

UF/IFAS Extension *Comings & Goings*

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EPAF 2016 Update2
 Announcing our Keynote Speaker!2
 Meet Your Specialist3
 Watershed Wonders, Wisdom and Works.....3
 Farmers Markets – Low Tech, High Impact..... 4
 Great Partnerships Lead to Jobs in Suwannee County 4
 Panhandle Ag e-News Reaches Milestones of Note5
 Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference South Central District6
 Garden Explorers 4-H Camp6
 UF/IFAS Extension’s Zika Challenge.....7
 Garden2Go 8
 Child Care Providers Rely on Extension for Training 8
 Seeds of Change 8
 Planning a Successful Plant Sale Fundraiser.....9
 Arbor Day Mail Art Call.....10
 UF/IFAS, Bok Tower Gardens Partnership Jumpstarts Spring Gardens..... 11
 Aiming for Fun, Memories, STEM, and Life Skills 12
 2015 Mini-Grants13
 ARRIVALS..... 17
 NEW POSITIONS18
 DEPARTURES18
 RETIREMENT.....18

EPAF UPDATE (Pg 2)

Watershed Wonders, Wisdom and Works (Pg 3)

The Florida Waters Stewardship Program (FWSP) is increasing knowledge about Florida’s water resources among the citizens of the Tampa Bay Region.

Farmers Markets—Low Tech, High Impact (Pg 4)

Studies conducted at the St. Petersburg Saturday Morning Market in Pinellas County provide information about the economic impact of farmers markets and Extension’s role in local food systems.

Great Partnerships Lead to Jobs in Suwannee County (Pg 4)

For the past six years, UF/IFAS Extension in Suwannee County has partnered with Workforce Development to help youth gain career and life skills through a summer internship program.

Panhandle Ag e-News Reaches Milestone (Pg 5)

Over the past four years, the Panhandle Ag e-newsletter has published more than 1,000 articles keeping the region’s farmers and ranchers up to date with the latest research-based information. In June, the e-newsletter surpassed 300,000 page views.

Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference South Central District (Pg 6)

The South Central UF/IFAS Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Extension team pulled off its Regional Small Farms Conference April 1-2 in Ft. Myers.

Garden Explorers 4-H Camp (Pg 6)

For the past five years, Garden Explorers 4-H Camp has been introducing youth in Orange County to the world of gardening and nature using the Exploration Gardens on the grounds of the UF/IFAS Extension office.

UF/IFAS Extension’s Zika Challenge (Pg 7)

In response to Zika virus and other mosquito-related issues, a broad challenge has been issued to all UF/IFAS Extension agents to get involved.

Garden2Go (Pg 8)

In 2015, the Pinellas County Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Agent and the Family Nutrition Program Regional Public Health Specialist began a pilot program targeting low-income families in the food deserts of Pinellas County.

Child Care Providers Rely on Extension for Training (Pg 8)

UF/IFAS Extension in Madison County conducts a ten-hour class series for CEU credit in early childhood education, enabling child care facilities to operate in compliance with state law and keep their doors open to provide quality child care in the community.

Seeds of Change (Pg 8)

Florida Sea Grant, 4-H Youth Development, and the Florida Oceanographic Institute join forces on the Oyster Gardening program to help youth develop a new frame of reference for the Indian River Lagoon.

Planning a Successful Plant Sale Fundraiser (Pg 9)

This year, the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardener summer plant sale raised over \$10,000 to support educational efforts in the community.

Arbor Day Mail Art Call (Pg 10)

UF/IFAS Extension in Hillsborough County celebrated Arbor Day this year by coordinating a mail art campaign directed at adults, children and youth. The results were even more successful than we expected.

UF/IFAS, Bok Tower Gardens Partnership Jumpstarts Spring Gardens (Pg 11)

Spring Garden Resource Day at Bok Tower Gardens provided 19 school and community gardens with the resources needed to jumpstart their spring gardens.

Aiming for Fun, Memories, STEM, and Life Skills (Pg 12)

This year at the 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships, Florida 4-H was represented by 15 youth competing in five different disciplines.

UF/IFAS Extension *Comings and Goings* is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the UF/IFAS Extension web site at <http://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu>.

If you have any suggestions or would like to submit your own recognition or short article of interest, please send them to Valkyrie Shah.

Please feel free to also forward any questions or comments about this periodical to Valkyrie Shah at valkyrieshah@ufl.edu.

EPAF 2016 UPDATE

September 26-30 Daytona Beach, Florida

Please be sure to...

1. Reserve a hotel room first: [HERE](#)
2. Register for the conference second: <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/REG/>
3. Check back for information on travel, ISTs, auction items and other updates: [HERE](#)
4. ISTs are now open!! Take a look [HERE](#)
5. Current Agenda: [HERE](#)

August 26

Registration deadline: \$450

Aug 27 - Sept 9

Late Registration: \$500

For questions on registration:

LuAnn Duncan
laduncan@ufl.edu

For questions on the hotel:

Martha Maddox
mmaddox@ufl.edu

For questions on ISTs:

Cindy Sanders
sanders1@ufl.edu

For questions on the Auction:

Jonael Bosques-Mendez
jonael@ufl.edu

ANNOUNCING OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER!



Dr. W. Kent Fuchs became the University of Florida's 12th president in January 2015.

Most recently the provost of Cornell University, Dr. Fuchs' experience combines academic leadership as a provost, dean and department chair; a distinguished career as an engineering professor; and graduate education in both engineering and divinity. His overarching goal for UF is to elevate its stature, as measured by quality and comparative excellence, to that of one of the nation's best universities.

President Fuchs is pursuing this objective by continuing to lead the university's Preeminence Plan while guiding UF's colleges and units in achieving the goals outlined in year-long campus-wide goal-setting effort. He is working to significantly increase UF's endowment; enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of university operations; and establish UF as a national leader and voice for higher education.

The UF presidency was a natural next step for Dr. Fuchs, who spent six years as Cornell's provost. There, he led the creation of a new technology campus in New York City, launched a university wide initiative to raise Cornell's academic stature and was a key leader of Cornell's fundraising efforts. He was appointed provost after serving as the university's Joseph Silbert Dean of Engineering from 2002 to 2008. He joined Cornell from Purdue

University, where he headed the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering from 1996 to 2002. He was a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Coordinated Science Laboratory at the University of Illinois from 1985 to 1996.

He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association of the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Association for Computing Machinery, and has received numerous awards for teaching and research.

President Fuchs earned his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois, and a master of divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago. He credits divinity school with teaching him communication and community-building skills, and to balance his innately analytic perspective with a deep appreciation for people and for human relationships. He also holds a master of science from the University of Illinois and a bachelor of science in engineering from Duke University.

Dr. Fuchs is married to Linda Moskeland Fuchs, an art historian whose scholarship centers on the sculpture of sarcophagi created in the first centuries of Christian art-making. Mrs. Fuchs has two master's degrees in art history, from the University of Chicago and Cornell, and a third in Biblical studies, from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. She is active in campus and community life, including spending six years on the board of Chesterton House, a center for Christian studies at Cornell, the past three years as chair.

The Fuchs family has three sons and a daughter, Micah, Eric, Isaac and Christine, as well as two grandsons.

Born on an Oklahoma farm in 1954, President Fuchs spent much of his youth in Alaska before moving to Miami, where he graduated from Miami Killian Senior High School. His two younger brothers and stepmother live in South Florida.

MEET YOUR SPECIALIST



Dr. Francisco Peñagaricano,
Assistant Professor
Animal Sciences,
Gainesville, Florida
fpenagaricano@ufl.edu
352-392-4117

I came to the University of Florida from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. There I was a graduate research assistant in the group of Animal Breeding and Genetics

in the Department of Animal Sciences. My specialties are dairy cattle genetics and genomics and I also take a special interest in animal breeding, quantitative genetics and genomics, and computational biology.

I got my Ph.D. in animal science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 2014. I joined the UF/IFAS Department of Animal Sciences in February 2015, as assistant professor in the area of statistical and quantitative genetics and genomics. My major duties are to develop and conduct research and extension programs in animal genomics and related subject areas that ultimately benefit the dairy and livestock industries in Florida and elsewhere. In particular, my extension program focuses on educating dairy and livestock producers and allied industries about practical and economically important aspects of genetic and genomic evaluation and selection, including the transfer of new research findings.



Dr. Adam Dale,
Assistant Professor
Entomology and
Nematology, Gainesville, FL
agdale@ufl.edu
352-273-3976

I came to the University of Florida from North Carolina State University. There I studied the effects of urban landscapes on insect pests of trees and

developed IPM strategies to manage them. My specialties are insect ecology, urban ecology, plant-insect interactions and herbivorous pests of landscape plants. I also take special interest in biological control, horticulture, urban forestry, urban landscape design and novel insect pest management strategies.

I received my Ph.D. in entomology and horticulture from North Carolina State University in 2015. I was born and raised in North Carolina, where I learned to appreciate insects and plants in urban and natural landscapes. I am very excited to learn more about Florida's plants and insects, as well as the challenges associated with managing them in landscapes. I have strong interests in pursuing research and extension projects that integrate multiple aspects of landscape ecology to address pest and plant management needs. No landscape problem has a single cause, and I think it is critical to home in on the important factors, but always consider others. The ultimate objective of my research and extension programs is to develop more sustainable landscape pest management strategies that the green industry can use. I am looking forward to working with extension faculty and staff across the state to train and advance one of the largest landscape pest management industries in the country.

WATERSHED WONDERS, WISDOM AND WORKS

Lara Milligan, Nat Res EA I, Pinellas Cty



FWSP participants of the at their last class session at Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg, FL.

In a 2012 public opinion survey conducted by Tampa Bay Water, 50% of people polled indicated that they didn't know where their water came from. In response, UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County Natural Resources

agent formed a state-wide committee to develop the Florida Waters Stewardship Program (FWSP), a program focused on learning about Florida's water resources. The FWSP program includes six three-hour sessions that met every other week at different locations in Pinellas County to highlight a specific water feature and water topic. FWSP class sessions included an on-site mini tour, class discussions, presentations by the natural resources agent

and a local guest speaker, activities and planning time for a class project. Sixty-one percent (n=19) of participants self-identified as "concerned citizens", but occupations ranged from teachers to environmental scientists to volunteers. Mean knowledge levels for topics covered in the program, measured during the first and last classes, (1= "Not at all knowledgeable" to 5=Extremely knowledgeable") increased by 0.92 (pre-test average = 2.65; post-test average = 3.57). Since the program's completion, one participant emailed to say, "[I] Starting recycling at my school and want to build rain barrel filtration system for outside washing of hands and water use since my classroom is in a portable. Good opportunity. Will contract UF extension for assistance." Another participant has since started a group called the Friends of Florida Watersheds. Programs like FWSP provide the foundational knowledge and skills that can lead to positive community action.

FARMERS MARKETS – LOW TECH, HIGH IMPACT

Heather Landis, Pinellas Cty

Ramona Madhosingh-Hector, Urban Env Sust EA II,
Pinellas Cty



Farmers Market count.

With the buzz around local food systems continuing to grow, the benefits of various components are often framed in social and ecological terms. But what about the economics? In a world where money talks, the dollar value of entities such as farmers markets will inevitably enter the conversation.

In Pinellas County, there are several

fresh markets that gather local growers and connect them with consumers. The St. Petersburg Saturday Morning Market, located in the heart of the downtown area, is likely one of the largest of these, bringing fresh produce and artisan crafts to a distinctly urban area. The UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County Urban Sustainability Program recently partnered with the market to assess its economic impact using the Sticky Economic Evaluation Device (SEED) developed by marketumbrella.org and Loyola University. SEED protocols were used to determine attendance and conduct surveys with market attendees.

Two studies (November, February) were conducted to capture seasonal differences and present an accurate portrait of the market's annual impact. Results showed that more visitors attended the market in February (9,524) and also spent more than those who attended in November (8,235). The total annual estimated economic impact of the market (based on both studies) is over \$34 million. This figure includes gross receipts for vendors (over \$2,000 per vendor per market day) and nearby businesses, sales taxes (over \$450,000 at 6% rate), and the multiplier effect that the initial money spent will have in the community. This study highlights the capacity of an urban extension office to leverage partnerships, provide information on a popular priority issue, and highlight the local community benefits of this emerging food trend.

GREAT PARTNERSHIPS LEAD TO JOBS IN SUWANNEE COUNTY

Katherine Allen, FCS CED IV, Suwannee Cty



Samantha, UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County intern, experiencing a turn at a long-arm quilt machine during a field trip for the 4-H Quilt in a Week Day Camp.

For the past six years, UF/IFAS Extension in Suwannee County has partnered with Workforce Development to help youth gain skills through a summer internship program. Although Extension utilized at least one intern each summer and provided general training for the youth in the past, two years ago Workforce approached Extension about

providing the National Restaurant Association's ServSafe Food Manager Certification course to the youth. Workforce paid for the training and books for 20 youth.

Samantha, an intern in 2015 at the Suwannee County extension office, was attending classes to acquire her GED and she was also working part time as a cashier at the local Winn-Dixie. While she was interning at the extension office, Samantha mentioned her frustration at the lack of hours she was scheduled. Although she was juggling multiple responsibilities, she was encouraged to take the ServSafe course and exam by Kris Kuhl, career consultant for Workforce's summer intern program. In addition, extension staff reinforced taking advantage of any supplementary training or certification programs, explaining how it could lead to employment or promotions in the future.

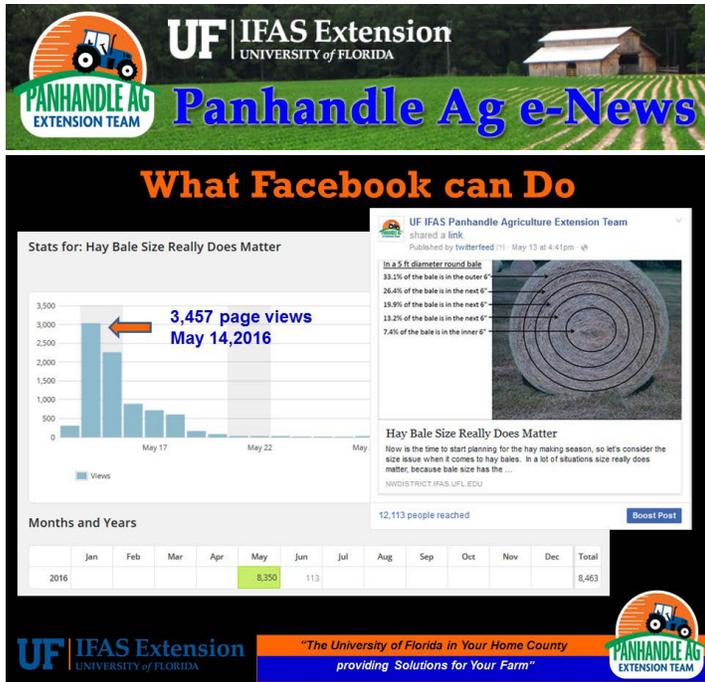
At the end of summer, after taking and passing the certification exam, she interviewed for a job in the deli at Wal-Mart. Interviewers offered her a job on the spot after learning of her food manager certification. They also increased her pay to a higher amount than was advertised! She was thrilled with her new position and now consistently gets 77 hours every two weeks. Mr. Kuhl mentioned that Wal-Mart has a program for online prep classes for the GED and will pay for the exam! This will help Samantha's efforts to obtain her GED.

Samantha reported that the course helped in knowing what temperatures food items needed to be. She also felt it would help her to cook better for her family. "I didn't think I would ever need it" Samantha said, "but look where it got me!"

The successful partnership between Extension and Workforce helped to establish food safety knowledge, a life skill and led to a better job and increased pay.

PANHANDLE AG E-NEWS REACHES MILESTONES OF NOTE

Doug Mayo, Livestock & Forage CED III, Jackson Cty



Today's farmers and ranchers are utilizing a wide variety of new technologies to become more productive and efficient than ever before. Agriculture extension agents and state extension specialists have utilized a team approach to meet the challenge of keeping farmers and ranchers up to date with the latest research-based information with a project called Panhandle Ag e-News.

Panhandle Ag e-News is a collaborative effort of 18 state specialists and 18 county agriculture agents who contribute on a weekly basis to educate commercial agriculture producers in the region. Agents and specialists are scheduled three times per year to serve as "Authors of the Week," to ensure regular content. Typical weekly e-newsletters contain links to 4-8 articles on a wide range of topics related to crop, livestock, and nursery production.

Over the past four years, the team has published more than 1,000 articles on their WordPress website, building a library of short articles with updates, recommendations, and event notifications with links to EDIS and other sources of additional information. Each Friday, clientele are notified via email of new articles added to the collection. In addition to email distribution, new article links are automatically posted to Facebook and Twitter accounts.

On June 17, the team's WordPress website surpassed the 300,000 page-view milestone, with an average of 461 page views per day in 2016. The subscription list has grown 107% since the project began in April 2012, surpassing the 3,400 subscribers mark in June. Followers of the two social media services have also grown to 672 Facebook followers and 403 Twitter followers.

Social media can really help get information out quickly and build a following. A May 13 article written by beef extension

specialist Matt Hersom called "Hay Bale Size Really Does Matter" had almost 3,500 page views in one day because of 121 Facebook shares that 12,115 people saw on their feeds. In total, the article has received over 8,500 page views in a little more than a month, because so many people took an interest in this subject.

In addition to email subscribers and social media followers, search engines are also a

powerful tool that helps clientele find published articles. Each article is searchable by category or by author, making it easier to find information on a given topic. Over the four years of the project, 89,514 of the page views on the site have come from search-engine referrals.

Posting articles to the web with regular notifications has also made it very easy for commercial agriculture news services to share published articles. Growing America, Drivers Journal, Farm Journal, Beef Magazine, and several others now have trade-journal-type electronic newsletters they use to reach farmers and ranchers. The editors of numerous trade journals have been added to the subscription list to ensure awareness of new content each week. The editors can copy the entire article, complete with photos and charts, and post them to their websites for distribution. Since our authors and photographers are cited in each article in WordPress, UF/IFAS faculty and staff get full credit for their work, and the information is shared with an even larger audience.

Panhandle Ag e-news is just one of five options for clientele in the Northwest Extension District. The district has five program implementation teams: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Horticulture, FCS, and 4-H. Each of these teams has an electronic newsletter made up of a WordPress blog website with multiple authors contributing and an email electronic newsletter to notify clientele of new content. Direct links to all of their e-Newsletters can be found at: <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/e-extension-in-the-panhandle/#.V6in5LWB15I>. Each program team's website features a "subscribe" button to direct clientele to the UF/IFAS Subscription Management System (SMS) <http://subscribe.ifas.ufl.edu/>. This team approach has been very successful for all five program areas in the Northwest District.

There are 4 ways to receive Panhandle Agriculture e-News:

1. Via email subscription: Go to <http://subscribe.ifas.ufl.edu> and enter your name and email address and subscribe to "Panhandle Agriculture."
2. "Like" Panhandle Ag on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/FlaPanhandleAgriculture>
3. Follow on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/PanhandleAg> or @PanhandleAg
4. Bookmark Panhandle Ag as one of your favorite websites: <http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/phag/>

SMALL FARMS AND ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES CONFERENCE SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Mary Beth Henry, Com Urban Env Hort EA II, Polk Cty

The South Central UF/IFAS Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Extension team pulled off its Regional Small Farms Conference April 1-2 in Ft. Myers. The conference began with pre-conference workshops partnering with ECHO, an outreach and research and demonstration organization serving limited-resource farmers in the tropics. Sessions included Integrated Small Livestock, Biochar Production and Use, Fruit Production and Varieties, and Pollinator Food Plots and Honeybee Demonstration. A concurrent farm tour featured four local mentoring operations, including 31 Produce, operated by former Major League Baseball player Mike Greenwell. Buckingham Farms, a local farm-to-table agritourism operation, provided an elegant backdrop for the Friday night keynote storytelling session featuring leading agritourism operators. The conference theme was “Strengthening Local Food Systems with Diversity” and the full Saturday program provided a mix of extension specialists, agents and practitioners using hands-on activities, lectures and panel discussions. At the conclusion of the event, we had welcomed 152 total attendees, conducted 16 educational sessions, had a small trade show with 13 exhibitors, and celebrated local food by incorporating produce from area farmers to the conference’s menu. Evaluations show more than 90% of participants plan to share what they learned with another farmer.

GARDEN EXPLORERS 4-H CAMP

Celeste White, Com Hort EA I, Orange Cty



Richard Tyson demonstrates hydroponic vegetable gardening



Garden Explorers campers planting flowers in the Exploration Gardens.

A 9-year-old girl registered for the Garden Explorers 4-H Camp because her sister had attended the previous year. With little gardening experience, the young girl was not looking forward to dirt, bugs and being outside in July. But as the week went by, she made new friends and became interested in butterflies, flowers and vegetable gardening. She ended up attending all three years until she aged out. In a survey, her mother said that her daughter wants to have a ‘field-to-table’ garden to be able to grow and cook their locally produced vegetables.

Garden Explorers 4-H Camp is a weeklong camp held for the past five years at the UF/IFAS Extension in Orange County. The camp is open to youth age 9-11. It was created by the extension team of Horticulture, Agriculture, 4-H Youth Development and Family and Consumer Sciences agents to introduce youth to the world of gardening and nature using the Exploration Gardens on the grounds of the extension office. What makes the camp unique to the participants is that it establishes the connection between gardening and the experience of making healthy food choices by consuming more fruits and vegetables. The camp also provides an opportunity to learn about careers in horticulture.

Each year, campers are provided with a variety of educational and hands-on sessions, projects and experiments. Over the five years, programs have included plant growth and development, basic botany, hydroponic vegetable gardening, vermacomposting, poisonous plant safety, butterfly gardening, beneficial insects, carnivorous plants, flower preservation, nature photography, tree benefits and propagation. Each day, the Family and Consumer Sciences agent present a healthy foods lesson and campers sample each item. Campers bring home plants, projects and experiments from the day’s activities, as well as a notebook of UF/IFAS publications and recipes for nutritious snacks. Friday field trips support the lessons from class, and have included a visit to the Gaylord Palms Resort to view the Florida habitats in the atrium, The Land pavilion at Epcot to view hydroponic vegetable production of the future, and Lukas Butterfly Encounter to observe all stages of butterflies and their food plants. In 2015, the campers toured the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka where specialists had five stations with hands-on activities set up for the youth to view research up close. After the field trip, a graduation ceremony is held with parents and family invited.

Master Gardeners serve as group leaders for the c; they work with a group of youth for the whole week, helping with the hands-

The Garden Explorers 4-H Camp has four goals:

1. 25 youth will be introduced to gardening activities, experiences in nature, healthy eating choices and careers in horticulture.
2. Participants will spend more time outside gardening.
3. Participants will try a new healthy food.
4. Participants will become more aware of their connection to the environment.

Garden Explorers 4-H Camp continued

on activities, answering questions and keeping the campers on track.

In 2015, there were 21 camp participants. About 3 months after the camp, an email survey was sent to seventeen of the parents of the camp participants with a 41% (N=7) return. 100% said that their child shared what they learned at the camp with their family, 100% said that their child spent more time gardening since attending the camp, 100% stated that their child had become more aware of their connection to the environment and 85% felt their child was more willing to try a new and healthy food. In addition, 71% said that the camp

helped their child think about careers in horticulture.

Research indicates that gardening has multiple benefits to youth, including increased academic achievement, physical health, social and emotional health and a greater sense of community. Additionally, urban youth gardening programs have the potential to positively influence the dietary behaviors of youth, reconnect youth with the food production process, and teach leadership and job-readiness skills that will help them become a productive and employable member of society. [Habib and Duherty \(2007\)](#) also state

that gardens help to support student inquiry and questions, especially as it pertains to the natural world. However, many children in urban areas are less likely to be provided an opportunity to have gardening experience, hence the Garden Explorers 4-H Camp. By participating in gardening and nature experiences and being exposed to nutritious eating, youth may make lifelong choices to spend more time outdoors and eat healthier.

In 2016, the Garden Explorers 4-H camp was selected as a national finalist for the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Excellence in 4-H Programming Award.

UF/IFAS EXTENSION'S ZIKA CHALLENGE

Ken Gioeli, Nat Res Env EA IV, St. Lucie Cty · Roxanne Connelly, Professor, FMEL



Common *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito, magnified 2,000 times at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, prepares to feed on human blood. UF/IFAS File Photo

In response to continuing mosquito-related issues such as Zika virus, a broad challenge has been issued to all UF/IFAS Extension agents to get involved. The Zika Challenge is being conducted from July 1st – October 1st, 2016. Extension agents throughout Florida are encouraged to train for and earn a Public Health Pest Control license. This training and expertise will enable extension agents to conduct effective outreach programs to educate their volunteers and communities about mosquito control. Zika Challenge resources are available

online at <http://stlucie.ifas.ufl.edu/zikachallenge.html>

This program was borne from discussions between Ken Gioeli (St. Lucie County Natural Resources Extension Agent), Anita Neal (South Florida District Extension Director) and Dr. Roxanne Connelly (professor and extension specialist at the UF/IFAS Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory in Vero Beach). Participation in the Zika Challenge was solicited statewide and twenty extension agents from across Florida and across subject matters signed up to participate.

As of July 7, 2016, all of the cases of Zika reported in Florida have been from people who have been infected while outside of the United States. Both vector species, *Aedes albopictus* (the Asian tiger mosquito) and *Aedes aegypti* (the yellow fever mosquito) occur in Florida, but so far there is no evidence that local Florida populations are transmitting the virus. There is concern, however, that eventually the virus will show up in local mosquitoes.

We are working proactively with county extension offices, mosquito control agencies, and public health agencies to promote activities to reduce these two mosquito species to help prevent local transmission of Zika virus. The two mosquito species of concern are commonly known as

container mosquitoes, and they are dangerous in Florida because they also can transmit Chikungunya, dengue, and yellow fever viruses. Because the container mosquitoes spend their entire life close to humans, educational programs directed to the Florida public are critical. It is important that communities participate in cleaning up water-holding containers and reducing mosquito habitats around their homes, schools, and places of work. For more information on Zika and container mosquitoes, visit <http://mosquito.ifas.ufl.edu/Zika.htm>

Zika Challenge participants:

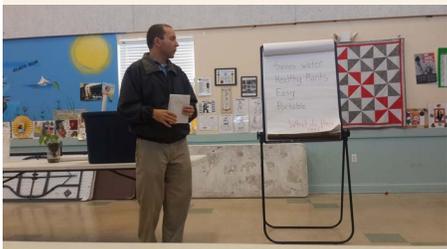
Dr. Bradley Burbaugh (Clay County), Julie McConnell (Bay), Heidi Copeland (Leon), Sheila Dunning (Okaloosa), Mary Derrick (Santa Rosa), Donna Nichelle Demorest (Columbia), Rebecca Jordi (Nassau), Brittany Hall-Scharf (Hernando), Jim Davis (Sumter), Stacy Strickland (Hernando/Sumter), William Lester (Hernando), Prissy Fletcher (Putnam), Maxine Hunter (Flagler), Susan Haddock (Hillsborough), Ken Gioeli (St. Lucie), Joe Walter (Brevard), Shelly Krueger (Monroe), Sally Scalera (Brevard), Melinda Morgan-Stowell (Brevard), Linda Seals (Brevard)

GARDEN2GO

Brian Niemann, FFL, Pinellas Cty
Mark Trujillo, FNP, Pinellas Cty



Malory Foster, Family Nutrition Program, and program participants work together to fill sub-irrigated planters for distribution.



Brian Niemann, Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program, discusses the benefits of growing vegetables in a sub-irrigated planter.

In 2015, the Pinellas County Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Agent and the Family Nutrition Program Regional Public Health Specialist began a pilot program targeting low-income families in the food deserts of Pinellas County. The program provides participants with the knowledge and resources necessary to begin to grow their own food. Program participants receive a sub-irrigated planter with vegetable plants, 20 minutes of nutrition education, and 20 minutes of gardening education. After the program, participants take their container home and are provided a direct method of contacting the Pinellas County Lawn and Garden Help Desk to troubleshoot issues with their container. The long-term goal of the program is to develop vegetable gardeners capable of taking on larger gardens or leadership in community gardens in these areas. To date, the three Pinellas pilot programs have educated a total of 53 participants.

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS RELY ON EXTENSION FOR TRAINING

Diann Douglas, FCS EA IV, Madison Cty

Running a child care facility isn't as easy as reciting the ABCs--there are rules and regulations to follow and state standards to meet and maintain. Many early childhood teachers hold a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, which is an advanced certification requiring continuing education units (CEUs) for renewal. In addition, all directors of child care facilities must hold a Director's Credential, which is an additional certification; maintenance of this designation also requires CEU credits to stay in compliance. If child care providers fail to maintain certifications for their roles, the child care facility is at risk of fines and closure.

Meeting training requirements has always been a challenge in rural counties because workers may need to travel up to an hour to attend training in other communities. Although some courses are now online for CEU credit, it limits the educational experience to sitting in front of a computer, reading and answering test questions. Since child care professionals are typically kinesthetic learners and prefer training to be interactive, the online courses aren't always considered useful.

Madison County FCS advisory board has long identified child care training as an educational priority, trainings have been developed to meet the standard of best practices. It is a critical issue in rural communities where families depend on child care for young children so parents are able to work. The closure of even one child care facility could impact the ability of many families to find adequate child care.

Each year, UF/IFAS Extension in Madison County conducts a ten-hour class series for CEU credit in early childhood education. In recent years, training topics have focused on art, music, math and science. New learning activities are explored to help create a rich educational environment that stimulates brain development and language acquisition. Participants study theory and best practices in early childhood education, then participate in a practical application of hands-on learning. The series includes "make and take" sessions, so providers leave class with the support materials to implement new lessons at their centers.

Over the past two years, 43 participants have completed post-program surveys. Ninety-one percent (n=38) reported gaining knowledge of teaching skills in the areas of math, science, art and music. Sixty-two percent (n=27) reported implementing educational activities learned in class into their daily routines. Thirty-nine earned CEU credit through the University of Florida. As a result, UF/IFAS Extension Madison County enables child care facilities to keep their operations in compliance with state law and their doors open to provide quality child care in the community.

SEEDS OF CHANGE

Jeff Gellermann, 4-H EA III, Martin Cty



4-H Youth planting the seeds of change for the Indian River Lagoon.

Stretching 156 miles and containing 2,100 species of plants and 2,200 species of animals, the Indian River Lagoon is an invaluable natural resource. The area has also been the economic bedrock for communities along Florida's east coast for over a century, providing more than \$300 million in economic impact annually, with 3.2 million person-days in recreation and some of the most valuable real estate in the country.

However, today Indian River Lagoon is fighting for its life. Seasons of record rainfall carrying debris and refuse from yards, farms, parking lots and roads have loaded its waters with sediments and pollutants that block the sun from sea grasses and silt over oysters. Nutrients from stormwater runoff fuel uncontrolled algae and plankton growth that kill fish and endanger



Fred Burkey, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Agent, stands over his good work with the oyster gardening project.



Spat of oyster shells, from oyster gardening.

human health. Signs warning us not to touch the water sprout from shorelines like mangrove seedlings did in years past. Parents scurry in haste to gather their children before they can find their way into the water. Property owners take pictures in their backyards, not of dolphins or manatees to share with friends, but of floating islands of green decay and rot.

Too many times now, fish kills and green algae have come to represent one of the most ecologically diverse ecosystems on earth. Fewer local resident, visitors, and children have a frame of reference for this lagoon as a special place they can play or fish. Greater numbers of people now see the lagoon as a polluted waterbody that should be avoided and not enjoyed.

Our hope is that this era represents the greatest ebb in our treatment of this precious natural resource, and that the events of the past year will be the wakeup call that ushers in a new time with clean water and fish that swim instead of float.

UF/IFAS Extension is working to plant the seeds of change in Brevard, St. Lucie and Martin counties through collaboration, partnership and education. In Martin County the collaboration of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods program, Sea Grant, and 4-H Youth Development has resulted in the creation

of an educational program that brings children, families and volunteers to the lagoon to garner a better understanding of its ecology and beauty. Fred Burkey, UF/IFAS Martin County Florida Yards and Neighborhood agent, championed the project by reaching out the Florida Oceanographic Society to determine how to encourage young minds, expose youth to the lagoon, and inspire them to develop an interest in science and marine biology. The answer was oysters. By developing a program that has a direct positive impact on the lagoon, contains internal support for longevity (4-H and Sea Grant faculty in

office) and provides a hands on learning experience for youth, the Oyster Gardening program is able to provide an affordable mechanism for educators to work with youth on an important meaningful project.

In knee-deep water, Dr. Vincent Encomio of the Florida Oceanographic Society, J.P. Gellermann of Florida Sea Grant Martin County and a half-dozen youth from Martin County 4-H pull small metal cages full of oyster shells hanging under a local dock they had filled a month before. Opening one of the cages, a youth screams and a small crab runs across her hand. Burkey, standing on the dock above the group, laughs because he knows she has just made a memory that will last a lifetime. That little girl now has a frame of reference of the Indian River Lagoon being clean and full of animals.

After the all of the oyster cages had been moved to the oyster reef, the animals living there had been categorized by the kids, and everyone had gone home, Burkey said, "Maybe one of these kids will be the next Leroy Creswell or Mark Perry" (of Florida Sea Grant and the Florida Oceanographic Society, respectively), "Maybe we have just set the seeds of change. We just have to hope."

PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER

Norma Samuel, Urban Hort/MG EA III, Marion Cty



Master Gardeners in their official shirts, with color coded pricing legend around their necks.



Plant stakes.



Connie, Master Gardener and Chair of Propagation Committee, helping customers.

The 2016 UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardener summer plant sale was our best ever. The sale was held on Saturday, May 7, from 8:00 a.m. to noon in the MG propagation area.

Even before the gates were opened, people were in line, with the plant lists we had posted online in their hands.

Planting a Successful Plant Sale Fundraiser continued

Twice per year, late spring and fall, we open up our propagation area for residents to purchase plants propagated for the most part by MGs. The goals of these fundraisers are to provide a source of native, Florida-Friendly and hard-to-find plants that thrive in Marion County and generate revenue to operate the UF/IFAS Marion County Master Gardener Program.

Our propagation area is registered with the Florida Department of Plant Industry and is inspected annually. The propagation team of about 15 - 20 MGs meets almost every Thursday to propagate plants from seeds, cuttings, and by division. This year a total of 160 different annuals and perennials, grasses, groundcovers, herbs, shrubs, herbs, shrubs, succulents, trees, vegetables, and vines were on sale. The day before the sale, the team places color-coded wooden popsicle sticks into each pot as an indicator of the price of the plant. A plant stake with the name of the plant and a colored photo is placed with each grouping to help customers make a selection, especially for plants not in bloom. A total of 54 MGs (50% of the membership) signed up on the Volunteer Management System to work the event in various capacities: parking, customer assistance, cashiers, FFL booth, and clean up.

We always look for creative ideas to influence customers to purchase. A display of flowering pollinator and wildlife attracting plants was placed just inside the entrance to grab the attention of shoppers, and there was also an herb display. This year for the first time we had some beautifully arranged

container gardens that could be purchased as gifts for Mothers' Day. Throughout the day a MG is on the microphone making announcements to highlight specific plants, inform about promotions, and availability of 4-H volunteers to tote plants to the pick-up area. Two large books with laminated factsheets on 450 plants are on display for shoppers to peruse with MGs if in-depth information is needed on a particular plant.

For the first time ever, we sold out and raised just over \$10,000, which goes to support our educational efforts in the community. Apart from revenue generation, the plants we grow in the propagation area are used to make cuttings for various classes we teach throughout the year. We also use plant materials grown for donations to local school gardens and 4-H projects.

An exit survey was conducted to determine what means of advertising was most successful, the kinds of plants people were most interested in buying, and their level of satisfaction on several items. There were 75 respondents to the survey. Most residents learned about the sale from a friend (n=28) followed by our Facebook page (n=24). A total of 56% traveled 10 or more miles. They were shopping mostly for butterfly/pollinator and native plants. Shoppers felt we had an excellent inventory of quality plants and the prices were reasonable. This information will be useful for us to plan for the fall sale. I highly recommend a plant sale be considered as a means of diversifying funding for Master Gardener programs.

ARBOR DAY MAIL ART CALL

Robert Northrop, Forester EA III, Hillsborough Cty
Nicole Pinson, Urban Hort EA I, Hillsborough Cty
Shawn Steed, Env Hort Prod EA II, Hillsborough

Arbor Day is an annual event celebrated by communities across America. This year, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County celebrated Arbor Day by coordinating a mail art campaign directed at adults, children and youth.

Mail art is a grassroots movement that encourages people to create small pieces of art to be mailed through the postal service. The purpose of this campaign was to promote an appreciation for trees, promote awareness of their benefits, and encourage residents to learn about their local extension office.

Residents were asked to create small works of art, complete the sentence "I appreciate trees because..." and mail the art to the extension office. The campaign was marketed to local schools, churches, 4-H clubs, libraries and community groups.

As a result of this campaign, 57 residents answered the call by creating and mailing artwork to the Extension office. Participants ranged from 3 to 74 years old; most were new to Extension or had never contacted the Extension office.



Pen and pencil drawing from Z. Arce, age 16. "I appreciate trees because they bring us beautiful flowers and branches."



Artwork from B. Biagiotti, age 41.

Winner in the child category, G. Kim, age 11. "I appreciate trees because they always stand by your side no matter what time of the year it is."



ARBOR DAY MAIL ART CALL

THEME:
"I APPRECIATE TREES BECAUSE..."

DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2016

WHERE: UF/IFAS EXTENSION
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
5339 CR 579, Seffner, FL 33584

PRIZES
3 winners will receive a tree planting kit (\$100 value) that includes:

- One, 7-gal. tree
- Pruners
- Shovel
- Gloves
- Fertilizer

CONTEST AGES

- Child, Age 11 and under
- Youth, Age 12—18
- Adult, Over 18

SPONSORS
UF/IFAS Extension
Hillsborough County
Florida Forest Service
Kerby's Nursery

DETAILS: Celebrate trees this Arbor Day by sending mail art to the Extension office. Be creative and have fun! When you create mail art, you send unique, small works of art - mixed media welcomed! - through the postal service. Make your own drawing, collage, painting or photo, answer the question, "I appreciate trees because...", & send it in the mail to our address. If you wish to be entered into the contest, include your name, age & phone # on your art. Entries will be displayed in our lobby. For more information, contact Nicole Pinson, (813) 744-5519 or at: pinson@hillsboroughcounty.org

Flyer for mail art campaign sent to local schools and community groups and posted on social media.

Local businesses and organizations partnered with Extension to judge the entries and provide prizes to the top entries in each age group. Three members of a local art league served as volunteer judges to score the entries. The Florida Forest Service provided a grant to Extension to cover the cost of the prizes. A local nursery hosted the award ceremony and gave three winners a 7-gallon tree and planting kit, each valued at \$100. The winners, accompanied by their family members, selected a tree of their choice from the nursery and took home the planting kits that contained pruners, a shovel, gloves and fertilizer.

Mail art is one way to promote extension programs using an interesting and relevant campaign that speaks to people of different ages, cultures and nationalities. Our objective was to celebrate Arbor Day by engaging the public and promoting an awareness of trees. The results were residents created personal pieces of artwork, and the stories they shared with Extension communicated their values.

The campaign was successful, and the community is asking Extension to offer the contest next year. This replicable campaign used art and storytelling to promote an appreciation and celebration of trees, while marketing Extension and engaging non-traditional youth and adult audiences.

In mailing their artwork, people communicated why they value trees. When answering the question, "I appreciate trees because...", residents explained:

- "they give us life"
- "they save water"
- "they increase business traffic in an area"
- "trees give insects and animals a place to live"
- "they represent the deep roots between family and friends, and help keep everyone together"

UF/IFAS, BOK TOWER GARDENS PARTNERSHIP JUMPSTARTS SPRING GARDENS

Erin Elsberry, School Gardens RSA II, Polk Cty



Polk County school and community garden team members pick up spring transplants.

The success of a school and community garden depends on numerous factors, such as acquiring the appropriate gardening materials, having access to high-quality materials and Florida-specific gardening knowledge. The UF/IFAS Extension and Bok Tower Gardens Partnership School

and Community Garden Programs offered school and community gardens the opportunity to receive free gardening resources. Spring Garden Resource Day provided 19 school and community gardens with the resources needed

to jumpstart their spring gardens. Participants received compost, potting soil, transplants, seeds, seed trays, and pots. Many of these materials were donated by generous local sponsors, including Harris Seeds, Black Kow, Plants of Ruskin, Florida's Natural Growers Foundation, and Seed Starters for Young Harvesters. Participants were

eligible for a drawing of gift cards to be used for garden construction materials, and \$1,000 was given away.

Twelve schools and seven community gardens from across Polk County participated in the event held at Bok Tower Gardens. About 30 people of all ages attended the event. Participants learned about how to care for spring transplants and square-foot vegetable gardening from extension agents Erin Elsberry, School Gardens Program and Susan Tyler, Community Gardens Program. Comments from the workshop session revealed participants' thoughts, such as "the transplants and compost will allow us to expand another raised bed in the garden", and "being able to see the square-foot garden example was extremely helpful." Due to the positive responses, we will be offering two garden resource days annually.

AIMING FOR FUN, MEMORIES, STEM, AND LIFE SKILLS

Tycee Prevatt, 4-H EA I, Glades Cty



Florida

2016 Florida 4-H Shooting Sports Team



2016 Florida 4-H Shooting Sports Team representing their "State Stereotype"

This year Florida 4-H was represented at the 2016 National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships by 15 youth competing in five different disciplines that made up "Team Florida." They were among the 679 youth from 36 different states who traveled to Grand Island, Nebraska for the annual event. Youth qualified to be a part of Team Florida by placing top in their divisions at the Florida 4-H Shooting Sports State Competitions held across the state last March.

Youth not only had the chance to show off their shooting sports skills, they also participated in an Olympic Style opening ceremony, a teen social, and many took the chance to explore Nebraska. During their stay youth also put their STEM and 4-H Life Skills to work. Youth quickly learned the science involved in shooting in the wind--some even engineered flags to help them determine the strength and direction of the wind. During the three grueling days of shooting events youth were not only tested on their marksmanship abilities, but also had to calculate scores for themselves and their peers. Each day youth were grouped with three other youth from different states, which allowed them to use their social skills to meet new and different people. At night youth enjoyed the evening awards ceremonies and a teen social in which the theme was "State Stereotype." Team Florida was represented by Minnie Mouse, a Spanish conquistador and some "tacky tourists."

Like many 4-H Shooting Sports events, the 2016 National Championships was a family event involving fun, memories, shooting sports and new friends all in one. As this year's championships came to a close, it was clear that the 2016 "Team Florida" had created memories, overcome challenges, and learned lessons that will stay with them throughout their lives.

2015 MINI-GRANTS

Pam Allen, Interim CED & FCS EA IV, Okaloosa Cty

Board Source National Meeting

The Board Source National Meeting was held in New Orleans, LA November 9 – 10th. Using funding from the Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant, I was able to attend and fully participate in the sessions as well as schedule a field visit with a local nonprofit in New Orleans.

The Board Source organization is the largest leadership forum that targets nonprofit board training. It brings together chief executives, staff and others in the nonprofit sector. The educational sessions are varied in topics and are taught by well-known leaders in the field.

Escambia County 4-H Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. With the recently acquired resources from the sale of 4-H property, our local board was in need of fine tuning and making sure the board operates with due diligence. The County Extension Director is the Executive Director of the Escambia County 4-H Foundation, so oversight and training is a necessary component to keep the board and nonprofit in compliance and moving forward with new ideas while advancing the mission and scope of the organization.

By attending the National Board Source conference, I was able to learn about a variety of topics specific to the needs of our local organization. One of the most helpful sessions was on selecting new board members. I also attended a very informative session on legal issues that nonprofit boards routinely have to address.

As a result of attending, I feel I have improved on the following skills that I have used with our local board:

- Managing conflicts of interest
- Financial review (Revised our investment policy)
- Better bylaws (revised our bylaws and strengthened our partnership)
- Fundraising (plans are underway to conduct a fundraising activity)
- Strategic planning

There are also opportunities as a result of joining Board Source to offer webinars to our board members. I plan on implementing training webinars for our board this summer and early fall. This will strengthen our board and provide valuable training that they can use as productive board members.

On the last day, I was also able to work in a tour of a nonprofit organization, The Edible School Yard, which is housed in several schools in New Orleans. I have an interest in school gardens and this was an excellent way to see how the nonprofit runs their program. I visited Samuel J. Green Charter School, which is a k-8th grade program. The director of the gardening program allowed me to interact with the children and observe nutrition and culinary classes. This was a great experience that sparked some ideas about local schools and their ability to incorporate a 4-H school garden.

Andy Toelle, 4-H EA IV, Duval Cty; Brent Broaddus, 4-H RSA-South Central; Stacie Amolsch, 4-H EA, Duval Cty

4-H Military/Youth Partnership



Andy Leading a discussion during the USAFE conference.



Team members Stacie, Brent, and Andy after a hard day of training.

The United States Air Force mandates that 4-H be a part of the youth development center programs. To support this mandate, the 4-H Military/Youth partnership team has been conducting onsite trainings at youth centers located throughout Europe since the group was formed in 2009. Due to this positive relationship with the command structure and the team's reputation as excellent trainers, we were invited to present at the first annual United States Air Force Europe (USAFE) Youth Development Conference. The team members were Andy Toelle, Brent Broaddus, and Stacie Amolsch. At this conference, youth Child Development staff and managers from youth centers throughout Europe gather for intense focused training. In addition to the training at the conference, the team was invited to conduct site visits to continue the teaching to reach site-specific needs.

The workshops and follow up site visits were a success. Staff from throughout USAFE were trained on how program design, theory and youth development principles could be applied to 4-H programs at base youth centers. They also learned how to apply 4-H curriculum in their program plans. The follow-up site visits were valuable in emphasizing the conference training. Feedback from the participants included: "It was great and we are sorry we couldn't find a way to get them back on Tuesday so we could have the second day of (on-site) training" and "It was great fun! If I had known what great trainers they were I would have gone to that in Lakenheath (the site of the conference) instead of...[a different workshop]."

Judy Corbus, FCS EA IV, Multi-county

Accredited Financial Counselor Certification

I received a Professional Development Mini-Grant to earn my certification as an Accredited Financial Counselor through the Association for Financial Counseling, Planning and Education. In preparing for the certification examination, I deepened my understanding of certain key financial planning and management concepts, learned of new resources available, and reinforced concepts I teach in my homebuyer education and financial management classes. I feel more knowledgeable about stocks, bonds, and investment options and better equipped to assist clientele with financial management questions. The mini-grant enabled me to take my professional knowledge to the next level, and I look forward to using this knowledge to strengthen my programs and continue my professional growth.

Gayle Whitworth, FCS EA III, Brevard Cty

Accredited Financial Counselor Certification

In July of 2015, I began the process of obtaining an Accredited Financial Counselor (AFC) certification offered through the Association for Financial Counseling, Planning and Education. Through a self-paced study option, I covered a variety of topics, not only in financial management, but also in counseling skills. Since my program area is in financial management, most of training was just a review. However, the information on counseling skills was new and interesting. I learned things such as how to best structure an environment for effective counseling, how to develop a counseling relationship and basic counseling and intervention strategies. Effective communication was also covered, which though not completely new, did provide a review and new insights. After reviewing all required materials, I was able to take and PASS the Accredited Financial Counselor exam! I still have a few more steps before the certification is complete, but I am working on this and hope to have it done in the next few months so that I may begin providing one-on-one financial counseling with clientele.

Rebecca Jordi, CED & Env Hort EA III, Nassau Cty

True Colors Facilitator

I was provided an opportunity to be trained as a True Colors Facilitator. True Colors® is a model for understanding yourself and others based on your personality temperament. The colors Orange, Gold, Green and Blue are used to differentiate the four central personality styles, but it is important to note each of us has a combination of these True Colors which make up our personality spectrum. Generally, one of the color styles is the most dominant, but all the colors will be reflected in our leadership styles and how we work with each other on committees and teams. Identifying your personality and the personalities of others using True Colors provides you with insights into different motivations, actions and communication approaches. I will be using this training to facilitate a leadership session for the City of Fernandina Beach employees this summer, in addition to a session with the Master Gardener volunteers. Thank you so much for providing me this opportunity to add a valuable leadership tool to my arsenal.

Mike Spranger, Professor, FYCS

Imagining America National Conference



Introduction and welcome play from 2015 Imagining America Conference (Students from Morgan State University)

In October 2015, I attended the national conference of Imaging America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life (IA; <http://imaginingamerica.org>). The conference, entitled “America Will Be! The Art and Power of ‘Weaving Our We’” was held in Baltimore, MD. The University of Florida is one of more than 100 colleges and universities that are members of IA. This consortium is dedicated to advancing the public and civic purposes of the arts, humanities and design fields (A/H/D), with a focus on social justice issues. The UF Center for Humanities and Public Sphere coordinates IA efforts.

The purpose of this professional development was to learn new skills and gain new perspectives on how the A/H/D fields can be used in local communities to improve social, economic and environmental conditions. I would then incorporate what I learned into my Extension, teaching and research assignment in Community Development. This was an excellent conference, where I increased my subject matter competence in this area, as well as established new contacts within this field. As a result of this professional development experience, the following has taken place or will occur in the near future:

On November 2-3, 2015, I worked with the UF Center for Humanities and Public Sphere to host the IA Co-Directors visit to UF. During this two-day visit, we coordinated a series of meetings with UF administrators, faculty and students to discuss public scholarship and civic engagement that focused on the A/H/D fields. We also held a public lecture on collective storytelling that was attended by 150 UF Freshman, faculty, staff and students.

In Spring 2016, I incorporated information and materials that I received from the IA conference into my graduate course “Community Development and Civic Engagement” (FYC 6320). The graduate students increased their knowledge and skills on how the arts and humanities can be used to address community development issues.

On March 21-23, 2016 I coordinated a Community Development In-Service Training (IST) for 18 county faculty.

During this training I incorporated information and materials I received at the IA conference. At the IST, the faculty had hands-on experience in utilizing the arts in discussing community issues, and also received training in community asset-based mapping and participated in a deliberative participatory session that addressed poverty.

This training opportunity strengthened my relationship with the UF Center for Humanities and Public Sphere, other UF faculty in the A/H/D disciplines and IA. This relationship began with the 2014 “Extension Reconsidered” initiative, where 13 land-grant universities worked with IA to develop statewide and local deliberative discussions around public engagement, the A/H/D disciplines and the role of Extension (<http://imagingamerica.org/initiatives/extension-reconsidered/>). At the fall IA 2016 conference, I will be part of a UF team that will be discussing our experiences and future collaborations between Extension and the A/H/D disciplines.

In July 2016, I will be part of an UF Interdisciplinary team that has been invited by Appalshop (<https://www.appalshop.org/>) to explore the role of the arts and culture in community economic development at a 5-day workshop. Other teams of artists, scholars and community leaders have been invited from Oregon State, UF, Wilfrid Laurier University (Ontario), Iowa State, Ohio State, Cornell, Arizona State, University of Virginia, University of California-Davis, and the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development. Following this workshop, each team will initiate a local project. The UF team proposes to coordinate a project in east Gainesville.

I will continue to explore the role of A/H/D disciplines in community development activities, and plan to incorporate them in future Extension ISTs, graduate courses and field-based research activities, as well as continue to strengthen and expand collaborations across the UF campus.

I thank UF/IFAS Extension for providing me funds for this professional development opportunity. It has increased my skills and knowledge in the role of art and culture in community development that I am able to use in extension programming. A spin-off is that it has also enhanced my graduate course, and allowed me to establish new partnerships and collaborations across the UF campus.

Stacey Ellison, 4-H EA II, RSA-Northeast District

Western National Roundup

The Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant I was awarded last year afforded me the opportunity to attend the 2016 Western National Roundup in Denver, Colorado. Roundup is an annual conference for youth participants (4-H and FFA members) to compete in a variety of national level competitions and educational programs. While historically this event focused on livestock programs, in recent years it has added a variety of non-livestock options. Part of my responsibilities as 4-H Regional Specialized Agent includes specialized programming in the areas of leadership, citizenship, communications, and expressive arts. At this year's event I participated as an observer and volunteer in

several programs during the conference, including Prepared Public Speaking, Impromptu Public Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, and Fashion Revue. As a result of this experience, I am better equipped to coach and mentor faculty, staff, and volunteers as they assist youth in participating in these programs. Further, in addition to offering Florida 4-H's top public speakers the opportunity to compete in the national Prepared Public Speaking contest, we now anticipate adding at least one other opportunity to the roster of offerings, most likely Impromptu Speaking, in future years.

Debbie Nistler, CED & 4-H EA III, Bradford Cty

UF in Southern France: Food and Culture

Toulouse France in June! I and nine other students traveled to France to learn about cuisine and culture through a weeklong cooking program. This experience provided hands-on cooking with two local French chefs. We learned about how the French approach buying food, preparing food, and of course eating it. We visited a local farmers market, an olive oil production company, winery, and bee farm. It was an amazing look at a culture that lives for fresh local food, and is very proud of this huge part of their culture.

My mini-grant experience in France provided a great learning opportunity for me professionally. I have a much greater understanding of cultural differences in learning styles, nutrition and agriculture. I plan to use this experience to spark excitement in youth about future international experiences. I also hope to work with our FCS agent to create an international food day camp next summer.

Martha Glenn, Com Hort EA I, Manatee Cty

NACAA Conference

For one hundred years the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) has believed in the concept that developing a professional improvement organization would have a positive impact on our nation's agriculture. This agent attended the NACAA conference in June 2015 as a new agent with the help of the Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant to enhance professional development and ignite new programming ideas. An added bonus was the agent's introduction to the agricultural production techniques commonly used in the upper midwest.

Through numerous conversations with agents of diverse backgrounds from every corner of the country, it was made clear to this agent how important it is to engage clients in a way that gives them the confidence to utilize new technologies being taught to them in beneficial and productive ways. Upon returning to Manatee County, some of the methods used to accomplish this were to include more hands-on demonstrations in the agent's programs, along with adding more guest speakers--from state researchers to individuals working in the industry--introducing new and innovative technology to the clients. Plenty of opportunity was given by the agent for the participants to interact with the presenters before, during and after their presentations, therefore demonstrating to the clients that their questions

and ideas were important and that not only could they learn from the presenters but that the presenters could also learn from them.

One subject stressed in numerous presentations at the NACAA conference was weed control, an area that local growers in Manatee County struggle with throughout the year. Upon returning home, the agent has included this topic with the latest technology to combat weeds in several of her classes. Not only were presentations given about weeds and their control, but the clients were also encouraged to bring samples of their most troublesome weeds for proper identification and best control options. Also brought back from the conference was the innovative use of property border plants as a buffer and environmentally strong habitat. These ideas have also been incorporated into the agent's classes.

Participation at this conference has increased the factual knowledge and presentation techniques of this agent. While many of the problems county agents face today have not changed over the years, new technology and techniques are available to help agents deal with these issues. Attending professional development conferences are always an excellent place to be reminded of these new and old ideas and would certainly benefit any county agent.

Mark Mauldin, Ag & Nat Res EA I, Washington Cty

NACAA Conference

I received an Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant in 2015. I used the funding to attend the 2015 NACAA Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference (AMPIC) in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. At the AMPIC I had the opportunity to present two abstracts to my colleagues from around the country. In addition to this important step in my professional development, the entire experience of attending the AMPIC was incredibly positive. This was my first national meeting; as such, it greatly improved my insight relative to the types of programming being delivered by extension professionals across the country. Formal presentations and informal conversation alike provided me with new ideas for local programs. Additionally, attending the AMPIC provided me with an opportunity to visit a part of the country I had not previously visited. The tours associated with the AMPIC allowed me to see, first-hand, parts of the beef production chain that we rarely encounter here in Florida. Whether through new ideas and techniques or increased technical knowledge, all of these experiences have served to strengthen my local programs and have helped to make me a more effective agent.

Stefanie Prevatt, 4-H EA I, Leon Cty

Curriculum and Pedagogy Conference

In November 2015, with the financial support of the Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant Award, I traveled to Cleveland, OH for the 16th Annual Curriculum and Pedagogy Conference to attend and present a paper in progress, entitled the Economic Worth of Youth Programs: Public Value vs. Private Value. The purpose of the paper is to find how the emphasis of governmental organizations to appeal to

public good over private value affects youth development organizations supported by these structures. In attending the conference, I was able to interact with public school teachers, administrators, professors, and a myriad of other individuals representing different community groups who are committed to educational reform by analyzing and developing theories and practices for educational change.

This conference was hard to describe, because it was unlike any I have attended. The group was small (just over 200) and the workshops were very intimate. Presenters and attendees interacted in discussion-style format. My purpose in attending (second to presenting my paper) was to find people with successful community-based solutions for educational programs, true grassroots change. While I can't say I identified an individual or group that fit this exact requirement, I did take home new learner-focused teaching strategies that I have incorporated into volunteer training. I increased my knowledge of stressors placed on the public school system which led me to forming more practical ideas of what 4-H/extension programs might be successful school partnerships. Lastly, I have increased skill in communicating success stories based on the need to highlight the public value of UF/IFAS Florida 4-H Youth Development.

Stephanie Toelle FCS EA IV, Duval Cty

UF in Southern France: Food and Culture

The Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant which I received provided an opportunity for me to experience the UF in Southern France: Food and Culture study abroad course. Under the instruction of Drs. Gail Kauwell and Karla Shelnett, eleven students, consisting of county faculty (myself and Debbie Nistler) and graduate and undergraduate students, prepared for our journey by reviewing various aspects of the Mediterranean diet and its relationship to health and disease risk reduction and how it compares to our western diet and lifestyle. We also visited a local farmer's market, considering products, atmosphere, and prices to compare with one in France. Further, we reviewed best practices in photography and media writing. Once we arrived in our southern village of Pexiora, France, we were immersed in French culinary practices. We worked for about six hours daily with the French chefs, Jean Marc and Robert, each with their unique styles. With limited English by the chefs and limited French among the students, Jean Marc's approach was much like Pictionary, including sound effects, hand gestures, and sketches! Robert exuded calm and patience, and demonstrated his techniques before we followed suit. At some point in each day, we had an excursion, including wine-tasting techniques, both at our manor and at the winery, the Mirepoix market, the medieval walled-village of Carcassonne, a honey farm, L'Oulibo Olive producer, and to Jean Marc's Michelin-starred restaurant in Lastours. Each student was challenged to shop for cooking supplies in the market, using our French language skills (or gestures and smiles), and exchanging local currency.

As a participant in the in-service training, Strengthening the Global Dimension of Florida Cooperative Extension, one of my primary goals was simply to develop international travel

competencies, confidence, and cultural awareness. I believe this was achieved, though each country and continent will have its own peculiarities. I felt that approaching situations with a receptive and considerate attitude was well-received. I also attempted to converse in French as best I could. Our hosts and tour guides were most gracious and accommodating, and I hope I can return the hospitality at some point. I appreciated traveling with Gator colleagues with whom we can process or integrate our experiences over time. Another major goal of my grant was focused on family dynamics. Though my initial study abroad trip, incorporating more family and youth components, was canceled, I was able to observe, listen, and experience how French families linger around the dinner table and eat very healthful meals! I had toured another country just before France, at which our meals were all about the meat and potatoes or starch, so it was a sharp contrast that we ate a lot of seafood and a variety of fresh vegetables. The market experience was more engaging in Mirepoix than in Jacksonville. The Jacksonville Farmers Market is open every day and is limited to mostly fruits and vegetables, which I often suspect are not locally produced. The Mirepoix market seemed like a fun, social outing to shop for items that ranged from wool vests, leather purses, loose beads, woven baskets, handmade soaps, to meats, cheeses, honey, olives, dried fruits, and of course, fresh fruits and veggies.

The role of family is also seen in cemeteries, which we stumbled upon a couple of times. The above-ground graves were decorated with multiple plaques (hold onto your association plaques and certificates!) and painted, ceramic flowers. The graves marked a family, not the individual.

Overall, it was wonderful to learn about another culture and to share and grow in knowledge with others!

Doug Mayo, CED & Livestock/Forage EA III, Jackson Cty

NACAA Conference

I attended the National Association of County Agriculture Agents Professional Improvement Conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota July 9-16, 2015. There was a pre-conference tour of cattle and sheep operations in the state, and then four days of a traditional conference with speakers and abstract presentations. I also provided a presentation on the Panhandle Ag e-News project here in Florida. While attending the conference I got a number of great ideas for livestock extension programs, but two in particular stood out. First, South Dakota has really embraced the need to train the next generation of farmers in their state. Reaching the next generation is also a tremendous need in Florida, yet many of these next-generation farmers are not as well connected with the resources that Extension can provide. In South Dakota they have several USDA grant funds to create quarterly tours and on-farm trainings designed specifically for less-seasoned producers. The other major idea I was able to capitalize on was a relatively new cattle handling facility design called a "Double Alley Bud Box." I was able to share photographs and information with cattle producers in the Southeast through Panhandle Ag e-News, and the Southeast Cattle Advisor electronic newsletters. This article was also picked up by electronic trade journals such as *Drovers Journal* and *Beef Today*.

Rob Northrop, Urban Forestry EA III, Hillsborough Cty

Urban Conservation Conference

The Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant allowed me to participate in an international conference on urban conservation. The conference, organized through the International Society of Arboriculture and University of Melbourne, provided an opportunity to share my work with researchers and practitioners from the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa. Interacting with such a culturally diverse group is proving to be invaluable as I work with state, regional and national partners to organize urban conservation extension programs. I have developed an ongoing professional relationship with several of the people I met at the conference, and have been asked to co-write a chapter on tree planting for an international arboriculture handbook.

NEW POSITION



Dr. Heidi Radunovich has taken on the newly created role of Extension Program Director for UF Engagement beginning May 1, 2016. In this role she is working on determining the level of understanding of Cooperative Extension at the university, developing a catalog of current collaborations between

Extension and other university departments and entities, and will be working on outreach and education to the university in order to help develop new partnerships and collaborations. This position accounts for only 15% of her time, so Dr. Radunovich will remain housed in the FYCS department, where she will also continue working on her research, Extension and teaching efforts.

ARRIVALS

We would like to welcome the following new faculty:

Amy Vu, Res Hort EA I, Orange Cty

Wayne Hobbs, Env Hort EA I, Clay Cty

Anna Tomlinson, Ag/Nat Res EA II, Columbia Cty

Mia Wilchombe, FCS EA I, Lake Cty

Andrea Lazzari, 4-H EA I, Brevard Cty

Charles Poliseno, 4-H EA I, Hillsborough Cty

Harry Crissy, CRD EA II, Monroe Cty

DEPARTURES

We would like to wish the following agents the best of luck in their future endeavors:

Geovanne Ijpkemeule, Com Hort/Pest Mng EA II, Sarasota Cty

Whitney Fung, FCS EA I, Polk Cty

Matt Lenhardt, Com Hort EA I, Brevard Cty

Cassandra Weston-Hainsworth, 4-H EA I, Miami-Dade Cty

Katherine Marin, FCS EA I, Duval Cty

Camille McAvoy, Com Hort EA II, Sumter Cty

Andrew Thompson, 4-H EA I, Brevard Cty

NEW POSITIONS

We would like to congratulate the following faculty members on their new position:

Jim Fletcher, Osceola CED IV to Water RSA IV Central District

Dennis Mudge – Orange Ag/Nat Res EA III to Volusia CED III

Terra Freeman – Duval Ag Prog EA II to St Johns EA II

Gary England – Lake Ag EA III to Hastings RSA II & Extension Center Director

RETIREMENT



Jacqueline Schrader
4-H FCS EA II, Clay Cty



David Griffis
Nat Res CED II, Volusia Cty



Eleanor Foerste
Nat Res/Env Hort Prg EA II,
Osceola Cty



Fred Burkey
FFL Prg EA I, Martin Cty



Joseph Schaefer
South District DED