

Friday, March 16, 2018

Field Trips (half-day)  
Research Symposium  
Keynote- Dr. Martha Monroe

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Welcome and Keynote Speaker-  
Mallory Lykes Dimmit  
Concurrent Sessions  
Workshops  
Saturday Evening Networking Event

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony  
Concurrent Sessions  
Workshops  
Field Trip



<https://www.seea-leef2018.com>



### Dr. Shinsuke Agehara Examines Potential Future of Mechanical Harvester for Strawberries

Getting up close and personal, Dr. Agehara gets a few key photos of the new robotic harvesting equipment on the horizon for strawberry production. With labor issues becoming more difficult for all growers, new technology is the way to go to keep farmers in business.



### Inspiring Future Scientists

GCREC proudly hosted 90 kindergarteners last month for a field trip and it was exhausting, but in a good way. Talk about contagious enthusiasm! The students learned about entomology, strawberry varieties, the parts of plants, and how to recycle household item to use as planters. Fun time for everyone and look at those smiles! Thanks to everyone who helped.



# GCREC Employee News

March 2018

## Research Matters Seminar Series for March 2018

**Friday, March 30th 12 noon**

Dr. Andrew Koeser will be presenting Urban Tree Risk Assessment – Perceptions, Reality, and Reliability



We would also like to congratulate Dr. Koeser on his latest achievement. TREE Fund announced its 2017 Grant and Scholarship Awards one of which was awarded to Dr. Koeser. Koeser's Directed Research Grant aims to conduct a comprehensive review of all past TREE Fund-supported research in their study "Research Review Program." The work will gauge direct and indirect outcomes, outputs, and impacts of the funded projects. *Congrats!*

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1....Adrian Zuniga
- 5....Evan McClenthan
- 6....Michelle Middleton
- 9....Luis Osorio
- 10...Penny Dipalma
- 26...Tyler Leonard
- 26...Gurleen Kaur
- 28...Carlos Silveira
- 30...Travis Edwards

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

Much of what is known about Saint Patrick comes from the *Declaration*, which was allegedly written by Patrick himself. According to the *Declaration*, at the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken as a slave to Gaelic Ireland. It says that he spent six years there working as a shepherd and that during this time he "found God". The *Declaration* says that God told Patrick to flee to the coast, where a ship would be waiting to take him home. After making his way home, Patrick went on to become a priest. According to tradition, Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. Tradition holds that he died on 17 March and was buried at Downpatrick.

## GCREC Grad Students Prepare for their Future Careers

We have several students presenting their thesis defenses in the upcoming weeks and everyone is invited to attend their seminars:

Adrian Zuniga. Title: Sensitivity of Botrytis Cinerea to Succinate Dehydrogenase Inhibitor (SDHI) Fungicides and to Heat Treatments. *When?* Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 10 a.m. in the auditorium.

Keevan MacKenzie. Title: Target Spot on Tomato in Florida: A Statewide Characterization of Sensitivity to the Respiration Inhibitor Fungicides *When?* Thursday March 7, 2018 at 10 a.m. in the auditorium.

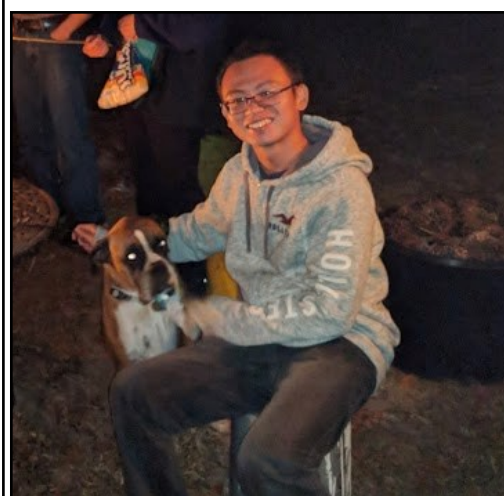
Bruna Forcelini. Title: Characterization of Sensitivity to Quinone-Outside Inhibitor Fungicides of Isolates of Colletotrichum acutatum from Strawberry Nurseries and Production Fields. *When?* Thursday April 5th, 2018 at 1 p.m. in the auditorium.





**It's all about the Love in the Evans Household -** Braden Evans, with Renkema's lab, and his wife, Nuria, welcomed a new baby girl last month. Chloe Evans arrived at 12:30 am on February 13th, weight 7 lbs, 5 oz. Here you can see her big brother, Julien, and big sister, Noemi, appear to already be totally in love with their new sibling. And how can they resist that cute little face! Congratulations to the Evans Family!

### Student Highlight—Jianjian Xu



**Hey GCREC—Meet Jianjian Xu, grad student with Dr. Zhanao Deng's lab.**

**What degree you are working towards -** Master of Science.

**What you are working on in the Deng's Lab right now -** Characterizing lantana breeding lines in plant growth habit, plant size, flowering, fruiting, ploidy level, pollen stainability, ability to produce unreduced female gametes and apomictic seeds.

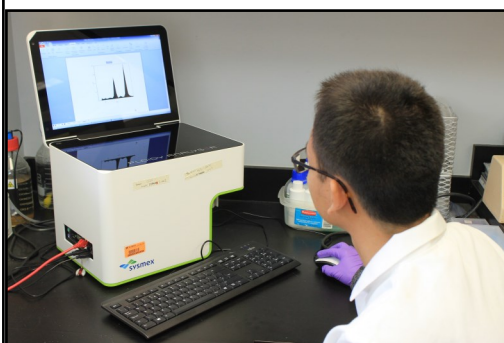
**Where you are from originally -** Shanghai of China.

**What you do for fun -** I like Music, Meditation, Drawing (pencil sketch or charcoal drawing )

**What led you into this field—**I love ornamental plants.

**What your goals are when you graduate—**To be a ornamental plant breeder. I plan to graduate in July 2018.

You can meet JJ in person in Deng's lab if you have any questions about his research.



### New Gator in the House

Welcome Tristan Watson, new PostDoc with Dr. Johan Desaegeer's lab. Tristan is from Kelowna, British Columbia and has an advanced degree in biology. His thesis focused on non-fumigant alternative soil management practices. Wishing you the best of luck with your career here at UF!

### Employee Evaluation Time is Approaching

With the beginning of a new year, comes the reflection of the past year. So get ready for the annual Employee Evaluation period. All employee evaluations are due to the GCREC HR office on or before **Friday, March 23rd**. **STAFF MEMBERS**—don't wait, start thinking about your accomplishments during 2017; and for **FACULTY**, make sure you start scheduling meetings with your staff as soon as possible to discuss their progress. Most employees don't think these reports mean anything, but they do, especially when Gainesville awards merit increases.



### Florida State Fair - Highlights from Fresh from Florida Breakfast Event



The University of Florida's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Plant City was well represented at the 2018 Florida State Fair, sponsoring a booth for the duration of the fair, attending the Fresh from Florida breakfast, Woman of the Year in Agriculture luncheon, and several of the livestock shows. In addition to working throughout the week at the UF Plant City table, many students also helped with record book judging, livestock skilathons, and lamb demonstration videos. Pictured from left to right at the UF Plant City State Fair table is Marlena Moore, Nicole Grube, and Kayla Mishler passing out strawberry cookies and talking to guests at the Fresh from Florida breakfast about UF Plant City programs. The three students along with Mrs. Deb Barry, Mrs. Katie Britt, Dr. Luis Pena-Levano and Mr. Jason Steward attended the breakfast and heard from speakers such as Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam and Florida Governor Rick Scott.



### More Plant City News—

The Gator Collegiate FFA hosted approximately 20 high school students on Saturday, February 24th for a Mock FFA State Officer Screening Event. High School juniors and seniors from central and south Florida participated in several practicums, including a personal interview, a conversational exercise, a discussion on their agricultural knowledge, and an advocacy activity. The Plant City GCREC undergraduate students interviewed students and helped them to develop their communication skills for the upcoming Florida FFA State Officer Screening. This year's event ran concurrently with the Gainesville hosted event, and offered students around the state the opportunity to participate at the University of Florida location closest to them. This event was a great success and is an annual