The Grapevine Newsletter 2014: 2
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Beekeeping is All a Buzz in Nassau County

Since the Beekeeping for Beginners workshop on March 22nd at the UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension Service, beekeeping has been a hot topic in the county. Forty people attended the workshop that included speakers and demonstrations from local beekeepers and the Florida Division of Plant Industry Apiary Inspection Section. The interest and excitement from that workshop spurred on the development of Nassau County’s first educational Bee Club.

Although the official name of the club has yet to be determined, 40 aspiring, novice, and experienced beekeepers came together for the first bee club meeting in April. Above the buzzing from the live swarm that was brought to show was buzz from the excitement about the bee club in Nassau County. Beekeepers of all levels of experience and from all counties in Northeast Florida and South Georgia are welcome to join us on Monday, May 19th at 6PM at the Nassau County Extension Service to help us get this club off the ground and swarming.

Call Amanda Burnett at 904-879-1019 for more information.

What’s in Season

- Callahan Farmers Market
- Fernandina Beach Market Place
- Amelia Farmers Market

Find fresh produce and other farm products, such as honey, goats milk and cheese, and pepper glazes straight from the farm or at the:

Cabbage
Carrots
Squash
Tomatoes
Corn
Strawberries
Blueberries
Cucumbers
Green Peppers
Blooms of yellow, pink, orange, red, and purple, or a rainbow mix of colors, makes lantana a very popular ornamental plant in Florida. Hardy and available in multiple varieties, *Lantana camara* was soon distributed worldwide from its native West Indies. And worldwide it has caused trouble.

From Hawaii, to Australia, Africa, and our home state, *Lantana camara* has been blamed for human and livestock deaths due to its highly toxic green, unripe berries and leaves. In parts of Africa, it is even illegal to be found with the plant on one’s property. Here in Florida it is found invading coastal dune ecosystems, forests and roadsides and is a major pest in citrus groves and pastures.

To make *Lantana camara* even more endearing is its ability to hybridize with one of our three endangered and difficult to find native Lantana species: *Lantana depressa*.

Thankfully, some varieties available at garden stores, such as the popular ‘Gold Mound’ hybrid variety are sterile, but are oftentimes mistakenly sold as the native *Lantana depressa*. For those wanting to plant a native Lantana, try looking for *Lantana involucrata*, or wild sage, in your local nurseries instead.

-Amanda Burnett

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**Weed of the Month**

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**Heard it Through the Grapevine: Questions from the Community**

**I have plants growing in my pond, what can I do about it?** First, plants in a pond are a good thing. They add oxygen to the water which is beneficial for the fish and other organisms. Unfortunately, with the hot months of summer coming along, some folks may start to see some vegetation becoming too thick or algae starting to turn their pond water green. If too much algae grows and covers the surface of the pond, the vegetation below can die, decay, and ultimately lead to fish stress and death. The best thing you can do is to check the health of your pond now before summer. Your UF/IFAS Nassau County Extension Service can do a free pond water test and provide recommendations. Also, we recommend 24/7 aeration in your pond during the summer, or at the very least during the night when the plants are not releasing oxygen. If you need an aquatic weed identified we can help you with that as well.

**I would like to have honeybees on my property. Am I allowed to have hives?** Unless you are in a Home Owner’s Association that does not allow bees, you are legally allowed by the State to have hive bees, but be a good neighbor. If you have neighbors, let them know that you intend to have hives. A high fence behind the bee hive between you and your neighbor’s property will prompt your bees to fly high over their property and reduce the chance of unwanted interaction.

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**Did you know that on average, cow calf weights from herds that were under a Timed Artificial Insemination (TAI) program were over 38 pounds more than calves that were not. That is a an almost $50 advantage per calf and the new online AI Cowculator tool can help you determine if TAI is right for your herd. Get it free on your iPhone or Android or download it to your computer. Go to [http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/AICowculator.shtml](http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/programs/AICowculator.shtml)**
ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

Signup for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Disaster Assistance programs begins:

April 15, 2014

Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

- **LFP** provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire on publicly managed land. An eligible livestock producer must own, cash lease, or be a contract grower of eligible livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the qualifying drought or fire in a county that is rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as D2, D3, or D4.

- **LIP** provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to adverse weather. Eligible livestock includes beef cattle, dairy cattle, bison, poultry, sheep, swine, horses, and other livestock as determined by the Secretary.

- **ELAP** provides emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees and farm-raised fish that have losses due to disease, adverse weather, or other conditions, such as blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

**IMPORTANT:** To save time and ensure efficient service, please call the Duval-Baker-Nassau FSA Office at 904-266-0088 ext 2 for an appointment and to discuss records you may need to have with you when you apply for disaster assistance.

Visit FSA online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Little Beetle, Big Impact on Invasive Air Potato Vine

As you drive down the highways and interstates of Florida, particularly along the I75 corridor, you may notice the roadside vegetation thickly covered by one particular vine. Take a closer look and you’ll notice heart-shaped leaves and potato-like bulbils hanging off the vines. This is the notorious air potato.

Introduced to Florida in 1905 from Asia, the air potato vine became recognized as one of Florida’s worst invasive plants. With the ability to grow up to 8 inches in one day into the canopies of trees, air potato quickly smothers native plants and drops heavy bulbils all over the area below it, sprouting new vines.

Land managers, land owners, and researchers have been trying to find the most effective and efficient ways to combat one of Florida’s worst natural enemies. And it seems one weapon against air potato vine has finally been discovered.

It is commonly referred to simply as the Air Potato Beetle. This little red beetle was discovered in Nepal and later in China where it was seen decimating the leaves off of air potato vine. Curious, the researchers from the USDA brought the beetle back to Florida where it was learned that not only does it do an excellent job at eating back air potato, the beetle also spreads successfully and does not eat any other plant than the invasive air potato vine. In 2012, over 145,000 beetles in 32 counties of Florida were released as a biological control for air potato.

Do you have air potato on your property and want to get rid of it? Contact Eric Rohrig with FDACS at Eric.Rohrig@freshfromflorida.com to request beetles to be mailed to you. Or call 352-395-4744.

Release site June 2012, prior to release (left), and 15 months post release (right). Photo by Eric Rohrig, FL-DACS, DPI-Gainesville.
UF/IFAS Extension NFLAG
Equine Workshop

FREE REGISTRATION
9:30-10:00 Registration
Beginning Track
10:00-10:30 Basic Horse Nutrition Besil Beckman, UF/IFAS Extension Union County
10:30-11:00 Hoof Care and Shoes Justin Callahan, Horse Teaching Unit Manager
11:00-11:30 Break and visit sponsors
11:30-12:00 Selecting a New Horse and the Economics of Horse Ownership Amanda Burnett, UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County
Derek Barber, UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County
Tim Wilson, UF/IFAS Extension Bradford County
12:00-12:45 Lunch
Advanced Track
10:00-10:30 Horse Rations and Formulations Kristie Moody, Seminole Feeds
10:30-11:00 Hay Quality and Testing Keith Wynn, UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County
Dan Fenneman, UF/IFAS Extension Madison County
11:00-11:30 Break and visit sponsors
11:30-12:00 Legal Liability for Horse Owners Eugene Shuey, PA
12:00-12:45 Lunch
Beginning and Advanced Track
12:45-1:15 Toxic Weed Identification and Control Barton Wilder, UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County
1:15-2:00 Strategic Deworming for Florida Horses Amanda House, DVM, Clinical Associate Professor University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
2:00-2:15 Break and visit sponsors
2:15-3:00 Equine Dentistry Toots Banner, DVM Riverside Equine Dental Services

May 31, 2014
UF/IFAS Horse Teaching Unit
1934 SW 63rd Ave.
Gainesville, FL 32608

To register call 352-955-2402 by May 28
Wildlife Happenings— May

Birds
- Brown pelican and white ibis young are now visible in nests
- Painted Buntings nest through summer in northeast Florida
- Least terns and snowy plovers nest on beaches
- Bald eagles begin migrating north
- Breeding begins for many resident and summer songbirds

Mammals
- Gray Bats congregate at maternity caves now through mid-July

Reptiles
- Alligators begin to court and make loud resounding 'bellows'
- Gopher tortoises begin to nest and lay eggs
- Loggerhead, green, and a few leatherback sea turtles begin nesting on our beaches
- Soft-shell and alligator snapping turtles complete egg laying

Fish
- Bluegill are bedding at the full moon
- Redbreast sunfish and spotted sunfish begin spawning in rivers
- Pompano running in the surf in north Florida

Plants
- White swamp lillies dot wet prairies of the Everglades
- American lotus bloom at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park

Timber Mart-South Summary, 1st Quarter, 2014
Statewide Average Stumpage Prices

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<th>Product</th>
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The tracks of a Loggerhead Sea Turtle that came up to nest. Photo by Amanda Burnett

Something Bugging Your Trees?
By Jiri Hulcr, Forest Entomologist, UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation

Do you have pests or a disease in your trees? Leaves or needles withering, and you don’t know why? Sawdust falling out of your trees, and you don’t know how to save them? There is help: contact the new Forest Health Diagnostics service at the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation: http://sfrc.ufl.edu/treehealth/index.shtml

We are a group of forest health specialists at the University of Florida/IFAS. We guarantee fast and the most accurate forest pest and disease diagnostics available in the State of Florida. For a modest fee of $8, we can help you save your stand that’s worth thousands.

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