Dean’s Notes and Quotes

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

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

CES Learning Opportunities
Material of interest sent via email:
Please check out the learning events listed at Learn (Learn.extension.org). These are for your own learning and professional development or for you to share with your audiences! Extend your knowledge and keep more up-to-date on conversations in your areas of expertise and interest.

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

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

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

**Florida Urban Workshop**

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

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

What can we learning from existing Urban Extension programs.
How do we meet the needs of urban communities?

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

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

Regards,

*Dr. Nick Place*

"Good seasons start with good beginnings.”

*Sparky Anderson*
Meet Your Specialist

Dr. Hardev Sandhu, Assistant Professor, Agronomy
Ph.D. in Entomology
Email: hsandhu@ufl.edu
Tel: 561-993-1567

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

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

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

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

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

UF/IFAS Treasure Coast Green Industries Working Group

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

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

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

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

Three main teaching components are offered via the Treasure Coast Green Industries Working Group (TCGIWG); Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) training and certification, Limited Commercial Landscape Maintenance (LCLM), pesticide license training and other classes that offered CEU’s in various categories for the Chapters 482 and 487 licenses. Each of the four counties provided various trainings on a rotational basis with all agents participating as instructors and the host county being responsible for organization and execution. This enabled the working group to offer more classes to clientele without increasing the workload on individual agents. Traditional classroom-style setting was the method used for a majority of the trainings. Included were lectures, videos, hands-on activities (classroom and field) demonstrations, and in-class worksheets to emphasize particular learning objectives. Test taking opportunities for certification compliance or pesticide licensing requirements were also part of the program.

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

Given the close geographical location between the four counties of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee (30-75 minutes between any two offices), there is a definite advantage for the agents delivering green industry programs to work together as a team. Agents have the opportunity to spend more time developing a particular expertise and focusing on 1 or 2 topical areas instead of trying to teach all subjects. More programs can also be delivered with a wider variety being offered to clientele. Care must be taken to have planning meetings where training dates and locations are selected, and specific tasks are assigned so that each activity is executed in a manner that is most beneficial to the green industry participant, meeting their needs and expectations for licensure and work continuity.
Finally, I want to recognize our colleagues who have contributed to advancing our scholarship in the April issue of JOE. Happy reading!

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

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

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


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

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

Our extension team from the UF/IFAS Hydrilla Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Project (RAMP) has partnered with Florida LAKEWATCH to distribute information on hydrilla management to citizens. As an invasive freshwater plant, hydrilla causes many problems in Florida’s freshwater bodies. Since its accidental release into the environment in Florida in the 1950s, this plant has spread to nearly every county in the state. When left unchecked, hydrilla can develop into damaging infestations that displace native plants and impede various functions of the infested water body, including flood control, navigation, and recreational
To evaluate novel and sustainable management tactics, research at UF/IFAS is ongoing to help develop IPM plans for hydrilla. As new information becomes available, it needs to be distributed to a large and diverse group of stakeholders including waterfront homeowners, water body managers, recreational water enthusiasts, and businesses that support ecotourism. Our UF/IFAS Extension team therefore targets this wide audience by providing county extension offices with Hydrilla IPM program materials, and by delivering online and on-site trainings on hydrilla IPM. The partnership with Florida LAKEWATCH has greatly facilitated our statewide extension campaign by helping us reach citizens who are directly involved in lake health monitoring. Florida LAKEWATCH is a lake monitoring program that has brought science to citizens since 1986 by engaging them in sampling water bodies in Florida. During annual regional meetings, the volunteering citizens receive updates on sampling efforts, results from water quality assessments, and new information on pressing issues regarding our state’s freshwater resources.

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

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

EnviroScape® Watershed Model and Extension Great Educational Combo

_Terry DelValle, Hort EA IV, Duval Cty_

The Lower St. Johns River Main Stem Basin is impaired and the City of Jacksonville has developed a management action plan to reduce the nitrogen load. Part of this plan is providing educational programs about pollutants and stormwater runoff. To assist, funding was obtained to educate youth about responsible gardening practices and how this impacts our water bodies. Urban Horticulture Extension Agent Terry DelValle, along with Master Gardener volunteers developed a program using the EnviroScape® Watershed/Nonpoint Source Model targeting elementary age students. The program introduces the watershed model, water bodies in Duval County, potential pollutants, how pollutants affect the environment and how to prevent pollution. Students are engaged in identifying the components of the watershed: neighborhood, construction site, sewage treatment plant, golf course, factory, farm, roads and water bodies. Discussion moves to what pollutants are: trash, fertilizer, pesticides, oil, pet wastes, and soil. Students take turns applying pollutants to areas where they would most likely occur. Then they make it rain using spray bottles. Pollutants dissolve and run directly into the water body showing how they move off site to pollute water.

In 2014, ten presentations were given to 324 students. To access knowledge gain, students were asked before and after questions. There was a 77% (n=310) knowledge gain when asked if they lived on a watershed and a 30% gain in understanding that they could help reduce pollution.
More requests are coming from other schools and there are plans to train more Master Gardeners to meet this increasing demand.

---

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

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

Taylor County is a rural community with limited planned summer activities for youth, and has chronically above state averages in poverty levels and unemployment. During the summer months, youth in Taylor County are limited in choices and need a safe place to go where they can continue to learn and enhance their out-of-school time. As a 4-H agent it is important to reach a diverse audience and meet the needs of all youth in Taylor County. The Taylor County 4-H agent coordinated, planned, and implemented two, four day, four hour co-ed soccer day camps. These camps highlighted how to control the soccer ball, techniques of offense and defense, how to be a team player, how to work with teammates to score a goal, and nutrition. Healthy Living is a cornerstone of 4-H nationally and is even part of our pledge; “I pledge my health to better living”. 4-H believes that healthy living habits of young people begin in the context of their families and communities. Florida 4-H strives to equip youth with healthy living knowledge and skills that will prepare them physically, emotionally, and socially to meet the challenges of the 21st century. They learned eye and leg coordination, body flexibility, rapid situation analysis, fast decision making skills, play without the ball, nutrition, hydration, verbal, and nonverbal communication, strikes on the ball, rules of the game, being a part of a team, defense, offense, and trapping and heading. Youth and parents were pleased that a 4-H Soccer day camp was provided and hope to have one for the summer of 2014. They were also impressed that Taylor County 4-H was willing to “step out” of the typical 4-H programs to reach an audience of youth that are passionate about sports and teamwork.

---

**The Power of One**

*Jenny Jump, FCS EA I, Columbia Cty*

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2010 includes food safety recommendations when preparing and eating foods to reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), foodborne illnesses cost over $6.5 billion annually resulting from approximately 76 million illnesses and 5,000 deaths. The CDC data also shows that more than 50% of reported foodborne illness cases are attributed to foodservice establishments. As a result a national certification was put in place for managers of foodservice establishments. ServSafe was developed by the National Restaurant Association (NRA) to educate food managers in the pre-
vention of foodborne illnesses in foodservice establishments. While most participants attend a onetime class and then take their test the same day, there are a few who do not do so well in these situations. There was a participant who had attended two ServSafe classes by two different extension agents and had failed both exams. Her employer contacted me and asked if I would be willing to do some individualized training with her. She attended a one on one with me twice to review material. On her next exam, which was her last chance at a promotion in this facility, this participant passed her next exam and received a 96/100. This shows the importance of still meeting one on one with participants!

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

Never having been involved after an emergency, CED Katherine Allen contacted two extension specialists in Gainesville, Dr. Randy Cantrell and Dr. Mike Spranger for their guidance. A brainstorming session led to a bus tour to see how Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds have been utilized for revitalization efforts in other counties. Their submission of a Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) award was selected from a national pool of 31 applicants. The workshop (figure 1) was to help Live Oak utilize four nationally renowned experts (figure 2) in the development of a brand (figure 3), examination of connectivity/walkability within the community and business development. Other successes include: increased citizen participation (figure 4) by sending meeting announcements via email unsolicited proposals (Paint the Town, Artist in Residence, Parade of Trees, Lunch in the Park) by citizens to assist in the redevelopment efforts; feasibility tour for amphitheater; startup of a Business Retention and Expansion program, hiring of a Small Business Development Consultant in Live Oak; a great video by a CIRD participant; farmer’s market starting May 16, 2014; officials consulting experts on design decisions; $15,000 National Association of Realtors’ SmartGrowth Grant; and city participation on national walkability panel. The increased civic engagement has resulted in better...
Extension submitted the application and served as the facilitator for the workshop, bringing a diverse audience to the same table.

---

National Extension Technology Community 2014

Scott Jackson, Sea Grant EA III, Bay Cty

The National Extension Technology Community (NETC) held its annual conference May 20 – 22 in Manhattan, KS. Manhattan is the home to Land-Grant University Kansas State (KSU). The conference was attended by 140 extension faculty and information technology specialists from universities across the U.S. Representing UF/IFAS Extension were John Wells (NW District IT Expert), Whitney Cherry (Calhoun County 4-H Extension Agent), Julie Dillard (Washington County 4-H Extension Agent / CED), Scott Jackson (Bay County Sea Grant Regional Specialized Agent), and Jennifer Sykes (Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology Web Coordinator).

A total of 12 concurrent abstract sessions insured something for everyone to learn and take home. The UF/IFAS Extension team presented two – fifty minute training sessions contributing to the peer exchange of information. Cherry, Dillard, and Jackson presented “Mobilizing Extension Programs: Meeting the Needs of Today's Clientele”, summarizing experiences from the 4-H volunteer training program “Make a Difference Mondays”. This program simulcast traditional volunteer training from Extension offices to homes through Adobe Connect which providing convenience and time savings for 4-H volunteers. Wells and Jackson ended the week with a final presentation, “Combining Web Articles, Email Subscription Services, and Social Media to Create a Recipe for Effective Extension Educational Campaigns”. This presentation was designed to highlight effective use of the IFAS Subscription Message System (SMS) to increase outreach and readership of web posts.

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

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

---

Wakulla Master Gardeners Teach the Next Generation of Gardeners

Les Harrison, CED III, Wakulla Cty

Wakulla County Master Gardeners are working with Tallahassee Community College and the 21st
Century Community Learning Center Program to teach a new generation about gardening, food, and STEM. Over 100 local elementary and middle school students are enrolled in the nine week educational enhancement program. Each will have the opportunity to try their hand at producing, picking, and preparing vegetables. Wakulla Master Gardeners from the 2013 and 2014 classes are guiding the youngster’s first effort at growing. They are learning about the needs of garden plants and how to care for them. They go on to learn about how the garden’s bounty can be used in a tasty and nutritious way. Each is gaining knowledge about safely preparing a favorite dish which for many is their first attempt at food preparation. Throughout the program science and math is intertwined in the activities so each student is polishing the skills acquired in the previous months of schooling. Just as important, they are having fun while they are learning.

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

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

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

Two volunteer groups coordinated by Martin county, Master Gardeners and 4-H, worked alongside the Martin County Fairgrounds and Martin County Parks & Recreation Department staff, to establish and maintain the plantings. The planting offers educational opportunities, linking Master Gardener volunteers with 4-H youth, who will learn proper planting techniques and plant identification. Master Gardener Volunteers and the 4-H Program Assistant are working with extension agents to create educational signs and literature, describing the featured wildflowers.

The Martin county Master Gardeners and the Martin County Parks & Recreation Department were also co-recipients of a 2012 La Florida Community Wildflower Grant, which established a wildflower planting area in the entry medians at Halpatiokee Regional Park in December 2012. The wildflowers grew from seed, reseeded, and are still blooming! A variety of species were chosen to provide year-round color and beauty.
The native wildflowers, some of the species Ponce de Leon saw here 500 years ago when he named this North American peninsula “La Florida, Land of Flowers,” add beauty and curb appeal. In addition, the plantings attract butterflies and other native pollinators and reduce the need to fertilize, irrigate, and mow the areas. Through the wildflower planting projects at Halpatiokee Regional Park, the Martin County Fairgrounds, and UF/IFAS Extension Martin County, project partners are participating in a larger statewide effort to build community awareness and knowledge of native wildflowers and plants and their roles in Florida’s ecosystems.

4-H Marine Life Camp

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

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

In St Lucie County, speakers from the commercial fishing industry spoke with youth concerning the differences between commercial, recreational and charter fishing. They described the type of fish they caught, how they catch them, and even explained the dangers faced by professional fishermen on the open ocean. Commercial and charter captains then worked with the youth to teach them how to throw a cast net properly, knot tying and ethical fishing practices. The first day was concluded with a talk by the UF/IFAS Extension Seminole Tribe’s 4-H Agent Aaron Stamm on his experiences catching the giant Bluefin tuna off the coast of Maine, and the challenges fisheries managers face in conserving these amazing animals.

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

The third and final day of the tournament was held aboard the Lady Stuart. The Lady Stuart is a local charter boat that took the budding young captains offshore to catch a variety of reef and pelagic species. The following week beginning on June 11th, a new group of youth from the Boys and Girls Club and 4-H participated in the same tournament in Martin County. The first day youth there were given a tour of the US Sailing Center along with some basic sailing tips and techniques. Youth learned about navigation, knots, and different types of sails and sailboats. Staff from UF/IFAS Extension Martin and St Lucie counties further worked with these youth to provide them with basic map reading and navigational skills essential to any young budding captain. The second day involved a seining activity and a discussion on the importance of ethical fishing and marine conservation with a tour of the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center. The Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center is 57 acres of nature trails, a 750,000-gallon Game Fish Lagoon, Sea Star Touch Tank Pavilion, and Rays on the Reef.
Ray Pavilion. Extension faculty helped youth better understand the importance of oysters to the health of the lagoon through a short lecture. They then assisted Oceanographic Coastal Center staff to fill over 100 oyster restoration bags. The second day ended with Leroy Creswell from UF IFAS/Extension Sea Grant explaining to the youth how researchers survey coral reefs by using a transect. He then had the kids do their own reef survey using the same technique on a special mat he developed specifically for this activity.

The third and final day consisted of a day out on the water on a local charter boat fishing for reef fish. The kids were treated to another short talk from the captain on the importance of careful handling of caught fish and a short discussion on fish identification. By the end of the day, 12 different species of fish were caught and identified by the youth! Although everyone involved with the camp was tired, dirty and a little sun burned, everyone left with a smile and a better understanding of the importance and value of the Indian River Lagoon and its plants and animals.

Got Spanish? The Sarasota Family Nutrition Program Sure Does!

Dr. Maria Portelos-Rometo, FCS WA II, Sarasota Cty

Sarasota County’s Family Nutrition Program was invited to speak at the biannual meeting for the ESOL Parent Leadership Council. Twenty Spanish speaking parents attended the presentation on “Understanding MyPlate, Go Easy with Sodium” lesson. The workshop topic focused on the Latino diet and the entire lesson was taught in Spanish. A power point was presented on MyPlate which included a discussion on portion size, daily requirements, food label reading, sodium and its
long term health consequences. The lesson also included an interactive experience, where the participants were given food labels of products they use in their daily diet. From these food labels, the participants were able to calculate how much sodium their family was consuming on a daily basis. Most of the parents were surprised to see the amount of sodium consumed by their families and many became alarmed when they learned of the effects of consuming too much sodium.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the parents were asked to complete a behavioral change survey. Three parents said they would cook foods with less salt, and five of the parents said they would remove the salt shaker from the dinner table. With the success of this workshop, Sarasota Family Nutrition Program was asked to partner again during the school year for another interactive lesson. A future topic would include Sugar and how its sugar coating our diet.

Gardens Program Grows Community

Bryan Dailey, Community Resource Dev CED II, Sarasota Cty

Sarasota County’s Comprehensive Plan encourages the use of county parks for community gardens to promote sustainable agriculture practices. Standards varied dramatically for each of the eight community gardens on public land. New gardens also faced significant hurdles as they considered complex legal and governance issues.

In response, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County implemented a Community Gardens Program to facilitate the creation and management of community gardens on public land. Input was gathered through collaboration with municipal officials, non-profits and community gardeners. Staff researched other community garden programs to identify best practices and reviewed the program framework with subject matter experts. The program now provides an efficient, consistent, and positive framework for the use of public lands as community gardens, provides a liaison between municipalities and garden managers, and supports simplified and coordinated management of the gardens by their members.

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

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

Which Way Do We Go? Turn to JOE for Direction

Amy Harder, Associate Professor, AEC; Coordinator, PDEC

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

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

Gators in JOE

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


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


Save the Date! Easy as PIE Webinar Series

Date: August 20th
Time: 2-3 pm
Topic: Public opinion of endangered and invasive species

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

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

How concerned are Floridians about endangered and invasive species? To what extent do Floridians believe that native species should be conserved? What actions are Floridians willing to take to help protect endangered species? What invasive species management actions and expend-
Equipping Suwannee Valley Extension Agents with BMP On-farm Teaching Tools

Robert Hochmuth, EA IV, Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center

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

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

Petiole sap testing was conducted using the BMP tools provided during May and June of 2014 by seven agents. A total of 267 petiole sap samples were conducted on crops representing approximately 5,000 acres. These samples were conducted on 43 farms in the following counties: Madison, Hamilton, Suwannee, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, Alachua, Lafayette, and Jefferson. The primary crops evaluated included: watermelon, tomato, pepper, cantaloupe, and strawberry. TDR soil moisture meters were used by agents on 30 fields to assess soil moisture. Many agents reported that due to the excessive rainfall events in May and June, high soil moisture levels were found during much of the spring season. This resulted in confirmation of reduced irrigation needs during much of the spring season.

A one on one survey of cooperating growers was conducted to document changes in practices as a result of the on-farm visits and demonstrations with the equipment. On average, cooperating farmers reduced nitrogen and potassium rates by 10-20% and reduced early season irrigation by 25%.

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

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

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

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

The Way We Look

Tim Wilson, Livestock/Forages CED II, Bradford Cty

In the past seven years the Bradford County Extension Office has been fortunate to have upgrades to both the interior and exterior of our building. Landscaping has been designed and managed by the Master Gardener Coordinator and Master Gardeners. Walkways, railroad ties, misting systems, shrubbery and flowers have been properly placed to demonstrate Florida Friendly Landscape practices (Photo 1). Although aesthetically pleasing, Bradford County does not have employees who maintain these landscapes on a regular basis. Instead, prison crews from the Sheriff’s Department are utilized to reduce costs. Unfortunately, although savings are realized, these crews are not trained in landscape management. Unless a plant was a shrub, it was trimmed to the ground and eliminated from the original design. Remaining shrubs were only trimmed on occasion and were allowed to become overgrown coupled with walkways that were not leveled and clear of de-
bris causing potential hazards to employees and clients (Photo 2). Changes were needed to provide a safe walkway that included a useful and visually pleasing space to demonstrate proper landscape design.

Working with the County Manager’s Office, the CED was able to secure funding to develop space that was overgrown into demonstration gardens as well as prepare a walkway that provides safe and secure footing. Although this project is still underway, overgrown shrubbery has been removed and concrete has been poured (Photo 3). Gutters will be attached to the roof to capture water runoff from rain events and will be used in irrigation demonstrations. A demonstration garden will be designed to allow Master Gardeners to showcase plant materials at different times of the year. Parking will be cleaned, restriped with ADA compliant spaces and handicap signs. By removing the overgrown shrubs, lighting has been improved during afterhours programming.

Although the initial landscape design was visually appealing, it was not sustainable without crews to manage it properly. Once completed in the summer of 2014, our new design will enhance parking, lighting and provide useful space demonstration space.

---

**Sustainable Roses Webinar Series**

Presented by Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology

Time: 11 am to 12 pm

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

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

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

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

Contact Emily Eubanks for more information: eee@ufl.edu or 352-273-4511

---

**Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology Webinar**

Date: August 21st
Time: 11 am to 12 pm
Topic: Are Homeowners Willing to Pay for Eco-Friendly Lawn Fertilizer?

Dr. Hayk Khachatryan

Join Dr. Hayk Khachatryan as he presents the results to the research question, "Are homeowners willing to pay a premium price for eco-friendly lawn fertilizer?"

Discussion time will be available as well as possible recommendations for marketing fertilizer.

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

Contact Emily Eubanks for more information: eee@ufl.edu or 352-273-4511

---

**Master Gardener Coordinator Roundtable Discussion**

Date: August 4
Time: 12 to 1 pm
Topic: Growing Gardeners: School Garden Issues
Master Gardener Coordinators are invited to join the state office the first Monday of every month from noon–1pm for an informal discussion hour. There will be a set topic and we will be available to talk and answer questions. Use the time as a scheduled office hour with the State Office and other Master Gardener coordinators. You will need a USB headset with a microphone to join in. Contact Emily Eubanks if you need help getting one. Registration is NOT required for each session. Subscribe to the new Master Gardener Monthly Digest to see the upcoming topic calendar and follow along with other coordinator related issues. [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/digest/index.shtml](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/digest/index.shtml)

Contact Emily Eubanks for more information: eee@ufl.edu or 352-273-4511

---

**Mentoring Success**

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

Employees advance in most county offices in similar positions but few can boast of the career path of Michelle Alters in the Clay County Extension Office. Michelle began working for Clay County in 1997 as a Custodial Tech. Michelle’s position involved keeping buildings and facilities clean and maintained. She also set up rooms for programs, did all of the outside landscape maintenance on the seven acre extension grounds and helped on the fairgrounds which was under extension.

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

In 2006, a Data Entry/Receptionist position opened in the office and after much agonizing, she approached her county director to see if she could apply. Unknown to her CED, she was taking a computer class at night to help prepare for what she hoped would be an interview and the job. Michelle came through the interview with flying colors. She wanted the job badly and was prepared for the interview.

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

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

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

---

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

*Dr. Michael Spranger, FYCS*

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

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

Carolyn Saft, EA II, Suwannee Cty

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

The Professional Development Mini Grant allowed us to attend a mushroom cultivation workshop offered by a world renowned mushroom specialist, Paul Stamets and his team of cultivators this past April. Stamets is the author of several mushroom production books and owner of Fungi Perfecti, a successful mushroom production company. At the workshop just south of Seattle, we learned the techniques of producing shiitakes in bag culture that we will be able to share with our clientele. We also learned that the Lion’s Mane (think buttery seafood taste) mushroom can be produced successfully in Florida via bag culture so our clientele can expand their mushroom production. This trip also gave us the opportunity to network with mushroom producers from across the U.S. and learn what challenges farmers face with mushroom production. This knowledge will help us be proactive with our clientele to reduce some of their production and marketing challenges. Lastly, we learned of the many health benefits of consuming mushrooms and as well as supporting data. We see the opportunity to partner with FCS agents to expand our workshop and include a nutrition segment along with production and marketing. The opportunity reinforced what we were already doing and provided us with knowledge and techniques to advance our gourmet mushroom production program to include new production methods, expanding the types of mushrooms that can be grown and include another disciplines to the workshop.

The Lion’s Mane mushroom has a buttery seafood taste according to some mushroom experts.
Better Process Control School for Acidified Foods

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

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

These lifetime certificates are reported to the FDA and USDA. Completion of this course/certification will allow the FCS faculty to conduct programming related to the topics of food preservation and food safety which are reemerging areas of interest among clients. Dispelling the myths of canning while discussing food safety and security can improve client behaviors related to their nutrition, food handling, and resource management. This experience and these certificates would not have been possible without the generosity of the 2013 UF/IFAS Extension Professional Development Mini-Grant process.

Aparna Gazula, EA II, Alachua Cty

2014 Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference

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

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

The conference offered several concurrent educational sessions. I was able to attend several presentations in different concurrent sessions where current research based information was presented. Some of the topics discussed were or-
ganic production techniques, managing roadside produce stands, blackberries, blueberries, muscadine grapes, Vidalia onions, food safety updates, and small farm marketing. The information learned at these sessions has since been incorporated into the educational programs that have been offered both at the Alachua County Extension Service Office and at the Suwannee Valley Agricultural Extension Center. As a result of participating in this professional development activity not only did I increase my knowledge but I also made new professional contacts and have since offered different outreach activities.

Martie Gillen, FYCS

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

Mary Sowerby, EA IV, Suwannee Cty

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

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

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

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

Basil Bactawar, CED II, Union Cty
Galaxy IV Sept 15-20, 2013
There were many presentations on various topics at this conference. I wanted to learn about hydroponics, the use of digital media and how it can be applied in climate change and the extension of its use to 4-H clubs. I attended the session on hydroponics at Galaxy IV, and have reinforced my knowledge by training at the Suwanee Valley Extension and Education Center. To date, the extension office has built and demonstrated the use of a hydroponic system using 5-gallon buckets as planters. These will be used to train residents in Union County and Union County High School through the FFA program. One of the major concerns in Union County, as well as for the rest of Florida, is the declining levels of water in the aquifers. In general, the residents are not aware of it. Both residents and producers need to learn about it so that they may take corrective actions to reverse the trend, with each county doing its part. To this effect, the extension office, in collaboration with Union County Soil and Water Conservation Board, is using the office website to inform the public about its initiatives. In addition, the extension office has reorganized its website so that clients can access this information more easily. More information on its activities over the past five years has been added to the 4-H section of the website. The use of social media such as Facebook is also being considered as a way to extend its reach to 4-H clubs.

New Hires
We would like to welcome the following new faculty:
Katie Whidden, 4-H EA I, Highlands Cty
Rachel Fautsch, 4-H EA I, Lake Cty
James McWhorter, Livestock EA I, Highlands Cty
Terra Freeman, Small Farms Prg EA II, Duval Cty
Rebecca McCafferty, 4-H EA I, Sarasota Cty
Sydney Hayter, Livestock/Forage EA I, Duval Cty

Special Mention
The following agents have recently completed an advanced degree. We would like to offer congratulations on this great accomplishment:
Laura Valencia, 4-H YD EA I, Osceola Cty, Masters Degree in Nonprofit Management from the University of Central Florida.
Yilin Zhuang, Community Resource Efficiency EA I, Marion Cty, Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of South Florida.

Resignations
We would like to wish the following faculty the best of luck in their future endeavors:
Haley Worley, 4-H EA I, Okaloosa Cty
Christian Malsatzki, 4-H EA I, Escambia Cty
Sean McCoy, Rural Agribusiness RSA II, Suwannee Cty
Dale Wallace, Ext Prg Assistant, Sumter Cty

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.