

VOL. 15 ISSUE 1 · JAN-FEB-MAR 2022

CENTER PIVOT NEWSLETTER

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SUWANNEE COUNTY
386-362-2771, suwannee@ifas.ufl.edu



50 Years of Service to Suwannee County 4-H:

Betty Hicks

When I think of Betty Hicks, the first thought that comes to mind is elegant. Another word would be “Southern Belle”. She was a lady who dressed to the nines.

Betty was married to Avon Hicks for 62 years before he passed away in 2017. They lived most of their lives in McAlpin. They attended Live Oak Church of God. I loved watching the care this couple had for each other and the kindness they exhibited to others. Ms. Hicks was inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of fame in 2011 for serving as a 4-H volunteer (she and her husband co-led a club) for 46 years. She started her 4-H work in 1965 when she helped her sister with the Busy Bees 4-H Club. Then she helped Ms. Willie Haas with the McAlpin 4-H Club from 1966-1972. Mrs. Hicks took over the Leona 4-H Club as leader in 1972 and served it for 39 years touching over 690 young people’s lives. She shared that many of those young people came back years later to visit. She knew that providing opportunities to youth would help them in the future. The Hicks were sponsors of the Head, Heart, Hands and Health awards for Suwannee County 4-H to reward youth in their progress. Ms. Hicks felt that the confidence building 4-H provided youth was something that kept her motivated and involved. Her club was active in a variety of community service projects. One interesting fact is that Ms. Betty served as 4-H club leader to five of her six grandchildren!

50 Years of Service to 4-H

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50 Years of Service to Suwannee County 4-H: *Betty Hicks continued*

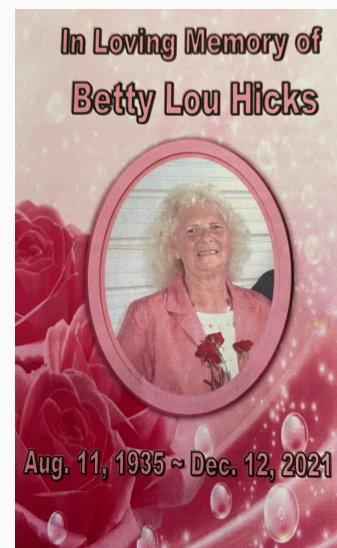
written by Katherine Allen, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, Suwannee County Extension

Mrs. Hicks was also active in the Home and Community Educators in Florida. The name started as Home Demonstration Clubs (also known as homemaker clubs) and it was a volunteer program through the Cooperative Extension Service. The purpose of the clubs was to make the same kind of information found at colleges and universities available to rural women. Clubs helped raise the standards of living for members of the group and to give the members a sense of community with others and pride in their own work. Many women enjoyed the leadership opportunities the clubs provided them. These clubs brought women together to do more than just socialize – they came together to learn and grow. Projects included: ALICE (which is currently in the local schools to prevent deaths with active shooter situations), homeless mats, medication alerts, pop tops for the Ronald McDonald house, pennies for friendship to support women of the world, box tops for education, recycled old/unused cell phone to support domestic violence victims, and more.

Donna Wade, one of her fellow HCE club members lovingly laughed about how if you roomed with her, you wanted to make sure you got in the bathroom first. If you had to wait on her to finish, you would definitely be late to the meeting. Ms. Wade also recalls Mrs. Hicks' faith both in church and in 4-H. Ms. Wade never recalls hearing Mrs. Hicks raise her voice. She was always soft-spoken and polite.

Betty Hicks was part of the annual HCE cooking school which showcased various cooking methods and recipes. The HCEs raised money each year to provide two scholarships for 4-H youth in the county.

Mrs. Betty loved her family and enjoyed their trips to North Carolina. She and Avon raised three children who were active in 4-H growing up: daughter: Pamela Nettles and two sons: Tillman Avon "TJ" Hicks, Jr., and Gregory Todd Hicks (Angel). Greg continued in the 4-H legacy becoming a 4-H Extension Agent and County Extension Director in Hamilton County. She will be missed by many.



JANUARY 2022

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SUWANNEE COUNTY
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**17: Martin Luther King, Jr Day,
Extension Office Closed**

**Every Wednesday: Master Gardener
Greenhouse Workday Extension office,
8:30am-11:30am**

**Every Thursday: Youth Disc Golf, Heritage
Park, 3:30pm-5:30pm**

**Master Gardener Seed Library: Live Oak,
stop by and pickup seeds.**

**Master Gardener Seed Library: Dowling
Park, stop by and pickup seeds.**

**7-9: 2nd Executive Board Meeting (Camp
Timpoochee)**

**10: 4-H County Council Meeting 6:30pm,
Extension Office**

**11: Walking Off The Holidays, First Federal
Sportsplex, 5:00pm-6:00pm**

**11: Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS)
Sparkleberry Chapter Meeting 6:30pm Hatch
Park, Branford FL**

**12: Master Gardener Volunteer- Wilmot
Gardens Camellia Tour 10:00am
(Van leaves at 8:30am)**

**13: MGV Alumni Meeting: Speaker Luncheon
Fireescaping 10:15am-2:00pm at Extension
Office**

**13: Meals in An Instant: Using your electric
pressure cooker, 6:00pm-8:00pm online, Cost
\$5.00 Register:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meals-in-an-instant-new-year-tickets-214837172767>**

**14: Vegetable gardening Workshop, 9:00am-
12:00pm, Cost \$6.00 at Extension Office.**

14-15: UF Livestock & Meats Judging Clinic

**18: Walking Off The Holidays, First Federal
Sportsplex, 5:00pm-6:00pm**

**20: Spanish First Time Homebuyer's online class,
8:30am-5:00pm, Call to register 386-362-2771**

**24: ServSafe: The National Restaurant
Association's Food Manager Training and Exam
<https://tinyurl.com/FoodSafetyUF>**

**24 & 25: First Time Homebuyer's class from
5:00pm-9:00pm, Cost \$10.00 **Must attend both
nights.**
https://jan_2022_homebuyer_class.eventbrite.com**

**25: Walking Off The Holidays, First Federal
Sportsplex, 5:00pm-6:00pm**

FEBRUARY 2022

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Every Wednesday: Master Gardener Greenhouse Workday, Extension office, 8:30am-11:30am

Every Thursday: Youth Disc Golf, Heritage Park at 3:30-5:30pm

Master Gardener Seed Library: Live Oak, stop by and pickup seeds.

Master Gardener Seed Library: Dowling Park, stop by and pick up seeds.

8: FNPS, Sparkleberry Chapter Meeting at 6:30pm, Hatch Park, Branford FL

10-21 Florida State Fair, Tampa FL

10: Master Gardener Alumni Meeting & Workday, Heritage Park & Gardens, 8:30am
Workday & Meeting 11:15am

12: FL State Fair Livestock Judging

14: 4-H County Council Meeting, 6:30pm at Extension Office

15: FCS Advisory Committee Meeting, via zoom 12:00pm-2:00pm

17: Growing Tomatoes Presentation- Live Oak Library, 12:00pm-1:00pm

17 & 24: First Time Homebuyers Class, 5:00-9:00pm, cost \$10.00, **Must Attend both nights**
https://feb_2022_homebuyerclass.eventbrite.com

18: Attracting Wildlife to Your Yard- Live Oak Garden Club, 11:00am

21-24: North Florida Livestock Show & Sale, Madison FL

23: 4-H Day at the Capital, Tallahassee FL

25: Overall Advisory Committee Meeting, 11:00-1:00pm, Extension Office



MARCH 2022

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SUWANNEE COUNTY
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Every Wednesday: Master Gardener Greenhouse Workday, Extension office, 8:30am-11:30am

**Every Thursday: Youth Disc Golf, Heritage Park
3:30pm-5:00pm**

Master Gardener Seed Library: Live Oak, stop by and pickup seeds.

Master Gardener Seed Library: Dowling Park, stop by and pick up seeds.

5: 4-H County Events, Suwannee County Colosseum, 9:00am-12:00pm

8: Firescaping Presentation, 9:30am-11:00am, Extension Office

8: FNPS Meeting, 6:30pm, Hatch Park, Branford FL

10: MGV Workday & Alumni Meeting, Workday 8:30am with Alumni Meeting at 11:15am

10: Online Lunch and Learn, Instant Pot, Call 386-362-2771 to register

**14: ServSafe: The National Restaurant Association's Food Manager Training and Exam, 8:30am-5:00pm
<https://tinyurl.com/FoodSafetyUF>**

17: Growing Cucumbers, Squash & other Cucurbits, 11:00am-12:00pm at Live Oak Library

18-20: 3rd Executive Board (Camp Cloverleaf)

18-26: Suwannee Valley Youth Livestock Show & Sale

21: SVYLSS Swine weigh-in 8:00am and Hog Show at 6:30pm

24: SVYLSS beginning at 9:00am



IN A PICKLE BY LACK OF CUCUMBER PLANTS PRODUCING CUKES?

Carolyn Saft, County Extension Director (CED),
Environmental Horticulture Agent and
Master Gardener Coordinator
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In the spring and early summer, I am frequently asked, “why aren’t my cucumber plants producing fruit?”. There are several reasons why our cucumber plants don’t produce very many cukes. Keep in mind, cucumbers are an insect-pollinated crop; their pollen is not transferred by the wind from male flowers to female flowers.

The first reason is a bit technical so you will need to do your research before purchasing seeds or transplants. Did you know that some cucumber varieties produce more female flowers than other varieties? Monoecious cucumber varieties produce both male and female flowers on the same plant. Male flowers tend to bloom first with about 10-20 flowers and then for every female flower another 10-20 male flowers are produced after. This variety type is good when you want a cucumber every now and then for salads or sandwiches as they produce just a few over a longer harvest season.

Gynoecious varieties are special hybrids which produce predominantly female flowers. Seeds of a standard monoecious variety are commonly included in the seed packet to ensure adequate pollination. (The seeds of the monoecious variety may be dyed or placed in a separate packet.) One male flower’s pollen is enough to pollinate five female flowers.

Gynoecious varieties often outproduce standard varieties when a pollinizer (monoecious variety) is present. These varieties are good when you want to produce a lot of cukes in a short amount of time. For pickling, look for Calypso, Jackson Classic or Powerpak. Slicing varieties include Mamba, Mongoose, Cobra, Dominator, Speedway, and Impact. Temperature plays a role in male and female flower production too. Male flowers are produced more in higher temperatures (65F-90F) while female flowers fare better in cooler temperatures of 40F-60F.

Strive for consistency with your watering. Cucumbers grow well in moist soil and if you let it dry out, you force more male flowers to develop even in cooler temperatures. Keep the weeds out of the soil, they are stealing water and nutrients from your cucumber plants.

Be careful when using soil amendments or fertilizer as high concentrations of nitrogen delays growth of female flowers. Although our sandy soils benefit from added nutrients, too much can be harmful for fruit production.

Allow for good air circulation by spacing the plants 24”-30” apart to prevent fungal problems and so plants get enough water and nutrients. If the plants are stressed, there will be more male flowers produced than female flowers. You can stake or trellis your plants for better air circulation.

Follow these researched based tips and you will soon be producing a bountiful harvest. For more information, please follow this link <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/cucumbers/>

NATIVE PLANT SPOTLIGHT:

Green Ash

(*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)

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The Green Ash is a somewhat irregularly-shaped tree when young becoming an oval with age. It will reach a height of about 60 feet with a spread of 45 feet.

The glossy dark green foliage will turn yellow in the fall, but color is often muted here in the south.

This fast-growing tree requires full sun but will adapt to many different landscape conditions and can be grown on wet or dry sites, preferring moist. Green Ash adapts quite well to city street planting pits and other confined soil spaces.

Green Ash may require pruning when it is young to develop a nice central trunk. There is a good seed-set annually on female trees which are used by many birds but some consider the seeds to be messy.

Borers are common on Ash and they can kill trees. Heavily infested trees can be severely weakened. Keep trees as healthy as possible by fertilizing regularly and watering during dry weather.

Seedling grown trees often produce an abundance of seed which can be a nuisance, and female trees often have undesirable flower galls. Superior crown form and branching habit of cultivars makes planting cultivars very desirable. A few vigorous cultivars with yellow fall color are: 'Marshall Seedless' (some seeds, fewer insect problems); 'Newport'; 'Patmore' (straight trunk, seedless); 'Summit' (female, straight trunk, abundant seeds, flower galls); 'Cimmaron' (strong trunk, good lateral branching, salt tolerant); 'Aerial' (narrow columnar habit).

As with any plant, "Right Plant, Right Place" applies to our Florida native species too.

Common/Scientific name: Green Ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*

Description: Irregularly-shaped tree, becoming oval with age, height about 60 feet with a spread of 45 feet.

Leaves: glossy dark green foliage will turn yellow in the fall, but color is muted in the south.

Flowers: non-flowering

Growing conditions: will grow in wet or dry sites, preferring moist. Green Ash adapts quite well to city street planting and other confined soil spaces.

Drought tolerance: Low

Propagation: Seedling grown trees often produce an abundance of seed, which can be a nuisance.

Wildlife attractor: There is a good seed-set annually on female trees which are used by many birds.

Other features: Superior crown form and branching habit of cultivars makes planting cultivars very desirable.

Green Ash (ufl.edu)

Suwannee Valley Electric Co-op will be giving these trees away to their customers at their office January 22, 2022.

FALL HARVEST EXPERIENCE RETURNS

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Suwannee County 4-H hosted students from public, private and home-school co-ops all over the Suwannee Valley at the North Florida Research and Education Center- Suwannee Valley (NFREC-SV) for the 10th Annual Fall Harvest Experience.

This annual event, which was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, hosted over 1600 students and adults to learn about production agriculture in the Suwannee Valley. It is a team effort sponsored by the Suwannee County 4-H in partnership with the Suwannee County Conservation District.

Other team members include UF/IFAS Extension agents and specialists from Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee, and Gilchrist counties who delivered the educational components of the program and the staff of the NFREC-SV who grew the commodities shared with visitors.

This year's event kicked off on October 19th and wrapped up November 4th. Students started their visit learning about the different kinds of agricultural research, like variety trials, being conducted at the NFREC-SV.

This year, the featured local commodity was snap beans. Suwannee County ranks 5th in the state in total snap bean production. Beans are legumes and fix nitrogen back into the soil making them part of crop rotations for producers all through the Suwannee Valley. Visitors learned about different growth patterns and production methods for beans. They also explored the bean patch where they hunted beans growing on the bush.

Another favorite part for visitors was the forage maze made of sun hemp, pearl millet, corn, buckwheat, and sunflowers. This colorful mixture is a cover crop that will eventually be used to build the soil before being replanted in the spring. While traversing the maze, visitors answered questions about 4-H and the forages found in the maze. Many students and chaperones emerged with a sunflower or sun hemp stem in tow!

For those who conquered the forage maze, a visit to the pumpkin patch to learn about the wide variety of pumpkins and gourds topped off the day. After learning which pumpkins were edible and which were decorative, visitors were invited to wander the pumpkin patch to pick their own mini pumpkin or gourd to take home!

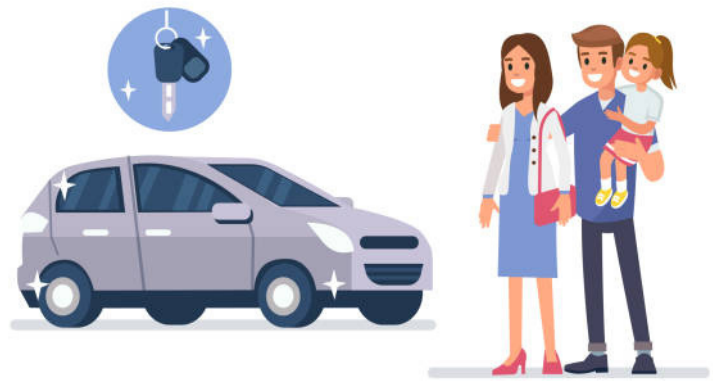
Planning for the 2022 Fall Harvest Experience is already underway and information about scheduling a visit is released in August of each year.



THE IMPORTANCE OF SMART CAR BUYING

Katherine Allen, Family and Consumer Sciences
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Now may not be a good time to purchase a vehicle due to the pandemic price increases and the computer chip shortage but researching vehicle information is smart to start before you buy. While I use a car for work and to pick up groceries, research suggests that a vehicle is vital not only for physical mobility but also for economic mobility as well. A vehicle provides access to more and better job opportunities, not to mention affordable housing options. Research has shown shorter commute times, which are often only possible with a car, is one of the strongest factors in helping families escape poverty. What is crazy and not discussed much is that transportation has a stronger role in social mobility than other community characteristics, including elementary school test scores, percentage of two-parent families, or crime (Chetty & Hendren, 2015). In addition to shorter commute times, a vehicle provides better access: to childhood extracurricular activities, to better food options, and to medical care (Bouchard & Hendren, 2015).

Who knew a car was THAT important?!

Kim Griffin, Suwannee County Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent and Beth Kerr, Hamilton County, FCS/4-H Extension Agent and I developed a used-car buying curriculum for youth and young adults. Cars are one of the few consumer items purchased in which the price is negotiable. The educated car buyer has done his/her homework. Those who do not educate themselves, do not take their time in the car buying process, and do not get competitive bids from different dealers will end up paying a lot more money.

Here are a couple refreshers: Don't forget while you are checking on the purchase price to consider the upkeep costs are (including maintenance, insurance and repair).

Compare the value of the car before you negotiate, so you are in a better bargaining position and feel comfortable with the final price. Check:

- National Automobile Dealers Association's Guides <https://www.nadaguides.com/>
- Edmunds <https://www.edmunds.com/>
- Kelly Blue Book <https://www.kbb.com/>
- And Consumer Reports <https://web.consumerreports.org/cars/>

Get the VIN number and enter it at safercar.gov or call the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 or website <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/> to see if there have been any recalls. If so, ask for the information to show that it was fixed or if you need to factor in the cost of repairs.

Another helpful free resource, especially after a flooding event, is the National Insurance Crime Bureau database www.nicb.org which includes flood damage information as well as whether the vehicle has been declared stolen or listed as salvage. Five searches can be performed within a two-hour period.

Department of Justice's National Motor Vehicle Title Information System at www.vehiclehistory.gov offers information about a vehicle's title, odometer data, and certain damage history. Expect to pay up to \$4 per report.

Without research on the vehicle you are looking to purchase, you may pay more than a vehicle's true value or purchase a vehicle that has not been adequately repaired and is not safe to drive. Be smart!

1. Raj Chetty and Nathaniel Hendren, The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility: Childhood Exposure Effects and County-Level Estimates, Harvard University and NBER May 2015.
2. Mikayla Bouchard, "Transportation Emerges as Crucial to Escaping Poverty," The New York Times, May 7, 2015 (reporting on discussion with Nathaniel Hendren, one of the authors of the Chetty and Hendren study).

AMERICA SAVES

Kim Griffin, Family and Consumer Sciences agent
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The holidays have once again come and gone. These end of year celebrations are great, but can sometimes leave you feeling mentally, physically, and especially financially exhausted. According one survey, its estimated that consumers spent approximately \$997 on gifts, holiday items, travel, and other non-gift purchases in 2021. In addition, over one quarter of Americans were expected to go into debt during the holiday season. Holiday debt unfortunately can hang around long after the holidays are gone with millions of Americans still carrying last year's holiday shopping debt. Although a common problem, there are ways to prepare for holiday spending without going into debt.....starting with America Saves.

America Saves is a campaign that motivates, encourages, and supports individuals to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth. By taking the America Saves pledge you can set your holiday spending goals and make a spending plan for this year's holiday season. When you have a plan in place you are more likely to accomplish your goal and save successfully. When you sign up with America Saves, you will receive tips, resources, and tools to help you on your holiday savings journey. One of the easiest ways to save for the holidays is to save automatically. When you save automatically a certain amount of your pay automatically goes into a savings account. This account can be your "holiday savings account." If you get paid in cash, you should take a small amount of your pay to the bank to deposit into your holiday savings account. You can start by saving \$100 or even \$50 a month and watch your holiday savings grow. Over time, your deposits will add up. Even small amounts of savings can add up to make a big difference. Let's see what this looks like over a period of 12 months.



Check out this link to learn more about what you can do to prepare and save for the next holiday season
[Save During the Holidays](#)

Reference:

America Saves (2021, December). Retrieved from <https://americasaves.org/>

TOXIC WEEDS

Courtney Darling, Livestock and Natural Resources agent
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Black cherry

It is estimated that poisonous plants on rangelands cost U.S. producers an average of \$250 million annually. Poisoning from weeds can be detrimental for producers, therefore it is vital to identify and control toxic plants. Provided below is a condensed list of common poisonous plants found in Florida pastures. Most toxins produced by plants are simply to deter herbivores, not kill them. However, death can result when over consumption of a toxic species occurs. Reasons livestock consume toxic plants:

- Desirable forage is scarce
- Hay is contaminated with poisonous species
- Curiosity, especially in young animals or animals new to an area



Black cherry

Black Cherry Characteristics:

The bark of this toxic tree is dark and smooth, larger trunks may have a scaly appearance. The leaves are alternate, simple, pointed, and leathery with fine toothed margins. It has small, white flowers and produces dark red to black fruits. Black cherry is commonly found in wooded areas.

Toxicity and Symptoms:

The tree contains cyanide, and all parts of the plant are toxic. Leaves that are wilted or have been damaged are exceptionally toxic. All animals are susceptible, especially ruminants. Symptoms include anxiety, difficulty breathing, and staggering. Convulsions within 15-30 minutes of ingestion. Death can occur suddenly, within one hour.



Black cherry

TOXIC WEEDS CONTINUED

[HTTPS://SFYL.IFAS.UFL.EDU/AGRICULTURE/ TOXIC-PLANTS/](https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/agriculture/toxic-plants/)

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Coffee senna Characteristics:

Coffee senna is a shrub type species with alternate, compound leaflets. The leaves are 8-12 inches long and pointed at the tip. The plant produces bright yellow flowers and sickle-shaped seed pods that are curved slightly upward. It is commonly found in disturbed pastures and cropland.

Toxicity and Symptoms:

All parts are toxic, especially the seeds. The plant contains toxic compounds such as anthraquinones, emodin, toxalbumins, and alkaloids. Coffee senna stays greener longer than bahiagrass or bermudagrass, therefore, poisonings most often occur in the fall, after a frost event. Large quantities must be consumed.

Symptoms include dark urine, muscle tremors, incoordination, and shortness of breath.



Coffee senna

Creeping indigo Characteristics:

Creeping indigo is a prostrate growing perennial. It is often found low growing in high traffic areas. The leaves are compound with 5-7 alternate leaflets. It produces pink to orange colored flowers and seed pods that point downwards.

Toxicity and Symptoms:

All animals are affected by this species, but horses are most susceptible. The toxic properties in Creeping indigo are indospicine and 3-nitropropionate. All plant parts are toxic, and it is unknown how much consumption is needed before clinical signs appear. Early signs of poisoning include a change in personality, lethargy, low head carriage, and abnormal gait. Advanced symptoms consist of weight loss, high heart and respiratory rate, labored breathing, foaming of the mouth, pale mucous membranes, light sensitivity, and corneal ulceration. Poisoning can lead to permanent injuries or death.



Creeping indigo

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

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Michelle Drummond:

Michelle grew up in Ormond Beach FL, went to college in Tampa FL, and lived in Naples FL for the last 28 years before moving to Live Oak. She has a BA in Psychology from USF Tampa and is also a licensed Massage Therapist. Michelle will be the Staff Assistant to Horticulture and Commercial Row Crops. Her favorite meal is pasta, specially Lemon chicken Piccata. Her favorite animal is her beagle dog, Darla. Michelle's favorite movie is Mr. Church and The Polar Express. Her favorite subjects to read are mystery, historical fiction genres. Some of Michelle's hobbies include gardening, reading and lunch dates. A fun fact about Michelle is that she was born in Okinawa, Japan.



Michelle Drummond

Sandra Wainwright:

Sandra is a Suwannee County native where she attended and graduated from Suwannee High School. After high school she attended North Florida College in Madison, FL and Saint Leo University. Sandra will be the Staff Assistant to Family & Consumer Sciences. Her favorite animal is a dog and her favorite food is dessert. The Princess Bride is her favorite movie and her favorite book is Pride and Prejudice. Some of the hobbies Sandra enjoys are learning to play the guitar, and hanging out with friends and family. A fun fact about Sandra is that she owns a one-eyed dog named Lacey.



Sandra Wainwright

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For persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations, please contact our office at least five working days prior to the program so that proper consideration may be given to the request. For the hearing impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Center Service at 1-800-955-8771.

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OUR MISSION OF EDUCATION

UF/IFAS Extension provides practical education you can trust to help people, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future. When you use UF/IFAS Extension, you can be confident that experts have reviewed and developed educational programs to ensure that you receive the best information for your needs. UF/IFAS Extension employees and volunteers work hard at improving the quality of life for our neighbors and communities. We provide solutions to everyday problems. We offer a variety of educational programs and information:

Agriculture and Natural Resources: Local farmers and ranchers are provided technical assistance and education to enhance their profitability and sustainability.

Horticulture: Programs are designed to meet the needs of residents by utilizing Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles.

Master Gardener Volunteer Program: Master Gardener volunteers receive training in exchange for service to the community. The Master Gardener volunteers staff the Seed Library and hold plant clinics every Wednesday from 1:00-3:00PM, and provide a gardening presentation on the second Wednesday of each month from 2:00-3:00pm, both at the Live Oak Library. Volunteers also staff a Seed Library and plant clinic at the Branford Library on Tuesdays from 2:00-5:00pm.

Family and Consumer Sciences: Family and Consumer Sciences programs offer you information about health and nutrition, food safety, food preservation, money management, home concerns, relationships, community development and many other topics.

4-H and Youth Development: The UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development program uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth gain the knowledge and skills they need to be responsible, productive citizens. This mission is accomplished by creating safe and inclusive learning environments, involving caring adults, and utilizing the expertise and resources of the University of Florida and the nationwide land grant university system.



Home Monthly Maintenance Planner

January

- **Make a list of projects you plan to complete during the year for budgeting.**
- **Post important emergency info.**
- **If you are planning a bath or kitchen remodeling project, visit www.nkba.org**
- **Efficiency plan: www.energystar.gov**
- **Hiring contractor: www.nahb.org**
- **Whole house surge protection: www.askthebuilder.com**

February

- **Organize garage or shed**
- **Dispose of old paint**
- **Clean lint from dryer exhaust ducts and vents**
- **Early spring is a good time for interior painting.**

March

- **Repair window screens and check screening on porches.**
- **Build or repair fences and arbors**
- **Repair deck board, remove protruding nails and replace with galvanize screws. Check & tighten bolts in deck supports.**
- **Clean and seal wood deck.**
- **Check foundation. If large cracks develop, call engineer.**

Carolyn Saft, County Extension Director, Environmental Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator

Michelle Drummond, Staff Assistant, Horticulture and Agriculture

Linda Thomason, Staff Assistant, Bookkeeper

Kim Griffin, Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) Agent

Bonnie Box, Nutrition Educator, Family Nutrition Program (FNP)

Katherine Allen, Family & Consumer Sciences Agent (FCS)

Sandra Wainwright, Staff Assistant, Family & Consumer Sciences

Courtney Darling, Livestock, Forages & Natural Resources Agent

Katie Jones, 4-H Youth Development Agent

Amanda Law, Staff Assistant, 4-H Youth Development & Agriculture

N. Florida Research & Education Center-Suwannee Valley (NFREC-SV)

Bob Hochmuth, Vegetable Crops Regional Specialized Agent(RSA)/ Asst. Center Director-NFREC-SV

De Broughton, Sustainable Cropping Systems, RSA

Dr. Kevin Athearn, Agribusiness RSA

Dr. Sudeep Sidhu, Water Resources, RSA

