

# SWFREC Update

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

MARCH 2005

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESEARCH  
& EDUCATION CENTER**



## Newsletter Provides Info to Clients

Welcome to the first issue of the “SWFREC Update.” In an effort to keep our clients tuned in to the projects and programs at the center, this publication will be distributed on a quarterly basis to stakeholders, University of Florida Extension offices, elected officials, and other interested persons. It will include information about the research and extension efforts of our faculty members, staff news, and details about upcoming educational events. While this issue includes an overview of all SWFREC programs, future editions will highlight individual projects and the people conducting them. In addition to serving as a way to promote SWFREC activities, we hope the “SWFREC Update” will be an additional link in the chain of communication with our clients. Let us know what you think!



## Duo Assume Leadership Roles

### Inside this issue:

*Programs & Contacts* 2

*Upcoming Events* 3

*New Faculty Members* 4

Effective this past September, Dr. Christine Waddill became director of the SWFREC. She also serves as director of the Everglades Research and Education Center in Belle Glade. Her duties at SWFREC include providing leadership and evaluation for the faculty, as well as making budgetary decisions.

Dr. John Duncelman, agronomist, was named associate director of the SWFREC. He is responsible for the day-to-day management of the center and works closely with advisory committees, stakeholders, and other clientele groups.

Edward Hanlon, who served as the SWFREC director for seven-plus years, assumed fulltime duties as a professor of soil and water science at the center. And Charles Vavrina, who previously served as the station’s associate director, now serves as a fulltime district director with the UF/IFAS Extension Service, overseeing the South-Central region of the state.



Dr. John Duncelman, Associate Director, and Dr. Christine Waddill, Center Director

## SWFREC Programs and Contacts

### *Agricultural Economics*

Dr. Fritz Roka (fmro@ifas.ufl.edu)—Supports other applied research programs in Florida with economic data and strives to improve the quality of cost, price, and market information available to Florida farm owners and managers. Research such as studying the economic benefits of harvesting citrus mechanically (see photo) assists producers in making more profitable decisions in commercial operations.



Dr. Fritz Roka examines a mechanical harvester.

### *Agronomy*

Dr. Ike Ezenwa (ivezenwwa@ifas.ufl.edu)—Develops research and extension programs that address forage and sugarcane production in Southwest Florida. The forage program targets needs of the beef and dairy cattle industries and wildlife managers. The sugarcane arm focuses on issues related to improving sugarcane yields and sustainability on mineral (sandy) soils. Collaborates with statewide research in the areas of plant nutrition, pest control, and water, crop and livestock production systems.

### *Citrus Horticulture*

Dr. Bob Rouse (rer@ifas.ufl.edu)—Serves extension and applied research needs for 180,000 acres of commercial plantings. Studies include nursery tree production, nutrition sources for establishing young trees, tree establishment practices, and environmentally sound cover crops for row middles in bedded flatwoods groves. Screenhouses protect a budwood planting that, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, serves as a germplasm source for propagation of new trees by nurseries statewide.

### *Entomology*

Dr. Phil Stansly (pas@ifas.ufl.edu)—Assists citrus and vegetable growers in the development and use of pest management systems that are environmentally safe and economically sound. Emphasis is on integration of biological and cultural control methods. Techniques are brought through laboratory and greenhouse testing phases, then are extended to growers in collaboration with extension agents and specialists.



Jim Conner (left), a senior biological scientist in the entomology program, retired from the SWFREC on February 25. He worked with Dr. Phil Stansly (right), professor of entomology, for more than twelve years.

### *Plant Pathology*

Dr. Pam Roberts (pdr@ifas.ufl.edu)—Conducts research to identify alternative plant disease hosts for vegetable viruses, integrated control of soil-borne diseases of vegetables and ornamentals, and evaluation of fungicides for the control of foliar diseases of citrus and vegetables. Operates Diagnostic Clinic to offer growers recommendations for disease control based on clinic results.

### *Soil and Water Science*

Dr. Kelly Morgan (ktm@ifas.ufl.edu)—Provides growers science-based information on improved soil fertility and water management methods to implement best management practices that sustain yields while protecting water quality. Improvements in production practices to increase nutrient and water use efficiencies and the development of grower-friendly expert systems for citrus, vegetable, and sand-land sugarcane production are emphasized.

## SWFREC Programs and Contacts (Cont.)

### *Vegetable Horticulture*

Dr. Kent Cushman (kecushman@ifas.ufl.edu)—Part of a statewide effort to improve production efficiency, develop and implement new methodologies, and transfer up-to-date knowledge to vegetable producers and consumers. Receives direction from the Southwest Florida Vegetable Advisory Committee and actively seeks collaborative projects with university and industry colleagues. Current projects include variety trials, herbicide evaluations, issues related to best management practices, and effects of plant-bed architecture on root-zone environment.

### *Water Resources*

Dr. Sanjay Shukla (sshukla@ifas.ufl.edu)—Develops high-quality information to support water management decisions made in Southwest Florida. Field research and hydrologic model simulation projects assist growers in determining the precise irrigation needs of their citrus and vegetable crops.

### *Wildlife Ecology*

Dr. Marty Main (mbma@ifas.ufl.edu)—Provides information to promote understanding, conservation, and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. Directs the Florida Master Naturalist Program, a statewide environmental education effort that trains volunteers to teach Florida citizens and tourists consistent information about the state's natural landscape.



Dr. Marty Main

## Upcoming Events

**March 29:** *Vegetable Growers Meeting.* 6-8pm, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee. For more information and to RSVP, phone Hendry County Cooperative Extension Service, 863/674-4092.

**April 19:** *Citrus Squeezer Seminar: "Update on Greasy Spot Control" and "Managing Phytophthora Diseases and Interactions with Diaprepes."* 10am-1pm, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee. For more information and to RSVP, phone Hendry County Cooperative Extension Service, 863/674-4092.

**May 10:** *Forage Beef Research in Southwest Florida.* 8am-4pm, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee. For more information and to RSVP, contact Dr. Ike Ezenwa, 239/658-3400.

**May 17:** *Citrus Squeezer Seminar: "Citrus Nitrogen Accumulation, Update, and Cycling" and "Leaf and Soil Sampling and Analysis to Adjust Citrus Fertilizer Programs."* 10am-1pm, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee. For more information and to RSVP, phone Hendry County Cooperative Extension Service, 863/674-4092.

**May 31:** *Citrus Compost Workshop.* Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee. For more information and to RSVP, contact Dr. Monica Ozores-Hampton, 239/658-3400.

**June 4:** *Fifteenth Annual Farm Safety Day and Tractor Rodeo.* 7:45am-3pm, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee. Phone 239/658-3400.

**June 21:** *Citrus Squeezer Seminar: Topic to be announced.* 10am-1pm, Southwest Florida Research and Education Center, Immokalee. For more information and to RSVP, phone Hendry County Cooperative Extension Service, 863/674-4092.



**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA  
RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER**

2686 State Road 29 North  
Immokalee, FL 34142

Phone: 239-658-3400  
Fax: 239-658-3469  
E-mail: [swfrec@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:swfrec@ifas.ufl.edu)



**We're on the Web!**

**<http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu>**

## Three New Faculty Members on Board at SWFREC

We are pleased to announce the addition of three new faculty members at the research center:

Dr. Kent Cushman began as Assistant Professor of Vegetable Horticulture this past August. He received his Ph.D. in horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before joining SWFREC, Dr. Cushman was an Associate Research Professor at the North Mississippi Research and Extension Unit in Verona, Mississippi. His research and extension work at SWFREC will focus on improving production efficiency, developing and implementing new methodologies, and transferring up-to-date knowledge to the state's vegetable producers and consumers.

Dr. Kelly Morgan arrived at the center this past November as Assistant Professor of Soil and Water Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in soil and water science from UF in Gainesville. Prior to arriving at SWFREC, Dr. Morgan served as a Scientific Research Manager at the UF/IFAS Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. His work at SWFREC will concentrate on the improvement of crop productivity and sustainability of agricultural operations in Southwest Florida as related to soil fertility and soil nutrient transformations.

Dr. Ike Ezenwa began at SWFREC this past December as Assistant Scientist of Agronomy. He received his Ph.D. in agronomy from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria. Before joining SWFREC, Dr. Ezenwa worked as a Post Doctoral Research Associate at the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona. At SWFREC, his work will focus on the areas of sandland sugarcane and forage production in Southwest Florida.



(Left to right): Dr. Ike Ezenwa , Dr. Kent Cushman, and Dr. Kelly Morgan are the newest specialists to join the SWFREC faculty ranks.