

Comings & Goings

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR EXTENSION

Suwannee County Master Gardener Blossoms

The FFL and Master Gardener programs were new for rural Suwannee County. An Agent realized that help was needed to spread the word about the new programs, so she started recruiting volunteers. One woman balked at taking the training when she realized a presentation was a mandatory requirement for graduation from the Master Gardener program.

Luckily, her passion for gardening won out and she completed the course. As she gave her presentation, the Agent realized the woman had a natural ability, so the Agent sought to develop her skills. First, the woman was encouraged to do the "Native Plant Spotlight" at the Alumni meetings. Next, she helped the Agent with the native plant section in



future Master Gardener trainings. She started presenting for garden club and other organizations in Suwannee, Madison and Taylor counties.

She assumed the role of Vice President when the Sparkleberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society was initiated.

Suwannee County Extension Master Gardener is nervous about delivering her first presentation as a graduation requirement of the Master Gardener training.

This year, she is the President of that chapter

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and has no reservations about leading the group. This woman has logged 557 hours and had more than 1,000 educational contacts in 2011 and 2012. She has repeat clientele at her presentations and has become our native plant “expert.”

This volunteer has extended the outreach of the Agent and has marketed Extension programs to numerous audiences. Evaluations indicated 94% of participants (137) felt they gained knowledge and 82% indicated they attempted to plant the



right plants in the right place by first researching their plant selections.

Suwannee County Extension Master Gardener now leads field trips, delivers presentations, and leads a group of 40 people as the President of our local Sparkleberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

Carolyn Saft, Hort EA I, Suwannee Cty

New Hayfield Advice

A farmer asked Randy Gornto, Livestock Agent in Highlands County, for advice about putting in a new hayfield in place of a removed citrus grove. This farmer was looking for a grass that would be of good quality that would grow well with no irri-

gation on the sandy soils.

Randy helped him take and analyze soil samples and recommended a preparation, maintenance and harvesting plan.

The farmer started to implement the plan. He hired a vendor to install Jiggs Bermuda at \$250 per acre.

At 10 days of age the field was sprayed for weeds at \$11 per acre and fertilized at a cost of \$125 per acre, resulting in a cost of \$386 per acre to establish this hayfield.

The hayfield was cut the first time at 8 weeks old and produced 11 rolls to the acre, which he sold at \$40 per roll equaling \$440.

He then fertilized again at a cost of \$125 per acre. He cut 11 rolls/acre at 35 days and sold it again at \$40 per roll equaling \$440 return.

He then fertilized a third time at a cost of \$50 per acre and cut 11 rolls/acre 35 days later and sold it at \$40 per roll equaling \$440.00 return. The cost to roll the hay each time was \$10 per roll.

So, his per acre cost/benefit structure was:

\$ 386.00 cost to establish (\$250 install + \$11 weed spray + \$125 fertilizer)

\$ 330.00 cost to roll hay (\$10/roll x 33 rolls)

\$ 175.00 additional fertilizer (\$125 + \$50)

\$ 891.00 Total Cost

\$1,320.00 Income (\$440 x 3)

\$429.00 Profit/acre

Forage sampling showed the quality of the hay to be about 14% protein and 60% total digestible nutrients.

Randy Gornto, Livestock EA I, Highlands Cty

Broodstock Improvement for Florida Clam Seed Suppliers

In December 2011, clam hatchery personnel and other stakeholders attended the Development of Clam Broodstock for Seed Production Workshop at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University (HBOI-FAU). The workshop was supported by a Florida Sea Grant award to HBOI-FAU research professor John Scarpa and UF shellfish extension agent Leslie Sturmer; organizational assistance was provided by Florida Sea Grant extension agent LeRoy Creswell.

Florida is a leading producer of cultured hard clams, but where do the seed clams come from for planting? They come from commercial hatcheries. Hatchery personnel spawn thousands of clams a year to produce the hundreds of millions of seeds needed by clam farmers. As with production of any animal, breeding is an important part of the production cycle. Dr. Scarpa reviewed basic genetics and broodstock management to maintain genetic diversity while selecting for production traits. The workshop included a “hands-on” demonstration at the HBOI-FAU experimental hatchery on how to maximize genetic variation during spawning of clams.

Leslie presented an overview of the hard clam breeding work that is being supported by USDA grants, as well as encouraging results from recent field trials evaluating production performance of F1 clam hybrids backcrossed with hard clams. At harvest, 66% of backcross stocks (n=9) yielded higher survival (81 to 91%) and production (75 to 84 lbs/bag), compared with hard clams (79%, 68lbs/bag). After 10 days in refrigerated storage, survival of backcross stocks (97 to 99%) was similar to hard clams (100%). Although gaping was higher in the backcross stocks (4 to 17%) versus hard clams (3%), these results are commercially acceptable. This breeding approach can increase summer crop survival and yield of cultured hard clams while maintaining product quality standards.

At the conclusion of the workshop, high performing broodstock lines that performed well in these trials were supplied to commercial hatchery operators, representing 70% of the clam seed suppliers in the state, to incorporate into their genetic selection program.



Commercial hatchery operators selecting founder lines of backcrossed hard clams, provided by shellfish extension agent Leslie Sturmer, to incorporate into their breeding lines.

Leslie Sturmer Marine Science EA IV, Levy Cty

The Challenge of Change

Problem: Local community to see significant increase in water rates due to being added to City Utility. Southwest Florida Water Management District, Rainbow Springs Property Owners Association, Rainbow River Conservation and The Friends of Rainbow Springs State Park partnered with Extension to help provide funding and volunteers for each of the four weekly programs.

The programs included slide show presentations (including a hard copy and other handouts), covering the nine Florida-Friendly Landscape Principles, free gifts, soil analysis, publications for sale, and upon completion of workshops, a free 45-minute yard evaluation. Questions were written on index cards, compiled and a Q&A fact sheet was provided each week.

The participants included nearly 250 each week from Citrus, Hernando, and Marion counties. These residents were eager to learn and anxious to implement concepts that were included in the training. Free yard evaluations were offered as a means to increase interest, with 92 completed.

Awareness of how water can be conserved in landscape irrigation practices and how many participants immediately began implementing practice change including micro irrigation, reduction of turf, improved fertilization practices all work to protect the Rainbow River against further degradation and to improve quality of life in this community. The Property Owners Association of this community is planning to fund this program again in the fall.



Damage to an uninhabited home includes mold, water intrusion, power surges, pests and intruders. Proper preparation before leaving can reduce damage and the respective costs. If the home is damaged, the replacement and repair costs may be reduced by having proper insurance. An up-to-date home inventory is vital to receive a proper insurance settlement.

Closing Your Seasonal Home Programs participant responses to end of program evaluation:

- 96% (102 of 106) learned ways to eliminate mold and mildew from their home.
- 68% (72 of 106) plan to review insurance policies.
- 100% (106 of 106) intend to use at least one technique learned to prepare their home for an extended absence.
- 75% (80 of 106) plan to improve storm preparation procedures.
- 94% (66 of 70) intend to start or update their home inventory.

Additionally, the publicity for the event led to a number of emails and calls for more information. Lake County plans to offer more sessions of Closing Your Seasonal Home next year by promotion through additional libraries.

Julie England, FCS EA II, Lake Cty



Kathleen Patterson, FYN, Marion Cty

Closing Your Seasonal Home

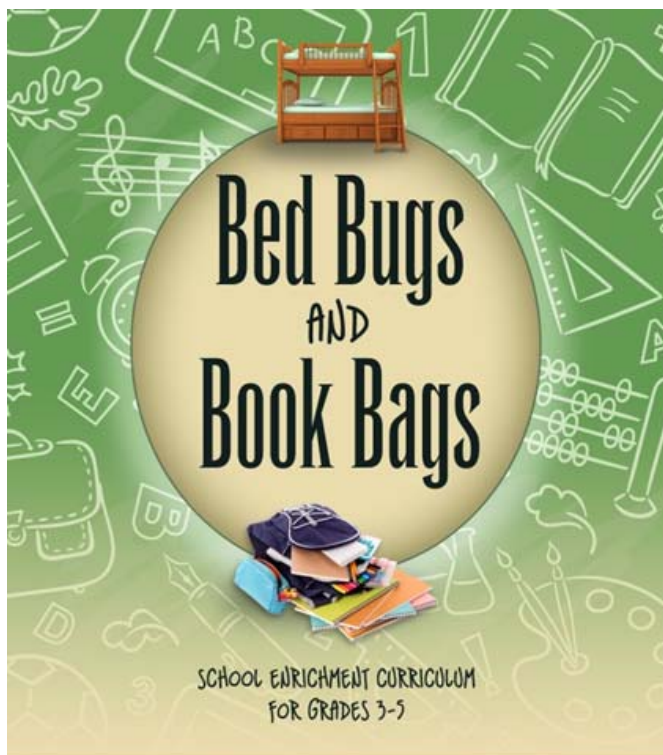
The Lake County FCS agent presented two Closing Your Seasonal Home programs with 156 participants at two locations.

The 90-minute educational program was presented at a local library as part of an ongoing series, and at the Lake County Agriculture Center. The target audience is primarily seasonal residents who leave their homes for an extended length of time.

Jacksonville Battles Bed Bugs Through Education

In response to a request from the community, the Bed Bugs and Book Bags Youth Enrichment Curriculum was created for 3rd through 5th grade students in Duval County Schools by the Jacksonville Bed Bug Task Force.

The 4-H curriculum is appropriate for schools, 4-H clubs, community centers, day cares, senior centers, and missions. Each lesson is correlated with the Florida Sunshine State Health Standards and Benchmarks and is based on the experiential learning model. The curriculum also includes a teacher's section that covers bed bug biology, prevention, and control.



The curriculum can be downloaded for free after a 30-minute online training and quiz are successfully completed with a score of 80% or higher. A printable certificate with the test taker's name and score is also provided. The online training and curriculum is available at the Duval County Extension website (http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/bed_bugs.html).

As of April 2012, 146 people have taken the online training and quiz from across the United States, Canada, and Saudi Arabia. Curriculum was also provided to an educator in Israel who plans to use it in her schools. Trainees estimated that they would present the curriculum to 18,998 contacts in the next year.

In the last year, the task force made 41,704 educational contacts through bed bug exhibits, presentations, and trainings across the country. To learn more about the task force, bed bugs, and other impacts made by the group, visit the Duval County Extension Bed Bug website at http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/bed_bugs.html or contact co-directors, Erin Harlow, Duval County Extension at erine@coj.net or Dr. Rebecca Baldwin, Department of Entomology at baldwinr@ufl.edu.

Visit the Duval County Extension Bed Bug website to access the online training, quiz, and curriculum at http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/bed_bugs.html.

Erin Harlow, Com Hort EA I, Duval Cty

Using Farm Tours to Promote Extension

Lake County is becoming an urban county, thus the populace is becoming less familiar with farming and Extension. One of the results of our listening sessions was that few people knew about Extension or what we offered.

Our annual farm tour program was designed to get the residents out to see agriculture in Lake County and to make them aware of Extension and what we do. By using buses, we had a captive audience for an agent tour guide to explain what Extension was, what we did, and how we could address their needs.

The guide would also provide background information about each stop before we got to it. We asked participants to turn in their exit survey as a

lunch ticket to ensure we had good response.

We had 118 participants, 78% of which had not participated in a Lake County Farm Tour. Most (72%) were current or former backyard gardeners, but 10% described themselves as never having been involved with agriculture beyond the consumer level. Fifty two percent had never used or were unaware of Extension.

After the tour, 61% planned to use extension in the future and 30% may or may not use extension, but were at least now aware of what we provided.



The Florida LAKEWATCH program was initiated in 1986 to help address this lack of data. Since then, LAKEWATCH has trained more than 1,800 citizens to monitor 600+ lakes, rivers and coastal sites in more than 40 counties.

The program is coordinated through the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences/School of Forest Resources and Conservation, UF/IFAS.

In late 2011, LAKEWATCH held in-service trainings to “certify” UF/IFAS County Extension agents to train volunteers in their respective counties.



Any future measured impact from this program would be on the demand for our services, but would not capture the economic and environmental enhancements that our researched based information provides. However, the 9% increase in intended use and the 39% increase in awareness are significant.

Juanita Popenoe, Com Hort EA III, Lake Cty

Partnering to Enhance Data Collection on Marion County Lakes and Rivers

Florida has more than 7,700 lakes larger than 10 acres and about 100,000 smaller bodies of water. Detailed scientific information exists for less than 10% of these lakes.



In November 2011, a Marion County Extension agent and a LAKEWATCH representative trained three “citizen scientists” to collect water samples from Lake Weir on a monthly basis.

These volunteers have logged a combined total of approximately 50 hours of service to the LAKEWATCH program and they have contributed valuable water quality data for one of the largest lakes in Marion County.

Three more volunteers have been recruited to monitor Rainbow Springs, also in Marion County, and training for these volunteers will be held mid-June 2012.

The Marion County Extension Service has been extremely pleased with the LAKEWATCH partnership, and will continue to recruit new volunteers.

John Linhoss, Com Sust EA I, Marion Cty

New Faculty

Please welcome the following new faculty:

Brandi Yancy, 4-H EA I, Hillsborough Cty

Alison Beyer, Ag EA I, Putnam Cty

Abbey Tharpe, 4-H EA I, Taylor Cty

Faculty Transfers

Stefanie Duda, 4-H EA I, Brevard Cty

Bryan Fluech, CED EA II, Collier 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.
