

**Palm Beach
County
Extension**

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Historical Wish List

The Historical Society of Palm Beach County is looking for agricultural materials to be included in their new museum. Agriculture has played a vital role in the County for over 75 years and the Historical Society would like to recognize that distinguished triumph. Below is a list of items they are seeking, although one should not eliminate objects that may not be listed – let them know what they are so they may determine if they will help the Society tell the story of Palm Beach County agriculture.

- * Shipping crates, packing and crate labels
- * Mule muck shoes
- * Mule/horse bug covers
- * Feedbags
- * Machetes
- * Gloves
- * Cut-a-way model of a sugar plant
- * Empty sugar bags
- * Photographs explaining sugar refining process
- * Farm tools
- * Corporate and oral histories
- * Brochures, advertisements, postcards, invoices, etc.

For more information contact the Historical Society at 561-832-4164.



Upcoming Events

Monday ~ August 8, 2005

West Palm Beach Office

Pesticide Review Sessions

8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (4 CEUs)

1:00pm Natural Area Weed Management Test Review (2 CEUs)

All Day Testing ~ Any Category

Wednesday ~ August 10, 2005

Belle Glade Office

Pesticide Review Sessions

8:00am General Standards/Core Tests Review (4 CEU's)

1:00pm Natural Agriculture Row Crop Test Review (2 CEU's)

All Day Testing ~ Any Category

Wednesday ~ September 7, 2005

Belle Glade Office

Pesticide Review Sessions

8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (2 CEU's)

1pm Private Applicator Test Review (2 CEU's)

All Day Testing, Any Category

Monday ~ September 19, 2005

West Palm Beach Office

Pesticide Review Sessions

8:00am General Standards/Core Test Review (4 CEUs)

1:00pm Natural Aquatic Weed Control Test Review (2 CEUs)

All Day Testing ~ Any Category



EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

Palm Beach County Extension Agriculture Newsletter

August/September, 2005

Special Lake Okeechobee Advisory Committee Formed

Lake Okeechobee is a valuable resource. The 730 square mile lake is a water supply source for agriculture, urban areas, and the environment, supports a sport and commercial fishery, and provides recreational opportunities, and habitat for a variety of wildlife. Now, scientists are warning the lake system is in danger as it continues to suffer the aftereffects of multiple hurricanes. In response, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has formed a *Lake Okeechobee Advisory Committee* that aims to answer the question, "How can the lake be managed better?"

Cause for Concern

SFWMD scientists are concerned with decreasing submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). SAV is a key component of the lake ecosystem, providing habitat, removing phosphorus, and increasing water clarity by holding bottom sediment in place. South Florida Water Management District monitoring indicates average SAV biomass, measured in average grams of dry weight per square meter, has declined from approximately 38 in April 2004 to 0.09 in June of 2005. Increased sediment in the water column, resulting from hurricanes Frances and Jeanne as well as typical winter and spring wind conditions, continues to block light from reaching the SAV.



Photo by South Florida Water Management District

Scientists are also concerned with high lake water levels. Above average rainfall has increased the lake's water level over 15 ½ feet (as of June 29, 2005). This past June, Lake Okeechobee's water level ranked among the top ten highest June water

News & Notes

Asian soybean rust has been found near Citra on soybeans at a University of Florida "sentinel plot" planted early to detect the fungus. It was one of two findings during the first week of July, marking the first appearances of soybean rust on U.S. soybeans during the typical growing season. The other discovery was made on a sentinel plot in Baldwin County, Alabama.



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level's recorded over the past 74 years. High lake water levels not only decrease light penetration to SAV, but also increase flooding risk, and potentially harmful water releases to the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries.

The Lake Okeechobee Advisory Committee

The SWFMD has formed a special Lake Okeechobee Advisory Committee to review current lake management operations and ongoing Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan projects aimed at reducing excessive phosphorus loads, decreasing extreme high and low water levels, and controlling exotic species threatening native flora and fauna. The Advisory Committee will provide recommendations for improvement to the SWFMD's Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC), a group of stakeholders and government agency representatives. Ultimately, final recommendations will go before the SWFMD Governing Board for consideration.

The Lake Okeechobee Advisory Committee includes twenty-four members appointed by the SWFMD Governing Board. The members represent agriculture, environmental and conservation interests, government agencies, and other stakeholders. A technical advisory sub-committee will be charged with compiling and reviewing existing research, management plans, and other relevant information.

To learn more about the efforts of the Lake Okeechobee Advisory Committee visit the SWFMD on the Web at: <http://www.sfwmd.gov> or contact Alyssa Dodd, UF/IFAS Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension by phone at 561-233-1725 or via email: ADodd@ifas.ufl.edu.

SFWMD Lake Okeechobee Advisory Committee Members*

Committee Chair: Michael Collins, SFWMD Governing Board Member

Agriculture

- Doug Bournique, Indian River Citrus League
- Bob Butler, Dairy Farmer
- Joe Collins, Lykes Brothers
- Barbara Miedema, Florida Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative
- Judy Sanchez, U.S. Sugar Corporation

Environmental/Conservation

- Susan Brookman, Southwest Watershed Council
- Kevin Henderson, The Rivers Coalition
- Paul Gray, Audubon of Florida
- David Lithgow, United Waterfowlers of Florida
- Frank Marsocci
- Mary Ann Martin, Roland Martin Marina
- Jody Thomas, The Nature Conservancy

Government Agencies

Tribal

- Jack Smith, Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Eugene Duncan, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians

Federal

- Dennis Duke, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Barry Rosen U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State

- Ernie Barnett, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Ray Scott, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Don Fox, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

County

- Kenneth Todd, Palm Beach County Water Utilities
- Jim Lavender, Lee County Public Works Department

Other

- Beverly Grady, Roetzel and Andress Law Firm
- David Hazellief, Realtor

***SFWMD WRAC Lake Okeechobee Advisory Committee Meeting
West Palm Beach, Florida
June 29, 2005**

Citrus Canker Quarantine Area Expanded

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) has expanded Palm Beach County's citrus canker quarantine area. The area, previously about 68 square miles, has quadrupled to a 283-square mile area.

Citrus canker, a bacterial disease that affects all types of citrus, causes the citrus tree to decline in health and fruit production. It is highly contagious and can spread rapidly by windborne rain, animals, birds, and people carrying the infection on their hands, clothing, or equipment. The containment and eradication of citrus canker is important to maintain the state's \$9 billion citrus industry as well as to protect many backyard citrus trees that are not yet affected.

- Key quarantine zone rules for residents: No citrus or citrus plants (including trees, fruit, rootstock, leaves, etc.) may be moved from a quarantine zone.
- No potted citrus may be kept in a quarantine zone.
- No citrus trees may be sold within a quarantine zone.
- No citrus trees may be planted in a quarantine zone until eradication is declared by FDACS.
- Organizations in contact with citrus trees, such as lawn maintenance companies, must comply with mandatory decontamination procedures.

For further information call the toll-free citrus canker helpline at 800-850-3781 or visit the FDACS website at <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/canker>.

Additional educational resources are available by contacting the Palm Beach County Extension Service at 561-233-1725.

Palm Beach Quarantine
app. 283.05 sq. miles (expanded 13 June 2005 from 68.4 sq. miles)
Palm Beach County (part of South Florida Quarantine)

Quarantine Area EXPANDED

"History of Water Management in South Florida"

Mounts Botanical Garden
Evening Lecture Series
Presented by Steve Bass, Manager
Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex
Thursday ~ August 18, 2005 ~ 7:00pm
Mounts Auditorium
West Palm Beach Office
\$5 (free for Garden members)
For more information call 561-233-1747