

IFAS Matters

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IFAS Matters - April 2013

Posted on April 17, 2013 by Jack Payne

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"You have to declare what you rob from the rich, but you can deduct what you give to the poor."

Ah, April! As our rain barrels struggle to fill up, the federal income tax coffers begin absorbing their share of the sweat of our collective brow. For a few fortunate folks, the river runs uphill and they get a refund. But before you can log off TurboTax and look for a way to spend this windfall, the feds are asking if you'd like to apply your refund to next year's taxes, making the idiom "pay it forward" an ironic double entendre. Not to be outdone by the IRS, we now have global Pay It Forward Day, which takes place on April 25, 2013.

"Pay it forward" is a wonderful concept that has a firm foundation in history. Ben Franklin described it in a letter to Benjamin Webb in 1784, which was about Franklin's monetary gift to help Webb

Multimedia

The IFAS Perspective



Crossing Disciplines Within a Land-Grant Institution – The IFAS Perspective. [Watch Video>>](#)

Tree Cloned



Phoenix tree cloned by UF/IFAS SFRC researcher. [Watch Video>>](#)

Haitian Delegation Visit



UF is the lead institution in a program to reduce poverty and hunger by improving agricultural productivity, food security and human nutrition in Haiti. [View Photo>>](#)

[traveling to Tallahassee](#)

Geoff Wallat has been named marine and natural resources extension agent for Taylor County

Roxanne Connelly elected president of American Mosquito Control Association

with his debts. Instead of asking to be repaid, Franklin asked Webb to help someone else out of a jam. Author Robert A. Heinlein wrote about it in "Between Planets" in 1951, and continued to embrace it as a core philosophy. And of course, there was the movie by the same name, in which a teacher challenges a pupil to change the world by "paying it forward."

"Paying it forward" is the best kind of Ponzi scheme. It requires a flow of good deeds to keep the scheme going. It doesn't have to mean spending tons of money or effort. It can be as simple as holding the door for someone whose hands are full or giving up your spot in line to someone in a hurry. It could just mean buying a coffee for the person behind you at Starbucks.

My only question: "Do you have to claim it on your taxes?"

-Jack

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Mosquito Adaptation

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Innovation Academy



Cultivating a crop of innovators. [Read Article>>](#)

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