

## **Gary W. Knox Travels to China in May 2009**

Objectives of this trip are to:

- Meet and establish relationships with Professor Yunlong Yin and other scientists at the Nanjing Botanical Garden and Nanjing Forestry University
- Attend and present a paper at the 2nd International Symposium on the Family Magnoliaceae (ISFM) in Guangzhou, China, 5 - 8 May 2009

Southeastern and coastal provinces of China have climates similar to those in Florida. Chinese botanists and horticulturists developed and introduced many ornamentals, such as azaleas (*Rhododendron* sp.) and camellias (*Camellia* sp.), that continue to be highly valued in Florida and the U.S.

The amazing diversity of China's flora holds promise as a source of many more highly ornamental, non-invasive and low maintenance ornamental plants. Discovery, development and introduction of additional plants would diversify species used in landscapes and is of mutual interest to both nations.

In turn, China's rapidly developing nursery and landscape industries would benefit from my long experience with Florida's large and sophisticated nursery industry. In addition, I can offer my knowledge and expertise with many Florida native plants that are of interest to Chinese horticulturists, including southern magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora*, and baldcypress, *Taxodium*.

Contacts made with Chinese scientists will lead to relationships benefitting UF/IFAS, the Florida nursery/landscape industry and Florida residents. I hope to leverage these relationships to develop formal research partnerships to study flora of China and the United States that are of mutual interest to the Chinese and Florida nursery and landscape industries. Genera of interest include *Magnolia*, *Illicium*, *Osmanthus*, *Nandina*, *Mahonia* and *Camellia*. In addition, this is an opportunity to learn about the Chinese nursery industry and the visit will allow us to exchange information and ideas about nursery production.



Gary W. Knox  
UF/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center (850) 875-7162  
[gwknex@ufl.edu](mailto:gwknex@ufl.edu)  
<http://nfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/Knox/index.htm>