



Gulf Coast REC

November - December
2008

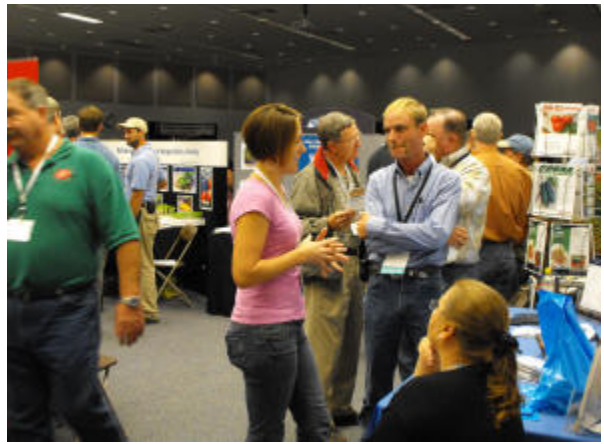
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*A government big enough to give you everything you want,
is strong enough to take everything you have.* Thomas Jefferson

2008 Florida Ag Expo on November 5, 2008 held at GCREC was presented by the tomato exchange, the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, the Florida Strawberry Growers Association and the University of Florida. The featured talks centered primarily around food safety, methyl bromide alternatives, strawberries, vegetables, and blueberries.

(for staff - more photos available on T drive under GCREC Pictures/2008/Ag Expo 08)





Happy Halloween!

October was a month to show off our talented and well-dressed staff! The prize went to Trish Todd for her "table setting".

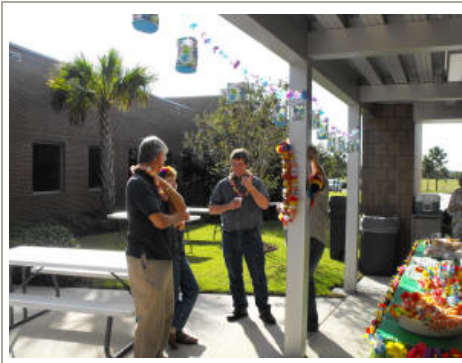
(The two on the far right of the group were extras brought in by "Mr. Mom" standing next to them - now *that* will give you nightmares!)



A special *congratulations* to **Sebrina Spurgeon** as we celebrated her upcoming wedding with a surprise shower!



In celebration of another year's successful Ag Expo, the staff enjoyed a luau with all the trimmings and even an island backdrop!



GCREC Staff may see more photos of these events on our T drive under GCREC Pictures/2008/Fall Events



Welcome new employees!

Bielinski Santos has added another OPS assistant to his program. **Miguel Rivera** from Ruskin just joined us this pay period - just in time to wish him a Happy Birthday on the 25th!

Our newest OPS assistants for the farm crew are **Diego Gomez** and **Evaristo Trevino**. Diego and Evaristo joined the farm crew in October.

In Plant City, Amr Abd-Elrahman has another OPS assistant on campus, **Sandeep Chinni**, who is a student at UF working on his Masters in computer engineering. (sorry, no picture available)



Miguel Rivera



Diego Gomez



Evaristo Trevino Jr.

The **Blood Mobile** is coming again Friday, December 12th!

Please signup with Patty to donate from 9:00 AM until 12:30 PM.

Did you know that in an average lifetime the heart pumps about 1 million barrels of blood -- enough to fill more than 3 supertankers?

Did you know that 43,000 pints of donated blood are used each day in the U.S. and Canada?

Go ahead - give a pint. You won't miss it, and it will help save lives.



Don't miss this year's Christmas Party! We'll be celebrating our staff Christmas party on Friday, December 19th at 3:00 PM. Bring your favorite finger food or dessert to share. We'll also have our fun gift exchange. If you wish to participate in the "Yankee Gift Exchange" bring a non-gender gift of about \$10.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY SCHEDULE!!!...We will be celebrating Christmas Holiday on Thursday, Decembr 25th and will be closed for the week following from December 26 through December 31 for **December Personal Leave**. This year we will get two days off for the New Year holiday as it falls on Thursday. *See you Monday, January 5, 2009!*

NOTE: If you have critical work that requires that you work during the December Personal Leave, you will need to report that time worked and you will have to make up your December Personal Leave not used before the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). This must be preapproved by your supervisor and authorized by Dr. Rechcigl.