



Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

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Table of Contents

Meet Your Specialist	3
Book Your Blue Revolution	4
Friend of Extension	5
Educating the Community	6
Cooking Does Matter	7
Economic Impact	7
Success is Contagious	8
Economic Boost	9
Women of Distinction	9
Regional Approach	10
Butterfly Garden	10
Bok Tower Gardens	12
Pinellas Goes Green	12
Extension Showcase	13
Arrivals/Departures/Retire	14
2014-2015 Mini Grants	14-20

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.



The office of the Dean for Extension would like to extend our warmest greetings and best wishes to you and your families this holiday season.



Meet Your Specialist Stephen Enloe and Justin Renkema. [Page 3](#)

Book Your Blue Revolution

(*Ramona Madhosingh-Hector, Heather Landis, Lara Milligan*) In light of growing urban populations and a fundamentally limited water supply, UF/IFAS Extension faculty in Pinellas County hosted two seminars with acclaimed journalist and author Cynthia Barnett, whose books focus on complex water issues in Florida and abroad. [Page 4](#)

Farm Credit's Ron O'Connor Named National Friend of Extension

(*Martha Maddox*) During the recent October 2015 National Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) Conference in Coeur d Alene, Idaho, Florida's Ron O'Connor was named a National Friend of Extension for ESP.

[Page 5](#)

Educating the Community and Students

(*Michael Davis*) Losing a position from the office staff is never a good thing, especially in a small office where personnel are at a premium. [Page 6](#)

Cooking Does Matter (*Nan Jensen*) Data show 78% of low-income families prepare dinner at home five or more nights a week but only one in five reports eating healthy dinners no more than twice a week; even fewer cook with whole or from scratch ingredients. [Page 7](#)

Economic Impact on Agriculture on St. Lucie County Tour

(*Ed Skvarch, Parker Platts*) Did you realize that Agriculture and its related industries in St. Lucie County repre-

sent approximately 96 agricultural companies that generate more than \$1.13 billion in total revenue and provides more than 20% of all total jobs? (2013 UF/IFAS Annual Economic Impact Study). [Page 7](#)

Success is Contagious (*Heather Janney*) "You are an inspiration!!" That's what Heather Janney, UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County 4-H/FCS Agent II, constantly hears from clients, colleagues, family, and friends after making many personal changes in the last 2 years to improve her own wellness. [Page 8](#)

The Economic Boost of a Pesticide License

(*Jane Morse*) The agent in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides recertification training for pesticide license holders.. [Page 9](#)

Women of Distinction Award

(*Heidi Copeland*) On November 19, 2015, 33 Florida Panhandle women were honored at the Florida State University Alumni Center by the Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle. [Page 9](#)

Facilitating a Regional Approach to Sea-Level Rise Planning

(*Libby Carnahan*) The Tampa Bay region is low-lying and densely populated and is therefore vulnerable to a variety of climate change impacts, most notably sea-level rise (SLR).

[Page 10](#)

Baker County Butterfly Garden Spreads its Wings (*Alicia Lam-born*)

For several years, the Baker County Extension Butterfly Garden has been spreading its wings and is now soaring to new heights.

[Page 10](#)

UF/IFAS and Bok Tower Gardens Partnership School Garden Program Scores Early Successes

(*Erin Elsberry*) The sustainability of a school garden depends on various factors such as funding and the level of gardening experience of the teacher. [Page 12](#)

Pinellas Goes Green with New Hires

(*Ramona Madhosingh-Hector, Heather Landis, Mary Campbell*) UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County has offered a variety of opportunities for Pinellas County staff to integrate sustainable practices into the workplace. [Page 12](#)

The North Florida UF/IFAS Extension Showcase 2015

(*Marcus Boston*) The North Florida Fair and the UF/IFAS Extension NW District made major home improvements to the Agriculture Building at the North Florida Fair in Tallahassee. [Page 13](#)

2014-2015 Professional Development Mini Grants Take a look at all of the highlights from our 2014-2015 Professional Mini Grant awardees. [Page 14-20](#)

Meet Your Specialist



Stephen Enloe
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I came to the University of Florida from Auburn University and Alabama Cooperative Extension where I served for the last seven years as an Invasive Plant Extension Specialist.

My specialties are upland invasive plant ecology/management and aquatic invasive plant management. I also take a special interest in natural and protected areas in Florida. In 2002 I received my Ph.D. from the University of California in Plant Biology.

I have been involved with invasive plant research and extension for the past 18 years. I have conducted research throughout the western and southeastern United States, including California, Colorado, Wyoming, Alabama, and now Florida. During the last seven years, my main focus has been cogongrass, Chinese privet, Chinese tallowtree, Japanese climbing fern, and kudzu. I have also worked in the area of bioenergy with an emphasis on preventing potential bioenergy species from becoming the next big invader.

In my recent move to the University of Florida, I replaced Dr. Ken Langeland. Similar to his appointment, my focus is now divided between upland and aquatic invasive plant issues. I am excited to be wading into the area of aquatics and hope to bring a fresh approach that will help address the monumental task of aquatic plant management in Florida. I currently have projects on torpedograss and creeping water primrose.

In terms of upland research, I currently have

projects on cogongrass, Chinese tallowtree, leadtree, tungoil tree, Old World climbing fern, Brazilian peppertree, Bishopwood and several other species. Florida has an incredible array of upland invasive plant problems and I am excited for the opportunity to be here.

On a personal note, I am married to a soil scientist (Heather Enloe) and we have three children, Samuel (5), Ava (2), and Gabriel (4 months). We are very happy to be here in Florida and are excited about the future!



Justin Renkema
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I came to the University of Florida from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada where I was a post-doctoral fellow in the School of Environmental Sciences from 2012 to 2015. I worked with a team of researchers and provincial extension agents on improving methods for monitoring and managing spotted wing drosophila, a recent invasive fly pest of berries and other small fruits. We evaluated natural products as potential repellents and oviposition deterrents, having success with some plant essential oils.

My specialties are developing and improving integrated pest management strategies in small fruit crops. In Florida, this means working closely with the strawberry and blueberry industry to find novel solutions to control pests such as thrips, mites, sap beetles, seed bugs, worms, and spotted wing drosophila.

I also take a special interest in biological control and conservation or establishment of non-crop

habitat in and around fields for improving biodiversity of pest predators and parasitoids. Beneficial organisms provide agriculture with important ecosystem services, and finding ways to increase the levels of such services will provide growers with new tools for sustainable and economically-viable crop production. I look forward to discussions with small fruit growers, extension personnel, and industry representatives on how to implement conservation biological control in the Florida context and integrate biological control with current chemical and other pest control practices.

I graduated from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in 2011 with a PhD in Biology, specializing in applied entomology and crop protection. My dissertation examined the effect of mulches in highbush blueberries on the pest blueberry maggot and on beneficials, particularly ground-dwelling predators such as ground and rove beetles.

At UF, I am based at the Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC) in Balm, southeast of Tampa. I am excited to be part of IFAS and an excellent group of researchers and staff at the Center dedicated to strawberry production. Evaluating new products for pest management and bringing results and knowledge to practitioners through innovative technologies will be an important part of my appointment (70% research 30% extension). I look forward to many successful years in Florida helping to improve crop protection strategies in small fruit crops.

Book Your Blue Revolution

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

Heather Landis, Pinellas Cty

Lara Milligan, EA I Nat Res, Pinellas Cty

In light of growing urban populations and a fundamentally limited water supply, UF/IFAS Extension faculty in Pinellas County hosted two seminars



Cynthia Barnett, top left, Chalk Notice at USF St. Petersburg Campus, author at Brooker Creek Preserve, and seminar at USF St. Petersburg .

with acclaimed journalist and author Cynthia Bar-

nett, whose books focus on complex water issues in Florida and abroad. The October events used “Blue Revolution” as the basis for educating residents and inspiring further conversation about maintaining common water resources. Pinellas County has its own historical “water war” story and it may be on the brink of future water challenges brought on by climate change. To ensure that residents would learn about the success of water management strategies locally and internationally, two events were held at north and south county locations. Both events were coordinated with local partners - University of South Florida (USF) St. Petersburg in south county and the Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve in north county. Additionally, the USF event coincided with 50th anniversary celebrations on that campus. A total of 75 attended the book talk and 59% of attendees surveyed had no prior knowledge about UF/IFAS Extension. On a 5-point scale, attendees reported relatively low prior knowledge (avg=2.79) with an average gain of 1.5 points after the lecture. Attendees were pleased with both events, reporting 100% satisfaction with more than 55% rating the event as excellent. In a qualitative question about their future actions, attendees reported educating others, improved water consciousness, and increased water conservation practices as top priorities. Local expert seminars allow participants to expand their knowledge base and promote dialogue about complex issues. Facilitated workshops that focus on prominent issues using home-grown experts advance and garner support for collective action to create community change. Through this

timely workshop UF/IFAS Extension supports ongoing work in the county to promote a local watershed approach to water conservation and future water challenges.

Farm Credit's Ron O'Connor Named National Friend of Extension

Martha Maddox, FCS EA IV, Sumter Cty

During the recent October 2015 National Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Florida's Ron O'Connor was named a National Friend of Extension for ESP. Each year, ESP recognizes up to four volunteers from across the country (business leaders, volunteers or public servants) that go above and beyond in their assistance to extension professionals. Extension is the national system of delivering research-based programs and information to the people from Land-Grant Universities.

Sumter County Agent Martha Maddox originally nominated Mr. O'Connor for this recognition, which was endorsed by Florida ESP and UF/IFAS Extension. Florida's Alpha Delta Chapter of ESP, made up of faculty from UF/IFAS and FAMU, recommended Mr. O'Connor for this national award.



Mr. O'Connor (center) was introduced by Florida's ESP President Will Sheftall (left) and presented with this National Friend of Extension award by National ESP President Ann Berry (right).

A native Floridian and graduate of UF, Ron O'Connor is deeply devoted to the extension family and he plays a vital role in supporting the total extension program. Ron said, "I was honored to receive this award at the National level. I accepted this award on behalf of the three Florida Farm Credit Associations and the

National ESP Friend of Extension Ron O'Connor enjoys a beautiful sunset during the National ESP Conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.



hard working resilient member-borrowers. They provide me the resources that allow me to work with the wonderful professionals in UF/IFAS Extension at both the state and county level."

Ron began his career with Farm Credit of Central Florida in 1987 as Marketing Manager and he was named National Farm Credit Marketer of the Year in 1997. During his tenure at Farm Credit, the association's marketing and advertising programs earned four Crystal Biostar Awards, symbolizing the Farm Credit system's best program in that category. He also chairs the statewide marketing committee, which combines resources of all three Florida Farm Credit Associations to achieve maximum exposure for Farm Credit at Florida's premier agricultural events. Ron currently serves as Director of Marketing and Governmental Affairs, where he is charged with coordinating advertising and marketing programs to enhance awareness of the Farm Credit Advantage. Additionally, he tracks legislative and regulatory issues affecting the association and communicates with appropriate organizations and individuals on behalf of Farm Credit as directed by their Directors and President.

If there is an UF/IFAS Extension or agriculture event going on in Florida, you will probably see Ron O'Connor there. Whether it's an industry event, Extension, 4-H or FFA, Ron is usually there; he is generally taking pictures to memorialize the event, which he shares openly.

Ron serves as a Board member and primary photographer for the Florida Ag Hall of Fame, is a member of and Past President of The Florida Agriculture Institute, and is a member of and Past Vice President of the Florida Citrus Showcase. Additionally he is a member of the Florida Council of Cooperatives, Florida Citrus Mutual, Florida Cattlemen's Association, and FNGLA's Allied

Committee, and he has received an Honorary FFA Membership and Degree.

Ron has been responsible for providing numerous sponsorships for Extension and 4-H Youth activities throughout his 25 plus years with the Florida Farm Credit System. The sponsorships Ron helps provide through Farm Credit assist in reducing the costs of conducting these educational programs and helps reduce the fees that would otherwise be passed to participating Extension clientele. Through Ron's efforts, Farm Credit sponsors the annual Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents Young Professional Award, which includes not only a plaque but a monetary award as well; the agent recipients use these funds for local programming or for expanded professional development training. Ron was instrumental in securing a \$20,000 sponsorship from the National Farm Credit Foundation for the 2012 NAE4HA conference held in Orlando, which made Farm Credit our biggest sponsor, and helped reduced the registration cost for Extension agents attending.

Ron has served in numerous advisory and support roles for Extension groups and activities during the course of his career with Farm Credit. He serves on local 4-H and Extension Advisory committees, as well as area and state wide committees. He is one of the Stakeholder Advisory and Planning Committee members of the Extension Small Farms and Alternative Enterprises Conference. This is the major statewide annual conference for small and alternative farmers. He has not only secured sponsorship funds for the conference from Farm Credit, but he serves in the planning advisory capacity for the conference as well. Ron is one of the extension supporters we can truly always count on for support whether monetarily, advisory or in lobbying efforts on Extension's behalf.

Educating the Community and Students

Michael Davis, CED II Ag, Baker Cty

Losing a position from the office staff is never a good thing, especially in a small office where personnel are at a premium. In the past, the UF/IFAS Extension Baker County office employed a person who was split between the local Soil & Water Conservation District and extension. This person performed secretarial duties and also served as a program assistant for faculty. Due to budget cuts and restructuring of county staff, the position was removed, leaving the office without a program assistant. Negotiations between the CED, County Manager, the Baker School District, and a County Commissioner provided a solution that would benefit the extension office, its clientele, and a local student. Currently, the Baker County Board of County Commissioners provides funding to employ a student from the Baker Diversified Career Technology (DCT) Program as a part-time Program Assistant at the extension office.



Current UF/IFAS Extension Baker County DCT Program Assistant, Dalton Jones, with a custom brooder box for 4-H Poultry Projects.

Along with regular high school coursework, the student assists with duties at the extension office 4 hours a day, 5 days a week. The student interacts with public clientele, provides pertinent publications, learns how a public service office operates, gains knowledge working with office equipment, and assists with programming efforts such as 4-H day camps and horticultural sales. All of this comes at a minimal cost to the county (~ \$8500/annum) as the employee is part-time, thus not having to receive fringe benefits, and is paid minimum wage. The employee receives valuable work experience and potential references for future employment along with a bi-weekly check. This arrangement has been in place for a little more than 2 years and it has provided the extension office and its clientele with a valuable employee at minimal cost to local taxpayers.

Cooking Does Matter

Nan Jensen, EA IV FCS, Pinellas Cty

Data show 78% of low-income families prepare dinner at home five or more nights a week but only one in five reports eating healthy dinners no more than twice a week; even fewer cook with whole or from scratch ingredients. These same populations suffer from hunger and diet-related diseases where healthy food is not readily available and the knowledge about nutrition and how to prepare healthy meals is lacking.

The UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program in Pinellas County collaborated with Share Our Strength, Walmart, and a host of local community partners to pilot a 6-week Cooking Matters for Parents course. Participants learned how to prepare healthy foods, handle food safely, stretch their food dollars, and maximize the benefits they receive through public nutrition programs as well how to raise healthy eaters. They were able to practice the new

healthy recipes at home with their family using take home groceries provided at the end of each class.

A total of 167 enrolled in the program, and 110 completed the 6-week course. Based on a pre/post survey of those completing the course, 100% reported improving behavior in one or more of the areas including nutrition practices, eating habits, and food budgeting skills. David, a father of two boys, reported his children are finally eating vegetables after he has taught them to cook! Programs like these can have significant societal impacts as improving access to healthy affordable meals can be linked to long-term health, education, and economic outcomes.



Chef Donna teaching some budding cooks how to whip up a quick dinner for the family.

Economic Impact of Agriculture on St. Lucie County Tour

Ed Skvarch, EA III Comm Hort, St. Lucie Cty

Parker Platts, EA I Citrus, St. Lucie Cty

Did you realize that Agriculture and its related industries in St. Lucie County represent approximately 96 agricultural companies that generate more than \$1.13 billion in total revenue and provides more than 20% of all total jobs? (2013 UF/IFAS Annual Economic Impact Study). These industries are represented by citrus, cattle, vegetable, nursery production, and agriculture associated businesses such as equipment and agriculture supply.

To highlight the economic impact of agriculture, UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Extension faculty designed and guided an educational tour providing its guests with first-hand glimpses into the rich diversity of St. Lucie County's agricultural community.

The tour was organized because extension faculty identified a need to increase awareness among freshly appointed policy makers who had little or no exposure to the economic impact agriculture has on St. Lucie County. The guest list included a first term County Commissioner, freshly appointed City and County administrators, members of the chamber of commerce, planning and zoning department heads, and a recently hired Economic Development Council senior vice president.

On the day of the tour, guests assembled at the St. Lucie County Extension campus where they introduced themselves and were provided with a brief overview of the upcoming day's events. The group was then escorted onto an air conditioned charter bus providing a relaxing atmosphere for networking and discussion of the day's events as they unfolded.

The tour highlighted a visit to a vegetable farm, a beef cattle ranch, a citrus grove, a citrus packing house, a commercial tree nursery, a vineyard, a peach orchard, a tomato packing house, and a fresh juice processing plant. At each stop along the tour, participants were greeted by either the owner or manager who escorted the group

around their operation, providing them with economic impact information and emphasizing the importance of agriculture to the St. Lucie County economy. Media were invited to cover the event, resulting in television coverage at a winery, an article about the tour in a local newspaper, and a photographer taking pictures for her newspaper while touring a cattle ranch.

Financing for the tour was provided by partnering with members of the local agricultural community. Through their generosity a BBQ lunch was provided on a working cattle ranch. Beautiful indoor and outdoor plants were donated by a local ornamental plant grower. Boxes of fresh peppers and tomatoes were contributed by a local vegetable grower. At one stop the guests were greeted with fresh orange and grapefruit juice. Through the donations by local banks, the cost of the bus was covered.

The objective of the tour was to increase an awareness of local policy makers to the economic impact and importance of agriculture to St. Lucie County. An evaluation was provided at the end of the tour; this is when we realized that many of the participants had identified a lack of knowledge of this county's agriculture prior to the tour. The survey identified knowledge gain of the economic impact of agriculture in St. Lucie County as 75%. Participants were also surveyed regarding their knowledge of agriculture's diversity, conservation efforts to improve the environment, and the future outlook of agriculture in St. Lucie County. The results were very similar; knowledge level increased by 67 to 92%. One of the results of this tour included county administration sharing the economic importance of agriculture during budget discussions with the county commission.

Success is Contagious

Heather Janney, EA II 4-H/FCS, Hamilton Cty

"You are an inspiration!!" That's what Heather Janney, UF/IFAS Extension Hamilton County 4-H/FCS Agent II, constantly hears from clients, colleagues, family, and friends after making many

Participants at a bimonthly Community Walk, an active gathering where residents have the opportunity to walk and talk with and ask questions of Heather Janney and/or Hamilton County Department of Health Director or Healthiest Weight Coordinator.



personal changes in the last 2 years to improve her own wellness. Researchers have found that having more social contacts trying to lose weight is connected with greater weight loss intentions, and those changes in physical activity are similar among teammates in a team-based physical activity campaign. Individuals that have seen Heather's efforts have been heavily influenced and motivated by her successes. There are so many successes in others that have made social contact with Heather, motivation for achieving wellness almost seems to be contagious. There are so many in fact, that sharing one success achieved just isn't enough. One Hamilton County resident had found himself in the obese range of the BMI chart from not exercising and consuming too many calories. After attending the monthly "Food for Thought Luncheon Series," he had his wife change her cooking and was able to reduce his sodium and calorie intake as a result. Additionally, this resident started walking at active gatherings that Heather began like the monthly community walk. This resident was able to use budget funds from his organization to purchase fitness tracking devices for use in motivating his employees. He has since been successful at getting off of blood pressure medication and has lost more than 30 lbs. Another participant came in to share about her previous experiences in wellness programming and has continued to keep off the weight she lost during the program. She has now started to focus on lowering the sodium in her diet, exercising more, and reading the labels of the food that she eats. She also shared that her glucose levels have lowered and she was able to

come off of her diabetes medications. She said that these positive choices resulted from her involvement in the program. Another client, age 66, comes in for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) annually and in 2013, commented that he didn't even recognize Heather after all of the changes she had made. This started a discussion of his family's inactive habits and the carbonated beverages and high fat diet they consumed. He was even needing a cane for balancing now as a result. Heather shared with them about walking, making small changes in their diets, and drinking water before they left the office that year. One year later, when the client and his wife returned, he was no longer using a cane and reported losing 50 lbs. He shared that he had stopped drinking soft drinks and started doing much more physical activity. He also reported that he was working to get his wife and daughters to make changes and having some success. Heather's own successes in using "the Extension Way" (walking, drinking water, and tracking calories with food moderation) have led to so many other successes in her county. Who ever thought improving one's self would lead to bettering so many other people?

The Economic Boost of a Pesticide License

Jane Morse, EA III Comm Urban Hort, Pinellas Cty

The agent in cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides recertification training for pesticide license holders. The economic value of pesticide license recertification can be estimated in terms of increased wages and career earnings to the individual.

The economic impacts obtained by having a pesticide license(s) were measured using economic data provided in an EDIS document "Assessing Economic Impacts and Benefits of Commercial Horticulture Extension Programs." Maintaining a pesticide license means higher wages by \$3/hr compared with landscape workers that have no license. This equates to an increase of \$6,400 per



Pesticide Certification Class in Pinellas County.

person per year and provides an economic value to the individual and the county. According to UF Implan 2009, for each dollar of increased earnings by licensed pesticide applicators there would be a multiplier effect of 2.28 in total earnings generated in the county.

Therefore, the wage increase economic value of these trainings in 2014 collectively to these individuals equals \$4,358,400 (681 x \$6,400), with an added economic value to the County of \$9,937,152 (\$4,358,400 x 2.28).

Women of Distinction Awards

Heidi Copeland, EA II FCS, Leon Cty

On November 19, 2015, 33 Florida Panhandle women were honored at the Florida State University Alumni Center by the Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle.

Not one but two UF staff were nominees for the Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle Women of Distinction award, a program inspired by Girl Scouts nationally, and hosted locally by the Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle.

Women of Distinction truly demonstrate their commitment

Marion S. Hoffmann, Associate Vice President, UF Government Relations.



to the community in the area of law, business, education social services and community impact.

It is a proud moment knowing that we are celebrated by our peers and colleagues as women in the community of courage, confidence, and character along with initiative, integrity and leadership that truly have an impact in the community each and every day, although neither Heidi Copeland or

Marion Hoffmann were chosen for the high honor.

Thank you Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle for your special recognition of our accomplishments.



Heidi Copeland, FCS Extension Agent, Leon County.

As a necessary first step in the adaptation planning process and after a careful review of scientific research and associated literature, the CSAP has written "Recommended Projection of Sea Level Rise in the Tampa Bay Region" (hyperlink to http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/marine/documents/CSAP_SLR_Recommendation_FINAL.pdf). The recommendation provides guidance on what sea level rise projections should be incorporated into local planning efforts. On October 11, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) voted unanimously to accept the Recommendation for distribution to local governments. The One Bay will utilize the recommendation in future decision support systems and adaptation planning efforts.

Facilitating a Regional Approach to Sea-Level Rise Planning

Libby Carnahan, EA I Sea Grant, Pinellas Cty

The Tampa Bay region is low-lying and densely populated and is therefore vulnerable to a variety of climate change impacts, most notably sea-level rise (SLR). SLR threatens natural resources, critical infrastructure, and quality of life. In response to requests from local governments in the Tampa Bay region, Florida Sea Grant (FSG) and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) are facilitating coordinated efforts to guide sea-level rise adaptation planning in the region.

The FSG Agent is facilitating the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel (CSAP), an ad-hoc group of scientists whose goal is to provide scientific support to local governments planning for a changing climate. The group is comprised of local experts researching and implementing adaptation projects related to climate change. The TBRPC is convening a network of planners, developers, emergency managers and policy makers through the ONE BAY: Resilient Communities Working Group (One Bay hyperlink to <http://onebay.org>) in order to improve the regional capacity of the area to withstand uncertainty and adverse impacts associated with sea level rise and other coastal hazards.

Thomas Ruppert facilitating workshop.



Baker County Butterfly Garden Spreads Its Wings

Alicia Lamborn, EA II Env Hort, Baker Cty

For several years, the Baker County Extension Butterfly Garden has been spreading its wings and is now soaring to new heights. Originally planted in 2010 by 4-H members and expanded in 2011 by Master Gardener Volunteers, the garden generates much interest from visitors who enjoy learning about low maintenance plant species that attract butterflies with their colorful flowers. With more than 200 people viewing the garden each year, the need for further



Looking southwest, the old section of the garden is visible amongst the new, expanded areas that are nearly ready to be planted.

Looking north, Master Gardener Mary Ann Ray is busy planting the new section of the garden. Project leaders strategically placed evergreen perennials towards the outer edges of the garden to mask the cold damaged perennials that die back in winter.



Looking southwest, the garden now contains flowering perennials planted in masses for added interest.



a puddling dish serves as an invitation to sit and watch as butterflies stop to take a drink of water. Butterfly-shaped plant markers compliment the garden theme and help visitors identify plant species.

The growing number of flowering plants has attracted the attention of many species of butterflies, bees, wasps, and other insects, as well as gardeners. In early spring, approximately 150 visitors of the Spring Garden Festival viewed the garden in passing while an additional 47 individuals stopped to talk about the garden with Master Gardeners. A butterfly gardening class with 21 participants was later taught entirely outside in the garden so that the plants and visiting pollinators could be observed and used as examples during a conversational or interactive style lecture. The garden also received attention when its micro-irrigation system was highlighted during a separate edible gardening class. The many features of the garden have inspired several individuals to adopt Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles. As a result of the butterfly class, one woman has installed her own pollinator garden, while another participant expanded their existing garden. Participants have also indicated the addition of organic mulch, micro-irrigation systems, a switch to slow-release fertilizers, and the elimination of pesticides in and around their butterfly garden, among other Florida-Friendly practices. It is the experience of the agent that the hands-on, experiential learning techniques used in demonstration gardens can foster the adoption of sustainable gardening practices.

improvements was identified by three volunteers who took charge of the project. To allow everyone to provide input, the agent taught a landscape design class for the Master Gardener group and provided a landscape design plan of the existing garden area to be used as a template for the expansion project. Following the class, each volunteer was sent home with a garden design template attached to a foam core board, push pins, and copies of pre-drawn plants, planting beds, and hardscape garden features. This method enables designers to easily manipulate plants and features in their design, saving time and allowing them to focus on the design instead of their artistic ability. Volunteers were given 1 month to create their ideal butterfly garden design and each presented their work to the group at the following meeting. With guidance from the agent, project leaders created a final plan for the garden using features from each of the designs and began preparing the area for the transformation.

While the old garden had approximately 25 plants of 11 species, the new garden features more than 100 plants of 28 species and it includes both nectar and host plants. New edging with gentle curves gives the garden a nice shape while easing maintenance for mowers. Two species of vines now use the chain link fence as a trellis and will one day provide a more attractive backdrop for the garden. A new stone path guides visitors through the garden allowing for a closer look at both flowers and pollinators, while a stool positioned opposite from



Class participants learned about pollinator plants and the butterfly species that they attract during a butterfly gardening class held entirely in the demonstration butterfly garden.

UF/IFAS and Bok Tower Gardens Partnership School Garden Program Scores Early Successes

Erin Elsberry, RSA II Bok School Gardens, Polk Cty

The sustainability of a school garden depends on various factors such as funding and the level of gardening experience of the teacher. The UF/IFAS Extension and Bok Tower Gardens Partnership School Garden Program offered a school garden mini-grant to any K-12 private, public or charter school throughout the South Central District. Thirty-eight school garden mini-grant proposals were submitted and reviewed and 25 were selected for funding. The average mini-grant award was \$3,500. Twenty grant recipients are designated as Title I schools (at least 75% students receive free or reduced lunch). In Polk County, 21 schools received funding to expand (11) or install (10) a garden on campus. Four schools in the region (2 in Sarasota County, 1 in Highlands County and 1 in Pinellas County) received funding to complete their school garden projects. Each grant recipient also received colorful program signage. The level of creativity and diversity among the school gar-



Spook Hill Elementary proudly displays their UF/IFAS Extension - Bok Tower Gardens Partnership School Garden sign."

den projects was awe-inspiring. Snively Elementary, Winter Haven, is installing a Garden of Literacy where each raised bed will have a theme based on the book Peter Rabbit's Garden. The project is part of a school-wide literacy initiative called "Relax and Read." The IFAS and Bok partnership recently conducted a fall gardening workshop for 51 teachers and school administrators.

Comments from the workshop revealed participant's thoughts, such as "I have a better grasp of what it takes to start a fall garden", "I feel better prepared to plant a fall garden with my students" and "Thank you for all you are doing to assist us to make this possible." Due to the strong response, we will be offering a spring gardening workshop for teachers and school administrators as well.

Pinellas Goes Green with New Hires

Mary Campbell, CED IV Urban Env Sust, Ramona Madhosingh-Hector, EA II Urban Env Sust, and Heather Landis, from Pinellas Cty

UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County has offered a variety of opportunities for Pinellas County staff to integrate sustainable practices into the workplace. With the large increase in new hires starting in late 2014, extension partnered with Pinellas County Human Resources in January 2015 to reach new staff through the required Employee Orientation. The goal was to increase the use of post-consumer recycled paper, increase recycling of office paper, conserve energy, and increase sustainable purchasing practices. Fact sheets were developed with the Green Pinellas branding and an Employee Pledge was provided to support the program. At least 154 employees were provided with the supporting materials for the Pledge. In the first half of 2015, 26% returned the Employee Pledge to help them integrate sustainability into the workplace. A 3 month follow-up survey demonstrated an increase in sustainable practices and 60% in the follow-up survey indicated the Pledge increased their participation. Future efforts include additional online information and use of the Pledge through the Green Pinellas website (<http://www.pinellascounty.org/greenpinellas/>)

Your Personal Commitment to Sustainability

Making the connections between our economy, our health and well-being, and natural environment is a key part of the sustainability ethic that you can bring to your job.

EMPLOYEE PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE

I pledge to (check the pledges that you agree to):

- Turn off my computer at the end of the day (except Thursdays for updates).
- Recycle my office paper.
Use at least 30% post-consumer waste recycled paper (check your office print paper).

Support sustainable procurement practices (see Sustainable Purchasing Factsheet).



Shelley Swenson, FCS Agent in Wakulla County sharing resources available through the Family and Consumer Science program.

helping to feed the World.

This home renovation was also viewed as a great opportunity to market UF/IFAS to North Florida residents and other people who may visit the North Florida Fair in Tallahassee.

When agents asked Dr. Pete Vergot, District Director of the NW District, why we needed to change what we have done over the years he simply replied, this is our chance to tell people who we are, what we do and most important, how we can help them. Agents caught the vision and with addition-



Jennifer Bearden, Agriculture Agent in Okaloosa County is sharing information on the importance of keeping healthy soil.

al support from Mark Harvey, the North Florida Fair manager, all agreed to play an active role in making it happen.

As a result of continued support from the North Florida Fair manager the UF/IFAS Extension exhibit has grown even larger than the previous year.

What really makes this event stand out from other fairs is that the extension



Eric Westbrook, 4-H Agent in Wakulla County shows mom and son how to make a radish necklace.

faculty from each county office play an active role in assisting in the construction, set-up, and most important the actual manning of the exhibit during the fair. This change has provided the opportunity to enhance and expand the presence and customer awareness of UF/IFAS Extension during the 10 days the fair is open. During the 10 day period the fair was open it is estimated that more than 3,000 clientele visited the UF/IFAS building where they had the opportunity to speak to a person about any questions or

The North Florida UF/IFAS Extension Showcase 2015

Marcus Boston, 4-H EA IV, Leon Cty

The North Florida Fair and the UF/IFAS Extension NW District made major home improvements to the Agriculture Building at the North Florida Fair in Tallahassee. Duplicating the UF/IFAS exhibits at the Sunbelt Agriculture Expo held annually in Moultrie, GA, the former county booths that have been constructed and displayed for the past 40 plus years have been removed and the Agriculture Building has been enhanced for a better clientele experience. During this time faculty from across the NW Extension District assisted in manning the program areas with hands-on and activity displays based around the theme of Extension's Role in

concerns they may have had.

As with any renovation, it takes some getting used to but with time I think this effort will provide UF/IFAS more opportunities to provide folks in the North Florida region solutions for their life.

Arrivals

We would like to welcome the following new faculty:

Carree Olshansky, FCS CED II, Columbia Cty
Denise DeBusk, Env/Com Hort EA II, Alachua Cty
Darren Cole, 4-H EA I, Indian River Cty
Matthew VanWeelden, Agronomic Crops EA II, Palm Beach Cty
Kristen Poppell, 4-H EA I, Nassau Cty

New Positions

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

Liz Felter, Food Systems RSA III, Central District
Sarah Hensley, SSA III, 4-H Youth Development
Matt Benge, Extension Asst Professor, Agricultural Education and Communication
Jessica Altum, 4-H EA I, Gilchrist Cty

Departures

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

Bryan Fluech, Sea Grant CED III, Collier Cty
Eddie Powell, Hort EA I, Walton Cty
Andrea (Taufer) Kens, FCS EA I, Seminole Cty
Jennifer Pelham, Res Hort EA III, Orange Cty
Derek Barber, Livestock/Nat Res EA II, Columbia Cty

Retirement

We would like to give our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement to



Kathleen Ruppert, Extension Scientist ABE, after more than 30 years with UF

And



Karla Lenfesty, FCS EA II, St. Lucie Cty, after more than 6 years with Extension

R.I.P. Geoffrey Wallat



We regretfully announce the passing of Florida Sea Grant Agent Geoff Wallat from Taylor County. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time. Please see the following announcement for more information:

[https://](https://www.flseagrant.org/about/staff/wallat/)

www.flseagrant.org/about/staff/wallat/

2014-2015 Professional Mini Grant Highlights

Take a look at all of the highlights from our 2014-2015 Professional Mini Grant awardees.

Location: The Belize Zoo & Tropical Education Center, Belize

Michael G. Andreu, Associate Professor, School of Forest Resources and Conservation

I used this funding to support the development a new program in international extension located in Belize. The funds

were used to support travel for myself and a graduate student to develop a site where fire management principles could be demonstrated in April 2015.

What I learned: Working in an international setting is challenging, complex, and happens at a pace much slower than the US. While I made progress in furthering the program development, I did not complete all the tasks as proposed. We had originally intended to use an area of approximately 200 acres for our demonstration site. Local partners had indicated that this would not be problematic. However, when I arrived in country to lay out the firelines for the demonstration plots it became readily apparent that some of the area would not be accessible by tractor to cut the lines. Ultimately we scaled back the demonstration plots to an area that was accessible. We have established on the ground the location of our fire demonstration site (17 2-acre plots vs. 17 2-hectare plots). The tractor that was to plow the firelines broke down and at this time the part has yet to arrive.

We did conduct a one day training on fire management at the Belize Zoo, however we were unable to have the practicum portion of the training because the firelines had not been plowed. Also, I corresponded with managers of other NGO's in the country and they expressed a need and desire for further training opportunities and for the establishment of our demonstration site.

Also, while in Belize, my graduate student and I worked on developing a fact sheet about fire ecology in the pine savannas as well as a plant id guide to common plants found in these ecosystems. This will be the first of several fact sheets associated with this extension program.

I returned to Belize in May so that I could follow up on the project. My in-country partners from the Belize Zoo/Tropical Education Center are committed to following up on the installation of the firelines and have identified an alternative tractor operator. You must keep in mind this is a very poor part of the world and equipment such as a tractor with plows are not common. Furthermore they are used for agricultural purposes so their availability is very limited. For now the installation of the firelines is on hold. The rainy season has started and this will delay installation of the lines until early next year.

What I gained from this experience? Communications are critical; nothing beats eyes and boots on the ground when accessing field conditions. Expect things to move slowly, allocate large buffer times when planning projects. Don't get upset by delays, they are part of the culture.

Through the course of this project I developed contacts in with leaders of NGO's throughout the country. This has raised awareness of our program development and I gather it is positively received. This has enhanced my professional standing with my potential partners and peers in Belize. Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to having more to show in the coming year.

Location: Univ. of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Maria L. Silveira, Associate Professor, Range Cattle REC, Ona, Florida

During my professional development leave at Univ. of Queensland, Australia, I had the opportunity to learn about their National Soil Carbon Project and the role of farmers on the success of this initiative. The main objective of the National Soil Carbon Program is to evaluate land use and management practices which leads to an increase (or reduction in losses) of organic carbon stored in soil for building resilience to Australian landscapes and restoring the productivity of the Australian lands. To accomplish this goal, a comprehensive survey of soil C stocks associated with agricultural lands was undertaken in different areas of the country. This project was also focused on quantifying and characterizing soil carbon stock following land use change (i.e., conversion of native vegetation to croplands, grazing lands, and management of grazing lands). Other current projects are also focused on evaluating the potential benefits associated with perennial pastures and proper pasture nutrient management on the amounts and stability of carbon retained in the soil. Although increasing soil C stocks can represent a major challenge in Florida, there has been increasing interest in the potential benefits associated with pasture management practices that promote soil carbon accumulation and can have subsequent positive impacts on pasture productivity and resilience. In addition to expanding my qualification in this area, I am hoping to incorporate the information I learned from the colleagues in Australia into my extension programming to help our clientele in FL address the challenges related to soil quality and ecosystems sustainability.

Location: Queensland, Australia

Joao Vendramini, Associate Professor, Range Cattle REC, Ona, Florida

The benefits of intercropping warm-season legumes on warm-season grass pastures has been extensively described in the research literature; however, the adoption of this technology is very limited among Florida livestock producers. It has been reported that livestock producers have used intercropped pastures successfully in Australia and the technology is largely adopted by producers. The professional development mini-grant allowed me to visit different regions in the Australia and learn about educational activities promoted by extension professionals to disseminate the technology. In addition, I had the opportunity to visit with many livestock producers and learn about their perspective on intercropping warm-season legumes in warm-season grass pastures. Below are a summary of my findings:

- The extension system in Australia is not associated with the university and extension responsibilities are conducted by

state agencies. In general, the staff has B.S. degree in agriculture and works in a large region (sometimes bigger than the State of Florida). They are also in charge of conducting applied research with producers. I felt that main constrain of this arrangement was that data has been generated with no scientific rigor, which may result in generation and dissemination of erratic results to producers. On the other hand, the engagement of extension staff with producers and general community was impressive.

- The majority of the educational programs are coordinate by producers with industry and state agencies support. It was surprising to me that although the technology generated by university research is adopted by producers; the university has minimum participation on extension activities.

- The vastly adoption of warm-season legumes by livestock producers in Australia is a misconception. There is an expressive use of one species of herbaceous warm-season legume in a specific region in Australia. The use of warm-season legumes is a necessity due to the limited nutritive value of the grass and high cost of N fertilizer.

- Similarly to the findings in Florida, intercropped pastures are costly and difficult to manage; therefore they must be used wisely for animals with greater nutrient requirements.

- According to my observations, the successful dissemination of this warm-season legume species in the state of Queensland in Australia was a result of the following process: 1) Technology was developed by researchers from the University of Queensland, 2) The technology was branded and installed in several properties, as demonstration areas, with state agency funding and support and, 3) Producers disseminate the technology promoting field days with the industry and state agency support.

In summary, it was a great experience to increase my knowledge in extension models in different regions and reinforce the necessity of engaging producers as active members of extension activities to increase adoption and positive impacts of specific management practices in agriculture.

Location: North Caroline State University

Heidi Radunovich, Associate Professor, Family Youth and Community Sciences

For our professional development mini-grant, we received funds to visit the Juntos program at North Carolina State University (NC State), in order to learn more about this program and determine whether this is something we would want or be able to bring to Florida. The Juntos program is a joint effort between 4-H and Family and Consumer Sciences, and provides support to Latino youth to encourage their enrollment and success in college. The program was started by Dr. Andrew Behnke and colleagues at NC State, and has expanded to many locations within the state, and to several other states across the country. Our trip was originally scheduled for February, 2015, but a blizzard prevented that trip, and we needed to reschedule for May, 2015. Heidi Radunovich, Brent Broaddus and Diana Converse took the trip, with the hopes of using Hillsborough County as a pilot site. Our visit to the NC State entailed an intense day of meetings and discussions with Dr. Behnke and colleagues, as well as a site visit to a Juntos program location. We are very glad that we made the trip, because even with all of the information we read and phone calls ahead of time, there was just so much that we could not grasp about the program and how it operates. We learned many valuable things about the program:

1. The program itself is very impressive, and research done has shown excellent outcomes for the students involved.
2. The FCS portion of the program entails direct work with parents, and it is important that this person speaks Spanish. This is a bit problematic for Hillsborough, because Diana Converse does not speak Spanish.
3. The concept of providing programming for both the students and their parents enhances the program success, so this is an important component of the program.
4. While the Juntos program involves youth development, and some sites eventually transition into 4-H clubs, the program itself is not engaging in 4-H programming and practices. This could potentially cause difficulties for our 4-H personnel.
5. The program is extremely resource intensive. In order to do the programming as they suggest, a significant amount of funding would need to be invested not only to develop the program, but to keep it running. Dr. Behnke spends nearly all of his time on the Juntos program, and is constantly needing to write grants in order to keep it operating. In some cases he needs to alter the programming in order to meet grant requirements. For example, the site we visited in Winston-Salem meets daily rather than weekly because the grant funding being used requires this. The program needs someone who is able to recruit both students and their parents, and someone to run the site program. There is also a need for after school tutoring services, someone to work with the students on youth development programming, and someone to work with parents to educate them.

After completing the visit, we are struggling with whether or how we would bring this program to Florida. We are concerned about starting a program that would later lose funding, or winding up needing to spend so much of our time and energy trying to keep this program afloat. Brent Broaddus has an opportunity to work with a group of agencies within his community to start 4-H clubs for a younger age range (elementary school) than Juntos targets (middle and high school), and we have discussed trying to develop a curriculum that takes Juntos principles and brings them to a younger group. It would be much more doable to target this group, given the level of existing community support, including people who would assist with tutoring and other services which we can't provide through Extension. We are also going to discuss this program with Elver Pardo, who has an interest in potentially implementing this program in Orlando, as well as our program leader, Michael Gutter, regarding funding issues. While we remain inter-

ested in bringing the principles of this program to Florida, we are hoping to figure out a more cost-efficient and sustainable way of running the program.

Location: UC Davis, online BPCS

Soohyoun Ahn, Assistant Professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition

With the Mini Grant that I received in August 2014, I enrolled myself to the online Better Process Control School (BPCS) offered by UC Davis through the web. The course started in late April of 2015, and this course is still ongoing with the tentative end date of July 31st. From this course, I have learned the principles of thermal processing of canned foods and its operation and evaluation under the FDA and USDA regulations. I have already met the minimum requirements to obtain the certification from this course, which will be mailed at the end of this course. I am currently working with Dr. Amarat (Amy) Simonne in FYCS as coordinators of BPCS at UF to start our own BPCS course here at UF. Knowledge obtained from the course I have enrolled helped me prepare the course I will teach under our own BPCS and I also had opportunity to observe how this multi-day program consisting of nearly 20 different topics can be offered through online. This experiences will be valuable when I continue to work in developing our own UF program.

Location: Waste to Worth Conference 2015

Jamie Cohen, Extension Agent I, Marion County

The Manure Expo will bring together the nation's best science and innovative outreach, combining individuals who work specifically with animal agriculture and environmental waste. The conference is not actually taking place until mid-July, but it will present tremendous opportunities for me to meet and network at a national conference that is dedicated to all things involved with manure management. This year, I am a presenter at the Manure Expo, giving my talk about the changes and improvements that have specifically made to farms over the years as a result of my program's education and outreach. Additionally, multi-state collaborations at the North American Manure Expo 2014 were developed that have resulted in a group of us to being able to develop an upcoming webcast on composting specifics:

<https://learn.extension.org/events/2124#.VYMRmU3bKP9> UPCOMING WEBCAST Horse Manure Composting: Specific Steps to Start or Improve the Process, Friday, June 19 at 2:30 pm EDT

Lastly, I am a member of LPELC, Livestock Poultry Environmental Learning Center, through eXtension.org. This site is how I originally learned about the Manure Expo and others in involved with manure/nutrient management. I am a "Manure Expert" in this group; attending this expo enabled me to have face to face meetings with others in this national team. This is one of only two opportunities we have to meet face to face during the year.

Please let me know if something further is required and my apologies for the tardy report,

Location: APGA Small Garden Symposium

Kelly Greer, Program County Extension Agent I, Orange County

The APGA Small Garden Symposium drove home the opportunity Extension gardens have in becoming leaders in local sustainability issues and the importance of knowing our communities. If we are to become a catalyst for change we have to connect with our clientele both emotionally and intellectually. We connect with our clientele through our mission, our stories and tapping into the interests of the community.

Mark Weathington's presentation on plant collection's reminded us all to have fun in our gardens along with meeting our mission. It is important to create visual interest and excitement in our gardens. This can be done by "Planning First Planting Last" but keep it interesting and don't forget the mission. By developing great collections or demonstrations, adding to them and changing them we can keep our clientele coming back to see what's new. Once again it's about connecting both emotionally and intellectually.

What is the role of social media? Again it's to connect. Visual content engages clientele. Through the use of photos, video, time lapse, we can create an on line community. It is important to focus on the unique, capture real moments and have fun with it. Social media is digital storytelling.

- I started a UF/IFAS blog during the conference but have not continued because of the time input to make it great. I have put this on hold for now and may look for a different avenue for disseminating information using technology. Orange County has a very successful Facebook site that is managed by another agent. I was instrumental in connecting our facebook site, twitter account and eventbrite site with the same name Garden Florida. By creating this connection between the venues we think we have seen an increase in our program attendance in the last 6 months.
- One of the first steps taken toward implementing the information I gained was to create an entrance to our gardens. We did not have an "official" beginning to the garden. It is visually interesting and welcoming to our clientele. By defining the entrance to our garden our guests now transition from the outside area to the Exploration Garden.

- The next project is the addition of a pollinator observation deck in the pollinator garden which will be completed the end of June 2015. This deck will be used to provide an area to observe and learn close up the habits of pollinators, butterflies and other insects good or bad in the garden.
 - I developed a Garden Guides program with the Master Gardener volunteers creating an opportunity for them to lead educational tours through the gardens connecting with clientele.
 - I am also working on installing educational signage in each garden to engage our clientele through self-interpretation.
- The purpose of the Exploration Garden is to support our classroom teaching with hands on horticulture demonstrations. Retention of knowledge gained in the classroom is enhanced when combined with hands on activities. By expanding the use of the garden in our Extension programming we can actively demonstrate to clientele the role their gardening can have in environmental stewardship and conservation and in living healthy lifestyles.

Location: Natural Resources Leadership Institute

Carrie Stevenson, Extension Agent II, Escambia County

Participation in the Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) includes training in leadership, communication, consensus building and conflict management, along with techniques and strategies for working with diverse groups of stakeholders. At the end of the program, participants present a practicum which seeks to apply the concepts learned during the program to an actual issue in our county or program area. My practicum focused on gathering community feedback on solutions to flooding and stormwater in a highly flood-prone area of downtown Pensacola. Based on the information gathered from the focus group and related meetings, I coordinated a walking tour of a former creek watershed whose wetland/flood mitigation services may be restored (via daylighting) in the future. The tour included a diverse group of wetland consultants, civil engineers, FDEP staff, an economist, realtors, homeowners, an urban planner, business owners, an archaeologist, and property owners who own a frequently-flooded building in the path of the old creek. It was a lively discussion and at the end, everyone there wanted to know what we do next to make it happen. I'm currently coordinating a working group of interested parties (along with county and city staff) to apply for grant funds for a feasibility study. The experience was the epitome of what NRLI teaches, that those of disparate backgrounds can come together and bring something new to their community in order to solve natural resource, economic, and social problems. My professional development through NRLI gave me the tools, the time, and the means to become a catalyst in what could be a significant project in the sustainable development of my community.

Here you go. Here's a related article that might be of interest, too. I don't have permission to distribute that map anymore (long story) but the article sheds more light and gives you a feel for what the project might look like.

<http://inweekly.net/wordpress/?p=22773>

Location: 2014 Entomological Society of American, Portland, Oregon

Roxanne Connelly, Professor, Florida Medical Entomology Lab, Vero Beach

At the 2014 Entomological Society of American Meeting in Portland, Oregon, this past November, I presented a paper in a symposium celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Extension Service and attended several symposia that provided information on innovative educational methods and tools for my extension programming. The theme of most of the sessions focused on expanding programs out to "new horizons" and effectively communicating science. Ideas from these sessions are helping me to define some underserved audiences and unusual places for outreach and I provide two examples here. 1) We are participating this year with the local Teen Science Café to reach teens in highly diverse communities along the Treasure Coast of Florida to communicate the results of research at the IFAS Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory by providing them with the real world meaning, that is, how it affects their lives, and to teach them how to see "science" in their daily lives. 2) I am currently working on taking an urgent message to select audiences rather than waiting for them to come to me with questions. Most recently there is a need to communicate to the Florida public the dangers of a new mosquito-borne disease and how residents are raising their own mosquitoes in their beautiful Florida yards. I will be presenting a lecture at the 34th Florida Master Gardener conference to train these experts on locating and managing the mosquitoes that occur in Florida yards and asking them to help disseminate the information about the disease, the mosquitoes, and how to do something about it now.

Location: Horticulture Therapy Course, California

Nichelle Demorest, Extension Agent III, Columbia County

In November of 2014, with the financial support of the Professional Development Mini Grant Award, I traveled to California and completed the first in a series of four courses in Horticulture Therapy. These classes are offered by the Horticultural Therapy Institute with credits available through Colorado State University. The following three courses in the series will be offered in North Carolina during the 2016 fiscal year. Horticulture therapy is relatively new, at least as a recognized applied therapy. Most horticulture agents have used therapeutic horticulture to help improve the lives of their clients in hospitals, prisons, schools, rehabilitation centers, retirement homes and aging centers. Now I am aware how gardening activities, when used purposefully in a planned pro-

gram, can help individuals in many more ways. Gardening is a non-threatening and enjoyable way for individuals to meet physical, social and mental goals set by therapists without feeling like they are participating in contrived 'therapy tasks'. Before attending the training, I managed a weekly gardening class at a day-training facility for 30 people with varying degrees of disabilities in which they learned gardening skills transferable to home gardens or related employment. This weekly gardening class has grown to over 40 participants – I need more volunteers! Since learning more specifics about the goals of strengthening muscles, increasing stamina, standing for longer periods of time, following simple and complex directions and improving social skills, I am working more of these opportunities into the weekly lesson for the staff to utilize, as needed. Monthly gardening activities are also provided for Alzheimer patients. As our population ages, it's important that Extension keeps this target audience in mind. We might consider collaboration with therapists and the application of horticulture therapy for prisoners, behaviorally challenged youth, and persons dealing with substance abuse. Our Dean of Research, Dr. Jackie Burns, has challenged us all to think about ways to move extension into urban and population centers. How can we make impacts in urban areas? Horticulture therapy, along with all its applications, may have the potential to meet this challenge.

Location: Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education Conference

Susan Haddock, Extension Agent II, Hillsborough County

A Professional Development Mini Grant afforded this Agent the opportunity to attend the Association for International Agricultural and Extension Education (AIAEE) Conference in Wageningen, Netherlands in April 2015. The conference theme was "Competence and Excellence in Extension and Education." Of course, the theme barely touched the surface of the conference scope. Wageningen University's mission "To explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life" was evident throughout the conference, campus grounds and surrounding areas. It was quite inspiring to see sustainability in practice, especially with thousands of bicycles and hundreds of trains as the major source of transportation. Although, the high price of gasoline could also be the motivating factor.

Sessions addressed strategies, recommendations and experiences on integrating Extension resources and knowledge, primarily in developing countries, toward solving world issues such as: building capacity for food security, water quality and quantity, preventing disease, increasing crop yields, sustainability, and exploring alternative methods to encourage and manage change. Posters presented research results, perceptions of international issues and practical solutions to preserve food and provide clean drinking water.

Exposure to training needs assessments, which enhance competencies in change agents, helped me better understand how each developing country or region responds and adapts uniquely to Extension involvement. Those same competencies will enhance my ability to address the unique learning styles of my broad based clientele which includes ethnically diverse commercial landscape professionals, pesticide applicators and small farms owners. Many international Extension programs are grant funded, so may be limited in the ability to follow-up and track long term impacts. Communication of successful programs is essential to encourage research, education and study abroad programs that enhance Extension's ability to follow-up and continue to respond to worldly problems with timely and fitting solutions. Moving forward in my career, this opportunity has opened the door for future involvement in support of Extension programs in collaboration with international colleagues. As a result of attending the conference, I have also agreed to serve on an AIAEE committee to promote awards for outstanding international programs.

Location: National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Annual National Conference

Shane Michael, Extension Agent II, Seminole County

This Professional Development Mini-Grant allowed me to attend the 2014 National Association of Extension 4-H Agents' annual national conference, held in Minneapolis, MN. Many of the presentations and abstracts during this event had a common theme of technologies and how to incorporate these technologies into my county programming. One of the best sessions from this conference was presented by Dr. Chamberlin from New Mexico, who shared the myths behind technologies and gaming as they relate to youth development. During her presentation she shared many tools, technologies, and apps that her and her team developed to aid positive youth development. These tools include a livestock record book, Ninja Kitchen and Eat-and-Move-O-Matic developed for youth. These interactive games help the 4-Hers to gain skills in their livestock record keeping projects and healthy life styles. In addition Dr. Chamberlain showed apps also developed for 4-H Agents and Leaders. These apps included a volunteer hour recording app, a demographic recording app, and an e-judging app to aid in judging contests. The information I gained from this workshop allowed for me to return to Seminole County and share the apps with my 4-Hers, 4-H Club Leaders, and other agents in the district. In addition, after attending her seminar, myself and other participants from FL were eager to invite Dr. Chamberlin to our 4-H Youth Development Institute in January. Her seminar was well received from the participants at this conference.

Location: 2014 Small Gardens Symposium

Gary W. Knox, Professor, North Florida REC, Quincy

There are many challenges to developing a successful botanical, teaching or display garden. Thanks to a 2014 Professional Development Mini-Grant, these challenges are more manageable at Gardens of the Big Bend, a new botanical and teaching garden being developed at the University of Florida/IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy.

The mini-grant enabled me to participate in the 2014 "Small Gardens Symposium," a two-day teaching and interactive short course provided by the American Public Gardens Association, the national association for public gardens such as botanic gardens, arboreta and teaching gardens. I learned about many different aspects of small garden planning, development and management. Of these, I am specifically adapting the following knowledge and skills to my programming:

- Revenue generation: As a result of presentations at the symposium, we are now exploring fees for weddings in the garden. Revenue would be used to support and enhance our garden.
- Incorporating art in the garden: We are exploring the concept of group-event art to promote the garden and create an art installation.
- Community engagement: Information learned at the symposium will enhance our "Art and Garden" community event planned for October 3, 2015.
- Educational uses: I networked with two Florida county faculty also participating in this symposium: Orange County's Kelly Greer and Palm Beach County's Rochelle Wolberg. As a result, Kelly Greer and I are planning to collaborate on a research/extension project that will result in recommendations for helping Extension professionals use their gardens more effectively for programming.

Participation in the "Small Gardens Symposium" also taught me about master planning, effective fundraising, volunteer management, plant collections management, revenue methods, use of social media for garden marketing, methods for community engagement and incorporating art in the garden. The Small Gardens Symposium was held at Fellows Riverside Gardens, itself a small 13-acre garden in Youngstown, Ohio.

Location: National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference

Nicole Crawson, Extension Agent I, Holmes County

I used my 2014 Professional Development Mini Grant in the amount of \$1,817.00 to attend the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents Conference (NAE4HA) in Minneapolis, MN during the week of October 26-31, 2014. While at the Conference, I co-presented along with colleagues from our university as well as with the University of Georgia on the seminar entitled, "Simple Surveys: Utilization of Evaluations to Document Program Impacts." This conference assisted in the development of additional working relationships with other Extension professionals across the nation. I attended several informative concurrent sessions on STEM programming such as TechXcite and successful volunteer management programming. Thank you for the scholarship funds award so I could attend this national conference.

During the 2014 National Association of Extension 4-H Agent's conference, I had the opportunity to present a workshop that has been a multi-state collaboration over the past two years with the University of Georgia Extension system. Our workshop focused on the development of simple surveys to collect meaningful program data. Using tools developed by UGA, my colleagues, UF/IFAS Extension agents Whitney Cherry and Niki Crawson and I, along with UGA Extension staff Jeff Buckley and Jennifer Cantwell, presented how to create a survey using basic templates along with tools such as verbs for writing measurable objectives and likert scale ratings that agents create surveys that will yield actual data they can use by inputting responses in an easy to use excel spreadsheet that calculates data. As a result of working with UGA, our Florida team has worked closely with other 4-H agents in our district to teach them how to use this system which was implemented in our three counties as well as in our first year of Make a Difference Monday 4-H volunteer training workshops and several other Northwest district wide programs. Our team will also be presenting at the 2015 NAE4-HA Conference on using data collected to create outcome and impact statements.