

Communi-**clik**

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



JANUARY 2007

BUZZ IN TOBAGO OVER TRAINING IN BEE KEEPING
DOMINICA SQUEEZES SUCCESS OUT OF CITRUS PROJECT
FAVACA PRESIDENT AND FORMER SECRETARY OF HEALTH IN HAITI
SOLAR ENERGY TRAINING TO SHED LIGHT ON HAITIAN HOTEL INDUSTRY
NEW PROGRAM & PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR JOINS FAVACA STAFF
FAVACA HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT & BOARD LIAISON
SOLAR ENERGY CONFERENCE IN COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA
FAVACA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

BUZZ IN TOBAGO OVER TRAINING IN BEE KEEPING

Since 2004, farmers on the island of Tobago have been experiencing a significant decline in the amount of honey that is being produced on the island seemingly due to the presence of *Vorroa* mites and the wax moth. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) requested assistance from FAVACA to provide volunteers to conduct workshops for farmers and technical staff to learn to



identify the culprits. Bo Sterk, Jacksonville, has as a decade's experience as a beekeeper and has focused on organic methods of pest control for the past 2 years, and Tom Mozer, St. Augustine, a former apiary inspector for the State of Florida, traveled to Tobago November 25- December 3, 2006 in order to provide training to 20 members of the IICA and farmers.

DOMINICA SQUEEZES SUCCESS OUT OF CITRUS PROJECT



Farmers near the Morne Diablotin National Park have been suffering losses in their annual harvest of citrus and passion fruits due to the native Sisserou, protected parrots found only in Dominica. Albert Bellot, the national coordinator of the Global Environment Facility (GFP), requested assistance from FAVACA in order to conduct a feasibility exercise. Dr. Rene Goodrich, Gainesville, a specialist in citrus processing, and Tom Spreen, Gainesville, Chair of the Dept. of Food and Resource Economics, both with the University of Florida, were selected by the GFP to travel to Dominica November 30 – December 4, 2006 in order to assess the current situation farmers are facing, explore the viability of a new processing plant as a solution, and determined the uses for potential by-products. There were 25 volunteers from the GFP that participated in the field assessment.

FAVACA PRESIDENT AND FORMER SECRETARY OF HEALTH IN HAITI

Carolyn Rose-Avila joined Florida's former Secretary of Health, the first Haitian-American to occupy the position, Dr. Rony Francois, in traveling to Haiti December 10-12, 2006. The team included scholars, government officials and experts in public health. Ambassador Janet Sanderson received the Florida delegation and a Congressional Delegation led by Congressman Eliot Engel. While in Haiti, the team met with Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis and other officials of the Ministry of Health. The team held several meetings with international development and health officials and visited one of Haiti's leading HIV/AIDS laboratories. Also on their agenda was a USAID-sponsored conference on family planning with the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population and Project HS2007.

SOLAR ENERGY TRAINING TO SHED LIGHT ON HOTEL INDUSTRY

The high dependence on oil and charcoal as heating sources has negatively affected farming productivity, the economy and the environment in Haiti. Miss Giliane Joubert, of the Tourism Association of Haiti, requested FAVACA's aid in giving technical assistance and training in alternative sources of energy to resort owners from throughout the country. Bill Young, Titusville, a research engineer at the [Florida Solar Energy Center](#), and Mark Thornbloom, Cocoa, the founder of Kelelo Engineering, discussed solar energy solutions for buildings and provided on-site demonstrations by visiting 6 hotels in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas. The training was conducted December 3-7, 2006 and trained approximately 25 people.



NEW PROGRAM & PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR JOINS FAVACA STAFF

The opening for a new program coordinator in the Miami office has now been filled. Mauricio Suarez officially began his duties on January 15, 2007. Mister Suarez was born in La Paz, Bolivia and raised in Miami, FL. He has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Miami, and is currently seeking an M.A. in International Administration from his alma mater. Prior to joining FAVACA he was an integral part of a local firm, The Law Offices of George M. Nachwalter, where he was a legal assistant to the principal and managed the firm's daily activities. He is not only coordinating volunteer missions, but he is managing FAVACA's internet and print publications.

FAVACA HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT & BOARD LIAISON

After a long and involved search, FAVACA is pleased to announce that a new Executive Assistant & Board Liaison has been hired. Joanie Quintanilla started on January 15, 2007, and comes to us from Chinandega, Nicaragua by way of Montreal, Canada. She earned her B.S. in Economics & General Business from the University of Mobile in San Marcos, Nicaragua. Miss Quintanilla's lingual capabilities will be an asset to FAVACA, as she is fluent in English, Spanish and French. Before joining our team, Joanie was the Events Marketing Coordinator for Macy's. She will be playing a vital role in the organization and we are very happy to have her.

SOLAR ENERGY CONFERENCE IN COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA

Repeat FAVACA volunteer, and research engineer with the Florida Solar Energy Center, William Young, is the Conference Chairman of the 7th edition of the Sustainable Applications for Tropical Island States (SATIS) conference, produced by the Caribbean Solar Energy Society. The objective of the conference is "to present, discuss and develop views on various areas of sustainable energy, its use and supply," ([SATIS 2007](#)). The conference will be held June 3-6, 2007 in Cocoa Beach, FL. Registration fees can range from \$175 - \$195. For more information, or to register online, please visit <http://www.caribbeansolar.org/conference/information.htm> .

FAVACA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The membership of FAVACA convened at 9-10:30AM at the Governors Club in Tallahassee, Friday, January 26, 2007, for its Annual General Meeting. The agenda included the election of officers and reports by FAVACA's leadership. The guest speaker was Professor Bruce Thyer of the FSU School of Social Work, a long-time friend and consultant, who was instrumental in the evaluation of FAVACA's Florida International Volunteer Corps. For more details, contact Kay Cranley at (850) 410-3100, or at: favaca@favaca.org

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

Miami Office

**7220 NW 36th Street, Suite 535
Miami, Florida 33166
(305) 470-5070**

favaca@favaca.org

Tallahassee Office

**1310 N. Paul Russell Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
850 410 3100**

favaca@favaca.org

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

www.favaca.org



The Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA) is a non-profit organization established in 1982. FAVACA was founded in the belief that Florida's future is interwoven with that of our Caribbean neighbors. The organization's mission is the improvement of social and economic conditions in the Caribbean and Central America through volunteer service. FAVACA provides technical assistance and training through a diverse combination of federal, private and State of Florida funding sources. To date, more than 1,200 volunteer missions to 29 nations and territories of the region have been completed. A wide variety of training is offered in health and social issues, agriculture, education, environment, disaster mitigation, women's leadership, capacity building and more.

To contact Publication Coordinator, send email to: mauricio@favaca.org