

Member Profile: Look Who's New in Town

By Ellen Strother



Norma Samuel

Norma Samuel is the new County Extension Agent for Sumter County. She serves the commercial ornamental horticulture industry there. Samuel's position also has economic development responsibilities for Sumter County. A third area of responsibility allows her to provide Master Gardening training to Lee County residents.

Previous Work Experience:

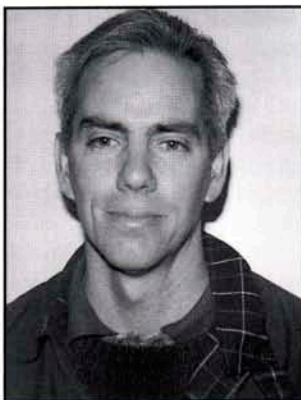
Samuel worked for the Plant Protection and Quarantine Service in Antigua for seven years. She worked in the nematology lab in the plant pathology department at the University of Georgia at Athens. Prior to her Clemson appointment she worked as a lawn care specialist for TruGreen ChemLawn.

Education:

Norma Samuel attended high school in the Caribbean. She received an associate's degree in agriculture at the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry in Trinidad. Samuel's earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Georgia at Athens in Plant Protection and Pest Management.

Special Interests:

Norma Samuel loves insects. "I think I have quite a bit to offer in terms of assisting my clientele with their insect and disease problems. The focus of my degree was Integrated Pest Management." She plans to indulge her insect interests by starting an entomology club for 4-Hers.



Samuel has also been impressed by the Clemson atmosphere and claims, "the people are really nice. They try to look out for me and help me adjust. It feels like family." She also enjoys the diversity of working with both commercial landscape professionals and Master Gardeners.

Chuck Burgess

Chuck Burgess is the new County Extension Agent for Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee and York counties. He serves the commercial ornamental horticulture industry.

Previous Work Experience:

As a Clemson graduate student Chuck Burgess worked at the State Botanical Garden. He worked as a landscape manager for North Greenville College for seven years. Burgess has also

worked in both production nurseries and retail garden centers in Georgia.

Education:

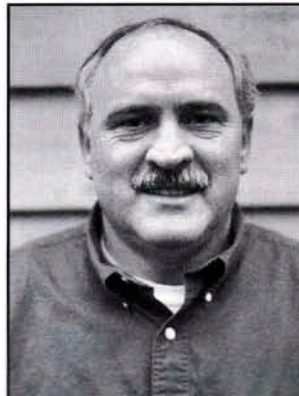
Chuck Burgess received his bachelor's degree in horticulture from Berry College in Rome, Georgia, and earned his master's degree in horticulture from Clemson.

Special Interests:

Chuck Burgess' truly enjoys interacting with people, especially kids, "I've been here three weeks and I'm looking forward to meeting the growers in my areas and making commercial contacts."

Garden design is another specialty area for Burgess, "I do enjoy designing gardens, particularly shade gardens with water features." Burgess is also passionate about discovering new plants.

James Hodges



James Hodges is the new County Extension Agent in Greenwood. In his new capacity he will provide leadership to the Master Gardener program, youth projects and home horticulture. Approximately a 1/3 of Hodges' time will be spent working with the commercial horticulture industry. In addition, he will work with the Greenwood Farmers Market and assist with pesticide training in the cluster.

Previous Work Experience:

James Hodges has over 25 years of forestry work experience in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Several of the forest product companies he worked for include Brunswick Pulp and Champion International. In addition to forest genetics he worked on tree improvement projects that included selection and breeding work. Hodges has worked in production seed orchards, forest tree nurseries, and research greenhouses producing containerized forest trees.

Education:

James Hodges earned his bachelor of science degree in forestry and his master's in forest genetics from NC State.

Special Interests:

James Hodges hails from the mountains of Boone, NC but is no stranger to the Greenwood area. He spent an enjoyable 10 years in Greenwood working for Champion International. Hodges likes everything about his new job, but has a special interest in plant propagation. "I grow my own perennials from seed, graft my own camellias, dogwoods, fruit and nut trees." He's amazed at the variety of questions that come his way, and just last week found himself researching how to tan a squirrel hide.





Stan Jones

Stan Jones is the new County Extension Agent for Colleton, Beaufort and Jasper counties. He serves the commercial ornamental horticulture industry as well as supervises the Colleton County horticulture partnership.

Previous Work Experience:

Stan Jones owned and operated J&J Landscape Services, a landscape design build company for the past 16 years in Corpus Christi, Texas. His business was 70% commercial and 30% residential.

Education:

Stan Jones received his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of Illinois. He earned his master's degree in education (vocational education) from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. Jones has been a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects since 1988.

Special Interests:

Stan Jones remains enamored with landscape design, "I get excited to see how we can change the land to fit our own personal needs, it's neat that you can change how you feel about where you live."

Jones also is enjoying the mild Walterboro climate as well as the proximity to his family in Columbia. He likes the diversity his Extension job presents, "it's the kind of job you don't get bored in." He's also looking forward to molding the job to fit his personality and skills, "there's room for personal creativity here."



Karissa Ulmer

Karissa Ulmer has two jobs with Clemson University. Fifty percent of the time she is a County Extension Agent in Colleton County where she manages the commercial horticulture partnership by assisting with landscape beautification projects and employee grounds worker training. Her second job is with Clemson's PSA Marketing and Public Relations department. Her two

clients include Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia and the Belle W. Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science in Georgetown.

Previous Work Experience:

Karissa Ulmer worked as a public relations specialist at Westwayne, an Atlanta based advertising agency. She also performed marketing and public relations for the popular Ohio State Fair. In addition, Ulmer is co-owner of a cattle farm in Lodge.

Education:

Karissa Ulmer received her bachelor's degree in agricultural communications from the Ohio State University. She has a minor in agribusiness.

Special Interests:

Karissa Ulmer is enjoying both of her new jobs, "I love working with people in the field of agriculture, from the production end to media relations." Ulmer also appreciates her Colleton County location, "I like the community in Colleton County; the people are very welcoming and supportive in anything and everything you do." Ulmer and her husband Wes recently shared the Young Cattleman of the Year Award, given by the SC Cattleman's Association.

Where Did They Go?



Kristy Ellenberg

Kristy Ellenberg, former County Extension Agent for Sumter County, has been promoted to Community Development Specialist and now works out of the Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia. In her new position, Ellenberg has statewide responsibilities and works with the Sandhill team on community relations issues and environmental law concerns. Commercial horticulture

providers can still expect to see Ellenberg teaching her "Trees and the Law" class throughout the state.



Ellen Strother

Ellen Strother, former commercial horticulture agent for Colleton and Beaufort counties, has been promoted to Environmental Landscape Specialist and has relocated to the Sandhill Research and Education Center in Columbia. Strother's new responsibilities are split 50/50. Half of the time she serves the commercial landscape industry; statewide, Clemson Extension agents and SC communities engaged in landscape beautification projects.

The other half of the time Strother works on developing the grounds of the Sandhill Research and Education Center.

