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MESSAGE FROM THE FANREP PRESIDENT!

Dear FANREP colleagues,

It has been an honor serving as the FANREP President this year. This year we continued the long process of creating major changes in our organization that will better equip us to grow. Our successes result from the dedicated work provided by our board members, committee chairs, and committee members. Each person played a valuable role in FANREP this year. We are grateful for everyone's contribution and dedication to our statewide extension programming. This contribution is reflected nationally, too, as seen by the number of awards earned by FANREP membership. Congratulations!

Our annual EPAF Conference is in Daytona from August 28th – August 31st, at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort. This year's conference will have some minor changes compared to previous years. We will present awards on Tuesday, August 29th, during our association breakfast. Although, there will be a rolling PowerPoint playing during the opening event on the 28th. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for upcoming announcements – we are looking for fun ways to engage FANREP membership during EPAF. Marnie Ward or I will notify everyone once ready.

Service and leadership are major components of permanent status and promotions of extension faculty. So please take some time to consider service and leadership opportunities with FANREP. Leading up to EPAF we will have our officer elections and an opportunity to sign-up for committees. Based on our bylaws and officer service and leadership are major terms, this year we are needing to elect President-Elect, Secretary, Central District Director, SE District Director, and SW District Director.

These positions are vital for the operation of our association and can have profound impacts. Please feel to reach out to me or other officers to learn more about the positions, but a full description may be found in our bylaws that are posted on our FANREP webpage. Thanks to everyone and have a wonderful summer! I'll see you all in Daytona.

Taylor B. Clem, PhD
FANREP President



Meet our New UF Global Ecologist Specialist



DR. COREY T. CALLAGHAN
Assistant Professor
Global Ecology

Corey's research group studies a wide array of ecological questions focused on better understanding how species respond to anthropogenic changes in the environment. Stationed at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, Callaghan wants to understand and find solutions to global problems in urban environments that impact the sustainability of species variety. His research will first focus on understanding some of the significant challenges in the South Florida region while studying how biodiversity responds to increasing urbanization.



“My work aims to provide adaptive solutions with a focus on understanding how people and nature can flourish sustainably, especially within urban ecosystems,” he said. “High biodiversity in cities leads to better physical and mental well-being but achieving high species variety and quantifying it remains challenging.”



CONTACT

3205 College Avenue
Davie, FL 33314

Phone: 954-577-6314

Email: c.callaghan@ufl.edu

Web site: www.coreytcallaghan.com



EcoSummit Congress is held every four years. Conference attendees are usually professionals with environmental research and education responsibilities and interests across academia, business, regulatory authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other sectors of society. I was grateful to receive FANREP travel scholarship and attended the EcoSummit Congress held in Gold Coast, Australia was an exceptional honor that surpassed all my expectations. The conference provided me with a unique platform to exchange ideas and share resources with environmental researchers and educators from all over the world, as well as connect and collaborate on potential multi-state or international educational programs. In this reflection, I would like to share the highlights of my journey and the invaluable insights gained from this enriching event.

Pre-Conference Expectations

Anticipation and excitement buzzed within me as I entered the conference venue on the opening day. I was eager to meet like-minded professionals, discover the latest research findings, and engage in thought-provoking discussions. My primary goals were to expand my knowledge about climate change, learn about effective water resource management techniques, and connect with esteemed professionals who share my passion for sustainability and resilience.

Diverse Workshops and Seminars

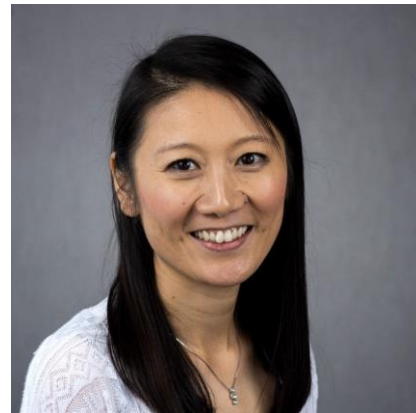
The conference offered an impressive lineup of seminars, workshops, and working group discussions, each tailored to address pressing issues related to ecosystems and water resources. I attended sessions covering topics such as biodiversity conservation, water quality monitoring, climate change adaptation, and ecological restoration. The diversity of presentations and research showcased was truly enlightening, shedding light on the multifaceted challenges faced by our ecosystems and water sources.

Keynote Speakers

One of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity to hear from renowned keynote speakers from around the world. Each keynote address offered a unique perspective on the importance of preserving ecosystems and how they are intrinsically linked to our water resources and overall well-being.

Networking Opportunities

Beyond the formal sessions, the conference provided ample networking opportunities that fostered meaningful connections. I engaged in discussions with fellow attendees from other institutions. These interactions not only broadened my professional network but also offered valuable insights into different approaches to tackling environmental challenges. The EcoSummit Congress was a truly valuable experience. It enriched my understanding of eco civilization and inspired me with new program ideas of water resources, conservation and protection.





Yilin Zhuang, Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Central District, UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center


'4 Helpful Tools for Everyone'




By Lisa Strange, Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent

 **The first tool is you.** Florida has already seen multiple tornadoes, thunderstorms, and periods of high winds with heavy downpours of rain and hail. Be prepared by having these few supplies gathered and ready to grab. *Bottled water, *non-perishable foods, *can opener, *battery powered radio, *extra batteries & flashlights, *first aid kit, *battery back-up for cell phones, *tarp or plastic sheeting & duct tape, *and have a safe place where all family members know where to go with the kit, to a closet or interior walled area. To keep a watch on the tropics and your local weather; the NOAA National Hurricane Center is the place to monitor tropical weather developments. The site <https://www.weather.gov/news/230706-ElNino> provides a more detailed explanation of how El Nino impacts the climate and a plethora of other weather-related predictions.

 **The second tool** is the University of Florida's statewide weather network, referred to as FAWN – Florida Automated Weather Network. Since conception in 1997, the FAWN database and website has been maintained in Gainesville and managed by Project Manager Rick Lusher. Currently there are (47 solar powered stations that collect weather data and transmit it to a computer in Gainesville (15) minutes. The stations measure temperatures at two, six and 30 feet above ground, it also measures soil temperatures, wind speed and direction, rainfall, relative humidity, barometric pressure, leaf wetness and solar radiation. This system can provide growers, contractors, farmers with reliable climate predictions three to six months in advance so they can plan and protect their crops, determine starting/stopping jobs, planning purchases of building materials, seeding, it's unlimited who could utilize this data. Historical data charts are available upon request. Go to the fawn site at <https://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/> or email Rick at rlusher@ufl.edu to receive weekly weather report.

 **The third tool** is the largest database for agricultural production and related information. The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), is a sister division under the umbrella of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). NASS database is used to help policymakers and farmers make informed decisions about crop production, marketing and many other aspects of agriculture. The information collection periods are weekly, monthly, bimonthly, and any chemical information is collected annually. An impressive data bank, the NASS is the best possible agriculture resource for the public on every state in the U.S. All weekly survey data is compiled, then posted on the NASS site and is utilized all over the country. These sites offer vast information and available services that is priceless. Check out <https://www.nass.usda.gov/> and <https://portal.agcounts.usda.gov/portal/s/resources> for (16) other sister agencies of USDA with agricultural related data.

 **The fourth tool is agencies** that can provide funding after disasters and for special projects. Some agencies but not limited to include the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), the USDA's Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS), the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and your local Farm Bureau.

Finally, repeating the first tool, is you. Being actively involved by attending meetings, trainings, workshops and field days, as well as proactive memberships are tools that you can provide to others, be it colleagues or callers into extension offices for advice. Also keep in contact with your area extension specialist. They are a wealth of information and resources to assist you getting answers.

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Connecting Future UF Alums to UF Extension-Meet UF Intern Sarah Marc

By Lorna Bravo, CED/ Urban Horticulture Extension Agent



Sarah Marc recently graduated the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science

SARAH'S PROJECT

Sarah worked with Broward County's Extension urban horticulture Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Program. Her project supports the mission of the program by creating short 3-minute educational videos focusing on the importance of FFL environmental principles and how residents can start implementing them in their urban landscapes. She plans to use her project to connect with urban dwellers and inspire action to reduce water usage and preserve water quality.



Meet Sarah Marc
 UF/IFAS Extension Broward
 County Summer Intern 2023

Internship Reflections

“Learning about all the information available and the work UF/IFAS Extension does regarding Florida-Friendly Landscaping was eye-opening. I’m happy that I could assist in ways to spread the information and contribute to UF/IFAS Extension’s efforts to help the community.”

“In environmental science, much of the information can be doom and gloom. Working with UF/IFAS Extension showed me that while these problems exist, there are ways to solve them and that it takes working with the community.”

Interested in UF
 Internship Program?



[Connecting Future UF Alums to UF Extension-Meet UF Intern Sarah Marc - UF/IFAS Extension Broward County \(ufl.edu\)](https://ufl.edu)

UF/IFAS EXTENSION SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

What is the UF/IFAS Extension Summer Internship Program?

The summer internship program collaborates with the [Florida Cooperative Extension Service](#) and the UF/IFAS College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Students participating in this paid internship will work with county UF/IFAS Extension faculty to deliver educational programming throughout Florida. Together with the local UF/IFAS Extension faculty, students will work in one or more of these program areas:

- Agricultural and horticultural enterprises
- Water resources
- Natural resources and environmental quality
- Individual and family development
- Community resources and economic development
- 4-H Youth Development



You can find additional information here:



[College of Agricultural and Life Sciences - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS \(ufl.edu\)](#)

Native Plant Garden at Lettuce Lake Park Provides for Wildlife

Tia Silvasy, UF/IFAS Hillsborough County

The Florida Master Gardener Program Volunteers, Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and Hillsborough County Park staff came together on June 28, 2023 to plant 60 native plants of 20 different species at the Lettuce Lake Park Native Plant Garden. Our garden enhancement project was funded by the Viva Florida grant by the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Native plants bring life to the garden and this garden at Lettuce Lake Conservation Park is teeming with birds, butterflies, pollinators and hummingbirds.

The main garden area is on the north side of the nature center near the boardwalk entrance to the Hillsborough River. The site receives part sun and is occasionally moist. Thanks to previous work led by Tina Patterson of the Suncoast Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, the site was already well-established with a variety of native plants and interpretive signage showing the ecological benefits of each plant species.

The plantings helped to add biodiversity and color to the garden. The list includes: Virginia sweetspire, needle palm, coontie, necklacepod, beautyberry, flatwoods plum, Narrowleaf silkgrass, Wand goldenrod, Pinebarren goldenrod, Tickseed, black eyed Susan, swamp milkweed, aquatic milkweed, wild petunia, rosinweed, Atlantic St. John's wort, blue porterweed, red salvia, and beach dune sunflower.

Visit the Joel E. Jackson Nature Center at Lettuce Lake Conservation Park to check out our native plant garden and join us for our monthly workday the 4th Tuesday of the month at 8am and our guided native plant walks on the first Saturday of the month starting in Sept. at 9am.

For more information contact Tia Silvasy at tsilvasy@ufl.edu.



New Online Forest Landowner Academy Now Open for Enrollment

By Chris Demers and Dr. Michael Andreu,
UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences



The Forest Landowner Academy is the first of its kind offered by the UF School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (SFFGS) on the UF/IFAS Extension Online Learning catalog. Forest Landowners, and others in need of forest management education, are encouraged to enroll to connect with SFFGS forest management experts and receive quality core educational content on forestry and multiple-use stewardship concepts!

The seven course modules cover a variety of topics including:

- Understanding your forest resources
- Developing your management plan
- Timber management
- Marketing forest products
- Other forest enterprises such as pine straw and hunting leases
- Wildlife management
- Planning for the future

Each module includes an assessment questionnaire where you can apply what you've learned to your land or situation and begin or continue planning and making contacts. In addition, being better prepared and equipped to be good stewards of their forest resources, those completing the course will earn a University of Florida Certificate of Completion.

This course is relevant for Florida forest landowners and land managers, as well as those in the neighboring coastal plain regions of GA and AL. Participants will build on this course as they receive information and attend educational events offered by the Florida Land Steward Program and other partners in Florida and neighboring states.

Enroll in the Forest Landowner Academy on the Extension Online Learning Canvas Catalog:
<https://ifas-sfrc-for.catalog.instructure.com/courses/for-fla>



For more information, contact:

Chris Demers at cdemers@ufl.edu, 352.846.2375
or Dr. Michael Andreu, mandreu@ufl.edu

Program Announcements

Scholarships Available for UF/IFAS Extension Agents



UF/IFAS Extension is providing 12 scholarships (includes paid early registration and up to \$250 travel) for County and Regional Extension agents to attend, present and/or judge at the UF Water Institute's 9th biennial symposium. Preference will be given to Extension agents who submit a session proposal or an abstract. Recipients will be asked to judge at the Symposium's poster competition.



To apply for a scholarship, County & Regional Extension agents must fill out the [application form](#) by October 6, 2023.

Save the Date for Kansas City in 2024!



Join us in Kansas City for our 2024 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference!

The InterContinental Kansas City at the Plaza will be hosting us on 4/8/24 – 4/11/24 so please save the date on your calendar.



Karen Titus
 Director of Membership & Training
kmt@cwpa.org

Program Announcements



**2023 Extension Professional Associations of Florida Conference
Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort August 28 - August 31, 2023**

- Regular Registration: July 10 - August 7: \$400
- Late Registration: August 8 - August 18: \$550

The Dean’s office is providing \$500 per state or county faculty member attending—must be present all-day Wednesday and Thursday of the conference to receive funds.
To register, go online here: <https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/epaf/epaf-conference/>

Are you interested in contributing by sharing your program stories to our FANREP Newsletter?

Contact our Newsletter & Communication Team

- Contact Lorna Bravo/Chair [@lbravo1@ufl.edu](mailto:lbravo1@ufl.edu)
- Contact Lisa Strange/Co-Chair [@Lisa@lstrange@ufl.edu](mailto:Lisa@lstrange@ufl.edu)

