



July 30, 2019

Welcome to SWFREC Update E-news! This newsletter is distributed biweekly and contains news about the center and its faculty and staff, program research updates, and upcoming events.

Web site: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Social media:  

Students Present at Poster Symposium



Nine SWFREC graduate students (and two other staff members) participated in the 7th Annual South Florida Graduate Research Symposium this month at the UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead. Left to right in above photo:

- Kellee Britt (Ph.D. student, citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman, chair): Surveys for Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*)-infecting viruses and their influence on *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas) dispersal in Florida citrus groves.
- Jessica Torres-Velez (will begin as a Ph.D. student in the fall, Dr. Batuman, chair).
- Clayton Nevins (Ph.D. student, soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss, chair): Effect of biological soil crusts on plant-available nitrogen and the soil microbiome in the rooting layers of citrus agroecosystems. **Clayton won third place in the competition (see photo below) and earned a certificate and a \$200 cash prize!**
- Daniel Boakye (Ph.D. student, citrus horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez, chair): Zinc sulfate ($ZnSO_4$) and potassium sulfate (K_2SO_4) influence on fruitlet explants abscission on Valencia and Hamlin.
- Antonio Castellano Hinojosa (post-doc with Dr. Strauss).
- Shahrzad Bodaghi (Ph.D. student, Dr. Batuman, chair): Rootstock effect and influence of propagation method on traits of grafted sweet orange trees.
- David Toole (M.S. student, Dr. Strauss): Impacts of plasticulture bed geometry and Fluensulfone nematicide on diversity and community composition of soil microbiota.
- Susmita Gaire (Ph.D. student, plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht, chair): Effect of individual protective covers on physiology and growth of citrus trees.
- Dr. Elaine Turner, Dean, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.
- Mohamed Ali (Ph.D. student, entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi, chair): Feeding performance of *Spodoptera latifascial* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) on different citrus cultivars.
- Sameer Pokhrel (M.S. student, Dr. Albrecht, chair): Comparison of field performance of citrus trees on rootstocks propagated by seed and vegetative propagation.
- Sudip Kunwar (MS. Student, Dr. Albrecht, chair): Evaluation of citrus rootstock response to HLB in large-scale commercial field trials.



SWFREC Represented at Entomological Conference

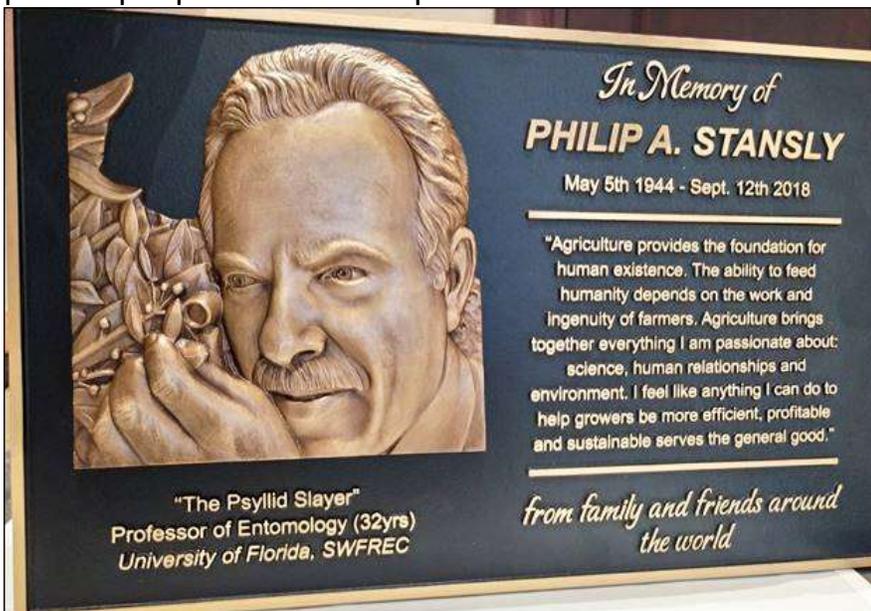
- Entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi received the Entomologist of the Year award at the Florida Entomological Society Annual Meeting last week in Jupiter. In addition, he has been named president of the society for the 2018-2019 term. Dr. Qureshi also gave three talks during the conference: Management of Asian citrus psyllid; Pest management in citrus under protective screen (CUPS); and Survival and development of *Spodoptera latifascia* (*Lepidoptera: Noctuidae*) in citrus.



- Senior biological scientist Barry Kostyk presented Biological control of insect pests in field grown eggplant, and Ph.D. student Mohamed Ali presented a poster titled Incidence and feeding of *Spodoptera latifascial* (*Lepidoptera: Noctuidae*) on citrus.

Dr. Phil Stansly Honored

Former SWFREC entomologist Dr. Phil Stansly, who passed away in September 2018, was honored by his colleagues and former students during a symposium at the Florida Entomological Society Annual Meeting last week. The tribute highlighted his tremendous contributions to entomology research and agriculture overall. In addition, Dr. Stansly's family teamed up with the UF/IFAS Department of Entomology and Nematology to plant a tree and place a plaque on UF's campus in his honor.



Research in the Spotlight: “Black Box” of Soil

Brad Buck, a writer for UF/IFAS Communications Services, produced a press release about a project being conducted by soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss. “Beneath the Earth, the ‘Black Box’ of Soil Holds a Key to Crop Growth” focuses on her research utilizing DNA sequencing to research soil microbes and determine their role in citrus and vegetable production, as well as examining biocrusts (thin layers of bacteria, fungi, moss, and algae) that grow on the surface of many soils. To see the full release, click here:

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/2019/07/08/beneath-the-earth-the-black-box-of-soil-holds-a-key-to-crop-growth/>. This research also was highlighted in a recent news story aired by WINK-TV in Fort Myers. To see the video titled “UF Scientists Test SW FL Soil to Help Farmers,” click here: https://www.winknews.com/2019/07/13/uf-scientists-test-swfl-soil-to-help-farmers/?fbclid=IwAR0-DjMKorNX2eB_CN20b1w1eCy63QO4EO4EmxcjRzHzJrIQoXrp027SSqw.

Faculty Selected to LEAD IFAS

Water resources engineer Dr. Sanjay Shukla has been selected to Cohort 11 of LEAD IFAS, a faculty/staff leadership development program. It is a three-session professional development course designed specifically for IFAS employees. Dr. Shukla completed the first session, “Leading You: How Can You Be a Better Leader,” in early July at the North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy. The remaining two sessions will be in September in Sebring (“Leading Your Team”) and in November in Gainesville (“Leading IFAS”).

Peer-reviewed Journal Article

Evaluation of a Ground Penetrating Radar to Map the Root Architecture of HLB-infected Citrus Trees. 2019. *Agronomy*, 9, 354. Authors: Former precision ag research scholar Dr. Xiuhua Zhang, former precision ag technician Magda Derival, plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht, and precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis. To see the full article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/precision-ag-eng/2019-07-03-Zhang-Derival-Albrecht-Ampatzidis-Agronomy-09-00354.pdf>.

Trade Journal Articles

- Putting IPM Back in Citrus. July 2019. Citrus Industry magazine. Second author: entomologist Dr. Jawwad Qureshi. To see the full article, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/entomology/2019-07-Qureshi-Citrus-Industry.pdf>.
- Controlling Difficult Weeds in Citrus Groves. July 2019. Citrus Industry magazine. First and second authors, respectively: weed scientist Dr. Ramdas Kanissery and lab technician Dr. Camille McAvoy. To see the full article, click here: https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/weed-science/2019-07-Kanissery-Citrus_Industry.pdf.

Upcoming Events:

August 14-15, 2019

Citrus Expo and Vegetable and Specialty Crop Expo

Lee Civic Center, North Fort Myers

SWFREC will have six speakers at the event: for citrus, horticulturist Dr. Fernando Alferez, soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan, and plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht; for vegetables, pathologist Dr. Pam Roberts, precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis, and food science state specialized extension agent Matt Krug.

For the full program and registration information, click here: <http://citrusexpo.net/2019-seminar-program-2/>.

On the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 15, UF/IFAS faculty and staff will have ten different hands-on activities that growers can experience, including three by led by SWFREC faculty: Weed Science with Dr. Ramdas Kanissery, Water Treatment Technology with food science extension agent Matt Krug, and Soil and Water pH with soil and water scientist Dr. Kelly Morgan.

In addition, there will be a UF/IFAS Meet the Specialist session at the same time which will enable growers to interact with scientists on a small-group or even one-on-one basis. SWFREC researchers will include soil microbiologist Dr. Sarah Strauss, precision ag engineer Dr. Yiannis Ampatzidis, plant physiologist Dr. Ute Albrecht, natural resource economist Dr. Tara Wade, and citrus pathologist Dr. Ozgur Batuman.

August 20, 2019, 10am-12pm

Grower Fumigation Certification Class

SWFREC

For more information and registration details, click

here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-08-20-Fumigation.pdf>.

August 22, 2019, 10am-12:30pm

Vegetable Growers Meeting

SWFREC

For more information and registration details, click here:

<https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-08-22-Managing-Soil-Health.pdf>.

September 4, 2019, 9am-3:15pm

UF/IFAS Tomato Institute

Ritz Carlton Beach Resort, Naples

For more information and to register, click here: <https://swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/docs/pdf/events-agendas/2019-09-04-Tomato-Institute.pdf>.

November 14, 2019
SWFREC Open House

A flyer for the SWFREC Open House. The top section has a dark blue background with the text "SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SWFREC OPEN HOUSE" in white. Below this, on a light blue background, is "NOVEMBER 14, 2019". The main title "Before the Bounty: The Science of Crop Production" is in a dark blue font. The flyer is divided into two columns. The left column contains an invitation, details about tours, and outreach activities. The right column contains the event times and RSVP information. At the bottom center is the UF/IFAS logo.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
SWFREC OPEN HOUSE**

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Before the Bounty: The Science of Crop Production

You and your colleagues are cordially invited to the annual open house at the **UF/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC)**.

Enjoy casual tours of our laboratories, guided trolley tours of our farm facilities, and educational science demonstrations.

Learn about research, Extension, and other outreach activities that touch every community in southwest Florida.

Open House will take place between **10 a.m. & 2 p.m.**

with lunch being served from **11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

RSVP by phone at (239) 658-3400 or email to jderleth@ufl.edu

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