

# Communi-clik

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



**March 2013**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**FAVACA TO HONOR 2012 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AT INTERNATIONAL DAYS**

**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN POST CONFLICT COLOMBIA**

**BEEKEEPING SURVEY INCREASES KNOWLEDGE OF DISEASES AND PESTS IN BARBADOS**

**COMPOST TRAINING BOOSTS NATURAL INPUTS FOR FARMERS IN ST. LUCIA**

**SUPPORT A SPECIFIC FAVACA PROJECT!**

**YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT TO US!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Please join us Wednesday, April 3rd from 5:30-7:00 pm for a 2012 Volunteers of the Year and International Art Reception honoring our volunteers at [1020Art](#) and FAVACA's office at 1020 E. Lafayette Street in Tallahassee. To RSVP or for more information, e-mail [favaca@favaca.org](mailto:favaca@favaca.org) or call 850-536-6630.

**FAVACA TO HONOR 2012 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AT INTERNATIONAL DAYS**

FAVACA will honor our 2012 Volunteers of the Year on Wednesday, April 3rd at 8 am at the [Florida Chamber of Commerce International Days](#). The volunteers to be honored include the principals [Core Strategies for Nonprofits](#) of and Dr. Xiaoan Sun, a plant pathologist with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Terrie Temkin, Robyn Perlman and Gail Meltzer of Core Strategies for Nonprofits offered their exceptional organizational development and fundraising skills in Haiti, Jamaica and most



recently in Colombia and Dr. Sun traveled to Trinidad and most recently to Dominica to create a management strategy to eradicate citrus greening disease.

### **GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN POST CONFLICT COLOMBIA**

As a part of FAVACA's [US State Department Professional Exchange Program](#), Ellen Sunshine and Mercedes Lorduy of VIDA Legal Assistance and Ana Obregon of MUJER traveled to Barranquilla, Colombia in February 2013 to work with Colombian Professional



Fellows, Cindy Altmiranda of the Federation for Nonprofit Organizations of the Caribbean Coast ([FEDECARIBE](#)), Oscar Berrio of Foundation FUSFI (Social Foundation for Integral Training) and Mary Nieto of the Afro-Caribbean Network of Women (REMA) on ways to strengthen their organizations and reduce incidents of violence and abuse in the community. Many community organizations in Colombia lack contacts and support for their programs and services at the regional level, having this support would allow their organizations to become more successful and sustainable.

In order to create a regional coalition on violence prevention and achieve greater impact in reducing violence in their region, FEDECARIBE, Foundation FUSFI and REMA teamed up with a variety of regional partners, including Foundation CEDESOCIAL, [Foundation CARBOANDES](#), the Association of Women from Guajira, Foundation Cerrejón for the Institutional Strengthening of Guajira, the Mayor's office of Valledupar, and the Mayor's office of Barranquilla. The coalition organized a series of regional seminars in Barranquilla, Riohacha and Valledupar. During these seminars, the US Professional Fellows spoke on panels and led roundtables on best practices in violence and abuse reduction, youth engagement, women's rights, organizational development and coalition-building. Advice received from the US Professional Fellows was instrumental in establishing a Coordinated Attention Center for Women in Barranquilla. The US Professional Fellows were also able to take part in some of the carnival festivities in Barranquilla, one of Colombia's most important folklore celebrations and one of the world's biggest carnivals.

### **BEEKEEPING SURVEY INCREASES KNOWLEDGE OF DISEASES AND PESTS IN BARBADOS**

The Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) in Barbados and the [Entomology and Veterinary Services Sections of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, and Water Resource Management](#) are charged with increasing agricultural production in the country. To help with the pollination of crops, honey bees are essential to the growth of the agricultural industry. Over the past few years, the bee industry has struggled to maintain their current level of hives and identify increased pests and diseases such as the [Varroa Mite](#) and [Nosema Disease](#), which in turn has affected the pollination of crops on the island. CARDI and the Ministry of Agriculture requested the assistance of FAVACA to provide a skilled apiary inspector to provide training on disease and pest recognition and alleviation. FAVACA veteran volunteer Tom Mozer agreed to work with CARDI and the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct a bee survey from December 1-8, 2012. While in Barbados, Mozer trained 35 extension officers and beekeepers on recognizing pests and diseases that threaten the bee industry and protecting apiaries from these threats. Tom Mozer, a former Florida State Bee and African Bee Inspector and commercial beekeeper with 1,000 hives, is currently a registered Florida beekeeper with 25 hives in St. Augustine, Florida. Mozer provided participants with numerous manuals to help with

disease and pest recognition and treatments. Due to the training provided by Mozer, the Ministry of Agriculture and beekeepers now have the knowledge and resources to identify and treat potential threats to the industry thereby increasing the number of hives in the country and improving pollination and crop production.

### **COMPOST TRAINING BOOSTS NATURAL INPUTS FOR FARMERS IN ST. LUCIA**

Due to the high cost and unavailability of fertilizers, the [St. Lucia Ministry of Agriculture](#) in collaboration with the [Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute \(CARDI\)](#) requested a FAVACA volunteer to train 25 Ministry extension officers on low cost composting production and storage technology. The training was to explore using vegetative material such as weeds and crop residues generally disposed of by farmers for composting. Jean Bonhotal, Associate Director of the [Cornell Waste Management Institute](#)

at Cornell University, agreed to provide the training from December 2-10, 2012. Throughout her career, Bonhotal has held over 86 workshops, tours and demonstrations reaching over 5,460 people including farmers, veterinarians, horticulture professionals and public officials to improve soil health and reduce production costs through the increased use of organic residuals. While in St. Lucia, Bonhotal was able to provide 7 hands-on field workshops on compost production to 92 farmers, students, Ministry of Agriculture extension officers and employees of the [Solid Waste Management Authority](#)



in Forestiere, Dennery, Ti Rocher, Micoud, and Choiseul, utilizing the train-the-trainer model in order to extend techniques learned to farmers throughout the island.

Bonhotal in collaboration with CARDI was able to build compost piles so participants understood the methods and the process and educational references were left in St Lucia for further consultation. The participants pledged to create additional compost piles after the training concluded. In the course of transferring information Bonhotal emphasized the use local materials and on-farm systems to increase the likelihood of success. After her return, Bonhotal continues to work with the participants remotely to provide guidance and support as their composting efforts get underway.

### **SUPPORT A SPECIFIC FAVACA PROJECT! Eastern Caribbean Gang Violence Reduction**

FAVACA receives three requests for every project we can support - even more so now without State of Florida support! FAVACA needs your donations to carry out violence and gang reduction projects in Barbados and St. Lucia. These training projects will assist Barbadian and St. Lucian stakeholders to develop strategies to offer youth alternative activities and life skills to decrease recruitment into gangs, violent behavior and drug use. FAVACA is working to secure partial funding support through the US Embassy in Barbados, but without your financial contribution these projects cannot take place! Please visit [www.favaca.org/donate](http://www.favaca.org/donate) to support this specific project by making a donation!

### **YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT TO US!**

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month thanks to a 1987 Presidential Proclamation, which was the direct result of the advocacy efforts of one of FAVACA's partners The Arc. This month two employees of The Arc of South Florida are training Colombian disability organizations on fundraising, case management and volunteer

recruitment methods with support of the US State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. We appreciate their volunteer service and that of all FAVACA volunteers, which makes a huge difference in the lives of our neighbors throughout the Caribbean and the Americas as well as creates opportunities for Floridians. FAVACA will be sharing more information about our programs on Twitter #DDAware. Thank you for your ongoing support and please [sign this petition](#) to enable FAVACA's programs to continue!

**FAVACA - The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas**

**FAVACA**  
**1020 East Lafayette Street, Suite 213**  
**Tallahassee, Florida 32301**  
**(850) 536-6630**  
**[favaca@favaca.org](mailto:favaca@favaca.org)**

**Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean  
and the Americas through volunteer service.**

**[www.favaca.org](http://www.favaca.org)**

