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Citrus Leaves is the monthly
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Citrus Leaves welcomes
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Citrus Leaves

Browning Receives 2006 Distinguished Leadership Award

By Melanie A. Watts

For his service to Agricultural Research and Extension in the US and Florida, and his leadership of the Citrus Research and Education Center and the Florida Citrus Industry, Gamma Sigma Delta proudly awarded the 2006 "Distinguished Leadership Award of Merit" to Dr. Harold W. Browning at the 51st Annual Initiation and Awards Banquet. The award was presented by Dr. Larry Arrington, UF/IFAS Dean for Extension, on March 23, 2006 at the J. Wayne Reitz Union Grand Ballroom at the University of Florida.

The Distinguished Leadership Award of Merit is made annually to a UF/IFAS administrator who has made distinct contributions to agriculture and/or natural resources through leadership at the level of Unit Administrator or higher. As Director of CREC, Dr. Browning has the responsibility for the largest collection of scientists focused on citrus research in the world. He is also the statewide coordinator of citrus programs in Teaching, Research, and Extension, and has been addressing industry needs on the issues of land sales, hurricanes, canker, greening, and other matters.

The Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta, Florida Chapter, is an organization having as its objectives the advancement of agriculture in all its phases and the recognition of the responsibilities of those engaged in all aspects of agriculture to humankind. This Society seeks to encourage high standards of scholarship and worthy achievements in all branches of the agricultural and related sciences as well as a high degree of excellence in the practice of agricultural pursuits.

Congratulations to CREC's Center Director, Dr. Harold Browning, for this outstanding achievement.



Browning (left) and Dr. Larry Arrington (right).

Lab Highlight - May 2006 Dr. Larry Parsons' Lab

Can imposing mild water stress on trees increase the amount of sugars in the fruit? Drs. Larry Parsons and Ed Etxeberria think so, and are testing that idea in the field. The timing of the water stress, though, is important. We know that water stress in the spring can reduce yield by causing young fruit to drop off the tree. However, some drought stress can be applied in the fall and winter with little or no impact on yield. Drs. Parsons and Etxeberria have set up tests with Valencia and Hamlin oranges at CREC to determine the effects of water stress on Brix, or the amount of sugar in the fruit. Dr. Wije Bandaranayake, James HOLETON, Debbie Van Clief, Jose Alves, Jr., and Pedro Gonzalez have assisted them.



Parsons holding a soil moisture probe.

Grosser Recipient of 2006 UF Research Founder Professorship Award

(cont. from page 1 Parsons)

During April, the announcement was made that Dr. Jude Grosser, Professor of Citrus Genetics and Plant Breeding at CREC, is a 2006 recipient of a University of Florida Research Foundation Professorship. Dr. Grosser is a member of the Horticultural Sciences faculty at CREC and has been engaged in research related to citrus variety improvement since 1984.



Grosser in greenhouse with new varieties.
(Photo by Gretchen Baut)

The primary selection criteria are performance over the past five years and evidence of a strong research agenda that is likely to lead to continuing distinction in their field. The award includes a salary supplement and some program support grant funds from the UF Research Foundation.

Dr. Grosser conducts fundamental science in the area of citrus plant improvement, providing outstanding accomplishments in the manipulation of citrus plant germplasm through non-conventional methodologies. His work is published in outstanding journals and the more applied aspects of his research are featured in national and regional publications as well. Dr. Grosser is committed to the use of molecular tools to better understand plant processes, and ultimately to the development of improved plant materials for use in commercial industry. Premier among his goals are the incorporation of novel genetic attributes into commercial citrus cultivars. The biology of citrus plants makes these popular citrus varieties recalcitrant to conventional approaches, and through Dr. Grosser's work, new avenues for incorporation and evaluation of novel attributes have been developed and tested.

The dynamic teams that Grosser assembles to support his research appointment include graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and visiting scientists from around the world. His reputation and publication record encourage requests from institutions with strong programs associated with citrus science for training and cooperation. Satellite programs around the world are establishing citrus improvement projects based on Grosser's accomplishments and methodologies.

Dr. Grosser joins former CREC recipients of this award, Drs. Jim Graham, Jackie Burns, and Pete Timmer. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Grosser on his selection for this prestigious award.

The 3-year competitive U F R F professorships are awarded to tenured faculty who have a distinguished current record of research. The purpose of these awards is to recognize recent contributions and to provide incentives for

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Control trees were irrigated normally throughout the year. Stress was applied to other trees by stopping irrigation from November to early March. A third treatment was a more severe stress that was imposed on other trees by covering the root zone with Tyvek, a moisture-excluding fabric used in the construction of houses. The Tyvek helped exclude most of the rainfall that might be taken up



Dr. Wije Bandaranayake inspecting field probes.

by the roots during the winter, and provided a greater level of stress. In the first two years of this study, the winter drought stress increased Brix and had only a minor effect on yield. The non-irrigated treatment also saved several inches of irrigation water. This work shows that mild water stress applied in the winter can improve

Brix and save some irrigation water. Yet, excessive stress over several years can reduce yield.

Root sampling was also carried out to see how the stress treatments affected root distribution. Roots were extracted from soil cores that were taken from different depths.

Soil Moisture Probes

Dr. Parsons is also evaluating some new soil moisture probes. Response to irrigation and rainfall along with depth of wetting can be monitored with these probes. The use of dataloggers, along with probes, can provide a permanent historical record of soil water content at different depths. Growers can determine how much water is in the soil and when irrigation is needed by using these probes. Reliability and probe maintenance are issues that need to be considered. Dr. Parsons organized a grower meeting at the Gulf Coast REC in early April and presented information on selecting appropriate probes.

Dr. Parsons also continues to work on other aspects of irrigation management, water stress, reclaimed water, and frost protection.



Jose Alves Junior (visiting student from Brazil) collecting root samples.



James Holeyton (Engineering Student, USF) helps collect soil plugs for examination.



Library News

with Marcia Alden
Coordinator
Academic Support Services
Citrus Research & Education Center,
Library

Bindery Shipment is Being Assembled

Each year, the previous year's journal issues are collected, collated, assembled and taken to the bindery.

I am currently removing the 2005 issues of the journals from the shelves and preparing the shipment. The issues will be kept in the library office until they are shipped out. This means that many of the 2005 issues won't be available for a short period of time. We will have to rely on the on-line access through the UF Library Catalog, if it's available. Please ask me if you don't see an issue that you are looking for – I'll help you find the information!

Photos by Gretchen Baut

*Please note: The books in the Library are currently being moved during renovations. Please contact Marcia for book locations. Thank you.



Human Resources

with Dale Price

Compensatory Leave Cash-Out Must be Entered by May 28

Any special or overtime compensatory leave on balance as of May 18, 2006, will be cashed out during the pay period ending June 1, 2006. Overtime and special compensatory leave earned after May 18 will be part of the 2006-07 fiscal year balances.

Photo by Gretchen Baut

In keeping with past practice, ALL CREC-Lake Alfred employees are required to use accrued compensatory leave prior to the cash out to minimize compensatory cash-out payments. Employees may use overtime and special compensatory leave through the end of the fiscal year (June 30), but it must be entered by 5 p.m., Sunday, May 28. Any overtime or special compensatory leave balance remaining after the time administration runs the evening of May 28 will be cashed out automatically by Payroll Services.

It is, therefore, imperative that no overtime or special compensatory leave usage be entered into the system after May 28. Employees who aren't sure if they have any special or overtime compensatory leave accrued should contact the CREC Human Resources Office.

CREC Public Relations - Monthly Update

The Haven Christian Academy Science Club visited the CREC with 12 students. Special thanks to Dr. Steve Futch and Robin Stuart for their participation. The Cypress Greens Country Club visited with 100 of our neighbors receiving a PowerPoint overview of CREC, and a follow-up Q&A visit with Dr. Futch. For Science Day at the Vanguard School, PR conducted 4 presentations to a total of 80 students. The CREC also hosted reporters from the Sarasota Herald-Tribune and a photographer from Citrus Industry Magazine. The time and participation of those faculty involved with these media visits was greatly appreciated.

The Public Relations Department volunteered a significant amount of time and manpower to the success of Ag-Fest again this year. This is a large community event exposing elementary children in Polk County to Citrus and other agricultural products in a hands-on learning experience. A large display for the CREC was on-site for the entire two-week long event.

With the restructuring of our PR Dept., there has certainly been an increase in activity. Linda Murphy is now coordinating all of our internal and external meeting room usage at CREC. In April, there was a total of 48 internal meetings and 16 external meetings. Linda is now located in the lobby of BHG for greater accessibility to our customers, and we have a new room reservation process in place.

The Word Processing team, Barbara Thompson and Karla Flynn, have moved one office over, across from Shipping and Receiving. Providing appropriate lead time for word processing projects is critical in assisting Barbara and Karla in meeting their goal to provide the best possible service to all of CREC.

Kathy Snyder recently attended two training seminars to increase her knowledge and expertise in Photoshop and other graphic software. These skills will be greatly utilized in her new role with the PR Dept. Kathy also provided research updates and articles for both Florida Grower Magazine and Citrus and Vegetable Magazine.

UF, IFAS Superior Accomplishment Award Winners at CREC

Two CREC employees, Sherri Cunningham and Gretchen Baut, were honored at an IFAS ceremony on March 29 in Gainesville recognizing 23 IFAS recipients of the 2006 Superior Accomplishment Award. This award is issued to UF staff and faculty who have demonstrated outstanding contribution to their programs, to their units, and to IFAS.

A cash award and plaque were presented by IFAS administration to each of the recipients during the ceremony.



Pictured left to right: Marcia Alden, Gretchen Baut, and Sherry Cunningham.

Sherri Cunningham was recognized for the sustained quality of her support for the CREC facilities operations group, providing leadership for the on-line maintenance work order system, the CREC vehicle pool, and for her management of the various budget components associated with the maintenance group. This includes facilities maintenance, safety and security, vehicle maintenance, landscape and grounds, and janitorial. Sherri assists in maintaining account balances and in procurement for these subunits of CREC facilities. The nomination documents also highlighted the outstanding support provided by CREC facilities and organized by Sherri in preparing for and reacting to the hurricane events of 2004 and 2005.

(cont. from page 3 Awards)

Gretchen Baut was recognized during the ceremony for the outstanding quality of the graphic and photographic services that she provides at CREC. Assistance with development and production of high quality PowerPoint presentations, posters, and other media, highlights Gretchen's skills as a photographer, as well as her processing and layout techniques. In addition, these products are published in journals, magazines, and on numerous websites associated with the programs of the Center. During 2005-06, Gretchen played a key role in developing the concepts, filming, editing, and producing educational instructional

DVD's for use in educating the Florida citrus industry on citrus canker and citrus greening. The training system was used to educate over 4,000 growers in canker detection and is now being used to increase the awareness of citrus greening and its detection.

Both Sherri's and Gretchen's nomination materials were forwarded for consideration in the UF-wide Superior Accomplishment Award considerations. Winners of this round will be announced in May. Please join me in congratulating Sherri and Gretchen for their recognition and for their outstanding contributions.

CREC EMPLOYEE NEWS



Proud Mom and Dad Dunn

Benjamin Alan Dunn was born to Nick (son of Denise Dunn) and Heather Dunn, at 6:39 PM on March 22. He weighed 6lb 12oz and was 20" long, with blonde hair and is wide awake and exploring his new world. "Ten fingers/ ten toes... in all other ways darned near perfect... but then I am the grandma!! Just call me Granny!" stated Denise Dunn of Dr. Duncan's Lab.



Welcome to the World Benjamin!



Congratulations go out to **Kyra Love** (pictured above, daughter of Perry Love, Shipping and Receiving). Kyra was just recently accepted to attend The International Baccalaureate School beginning this fall term. Good Job Kyra!!

Diego Pozueta (Dr Ed Etxeberria's lab) and his wife, Elena, pictured below, drain their tent after a night of rain. They woke up with 2-3 inches of water inside, but they were very happy because it was also their first camping trip in Florida!!



Shelby Flynn (above), daughter of Karla Flynn, Word Processing, was just inducted into the Polk County World Language Honor Society for academic excellence in world language studies. Also, Shelby received an academic letter at a Top Scholars Ceremony at International Baccalaureate High School in Bartow, where she was in the top 5 of her 9th grade class. Way to Go Shelby!!