



Dean's Notes and Quotes

Our webinar series Extension Connections last week was another success. During this last session we covered in depth our 100th Anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act. There will be many celebrations and events this year across the state and nationwide. We also covered the many options and features of the [IFAS Communication Toolkit](#).

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 session on March 31st.

Regards,

Dr. Nick Place

"The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate." - Oprah Winfrey

February 2014

Table of Contents

Dean's Notes and Quotes	1
100th Anniversary	2
Meet Your Specialist	2
Hot Topic!	3
LGET Webinar	3
Robotics for 4-H'ers	4
Bovine Buzzer	5
Farm to Community	5
Broward Master Gardener	6
Improving Quality Child Care	6
Freeze the Gain	7
Florida Friendly Tours	8
Improving Parenting	9
FFL Practices	9
4-H YD State Spirit Award	10
School Vegetable Gardens	10
Easy as PIE	11
Waterwise	12
New Hires/New Positions/Etc...	13



100th Anniversary

It is not very often that we get to celebrate 100 years of service to the public. We kicked-off the statewide celebrations of the Smith-Lever Act Centennial at the Florida State Fair in grand fashion and it could not have been any better! Many thanks to everyone who participated and volunteered. Future celebrations include:

- March 5 (5:30 – 7:30 p.m.) Cooperative Extension's Legacy and Vision for the Future: Extending Knowledge, Changing Lives – Cafeteria (B-357), Rayburn House Office Bldg recognizing the Centennial of the Smith-Lever Act (1914), the Founding Legislation of the nationwide Cooperative Extension System.
- April 16 (9 am-4 pm) — Centennial Crop Block Party/Sensory Garden. Perry Paige Building, Pinder Dr., FAMU Campus. Contact Dr. Alex Bolques (850) 875-7255 alexbolquez@famu.edu
- April 17 (11am – 2 pm) - University of Florida's Official Smith-Lever Act 100th Anniversary Celebration. Plaza of the Americas, UF Campus, Gainesville.
- May 7-8 - National Cooperative Extension Centennial Convocation and Celebration, Washington, DC.
- May 8 (10 am-2 pm) — 100th Anniversary Extension Birthday Party @ the FAMU Quadrangle.
- August 29 — EPAF Dean's Administration Luncheon, Wyndam Bay Point Resort, Panama City Beach.
- June 7 - FAMU Extension agents honored for their contribution to FAMU Extension and the Florida Extension System at the Spring Farm Fest-Springtime Agri-Showcase, FAMU Research & Ex-

tension Center-Quincy, FL.

- December 6 – Extension Centennial Celebration Conclusion at FAMU.

Informational links:

<http://ifas.ufl.edu/smith-lever100.shtml>

www.extension100years.net



Meet Your Specialist



Joshua Freeman

Associate Professor

Ph.D. in Horticultural
Sciences

Email: [josh-
uafr@ufl.edu](mailto:josh-uafr@ufl.edu)

Tel: 850-875-7128

I came to the University of Florida from Virginia Tech where I was an Assistant Professor and vegetable extension specialist located at the Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

My specialties are vegetable cropping systems, especially tomato, watermelon, melon, string bean, and potato. Much of my research and extension program over the last six years has focused on methyl bromide alternatives for plasticulture production and nutrient and water management in plasticulture. I also take a special interest in soil borne disease management in tomato and cucurbits through grafting.

I earned my Ph.D. from the University of Florida in Horticultural Sciences in 2007 and my B.S. from Clemson University in Entomology in 2002.

I am always in awe of agriculture. I think it is an incredible thing to plant a seed, maintain a crop, and see that come to completion in harvest. I feel very strongly about maintaining a vibrant vegetable production industry in the US and my personal and professional goals are to help farmers be as productive and as efficient as possible. I know that fresh vegetables are a critical part of human health and another goal of mine is to make them more accessible to a greater proportion of our population. It is a great opportunity to be back in Florida and I look forward to working with vegeta-

ble producers and extension faculty throughout the state.

LGET Webinar

Local Government Extension Training (LGET) webinar, [Communicating with Local Government Leaders: 8 Great Opening Lines](#) is now available.

You can access past webinars at: <http://lget.org/archived-web-conferences/>

LGET Webinar: Communicating with Local Government Leaders: 8 Great Opening Lines

Brian Raison, Assistant Professor, Ohio State University Extension

If Extension educators are not talking with local government leaders on a regular basis, they should be. Whether providing an informal “update” on recent activities, teaching a more formal seminar (leadership, land use, economic impact, etc.), or making a budget request, you have the opportunity to increase credibility by starting with an immediate, meaningful, connecting introduction. This webinar will provide 8 approaches that can help you quickly attain the attention of local government leaders and make a more powerful impact.

As always, we welcome your ideas for future webinar presenters. Also, if you know of others interested to join the LGET list serve, please send a request to commdev@montana.edu.

Paul Lachapelle, Associate Professor, Extension Community Development Specialist, Department of Political Science, Montana State University
www.msucommunitydevelopment.org
406-994-3620 paul.lachapelle@montana.edu

Robotics Provide Unique Opportunities for 4-H'ers



Heather Kent, Extension NW District RSA, explains the programming process to a volunteer participant.

Five years ago, National 4-H set out to create 1 million new scientists through focused and targeted Science, Technology, Engineering and Math 4-H programs to address an alarming trend in the United States. With fierce global competition, the US was facing a startling shortage of scientists... not to

mention that only 18% of high school seniors were considered science proficient (National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2005). Furthermore, only 5% of US graduates were earning science, engineering or technology degrees compared with 66% in Japan and 59% in China.

Since the National 4-H initiative began in 2009, Florida 4-H has embraced preparing the next generation of scientists through club programs, camps, school enrichment and after-school programs. 4-H Youth Development Agents and volunteers have embraced trainings to learn how to include science concepts in all 4-H projects, teach

through scientific inquiry, and incorporate science, engineering and technology abilities throughout the 4-H year.

Although the goal of reaching 1 million new scientists was reached, Florida 4-H won't be ceasing its efforts to create scientifically literate youth any time soon. In January 2014, more than 30 4-H



The Completed LEGO Mindstorm Cowbot is ready for testing.

agents and volunteers met in Quincy for an intense 1.5 day training in 4-H robotics. Funded through a Lockheed Martin grant won by 4-H Regional Specialized Agent Heather Kent, grantees went through lessons from the *Junk Drawer Robotics* curriculum and *4-H Robotics: Engineering for Today and Tomorrow* to learn the engineering design process, how to ap-

ply 4-H Essential Elements through robotics programs and recruitment strategies for new volunteers and funding sources.

With instruction by Kent and University of Illinois 4-H Extension Educator Bob Smith (who left a successful engineering career to become a 4-H specialist), 4-H extension faculty and volunteers explored the LEGO® Mindstorm robotics kits by building the CowBot robot, programming it and



Kim Smelcer and 4-H Agent Julie Dillard, both from Washinton Cty, begin assembling their robot using the new LEGO EV3 platform.

participating in challenges. Not only did they collect and interpret data, but they had to analyze their data to make adjustments in their programming to successfully meet their challenges just as their 4-H youth would.

4-H Robotics provides an opportunity

to engage youth, volunteers and corporate employees who can offer science expertise, real world application and mentoring to 4-Hers. Evaluation data collected through the program will be used to evaluate the implementation and impact of 4-H robotics on the county, state and national levels.

Julie Dillard, 4-H YD CED II, Washington Cty

Bovine Buzzer Battle Camps Teach Youth STEM and More

Teaching youth an appreciation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) has been a priority of 4-H to help youth excel in these areas. For the past 5 years, annual multi-county Dairy Quiz Bowl (Bovine Buzzer Battle) Camps have integrated these areas into the agenda for a combined purpose of expanding the interest and knowledge of youth in all aspects of dairy science and prepare them for state and national Dairy Quiz Bowl contests.



The first place 2013 Junior Ayrshire Dairy Quiz Bowl team at the National Ayrshire Convention in Wilmington, Ohio, from Florida. From left: Garrett Greaves, McAlpin; Michael and Hunter Fioretto, Sarasota; and Christain Rodriguez, Live Oak.

In July 2013, eight youth were introduced to the structure of DNA and RNA. Using videos and Lego models, they learned the process of translating RNA codons into amino acid forming proteins. Students learned

the process of embryo transfer from donor to surrogate cows by studying the anatomical parts of the female reproductive tract, the hormones that regulate the reproductive cycle, and the developmental stages of embryos. The youth finally visited a dairy farm where embryos were actually being transferred into recipients. There, they learned about income and expense ledgers and how these pertain to dairy profitability and the difference between colostrum and “regular” milk. Youth also went to a bat conservancy to learn how other animals eat, reproduce, and are the same but unique.

This knowledge was reinforced by quiz bowl practices where students activated buzzers to answer questions and win points for their teams. They also learned team building, sportsmanship and leadership qualities. Besides a 49% increase of

knowledge measured by pre/post tests, students enthusiastically reported amazing their science teachers with their new knowledge and did exceptionally well at national contests, placing first in the Junior Division at the National Ayrshire and second at the National Guernsey Contests in Wilmington, OH, and Tulsa, OK, respectively.

Mary Sowerby, Livestock EA IV, Suwannee Cty

Farm to Community

Eight Agricultural and Community Organizations (Sumter County Farm Bureau, Sumter County Board of County Commissioners, UF/IFAS Extension, Sumter County Agri Alliance, Sumter County Farmers Market, Sumter County Cattlemen, Sumter County Chamber of Commerce, and Sumter Electric Cooperative) organized an agricultural awareness program around Farm-to-City theme.

The cooperation between these large groups is a first to bridge the gap between the producers and consumers in central Florida. In the past a luncheon with speaker has been coordinated by the Farm Bureau. This



Sumter County Elected Officials learn about livestock production during their tour of Pioneer Family Farm (Beville's Ranch)

new program included a keynote speaker (the local state senator), opening ceremony with color guard posting colors, 4-H and FFA representation, 40 agricultural educational exhibits, and an educational VIP farm tour of Sumter County livestock production. Our agricultural enterprises depend on consumers and consumers depend on our agricultural enterprises. We in the United States are blessed with an abundance of safe, healthy, affordable food. Americans spend the least of any country (6.6% of their income) on food. With each generation we lose a connection to agriculture.



Local vegetable farmer, Bud Fussell, talking to Circuit Judge, Bud Hallman, about agricultural commodities during agricultural exhibits at Brownwood.

Scientific studies indicate that the general public has incorrect assumptions about agriculture. The inaugural event educated 300 individuals. Extension facilitated bridging the gap between these organizations, Sumter county elected officials, the agricultural community, and the general public. Sumter County

families will benefit from this educational program through better-informed decision makers, stronger support and awareness of agricultural commodities, and program areas available through UF/IFAS Extension. This committee of eight participating organizations has voted to continue this format of Agri-awareness in the future.

Martha Maddox, FCS EA III, Sumter Cty

Improving the Quality of Child Care for Military Families

Young children rely on caregivers to help them regulate their emotions, learn to control their behavior, and develop strong social relationships, which are significant skills for their future school success. Children of military families also rely on caregivers to help them adjust to prolonged separation from one or both parents. Child care for our military families needs to be high quality in order for children to be well-adjusted and ready to learn. Through a Department of Defense grant and the Childcare and Youth Technical Assistance Program (CYTTAP of Penn State Univ.), an agent taught 51 workshops to 1,032 licensed child care providers. Twelve different workshops titles were taught, including Enhancing Emotional Literacy, Friendship and Play Skills, Building Community, Creating Responsive Environments and Routines, Science for Young Thinkers, Avoid Behavior Prob-

lems, Creating Special Moments with Infants and Toddlers, and more. Post-workshop evaluations results showed that 1,077 participants increased their knowledge of child behaviors, 269 participants learned strategies for building strong relationships with children in their care, 674 participants increased their knowledge of the social and emotional development of young children, 674 learned new strategies to help young children transition, and 847 child care workers learned the importance of being intentional about teaching and supporting social emotional development. Childcare provider training will continue in 2014 with 16 new workshops.

Diana Converse, FCS EA III, Hillsborough Cty

Broward Extension-Master Gardeners Report Annual Statistics

"Who ya gonna call" in Broward County? The answer appears to be the Parks and Recreation Division's Extension Education Section, who's **Florida Master Gardeners** are well known for answering the public's inquiries. Last year the Master Gardeners joined Extension staff in solving nearly 64,000 resident problems – 57,207 inquiries by email, 5,782 by telephone, and 1,740 walk-ins. They also assisted staff in conducting 436 educational programs for 42,623 residents, bringing the overall total of residents assisted to more than 108,000, a new record.

Another record was set by the Master Gardeners, who donated 36,314 hours of public service during the course of the year. That number was no doubt enhanced by the establishment and use of Master Gardener Public Service Centers at six of our park sites: [C.B. Smith Park](#), [Central Broward Regional Park & Stadium](#), [Hillsboro Pineland Natural Area](#), [Plantation Heritage Park](#), [Tradewinds Park & Stables](#), and [T.Y. \(Topeekeegee Yugnee\)](#)

Park. These centers opened in June 2013 to provide volunteer assistance answering inquiries about residential landscaping, integrated pest management, and other topics.

Based on the current private-sector value of volunteer time, which in Florida is \$18.85/hour, these Master Gardener efforts are equivalent to \$684,519 in value, and represents the work that would have been performed by 17.5 full-time employees. In addition, this work has been achieved with a 95% satisfaction rating among users served. Research-based landscaping and integrated pest management information provided by Master Gardeners resulted in substantial natural resource and monetary savings through reductions in fertilizer, pesticide, and water use.

***Dr. John Pipoly, Master Gardener Coordinator/
FFL EA II, Broward Cty***

Freeze the Gain

Freeze the Gain was a successful holiday weight maintenance program that set goals for participants to maintain -- not gain -- weight during that tough 9-week period encompassing Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year holidays! The challenge ran from Nov. 18, 2013, through Jan. 17, 2014.

Freeze the Gain developed by Ricki McWilliams, Walton County Extension FCS Agent, was designed to promote health in order to reduce chronic disease risk through the consumption of healthy diets and increased physical activity. By participating in the "Freeze the Gain Challenge," participants were challenged to demonstrate weight maintenance by comparing pre and post-Challenge weigh-ins (not gaining more than 2 lbs) and report current practices of healthy behaviors and increased knowledge of nutrition and physical activity by completing a post program survey.

The **activities** involved keeping a food and activity journal that was distributed to participants at the official weigh-in to help with tracking, and to aid in maintaining weight. Participants signed up and received weekly emails from Ricki containing information on nutrition and physical activity along with a 1-page fact sheet for easy reference on nutrition/health topics. Educational information for emails was obtained from EDIS publications and nutrition and health curricula. Individuals without email access were sent a paper copy of the email via regular mail. After 9 weeks, participants were asked to come and weigh themselves. Those who weighed out receive a gift for participating. In addition, those who gained no more than 2 lbs above their starting weight were entered to win a grand prize basket.



Harold Shover, FTG Winner & Ricki McWilliams, UF/IFAS Extension Walton Cty FCS EA II. Mr. Shover was selected at random from the 62 participants that qualified for the Grand Prize basket (not gaining more than 2lbs during the Challenge).

Outcomes: As a result of participating in the Freeze the Gain Challenge...

- 86% (n=62) maintained (did not gain more than 2 lbs) during the 9-week program.
- 90% of surveyed participants (n=54) increased their knowledge of healthy nutrition and physical activity behaviors.
- 100% (n=60) of surveyed participants reported adoption of at least one healthy behavior:
 - o Staying active with 30 minutes of activity

57% (n=34);

- o Paying attention to portion control during meal time 70% (n=42);
- o Making healthier food choices with food selection 82% (n=49).
- The survey also indicated that 33% (n=20) of the participants increased their number of days per week exercising for at least 30 min.

The “Freeze the Gain Challenge” 9 week program taught participants about health behaviors related to nutrition and physical activity in order to ensure that they have the skills to achieve and maintain a healthy weight thus reducing risk factors for chronic disease.

Benchmarking this program has allowed the UF/IFAS Extension Walton County FCS program to create community partners and reach a great number of very diverse clientele. Local businesses joined together to support this program. For the 2013-14 Freeze the Gain Challenge, donations for incentives and grand prize gift basket had a combined value greater than \$1,400. Involving local businesses in this program allowed Ricki to create and grow existing partnerships with UF/IFAS Extension.

Everyone that completed the program attended two face-to-face consultations and received 9 educational emails. Program **impact** is reflected on post-evaluation comments:

“Great program for the holidays! Kept me focused on what I ate and how much. I plan to continue this focus in the year ahead. Thanks!”

“Love Ricki’s ideas and enthusiasm. This is the first time in 67 years I have not gained weight over the holidays and it’s all because Ricki taught and inspired me.”

“This program has been very useful and stopped me from overeating.”

“The journal helped me to realize the truth instead of what I’ve been telling myself.”

“Great food journal! It really made me look at what food I eat routinely and how much I exercise.”

“Good program-I became more aware of what I

put in my mouth.”

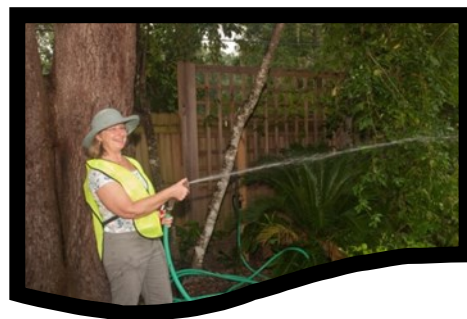
119 individuals joined this Challenge year increasing exposure and attendance in all UF/IFAS Walton County Extension FCS program areas.

Ricki McWilliams, FCS EA II, Walton Cty

Alachua County Florida Friendly Tours an Annual Success

The 6th annual Florida Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) tours and seminar were held on September 18th, 2013. Alachua County residents (150) were invited to tour five area landscapes that exemplify FFL techniques. Attendees were able to tour landscapes that were staffed by Master Gardener volunteers to answer their horticulture questions. At each tour location a teaching station was set up to demonstrate one of the principles of FFL such as appropriate fertilization, mowing, mulching, right plant right place, and micro irrigation.

Attendees of the tours and seminars are often close to making changes in their landscapes. By providing local examples of landscapes and education, attendees will have the tools to move forward with their intentions of having a Florida Friendly Landscape™.



Tour participant Nancy Deren shows the amount of pressure coming from her 2500 gallon cistern.

Of the tour participants that responded to a follow up survey 2 months later, 97% stated they had better information for selecting Florida friendly plants, 66% stated

that they had more information on water conserving practices, and 18% stated that they would fertilize appropriately. As a result of the tour, 18% added a rain barrel to their landscape and 44%

intended to. Sixty four percent added more Florida friendly or native plants to their landscape and 41% increased their mulched areas. By converting an irrigated area to a mulched landscape bed with micro irrigation, a homeowner can save up to 30,000 gallons of water/1000 sq ft/yr.

Wendy Wilber, Env Hort EA III, Alachua Cty

‘Florida Friendly’ Landscaping Practices

In an effort to teach St. Johns County residents to adopt Florida Friendly Landscape practices, multiple seminars and workshops were held. “Make & take” rain barrel and tumbling composter classes have proven popular while helping to change client behavior. In three classes, more than 75 rain barrels were constructed by class participants from food grade 55 gallon plastic drums. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that with regular use during summer months a rain barrel can conserve 1300 gallons of water. In two composting classes, 46 tumbling composters were constructed with the help of Master Gardener volunteers to encourage residents to curb their waste stream while producing organic matter to supplement gardening activities. Another savings to class participants is that the class fees were less than if they went and purchased a commercially

available rain barrel or tumbling composter.

From electronically distributed surveys sent at least 3 months after a learning event, 90% of the respondents indicated they had adopted a Florida Friendly Landscape practice

such as blowing lawn clippings back onto the lawn or modify-



Rain Barrel class.

ing landscape fertilization. Of the survey respondents, 84% indicated they have shared information learned at St. Johns County Extension programs, which can help to preserve Florida’s Environment, with more than 1100 additional individuals.

Dan Cantliffe, CED IV, St. Johns Cty

Improving the Parenting Practices of Families-at-Risk by Focusing on Parenting Styles

Classic studies of parenting styles form the foundation of the early modern research regarding parenting effect on child socialization and academic achievement. These studies distinguish parental styles in three domains – parental responsiveness/warmth, psychological autonomy, and behavioral control/demand. Much of family dysfunction occurs because the parent uses extreme parenting styles in these three areas, resulting in a poor parent/child relationship, delinquent child behaviors, and children’s poor self-esteem. The Hillsborough County Extension parenting class, which is a six-lesson series, begins by examining the participants’ parenting styles. Sixty-seven court-ordered parents learned how the results of their parenting style become evident in their child’s behavior. Their common discipline techniques and communication patterns (both positive and negative) are examined through discussion



Composter Class.

and role-playing. Because parenting styles are commonly passed from generation to generation, parents are given tools to make changes in their extreme parenting style. Evaluation results show that 100% of the participants were able to identify their dominant parenting style, 86% could discuss the strengths and weaknesses of four common parenting styles, 98% of the parents established goals for making changes in their parenting style, and 88% made plans to increase their child's number of developmental assets. Three-month follow-up evaluations showed that 55% felt they had improved family communication, 45% said they increased positive discipline while decreasing negative discipline techniques, 64% felt they had increased their child's self-esteem, and 13% had actually increased the number of their child's developmental assets, which leads to more responsible, productive and successful young adults.

Diana Converse, FCS EA III, Hillsborough Cty

Broward Extension 4-H Youth Development Program Wins State Spirit Award

This year Broward 4-H hosted the 2013 National Youth Science Day. This year's experiment "Maps and Apps" encourage youth to be geospatial thinkers as they designed a new park using geographic information systems. Six clubs that are part of the 4-H program registered their Science Event on the National 4-H webpage. These groups included one school 4-H club (Driftwood Dig Its), three community 4-H clubs (Stepping Stones, Rock Cafe, and the Tropical Troopers 4-H Club (registered as 4-H club)) and two community-based events (County Council Meeting Science Day training and Broward National Youth Science Day at Tree Tops). Our largest gathering was the Broward National Youth Science Day at Tree Tops Park with a total of 140 youth and 40 volunteers. Youth were greeted at the park to maracas, cheers, and a STEM dance created by some of the District Council officers from Miami-Dade and

Broward Counties.

Students were divided into groups of eight and each group was led by a trained facilitator from Broward and Miami-Dade clubs, Broward College Education Program Interns, Broward Extension Education Staff, NOVA Southeastern University School of Optometry students, and staff from the Broward County Environmental Protection Office. As each group worked on their project, volunteer photographers took pictures on their phones and tablets and uploaded them to our social media pages, Instagram and Facebook. Several hashtags were used to market the event. These included #4heverywhere #broward4H #NYSD #browardnationalyouthscienceday and #florida4H.

In total there were 236 youth that participated in the National Youth Science Day through their clubs and through the event at the Tree Tops Park. The Broward 4-H Program won \$3000 towards Science Programs.

Rina LaRosa, 4-H YD EA I, Broward Cty

Creating School Vegetable Gardens in Volusia County

Creating School Vegetable Gardens in Volusia County

- I. The Problem – Volusia County had no elementary schools using vegetable gardens for education.
- II. Partner(s) – The UF/IFAS Extension, Volusia County Urban Horticulture Program partnered with the Family Nutrition Program to provide gardens, hands on learning with Master Gardeners and nutrition education at six elementary schools.
- III. Program – With financial support from the UF/IFAS Farm-to-School Program, schools re-



Education with first graders at Blue Lake Elementary, this little girl was fascinated because she had never seen how a cabbage grows.

ceived materials needed to construct four raised beds employing square-foot gardening principles and four floating hydroponic growing systems. The curricula being used are *Gardening for Grades* and *The Great Garden Detective Adventure*.

- IV. People – The success of the program is due to a collaborative effort between Master Gardeners, teachers who have volunteered to be School Garden Coordinators, UF/IFAS Extension Agents, Program Assistants and the Farm-to-School program.
- V. So what? – As a result of this ongoing effort, several hundred children in Volusia County are now learning the value of growing, harvesting, preparing and eating fresh vegetables. A fourth grade teacher stated, “When we were planting the garden in the very beginning and a student announced to the class, ‘This is just like the computer game Mind Craft!’ I was quick to reply, No, this is real.” In this age of information and technology, students are not grasping the fundamentals of civilization and survival outside of the virtual world. The fact that food can be grown in a garden and not just bought from a grocery store shelf is something these students did not fully understand until they planted the garden.

Joe Sowards, Urban Horticulture EA II, Volusia Cty

Jill Taufer, FCS EA I, Volusia Cty

Easy as PIE!

Date: March 12th

Time: 2-3 pm

Topic: Resolving community issues- A collaborative approach to wicked issues



Muthusami Kumaran
Assistant Professor,
UF/FYCS



Mike Spranger
Professor and Extension
Specialist
UF/FYCS

Sustainability, obesity, climate change, food safety, genetically modified foods, alternative energy.....these are all complex or “wicked” issues that will need to be addressed through interdisciplinary approaches. How do we begin to tackle these issues? What is the role of IFAS Extension and local government in addressing wicked issues?

Join our speakers Mike Spranger and Muthusami Kumaran to learn the answers to these questions and more, including strategies to resolve community issues through collaborative processes. Several case studies will be shared to illustrate real-world successes.

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

Contact Nicole Dodds for more information: ndodds@ufl.edu or 352-273-3139.

Schoolkids Learn to be 'Waterwise'

In 2013, Nassau County Master Gardeners had the opportunity to add rain barrels to youth gardens at Yulee Elementary School and the Boys & Girls Clubs Centers in Yulee and Fernandina Beach through collaboration between Jacksonville Electric Authority, Keep Jacksonville Beautiful, and UF/IFAS Extension in Nassau County



4th grade students from Ms. Desiree Bolton's class at Yulee Elementary School celebrate their new "water wisdom" with Wanda the Stegosaurus dinosaur, the program mascot. Photo credit: Bea Walker

Master Gardeners planned to conduct programming on the importance of rain barrels as a water conservation effort. The oppor-

tunity to expand the educational effort beyond youth garden clubs was realized by establishing a partnership with Scott Hodges, principal of Yulee Elementary School. "Waterwise: The Importance of Water" was developed to help the students examine the importance of water in their everyday lives.

Additionally, the "Waterwise" program was modified for the after-school garden clubs at both Boys & Girls Clubs of Nassau County: the Top Tomato club at the B&G Clubs' Roberts Learning Center (Fernandina Beach) and the Garden Magicians club at the Miller Learning Center (Yulee). Forty-two youth and 5 adults participated in a curriculum that focused exclusively on the Earth's available fresh water and the importance of water in the human body.

Combined with 4-H "Waterwise" materials, other resources were used, including St. Johns River Water Management District (<http://www.lifecoachview.com/vibrant-body/>) and Miami-Dade County. Fairfax County Water Authority, VA provided an interactive computer game on the Hydrologic Cycle.

The session is fun, fast-paced and interactive; it includes a "Land vs. Water" game using an inflatable globe and a computer-based interactive test of hydrologic cycle terms – done in a team format. The program was conducted during the science lab for every class at the school – nearly 800 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders and 43 teachers.

The goal of the program was to have students able to:

- Identify the amount of fresh water on our planet.
- Develop an understanding of the importance of water conservation.
- Describe the three forms of water.
- Describe the water (hydrologic) cycle.

Both the amount of fresh water on the planet and the water cycle are core requirements/questions on FCAT and promote STEM (science, technology and math literacy). Pre- and post-tests were given to each class.

- Overall, there was a **33% improvement** in the total number of correct responses.
- Question on Earth's percent of fresh water showed an overall **84% improvement** in correct responses.
- Question on human body's percent of water saw a **51% improvement** in correct responses.

The post-test results indicate we may now have some future leaders in water conservation in Nassau County!

Rebecca Jordi, Env Hort CED III, Nassau Cty

Special Mention

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

Liz Felter, Commercial Horticulture EA III, Orange Cty, Doctor of Philosophy degree in Agricultural Education and Communication from the University of Florida

Retirements

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

Marcia Morris, 4-H EA II, Sarasota Cty

Mary Lamberts, Veg Crops/Pest Mgt EA IV, Miami-Dade Cty

Anita McKinney, FCS EA IV, Duval Cty

New Hires

We would like to welcome the following new faculty:

Laura Valencia, 4-H YD EA I, Osceola Cty
Fitzroy Beckford, Nat Res/Sm Farms CED III, Lee Cty
Samara Deary, FCS EA I, Bradford/Union Cty
BobbiJo Jarvis, Com Hort/Ag CED III, Citrus Cty
Martha Glenn, Com Orn Hort EA I, Manatee Cty
Michelle Atkinson, Env Hort EA I, Manatee Cty

Resignations

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

Guillermo Salazar, 4-H EA I, Miami-Dade Cty
Allison Beyer, Ag Prg Cty EA I, Putnam/St. Johns Cty

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.
