



The tillers of the soil are the true pioneers of this world.



Agriculture Hall of Fame

Congratulations to **Jim and Phyllis Gilreath**, who will be inducted into the Manatee County Agriculture Hall of Fame on November 15th. Both Jim and Phyllis have both contributed their expertise to agriculture for 25 years. Jim Gilreath, retired professor (weed science) with the University of Florida, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center is known world-wide for his weed science/soil-borne disease research and, more specifically, his work with methyl bromide. His wife, Phyllis, has worked with Manatee County Extension since 1982 and will be retiring this December. Next year they plan to move to Greenville, South Carolina, back to Jim's home where he grew up. They have both been such an integral part of the agricultural community, they will be missed, and we wish them the very best in their retirement plans.



It's been a "red-letter" year for Dr. Natalia Peres! In addition to the exciting news of her soon-to-be expanding family, along with receiving the William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award for her outstanding contribution to Plant Pathology, she has most recently been named an *International Fellow*. Natalia has been selected for the 2007 UF/IFAS International Achievement Award and will also be submitted for consideration for the International Educator of the Year Award. Congratulations, Natalia, for

recognition of your high standard of achievement.

November Birthdays



- 4.....Craig Chandler
- 7.....Mark Dykes
- 7.....Jim Watson
- 18....Mary Thornhill
- 19....James "Shine" Taylor
- 23....Raya Pruner
- 24....Bob Whitmire
- 27....Jozer Mangandi
- 29....Martin Wortman
- 30....Don McIntyre



Get ready!
The 2007 Florida Ag Expo is coming December 6-7. You don't want to miss this second Expo that promises to be even better than the first!



Me and my shadow...

Katrina Kelly, daughter of Cathy Provenzano (J.Scott's tomato program) volunteered her time to "shadow" Joyce Jones of Dr. Deng's ornamental program for a day last month. This is Katrina's second time to participate in the "shadow" program. Earlier this summer she spent some time under the supervision of Nancy West of Dr. Harbaugh's floriculture program working with soil samples, pollinations, and other procedures. She is a senior at Braden River High School (the old site of the Bradenton Gulf Coast REC). She receives service hours credit for her class project in this shadowing experience.

In October, the women of GCREC were given an opportunity to participate in a two-hour course in self defense. Sgt. Charlotte Domingo, on staff for the University of South Florida Police Department, presented a seminar and some "hands-on" instruction in self defense. The two hours went quickly and the women left feeling a good deal more prepared to react in defensive situations.



Congratulations to Michael and Anne Andreu on the birth of their son, **Branan James Andreu**, who was born October 16th!

Congratulations!



Welcome new employee, **Sokha Branham**, who will be working at the Plant City campus for administration. Sokha will be filling the position vacated by Ashley Stephens and will be handling the fiscal responsibilities for Plant City as well as acting as media coordinator in cooperation with Joel Parlin for IT needs and polycom set-up and issues. She comes highly recommended with her 14 years of fiscal experience with the University of Florida on-campus departments and, more recently with the University of Utah. Sokha currently lives in St. Petersburg. Welcome to GCREC, Sokha!





October's staff meeting was a little different. It included a pot luck lunch complete with pumpkin carving and costume contests. (Yes, we even got business taken care of!) Above is a collection of some of the employees who stayed around for a group photo at the end.



Winners of the pumpkin carving contest: Silvia Slamova and Jozer Mangandi, who received coupons from Quizno's and C.J's.



Winners for the costumes:
 Trish Todd - original (cereal killer);
 Joyce Jones - scariest; Jay Scott - funniest; Craig Chandler - best all round.



The winners won gift certificates to area restaurants for \$25 each with the top winner, Craig winning \$50 certificate to *Circles restaurant*. Craig came dressed and ready for work as Dr. A. Hole, Proctologist. (*Special thanks to Cora Sanders whose persuasive salesmanship procured the prizes.*)



The 2007 Florida Ag Expo will be held at UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Balm on December 6-7 (Thursday and Friday). This is the Florida vegetable industry's *only seminar and trade show*, so you don't want to miss it!

Thursday morning starts off with registration at 8:00 am breakfast and field trials open with seminars starting at 9:00 am with a variety of topics such as *Increasing Efficiency with Harvest Aids, Using GIS Technology, Cucurbit Insects/Viruses*, and other topics under *Alternative Crops for Florida Growers and Operational Efficiencies*.

On Friday registration and breakfast starts at 8:00 am with a special presentation by the University of Florida/IFAS and Cornell University National GAPs Program, *Food Safety and Good Agricultural Practices for Florida Fruit and Vegetable Growers*. There is a separate registration fee required for this participation.

The Exhibit Hall with trade demonstrations and exhibits will be open throughout the two-day expo, as well as variety/field trials.

Other Important December Dates

December 21, Friday.....This year's employee Christmas Party will be at 2:00 PM in the main lobby of the Center. As always, we will have our infamous "yankee gift exchange". Please bring dessert or hors d' oeuvres to share.



December 25, Tuesday..... Christmas Day Holiday

December 26 - December 31....Center closed - only essential personnel will be *preapproved* to work.