

Everglades Research and Education Center

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From the Director's Desk: A Facelift for the EREC

Authorized by the Florida Legislature in 1921, the Everglades Experiment Station was created on lands near Belle Glade. Construction officially began two years later. Since that time the station, now known as the Everglades Research and Education Center, or EREC, has experienced nearly nine decades of growth and change.

Hurricanes in the mid twenties and more recent hurricanes destroyed many of the buildings on the site. Since the most recent destruction, several buildings have been

removed, rebuilt or replaced.

Most noticeably missing is the pavilion building, used to show livestock when cattle were bred and raised on the station.

Another noticeable clearing is where the original soils lab stood. One of the oldest houses on the station, the soils lab was used well into the 80's, before the processing of more samples required additional space. The original soils lab was often seen in a photograph widely used showing the flooding after

one of the early hurricanes.

Future plans include planting field trials where these structures formerly stood. New greenhouses, shop, dormitory, and pesticide facility complete the renovations.

New technologies and upgrades in building codes have enabled us to have a safer work environment. At the same time, the replacement of some buildings in different locations makes them more convenient for fieldwork and research.

Christine T. Waddill

Borlaug Fellows Program

The cornerstone of the Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program (Borlaug Fellows Program) is faculty and scientist exchange programs with developing countries. The program provides short-term scientific training for international agricultural research scientists and policymakers from selected developing countries. The program is administered by USDA's [Foreign Agricultural Service](#) in cooperation with the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#), the [U.S. Department of State](#), and the [U.S. Trade and Development Agency](#).

Two Borlaug Fellows, Ameerah Hanoon Atiyah and Saadi Mahdi Mohammed Al-Ghraiiri, are currently visiting the EREC for a six week period with Dr. Samira Daroub. Both scientists are on leave from their work at the Office of Agricultural Research and Food Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, in Baghdad, Iraq. Ms. Atiyah has a master's degree in soil science; she conducts research in irrigation, saline water use and crop modeling. Mr. Al-Ghraiiri has a master's degree in soil chemistry and works on peat and compost production, desertification, and utilization of organic matter for reclamation of salt-affected soils.

Both scientists will be learning about water resources in southern Florida, latest technology and equipment in soil and water analysis, and crop modeling. They will be touring to learn about agriculture practices and water management in the area.

Sugarcane Orange Rust Workshop

On May 28th at the EREC Conference Center, a workshop of national and international importance attracted participants from Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Brazil, Mexico and other Central American Countries. Dr. Richard Raid presented research results on yield loss and fungicidal control. Dr. Jack Comstock, USDA, spoke on Sugarcane Orange Rust status in Florida and the Western Hemisphere.

Other speakers provided information on pesticide registration, status of Sugarcane Orange Rust in Brazil, grower presentations and fungicide yield trials.

Retirement



In May, Dr. Ken Pernezny retired from UF/IFAS after 32 years of service. He began his career with the University of Florida at the Tropical Research and Education Center in Homestead and transferred to Belle Glade in 1989.

Ken's career highlights include the establishment of IPM programs in many

vegetable crops throughout the EAA and sandlands of south Florida.

Significant in his research was the discovery of the cause of brown stem of celery, and his fungicide evaluations for foliar disease pathogens.

In addition to his research, Ken was a much sought after lecturer for Plant Pathol-

ogy classes at Indian River REC and Fort Lauderdale REC. He also taught regular classes for the Master Gardener Program throughout southern Florida.

Ken's retirement plans include continuing to work with the Master Gardener Program at the Palm Beach County Extension Office on Military Trail.

Aloha Dr. Nagata

Dr. Russell Nagata, Plant Breeder, at the EREC for 22 years; UF for 28 years, left in February for an administrative post in Hawaii.

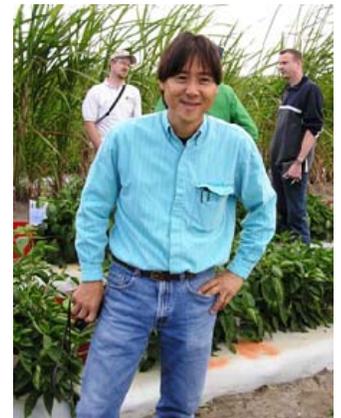
Dr. Nagata's recent release of Captiva grass earned much recognition for its resistance to chinch bugs

and its slow growth, thereby reducing the need for mowing.

Russell contributed to new releases of centipede grasses and seashore paspalums. His research also included collaboration with geneticists in IFAS on mo-

lecular studies of host plant resistance to multiple insect species.

Dr. Nagata is the new Administrator for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa.



Awards & Honors

Congratulations Dr. Alvarez - Best History/Political Book

The 11th Annual International Latino Book Awards winners were announced at a ceremony in May at the Javits Center in New York City. Winning the category for Best History/Political Book - Spanish or Bilingual with his book "Principio y Fin Del mito Fidelista" was Dr. José Alvarez

In recognition of the many positive contributions being made to Latino literature by publishers and writers worldwide, Latino Literacy Now, created the Latino Book Awards in 1999. Latino Literacy Now is a non-profit organization that supports and promotes literacy and literary excellence within the Latino community.

Graduate student, Rongzhong Ye won 3rd place in the oral presentation contest at the Soil & Crop Science Society of Florida Meeting in Jacksonville. The title of the presentation was 'Seasonal Dynamics of Phosphorus in Sulfur-Amended Organic Soils of South Florida'. Rongzhong Ye is a PhD candidate from China working with Dr. Alan Wright.

Drs. Rob Gilbert and Richard Raid each received the Denver T. Loupe Best Presentation Award at the joint ASSCT meeting in Biloxi, MS, on June 19. Dr. Gilbert's presentation was on Green Cane Harvest, and Dr. Raid's presentation was about Orange Rust on Sugarcane.

Dr. Joseph R. Orsenigo 1922 - 2009

Thorough, diligent, dedicated, scholarly, historian, research oriented, pioneer

All words used to describe a man that worked most of his adult life in Belle Glade, Florida.

Dr. Joseph Orsenigo moved to Belle Glade in 1957, after being hired by the University of Florida to work at the Everglades Agricultural Experiment Station, now known as the Everglades Research and Education Center.

Dr. Orsenigo worked primarily with weed control in vegetables, sugarcane and other crops in the EAA. His publications are too numerous to list, but significant among them is UF/IFAS Technical Bulletin 794, published in 1978 on 'A harvest comparison of green and burned sugarcane;' research then that is still important today.

He retired with emeritus status from the University in 1975; following that he joined the Florida Sugar Cane League and retired again in 1989 as Vice President of Research.

Not a person to sit back quietly and enjoy retirement, Dr. O. as I called him, would frequent the EREC library in search of obscure references either to help someone with a question, or to find more

information that he would use in his own research. A serious reader, Dr. O. would thoroughly and diligently review all books published about agriculture in the area, the Everglades, and about Lake Okeechobee. His attention to detail was amazing and his ability to recall historic events made him a very interesting speaker.

Dr. O. was often called upon to speak at various functions and he often included visual presentations that always contained new and different pictures or maps. Not content to rehash history, his interest and research made the history come alive with each telling.

He provided a historic overview of the Everglades REC at its 75th anniversary in 1996, and was on hand to represent the emeritus faculty at the Everglades Research Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony last year.

Community minded, he was responsible for much of the organization and contents of the Lawrence Will Museum, located in the Belle Glade Branch of the Palm Beach County Library. Serving as Curator and Director, he provided a fascinating historical narrative of the museum exhibits and artifacts;



Dr. Orsenigo at Everglades Research Historic Marker Dedication Ceremony, April 2008

and explained with great detail and interest, so that all who listened understood and appreciated.

Dr. O. had visions for many projects, let's hope that whoever follows in his footsteps will have his dedication and appreciation for the clear trail that he blazed.

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Donations in his memory may be made to the University of Florida Foundation EREC Emeritus Endowment or Palm Beach County Hospice.

As of this date, dozens of contributors have donated over \$4,000.00 to the Emeritus Endowment in memory of Dr. Joseph Orsenigo.

"...his interest and research made the history come alive with each telling."

Everglades Research and Education Center

3200 East Palm Beach Road
Belle Glade, FL 33430

Phone: 561-993-1517
Fax: 561-993-1582

Kathleen Krawchuk, Editor
klkr@ufl.edu

We're on the Web

<http://erec.ifas.ufl.edu>



New Subsidence Marker Sign



The new sign for the historic subsidence post was a gift from Leadership Glades, a program sponsored by the Belle Glade Chamber of Commerce. The EREC hosts hundreds of visitors annually, and tours are not complete without a stop at this historic marker. Shown here is the 2009 Leadership Glades group as they visited on Agricultural & Agribusiness Day.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 class of Leadership Glades. Visit their website at: <http://leadershipglades.com/>

Mark your calendars

Sept. 29, 2009
Sept. 30, 2009

1:00 - 4:00 pm **Pest Management Strategic Plan for Sweet Corn Growers** - at EREC
9:00 - 12:00 am **Pest Management Strategic Plan for Lettuce Growers** - at EREC

Sweet corn and lettuce growers with concerns about future pest management in these crops may want to plan to attend meetings being held on September 29th and 30th at the EREC. The results of the meeting will be produced as a Pest Management Strategic Plan, which serves as a needs document and helps researchers and extension personnel obtain funding for a specific crop.

Lunch will be provided and some limited travel funds exist for the meeting. Please contact Dr. Mark Mossler at the UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office at 352 392-4721 or plantdoc@ufl.edu

Oct. 2, 2009

Friday Seminar

Nov. 9-11, 2009

2nd ICBF2009

International Conference on Bio-fuel Crop Production and Development at Zamorano University, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Zamorano, EARTH, and the University of Florida will co-host a meeting on environmentally sustainable technologies for the competitive production of bio-fuel crops. The meeting will address current cutting edge research on crops for bio-fuel production. Topics will include alternative production systems (e.g. best management practices), crop genetics (e.g. varieties and GMOs), and environmental impacts (e.g. production and industry byproduct use, water quality, land use and carbon sequestration). The conference will encourage graduate and undergraduate curriculum development and inter-institutional cooperation.

Registration information is available at: <http://www.zamorano.edu/icbf2009.eng/>

For additional information you may contact Dr. Kelly Morgan at conserv@UFL.EDU

