

Spotlight on . . .

Happy Retirement

During SWFREC's Winter Luncheon last week, faculty, staff, graduate students, and visiting scholars experienced an additional special occasion! We celebrated Frank Macander's retirement after serving as our center's maintenance specialist for the past 8 years!!!



Frank's wife, Pam, participated in his retirement party.



"Frank has led the charge for SWFREC for the past 8 years in keeping water and electricity where they belong, keeping buildings cool and dry, and providing a key voice of experience in advising all of us – especially me," said center director Dr. Mike Burton, who added a flair of humor as a slide show of Frank played on the auditorium screen.

While working at SWFREC, Frank technically was employed by the UF/IFAS Facilities Planning & Operations (FPO) department on the main UF campus in Gainesville. Several members of that team made the trip to Immokalee to help celebrate Frank's SWFREC tenure: current FPO director Ronnie Cooper (once Frank's supervisor), associate director Sean Mountain (also a former supervisor), project manager Jon Lanhart (Frank's current supervisor), and HR administrator Chaise Champion.



UF/IFAS Facilities Planning & Operations HR administrator Chaise Champion, project manager Jon Lanhart, director Ronnie Cooper, associate director Sean Mountain; Frank Macander and his wife, Pam; Frank's replacement Rafael Gonzalez; maintenance mechanic Roger McGill, SWFREC director Dr. Mike Burton, and part-time maintenance specialist Thomas Keene-Wall.



“Franks dedication to SWFREC and FPO will be greatly missed,” Lanhart said during the festivities. “Always willing to do what’s necessary to keep maintenance issues to a minimum. And Frank’s assistance to Thomas and willingness to stay and help train Rafael is a true testament of his dedication.”



Thomas Keene-Wall has been Frank’s part-time assistant for two-plus years, and Rafael Gonzalez just recently came aboard as Frank’s replacement.



SWFREC’s social committee spearheaded a gift card fundraiser for Frank, who also receive additional gifts from staff, and the FPO crew brought cake and a gift for the special occasion.



“It has been a great experience to work at SWFREC during the last eight years,” Frank said “I have been able to work with and help people from all over the world.



“It has been great to have Roger McGill (center maintenance mechanic for 30-plus years) as a reference and Thomas at my side, assisting with tasks that need to be done around the center. And I'm glad I was able to be here to help Rafael learn all he can before I leave.”



Congratulations, Frank, and happy retirement! You will be greatly missed!!!



How does Frank plan to spend his retirement? Camping, fishing, and spending time with his family, which includes three grandchildren.