

SWFREC Update

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 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA RESEARCH
& EDUCATION CENTER

Center Director's Corner



The SWFREC was proud to host an important group of visitors this past July, when several scientists from India toured UF/IFAS water-related projects in the state. The Indian delegation was part of a research project funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that is bringing together scientists from the University of Florida and three universities in India to work on agricultural water management issues.

As part of the project, which is a component of the USDA-AG Knowledge India



initia-
tive and is also coordinated by the International Crops and Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in India, several UF/IFAS deans and faculty members traveled to India earlier this year. The collaborative effort is conducting joint research in irri-

The Indian delegation included several scientists from three universities, who learned about the SWFREC water resources program's lysimeter project from scientist Dr. Sanjay Shukla (right).



gation, water harvesting, wastewater reuse, and other water-related areas. The project also is funding several Ph.D. students from the Indian universities to work in these areas with UF.

I had the distinct pleasure of speaking to this important group during its visit to the center and provided an overview of agriculture in southwest Florida and water-related issues that growers face. In addition, our visitors had the opportunity to speak with several SWFREC faculty members about other joint project possibilities. Water resources scientist Dr. Sanjay Shukla and engineer Jimmy Knowles took the group into the field for an up-close look at their program's lysimeter project.

The visit was deemed an overall success, and both UF and the Indian scientists look forward to developing this project further.

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SWFREC Staff News



Drs. Mahmoud (center) and Morgan (left).

- ◆ After successfully defending his Ph.D. dissertation, Dr. Kamal Mahmoud participated in graduation ceremonies on the UF campus in Gainesville in August. He currently is continuing work with SWFREC soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan.
- ◆ Post-doctoral research associate Fouad Jaber, who has worked with SWFREC water resources scientist Dr. Sanjay Shukla for the past five years, has accepted a position as assistant professor/extension with Texas A & M University. He will begin work in October in the school's Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department and will work out of the Urban Solutions Center in Dallas. Dr. Jaber's areas of emphasis will include management of groundwater, surface water resources, storm water, and rainfall; evaluation of stream processes and hydraulics to foster implementation of stream restoration programming; prediction of availability and sustainability of water resources; and evaluating the potential for enhancement of water resources through implementation of water management strategies such as water conservation, storm water management, desalination, and wastewater reuse.
- ◆ Soil and water scientist Dr. Ed Hanlon recently was elected to two board posts: a board of directors member of the Southwest Florida Watershed Council and vice-president of the Southwest Florida Resource Conservation and Development Council. Dr. Hanlon also participated in the UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Symposium last month in Gainesville. His master's-level course, "Environmental Soil, Water, and Land Use," began in August for the fall UF term and incorporates techniques he acquired from the symposium.



Roger McGill (left) completes a drill during hazardous materials training.

- ◆ SWFREC maintenance mechanic and hazardous materials supervisor Roger McGill completed OSHA Level 5: On-scene Incident Commander training at the 13th Annual Environmental Management and Chemical Spill Response Training Seminar this summer in Key West. The conference was conducted by United Agri Products to satisfy hazardous waste operations and emergency response requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

- ◆ Recent presentations by SWFREC faculty and staff:

Jawwad Qureshi, assistant research professor: "Management Plan for Asian Citrus Psyllid"—Citrus Production Managers training, SWFREC, Immokalee; "Evaluation of Rate, Placement, and Timing on Effectiveness of Aldicarb Applications for Control of Asian Citrus Psyllid (Homoptera: Psyllidae) in Citrus"—Florida Entomological Society annual meeting, Sarasota; and "Impact of Dormant Sprays on Asian Citrus Psyllid *Diaphorina citri* (Homoptera: Psyllidae) and its Natural Enemies in Citrus"—Florida Entomological Society annual meeting, Sarasota.

Dr. Kelly Morgan, soil and water scientist: "Citrus Water Requirements: "Linking Irrigation Scheduling and Fertilizer Strategies"—Florida State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Palm Beach Gardens; and "Validation of a Web-based Irrigation Scheduling Tool for Citrus Using Daily ET"—Florida Section of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers conference, St. Petersburg. Dr. Morgan also organized and moderated a workshop, "Controlled Release Fertilizer Technology for Vegetable Production," at the annual meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences in Scottsdale, AZ. During the workshop, he made a presentation titled "Slow and Controlled Release Fertilizer Release Rates and Strategies for Their Use in Vegetable Production."

- ◆ Refereed articles, EDIS documents, and trade journal articles recently or soon to be published:

Morgan, K.T. and E.A. Hanlon. 2007. Improving Citrus Nitrogen Uptake Efficiency: Linking Citrus Irrigation Management to Citrus Fertilizer Practices. EDIS: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/SS466>.



SWFREC Staff News (cont.)

Morgan, K.T. and T.A. Wheaton. 2007. Effects of Reclaimed Municipal Waste Water on Horticultural Ratings, Fruit Quality, and Soil and Leaf Nutrient Content of Citrus Grown in Central Florida. HortScience (to be published).

Roka, F. and R. Ehsani. 2007. Labor Savings from New Technologies. Citrus Industry 88(7):10-11.

Sato, S. and K.T. Morgan. 2007. Relationship of Nitrogen Recovery and Transformation From a Surface and Subsurface Application of Controlled-Release Fertilizer on a Sandy Soil. Journal of Plant Nutrition (to be published).

Main, M., Ceilley, D., and Stansly, P. 2007. Freshwater Fish Assemblages in Isolated South Florida Wetlands. Southeastern Naturalist 6(2):343-350.

Main, M. and G. Allen. 2007. Seasonal and Habitat Influences on Avifauna of an Agricultural Impoundment in Southwest Florida: Results of a Five-Year Monitoring Program. Florida Scientist 70(3):219-240.

Rouse, R. and S. Futch. 2007. Trimming the Fat. Florida Grower 100(8):24-25.



Citrus Expo Draws Record Crowds

Nearly 3,000 citrus growers, managers, and industry representatives attended the 16th Annual Citrus Expo this past August at the Lee Civic Center in Fort Myers. The two-day event proved highly successful and included a sold-out exhibit hall and standing-room-only seminar hall.

More than 150 exhibitors shared information about their products and services with Expo attendees, and the seminar program, coordinated in part by SWFREC citrus horticulturalist Dr. Bob Rouse, was packed full of pertinent citrus-related information. Citrus greening and citrus canker diseases dominated the first day's lineup, while advanced production systems and new grove design possibilities highlighted day two. Among the wide array of top-notch presenters were Juliano Ayres with Fundecitrus in Brazil; Andrew Beattie with the University of Western Sydney, New South Wales, Australia; Rian Briedenhann with Tearson Ltd. in South Africa; Graham Barry, a citrus specialist also from South Africa; and Jim McFerson with the Washington State Tree Fruit Research Commission.

The program also included SWFREC entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly, who presented a talk titled "Strategy for Managing Psyllid without Unleashing Pest Havoc." Soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan served as moder-

ator of the second day's morning program.

The Citrus Expo is the single-largest event in the state of Florida that is devoted entirely to citrus.



Two booths at the 16th Annual Citrus Expo included one promoting the UF/IFAS Citrus Mechanical Harvesting and Abscission program (left), at which educational coordinator Barbara Hyman shares information with a grower, and one promoting SWFREC research and extension programs (above), where media coordinator Julie Carson and Hyman handed out materials.

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Upcoming Events

October 10: *Certified Crop Advisor Training.* 7:30am-6pm, SWFREC (via videoconference). Soil/water management, 5 CEUs; Crop management, 5 CEUs. \$100 registration fee (\$120 at door) payable to: Citrus Research and Education Center in care of Anita Whitaker, 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, FL 33850. For more information and to register online, visit <http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/CCA>.

October 23: *Citrus Squeezer Seminar: Citrus Greening Identification & Worker Survey Training.* 9:30am-12pm, SWFREC. Restricted pesticide, 2.5 CEUs; Certified crop advisors, 2.5 CEUs. For more information and to RSVP, phone the Hendry County Cooperative Extension office at 863-674-4092.

November 7: *Certified Pile Burners Course.* 8:30am-4:30pm, SWFREC. \$50 registration fee payable to: Lake County Extension office in care of Ryan Atwood, 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778. For more information and to register, phone the Hendry County Cooperative Extension office at 863-674-4092.

November 20: *Citrus Squeezer Seminar: Topic to be announced.* 10am-1pm, SWFREC. For more information and to RSVP, phone the Hendry County Cooperative Extension office at 863-674-4092.

Late November/early December: *SWFREC Fall Vegetable Field Day.* Date to be announced. Check SWFREC Web site for updates: <http://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu>.

