



Gulf Coast REC

MARCH 2007

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(813) 634-0000

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?...



Mark Your Calendar...

- 3/1...Corn & Soybean Extension tour; 1:00 - 3:00 PM
- 3/5...FL Blueberry Growers meeting; auditorium 2:00 - 5:00 PM
- 3/6...FL Blueberry Growers Assoc. Annual meeting; 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- 3/13...Candidate for Director, Mid-FL REC, Dr. Ashok Alva; 9:30 - 10:30 AM

3/11...Sunday - Daylight Savings!



MOVE YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD

- 3/15...FL Rural Water Assoc.; "2007 Focus on Change" training course; 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- 3/20...Soil & Water In-Service training; Auditorium (all day)
- 3/22...Faculty Senate Meeting; polycom - Conference Rm. 4-6 PM
- 3/26...Seafood Safety - Extension Service polycom for Hillsborough and Manatee counties; 12 - 5:00 PM; west conference room



GCREC Hosts Big Brothers/Big Sisters...

On Saturday, February 17th, the Gulf Coast REC hosted an educational event for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. A very special thanks to all the employees who gave of their time on a Saturday to organize and interact with the group. Several faculty set up stations of educational opportunity in the auditorium where the kids (and adults) had the opportunity to experience agricultural research from growth, to pathology, to entomology. The kids thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands dirty potting tomato plants. Special interest was given to Steve Johnson's 'friend', Penelope, the snake. In spite of the cold weather, they thoroughly enjoyed the berry-picking time in the field. Many thanks to everyone who made this special event a success and especially to Christine Cooley for her dedication and organizational skills that made this happen.



This may be the month of the Irish green, but in Florida we're still pick'n strawberries!

Did you know that the strawberry is a member of the rose family and is unique in that it is the only fruit with seeds on the outside? Many medicinal uses are claimed for the wild strawberry, leaves and root.

American Indians were actually cultivating strawberries in 1643. They crushed the berries into a mortar, mixing them with meal to make a strawberry bread.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 5.....Tracey Revels
- 5.....Victor Alifonso
- 11...Renata Zalewski
- 18...Aliya Momotaz
- 21...Carolyn Hinson
- 26...Rick Thomas



Welcome New Employees...



It's been a busy month for OPS hire. In our Entomology program we welcome back **John Hogue** who will be, once again, joining Jim Price's research team. For those who are new to GCREC, John has worked for Dr. Price since March of 1990, first as a Biologist, and then as OPS since July 1999 when he became a full-time fire fighter for Sarasota County. He left us after our move to Balm in 2005, but couldn't seem to stay away very long and is back on board as OPS in his "spare time". *(Don't let the picture fool you - he only naps between work shifts!)*

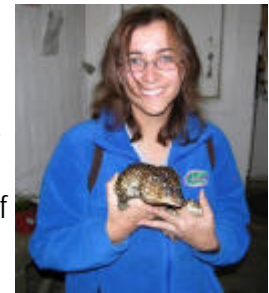
At the Plant City Campus, we welcome back **Erin Brown**, former OPS employee for Michael Andreau who has returned to once again assist with Dr. Andreau's program.



A face you might recognize is that of **Emily Hutton**, wife of Sam Hutton, our graduate fellowship student assistant. Emily will be working part time for Jay Scott. You got a chance to meet Emily if you attended the baby shower given for the birth of their daughter, Anna Christine, in December.



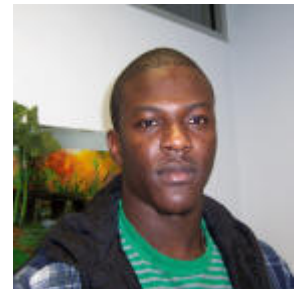
David Schuster's Entomology program has been joined by **Harvey Wade**, who will be doing field research data work along with Don McIntyre, so probably won't be seen around the main building very much. Harvey was the president/owner of H.K.Wade and Associates in Cleveland, Ohio since 1972 until his retirement and move to Sun City Center. Welcome aboard, Harvey! We hope you'll get in from the field occasionally to meet the rest of the staff.



Also assisting Michael Andreau at Plant City is new OPS employee, **Melinda (Mindy) Napier**. Mindy is working on her BS degree in Natural Resource Conservation at the University of Florida at the Plant City campus.



Two OPS you've probably seen working here at the Center are transferring from Apopka to work directly with Amy Shober's landscape/nutrient runoff program. **Elliott Smith** (left) is a premed/biology student at the HCC campus in Plant City, and **Andre Hall** (right) is a engineering/premed student at HCC campus.



Congratulations...

to Sam and Emily Hutton, proud parents of Anna Christine Hutton, born December 23, 2006, 7 lb. 9 oz. Sam is a Fellowship Graduate with Dr. Jay Scott's tomato breeding program.

Congratulations & Best Wishes...

This is a much belated congratulations to Ashley Stephens, our Office Assistant at Plant City upon her graduation this past semester with her Bachelors Degree in Business Admin. She is pictured here with her fiance', Luis Rosa, who, by the time this newsletter goes to print will be her husband! The lei Ashley is wearing was given to her by Luis to remind her of their upcoming island nuptials. The happy couple have planned a wedding for March 2nd on St. Lucia.



Blue Ribbon Booth!



Thanks to everyone who helped with the booth for the Tampa Spring Expo at the Tampa Fair Grounds this past month. This award-winning booth received a blue ribbon!

FYI

Did you know that cell phone companies charge \$1.00 - \$1.75 (or more) for 411 information calls? If you need to find a number and do not have a phone book available, dial 1(800)FREE 411, or 1(800) 373-3411. Why pay a charge when you don't have to?

Insurance Premiums increase for Departments and Part-time employees:

Insurance premiums will increase for part-time employees beginning in April of this year. Cost for full-time employees will remain the same. (\$25/biweekly for individual and \$90/biweekly for family). The departments will be paying \$188.93/biweekly for individual and \$393.80/biweekly for family). You may refer to the February 2007 InfoGator on the University HR website for formulas to calculate part-time contribution amounts.

Performance Appraisals

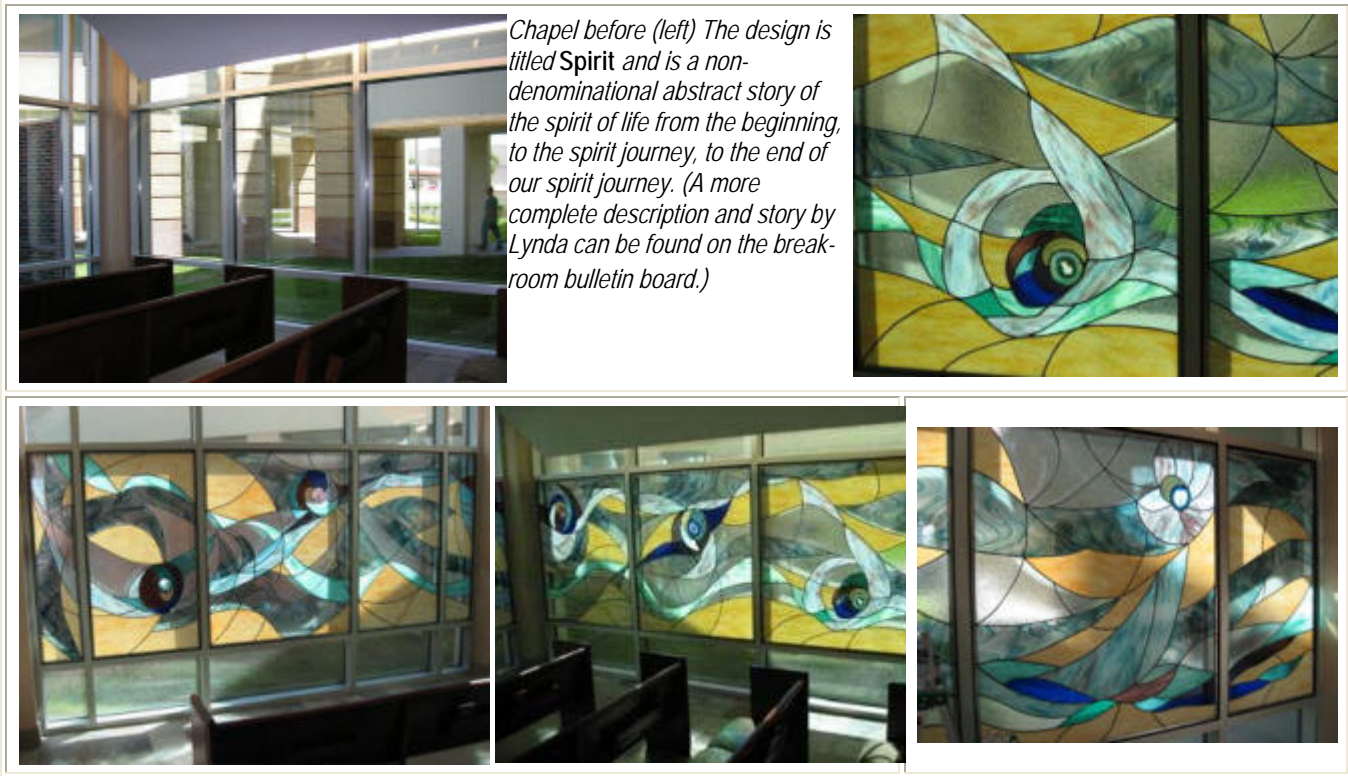
February 28th was the end of the standard evaluation period for all USPS and TEAMS employees. Appraisals should be completed and are due in Human Resource Services no later than March 31st. Non-Exempt TEAMS and USPS should have received their notice last month to begin preparing their self evaluation form to give to their supervisor. Exempt TEAMS require an evaluative letter of appraisal. If you have any questions regarding this process, please see Patty.



This month we will be celebrating the retirement of our "Gator Girl", **Tracey Revels**. Tracey has served the University of Florida for 31 years, beginning right after graduation from the University and working in Animal Science Department, then the Office of the Dean for Research, before coming to GREC Bradenton in 1986. There will be a reception for Tracey on Friday, March 16th at 3:00 PM in the front lobby area.

Employee News...

Our much-talented OPS employee, Lynda Chandler (wife of Craig Chandler) has continued to show her creative skills in design as seen in the following stained glass design she created for the chapel at Tampa's University Community Hospital cardiac unit this past year. You will remember that Lynda painted the two large murals in our front lobby of the Center as well as the commemorative print for the 2005 dedication of the new center.



Chapel before (left) The design is titled Spirit and is a non-denominational abstract story of the spirit of life from the beginning, to the spirit journey, to the end of our spirit journey. (A more complete description and story by Lynda can be found on the break-room bulletin board.)

OLDER THAN DIRT QUIZ: (If you can remember 0-10 of the following you're still a kid; 11-15 = you may not want to tell your age; 16-25 = Yes, you're older than dirt! - But probably have the *best* of memories!)

Blackjack chewing gun	wax bottles w/sugar water	candy cigarettes
soda pop machines w/glass bottles	45 RPM records	home milk delivery in glass bottles
party lines	newsreels before the movie	P.F. Flyers
Butch wax	peashooters	Howdy Doody
diners with tableside juke boxes	Hi-fi's	metal ice trays w/lever
mimeograph paper	blue flashbulb	Packards
roller skate keys	cork popguns	drive-ins
Studebakers	wash tub wringers	S&H Green Stamps
telephone numbers w/a word prefix (OLive-6933)		