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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



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**FAVACA HOSTS HAITIAN DIASPORA WORKSHOP
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FAVACA HOSTS HAITIAN DIASPORA WORKSHOP

Made possible through a grant from [Western Union](#), FAVACA will be hosting a Haitian Hometown Association Workshop to provide training to local Haitian organizations on fundraising, grant writing, business plan creation, and organizational strengthening. Veteran volunteers Terrie Temkin and Gail Meltzer of [Core Strategies for Nonprofits](#) will lead the workshop with the aim to help the Haitian diaspora's efforts to improve conditions in Haiti.



The workshop will take place on Saturday, November 7th at [Broward College](#), 7200 Pines Boulevard in Pembroke Pines. Arrive early for the morning registration and network with the many organizations in attending. Coffee and pastries will be available at the registration beginning at 8:00 am. The workshop will be from 9:00am until 4:00pm and we are looking forward to seeing many of our old friends and making some new ones.



For more information please contact Angie Klouthis at angie@favaca.org or call 305.470.5035.

HEROES OF THE HEMISPHERE EVENT IN MIAMI



FAVACA is partnering to support the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) "Heroes of the Hemisphere" celebration Saturday, October 24, 2009 aboard the Liberty of the Seas cruise ship at the [Port of Miami](#). The event honors those individuals who have dedicated their lives to improve conditions for individuals in the Caribbean and Latin America.

Time and tickets are limited so act now! To learn more please visit: www.HeroesoftheHemisphere.org or call 877-909-HERO(4376).

STATIA BEAUTIFIES ISLAND FOR TOURISTS

For several years, and with the help of FAVACA, the [St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation \(STDF\)](#) has been pioneering the tourism industry on the small island of St. Eustatius, commonly referred to as "Statia". Since 2007, FAVACA has provided a number of trainings for the Foundation notably, food and kitchen sanitation, innovative methods to improve guest satisfaction, and new cooking techniques resulting in a number of exciting dishes being offered.

All this is followed more recently by recognition for the need for the surroundings to match the food and service! Beautifying tourist attractions and hotels through landscape design became the focal point for follow up training from FAVACA. Unfortunately, Statia lacks sufficient businesses or expertise on the island to help plan and design public and private land improvements.



Answering the call were first time FAVACA volunteers Dr. Kimberly Moore and Lucille Fisher both from the [University of Florida's Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center](#). Traveling to St. Eustatius August 30 through September 5, 2009 the pair provided training to more than 15 people. Lectures topics included: principals of landscape design, plant structure and function, plant selection and transplanting, water management and irrigation design, fertilization, weed and pest management, and pruning. Practical application followed each lecture as well as visits to tourist sites throughout Oranjestad. Participants implemented each lesson through guided hands-on trainings. As a result of the training an entrepreneurial business in landscaping was created to beautify both public and private lands. Attending the training were maintenance staff from local hotels, government grounds keeping personnel and private grounds keeping businesses.

REGIONAL LEADERS BENEFITS FROM PEST WORKSHOP IN GRENADA

Due to globalization and the increase in seaborne trade throughout the Caribbean, agriculture and other industries are under increased threat from coleopteran pests (e.g. beetles) and other insects. Infestation from these insects could decimate crops, paralyze the agriculture industry, halt construction, and cripple other industries. Some coleopteran pests such as the [Mango Seed Weevil](#) is already present on most of the islands in the region while other coleopterans such as the [Khapra Beetle](#) are not known to be present but their eradication is of economic importance to the region.



Seeing the need to prevent future infestations in the region, the [Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture \(IICA\)](#) contacted FAVACA to source a coleopteran specialist. First time volunteer Dr. Ronald Cave, Fort Pierce, and Bradley Smith, Vero Beach, traveled to [St. George's, Grenada](#) September 17-26, 2009. Cave and Smith provided hands-on training in IICA's laboratory and provided lectures on trapping coleopterans, surveying potential infestations, and prevention to 17 participants.

Both experts are from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) - [Indian River Research and Education Center \(IRREC\)](#) in Ft. Pierce. Dr. Cave is an associate professor and specialist in Entomology and Nematology arthropods and Mr. Smith, is a Senior Biological Scientist.

Since most Caribbean countries are net importers of grains and pulses, which is a common infestation site for coleopteran pests, it is important to strengthen the capacity for the identification of pests in this Order of insects. Additionally, the need for intensive identification training is heightened by the fact that solid wood packaging is a potential pathway for the introduction of exotic coleopterans into the region. Some countries have already taken some measures to combat infestation problems through the implementation of [ISPM #15](#) (the international solid wood packaging standard) and other countries are in the process of doing so, but more policies need to be enacted.

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