

Communi-клик

Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



COMMUNI-CLIK, AUGUST, 2006

ST. LUCIA PRACTICES AIRCRAFT RESCUE

Aircraft emergencies can occur at the airport, in urban settings, and in the hinterlands. Fire and emergency personnel must be versed in rescue for all environments. That was the focus of workshops hosted by the St. Lucia National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) July 4-8, 2006. Leading the training for 50 officers of St. Lucia's Fire and Emergency Services was FAVACA volunteer Wayne Watts, of Green Cove Springs, Florida. Trainees received instruction on the various aircraft that land in St. Lucia and on airport emergency shut down switches and firefighting systems. In addition, officers drilled on land searches that included the use of compass, maps and landmarks to plot a search and rescue grid. Watts, in addition to his role as Captain with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, is assigned to Florida Regional Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 5 which is tasked with Search and Rescue operations ranging from rope and high-angle rescue, confined space rescue, and land searches, to structural collapse rescue operations.

JAMAICA BOOSTS SEA ISLAND COTTON.

Sea Island Cotton is prized for its silky feel and luster, and promises solid profits for producers. Jamaican cotton farmers realize that to be competitive, their yields need to be top-notch. Improvements in production are realized through better quality seed, classical selection and breeding strategies, enhanced care, storage, transportation, management, and genetic engineering for pest resistance. FAVACA volunteer Dr. Raviprakash Dani, genetic engineer and molecular biologist at the Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX, visited Kingston, June 24-July 5, 2006 to assist cotton farmers in enhancing yields through these improvements. Dr. Dani was hosted by the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation, in collaboration with the Jamaica Ministry of Agriculture, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and Jamaica Export Association. Financial support was provided by the Partners of the Americas Farmer to Farmer Program.

DOMINICAN VILLAGE EMBRACES COMMUNITY PLANNING

Punta Rucia Eco Village and Organic Farm in the Dominican Republic seeks to raise villagers out of

poverty and create a sustainable life style for the community. FAVACA provided technical assistance on the viability of an aquaculture (shrimp) enterprise in a July 16-22, 2006 consultation by first time volunteer Jeffrey James Peterson, Fernandina Beach. He assessed inland sites as well as reef and wetlands and drew up a community management and education plan. Peterson is an Independent Certifier for the Aquaculture Certification Council (ACC), a U.S. based, non-profit organization that certifies Best Aquaculture Practices at aquaculture facilities worldwide.

JAMAICAN LINGUISTS HONE SKILLS

Sign language can be difficult for deaf students to learn, and for teachers to impart. In order to strengthen Jamaica Sign Language (JSL) teacher skills, Florida International Volunteer Corps consultants Dawn Raymond and Laura Nordby worked with the Jamaica Association for the Deaf June 9-22, 2006. They identified teachers' baseline language skills and areas requiring strengthening, then conducted workshops to improve receptive and expressive skills. Topics included: use of hand shapes, orientation, nouns and verb occurrences, numeral incorporation, classifiers predicates, morphology, and conceptual accuracy. The pair worked with 75 teachers of the deaf.

FAVACA SEEKS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

FAVACA is recruiting an International Programs Coordinator for its Tallahassee office. Requirements include strong people, communication, and computer skills. Fluency in English and French/Creole preferred. International travel required. Salary \$28,000 with excellent benefits. Application Deadline: August 23, 2006. For more details, hit the "Careers" button at www.favaca.org.

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Promoting social and economic development in the Caribbean
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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.

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