



## Dean's Notes and Quotes

Our webinar series **Extension Connections** on October 21st was a great success. During this last session we went over some key points regarding statewide initiatives as well as Annual Reporting topics. With a special thank you to Dr. Cheri Brodeur and Diane Craig, we covered areas of PDEC and its role with extension. For those who missed this webinar, here is a link with the recorded session as well as future session dates so that you can reserve the time on your schedules.

### [UF/IFAS Extension Connections](#)

I look forward to interacting with you during our next **Extension Connections** session on November 25<sup>th</sup>!

Regards,  
Dr. Nick Place

"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning" - Benjamin Franklin



## October 2013

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## Deadlines & Events

**December 6, 2013** - County faculty must submit their ROA and POW

**January 14, 2014** - Nominations to the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars (ADTS/ Academy) are due (directions: <http://fora.ua.ufl.edu/docs/70/ADTSApplicationGuidelines.pdf> ) Application packets are due by January 14, 2014 to [mccrayi@ufl.edu](mailto:mccrayi@ufl.edu)

**January 15, 2014** - Complete entering in workload and impacts data

Extension is 80 percent of my job. I spend most days at the computer. A major part of my day is to manage several websites for the Entomology and Nematology Department and to collaborate with two CoPs for eXtension. Featured Creatures (<http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/creatures/>), UF/ IFAS Presentations (<http://entomology.ifas.ufl.edu/fasulo/presentations>), and School IPM (<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>) take most of my time. I manage the Entomology and Nematology Department's Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest accounts and the UF Natural Area Teaching lab Facebook and Twitter accounts. A few hours out of the month I work on newsletters for the Entomology and Nematology Department and the Florida School IPM program.

In addition to these activities, I am the chair of the UF Natural Area Teaching lab, a 60-acre outdoor lab on the main UF campus in Gainesville. This lab is used by the public for recreation and education as well as by UF faculty, staff and students for research and teaching.

I have a 20 percent teaching appointment and I have taught or am teaching three very different courses this year. In the spring, I co-teach Grant Writing. In the summer, I teach an online course, Landscape IPM: Ornamentals and Turf. In the fall I teach a course called Insects as Vectors of Plant Pathogens.

For folks that do not know... I like to cook, garden, golf, and travel. I am a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Morocco 1998-2000). I was married on the 4th of July in 2008 to Phil Kaufman (an Associate Professor in the Entomology and Nematology Department). He and I have two cats and two English-style chocolate Labradors, although Phil vehemently denies cat ownership. We keep chickens, and while I might talk to them a bit, they are not pets.

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## Meet Your Specialist



**Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman**  
Associate Extension  
Scientist

Ph.D. UF in Plant  
Pathology

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Tel: 352-273-3950

I came to the University of Florida from the USDA ARS Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology where I was a research molecular biologist. My specialties are entomology extension and outreach support for pest management discipline specialists and county faculty and I also take special interest in community sustainability, agricultural biosecurity, landscape IPM, school IPM and mycology. In 2003, I received my degree in Plant Pathology from UF where I also earned my B.S. in Agricultural Education and Communication in 1998.

## Day Campers Learn to Croak for Fun!

On July 24, 2013, 21 youth attended a day-long FCS/4-H summer camp encouraging them to go “Back-to-Basics.” A group of 12 adult volunteers (including four from Home and Community Education – Fort Dade Club) eagerly joined in to share games, stories, and foods of their younger days with Pasco youth aged 8 to 12, making this a truly inter-generational event.



Frog Chorus youth participants.

Starting with a tale from Mark Twain, frogs became the theme of the day, which also incorporated hopping/tossing games, frog checkers, string games, and frog-decorated bags to hold fresh-baked wheat bread.

A volunteer from the local Pioneer Florida Museum in Dade City came over to share a taste of sugarcane and explain how cane syrup is made.

At the end of the day, after learning about the environment and hearing and practicing frog sounds, all youth participated in a “frog chorus.” They were rewarded for their efforts with a participation ribbon from Avalon Theisen, a 12-year old conservationist and founder of [conserveitforward.org](http://conserveitforward.org).

All campers went home with a backpack full of games to encourage their continued creativity (no electricity needed – only limited by their imagination). Campers were challenged to share what they learned by teaching their brothers/sisters and bringing back memories of their parents/grandparents!

*Betsy Crisp, FCS EA IV, Pasco Cty*

## Extension Helps Residents Save Millions

Pasco Extension educational efforts have resulted in millions of gallons of water savings at residential properties. Extension partnered with the county IT and Utilities departments to identify the areas that are the highest water users and are likely to save greater than 10,000 gallons per month per account. Communication with the resident or builder/owner is made with a telephone solicitation offering a personalized site landscape and irrigation evaluation. Outdoor water use practices are evaluated based on pervious/irrigated area and number of persons in the household. The evaluation typically starts with an evaluation of the automatic irrigation practices. Irrigation clock settings (date, time and duration) and frequency and the existence of a functioning rain shut-off device are the sources of greatest water waste. Other FFL principles are also discussed and evaluated on-site during a tour of the landscape where BMPs are recommended. The benefits of this effort are many, such as delaying the need to build greater water infrastructure, protecting our precious water resources, and saving customers money and landscape frustration.

*BJ Jarvis, CED IV, Pasco Cty*

## Conducting Research with Human Subjects: What You Need to Know

As individuals charged with educating the public, much of our work and consequently our research focuses on human subjects. Human subjects are exactly what they sound like – people! Research involving people is subject to review by UF’s Behavioral/Non-Medical Institutional Review Board known commonly as IRB02 (<http://irb.ufl.edu/irb02/>). If you intend to use the data you’re thinking about collecting “to develop or contribute to generalized knowledge” (IRB02, 2007, para.1),

then the following information applies to YOU! You need to submit your research plan – known as a protocol – to the IRB02 *before* beginning data collection. It generally takes 3 or more weeks to receive an initial response from IRB02; longer if the protocol is complicated (see: *special populations and special circumstances*). Planning ahead will avoid last-minute panic. I’ve been there myself and I see it happen to students ... save yourself the headache whenever you can.

The protocol submission form for social and behavioral research is very easy to fill out. You will need to provide some background information on yourself, and then the following information:

- Date of proposed research
- Source of funding (if applicable)
- Scientific purpose of the study (why are you conducting the research?)
- Description of the research methodology (Are you collecting surveys? Observing people? Conducting interviews?)
- Description of potential benefits (unless you are actually giving something tangible to the participants, the answer to this is usually “none”)
- Description of potential risks (if threat of physical, psychological, or economic harm exists for participants, what will you do to minimize it?)
- How you will select participants
- Maximum number of participants
- Age range of participants
- Amount of compensation/course credit (if applicable)

You will also need to develop and submit an informed consent document *or* a justification for why informed consent should be waived. Informed consent documents explain what will be asked of participants if they choose to participate in the research, address issues of confidentiality, and provide contact information for IRB02 and the researchers. Typically, participants need to sign the informed consent documents.

Exceptions do apply to the standard informed

consent process. If you plan to conduct research with any of the following groups, you will need to carefully review the IRB02 policies related to research with *special populations or special circumstances*:

- Students
- Children
- Prisoners
- Patients
- Mentally Challenged Participants
- Web Based Research
- Non-English Speaking Participants
- Protocols Requiring Deception
- Participants Engaging in Illegal Behavior
- Inclusion of Women and Minorities

In these instances, alternate forms of informed consent may be required such as obtaining oral consent using a script, having authorized representatives (parents/legal guardians) sign, or implied consent. It is best to contact the IRB02 office directly at 352-392-0502 if you think your protocol will include special populations or special circumstances.

The idea of having to go through the IRB02 process may seem intimidating and reason enough not to conduct research. Don’t let this requirement deter you from doing great things! Although some universities make obtaining IRB approval a very cumbersome process, our IRB02 is very “user-friendly.” You know you’ve been thinking about doing research – go ahead and take the plunge today!

Amy Harder, Associate Professor, AEC

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## 4-H Military Partnership Jacksonville: Making the Best Better!

In 2007 Duval County joined the 4-H/Military partnership. This partnership pairs 4-H Agents with youth center personnel to train staff and to maintain 4-H clubs at the youth center. Duval County is fortunate to have two bases: Mayport (NS Mayport) and Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax).



The 4-H Navy partnership has been very successful in Duval county. Both NS Mayport and NAS Jax have a team mentality when it comes to training. Center Staff training is conducted on a rotating schedule, with each base alternating acting as hosts. Each base typically sends 15 to 20 staff to training. This team approach means that each base hosts training on a rotating basis to showcase local programs and cut down on travel from



NS Mayport Director Pam Larsen (on Left)

one base to the other. The trainings that are offered are varied based on the surveyed needs of the bases. Training

has included nuts and bolts such as conducting a 4-H club meeting and 4-H colors and traditions, while others are project specific like bicycling, gardening and junk drawer robotics.



Here Andy Toelle, EA IV in the green shirt, leads a relay where kids try and find "worms" hidden in tall grass at NAS Jacksonville. This activity teaches youth about animal camouflage. Look closely, do you see the "worms?"

In addition to the training, the agent hosts fun camps for the youth at each base during the summer. Fun camps have focused on science and technology and environmental education. This intense effort has been very fruitful.

Both bases have chartered 4-H clubs and hundreds of youth annually benefit from 4-H programming. As a direct result of the 4-H efforts NS Mayport was selected, due to the stellar 4-H program they offer, to be filmed as a "how to do it" for other Navy bases around the globe. This partnership has been great for all parties involved and Duval County 4-H looks forward to maintaining it into the future.

*Andy Toelle, 4-H EA IV, Duval Cty*

## Mixed Fruit Orchard Field Day Bridges the Gap for Small Farms and Homeowners

Several Members of NE District Extension partnered with members of industry and specialists to provide opportunities and training on fruit orchard management. This training was the first in a series of programs focusing on the sustainability of fruit crops in North Florida. The partnership with the Florida Olive Council and Florida Pomegranate Association strengthened the educational value of the program.

Research at NFREC-Quincy and Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center has provided a wealth of information on fruit crop varieties best suited for North Florida and the Suwannee Valley. The goal of this series of programs is to share the experience of what varieties are most sustainable in this area both environmentally and economically, and to educate attendees on what cultural practices are required for the new and alternative fruit trees. Extension Agents involved included Sean McCoy, Carolyn Saft, Aparna Gazula, Bob Hochmuth, Elena Toro and Dan Fenneman. Dr. Pete Andersen, professor of Horticultural Scienc-

es, attended to speak about the research behind the variety recommendations and cultural practices for berry crops. More than 50 attendees toured the center and attended topics focusing on berries, stone fruit, pomegranates, and olives.



Attendees gather near the demonstration orchard at SVAEC, while Sean McCoy points out the various plantings.

In addition to field day-style tours and lectures, the Florida Olive Council offered an additional 1-hour program focusing on opportunities for growing olives in Florida. A pre/post-test was administered to attendees of the program to evaluate knowledge gained and implementation of practices. Of these attendees, 96% responded that they would use the information learned during the program to change their growing practices to be more sustainable.

*Sean McCoy, RSA Rural and Agribusiness Dev EA II, Suwannee Cty*

## Nutritious Nibbles/Healthy Snacking for Older Adults

FNP visited two Elderly Nutrition Services sites (Shady Hills and Southgate) this summer to make sure that older adults in Pasco County were eating right.

Eating healthy is important for all ages but as we age, several issues put this group at increased risk. Eating alone, loss of appetite, problems with taste

and textures, and limited incomes are just a few. FNP program assistants enjoy helping seniors decipher Nutrition Facts labels and solve problems that interfere with healthy eating (including snacks) and drinking enough liquids to improve health and live longer. Using MyPlate, they discuss the advantages of making healthy choices from each of the five food groups.

At the end of the one-hour UF Elder Nutrition and Food Safety (ENAFS) lesson, 25 attendees participated in a short survey: 63% reported that they learned a lot; 54% stated they planned to make changes as a result; 38% planned to choose a variety of snacks from all food groups discussed as well as keep healthy snacks readily available; 29% were determined to only snack when hungry; and 17% planned to try new foods and/or different variations of their all-time favorites! Almost 30% planned to share what they had learned from Extension that day with family and friends. One participant commented to the speaker “Thank you for so many good ideas. I learned a lot about empty calories, added fats, and sugars in many of the foods and drinks I consume!”

*Betsy Crisp, FCS EA IV, Pasco Cty*

## Fuel-Up for FUN with MyPlate and Healthy Snacks

FNP and Parks and Recreation programs teamed-up to offer nutrition education and physical activity while having fun this summer! Six low-income day camp sites were targeted in July 2013 in an ongoing effort to reduce childhood obesity in Pasco County.

In the first lesson, students learned to name the five food groups on *MyPlate*, colors and foods represented in each, and the key consumer messages from the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

After a demonstration of “calories in/calories out” the group understood the health benefits of bal-



First visit "Fuel-Up for Fun with MyPlate" - FNP Program Assistants Brenda Borjas and Karen Faverty at Centennial Middle School, Dade City

ancing calories with physical activity, their need to avoid excessive calories daily and the need to participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. That was put into practice with a heart-pounding, calorie-burning game of *Food Group Fitness Tag*.



Second Visit "Fuel-Up for Fun with Healthy Snacks" - "popping Popcorn" parachute activity at Veteran's Memorial Park, Hudson

In the second visit, FNP program assistants spent another hour teaching participants how to make healthy choices (low in fat, sugar, and salt) when it comes to selecting snacks and beverages. The campers were amazed at how much sugar is found in many of the drinks they consume daily. After the lesson, campers were involved in a hands-on learning activity, *Popping Popcorn*, that used a brightly colored 24-foot parachute. Using pre/post-tests, knowledge increased by 41% (county-wide) with the first lesson and by 45% (county-wide) after the second class. This result showed that 329 campers learned the nutrition

information presented while burning calories and having fun at the same time!

Betsy Crisp, FCS EA IV, Pasco Cty

## Meals on the Grill!

A team of county faculty from the NW District worked together to develop and teach a multi-county and multi-discipline program entitled *Meals on the Grill*. FCS Agents Ricki McWilliams, Judy Corbus and Mandy Griffin along with Agricultural Agent Mark Mauldin taught this program in Walton, Holmes, and Washington Counties to locals of each community.



Meals on the Grill class in Holmes County. No one went home on an empty stomach! (Left to right; Ricki, Mandy, Judy and Mark)

The team provided an educational opportunity to 42 participants through food demonstrations, taste testing and lecture. *Meals on the Grill* focused on healthy cooking methods, recommended steps for food preparation, grilling safety, and selecting retail cuts of meat.

Post surveys indicated participants would be confident and comfortable preparing meals on the grill. Comments included; "Engaging presentations!," "I learned how and why to use a food thermometer," "I never knew there were so many options for meat selections," and "My family will



love having a meal ready in 15 minutes”.



Meals on the Grill Extension team before the program in Jackson County.

*Ricki McWilliams, FCS EA II, Walton Cty*

*Mandy Griffin, FCS EA I, Jackson Cty*

*Judy Corbus, FCS EA IV, Washington Cty*

*Mark Mauldin, Ag/Nat Res EA I, Washington Cty*

## School Enrichment in Baker County

A method that 4-H Youth Development uses to reach children and expand the program is school enrichment. Due to a lack of 4-H member enrollment, school enrichment is a way that the agent in Baker County reaches youth.



Here Kelly McLarty's Kindergarten Class is matching the fruits to the food group it belongs in on their worksheet.

The percentage of adult obesity in Baker County is

35% with the national average at 25%, so there is a need to educate youth about smart choices using YUM! (Youth Understanding MyPlate) to educate youth.

In the spring of 2013, there were 216 participants in school enrichment programs such as chicken embryology, YUM!, and butterfly wings. The school enrichment program, YUM! in particular, had many activities planned that helped participants learn about the food groups and physical activity. The 36 kindergarten participants had a wonderful time. Some of the activities that the youth participated in were barnyard yoga, matching colors with the correct food groups, learning how to choose whole grains, and what good dairy items they should select. The two classrooms that were involved looked forward to the program every week. By the end of the 6-week program, youth knew what foods were associated with food groups and could name examples of corresponding foods. One of the teachers replied in an email that, "I also want you to know how much we enjoyed the YUM! unit. My kids asked for several weeks after the last one if you were coming back. I would definitely like to do that again."

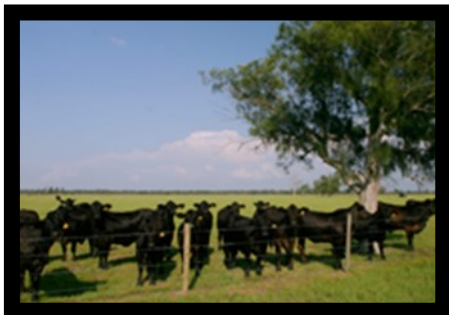
*Shaina Bennett, 4-H EA I, Baker Cty*

## Beef Cattle Production: An Essential Part of Hamilton County Agriculture

Beef cattle production is an essential part of Hamilton County agriculture. However, it has been underutilized. Marketing practices needed to be adopted that would make the industry more profitable. One such marketing practice is "group marketing," which is the practice of grouping a uniform truckload or lot (48,000 to 50,000 lbs) of steer or heifer calves. These large, uniform lots attract a more competitive bid per lb compared with that from selling individual or small groups through local livestock auction markets. By mak-



ing maximum utilization of this production and management/marketing practice, several producers have made their cattle operations more profitable and efficient. The adoption of these marketing practices not only increased their profits, but it is also giving the county a reputation of producing quality cattle.



Maximizing the "Group marketing" production management will increase profits.

During 2012, four producers from three farms sold 2,000 head of cattle through the group marketing process. These producers received an average of 3 cents/lb above market price (an economic impact of 800 lbs/head @ \$.03 extra/lb = \$24/head X 2,000 head = \$48,000). Also, three beef cattle producers have continued a backgrounding/stocker program selling their cattle through the group marketing method.

*Gregory Hicks, Beef/Forage CED IV, Hamilton Cty*

## ***Cedar Key Everlasting*** **Publication Promotes Shellfish** **Aquaculture Industry**

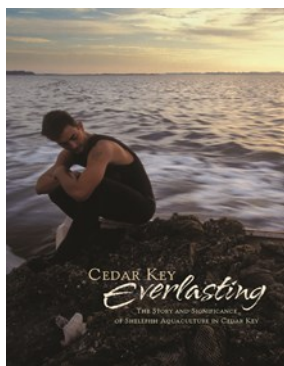
Florida's modern coastal communities are built upon the state's long and storied saltwater heritage, but the fishing communities that once defined the peninsula have all but disappeared in most of the state. The communities and cultures that have survived are facing a combination of challenges such as rapid population growth, deg-

radation of local ecosystems, and marine resource regulations. For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the island community of Cedar Key remained a small fishing village until the 1990s when increasing regulations affected the livelihoods of its fishing families. A transition to shellfish aquaculture was facilitated through retraining programs in the same decade. Today, clam farming adds an estimated \$45 million per year into the area's economy and supports more than 500 jobs.

Until the past decade, Cedar Key escaped the pull of developers despite its prime location. Word spread about this unspoiled region of Florida, often called the "Nature Coast." Although several proposed developments are now on hold, Cedar Key has become a tourist destination. Harvesting of shellfish requires good water quality. Future land-use activities could affect the industry's continued viability. Therefore, in collaboration with the local shellfish growers association, we decided to educate visitors and new residents in an effort to inspire an appreciation for the community's aquaculture and fishing industries, as well as what it takes to sustain them.

A 40-page magazine-style publication, entitled *Cedar Key Everlasting*, features a series of essays contributed by experts in their fields about the environmental, economic, and sociological benefits of clam farming. The photography of Eric Zamora and Carlton Ward, Jr. with Legacy Institute for Nature and Culture (LINC) captures the essence of the community in a way that engages readers and helps carry the science-based messages to the broader audiences. The publication ends with recommendations about what one can do to help keep the coastal environment clean. An interactive flipbook of *Cedar Key Everlasting* can be viewed at my website, <http://shellfish.ifas.ufl.edu>.

To reach the intended audiences, community leaders and businesses were invited to a social and clam bake last year at which time the magazine was debuted. Following this event, we provided additional copies to local real estate agencies, condominium management firms, hotels,



This magazine-style publication was designed to educate the public about the sustainable benefits of shellfish of aquaculture. View it online to experience the community vision of Cedar Key.

chamber of commerce staff, and others. The publication was also distributed during the working waterfronts session of an international aquaculture conference in February 2013 as part of a presentation on how it is an effective educational tool for inspiring appreciation by the public for shellfish aquaculture. Funding provided by the Florida Humanities Council through the National Endowment for the Humanities assisted in printing the publication.

*Leslie Sturmer, Aquatic EA IV, Levy Cty*

## Ag Adventures Field Day Continues in a Tradition of Success

Students from Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla counties participated in the 2013 Annual 4-H Ag Adventures Field Day.

Ag Adventures is an educational, agricultural awareness program that is held annually at the UF-IFAS NFREC in Quincy, FL. It is coordinated by extension agents in participating counties and the NFREC faculty and staff. The program is geared toward elementary school students, and approximately 1,000 students participate each year.

Participants learn about pumpkins, soybeans, cotton, soil, corn, and peanuts and their economic importance in our local and national industries. In addition to learning about these commodities and concepts, youth enjoy fresh boiled peanuts, roast-



Youth listen intently as Gulf County Agent Melanie Taylor. She allows each student to dig a peanut plant and explore the parts of the plant themselves.

ed peanuts, homemade pumpkin muffins, popcorn popped in a kettle right there in the field, and more. Students get to explore fields of crops, a 6-foot deep soil

pit, and a giant maze. Leaving on a tractor-pulled wagon with their own sugar pumpkin, youth are encouraged to bake pumpkin pies and roast the seeds to share with their families.

This field day truly takes youth on an agricultural journey from the seed to the consumer.



Jefferson County Ag Agent, Jed Dillard, teaches youth about the importance of cotton in our everyday lives.

Many thanks to the NFREC faculty and staff, participating schools, program volunteers, Farm Bureau, and Farm Credit of Northwest Florida for their continued support. The results of the combined contributions of these supporters are manifested in average student learning gains each year. Since 2010, evaluation results have shown that 67% (n=3,484) of youth

participants strongly agree that without agriculture, they would not be able to enjoy products such as popcorn, peanut butter, or denim and 81% (n=4,212) strongly agreed that the program helped them understand and appreciate how agriculture affects their everyday lives. Additionally, 45% (n=2,340) of participants reported that they planned on sharing with their parents why agriculture is important.



Youth pause in the peanut field for a picture with Gulf County Agent, Melanie Taylor. She allows each student to dig a peanut plant and explore the parts of the plant themselves.

*Marcus Boston, 4-H EA III, Leon Cty*

*Monica Brinkley, FCS/4-H/Ag/Nat Res EA IV, Liberty Cty*

*Roy Carter, Ag/Comm Dev/4-H EA IV, Gulf Cty*

*Whitney Cherry, 4-H EA I, Calhoun Cty*

*Jed Dillard, Livestock/Wildlife EA I, Jefferson Cty*

*Yolanda Goode, 4-H EA III, Gadsden Cty*

*Sherri Kraeft, 4-H EA II, Wakulla Cty*

*John Lily, 4-H CED IV, Jefferson Cty*

*Judy Ludlow, Nat Res/Hort/Com Dev CED III, Calhoun Cty*

*Stefanie Prevatt, 4-H EA I, Leon Cty*

*Melanie Taylor, 4-H/FCS EA II, Gulf Cty*

## Florida Master Naturalist Program forms Governing Board

As many of you know, Dr. Marty Main is the author and program leader of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP). This program has been used and recognized throughout the country, winning numerous awards. The mission of the FMNP is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world among Flor-

ida's citizens and visitors. The FMNP is an adult education UF-IFAS Extension program that is taught by many extension faculty and other participating organizations throughout the state of Florida. There are seven FMNP courses that can be taken individually or in any order. The three core modules (freshwater, coastal and uplands) are 40 contact hours each and the four special topics (wildlife monitoring, habitat evaluation, conservation science, and environmental interpretation) are 24 contact hours each. Classes include both field experiences and classroom instruction.

To ensure the longevity of this important environmental education program, we are excited to announce the recent establishment of the Florida Master Naturalist Program Governing Board. The primary responsibilities of the Board will be to provide hands on programmatic decision-making and policy development that will help the FMNP to grow and change as needed in the future. The Governing Board has already held two meetings to develop by-laws, establishing meeting schedules and looking at alternative delivery methods to provide educational materials to the class participants.

Current board members, many with more than a decade of teaching the FMNP in their counties, consist of:

**President (Central East Region,** David Griffis, Nat Res CED, Volusia Cty)

**Vice President (Central West Region,** Jeanne Murphy, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Sensing Nature LLC, Pinellas County)

**Secretary (Central East Region,** Ken Gioeli, Nat Res, St. Lucie Cty)

**Boardmember (Northeast Region,** Dr. Carol Wyninger)

**Boardmember (Northwest Region,** Chris Verlinde, FL Sea Grant, Santa Rosa Cty)



*Boardmember (North Central Region, Barton Wil-  
der, Nat Res, Alachua Cty)*

*Boardmember (Southeast Region, Kristen Hoss,  
President, Tanawha Presents LLC)*

*Boardmember (Southwest Region, Betty Staugler,  
FL Sea Grant, Charlotte Cty)*



Members listed are in this photo from top to  
bottom, left to right.

For more information about the Florida Master  
Naturalist Program, please go to [http://  
masternaturalist.org](http://masternaturalist.org).

*David Griffis, Nat Res CED II, Volusia Cty*

## Monarch Madness at the Panhandle Butterfly House

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Monarch Madness took place at  
the Panhandle Butterfly House in Navarre, Florida  
on Friday and Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and  
5<sup>th</sup>. Despite the threat of stormy weather from  
Tropical Storm Karen, the festival forged ahead  
and we were rewarded with bright sunny skies  
and a great turnout. Many enjoyed learning about  
and celebrating the migration of the monarch  
butterfly with 901 children and 1194 adults in

attendance. Monarch Madness is a part of the  
10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Beaches to Woodlands tour that  
showcases the treasures of Santa Rosa County  
every October.



Enjoying the celebration of the  
Monarch Butterfly. Photo by  
Mark Matulik

The Panhandle  
[Butterfly House](#) is a  
certified Monarch  
Waystation with  
[Monarch Watch](#),  
an educational,  
conservation and  
research organiza-  
tion at the Univ. of  
Kansas. The tagging  
program is a part of  
a nationwide re-

search program that helps answer questions  
about the geographic origins of monarchs that  
reach Mexico, the timing and pace of the migra-  
tion, mortality during migration, and changes in  
geographic distribution. Children aged 3 and older  
had the opportunity to tag and release a monarch  
as part of the annual Monarch Watch. Wonder  
and joy was evident on all their faces as they cra-  
dled the butterflies in their hands and then let  
them flutter away and into the surrounding gar-  
dens full of nectar-filled flowers.

Children learned about the life and science of the  
butterfly while earning their Jr. Lepidopterist card.  
This card entitled them to release another butter-  
fly inside the vivarium – a screened structure that  
houses native butterflies along with nectar and  
host plants. The butterflies released inside the vi-  
varium are all native Florida butterflies and they  
included Cloudless Sulfurs, Buckeyes, Julias, and  
Gulf Fritillaries.

As part of the Monarch Madness celebration, the  
Panhandle Butterfly House offered its award-  
winning Kiderpillar School during the week before  
and after the celebration. The curriculum meets  
Sunshine State standards. Youth and school  
groups learn about the life cycle and habits of  
butterflies, the journey of the monarch simulated  
in the gardens, and the ecosystem of the estuary  
and a freshwater pond.

The Panhandle Butterfly House is situated in Na-

varre County Park on Santa Rosa Sound. The county benefits economically from having a tourist attraction in its park. The county schools and other youth groups benefit from having a local educational venue for science-based field trips. The Panhandle Butterfly House opens for the season in late April and closes at Labor Day. It is open to the public Thursday through Saturday with scheduled tours Monday through Wednesday. In a typical year more than 12,000 visitors learn about the biology of butterflies, their role as pollinators, and their importance to the ecosystem. Most of the visitors are local residents but many are tourists from other states and countries; in a typical year the butterfly house has visitors from 10 different countries.



A young visitor releases a butterfly inside the vivarium. Photo by Mark Matulik

The Panhandle Butterfly House is entirely run by volunteers, with about half of them being Florida Master Gardeners. An average of 70 volunteers a year serve as docents, tour guides, gardeners, leaders, coordinators and in building maintenance. As Residential Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Coordinator, I serve as Advisor. My involvement includes recruiting, training and providing guidance to volunteers, facilitating publicity, serving as liaison with the county, producing informational materials, and sitting on the Advisory Board.

*Mary Derrick, Res Hort EA I, Santa Rosa Cty*

## Easy as PIE

Visit our website to learn more about the Easy as PIE Webinar Series: <http://www.piecenter.com/easy-as-pie/>.

Contact Laura Bernheim for more information: [bernheim@ufl.edu](mailto:bernheim@ufl.edu) or 352-273-0793. Registration

for the webinar is required and can be found on the website.

Date: Dec. 4

Time: 2-3 p.m. Eastern

Topic: Floridians' opinions of GMOs, food safety and food security

Speakers:

Joy Rumble, Assistant Professor, UF-IFAS Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, UF-IFAS PIE Center

Kevin Folta, Associate Professor, UF-IFAS Horticultural Sciences Department



Three of the most contentious issues in agriculture come head-to-head in the PIE Center's newest public opinion survey. Genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, have led to genetically modified food, new crop traits and greater control over a food's genetic structure. Food safety practices avoid foodborne illnesses and potentially severe health hazards, while food security refers to the availability and accessibility of food among a growing population. PIE Center researcher Joy Rumble will



share Floridians opinions about these issues, followed by Associate Professor Kevin Folta, who will discuss the public's surprising reactions to the science behind GMOs.

## Professional Development Mini Grants

There is an annual opportunity for State and County Extension faculty to compete for Professional Development Mini-Grants. Professional growth and development are key factors to job satisfaction and effectiveness and \$30,000 was set aside to support local, state, national, and inter-

national initiatives.

A review team evaluated 54 applications selecting the follow 15 awardees:

Carolyn Saft  
Mary Sowerby  
Martie Gillen  
Aparna Gazula  
Randy Cantrell  
Ginny Hinton  
Chad Carr  
Linda Bobroff  
Norma Samuel  
Eleanor Foerste  
Larry Forthun  
Jim Cuda  
Yolanda Goode  
Basil Bactawar  
Amy Mullins

Congratulations!

***Extension Administration***

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## Resignations

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

**Monica Payne, FCS EA I, Citrus Cty**

**Keri Leymaster, Res Hort EA I, Orange Cty**

**Mindy Hittle, Ag EA II, Walton Cty**

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## New Positions

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

**Karen Miliffe, 4-H YD EA II, Orange Cty from 4-H YD EA II, Osceola Cty**

**Jeffrey Gellerman, 4-H YD CED III, Martin Cty from Comm Dev/Sust. EA III, Sarasota Cty**

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## Retirements

We would like to give our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement after many years of service and dedication:



**Joan Bradshaw, Nat Res/Env Hort CED IV, Citrus Cty**



**Vickie Mullins, 4-H EA IV, Santa Rosa 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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