

EXTENSION

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

**Video Presentation by
Joe Schaefer**

This edition's video presentation is from Joe Schaefer, South District Extension Director, who provides an overview of advisory committees and some resources on to help establish and maintain them.

<http://webdev.ifas.ufl.edu/icsvideo/ComingsGoings/ComingsGoingsAug09.html>

This video presentation utilizes the same streaming technology being used on the Solutions for Your Life web site. If you have Flash Player 8 or higher installed on your computer, you can view the video using Flash. You can download Flash at the following website: <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

Requires Flash Player installed on your PC and a relatively fast broadband connection.

**Great Bay and Sound
Scallop Search**

Bay scallops disappeared from southwest Florida waters decades ago due to degraded water quality and declines in seagrass coverage. In the last couple of years, bay scallops have been observed in SW Florida waters; an indication that water quality and seagrass conditions are improving. On September 12th, 2009, a total of 114 volunteer scientists participated in a scallop search in Lemon Bay and Gasparilla Sound. The goal was to document scallop populations using standardized methods. The morning of the event, volunteers received survey equipment and participated in an orientation on survey methods. They then navigated to assigned locations where they deployed transects, snorkeled and counted live scallops. Volunteers recorded transect location, scallop counts, seagrass type and density, and other pertinent information on data sheets. Volunteers surveyed 111

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Video Presentation by Joe Schaefer | 1 |
| Great Bay and Sound Scallop Search | 1 |
| Monarch Madness | 2 |
| Tip-Toe Through the Fertilizer Ordinance | 2 |
| Palm Beach County/IFAS Extension is Assuring that our Food is Safe | 3 |
| Broward County/IFAS Extension 4-H is Preserving the Environment | 3 |
| Cracked Eggs Prevent Cracked Heads | 4 |
| St Matthews House Gardens | 4 |
| New Faculty | 5 |
| Resignations | 5 |
| Retirements | 5 |

transects during the event which covered a thirty-one nautical mile square area. End of event surveys determined that participants increased their ability to correctly identify bay scallops by 27% and the three seagrass species common to the area by 39%. Participants ranked the onsite training a 9.1 on a scale of 1-10 (10 the highest ranking). This year's scallop search was an important step towards establishing a baseline conditions in our local waters. The data provides important management information for scientists where no data existed. It also allows citizens to be a part of scientific process. "The people who volunteered did so for different reasons, but most participated to give something back to the environmental community. And it was a ton of fun." (Rod Walinchus, Waterline Editor).

Contact: Betty Staugler, Sea Grant, Charlotte County

Monarch Madness

The Panhandle Butterfly House, a UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Horticulture Program, has been recognized by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) as a Search for Excellence National Winner. Following a busy 2009 season in which 11,561 people visited this large butterfly vivarium and surrounding gardens, a fall festival capped off this successful extension program. Monarch Madness was held October 9-11 and featured educational workshops, youth tours, displays/exhibits, kid's crafts, and monarch tagging. Over 2,700 people attended this 3 Annual Butterfly Festival.



Theresa Friday, Santa Rosa County Extension Faculty, volunteers and staff worked several weeks to rear approximately 200 monarchs in order to allow children to participate in the tagging program. Children were taught the importance of butterflies and allowed to assist in placing a small tag on the wings of their monarch. In addition, participants attending learning stations designed to teach the life stages of butterflies were certified a "Junior Lepidopterist" and allowed to release a butterfly into the vivarium.

Contact: Theresa Friday, Environmental Horticulture, Santa Rosa County



Tip-Toe Through the Fertilizer Ordinance

In 2009 Charlotte County Extension was charged with the task of conducting an annual review of how the 2008 Fertilizer Ordinance was working in regards to BMP Training, Code Enforcement issues and other challenging items that may need tweaking. Accordingly,

a Fertilizer Ordinance Summit, hosted by Charlotte County, was scheduled for April 29th. Seventeen (17) BMP Practitioners from Lee, Charlotte and Sarasota County were invited to attend and discuss what was and what was not working within the various surrounding County Ordinances. Special Guest Speaker, Dr. George Hochmuth II joined the group via PolyCom from Gainesville and updated the gathering on pending State Legislation as well as the new EDIS publication on Fertilizer Ordinances. Minutes were recorded and a concise document prepared for the Charlotte County BOCC. This final report document was also posted online at

<http://charlotte.ifas.ufl.edu/horticulture/fertilizer/YearEndReview2009.pdf> for review by the general public.

This Summit was followed by a Fertilizer Ordinance Public Forum held on May 27th. Charlotte County residents were encouraged to attend and provide comments and suggestions related to the Ordinance as well as Best Management Practices concerning the Green Industry, Fertilizer Application and water quality issues. Staff shared results from the past year and provided updates on future programming. Nine (9) people attended and provided comments.

Overall, while some of the various Ordinance Stakeholders were contentious at times, the attendees did provide useful input and were updated on the progress made with this comprehensive program.

Contact: Ralph E. Mitchell, County Extension Director, Charlotte County

Palm Beach County/IFAS Extension is Assuring that our Food is Safe

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one in four Americans become ill every year after eating foods contaminated with various bacteria, virus and parasite pathogens. To help address this problem the Palm Beach County/IFAS Extension office has been educating food safety managers in vegetable packinghouses how to reduce the possibility of food contamination. Sixteen of the 18 safety managers trained from 2005 to 2008 scored above 93% in their self audit inspections. Conducting voluntary self audits will

help farm managers identify the most critical food safety hazard areas in their operations, and provides them with the opportunity to correct them before an official audit is conducted by the Division of Food Safety with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Failing an official audit can result in delays in processing until the problems are corrected which equates to significant economic loss. The most important impacts of this training program are that millions of dollars and possible loss of lives saved by reducing contamination outbreaks.

Contact: Cesar Asuaje, Agriculture, Palm Beach County

Broward County/IFAS Extension 4-H is Preserving the Environment

Broward County Board of County Commissioners established eight goals toward the success of a high standard of living for residents of the county. Goal 8, which is to, "Preserve the environment as a globally competitive value and promote benchmark improvements to our stakeholders," is the framework under which the Junior Master Gardener program was formed. The Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program uses research-based information to build leadership, citizenship, and life skills in young people ages 5 to 18 through hands-on environmental education. This two-year program develops awareness, knowledge, and appreciation for the natural environment in youth, as well as develops their ability to recognize community needs and meet those needs through service. In 2009, Broward County JMG was named a Program of Excellence, and one of the top-five 4-H programs in Florida, by the Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents organization.

The Broward County 4-H Junior Master Gardener program has collaborated with the Broward County Extension Urban Horticulture program and Master Gardener volunteers, the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS), and the Old Davie School House, since the program began in Broward in 2003. The garden at MODS continues to be an exhibit and is open to thousands of annual patrons. The success of the program was evident when the museum expansion committee

requested the 4-H volunteers and members assist with implementation of the new garden. The program's evaluation continued to show success when the number of groups grew from two to four with enrollment going from 20 youth and 10 adults to its current enrollment of 76 youth and 34 adults.

During the 2008-2009 4-H year, 4-H and partner-organization volunteers spent 9,268 hours of time serving the JMG program. At the current rate of \$20.25 per volunteer hour, this equates to \$187,677 in cost savings to the county, in terms of staff. Recent JMG graduates have continued their work and 4-H citizenship by partnering with the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation to plan and install new landscaping around the historic 1916 Annie Beck House in Middle River Terrace Park and advising MODS in the installation of their new wildlife garden (part of the museum's expansion program) to be completed sometime in 2011. In addition, a new JMG class began in September 2009 and was filled to capacity.

Contact: Angelina Toomey, 4-H, Broward County

Cracked Eggs Prevent Cracked Heads

Helmets have been mandatory in Florida for bicycle riders under the age of 16 since 1997. Noncompliance with the helmet law varies for many reasons, such as cost, comfort, lack of enforcement by parents and authorities, and the child's misunderstanding of the helmet's purpose and function. The Collier County Community Traffic Safety Team has made increased helmet use a priority. During a recent Child Safety Fair, 4-H provided a safety demonstration for the youth who were waiting to receive a free helmet from the CTST. Specifically, the youth and parents were given a handout that showed the average depth of a 12 year old and an adult skull. Both groups were then encouraged to feel gelatin, which is used as a prop to demonstrate the consistency of brain matter. Finally, the youth were given the opportunity to drop raw eggs into a container of packing foam (replicating the lining of a bicycle helmet) and then onto the carpeted floor. As expected, the eggs did not crack when dropped on the foam and

often did not crack when first dropped upon the floor. This exercise demonstrated very vividly to the youth the value of protecting their heads from an impact. It also illustrated that even if they have survived one or more impacts unscathed, eventually their luck will end. Comments from the parents such as: 'I see now that even I should wear a helmet' attest to the power of this visual demonstration to develop self motivation for compliance with the helmet law.

Contact: Ruth Hubing, 4-H, Collier County

St Matthews House Gardens

Whether building a diversified vegetable garden or just one to attract butterflies, the interest in the creating community based gardens has increased in many Collier County communities. The brainchild of a community volunteer, Steven Kitchen, the St Matthews House Homeless Shelter vegetable garden has taken shape. The solicitation of donated building supplies, plants and volunteer community labor has resulted in five 6 X 20 foot garden sites on the shelter grounds containing a variety of fruits and vegetables. Chuck Rey, Collier County University Extension Master Gardener has assisted in creating a therapeutic garden site on land behind this Naples homeless shelter. The objective is to provide shelter patrons a therapeutic break from day-today obstacles by donating their time working in the garden. A side benefit is providing a sustainable way to produce some fresh food for the on-site kitchen and pantry. Butterfly and bee attractant plantings are being donated to complete the natural landscape of the gardens. Extension has provided informational education in the form of hands-on demonstration to residents. As a result of these efforts, the St. Matthews House Homeless Shelter gardens are sprouting new growth for both mind and body.

Contact: Robert Halman, County Extension Director, Collier County

New Faculty

Please welcome the following new faculty:

Matthew Lenhardt, Horticulture Extension Agent I,
Citrus County, 08/22/09

Scott Taylor, FCS Extension Agent I, Hernando
County, 10/01/09

Stephen F. Theberge, Program Extension Agent I, Bay
County, 10/30/09

Resignations

We want to wish the following faculty the best of luck in
their endeavors:

Jevetta Stanford, 4-H/EFNEP Program EA I, Duval
County, 8/1/2009

Nicole Crawson, 4-HEA I, Holmes County, 8/28/2009

Retirements

After many years of service and dedication, Oliver
Patrick Miller (Okeechobee CED and Dairy/Water
Extension Agent IV) and James Selph (Desoto CED and
Agricultural/4-H Extension Agent IV) have retired. We
want to thank them for all of their contributions to
UF/IFAS Extension.



Extension Comings and Goings is a monthly newsletter
of 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 Liz Rossen at lizann@ufl.edu.
