



2020 FANREP Award Winners

Achievement Awards



Early Career Leadership – Amanda Marek

Amanda Marek has served as the UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Service Florida-Friendly Landscaping Agent since 2017. In those few years she has not only enhanced the Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) program to new areas and audiences, she has also developed new state and local partnerships to deliver the program more efficiently and effectively to the people of Marion County, Florida. She was awarded the 2019 Outstanding FFL Educator of the Year and has been accepted to present at national and international conferences. Since 2017, Amanda's efforts and those of her

volunteers have translated to a savings of over 1.9 million gallons of water annually, saving Marion County Extension clients approximately \$6,500 per year on water. Amanda's passion for environmental education and landscaping combined with the endless dedication of her Master Gardener volunteers is truly making an impact in their community with the increased adoption of landscaping best management practices.



Innovative Program – Eco-Questrians –Caitlin Bainum, Jane Cant, Alicia Halbritter, Megan Mann, and James Yarborough

Invasive species pose a major threat to Florida's ecosystems. Early detection of, and rapid response (EDRR) to new invasive species increases the likelihood that an emerging threat can be contained. Trail riders, equestrians who ride for leisure on public lands, can be trained to help in EDRR efforts. The purpose of this program was to familiarize trail riders with local EDRR species and train them on using the I'veGot1 mobile

application to report sightings. To date a total of 15 Eco-Questrians have been trained. 100% were able to identify ten EDRR species in post program assessments and 72% have successfully downloaded the IveGot1 application. A six month follow up with the first group of participants found that 15 unique sightings of EDRR plants had been reported. This program is being repeated in five counties across Central and North Central Florida and could be easily adapted to appeal to other recreational users of public lands.



Outstanding 4-H/Youth Program – 4-H Camp Timpoochee Marine Camps – Ariel Blanton, Ray Bodrey, Scott Jackson, Erik Lovestrand, Clair Norden, Rick O’Connor, Laura Tiu, and Chris Verlinde

Resident Director 4H Camp Timpoochee, Ariel Blanton, and Assistant Resident Director, Clair Norden, partnered with Florida Sea Grant Agents

over the past 3 years to grow the summer marine camp program. For years, only one Junior Marine Camp, targeting 8-12 year old campers, was held at Timpoochee. In 2018, this effort expanded to include 2 Junior Camps and one Senior Camp. Sea Grant Agents trained camp staff on a variety of curriculum available to incorporate into county and marine camps. Agents also provided targeted marine science education at the three marine camps. This local education opportunity for budding marine scientists enabled participants to explore the marine and aquatic ecosystems of Northwest Florida; especially that of the Choctawhatchee Bay. Summer Marine Camps at 4-H Camp Timpoochee are a great opportunity to positively impact the knowledge and behavior of youth about marine science. Florida Sea Grant agents develop and teach targeted, hands-on, marine science curriculum to bring science to life for youth attending camp. Our impact as County Extension Agents sometimes comes in simple, unexpected ways, like encouraging someone to try something new. There is great satisfaction in thinking that you may have been the impetus towards connecting a youth with a program like 4-H that can bring such positive influence into their lives.



Outstanding Team – LIFE (Learning in Florida’s Environment) – Katherine Clements, Jennifer Dehart, Armando Ubeda, and Patrick Williams, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County; Tony Clements, Michelle Keirse, Ariel Sasloe, and Alexa Kurowski, Florida State Parks; Sabrina Cummings, Ryder Hochmuth, and Katie Wojcicki, AmeriCorps; Jennifer Dehart, Sarasota County Schools

Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) is science-based environmental education program on public conservation lands developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in 2004. In Sarasota

County, the LIFE program was reinvented, and is a multi-agency collaborative effort between UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County, Florida State Parks, Americorps, Sarasota County Schools, EdExploreSRQ, Florida Sea Grant, and Florida State Parks Foundation. Scientists, educators, and resource managers engage students in hands-on field labs at three different ecosystems; reinforcing third-fifth grade science curriculum and standardized test success. LIFE promotes environmental stewardship and provides an opportunity for students to act as biologists, ornithologists, and horticulturalists to increase accessibility to science and scientific careers. Pre-post-test data indicate knowledge gain and skills enhancement, and Florida Standards Assessment science scores improved. The LIFE team revised existing middle-school labs to meet elementary curriculum standards, developed novel labs, created all instructional materials and evaluation tools, coordinated logistics, trained staff and volunteers, and delivered content to make LIFE a successful and award-winning program!



Friends of FANREP – Dr. Dana Stephens

Dr. Dana Stephens, Director of the Mattie Kelly Environmental Institute at Northwest Florida State College and Gator alumni, understands the role and importance of Extension, and how supporting the relationship between Extension and local academic institutions is a mutually beneficial pathway to enhanced impacts. Dr. Stephens is not only an outstanding teacher, researcher, team player, and gifted speaker, but a community leader addressing natural resources research, education and extension as a personal passion.



Outstanding Extension Specialist – Dr. Josh Patterson

Dr. Josh Patterson's extension programs and collaborations with agents have improved the lives of Floridians all across the state. He collaborates tirelessly with agents on projects such as creating new Florida Master Naturalist Program curricula, habitat restoration projects, EDIS series, and many others. Dr. Patterson elevates agents by inviting them to play significant roles on grants, showing how much he values agents as key to project success. Dr. Josh Patterson exemplifies all the qualities of a FANREP Outstanding Specialist.

Educational Materials

Promotional and Marketing Materials



1st Place – Seagrass Safe Boating Boat Ramp Outreach – Savanna Barry, Emily Colson, Brittany Hall-Scharf, and Josh Patterson

One of the best ways to reach recreational boaters is through direct contact at boat ramps. In 2019, we created a new set of promotional materials for the Be Seagrass Safe boating program. These materials included a SnapChat geofilter, a pledge card, a tri-fold brochure, large 4" circular sticker, a t-shirt, an Instagram photo frame, a booth banner, and a branded tablecloth. These promotional materials were used at boat ramps to promote the Seagrass Safe Boating pledge program, where recreational boaters are asked to pledge to apply seagrass-friendly boating practices.

National ANREP Bronze Award winner for Promotional and Marketing Materials



2nd Place – Hike with a Naturalist Trail Brochure – Justina Dacey and Diane Howell

As the demand for humans connecting with nature increases, it creates a need for people to learn more about the flora and fauna of their surrounding environment. However, the general public doesn't always have information easily available when walking in the woods. In order to address this, UF/IFAS Nassau

County Extension and the Northeast Florida Master Naturalists friend's group created a nature trail brochure to supplement a Hike with a Naturalist series. Hike with a Naturalist encourages locals to explore the vegetation and wildlife found on a designated nature trail at Cary State Forest. Five hikes were hosted and co-led by Master Naturalists and over 300 brochures have been distributed from the trailhead kiosk. These outreach materials are part of a larger hike and paddle with a naturalist series.



3rd Place – Wildflower Conservation Mowing in Santa Rosa County – Heather Griffith, Laura Keith King, Mary Salinas, and Suzanne Spencer

An appealing pull-up banner was designed to engage the public with a successful roadside wildflower

conservation mowing program. The banner describes the benefits of conserving naturally occurring wildflowers and how the public can participate and make a difference. The banner is displayed at the county main office, the Extension office and at outreach events.

Short Publication



1st Place – Treejuvenation Florida – Marguerite Beckford

Communities derive many benefits from urban trees, including improved air quality and reduced heat island effects. In 2013, a tree canopy study in Sarasota county indicated 35% vegetation cover in the Urban Service Area, this percentage having steadily decreased commensurate with increasing land development. To support canopy conservation efforts, 'Treejuvenation Florida', an urban forestry Extension program, was launched in Sarasota county to promote awareness of the benefits of urban trees, and increase community engagement in urban forestry activities. As part of the Treejuvenation Florida Extension program, a set of five rack cards was developed to educate Sarasota county residents about the benefits their neighborhoods derive from the urban forest. The objective of each card is to highlight a specific benefit of urban trees, including increased storm water filtration, and stress reduction impacts of canopied green spaces. The rack cards are distributed at UF/IFAS Extension events and county libraries.

National ANREP Silver Award winner for Short Publication



2nd Place – Health Benefits of Seafood – Holly Abeels, Tracy Bryant, and Elizabeth Shephard

This one-page document was created to describe the health benefits of seafood, in general, and tips on buying Florida seafood. Due to the amount and variety of algal blooms that have occurred in the Indian River Lagoon over the past several years, consumers are wary of purchasing Florida seafood. Most of the seafood found at a market is from offshore species that wouldn't be affected by harmful algal blooms. Since there is as yet no scientific evidence or research showing that Florida seafood for sale at seafood markets has harmful health effects, this document wanted to describe why consumers should consider seafood and hopefully show that, as of right now, there are no concerns for consuming Florida seafood. It is anticipated that this flyer could be revised if new science or research comes available to answer people's questions.

Long Publication



1st Place – Florida Youth Naturalist Program Instructor Field Guide – Sarah Hensley and Shelly Johnson

The new UF/IFAS Florida Youth Naturalist Program was created in partnership between the Florida Master Naturalist Program and Florida 4-H. This experientially focused curriculum uses a learn-by-doing approach and provides opportunities for youth ages 10-13 to contribute to the future of Florida's natural resources. We created a 118-page Instructor Field Guide to lead instructors through approximately 20 hours of teaching as their students join the journey of a drop-of-water from the upland forest through a freshwater river that flows to the coast and enters the ocean. The Guide includes 10 interactive lessons with ecological background information, hands-on activities (observations, games, creative tasks), service-learning projects, field trips, and guidance for students to reflect and apply life/work skills. Students create their own field journal to document their learning experience. The Guide additionally includes an introductory Instructor Guidance chapter and Resource Appendix containing teaching materials, references, and glossary.



2nd Place – State of the Science of HABs in FL – Lisa Krinsky and Betty Staugler

In August 2019, Florida Sea Grant and UF/IFAS hosted more than 75 harmful algal bloom experts at the Florida Harmful Algal Bloom State of the Science Symposium. The two-day symposium focused on assessing the current state of the science and research priorities for *Karenia brevis* red tide and *Microcystis* blue-green algae, the two most common HABs in the state and the ones that the state task forces are focusing on. Following the symposium, a consensus document entitled State of the Science for Harmful Algal Blooms in Florida: *Karenia brevis* and *Microcystis* spp. was published. The document describes the current state of knowledge, identifies data gaps, and priorities research needs as identified during the symposium.



3rd Place – Living Shorelines Training for Marine Contractors Manual – Savanna Barry, Fara Ilami, Gary Raulerson, Tom Ries, Armando Ubada, and Jessie Wales



This manual accompanies a training course for marine contractors to learn to install living shorelines for property owners, either alone or in addition to an existing seawall or other structure.

Living shorelines are softer, greener alternatives to stabilize shorelines from erosion, sea level rise, and other damage. They protect, restore, or enhance natural shoreline habitat and maintain coastal processes through the strategic placement of plants, oyster shell, and other structural organic materials. Demand for living shorelines is increasing, and this manual with the accompanying field-based course offers a mechanism to increase the supply of contractors who can fill this need.

National ANREP Bronze Award winner for Long Publication

Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum



1st Place – Florida Friendly Fishing Guide Online Certification Course – Holly Abeels, Savanna Barry, Ed Camp, Libby Carnahan, Angela Collins, Brittany Hall-Scharf, Shelly Krueger, Maia McGuire, Rick O'Connor, and Betty Staugler

The Florida Friendly Fishing Guide Certification is a program established by UF/IFAS, Florida Sea Grant and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission recognizing fishing guides who are committed to preserving the future of Florida's fisheries through sustainable boating and fishing techniques. This online certification course covers science-based techniques

that ensure minimal environmental footprint of fishing. The course can be accessed via computer or smart phone/tablet and is open to any fishing guide operating in Florida. The course covers eight topics broadly relevant to sustainable fishing and boating: Introduction to Fisheries Management, Best Practices for Catch and Release Fishing, Seafood Safety and Handling, Sustainable Waste Management and Fueling, Overview of Marine Ecology,

Environmental Ethics, Sustainable On-board Materials, and Giving Back to Fisheries Management and Research.



2nd Place – Aquatic Weed Control Calibration and Application Math – Susan Haddock

Aquatic weed managers must implement management practices that control growth of invasive plants that may negatively impact water flow and water quality in waterways such as stormwater ponds, canals, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands. When waters are properly managed stormwater runoff can be channeled to avoid flooding. Eutrophication and decreased dissolved oxygen levels can be avoided encouraging sustainability in ecosystems and biodiversity. Historically, individuals

seeking Aquatic Weed Management certification are challenged by the calibration and application math section of the licensing exam, resulting in less than 57 % of individuals passing the exam. The Aquatic Weed Control Calibration and Application Math curriculum was developed in early 2019 and resulted in an increase in certification pass rate and attendees reporting significant knowledge gain and confidence in calibration and application procedures.

National ANREP Silver Award winner for Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum



3rd Place – Florida Youth Naturalist Program Instructor Field Guide – Sarah Hensley and Shelly Johnson

The new UF/IFAS Florida Youth Naturalist Program was created in partnership between the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) and Florida 4-H. This experientially focused curriculum uses a learn-by-doing approach and provides opportunities for youth ages 10-13 to contribute to the future of Florida's natural

resources. We created a 118- page Instructor Field Guide to lead instructors through approximately 20 hours of teaching as their students join the journey of a drop-of-water from the upland forest through a freshwater river that flows to the coast and enters the ocean. The Guide includes 10 interactive lessons with ecological background information, hands-on activities (observations, games, creative tasks), service-learning projects, field trips, and guidance for students to reflect and apply life/work skills. Students create their own field journal to document their learning experience. The Guide additionally includes an introductory Instructor Guidance chapter and Resource Appendix containing teaching materials, references, and glossary.

National ANREP Gold Award winner for Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum

Newsletter or Series of Articles



1st Place – Fighting the Spread of Invasive Plants in Florida – Krista Stump

Central Florida is rapidly growing. Much of this population growth is attributed to newcomers moving here from other areas of the country. However, many of these new residents are not familiar with the invasive plants of Central Florida. Invasive species threaten Florida's native plants and wildlife, economy, and human well-being. Without proper education, residents unknowingly engage in behaviors that contribute to the spread of invasive plants. For instance, many residents add invasive plants to their landscape or unintentionally spread invasive plants into the County's lakes and natural areas. A series of articles was written to inform residents about invasive plants and their control. They were published in a local newspaper, as blog posts, distributed in a monthly newsletter, and posted on Facebook. In total, the publications reached over 2,100 readers. Awareness and education about this serious issue will help protect Florida's environment and economy.



2nd Place – Nature Notes Series of Articles Promote Better Pest Control – Nicole Pinson

The Laker/Lutz News Nature Notes feature landscape best practices. These practices help homeowners manage pests responsibly while minimizing harmful effects to non-target organisms, groundwater, and the environment. The articles promote the land-grant university system and Extension, offer research-based recommendations, link to university publications, and give easy-to-implement tips. The Agent writes articles for homeowner clientele. The articles are submitted electronically to the newspaper editor for publishing in Hillsborough and Pasco counties, Florida. Pest management tips encourage natural enemies, such as predatory mites, beneficial insects, and parasitic wasps. When appropriate, less-toxic, soft pesticides are encouraged, such as Bt-k (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*), neem extracts, and spinosad. The newspaper posts online and delivers 47,395 papers weekly, with 85% delivered to homes and 15% to retailers such as Publix, Lowe's, and Walmart. This series of articles aims to encourage proper pest identification, match the recommendation to the pest, and reduce negative environmental practices.

National ANREP Silver Award winner for Newsletters or Series of Articles



3rd Place – Drummy Tales – Victor Blanco

Drummy Tales is a series of comics created with the objective to deliver coastal and marine related topics important for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, including ecosystems and the organisms living and interacting in them. The comic creates a way to encourage discussions using visual aids as a basis for rationale thinking, and improving fine motor skills as youth paint the drawings. Youth and adults have the chance to immerse themselves into Drummy's world and

even be him, as he faces and experiences new places, characters, and situations that most of the readers can relate to. During his adventures, Drummy visits different coastal ecosystems, like the marshes, the estuary and the artificial reef, and meets interesting organisms living in the sea, like the horseshoe crab. Also, he faces unexpected situations, like seagrass scaring, a hurricane, the threat of ghost fishing, and plastics in the ocean.

National ANREP Bronze Award winner for Newsletters or Series of Articles

Televised Conference/Video Conference/Webinar



1st Place – Water Quality Summit – Lee Hayes Byron, Abbey Tyrna, and Pat Williams

Sarasota County experienced dramatic impacts from the 2018 red tide bloom and the County Commission identified water quality as 2019's highest priority. Before making decisions, they wanted

to establish a common science understanding on the science and action opportunities while hearing from the community on their priorities and concerns. They directed /IFAS Extension staff to design a summit to engage the community on the issue. In just three months, the Water Quality Summit was organized with 24 speakers and 21 exhibitors. While over 600 people registered for the event, the Summit was also broadcast live on the county cable channel and recordings of all sessions are available online. This online presence has combined with active news media and social media engagement to increase the number of people reached and potential impact. Remote participants were able to submit questions before and during the event through an online portal.

National ANREP Silver Award winner for Televised Conference/Video Conference/Webinar

TV/Video



1st Place – Barotrauma Video Series – Holly Abeels, Ed Camp, Angela Collins, and Betty Staugler

For fish caught in deeper water, part of successful catch and release involves relieving barotrauma for those individuals whose swim bladders have expanded during their ascent to the surface. This pressure-related trauma may result in mortality for fish that are not handled properly. This video series provides an educational overview of barotrauma and examples of barotrauma mitigation methods for recreational anglers.



2nd Place – Cane Toad Education – Michael Munroe, Steve Johnson, and Al Williamson

Cane Toads are an invasive species in Florida. They were introduced in the 1950's and 1960's. They now occur

throughout much of peninsular Florida south of Orlando. Their main negative impacts are socioeconomic. Fortunately, they have not yet invaded Florida's natural areas. However, they thrive in human-modified environments such as agricultural areas and suburban neighborhoods. Cane Toads have enlarged poison glands on their shoulders and the toxin they excrete can be debilitating or fatal to family pets that attack or eat a toad. This 3-part video series was developed to inform citizens of Florida about Cane Toads, how to properly identify them, and how to manage them to reduce or eliminate negative interactions with pets. One video also demonstrates what to do if your pet attacks a toxic toad. In addition to the videos, there is a companion fact-sheet that viewers can access to augment the information in the videos.



3rd Place - Visualizing Air Traffic Patterns – Brittany Hall-Scharf, Stacy Strickland, and Krista Stump

Land managers and natural resources professionals are increasingly interested in using drone technology for invasive

species management, wildlife monitoring, and water resource management. However, a Part 107 (drone) certificate is required to operate a drone for work or other monetary gain. This

video was designed to be used in a Part 107 exam preparation for adults and 4-H youth aviation camps. Several of the adult participants are land managers who wanted to use drones in their job to manage parks and natural areas. The video demonstrates radio communications and helps participants visualize traffic patterns at an airport. The adult training course covers topics of regulations, airspace classification, weather, radio communications, airport operations, aeronautical decision-making, and emergency procedures. After passing the exam, participants can use drone technology to better manage Florida's natural resources and support our economy.



Podcast/Radio

1st Place – Scallop Season Radio Spots – Victor Blanco

Social media is one of the classic tools used to reach part of the marine extension audience. In 2019, more than 87,000 people were reached through 61 Facebook posts addressing the main topics related to the county extension programs. However, social media analytics showed that a low percentage where County residents or from the region.

After the success of the program in 2018, and to improve and increase the reach of marine extension program outreach actions to county residents, the radio campaign titled "One Minute in Marine Science" was improved and targeted for SCALLOP SEASON with two radio spots discussing issues as harvesting good practices and safety in the water. The spots were hosted and played in two local radio stations Eight times a day, for a period of 2 months (early June to late July) during high season times of the harvesting. The radio stations stats stated that the spots reached at least a 1,000 residents audience daily.

National ANREP Gold Award winner for Podcast or Radio



2nd Place – Florida Friendly Landscaping Principles on Better Lawns and Gardens – Tina McIntyre

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Agent was invited to be a reoccurring guest speaker on the renowned radio show Better Lawns & Gardens that airs weekly and is hosted by Extension Agent Emeritus, Tom MacCubbin. The show is syndicated on over

24 radio stations throughout Florida and Georgia, is available for podcast on iTunes, download, and on iHeartRadio! The show reaches over 8500 listeners and covers many gardening topics. This series of shows covers Composting, Water restrictions, The Master Gardener Volunteer program, Right Plant Right Place (twice), Proper irrigation practices, and Mulch selection and benefits. Florida Friendly Landscaping principles encourage participants to adopt practices that will protect our water quality and quantity.

National ANREP Silver Award winner for Podcast or Radio