



# Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

June/July 2014

## Dean's Notes and Quotes

### 2014 EPAF Conference

Our annual EPAF conference is right around the corner! If you have not already registered for the ISTs being offered, please do so at your earliest convenience. Registration and other conference information can be found here: [2014 EPAF Conference](#)



Our guest speaker this year is Kevin Eikenberry. We are very excited to welcome him to Florida. Kevin grew up in Michigan on a farm where he says he "learned some of his most important leadership lessons." You can find more information about Kevin in this [bio](#) or on his [blog](#).

### CES Learning Opportunities

Material of interest sent via email:

Please check out the learning events listed at Learn ([Learn.extension.org](#)). These are for your own learning and professional development or for you to share with your audiences! Extend your knowledge and keep more up-to-date on conversations in your areas of expertise and interest.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the events listed at Learn ([learn.extension.org](#)) as they match your interests. Please sign in with your eXtensionID to Follow to get notifications and plan to attend. Use each session's unique URL to share links to online events in your area of expertise so that others can learn with you. Encourage your customers to also sign in with their Facebook, Twitter or Gmail account to Follow, and plan to attend. Additional sessions may be added at any time, so check back to see what's new, or please add web-based sessions you have planned to teach or at your institution.

### Sharing

Recently we have had discussions on the issue of managing the dissemination and use of our materials and resources by other non-IFAS

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parties. Several questions arose regarding ways in which to share and/or sell our resources, while balancing the dissemination of these resources and protecting our own programs from those who might be interested in replicating our efforts. As a Land Grant University we do aim to take the knowledge and expertise at UF and share it with Floridians and others nationally and internationally. At times, other providers are engaging in parallel activities and may want to use our resources. In some cases we may charge for these materials, engage in licensing agreements, or post resources to web sites to be used by others. Some of our faculty place materials behind firewalls, others leave them as open access. This decision is typically best left to the faculty (Specialists, Program Leaders, and Agents) who work with these materials. The decision as to how these materials can be accessed by others can and will vary by program area and the faculty involved.

However, there is one aspect that is not up for discussion. All UF/IFAS Extension faculty when sharing materials regardless whether it is open access or not has to acknowledge UF/IFAS Extension and the faculty authors as the originators of the materials. While this has always been Extension's approach, we acknowledge this is not always the case. This can be accomplished through a variety of methods such as a thoughtfully placed logo and statement attributing credit. You can consult with ICS if you have questions regarding branding. If you find this to be an issue, you can contact your Program Leader or District Extension Director for input.

### **Florida Urban Workshop**

Forty six urban faculty and administration gathered for a facilitated discussion on June 24–26, to begin the conversation on restructuring Extension in our urban counties. Topics discussed included:

What is unique about urban Extension?

What is critical for the success of Extension in urban communities?

What can we learning from existing Urban Extension programs.

How do we meet the needs of urban communities?

The Urban Task Force will now begin to sift through the data and meet monthly for the next six months to set the process in motion, reap some low hanging fruit, and formulate a solid foundation from which we can choose a plan of action. Stay tuned!

We were very pleased to host the Florida Urban Workshop in late June as it provided an opportunity for us to begin thinking and strategizing about urban Extension. As an organization, UF/IFAS Extension must be focused on how we bring greatest relevance and value to people across the state of Florida; this includes those in rural, as well as, urban areas. As you consider the major programmatic goals in our Extension Roadmap, there is much that applies to the highly diverse population of this state. Through this effort, our goal is to ensure that we truly are the front door to the land grant university which connects people to the research, knowledge and information that is generated to address major issues facing people across the state of Florida. I'm highly appreciative of the work of those who participated in this workshop, as well as the Urban Task Force, in regards to ensuring that we have strong organizational relevance and value to urban as well as rural areas.

Regards,

*Dr. Nick Place*

*"Good seasons start with good beginnings."  
Sparky Anderson*

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## Deadlines & Events

**Extension Connections** - August 4th at 11 a.m.

For more information: [Extension Connections](#)

**Urban Extension Conference** – Presentation proposals due October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. This event will be held in Atlanta, GA May 4-7, 2015. Please visit this website for more information: <http://urbanextension2015.com/>

**EPAF** - Extension Professional Associations of Florida Annual Meeting. At Bay Point Wyndham resort in Panama City Beach, Florida. Dates are from August 25th to the 29th. Register here: <http://epaf.ifas.ufl.edu/epaf-conference.shtml>

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## Meet Your Specialist



Dr. Hardev Sandhu, Assistant Professor, Agronomy

Ph.D. in Entomology

Email: [hsandhu@ufl.edu](mailto:hsandhu@ufl.edu)

Tel: 561-993-1567

I came to the University of Florida (UF) from UF itself. Before starting at my current position, I was working as Post-Doctoral Research Associate in the sugarcane agronomy lab at the Everglades Research and Education Center (EREC), Belle Glade, FL.

In my previous position, I worked on sugarcane agronomy and pest management. My primary responsibility was to work in stage III evaluations of sugarcane genotypes in sugarcane cultivar development program, based at Canal Point, Florida. Sugarcane cultivar development program in Florida is a tripartite agreement between USDA, Canal Point, University of Florida and Florida Sugar Cane League to develop new high yielding, disease resistant cultivars. I also worked on energy cane cultivar development and green cane harvest systems.

I have 60% research and 40% extension appointment. My research and extension work is primarily on sugarcane and biofuel crops. I am working on development of new sugarcane varieties for sugar production and energy cane varieties for cellulosic ethanol production. I have collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop these new sugarcane and energy cane varieties. I am also working on green cane harvest residue management in sugarcane, which is important from both agricultural and environmental prospects. I am also working on soil electrical conductivity (EC) mapping with electromagnetic induction meter (EM-38) to understand the spatial variation within particular field. Soil testing is the traditional method to identify this variation in soil nutrition, however it is very expensive, labor intensive and time consuming. To reduce the number of soil samples to be collected, soil EC mapping can be conducted before soil sampling. Additionally, I am working to determine the effects of reduced tillage on sugarcane growth, yield and insect pests.

I also take special interests in insect and disease management in sugarcane and biofuel crops. I received my Ph.D. in May 2010 from University of Florida. My major was Entomology

I am originally from India and received my Bachelor's and Masters degrees from Punjab Agricultural University, India. I also worked as an Agricultural Officer in State Bank of India for one year after my education. I came to US in 2006 as a graduate student in UF and since then I am here. I have my wife and 3 year old daughter living with me here in US, and all other family members are back in India. I feel proud to be a part of Gator family.

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## UF/IFAS Treasure Coast Green Industries Working Group

**Christine Kelly-Begazo, Ag/Hort CED III, Indian River Cty**

The care and maintenance of landscaped green spaces along the Treasure Coast is a multi-million dollar industry. Hundreds of businesses and thou-

sands of employees are part of this industry: including architects, designers, growers, installers, irrigation specialists, maintenance professionals and pesticide and fertilizer applicators. Many of these professionals need specific licenses in order to perform their job duties legally and correctly, or hold licenses that require annual training for continued educational units (CEUs). UF/IFAS Extension is the appropriate organization to offer such training, but in recent years it has become exceedingly difficult for one county to offer all of the necessary instruction to meet the needs of this clientele.



Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance training participants taking the pesticide test at the end of the day.

The objective of this program is to form a regional team of extension educators that would offer various outreach programs to the landscaping industry in order to meet their needs for education, certification, licensing and CEUs.

This team would include extension agents from Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee counties.

Three main teaching components are offered via the Treasure Coast Green Industries Working Group (TCGIWG); Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) training and certification, Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance (LCLM), pesticide license training and other classes that offered CEU's in various categories for the Chapters 482 and 487 licenses. Each of the four counties provided various trainings on a rotational basis with all agents participating as instructors and the host county being responsible for organization and execution. This enabled the working group to offer more classes to clientele without increasing the workload on individual agents. Traditional classroom-style setting was the method used for a majority of the trainings. Included

were lectures, videos, hands-on activities (classroom and field) demonstrations, and in-class worksheets to emphasize particular learning objectives. Test taking opportunities for certification compliance or pesticide licensing requirements were also part of the program.

Since the inception of the Working Group, almost 1000 people have been trained in the GI-BMP program within the TCGIWG area and an average pass rate of 96%. In 2013 alone, 45 participants attended LCLM pesticide training with an unspecified number attending other classes just for CEU's. Participant evaluations were very positive with regard to tag-team training. Over 93% stated that they enjoyed the different teaching styles offered when using a variety of speakers and 92% indicated that they felt more engaged with the training



Dan Culbert, Okeechobee Cty Hort Agent, and a TCGIWG member, answering questions at a GIBMP program.

program. Given the close geographical location between the four counties of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee (30-75

minutes between any two

offices), there is a definite advantage for the agents delivering green industry programs to work together as a team. Agents have the opportunity to spend more time developing a particular expertise and focusing on 1 or 2 topical areas instead of trying to teach all subjects. More programs can also be delivered with a wider variety being offered to clientele. Care must be taken to have planning meetings where training dates and locations are selected, and specific tasks are assigned so that each activity is executed in a manner that is most beneficial to the green industry participant, meeting their needs and expectations for licensure and work continuity.

## We're Just Like Them

**Amy Harder, Associate Professor, AEC**

If you've been living in a deep, dark hole with no access to people (or your iPhone) then it's possible you might not be aware that extension is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. That means we have 100 years of history supporting us, 100 years of programs that have been conducted, and 100 years of extension agents considering how best to help their communities solve problems. I imagine the early agriculture, 4-H, and home economics agents might be a bit overwhelmed to see the growth and expansion of the Cooperative Extension Service from the system that they knew best. Yet, at a fundamental level, we are still very much doing the same type of work as our predecessors.

Since 1963, the scholarship of extension has been captured in the *Journal of Extension*. I thought it might be appropriate to share some interesting articles from the early years. Go ahead; take a few minutes to sneak a peek at them in between answering e-mails, texts, and social media requests. Even though the context may have changed, I think you'll be surprised to find how much of what was important to extension professionals then still resonates today.

**When Organizations Change ...** - Randall Barnett & Logan Louderback

<http://www.joe.org/joe/1971summer/1971-2-a1.pdf>

**On Being Professional** – Lloyd H. Davis

<http://www.joe.org/joe/1963winter/1963-4-a1.pdf>

**Your Professionalism Shows** – Paul B. Babger

<http://www.joe.org/joe/1964winter/1964-4-a1.pdf>

**Program Evaluation – A Broader Definition** – Sara M. Steele

<http://www.joe.org/joe/1970summer/1970-2-a1.pdf>

[a1.pdf](#)

Finally, I want to recognize our colleagues who have contributed to advancing our scholarship in the April issue of *JOE*. Happy reading!

*Super Issue 1: Awareness and appreciation of our food systems and our environment*

**Cooperative Extension and Climate Change: Successful Program Delivery.** Hilary Morris (NC State), Mark Megalos (NC State), Aaron Vuola (NC State), Damian Adams (SFRC), Martha Monroe (SFRC)

*Initiative 3: Enhancing and Conserving Florida's Natural Resources and Environmental Quality*

**Using Prompts in Extension: A Social Marketing Strategy for Encouraging Behavior Change.** Laura (Sanagorski) Warner, (AEC)

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## Rewarding collaboration between UF/IFAS Hydrilla IPM RAMP and Florida LAKEWATCH

**The UF/IFAS Hydrilla IPM RAMP Extension team**  
**Verena-Ulrike Lietze, Entomology/Nematology**  
**Emma N.I. Weeks, Entomology/Nematology**  
**Jennifer L. Gillett-Kaufman, Entomology/Nematology**

Our extension team from the UF/IFAS Hydrilla Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Project (RAMP) has partnered with Florida LAKEWATCH to distribute information on hydrilla management to citizens.

As an invasive freshwater plant, hydrilla causes many problems in Florida's freshwater bodies. Since its accidental release into the environment in Florida in the 1950s, this plant has spread to nearly every county in the state. When left unchecked, hydrilla can develop into damaging infestations that displace native plants and impede various functions of the infested water body, including flood control, navigation, and recreational

use.

To evaluate novel and sustainable management tactics, research at UF/IFAS is ongoing to help develop IPM plans for hydrilla. As new information becomes available, it needs to be distributed to a large and diverse group of stakeholders including waterfront homeowners, water body managers, recreational water enthusiasts, and businesses that support ecotourism.

Our UF/IFAS Extension team therefore targets this wide audience by providing county extension offices with Hydrilla IPM program materials, and by delivering online and on-site trainings on hydrilla IPM. The partnership with Florida LAKEWATCH has greatly facilitated our statewide extension campaign by helping us reach citizens who are directly involved in lake health monitoring. Florida LAKEWATCH is a lake monitoring program that has brought science to citizens since 1986 by engaging them in sampling water bodies in Florida. During annual regional meetings, the volunteering citizens receive updates on sampling efforts, results from water quality assessments, and new information on pressing issues regarding our state's freshwater resources.

During the 2014 meetings, we will deliver face-to-face training on hydrilla IPM to citizens from 43 counties in Florida. The participants complete pre and post-training evaluations at each meeting. Preliminary data from these evaluations showed that face-to-face training sessions changed the way 91% of participants think about hydrilla management and that 98% will share the new information with other people.

We plan to present more details at the annual EPAF in Panama City Beach, FL, August 25-29, 2014. We look forward to connecting with you there. Look for our booth and educational materials. We can provide your office with brochures, booklets, and a brand-new *Hydrilla IPM Guide* with detailed information on hydrilla identification, biology, management techniques (in general and in specific water bodies), and current IPM tactics under investigation.

## EnviroScape® Watershed Model and Extension Great Educational Combo

**Terry DelValle, Hort EA IV, Duval Cty**

The Lower St. Johns River Main Stem Basin is impaired and the City of Jacksonville has developed a management action plan to reduce the nitrogen load. Part of this plan is providing educational programs about pollutants and stormwater runoff. To



Students are engaged in learning

assist, funding was obtained to educate youth about responsible gardening practices and how this impacts our water bodies. Urban Horticulture Extension Agent Terry DelValle,

along with Master Gardener volunteers developed a program using the EnviroScape® Watershed/Nonpoint Source Model targeting elementary age students. The program introduces the watershed model, water bodies in Duval County, potential pollutants, how pollutants affect the environment and how to prevent pollution.

Students are engaged in identifying the components of the watershed: neighborhood, construction site, sewage treatment plant, golf course, factory, farm, roads and water bodies. Discussion moves to what pollutants are: trash, fertilizer, pesticides, oil, pet wastes, and soil. Students take turns applying pollutants to areas where they would most likely occur. Then they make it rain using spray bottles. Pollutants dissolve and run directly into the water body showing how they move off site to pollute water.

In 2014, ten presentations were given to 324 students. To access knowledge gain, students were asked before and after questions. There was a 77% (n=310) knowledge gain when asked if they lived on a watershed and a 30% gain in understanding that they could help reduce pollution.

More requests are coming from other schools and there are plans to train more Master Gardeners to meet this increasing demand.

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## Expanding 4-H Outreach in Taylor County through 4-H Camps

**Abbey Tharpe, 4-H EA I, Taylor Cty**

Taylor County is a rural community with limited planned summer activities for youth, and has chronically above state averages in poverty levels and unemployment. During the summer months, youth in Taylor County are limited in choices and need a safe place to go where they can continue to learn and enhance their out-of-school time. As a 4-H agent it is important to reach a diverse audience and meet the needs of all youth in Taylor County. The Taylor County 4-H agent coordinated, planned, and implemented two, four day, four hour co-ed soccer day camps. These camps highlighted how to control the soccer ball, techniques of offense and defense, how to be a team player, how to work with teammates to score a goal, and nutrition. Healthy Living is a cornerstone of 4-H nationally and is even part of our pledge; "I pledge my health to better living". 4-H believes that healthy living habits of young people begin in the context of their families and communities. Florida 4-H strives to equip youth with healthy living knowledge and skills that will prepare them physically, emotionally, and socially to meet the challenges of the 21st century. A total of 45 youth from Taylor County attended the soccer camp. Some were familiar with soccer, some had never played the game before, and some had not experienced being on a team before. Youth learned a variety of strikes on the ball to be used when passing or shooting as well as trapping and heading. Youth learned the principles of being a part of a team, defense, offense, rules of the game and game play. Youth also were able to identify the food groups listed on MyPlate as well as learn the benefits of staying properly hydrated. One partic-

ular participant learned the proper skills to control the soccer ball and was a team member on the PSA soccer league this past fall. Another participant had experience playing soccer and needed a little confidence. Through four days of consistent practice and technique critiques by the coach, he exhibited the confidence needed to handle the ball. At the end of the camp, a 11 vs. 11 game was played so parents, coaches, friends, and family could see firsthand their soccer skills learned during the camp. Youth learned a variety of skills that will equip them both physically and emotionally to meet the challenges of the 21st century. They learned eye and leg coordination, body flexibility, rapid situation analysis, fast decision making skills, play without the ball, nutrition, hydration, verbal, and nonverbal communication, strikes on the ball, rules of the game, being a part of a team, defense, offense, and trapping and heading. Youth and parents were pleased that a 4-H Soccer day camp was provided and hope to have one for the summer of 2014. They were also impressed that Taylor County 4-H was willing to "step out" of the typical 4-H programs to reach an audience of youth that are passionate about sports and teamwork.

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## The Power of One

**Jenny Jump, FCS EA I, Columbia Cty**

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2010 includes food safety recommendations when preparing and eating foods to reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), foodborne illnesses cost over \$6.5 billion annually resulting from approximately 76 million illnesses and 5,000 deaths. The CDC data also shows that more than 50% of reported foodborne illness cases are attributed to foodservice establishments. As a result a national certification was put in place for managers of foodservice establishments. ServSafe was developed by the National Restaurant Association (NRA) to educate food managers in the pre-

vention of foodborne illnesses in foodservice establishments. While most participants attend a onetime class and then take their test the same day, there are a few who do not do so well in these situations. There was a participant who had attended two ServSafe classes by two different extension agents and had failed both exams. Her employer contacted me and asked if I would be willing to do some individualized training with her. She attended a one on one with me twice to review material. On her next exam, which was her last chance at a promotion in this facility, this participant passed her next exam and received a 96/100. This shows the importance of still meeting one on one with participants!



## Growing Acorns of Ideas to Rebuild Mighty Live Oak

*Katherine Allen, FCS CED IV, Suwannee Cty*

Mayhem, confusion, pandemonium, and chaos are what happened when Tropical Storm Debby targeted Suwannee County, Florida in June 2012 and strangled it with unimaginable flooding and sinkholes. It was the aftermath of the storm that devastated the community; displaced families, closed businesses, and over \$5million in damages including several historic buildings downtown which



James Rojas designed an interactive model of Live Oak for participants of ALL ages to manipulate and "see" the possibilities.

were condemned.

Never having been involved after an emergency, CED Katherine Allen contacted two extension specialists in Gainesville, Dr. Randy Cantrell and Dr. Mike Spranger for their guidance. A brainstorming session led to a bus tour to see how Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds have been utilized for revitalization efforts in other counties. Their submission of a Citizens' Institute on Rural



Design (CIRD) award was selected from a national pool of 31 applicants. The workshop (figure 1) was to help Live Oak utilize four nationally renowned experts (figure 2) in the development of a brand (figure 3), examination of connectivity/walkability within the community and business development. Other successes include: increased citizen participation (figure 4) by sending meeting announcements via email unsolicited proposals (Paint the Town, Artist in Residence, Parade of Trees, Lunch in the Park) by citizens to assist in the redevelopment efforts; feasibility tour for amphitheater; startup of a Business Retention and Expansion program, hiring of a Small Business Development Consultant in Live Oak; a great [video](#) by a CIRD participant; farmer's market starting May 16, 2014; officials consulting experts on design decisions; \$15,000 National Association of Realtors' SmartGrowth Grant; and city participation on national walkability panel. The increased civic engagement has resulted in better

Local artists' renditions of the Live Oak brand showcased the amazing talent within our small rural community and were viewed by citizens at a new park during an unveiling of the workshop results.

Increased citizen involvement with local officials has improved the timelines and efforts on identified projects.



decision making and more accountability by local officials.



Extension submitted the application and served as the facilitator for the workshop, bringing a diverse audience to the same table.

## National Extension Technology Community 2014

**Scott Jackson, Sea Grant EA III, Bay Cty**

The National Extension Technology Community (NETC) held its [annual conference](#) May 20 – 22 in Manhattan, KS. Manhattan is the home to Land-Grant University Kansas State (KSU). The conference was attended by 140 extension faculty and information technology specialists from universities across the U.S.



John Wells, Whitney Cherry, and Julie Dillard tour the Kansas State University Campus while attending the NETC 2014 Conference.

Representing UF/IFAS Extension were John Wells (NW District IT Expert), Whitney Cherry (Calhoun County 4-H Extension Agent), Julie Dillard (Washington County 4-H Extension Agent / CED), Scott Jackson (Bay County Sea Grant Regional Specialized Agent), and Jennifer Sykes (Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology Web Coordinator).

A total of [12 concurrent abstract sessions](#) insured something for everyone to learn and take home. The UF/IFAS Extension team presented two – fifty minute training sessions contributing to the peer exchange of information. Cherry, Dillard, and Jackson presented “Mobilizing Extension Programs: Meeting the Needs of Today's Clientele”, summarizing experiences from

the 4-H volunteer training program “[Make a Difference Mondays](#)”. This program simulcast traditional volunteer training from Extension offices to homes through Adobe Connect which providing convenience and time savings for 4-H volunteers. Wells and Jackson ended the week with a final presentation, “Combining Web Articles, Email Subscription Services, and Social Media to Create a Recipe for Effective Extension Educational Campaigns”. This presentation was designed to highlight effective use of [the IFAS Subscription Message System \(SMS\)](#) to increase outreach and readership of web posts.

[Five guest speakers](#) provided insight and motivation during the week and included KSU Football Coach [Bill Snyder](#) and National Geographic Emerging Explorer [Michael Wesch](#), KSU Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology.

[NETC](#) is now a professional association and inviting new members to join. The [next NETC conference](#) will be held in Big Sky, Montana, August 10-13 2015. The conference is a great introduction to the close network of professionals that can help you learn and apply the latest technology to deliver extension education programs.



Whitney Cherry, Julie Dillard, and Scott Jackson sharing a demonstration of interactive video technology used to complete 4-H Volunteer training with extension agents and IT specialists at the NETC 2014 Conference.

## Wakulla Master Gardeners Teach the Next Generation of Gardeners

**Les Harrison, CED III, Wakulla Cty**

Wakulla County Master Gardeners are working with Tallahassee Community College and the 21st

Century Community Learning Center Program to teach a new generation about gardening, food, and STEM.

Over 100 local elementary and middle school students are enrolled in the nine week educational enhancement program. Each will have the opportunity to try their hand at producing, picking, and preparing vegetables.

Wakulla Master Gardeners from the 2013 and 2014 classes are guiding the youngster's first effort at growing. They are learning about the needs of garden plants and how to care for them. They go on to learn about how the garden's bounty can be used in a tasty and nutritious way. Each is gaining knowledge about safely preparing a favorite dish which for many is their first attempt at food preparation.

Throughout the program science and math is interwoven in the activities so each student is polishing the skills acquired in the previous months of schooling. Just as important, they are having fun while they are learning.

FCS agent Shelley Swenson is leading the food portion of the program, 4-H program assistant Eric Westbrook is handling the STEM component, and Ag/Natural Resources agent Les Harrison and the Wakulla Master Gardeners are coordinating the gardening part.



Wakulla first graders learn the skills associated with planting a garden. Each is given individual instructions on how to plant the seeds of their choosing.

## UF/IFAS Extension Martin County beautifies and educates with wildflower grant

*Yvette Goodiel, Sust/Comm Hort EA II, Martin Cty*

UF/IFAS Extension Martin County was awarded a 2013 La Florida, Land of Flowers, Community Grant funded by Florida's State Wildflower license plate. The grant funds were used to purchase \$500 of native wildflower seeds. These seeds were planted in December 2013 along the roadside at the north entrance to the county office and the Martin County Fairgrounds at 2614 SE Dixie Highway in Stuart.

Two volunteer groups coordinated by Martin county, Master Gardeners and 4-H, worked alongside the Martin County Fairgrounds and Martin County Parks & Recreation Department staff, to establish and maintain the plantings. The planting offers educational opportunities, linking Master Gardener volunteers with 4-H youth, who will learn proper planting techniques and plant identification. Master Gardener Volunteers and the 4-H

Program Assistant are working with extension agents to create educational signs and literature, describing the featured wildflowers.

The Martin county Master Gardeners and the Martin County Parks & Recreation Department were also co-recipients of a 2012



Wildflowers in bloom along stretch of roadway in front of the UF/IFAS Extension Martin County Office and the Martin County Fairgrounds property in Stuart.

La Florida Community Wildflower Grant, which established a wildflower planting area in the entry medians at Halpatiokee Regional Park in December 2012. The wildflowers grew from seed, re-seeded, and are still blooming! A variety of species were chosen to provide year-round color and beauty.

The native wildflowers, some of the species Ponce de Leon saw here 500 years ago when he named this North American peninsula “La Florida, Land of Flowers,” add beauty and curb appeal. In addition, the plantings attract butterflies and other native pollinators and reduce the need to fertilize, irrigate, and mow the areas. Through the wildflower planting projects at Halpatiokee Regional Park, the Martin County Fairgrounds, and UF/IFAS Extension Martin County, project partners are participating in a larger statewide effort to build community awareness and knowledge of native wildflowers and plants and their roles in Florida’s ecosystems.

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## 4-H Marine Life Camp

### *JP Gellermann, 4-H YD EA III, Martin Cty*

On June 9, 2014 UF/IFAS Extension Martin and St Lucie Counties, Boys and Girls Club and 4-H partnered to create the 4-H Marine Life Camp, a kids fishing tournament where learning the fishing basics starts with biology, mapping, and fishing skills development. The two 3-day tournaments provided an opportunity for 80 underserved youth to learn about the Indian River Lagoon and to get out on the water and fish! Martin and St Lucie counties worked together to provide tournaments designed to provide youth from ages 12-18 a better understanding of the ecological importance, diversity and issues surrounding the Indian River Lagoon.



Getting wet with the net!

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In St Lucie County, speakers from the commercial fishing industry spoke with youth concerning the differences between commercial, recreational and charter fishing. They described the type of fish they caught, how they catch them, and even explained the dangers faced by professional fishermen on the open ocean. Commercial and charter captains

then worked with the youth to teach them how to throw a cast net properly, knot tying and ethical fishing practices. The first day was concluded with a talk by the UF/IFAS Extension Seminole Tribe’s 4-H Agent Aaron Stamm on his experiences catching the giant Bluefin tuna off the coast of Maine, and the challenges fisheries managers face in conserving these amazing animals.



Youth with her first ever deep sea catch!

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The second day of the tournament was focused on the biological aspects of the plants and animals of the Indian River Lagoon. Youth were given seining nets to catch and categorize the animals that utilize the shallow grass flats for food, shelter, and breeding. The youth were then given a tour of the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit where they learned about various and diverse marine habitats of the Treasure Coast.

The third and final day of the tournament was held aboard the Lady Stuart. The Lady Stuart is a local charter boat that took the budding young captains offshore to catch a variety of reef and pelagic species.



The big one!

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The following week beginning on June 11th, a new group of youth from the Boys and Girls Club and 4-H participated in the same tournament in Martin County. The first day youth there were given a tour of the US Sailing Center along with some basic sailing tips and techniques. Youth learned about navigation, knots, and different types of sails and sailboats. Staff from UF/IFAS Extension Martin and St Lucie counties further worked with these youth to provide them with basic map reading and navigational skills essential to any young budding captain. The second day involved a seining activity and a discussion on the importance of ethical fishing and marine conservation with a tour of the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center. The Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center is 57 acres of nature trails, a 750,000-gallon Game Fish Lagoon, Sea Star Touch Tank Pavilion, and Rays on the Reef

Ray Pavilion. Extension faculty helped youth better understand the importance of oysters to the health of the lagoon through a short lecture. They then assisted Oceanographic Coastal Center staff to fill over 100 oyster restoration bags. The second day ended with Leroy Creswell from UF IFAS/ Extension Sea Grant explaining to the youth how researchers survey coral reefs by using a transect. He then had the kids do their own reef survey using the same technique on a special mat he developed specifically for this activity.



Hoist the sail!

The third and final day consisted of a day out on the water on a local charter boat fishing for reef fish. The kids were treated to another short talk from the captain on the importance of careful handling of caught fish and a short discussion on fish identification. By the end of the day, 12 different species of fish were caught and identified by the youth!

Although everyone involved with the camp was tired, dirty

and a little sun burned, everyone left with a smile and a better understanding of the importance and value of the Indian River Lagoon and its plants and animals.

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## Distributed Energy Education

**Lee Hayes Byron, Sarasota County, [lhbyron@scgov.net](mailto:lhbyron@scgov.net)**

Although energy education benefits participants through cost savings and comfort, reaching new audiences can still be a challenge. By partnering with community organizations, schools and libraries, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County is reaching new audiences and achieving quantifiable results. The Energy Upgrade Campaign uses varied strategies to educate about residential strategies for saving energy and water, including workshops, a

school curriculum, and publicly available kits. Workshops are offered to community groups and faith-based organizations, and participants receive a grant-funded energy saving kit to capture immediate savings. In less than two years, the workshops have reached 537 households and the distributed kits will provide an estimated \$89,000 in savings annually to those households.

A curriculum was developed to help middle school students evaluate the energy use of different types of light bulbs and calculate costs. All the materials necessary for the experiment were provided in an Energy Education Kit, one of which has been provided to each middle school in the district.

We have made two kits available through a partnership with the County's nine libraries. Family Sustainability Kits with books, CDs and flashcards help families with children aged 4-10 learn about sustainability. DIY Audit Kits enable homeowners to do an in depth evaluation and calculate potential energy and water savings. Both library kits come with a bag to keep.

These partnerships and strategies have helped reach new audiences with quantifiable impacts to our community and economy.

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## Got Spanish? The Sarasota Family Nutrition Program Sure Does!

**Dr. Maria Portelos-Romero, FCS WA II, Sarasota Cty**

Sarasota County's Family Nutrition Program was invited to speak at the biannual meeting for the ESOL Parent Leadership Council. Twenty Spanish speaking parents attended the presentation on "Understanding MyPlate, Go Easy with Sodium" lesson. The workshop topic focused on the Latino diet and the entire lesson was taught in Spanish. A power point was presented on MyPlate which included a discussion on portion size, daily requirements, food label reading, sodium and its

long term health consequences. The lesson also included an interactive experience, where the participants were given food labels of products they use in their daily diet. From these food labels, the participants were able to calculate how much sodium their family was consuming on a daily basis. Most of the parents were surprised to see the amount of sodium consumed by their families and many became alarmed when they learned of the effects of consuming too much sodium. At the conclusion of the presentation, the parents were asked to complete a behavioral change survey. Three parents said they would cook foods with less salt, and five of the parents said they would remove the salt shaker from the dinner table. With the success of this workshop, Sarasota Family Nutrition Program was asked to partner again during the school year for another interactive lesson. A future topic would include Sugar and how its sugar coating our diet.

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## Gardens Program Grows Community

**Bryan Dailey, Community Resource Dev CED II, Sarasota Cty**

Sarasota County's Comprehensive Plan encourages the use of county parks for community gardens to promote sustainable agriculture practices. Standards varied dramatically for each of the eight community gardens on public land. New gardens also faced significant hurdles as they considered complex legal and governance issues. In response, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County implemented a Community Gardens Program to facilitate the creation and management of community gardens on public land. Input was gathered through collaboration with municipal officials, non-profits and community gardeners. Staff researched other community garden programs to identify best practices and reviewed the program framework with subject matter experts. The program now provides an efficient, consistent, and

positive framework for the use of public lands as community gardens, provides a liaison between municipalities and garden managers, and supports simplified and coordinated management of the gardens by their members.



Grand Garden.

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Participation is now required for any new gardens on county-owned land and all but one of the existing community gardens have chosen to participate. Participating gardens currently support more than 180 individual memberships and since the program began, extension has worked with county and community partners to secure grant funding for solar powered wells at two garden locations.

While this program is not educational in and of itself, it provides neighborhood venues and enables us to deliver educational programs to audiences that we would not otherwise reach. This program leverages the extension-county relationship to achieve our broader program goals related to food, water, and community development.

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## Which Way Do We Go? Turn to JOE for Direction

**Amy Harder, Associate Professor, AEC; Coordinator, PDEC**

What do you do when you're lost? Back in the day, you probably pulled out a map and looked at it, or maybe stopped and asked directions at a gas station. Now, you probably rely on your smartphone or your good friend Siri to lead the way. Siri is pretty smart, but she doesn't always have the answers we need – not every destination is reached in a straight line. Fortunately, the *Journal of Extension*, and related Extension journals, really do provide the directions we're seeking to answer the complex questions of Extension. All

we have to do is take a few minutes to seek them out.

Next month, we'll all get together at EPAF and will spend a half day meeting with our Initiative teams. Although the Extension Roadmap and its associated Initiative teams have been around for a while now, I know there are still some of you who are feeling lost. Why do we need Initiative teams? What can they do for us? How do we make them work effectively? Dr. Graham Cochran and colleagues at The Ohio State University Extension explored the answers to these questions in their June 2014 article: "Using an Initiative to Focus Programming Efforts: A Case Study of the Ohio 4-H Workforce Preparation Initiative" (<http://www.joe.org/joe/2014june/a8.php>). It's worth looking before EPAF; their timely piece may help you find the directions you're looking for so you can get where you want to go with our Initiative teams.

### Gators in JOE

June was a great month to be a Gator! In the most recent issue of the *Journal of Extension*, the following UF/IFAS Extension scholars contributed to five articles:

Hydrilla Infestations in Florida Freshwater Bodies: How Results from a Management Needs Assessment Survey Helped Develop Suitable Information Delivery Platforms. **Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman** (ENT), **Verena-Ulrike Lietze** (ENT), **Joan Bradshaw** (Emeritus), **Kenneth Gioeli** (St. Lucie) <http://www.joe.org/joe/2014june/rb2.php>

Why Work for Extension? An Examination of Job Satisfaction and Motivation in a Statewide Employee Retention Study. **Amy Harder** (AEC), **Jessica Gouldthorpe** (AEC), **Jeff Goodwin** (Colorado State University) <http://www.joe.org/joe/2014june/a5.php>

Kentucky's Urban Extension Focus. **Jeffery Young** (University of Kentucky), **Charlie Vavrina**

(Southeast District)

<http://www.joe.org/joe/2014june/iw3.php>

The *Pesticides and Farmworker Health Toolkit: An Innovative Model for Developing an Evidence-Informed Program for a Low-Literacy, Latino Immigrant Audience*. **Catherine LeProvost** (NC State University), **Julia Storm** (NC State University), **Cesar Asuaje** (Palm Beach County), **Gregory Cope** (NC State University)

<http://www.joe.org/joe/2014june/iw8.php>

Virtual Focus Groups in Extension: A Useful Approach to Audience Analysis. **Laura Sanagorksi** (AEC)

<http://www.joe.org/joe/2014june/tt4.php>

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## Save the Date! Easy as PIE Webinar Series

Date: August 20th

Time: 2-3 pm

Topic: Public opinion of endangered and invasive species



Dr. Steve Johnson  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Wildlife Ecology  
and Conservation



Dr. Alexa Lamm  
Associate Professor  
Department of Agricultural Educa-  
tion and Communication/PIE Center  
University of Florida

How concerned are Floridians about endangered and invasive species? To what extent do Floridians believe that native species should be conserved? What actions are Floridians willing to take to help protect endangered species? What invasive species management actions and expend-

itures would the public support? Join this session to learn the answers to these questions and more about public perceptions, attitudes and knowledge of endangered and invasive species as Dr. Alexa Lamm discusses the latest public opinion survey results. Dr. Steve Johnson will provide insights based on his experience working with Florida wildlife and pose a few questions to generate discussion on how the results of this survey may be put to use.

Registration is required for each session, visit our website to register and to learn more about the Easy as PIE Webinar Series: <http://www.centerpie.com/easy-as-pie/>.

Contact Nicole Dodds for more information: [ndodds@ufl.edu](mailto:ndodds@ufl.edu) or 352-273-3139.

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## Duval County Tree Stewards

**Larry Figart, Urban Forestry EA II, Duval Cty**

It is recommended to correct structural defects in trees at the time they are planted, or while they are small enough to be easily corrected. Newly planted and young trees in urban parks and street rights of way are rarely pruned or maintained until they become larger trees. By this time structural defects are harder to correct and any heavy dose of structural pruning may affect the aesthetics of the tree in a negative way.



The Duval County Extension Office applied for and received an Urban and Community Forestry grant from the Florida Forest Service

to create a Tree Steward Program. For the first cohort the extension office recruited 23 master gardener volunteers to receive advanced training as Volunteer Tree Stewards. The training was led by Larry Figart, Urban Forestry Extension Agent,

and included 20 hours of classroom, and hands on training. The training was loosely based on the Virginia Tree Steward training program and included topics such as tree biology, insects and diseases, pruning, and proper tree planting. All 23 participants demonstrated that they learned proper tree care strategies and that they felt comfortable applying those practices on small trees. Since Graduation in April 2014, the Duval County Tree Stewards have had two workdays in Jacksonville parks and have pruned over 80 trees. The most recent workday was held at Betz-Tiger Point Preserve where tree stewards pruned over 70 trees that lined the entrance to the park. These trees were planted in 2013 and were never pruned.

As a demonstration of the need for pruning, and the confidence the City of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department has in the Tree Stewards, the department has created a list of local parks in need of tree pruning for the Tree Stewards to hold monthly tree pruning work days. The department has also given permission for Tree Stewards to go into their local neighborhood parks to prune small trees as the need arises. With time, the Volunteer Tree Stewards will have a significant impact on the trees in Jacksonville's Parks as the trees are trained to be structurally sound contributions to Jacksonville's urban tree canopy.

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## Equipping Suwannee Valley Extension Agents with BMP On-farm Teaching Tools

**Robert Hochmuth, EA IV, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center**

**Suwannee Valley County Extension Agent team: Robert Hochmuth, Dan Fenneman, Elena Toro, Keith Wynn, Anthony Drew, Mace Bauer, Chris Vann, and Jim DeValerio.**

The purchase of Best Management Practices (BMP) demonstration tools (TDR soil moisture meters and petiole sap testing meters for nitrate-

nitrogen and potassium LAQUA Meters) allowed county extension agents in the NE District to work with growers one on one. Agents were able to work at the farming locations during the season to help fine tune water and nutrient management practices. The equipment was provided to eight agents in the Suwannee Valley with grant funds provided to extension by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Office of Ag Water Policy. The outcome was that farmers learned how to maintain BMP compliance regarding water and nutrient management through the work of these Extension agents. As a requirement of the successful bid, Spectrum Technologies provided video conference training on both soil moisture meters and nutrient meters. The two hour training was attended by nine extension agents and eight additional staff from UF/IFAS, FDACS, and Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD).



BMP Nutrient Management

Petiole sap testing was conducted using the BMP tools provided during May and June of 2014 by seven agents. A total of 267 petiole sap samples were conducted on crops representing approxi-

mately 5,000 acres. These samples were conducted on 43 farms in the following counties: Madison, Hamilton, Suwannee, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Alachua, Lafayette, and Jefferson. The primary crops evaluated included: watermelon, tomato, pepper, cantaloupe, and strawberry. TDR soil moisture meters were used by agents on 30 fields to assess soil moisture. Many agents reported that due to the excessive rainfall events in May and June, high soil moisture levels were found during much of the spring season. This resulted in confirmation of reduced irrigation needs during much of the spring season.

A one on one survey of cooperating growers was conducted to document changes in practices as a result of the on-farm visits and demonstrations

with the equipment. On average, cooperating farmers reduced nitrogen and potassium rates by 10-20% and reduced early season irrigation by 25%.

The summary of this successful effort for the two month project period includes the following points:

Eight Extension agents now have new BMP tools, have been trained to use them, and have begun using them to teach farmers how to efficiently manage water and nutrients.

The agents will be able to sustain long term educational programs in this BMP area well beyond the grant term.

All 43 farmers participating in the program were all clearly interested in using the information gained from the tools to maintain compliance with their BMP program and reduce inputs of fertilizer and water.

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## The Way We Look

***Tim Wilson, Livestock/Forages CED II, Bradford Cty***

In the past seven years the Bradford County Extension Office has been fortunate to have upgrades to both the interior and exterior of our building. Landscaping has been designed and managed by the Master Gardener Coordinator and Master Gardeners. Walkways, railroad ties, misting systems, shrubbery and flowers have been properly placed to demonstrate Florida Friendly Landscape practices (Photo 1). Although aesthetically pleasing, Bradford County does not have employees who maintain these landscapes on a regular basis. Instead, prison crews from the Sheriff's Department are utilized to reduce costs. Unfortunately, although savings are realized, these crews are not trained in landscape management. Unless a plant was a shrub, it was trimmed to the ground and eliminated from the original design. Remaining shrubs were only trimmed on occasion and were allowed to become overgrown coupled with walkways that were not leveled and clear of de-

bris causing potential hazards to employees and clients (Photo 2). Changes were needed to provide a safe walkway that included a useful and visually pleasing space to demonstrate proper landscape design.

Working with the County Manager's Office, the CED was able to secure funding to develop space

Photo 3

that was overgrown into demonstration gardens as well as prepare a walkway that provides safe and secure footing. Although this project is still underway, overgrown shrubbery has been removed and concrete has been poured (Photo 3).



Photo 2



Gutters will be

Photo 1

attached to the roof to capture water runoff from rain events and will be used in irrigation demonstrations. A demonstration garden will be designed to allow Master Gardeners to showcase plant materials at different times of the year. Parking will be cleaned, restriped with ADA compliant spaces and handicap signs. By removing the overgrown shrubs, lighting has been improved during afterhours programming. Although the initial landscape design was visually appealing, it was not sustainable without crews to manage it properly. Once completed in the summer of 2014, our new design will enhance parking, lighting and provide useful space demonstration space.

## Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology Webinar

Date: August 21<sup>st</sup>

Time: 11 am to 12 pm

Topic: Are Homeowners Willing to Pay for Eco-Friendly Lawn Fertilizer?

Dr. Hayk Khachatryan

Join Dr. Hayk Khachatryan as he presents the results to the research question, "Are homeowners



willing to pay a premium price for eco-friendly lawn fertilizer?" Discussion time will be available as well as possible recommendations for marketing fertilizer. Registration is required for each session. Visit our website to register and to learn more about

CLCE Webinars. <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/clce/webinars/>  
Contact Emily Eubanks for more information: [eee@ufl.edu](mailto:eee@ufl.edu) or 352-273-4511

## Sustainable Roses Webinar Series

Presented by Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology

Time: 11 am to 12 pm

Presenters: Matt Orwat, Washington County Horticulture Agent, and Sydney Park Brown, Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist

Dates:

- July 16: General Rose Care
- September 10: Cultivar Selection
- November 12: IPM and Emerging Pests & Diseases



Join Matt and Sydney as they provide expert tips and tricks for growing roses in Florida! Along the way, they'll present research findings and discuss rose trials that have been conducted.

Registration is required for each session. Visit our website to register and to learn more about CLCE Webinars. <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/clce/webinars/>

Contact Emily Eubanks for more information: [eee@ufl.edu](mailto:eee@ufl.edu) or 352-273-4511

## Master Gardener Coordinator Roundtable Discussion

Date: August 4

Time: 12 to 1 pm

Topic: Growing Gardeners: School Garden Issues



Master Gardener Coordinators are invited to join the state office the first Monday of every month from noon–1pm for an informal discussion hour. There will be a set topic and we'll be available to talk and answer questions. Use the time as a scheduled office hour with the State Office and other Master Gardener coordinators. You'll need a USB

headset with a microphone to join in. Contact [Emily Eubanks](mailto:Emily Eubanks) if you need help getting one. Registration is NOT required for each session. Subscribe to the new Master Gardener Monthly Digest to see the upcoming topic calendar and follow along with other coordinator related issues. <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/digest/index.shtml> Contact Emily Eubanks for more information: [eee@ufl.edu](mailto:eee@ufl.edu) or 352-273-4511

## Mentoring Success

*Jane M. Corless, FCS/4-H YD CED III, Clay Cty*

Employees advance in most county offices in similar positions but few can boast of the career path of Michelle Alters in the Clay County Extension Office. Michelle began working for Clay County in 1997 as a Custodial Tech.

Michelle's position involved keeping buildings and facilities clean and maintained. She also set up rooms for programs, did all of the outside landscape maintenance on the seven acre extension grounds and helped on the fairgrounds which was under extension.

One day, one of her children told her he lied when anyone asked what his mother did for a living; he didn't want to share that she cleaned bathrooms. Michelle decided that it was time to explore changing jobs.

In 2006, a Data Entry/Receptionist position opened in the office and after much agonizing,



she approached her county director to see if she could apply. Unknown to her CED, she was taking a computer class at night to help prepare for what she hoped would be an interview and the job. Michelle came through the interview with flying colors. She wanted the job badly and was prepared for the interview.

Her computer class was not finished when she started the job. She brought her workbook with her each day. Between phone calls she started at the beginning of the book and completed every lesson until she knew how to do all of the exercises.

In 2009, Clay County Extension had an opening for a secretary. By this point, at her CED's urging Michelle had taken every computer class offered by the county and was ready for a new challenge. She is currently secretary to Clay County's horticulture agent (including work with over 100 Master Gardener Volunteers). She is also secretary to the Agriculture, Small Farms and Natural Resources Agent. She is responsible for the Clay Contact, Clay extension's bi-monthly office newsletter, Master Gardener Volunteer scheduling, all

background screening for the office, and helps in any area in the office when needed. She has gone through the Master Gardener Program to help her in her job duties.

When she was promoted the first time, she said she knew she could do the job but was never given the chance to prove herself. Mentoring and CED feedback played a huge role in Michelle's success. Her improved self-confidence has prompted her to tackle projects and jobs she never imagined she could do.

## National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals 2014 National Excellence in Community Development Work Award

*Dr. Michael Spranger, FYCS*

The National Association of Community Develop-

ment Extension Professionals (NACDEP) presented the “2014 National Team Excellence in Community Development Work Award” to faculty members of UF/IFAS at the annual banquet on June 24 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The banquet was attended by more than 220 NACDEP members from the U.S.

Dr. Mike Spranger, Professor and Community Development Extension Specialist; Dr. Randy Cantrell, Assistant Professor and Housing and Community Development Extension specialist in FYCS, and Ms. Katherine Allen, Suwannee CED were recognized for their work in “post-disaster recovery and community capacity building and development” in Live Oak, Florida. In June 2012, Tropical Storm Debby dumped more than 30 inches of rain in less than 24 hours on the community. Following the storm, 80% of the community was under water and more than 30 sink holes formed throughout the region. The downtown business district was flooded and a large sink hole approximately 180 feet deep and 200 feet wide formed between the courthouse and various businesses. This affected everything from transportation to communications, displaced many nearby households, and destroyed several historic buildings. The city infrastructure and community residents were put to a major test as a result of this storm. More than \$5 million in damages were incurred. In the following 18 months the team worked with elected officials, business owners, community leaders and affected residents to provide technical assistance and educational resources to help the community recover from this natural disaster. They coordinated community meetings, arranged field tours, provided technical training for city staff, assisted in obtaining community grants, and brought in national experts in these community redevelopment efforts.

Elected officials stated this extension team provided the community with new direction and purpose. They stated they had significant funds and technical assistance from federal and state agencies, but this team helped bring the community together and put them on the road to recovery. New development projects have been funded and

the community is now more engaged in local decisions and civic engagement.

The team was also recognized by the Southern NACDEP chapter and received a similar regional



From left to right: Dr. Randy Cantrell, Katherine Allen, Dr. Michael Spranger

team award for their efforts. NACDEP is the national organization of extension professionals who are dedicated to improving the visibility, coordination, professional status and resource base of community and economic develop-

ment throughout the U.S.

[www.nacdep.net](http://www.nacdep.net)

## 2013-2014 Professional MINI GRANT HIGHLIGHTS!

### Amy Mullins, Prog. EA II, Leon Cty

As a relatively new Extension Agent and first-time applicant for the Florida Cooperative Extension Service Professional Development Mini-Grant, I was thrilled to receive full-funding to attend the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo. The conference was held in the beautiful and hot city of Houston, Texas in late October 2013 and featured over 250 nationally and internationally recognized food and nutrition experts. There were over 140 research and educational lectures, debates, panel discussions, and culinary demonstrations to choose from. The days were jam-packed! I learned so much that I was able to bring this knowledge back and apply it to my county extension programming. I attended numerous presentations such as using school gardens to improve the health behaviors of children, the latest research on nutrition-related chronic-disease prevention practices, sustainable nutrition and preventing future global food inse-

curity, emerging antioxidant and phytochemical research, and several fabulous cooking demonstrations focused on making healthy foods irresistible.

As a result, I was able to earn 20 continuing education credits toward my Registered Dietitian credential. I have incorporated knowledge I've gained into collaborative cooking demonstrations and local programming to encourage dietary sodium reduction for National Nutrition Month® (March 2014). I am honored and blessed to have received such a valuable contribution to my professional development and look forward to continuing to share my experiences with both clientele and colleagues.



## Carolyn Saft, EA II, Suwannee Cty

Carolyn Saft and Aparna Gazula's beginner gourmet mushroom classes have been sought after throughout Florida. The state mushroom team was interested in additional advanced training to expand on the types of mushrooms that farmers, master gardeners and homeowners can grow in the state. Our initial focus was growing oyster mushrooms on cottonseed hulls and wheat straw in bags as well as growing Shiitake mushrooms on logs. These production methods are best for beginners, but there is tremendous interest in speeding up the Shiitake production process by utilizing the bag method that works for oyster mushrooms. Understanding that the bag recipe is more complicated for Shiitakes than for oyster mushrooms, we knew there were opportunities for advanced trainings.

The Professional Development Mini Grant al-



Shiitake mushrooms produced via bag culture provide a faster crop than when they are grown on logs.

lowed us to attend a mushroom cultivation workshop offered by a world renowned mushroom specialist, Paul Stamets and his team of cultivators this past April. Stamets is the author of several mushroom production books and owner of Fungi Perfecti, a successful mushroom production company. At the workshop just south of Seattle, we learned the techniques of producing shiitakes in bag culture that we will be able to share with our clientele. We also learned that the Lion's Mane (think buttery seafood taste) mushroom can be produced successfully in Florida via bag culture so our clientele can expand their mushroom production. This trip also gave us the opportunity to network with mushroom producers from across the U.S. and learn what challenges farmers face with mushroom production. This knowledge will help us be proactive with our clientele to reduce some



Production facility at fungi Perfecti

of their production and marketing challenges. Lastly, we learned of the many health benefits of consuming mushrooms and as well as supporting data. We see the opportunity to partner with FCS agents to expand our workshop and include a nutrition segment along with production and marketing. The opportunity reinforced what we were already doing and provided us with knowledge and techniques to advance our gourmet mushroom production program to include new production methods, expanding the types of mushrooms that can be grown and include another disciplines to the workshop.



The Lion's Mane mushroom has a buttery seafood taste according to some mushroom experts.

## Ginny Hinton, EA II, Santa Rosa Cty

Better Process Control School for Acidified Foods FCS county faculty; Ginny Hinton, Ricki McWilliams, and Kristin Jackson from the NW Extension District attended the Better Process Control School for Acidified Foods training program in Athens, Georgia. The county faculty members participated with the University of Georgia, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Department of Food Science & Technology Food Science Extension Outreach Program for a professional development opportunity on November 5-7, 2013. The three day course consisted of lecture, an instrumentation lab and examinations.

The county faculty received lifetime certification in all eight course sections which include:

- Microbiology of thermally processed foods
- Principles of acidified foods
- Principles of thermal processing
- Principles of food plant sanitation
- Food container handling
- Records and record keeping
- Equipment, instrumentation and operation of thermal processing systems
- Closures for glass containers

These lifetime certificates are reported to the FDA and USDA. Completion of this course/certification will allow the FCS faculty to conduct programming related to the topics of food preservation and food safety which are reemerging areas of interest among clients.



Ginny Hinton, JoLynn Peoples, Mr. Bob Neligan (FDA), Dr. Anand Mohan, Dr. Bill Hurse, Kristin Jackson, Ricki McWilliams

Dispelling the myths of canning while discussing food safety and security can improve client behaviors related to their nutrition, food handling, and resource management.

This experience and these certificates would not have been possible with-

out the generosity of the 2013 UF/IFAS Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant process.

## Aparna Gazula, EA II, Alachua Cty

2014 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference

The Professional Development Mini Grant enabled me to attend the 2014 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah, GA. The conference is attended by small and large, organic and conventional fruit and vegetables growers from the southeast. It is also well attended by extension agents and specialists from the southeastern region. I was able to network with several specialists, organizations, and extension faculty outside of Florida during this meeting. During one of these networking sessions I was able to procure information from the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) organization about grants available for growers. With the help of resources obtained from Southern SARE I was able to include information about these grants at the meeting held in Gainesville on February 24th this year. The **Grants & Cost-Share Funding Available for Growers** program was attended by 15 growers and a follow-up meeting is planned for later this year.

For the 2014 Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference I am the co-chair of the Exhibitor Committee. One the responsibilities of the Exhibitor Committee is to network with industry organizations, inform them about the scope of the conference, and invite them to exhibit at the conference. Over 250 organizations had booths at the 2014 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference. I was able to network these different groups and invite relevant industry and non-profit/educational organizations to exhibit at the 2014 Florida Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference.

The conference offered several concurrent educational sessions. I was able to attend several presentations in different concurrent sessions where current research based information was presented. Some of the topics discussed were or-

ganic production techniques, managing roadside produce stands, blackberries, blueberries, muscadine grapes, Vidalia onions, food safety updates, and small farm marketing. The information learned at these sessions has since been incorporated into the educational programs that have been offered both at the Alachua County Extension Service Office and at the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center. As a result of participating in this professional development activity not only did I increase my knowledge but I also made new professional contacts and have since offered different outreach activities.

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## Martie Gillen, FYCS

### AFCPE/FERMA Conference

The funds were used to support my travel to the 2013 Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE) conference in Greenville, SC. I presented at the AFCPE extension pre-conference on my adaptation of Small Steps to Health and Wealth for older adults and used Prezi in my presentations. I also presented with two county faculty members on Women and Money. I also used the funds to attend the 2014 Family Economic and Resource Management Association in Savannah, Georgia. I presented my extension programming including Women and Money with three county faculty members and Small Steps to Health and Wealth for Older Adults. As a result of these presentations two manuscripts were accepted to the special conference issue of *The Forum for Family and Consumer Issues*. I also used the funds to support my travel to the 2014 American Council on Consumers Interests annual conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I presented my extension programming including Women and Money and educating consumers on the Affordable Care Act.

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## Mary Sowerby, EA IV, Suwannee Cty

### Grazier's Tour to New Zealand

The Professional Development Mini-grant I received for \$2,500 was used to attend a Grazier's Tour. This excellent tour was to New Zealand from September 7-14, 2013 and was assembled by Dennis Hancock, UGA Forage Specialist. Included in this trip were eight extension faculty from Georgia, Alabama and Florida, and a dairy grazier couple from South Carolina. The tour provided the opportunity to see how New Zealand dairy, sheep, beef and deer producers utilize perennial ryegrass. Producers do this on both steep mountain/hillsides and valley plains to profitably produce (largely for export) milk and meat products, along with deer antlers and antler velvet as well as agri-tourism.

I professionally gained from this experience by seeing how graziers managed their dairy farms. Also I gained by touring several related industries which tested milk to meet national and international standards, made electric fences and rotary parlors, and tested bulls to optimize grazing dairy cattle genetics.

Since returning home, I have shared what I learned by a PowerPoint presentation at a Florida/Georgia Dairy Graziers Meeting in Cordele, GA. In addition, I have written articles for dairy producers in the UF Dairy Update (Animal Sciences Department dairy newsletter) and Farmshine (Pennsylvania and surrounding state weekly dairy newspaper). To share with other Northeast District Extension agents, I have also written an article published in the May-July 2014 Northeast News newsletter.

This trip also gave me the opportunity to attend the 22nd International Grassland Congress in Sydney, Australia from September 15-19. There I learned about forages and grazing practices worldwide and presented a poster I co-authored on Florida/Georgia Dairy Grazing practices. Again this was an excellent learning opportunity and chance to share what we have learned with others worldwide. In addition, I had the chance to visit New South Wales dairy farms and learn from

their production practices.

Many thanks for the resources to make these back-to-back experiences possible.

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## **Basil Bactawar, CED II, Union Cty**

Galaxy IV Sept15-20, 2013

There were many presentations on various topics at this conference. I wanted to learn about hydroponics, the use of digital media and how it can be applied in climate change and the extension of its use to 4-H clubs. I attended the session on hydroponics at Galaxy IV, and have reinforced my knowledge by training at the Suwanee Valley Extension and Education Center. To date, the extension office has built and demonstrated the use of a hydroponic system using 5 gallon buckets as planters. These will be used to train residents in Union County and Union County High School through the FFA program. One of the major concerns in Union County, as well as for the rest of Florida, is the declining levels of water in the aquifers. In general, the residents are not aware of it. Both residents and producers need to learn about it so that they may take corrective actions to reverse the trend, with each county doing its part. To this effect, the extension office, in collaboration with Union County Soil and Water Conservation Board, is using the office website to inform the public about its initiatives. In addition, the extension office has reorganized its website so that clients can access this information more easily. More information on its activities over the past five years has been added to the 4-H section of the website. The use of social media such as facebook is also being considered as a way to extend its reach to 4-H clubs.

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## **New Hires**

We would like to welcome the following new faculty:

Katie Whidden, 4-H EA I, Highlands Cty

Rachel Fautsch, 4-H EA I, Lake Cty

James McWhorter, Livestock EA I, Highlands Cty

Terra Freeman, Small Farms Prg EA II, Duval Cty

Rebecca McCafferty, 4-H EA I, Sarasota Cty

Sydney Hayter, Livestock/Forage EA I, Duval Cty

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## **Special Mention**

The following agents have recently completed an advanced degree. We would like to offer congratulations on this great accomplishment:

Laura Valencia, 4-H YD EA I, Osceola Cty, Masters Degree in Nonprofit Management from the University of Central Florida.

Yilin Zhuang, Community Resource Efficiency EA I, Marion Cty, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of South Florida.

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## **Resignations**

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

Haley Worley, 4-H EA I, Okaloosa Cty

Christian Malsatzki, 4-H EA I, Escambia Cty

Sean McCoy, Rural Agribusiness RSA II, Suwannee Cty

Dale Wallace, Ext Prg Assistant, Sumter Cty

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Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter distributed by the Office of the Dean for Extension via e-mail and on the 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](mailto:valkyrieshah@ufl.edu).

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