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From the Center Director



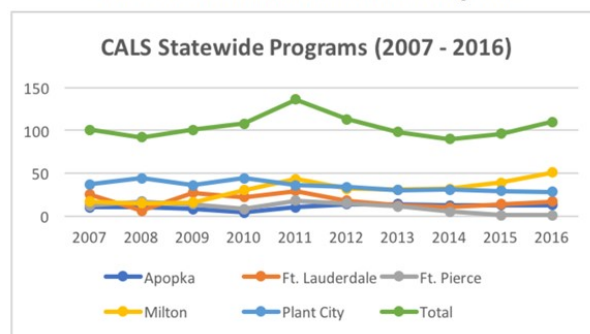
Dr. Wes Wood
Professor & Center Director

Spring is here (almost), and we will start planting corn at the Jay Research Facility any day now. Cotton, peanut and soybean planting will follow as we progress through the season. Another crop we are looking forward to this year is pecan. We added 50 each of Elliot and Cape Fear pecan trees to our orchard over the winter, along with 10 Chinese Chestnut and 10 Chinkapin trees. Mike Dozier led this effort, and is revamping our old orchard sprayer to help maintain the health of both our older and new nut trees. Justin McKeithen mapped each old and new tree via GPS, generating a digital orchard map that will aid us and future WFREC personnel in making orchard management decisions. Greg Kimmons ensured that soil samples were taken in the orchard, and fertilizer recommendations stemming from that sampling will be adhered to make sure our new and older trees have proper nutrition. I have hopes that our older trees will produce a marketable crop of pecans this fall. I realize that our new trees will not likely produce a crop during my tenure as Director – we planted them for the future.

Speaking of the future, we are in the midst of interviews for a new weed scientist (60% research, 40% extension). To date, we have interviewed one candidate, and we will interview two more over the next few weeks. I look forward to hiring a well-qualified individual for this important position.

We are now the largest IFAS off-campus teaching program (see the graph below). I attribute this growth to our excellent teaching faculty and our dedicated student recruiter. In the 2017/18 academic year, we will graduate our largest group of students since I came to the WFREC in 2014. A total of 21 students will graduate from our programs this academic year. The graduation ceremony for these students will be held on 10 May, and I invite all interested parties to attend and help us celebrate these students' accomplishments. Please contact Mark Long (Student Recruiter) or Robin Vickers (Events Coordinator) for further information regarding the ceremony.

2017 CALS TES Session on Statewide Programs



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From the Center Director—continued from page 1

Throughout the coming months the WFREC will hold many events that we encourage the public to attend. The closest one in time is our “Spring Festival of Flowers” to be held on the Milton Campus of Pensacola State College where our teaching program is located. The dates for the festival are 6-8 April, and it features our UF student club plant sale, plant nursery vendors, arts and crafts, great food, and educational opportunities. We hope to see you at this and other events as they occur across the rest of 2018. Please visit our website (<http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/>) for information on upcoming events.

Go Gators!



Carinata Field Day

Highlights

Dr. Mike Mulvaney held his first Carinata Field Day on February 27 at the Jay Research Facility. We had a great group of producers attend the field day and learn about the challenges of growing carinata in the Panhandle.

Speakers and topics included: Building an IPM Program for Carinata: Dr. Silvana Moraes, Fertility Management: Dr. Mike Mulvaney, Best Management Practices: Ramdeo Seepaul, Disease Management: Dr. Ian Small, Agrisoma Biosciences Representative: Dr. Jeff Klingenberg, Farmer Experiences: Mr. Stephen Godwin, and Tillage Practices: Dr. Mike Mulvaney.

A huge thank you to Coastal Machinery for providing the breakfast and beverages for the attendees. Thank you Agrisoma for sponsoring the lunch; it was fantastic!

We appreciate your continued support!!



Ian Small, Plant Pathology, North Florida REC



Dr. Silvana Moraes and Jessica Baldwin,
WFREC Entomology Department



Spring Festival of Flowers

**April
6, 7 & 8,
2018**

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**ABOUT THE
SPRING FESTIVAL
OF FLOWERS**

The University of Florida and Pensacola State College Milton Campus invites you to join them for one of the largest festivals of the season. This is a popular event that draws plant enthusiasts from near and far. This festival features plant nurseries, UF student club plant sale, arts & crafts, great food and educational opportunities.

The goal of the event is to raise money for scholarships, student field trips, and other student needs.

Location

Pensacola State College & University of Florida
Milton Campus (Avalon Blvd at Hwy 90, Milton)

Times

Friday 9-5pm, Saturday & Sunday 9am-4pm

**Want to register as an
exhibitor?**

To pay by credit card or register as a non-profit
visit us online at [https://uflspringfestivalofflowers.
eventbrite.com](https://uflspringfestivalofflowers.eventbrite.com)

For more information, please contact Robin
Vickers at 850-983-7134 or rvickers@ufl.edu

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Calling all plant lovers everywhere. The University of Florida and Pensacola State College Milton Campus invites you to join them for one of the largest festival of the season. The annual Spring Festival of Flowers will be held on April 6, 7 & 8, 2018. This popular event draws plant enthusiasts from near and far. This festival features plant nurseries, UF Student Club plant sale, arts & crafts, great food and educational opportunities. Free admission and open to the public.

The three day festival will be held on the University of Florida and Pensacola State College Milton Campus located at 5988 Hwy 90 (Avalon Blvd at Hwy 90), Milton, FL. Gates open from 9 am – 5 pm on Friday, 9 am – 4 pm on Saturday & Sunday. For more information visit our website at [http://
wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/)



Dr. Mike Mulvaney,
Assistant Professor, Agronomy

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Peer-reviewed publications:

- C. Na, A.M. Cook, D.L. Rowland, D.L. Wright, J.M. Bennett, A.R. Smith, J.A. Ferrell, **M.J. Mulvaney**. 2018. Rotating peanut into established bahiagrass pastures: identifying sustainable tillage operations. *Journal of Crop Improvement*: 1-20. doi:10.1080/15427528.2018.1431349
- N. Honsdorf, **M. Mulvaney**, R.P. Singh, K. Ammar, J. Burgueno, B. Govaerts, N. Verhulst. 2018. Performance progress and genotype by tillage interaction for 13 bread and 13 durum wheat genotypes on irrigated raised beds. *Field Crops Research* 216: 42-52. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fcr.2017.11.011.
- R. Leon, B. Washington, J. Ferrell, **M. Mulvaney**, C.W. Wood. 2017. Evolutionary adaptations of Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) to nitrogen fertilization and crop rotation history affect morphology and nutrient use efficiency. *Weed Science*: 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1017/wsc.2017.73>
- D.A. Edralin(g), G.C. Sigua, M.R. Reyes, **M.J. Mulvaney**, S.S. Andrews. 2017. Conservation agriculture improves yield and reduces weeding activity in sandy soils of Cambodia. *Agronomy for Sustainable Development* 37: 52. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13593-017-0461-7>



Extension publications:

- D. Wright, D. Rowland, **M.J. Mulvaney**. 2017. [Water Use and Irrigation Management of Agronomic Crops](#). UF/IFAS Electronic Delivery Information System (EDIS) publication SS-AGR-155. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- D. Wright, J. Marois, D. Rowland, **M. Mulvaney**. 2017. [Field Corn Production Guide](#). EDIS publication SS-AGR-85. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- M. Mulvaney**, R. Kemerait, J. Atkins, N. Dufault. 2017. [2016 Evaluation of Foliar Fungicides for Disease Control in Peanut, Jay, FL](#). EDIS publication SS-ARG-413. University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Grants:

- \$164,008. Crop Protection and Pest Management Extension Implementation Project for the University of Florida. USDA NIFA Crop Protection & Pest Management.
- \$10,268. Directed application for white mold control in peanut. FL Peanut Producers Assn. 2017-18.
- \$11,607. Quantification of nitrogen credits following peanut. FL Peanut Producers Assn. 2017-18.

Newsletters:

- M. Mulvaney**. 2018. Early-Season Considerations for Peanut and Cotton Production. 2018. Panhandle Ag News, Feb. 9, 2018. <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2018/02/09/early-season-considerations-for-peanut-cotton-production/>
- I. Small, R. Seepaul, **M. Mulvaney**, D. Wright. 2018. Carinata SPARCs Interest as a Winter Crop for the Southeast U.S. Panhandle Ag News, Feb. 2, 2018. <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/2018/02/02/carinata-sparcs-interest-as-a-winter-crop-for-the-southeast-u-s/>



Dr. Ajay Sharma

Assistant Professor, Forest Resource & Conservation

1. Publications

- Sharma, A., Bohn, K.K., Jose, S., Miller, D.L. (2018). Seed bank- vegetation dynamics along a restoration gradient in pine flatwoods ecosystems of Florida Gulf Coast. *Natural Areas Journal*, 38(1): 26-43.
- Sharma, A., Bohn, K.K., Nowak, J., Dwivedi, P. (2017). Economic feasibility of and vegetation responses to biomass harvest in managed loblolly pine plantations. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10549811.2017.1417137>



2. Dr. Sharma was elected Vice-chair of Ecological Society of America (ESA) -Applied Ecology Section in November 2017. Applied Ecology Section is among the largest sections of the ESA with memberships from all over the world.

3. Dr. Sharma was also co-opted as a Co-Director of Conserved Forest Ecosystems – Outreach and Research (CFEOR) in Fall 2017. CFEOR is a research and outreach cooperative comprised of public land management agencies, private landowners, and non-government organizations as well as University of Florida faculty members who have a mission to conserve forest lands and water resources.

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Dr. Silvana Paula-Moraes

Assistant Professor, Crop Pest Management

Peer-reviewed publications:

Luz, P.C., **Paula-Moraes, S.V.**, Lopez, J.M.P., Pujol-Luz, J.R., Pentead-Dias, A.M., Specht, A., Diniz, I.R. 2018. Parasitoids associated with *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in refuge area of cotton, in Western Bahia, Brazil. *Ciência Rural*, v.48: 01, e20170250.



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Dr. C. Wesley Wood

Center Director, Professor of Soil & Water Science

Publications:

Xue, J., Y. Feng, R.U. Wijesinghe, and C.W. Wood. 2018. Using Bacteroidales genetic markers to assess fecal pollution sources in coastal waters. *Water Environ. J.* 32:84–93.

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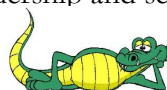
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Arun Jani, a Graduate Student working with Dr. Mulvaney

1. Plant Science Symposium at the University of Florida, 1st place (\$300) in Graduate Student Poster Competition
2. Jimmy G. Cheek Graduate Student Medal of Excellence Award (\$3000) / given annually to one student in College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CALS) based on scholastic achievement, leadership, and innovative research.
3. Madelyn Lockhart Dissertation Fellowship Award (\$2000) / given annually to one student in the entire University of Florida Graduate School (14 colleges participate). This award highlights a combination of academic achievement, commitment to leadership and service, and research productivity.



Entomology Happenings

Gagandeep Kaur, Jianguo Guo¹, Ying Niu, Sebe Brown, Graham P. Head, Paula A. Price, Silvana Paula-Moraes, Xinzhi Ni, and Fangneng Huang. Susceptibility of corn ear-worm populations from southeastern United States to Cry1A.105 and Cry2Ab2 proteins. In: 2018 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 04 - 07, Orlando, FL.

Jessica Baldwin, Silvana Paula-Moraes, Latisa Ledbetter-Kish, and Roberto Pereira. Red fire ants in fields crops of Florida Panhandle. In: 2018 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 04 07, Orlando, FL.



Ashley Moore, Silvana Paula-Moraes, Jessica Baldwin, Latisa Ledbetter-Kish and Michael Mulvaney. Insects associated with Brassica carinata in the southern region of the U. S.: occurrence and biology. In: 2018 Southeastern Branch Meeting, March 04 - 07, Orlando, FL.

Go Gators

FARM TO CITY WEEK

The University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center, Feeding the Gulf Coast, Waterfront Rescue Mission and the Guy Thompson Community Center joined forces to celebrate National Farm to City Week, November 15th through the 22nd, 2017. Farm to City Week is a time to recognize and celebrate the importance of relationships between farmers, consumers, community leaders and everyone in between who contributes to our safe, abundant food supply.

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To promote agriculture and increase awareness about the importance of agriculture to consumers and the general public, on November 21 we distributed food (some locally grown) to 400 pre-qualified families in Santa Rosa County and 400 pre-qualified families in Escambia County. The food provided a healthy Thanksgiving meal to hundreds of struggling families.



The locally grown collards, cabbage and sweet potatoes were harvested by Ag students from Santa Rosa and Escambia County on November 20, one day prior to distribution of the holiday meal boxes.

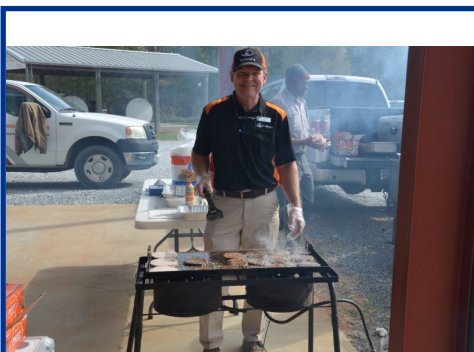
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A huge thank you to our generous sponsors!

Platinum level sponsors include Hill Kelly Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram, St. Rose of Lima, Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Farm Bureau Insurance, Milton Dodge Chrysler Jeep Inc. and City of Milton. Gold sponsors include Baptist Health Care, United Bank and McKenzie Motors.

Check out the Farm to City video! [2017 Farm to City Video](#)

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Latisa Ledbetter-Kish, a Technician of Entomology & Justin McKeithen, a Technician of Forestry had the opportunity to participate in the Career Day at Milton High School on February 14, 2018. Students pre-registered with an interest in either or both of the above programs, University of Florida, and/or WFREC/IFAS as a consideration toward their future professional goals. 168 students were not only able to get specific knowledge of Latisa and Justin's professions, but also learn how many STEM professions are often inter-linked.



Justin McKeithen, Latisa Ledbetter-Kish,
Milton High School Student

Latisa discussed the UF Entomology & Nematology program's scientific impact as number one in the world, and to encourage students to start exploring resources such as the Florida Bug Club and Featured Creatures, or projects such as Backyard Bark Beetles and School of Ants. She also shared research Dr. Silvana Paula-Moraes is conducting in Agricultural Row Crops at WFREC and the many job descriptions available in Entomology.

Justin introduced students to Forestry and Natural Resource Management and a wide variety of career opportunities in this field. Within each broad category of careers, he highlighted specific jobs, and informed the students of the general educational requirements for various positions and emphasized the role of continuing education in each field. Justin also explained that many of these careers require training and knowledge in computer software and technology.

Our faculty and staff enjoy opportunities to visit local high schools to educate students about the fields of study, research, and extension available at the University of Florida.

Campus Visitors

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Students from Escambia County along with UF Milton Campus Graduate, Darlene Bonelli, visited the greenhouses and gardens on March 1. Dr. Mack Thetford, Associate Professor, Environmental Horticulture, gave them a tour of the greenhouses and worked with them in the gardens.



2018 Upcoming Events

Spring Festival of Flowers	April 6, 7, & 8
UF Milton Campus Spring 2018 Graduation Ceremony	May 10
Gulf Coast GCSA Meeting—BMP Training	May 23
Gulf Coast Turfgrass Expo & Field Day	June 20

UF/WFREC Holidays & Academic Program Calendar

Classes End—Wednesday, April 25th

Final Exams—April 28th through May 4th

Memorial Day – Monday, May 28th

Classes Begin Summer A & C— Monday, May 14th

Degree Applications Due Summer A— Wednesday, May 16th

Classes Begin Summer B— Monday, July 2nd

Independence Day – Wednesday, July 4th

Degree Applications Due Summer B & C— Thursday, July 5th

Labor Day – Monday, September 3rd



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