



# TREC Times



WELCOME!!!

Friends and Colleagues,

**Welcome** to the first issue of the TREC Times, our new quarterly newsletter. Each quarter we will share information pertaining to special events, collaborative extension programs with MDC

UF/IFAS Extension, current faculty research, academic courses, agriculture updates, and seminar/workshops scheduled throughout the year. But first, for those new to TREC, a brief history. In 1929, through the concerted actions of local growers,

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civic organizations and the Dade County Commission, the Florida Legislature was induced to pass an act authorizing the Center and to appropriate \$15,000 for startup. In 1930, a 40 acre parcel of pineland for the Center was donated by Isabelle Krome and Charles E. Shaff. Local citizens donated labor and materials to bring into operation the Subtropical Experiment Station. In 1932, another 20-acre tract of pineland was purchased. Land holdings of the Station were further expanded in 1939 when the Dade County Commission donated an additional 60 acres. In 1966 an additional

## TREC's Featured Publications



TREC Entomology Professor, Jorge Peña recently edited the text "Potential Invasive Pests of Agricultural Crops" published by CABI International Press in 2013. This book provides invaluable information about the identity, host range and geographical distribution of arthropods that cause significant damage in agricultural crops and natural environments worldwide. This important text focuses on recent invasive pests of agricultural crops in temperate subtropical and tropical areas and on their potential to become serious problems.





20 acres was purchased. Today, the Subtropical Experiment Station is known as UF /IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center and is comprised of 160 acres. As part of Florida’s Land Grant University, TREC is dedicated to research, extension, and teaching in the areas of ornamental, vegetable, tropical-subtropical fruit crops, natural resources, and most recently biofuel plant cells that are in the International Space Station.

**“One Night in the Tropics”**  
First Annual Fundraiser

TREC hosted the first annual “One Night in the Tropics” fundraising event on April 12th. Proceeds from the event benefited the newly established *TREC Excellence Endowment*. The Excellence Endowment will assist in funding TREC’s new faculty positions, student scholarships, internships, and visiting scholars researching high priority projects. In support of the new endowed fund, Dr. Chris Waddill, Center Director, announced a

**TREC Excellence Endowment**



The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Tropical Research and Education Center (TREC) was established to promote excellence in tropical horticulture and natural resources research, extension and teaching. Due to the unique nature and great diversity of tropical horticulture, TREC is essential to maintaining that important economic resource within Florida.



By contributing to the TREC Excellence Endowment, industry supporters and friends can help ensure the sustainability of tropical horticulture and natural resources. While state funding provides some resources to support TREC, private support is critical to meeting the present and future needs of south Florida’s agriculture and natural resources.



The TREC Excellence Endowment will help provide TREC with funds to meet its most pressing needs and highest priorities. Specifically, the endowment will fund new faculty positions and programs, graduate student scholarships, postdoctoral positions, student internships, and visiting scholars.



**Farm Bureau Table/ Dr. Robert McMillan**

challenge issued by Pal Brooks of Brooks Tropical.



**Brooks Ron Magill emceed “One Night in the Tropics”**

has generously committed \$50,000 to the Excellence Endowment as a dollar for dollar match to gifts made by tropical fruit growers to tropical fruit research underway at TREC.

The *Pal Brooks Tropical Fruit Challenge* provides a great

*TREC’s Featured Publications Continued*



**TREC Plant Physiology Professor Bruce Schaffer,** together with Nigel Wolstenholme (South Africa) and Tony Whiley (Australia) recently edited the book “The Avocado: Botany, Production and Uses, 2nd Edition” published by CAB International Press in 2013.

The book provides comprehensive coverage of avocado biology and production. The book contains chapters co-authored by experts from numerous countries on 5 continents. Several TREC faculty contributed chapters to the book including Professors Jonathan Crane, Jorge Peña, and Randy Ploetz and Professor Emeritus Richard Litz.



jumpstart to building the endowment, while also providing direct support to tropical fruit research.

In addition to launching the Excellence Fund, TREC recognized several former faculty members for their dedication and scientific contributions to agriculture, Drs. Richard Baranowski, Waldemar "Waldy" Klassen, and Robert McMillan.

### *Emeritus Faculty*

*Endowments* were established to honor each of these valued faculty members through contributions from friends, family and members of the local agricultural community. These endowments will provide necessary funding to TREC students to continue the legacy of these faculties' nationally and internationally recognized research.

The ultimate mission of TREC is to improve the area's agriculture and natural resources. Without the support of local growers, volunteers and stakeholders, TREC could not accomplish this mission. In recognition of their strong partnership and commitment to TREC, the Collaborator of the Year

award was presented to Pal Brooks, of Brooks Tropicals; Sam Accursio of Sam S. Accursio & Sons Farms; Peter Antoine, a volunteer with Dr. Jonathan Crane's tropical fruit collection; and Andrew Forero, a Columbus High School student working with Jathropa and biofuels with Dr. Wagner Vendrame.



Pal Brooks receiving his award

Ron Magill, Communications Director of the Miami-Dade Zoological Park and a University of Florida alumnus, served as master of ceremonies. Speakers included FNGLA president-elect Sandy Stein and Congressman Joe Garcia. We thank the nearly 200 people who attended this inaugural event and celebrated the commitment and dedication of our faculty and stakeholders. We also extend a thank you to the wonderful volunteers, without whose hard work this event would

not have been possible. A special thank you goes out to Peter and Denisse Schnebly, of Schnebly Winery, for their generous donation of local, Florida wines for the event, and to Dr. Jorge Pena who prepared the delicious meal.

If you would like to participate in the Pal Brooks Tropical Fruit Challenge, make a gift to the Excellence Endowment, or support the Emeritus Faculty Endowments, please contact Melissa Stantion at (305) 246-7001, extension 201 or Carré Saunders in IFAS Development at (352) 392-1975.

## HIGHLIGHTS



We are proud to announce that three of TREC's staff received **UF's Superior Accomplishment Award for 2014**. Congratulations to Maria E. Bernal, Office Manager, Rita Duncan, Senior Biologist & Jorge Vergel, Maintenance Supervisor.

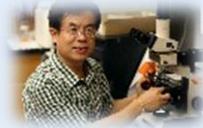
## Faculty Awards

### **DR. KATI MIGLIACCIO**



2014 ASABE Educational Aids Blue Ribbon Award

### **DR. SHOUAN ZHANG**



2014 UF IFAS Early Career Scientist Seed Funding Award.

2013 Research Opportunity Fund Award, University of Florida.

2013 Recognized for the 2013 UF/IFAS “High Impact” Research Publication - “Evaluation of systemic acquired resistance inducers for control of downy mildew on basil” by Mersha, Z., S. Zhang, and R. N. Raid published in Crop Protection (vol. 40, pages 83-90). April 25, 2013.

## *Emeritus Faculty Endowments Honorees*



*Left to Right: Drs. Richard Baranowski, Robert McMillan, and Waldemar “Waldy” Klassen*

## TREC's Featured Publications Continued

A very noteworthy contribution of TREC is the inordinate number of leading agricultural textbooks that have been edited by the faculty members. Many of these books are the definitive resources for their subject. For example, “The Mango, Botany, Production and Uses” edited by Professor Emeritus Richard Litz is considered the “encyclopedia” of this important tropical fruit crop. Texts by TREC faculty have covered a range of disciplines, including tropical entomology (i.e., “Tropical Fruit Pests and Pollinators Biology, Economic Importance, Natural Enemies and Control” co-edited by Professor Jorge Peña), plant pathology (i.e., “Diseases of Tropical Fruit Crops” edited by Professor Randy Ploetz) and fruit crop biotechnology (i.e., “Biotechnology of Fruit and Nut Crops” and “Genomics and Genetic Modification of Horticultural Crops”, both edited by Emeritus Professor Richard Litz). “The Handbook of Environmental Physiology of Fruit Crops, Volumes 1 and 2”, co-edited by Professor Bruce Schaffer, remain to date the only texts available focusing on abiotic stress effects on the world’s major fruit crops. Professor Yuncong Li recently co-edited two outstanding soil science textbooks, “The Handbook of Soil Sciences: Resource Management and Environmental Impacts” and “The Handbook of Soil Sciences: Properties and Processes”. In addition, with Kati Migliaccio (Associate Professor of Water Resources Engineering), Dr. Li edited “Water Quality Concepts, Sampling, and Analyses”, a key guide for water sampling techniques used widely by water managers throughout the world. TREC’s faculty remains extremely prolific in providing outstanding agricultural textbooks. The two newest texts published by TREC faculty members in 2013 are highlighted below. In addition, a second edition of the widely read and distributed text “Biotechnology of Fruit and Nut Crops” edited by Professor Litz is currently in progress.

