1956. The first south Florida location was formed in 1984. Since then, strategic locations have been added all the way to Milton in the Florida Panhandle.

Lisa O'Bea Hall (BS '78) was hired as academic coordinator in 2001 to develop an active recruitment effort, coordinate efforts between all five sites, and to assure that each location demonstrates academic excellence and provides equal assistance to its students. Lisa works out of the Gainesville campus. Coordinating all five satellite locations is easily accomplished through the main department, together with each site's student services coordinator. Scheduling courses, certifying students for graduation and sharing scholarship and internship information are part of our statewide collaboration. Courses are taught live at all locations and also offered as live broadcasts from Gainesville and the other statewide locations. Coordinators also work together at recruiting events, promoting the "statewide" and their local program.

## Gainesville

The Gainesville campus offers Turfgrass Science, and three specializations of Landscape and Nursery Horticulture: Landscape and Nursery Management, Public Gardens Management, and Environmental Horticulture Operations. Turfgrass Science is also offered at the Ft. Lauderdale and Milton locations. Students can participate in the Landscape and Nursery Management and Environmental Horticulture Operations specializations at all five locations.

The Gainesville program has also offered additional learning and professional venues for students. The annual Scholarship Night provides an opportunity for students to gather current information and apply for scholarships. At Internship Night, students meet with industry representatives for potential internships. And, Alumni Career Night, offered in the spring, brings in a large number of students seeking information from graduates of our program. We believe that industry-ready students need firsthand knowledge of life in the working world and must know what is expected of them after graduation. Our student advisory committee was formed to help the department get the student perspective on course and program issues. We continue to strive to improve interaction between students and faculty; this has always been a positive aspect of our program.

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## Fort Lauderdale

The Fort Lauderdale site was our first off-campus program. It currently consists of 50-70 landscape horticulture and turfgrass students each term, roughly 1/3 of these seeking degrees. The other off-campus programs were initiated around the state due to its striking success. The continued growth of this program is partly attributable to its evening (few start before 6 pm) and Saturday course offerings, with their special appeal to working adults.

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Another plus of this program is its convenient location between Palm Beach and Dade counties, one of the most populated urban areas in Florida. Within easy access of I-95, I-75, and the Florida Turnpike, the Ft. Lauderdale campus is part of a "mega-educational" center that includes Broward Community College, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, and Nova Southeastern University. This educational mecca provides a large student base to draw upon and a large variety of people (meteorologist, lawyer, doctor, and retired military) taking courses, some looking at horticulture as a second career.

Innovative marketing techniques have also helped this program grow. A "certificate" program was developed for those students who want to take classes but are not interested in a degree. Students complete four courses in a subject area and receive a certificate for that subject. Currently, certificates in Lawn and Ornamental Pest Problems, Environmental Turfgrass Science, and Gardening in Florida are offered.

## Milton

The panhandle of Florida is host to one of our most active programs. Located on the campus of Pensacola Junior College, the Milton program began in 1995. Its setting is more of a traditional campus with traditional students. Currently, 19 students are majoring in Turfgrass Science or Landscape Nursery Management.

Backed by the recruiting efforts of Rick Puckett (former military recruiter) and a young ambitious faculty, this program continues to be a strong presence in northwest Florida. The campus' ideal

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# It's Not Just For Gainesville Anymore!

location draws students from Florida as well Georgia and Alabama.

Milton also offers a teaching greenhouse, nursery space and a student garden. Students have formed an active horticulture club and have created a state-of-the-art student lounge and study area with six computers as well as furniture and equipment for meetings and social gatherings. "Team Turf" was formed this year and competed in the National Turf Bowl in San Diego this past February. The student club also sponsors an annual Spring Garden Festival plant sale in early April. As part of the statewide goal to promote student interaction between all UF teaching sites, three Milton students will participate in our May student trip to Holland.

The faculty and staff feel the support and encouragement they receive daily from the Gainesville campus has allowed them continued growth in student numbers as well as provides the University of Florida standards of excellence in course delivery to their student body.

## Miami

With a major presence in the southernmost part of the state, the green industry and residents of Dade and Monroe counties can take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by this unique program. Some of the exceptional classes available are Orchidology, Palm Production and Culture, and Survey of Arboriculture. Students often visit local nurseries that specialize in production of tropical plants. The facilities include a new classroom and greenhouse/headhouse/shadehouse dedicated to student classes and projects. Current student Laura Sanagorski and resident of the Florida Keys says "It's amazing to be able to live here and work with the tropical plants I love, and pursue the degree I want." For more information contact Wendy Meyer (see below).


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## Apopka

This off-campus teaching program was established in 2001. Apopka, often referred to as the "Indoor Foliage Capital of the World," is just northwest of Orlando. This state of the art facility, on 200+ acres, is adjacent to Lake Apopka. The teaching program is well-supported by the local landscape and nursery industries. The continued growth and development of central Florida provide students with the opportunity to pursue careers in the Environmental Horticulture field after graduation.

While at MREC, students have the opportunity to work closely with research faculty in a variety of disciplines, including woody ornamentals, plant propagation, plant breeding, plant pathology, entomology, and water-wise landscape ornamentals. Dr. Michele Scheiber is undergraduate ENH advisor and also teaches Residential Landscape Design, Landscape Plant Establishment, and Landscape and Turfgrass Management. MREC students recently designed and constructed an esthetically pleasing half-acre teaching garden, showcasing plant materials and turfgrass common in local landscapes. A four-tier water fountain is the garden's focal point, and students are often found studying at the picnic table beneath the garden arbor.



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## Plant City

The Plant City campus is located only 15 miles from the I-4/I-75 corridor. These two interstate highways feed major industries and businesses that address Florida's high-technology, agricultural and natural resource needs. UF/IFAS and Hillsborough Community College have partnered to create an education, research and extension initiative to support West Central Florida's agriculture and natural resources industry sectors. This effort will provide place-bound students with an opportunity to earn their BS degrees from UF.

Hillsborough County, and particularly Plant City, have strategic and significant economic horticultural importance. Annual ornamental plant production in Hillsborough County contributes $191 million to Florida's economy, the largest percentage of total value by a commodity. Because of the strong influence of the ornamental industry in the Plant City area, the Landscape and Nursery Management degree was first offered on the Plant City campus in the summer of 2002. Students can earn their AA degree from HCC and transfer to the UF/IFAS Plant City campus to obtain a BS in Landscape Nursery Management. Traditional and non-traditional students are equally welcomed into the student body. In addition, industry personnel may enroll as non-degree students and take any of the courses in the curriculum.


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# Internship Corner

## Exotic Internship Destination: The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London, England)

Public Gardens Management student Grace Chapman spent her fall semester in London, England interning at the prestigious Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This 132-hectare garden contains an extensive arboretum, water features, herbaceous borders and beds, and six of the world's largest botanical glasshouses. Established over 200 years ago, Kew has changed dramatically through its long history. Originally owned by the British royal family, Kew's current layout is the result of work from famous 18th century garden designers such as Charles Bridgemann and William Kent. Over 500 employees, students, volunteers, and interns maintain Kew. In addition to the extensive plant collections, Kew holds over six million herbarium specimens and a widespread economic botany library and artifact collection.

Interns at Kew work four days a week in a specific area of the garden and dedicate one day to field trips and lectures. This included tours of different areas of the garden, libraries, and herbarium, the Jodrell Laboratory, the nurseries, glasshouses, arboretum, and the micro-propagation laboratory. The interns also keep a daily journal of their experiences and are required to present a "plant of the week."

Grace worked in the tropical Princess of Wales Conservatory and in the Temperate House. These areas gave her extensive work with fertilization, pest control, pruning, and basic maintenance of two very different conservatories. She also conducted several independent research projects on Kew's propagation techniques of *Nepenthes, Plectranthus*, *Zephyranthes* and *Habranthus* species.

Grace enjoyed experiencing British culture firsthand. She lived with an English family and rode a bike along the beautiful Thames River to work. On the weekends she visited historic sites such as the Tower of London, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and the many area museums and galleries. Grace states "I feel truly fortunate to have been able to work and live in London. The experience of working at Kew was beyond compare, and the horticultural knowledge that I gained was beyond measure. I highly recommend interning abroad. I now have an idea of how public gardens in other countries operate, and I can use this knowledge in my future employment in the US."

*Grace Chapman with some of the tropical species she worked among during her internship at Kew Gardens in London, England. Above, Grace with* Nymphaea, *a water lily; below, with the rare titan arum,* Amorphophallus titanum.

# Alumni News

**'03 Hui Cao** (MS) is employed by Penang Nursery in Apopka, FL as an assistant production manager growing foliage plants.

**Josh Crawford** (BS) is working at Fiddlesticks Country Club in Ft. Myers, Florida as the Horticulturist/Landscape Manager.

**Phillip Hamilton** (MS) is Head Grower for DeLeon's Bromeliads, Mount Dora, FL. DeLeon's is the second largest producer of finished bromeliads in the U.S. and has been producing finished wholesale orchids for the last six to seven years. The Mount Dora location currently has five acres under orchid production.

**Brandon McLane** (BS) and **Karen Kim** (BS) are currently working for Pike Family Nurseries, Atlanta, GA as assistant managers. Their jobs include unloading plant inventory, managing employees, assisting customers, and diagnosing diseased plants. Karen is working at the Buckhead location in central Atlanta and Brandon is located in Marietta. Brandon says "the job is exciting and brings a new list of challenges each day." Both alumni interned at Pikes.

**Challen Mullen** (BS) has been hired as senior horticultural technician at Jacksonville Zoological Gardens.

**Jennifer Parrish** (BS) has taken a position with Agri-Starts, Inc. She will be working as a sales liaison for all locations and the Ball Horticultural Company.

**Beverly Underwood** (PhD) is working as post-doc at the TIGR Institute for Genomics Research in Rockville, MD.

**'02 Nicholas Pool** (BS) is a graduate student in the Agronomy Department at UF.

**'00 Leanne Pyle** (BS) has been promoted to marketing program manager at Paul Ecke ranch, California. She manages the many projects that make up pack trials, catalog creation, web content management, advertising and press release distribution. She has also taken up surfing as well as indulged in Hawaiian Fire Dancing.

**'99 Rodney Rubright** (BS) is employed by Spring Hill Nursery, Apopka, FL.

**'98 Cathryn Flenniken** (BS) worked at James Island County Park in Charleston, SC as Grounds Crew Chief for two years. Presently she is with the City of Greenville, SC as the Public Garden Manager for Falls Park on the Reedy.

**'96 Bary Greenwalt** (BS) is a Senior Superintendent with OneSource Landscape and Golf Services. Located in the Villages, Ocala, FL, he is responsible for 90 holes of golf. He oversees four superintendents and five assistants with about 60 associates. OneSource currently runs over 200 holes of golf and in the next ten years will increase to over 700. Greenwalt obtained the status of certified golf course superintendent from the GCSAA in spring, 2003.

**Jan Weinbrecht** (MS) along with his wife Cindy are the proud grandparents of Lee Bryan Hodges, born November 3, 2003.

**Claire Williams** (BS) and her husband Rob welcome their son Ash Carlton Williams born November 29, 2002.

**'86 Meg Niederhofer** (MS) was featured in the Gainesville Sun, January 16, 2003 highlighting Gainesville's celebration of their 20th year of participation in the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program.

**Theresa Rust Estock** (BS) is co-owner of the newly opened Harmony Gardens in Gainesville, FL. Previously she was employed as an inspector for DPI and worked in Atlanta (94-97) for the USDA as a plant protection and quarantine officer. She has two children: Samuel 6, and Molly 4 1/2.

**'81 Kathy Bergsma** (BS) was named information security manager for the University of Florida, July 2003.

**'79 Tim Harris** (BS) is an Account Manager for ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance, Orlando, FL.

**'75 Earl Poppell** (BS) works for S&G Flowers, Plant City, FL, and has been Regional Sales Manager and National Accounts Manager since 1991. Over the years he has served on the floriculture committee of FNGA.

**'49 Carl Loop** (BS) was recognized as a distinguished alumnus for a lifetime of service in agriculture in the July 2003 UF/IFAS SHARE and Alumni News.

## Scholarship funds awarded to Environmental Horticulture students reach $81,550 in the second half of 2003

Environmental Horticulture students in the last half of 2003 have been awarded the most scholarship dollars ever documented, says our scholarship "guru" Judy Wilson. She has been helping ENH students get scholarships since 1992, when she began her work in student programs. This figure represents a more than 50% increase over the 2002 total.

| Name of Scholarship | Award | Name of Scholarship | Award |
|---|---|---|---|
| Action Chapter - FNGA | $1,250 | Garden Club of Halifax Country | $500 |
| Arthur Andres Memorial Sch. | 3,000 | GCSAA Scholars Award | 2,000 |
| ASHS Travel Grant | 200 | Herb Nall Sch. (Baldwin Co Al MastGard) | 1,000 |
| Bartlett Tree Foundation | 2,000 | Hoskins McDougal Memorial Sch. | 1,000 |
| Batson Sch. | 13,500 | IFAS Travel Grant | 800 |
| Big Bend - FNGA | 2,000 | James H. Davis Memorial Sch. | 1,250 |
| Brandon Family Sch. | 1,000 | Men's Garden Club of Jacksonville | 3,000 |
| Central East Coast Chapter FNGA | 500 | Military Officers Assoc. of America | 500 |
| Charles & Thelma Palmer Sch. | 4,000 | NE Florida, FNGA | 1,500 |
| Davey Tree Company | 1,000 | Phelps Sch. | 12,850 |
| Edgar A Martin Sch. | 1,000 | Share General Sch. | 1,000 |
| ENH Grad Student Travel Grant | 200 | Sidney B. Meadows | 7,500 |
| FIRST Sch. | 1,000 | Stapleton Memorial Sch. | 1,000 |
| Florida Federation of Garden Clubs | 7,500 | Tampa Bay Chapter, FNGA | 500 |
| Florida Rural Rehabilitation Coop | 2,000 | Windermere Garden Club | 2,500 |
| Frederick Bright Sch - Brevard Cty. | 1,000 | Wisteria Garden Club of Fairhope, AL | 1,000 |
| FTGA General Sch. | 2,500 | **Total** | **$81,550** |

## New Teaching Greenhouse Facility Up and Running

Hands-on laboratory instruction is important to our academic programs. Students must have the opportunity to take classroom concepts to the greenhouse and field and experience planting, pruning, pinching, fertilizing, watering and all other cultural practices required to grow and maintain ornamental plants and turfgrasses.

We are excited and very pleased to have a new greenhouse devoted to teaching laboratories and for graduate student projects in floriculture, nursery production and foliage plant production. Few universities have a greenhouse devoted to teaching undergraduate and graduate students. The sawtooth greenhouse environment is computer controlled and an internal shade system provides light control throughout the day. The greenhouse was designed with expanded metal and subirrigation benches so that students could understand the different cultural practices required for these irrigation systems.

Our new greenhouse was donated by United Greenhouses, XXX Wisconsin and funds for construction were provided by Ball Horticultural Company, Northeast Florida FNGA Chapter, Wes and Vicki Parrish and the UF/IFAS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station. We are extremely grateful for the donation of this greenhouse and for funds for its construction. Our students will benefit tremendously from this new greenhouse space.

# FACULTY FOCUS

## Jianjun Chen
**Assistant Professor**
**(MREC Apopka)**

Florida is the nation's foliage plant leader, producing $460 million of the 2002 wholesale value of $663 million. Florida's industry is characterized by intensive production - up to 300,000 containerized plants per acre. Until recently, almost all foliage plants have been grown in soilless media with its limited nutrient- and water-holding capacity. The high annual water and fertilizer usage have raised concerns about the impact of the industry on environmental quality, prompting growers to seek ways to produce plants with a minimum of detriment to Florida's environment.

As a member of the Environmental Horticulture extension team that is developing best management practices (BMPs) for the greenhouse/nursery industry, Dr. Jianjun Chen, an Environmental Horticulture assistant professor at the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC-Apopka) is developing BMPs for foliage plant production. A holistic evaluation of plant species, fertilizer application rates, container media, and irrigation methods is necessary to learn how to efficiently and effectively use nitrogen (N) and to prevent leaching/runoff during plant production. Chen believes that in order to minimize groundwater contamination, we must understand N requirements of and apply N according to each plant's needs, improve media to retain water and nutrients, use controlled release fertilizers, and subirrigate and/or recycle irrigation water.

His demonstrations at the MREC and at local nurseries have shown that optimal N rates for *Anthurium*, *Dieffenbachia*, *Spathiphyllum*, *Philodendron*, and *Epipremnum* are at least 20% less than traditionally used rates. In addition, amending commercial potting media with selected zeolites can reduce N and P (phosphorus) leaching, while the use of controlled release fertilizers significantly reduces N leaching compared to the use of water-soluble fertilizers. An evaluation of subirrigation practices, such as ebb-and-flow and flood irrigation, showed that quality plants could be grown with zero runoff of nutrients while using 40% or less water. Each of these production options can significantly reduce nutrient leaching or runoff, and combining the options essentially eliminates nutrient leaching.

Other nutrient-related work has shown that silicon application during foliage and orchid production can increase plants' stress resistance. Application of silicon in bromeliads and orchid nurseries significantly reduced *Erwinia* incidence and reduced one nursery's plant losses by more than a million dollars.

Continued growth of the Florida foliage industry depends on new plant species and cultivars. Two new plants: 'ZZ' (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*) and 'Fire Flash' (*Chlorophytum orchidastrum*) have characteristics desirable for foliage plants. Production and interior use guidelines for these and other plants have been determined in Dr. Chen's foliage plant evaluation program. This program determines methods of propagation, environmental and cultural practices required for best production, as well as adaptability to interior conditions. "ZZ" and "Fire Flash" are now grown in the industry and soon will be adorning our building interiors.

Dr. Chen attributes the success of extension programs to working closely with MREC, county and state extension faculty. These cooperative efforts have made the weekly diagnostic plant clinic at the MREC a success with growers. His and other faculty's extension programs at the MREC have built solid relationships with state foliage growers. This was evident when 220 growers and related industry personnel attended the Research Field Day at the MREC on November 19, which Dr. Chen chaired. His numerous publications for growers can be found on IFAS's EDIS site and in popular trade journals.

## Sudeep Vyapari
**Assistant Professor**
**(Plant City Campus)**

Dr. Sudeep Vyapari comes to the UF/IFAS Plant City Campus from Sam Houston State University in Texas. Sudeep has a 60/40 Teaching/Research appointment. He earned his B.S. in India, then completed his M.S. at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research studying plant breeding. Sudeep came to Kansas State University in 1988, where he conducted his Ph.D. research in Ornamental Horticulture.

One of Sudeep's greatest pleasures is the opportunity to teach. To him, teaching is a tool to inspire and empower students; his goal is to promote student learning as a transformative experience. Sudeep is establishing and developing an educational program in landscape and nursery management. Residential Landscape Design, Introductory Nursery Management, Greenhouse and Nursery Crop Culture, Landscape and Turfgrass Management, and Micropropagation of Horticultural Crops are some of the courses he will teach at Plant City.

Sudeep is conducting research on landscape plants during the establishment and post-establishment phases, specifically, water use and conservation and the effect of other cultural and management practices on landscape plants. He is collaborating with Drs. Ed Gilman, Kim Moore, and Michele Scheiber. Sudeep is spearheading the new teaching garden at the Plant City campus (see article pg. 2).

Sudeep is actively involved in industry and student advisement. He is establishing the Plant City branch of the Environmental Horticulture Club and hopes to encourage the statewide department club members to interact with one another and visit various locations throughout the state.

## Welcome New Faculty

JAMIE GIBSON (assistant professor) has begun a 60% teaching and 40% research position at the West Florida Research and Education Center, UF/IFAS- Milton Campus. His research program serves to develop production and management solutions for the ornamental plant industry. Dr. Gibson received his B.S. degree in Agriculture in 1996 from West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV and later earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC in 2000 and 2003, respectively. There, under the direction of Drs. Brian E. Whipker and Paul V. Nelson, he conducted research on various floriculture crops.

DAVID SANDROCK (assistant professor) is located on the Gainesville campus. David holds a 60% teaching – 40% research appointment. He is a Ph.D. graduate of Oregon State University. David will be teaching several courses on landscape management and plant establishment. His research interests include production and establishment of woody landscape plants; he will develop a research program in landscape management related to water use, fertilizer requirements and plant selection.

JYOTSNA SHARMA (assistant professor) is located at the NFREC in Quincy, Florida. Dr. Sharma has a 60% research-40% extension appointment. She is a Ph.D. graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia and most recently held a post-doctoral position at Iowa State University. Jyotsna, whose research interests include the horticulture and ecology of rare native plants, will be working with the woody ornamental nursery industry in the north Florida area.

## Christine Kelly-Begazo Leaves FYN Program

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS EXTENSION

Christine Kelly-Begazo, the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program Statewide Coordinator, has left Gainesville for the warmer climes of Vero Beach to begin a new position as County Extension Director for Indian River County. She began her new position on Friday, February 13th. We wish Christine all the best in this new endeavor and she will be sorely missed in Environmental Horticulture and especially in the FYN program, where her ecologically-conscious and dynamic leadership enlarged and greatly advanced what was a fledgling program back in February 1998.

## Terril A. Nell Elected President of SAF

SAF
SOCIETY of AMERICAN FLORISTS
Your Growth is Our Business

Dr. Terril A. Nell, Professor and Chairman of UF Environmental Horticulture (see Chairman's Message pg.1), was recently elected president of the 15,000-member Society of American Florists, a nationwide organization that represents all segments of the floral industry. He was voted into this two-year post by the organization's board of directors at its recent annual convention in Boca Raton. Nell will lead the society through 2005. Prior to becoming president of the society, he served in leadership roles for more than a decade, including a seven-year term on the board of directors.

## Arboriculture Graduate Student: Scott Jones

Scott Jones is the second in a family of eleven children. He spent his formative years working on farms in Southern Idaho, where he developed his independent spirit. He started college aspiring to be a biochemist, but by his junior year realized he wasn't cut out for laboratory work. After working as a residential lawn care technician for ChemLawn in Salt Lake City, Scott returned to school to pursue a career in horticulture. He graduated a short time later from the University of Idaho with a BS in Plant Science. While at UI, his undergraduate advisor introduced him to arboriculture, and he found employment at the UI Arboretum. He liked it, so after graduation, he took a position as an arborist/tree climber with a residential lawn and landscape company in Kansas City, working there until he started at UF.

It didn't take long for Scott to realize he wouldn't be able to work as a tree climber once he reached age 50. When Scott met Dr. Ed Gilman at the Kansas Arborist Association's annual meeting, Gilman suggested a return to school, probably not realizing that Scott would contact HIM!

Scott's M.S. research project addresses the effect pruning has on trees that are subjected to wind loads. He is evaluating both pruning type and dose in an attempt to propose recommendations for storm damage mitigation based on quantitative data. The project is being funded by a grant from the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund, and from generous donations from Marshall Tree Farm and Rinker Materials Inc.

# Dr. Bob's Gardening Tips

**On the web at:**
**http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu**
**Click on "Home Gardening"**

Dr. Robert J. Black, Professor Emeritus

## Selecting and Using Trees

Trees can give a home, street, or commercial site individuality, beauty, and a restful quality as well as a feeling of permanence and stability. Trees are also an important part of the environment and can help combat environmental pollution. They trap and filter ash, dust, and pollen, remove carbon dioxide while adding oxygen, reduce noise pollution, lower summer temperatures, reduce soil erosion, hide harsh, unsightly scenery and beautify the landscape.

Trees are classified into several types depending on how they are used in the landscape. Proper selection and use of trees is important since they form the dominant part of the landscape.

Shade trees are grown for their moderate to dense foliage. They should be able to withstand strong winds, be relatively free from insects and disease, and have no messy fruits or flowers. Deciduous trees, which lose their leaves each year, should be used where shade is wanted only during the warm summer. Evergreen trees are useful where shade is desired year-round.

Framing trees are used to soften corners and roof lines of the home and to form patterns against the sky. They should not be so massive or spectacular that they draw attention away from the house.

Street trees are commonly used between sidewalks and streets, along boulevards, and in parks. They must not have messy fruits or flowers, low branches, or maintenance problems. Although large trees are often thought of first, smaller trees may also be used.

Specimen and accent trees are used for striking effects produced by their flowers, foliage, fruit, or by their contrast or location in the landscape. Any tree, with proper use and placement, can be used as a specimen tree but more often it is a tree with showy flowers, foliage or fruit.

Patio trees can be evergreen or deciduous and should be selected primarily for their small size and for creating interesting trunk, branch, and leaf shade patterns on the patio. They should not have messy flowers or fruits. Deciduous trees will let sunlight in to warm the patio during the winter, while evergreen trees will shade a warm patio throughout the year.

Seaside trees are those recommended for areas that get salt spray, high winds or for very sandy, high-salt-level soils. They are useful for windbreaks and coastal plantings.

The tree you select should not only fit the site but also your personal preference. In Florida, the number and variety of trees is so enormous, it is not always simple to make a choice, but it can be fun making the decision and watching your tree grow to fit the landscape.

*Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) is one of the first trees to blossom in the spring.*

## New ENH Facility Makeover

About nine months ago, a large percentage of the Environmental Horticulture Department's faculty and staff moved from Fifield Hall to the former Poultry Science buildings forming the Center for Landscape and Consumer Horticulture.

The interior of these buildings was completely renovated but the grounds surrounding them have been left without landscaping. A committee including departmental staff and faculty are working with Buford Davis & Associates, a local landscape architecture firm, to design the landscape. Goals for this landscape include:

- ✓ Provide social areas
- ✓ Provide a landscape that represents the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program, "The Nine Principles of Environmentally Friendly Landscaping"
- ✓ Include plants taught in plant identification classes
- ✓ Provide positive visual identification along Archer Road, a major Gainesville artery

We are currently searching for funding to make this landscape a reality. Stay tuned for updates on this very large horticultural endeavor.

*Current landscape plan for the Center for Consumer and Landscape Horticulture.*

## Upcoming Events

**UF 2004 Floriculture Field Day**

UF Plant Science Facility Greenhouses
Gainesville, FL
May 19-20, 2004
URL: **http://hort.ufl.edu/floriculture**

**SNA Trade Show**

World Congress Center
Atlanta, GA
August 12-14, 2004
URL: **http://sna.org/tradeshow**

If you have horticultural events for this newsletter or our web calendar at http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar, please send them to Marie Nelson: mnelson@ifas.ufl.edu.

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