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MESSAGE FROM THE FANREP PRESIDENT!

Hello FANREP colleagues,

Well, it’s been a very different kind of spring, hasn’t it?

First, the good news. Safer at home orders all over have resulted in fewer people on the roads and less consumption (except for quarantine snacks!) in general. As you all know this impacted the environment very positively, if only briefly. While we are opening back up and slowly returning to activities let’s all be mindful of the ways we can stay “slow” and conserve. This is an important time to reflect on what we truly want (need?) to return to, not a mindless return to what we did before.

In other good news I have seen FANREP-ers and other Extension colleagues all over the state move to virtual programming and rolling with the changes like the agents of change that we are. Kudos to all who did so and to those who are still working towards it. You all have been reaching new and larger audiences in many cases, so I foresee positive change resulting from this pandemic.

Now the bad news. Of course, the health news is still bad and we all must continue to be cautious as we begin to creep back out into the world. Numbers of COVID cases in Florida are on the rise so we must still be vigilant. Next will be potential budget cuts due to this virus. I know many of us have been through that before, some several times. I know that FANREP-ers will be creative and

utilize the new virtual skills garnered to help clientele no matter the budget. Look to your colleagues and FANREP friends for support- I know we can help each other through this.

The 2020 EPAF conference will be virtual. The dates are August 31st—September 3rd, and there is no cost to attend. Details along with registration information will come out soon. The 2021 EPAF conference will be he help September 13th—16th at the Sheraton Bay Point Resort in Panama City, Florida.

Thank you to Carrie Stevenson and Linda Seals for putting this newsletter together and for everyone who submitted articles. The newsletter could not be realized with them- they encompass the newsletter committee for FANREP. Other standing committees include: Scholarship, Awards & Recognition, Abstracts, Membership, and Technology/Website. Thank you to all committee chairs and members for your time and commitment.

I wish everyone a safe and healthy summer! Please let me know if you have any questions or comments at any time by emailing tmgwaves@ufl.edu or calling 727-582-2109. Thank you. I can be reached at tmgwaves@ufl.edu or 727-582-2109.



Theresa Badurek, President

Bite-sized Science Webinar Series: Ocean education at your fingertips



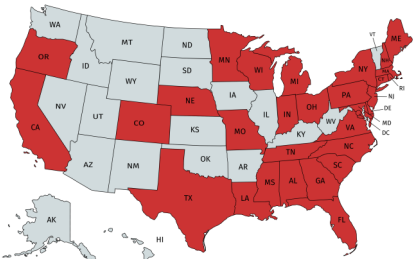
COVID-19 came to our lives and we had to quickly adapt to the challenges and changes of a pandemic. Florida Sea Grant Extension agents and specialists came together to find a way to deliver our expertise in coastal and marine science virtually. We created the Bite-sized Science Webinar Series (<http://bit.ly/bite-sizedscience>) using the Zoom platform. The Webinar format is a 30-minute presentation with a final Q&A session where all the questions that have been entered in the chat box are addressed by the speaker.

Webinars were scheduled each weekday from April 20 to May 29, and twice a week in June and July. For the first six weeks, presentations were arranged in five categories, loosely corresponding to Florida Sea Grant’s focus areas: Florida’s habitats and species; fish and fisheries; threats to coastal habitats and species; sustainability and climate change; and aquaculture and seafood. In the first eight weeks, more than 830 individuals have watched at least one of the Bite-sized Science webinars live, for a combined number of live views of over 2,500. Based on zip codes, people have joined from at least 31 states, 7 countries and 56 counties within Florida. At least 11 people have watched 20 or more of the 33 webinars. Another 41 have watched 1-19 webinars and 85 have watched 5-9. Knowledge gain is measured at the end of each webinar using a Zoom poll. On average, about 65% of attendees have reported that they "learned a lot" and about 33% reported that they had "learned something". All webinars are recorded. Links to the recordings are sent to all who registered for

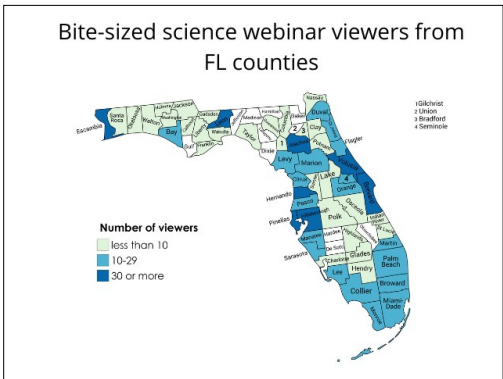
the webinar and are also available at the webinar series website. To date there have been over 3250 views of the recordings. A follow up Qualtrics survey is used to measure intent to change behavior. A link to this is sent to all

registrants in an email 24 hours after the webinar and is also posted on the website. Of 175 responses so far, 100% plan to share information they have learned with others, and 146 plan to use what they have learned. There were 127 responses listing specific actions that people planned to take as a result of the webinars. The webinar series has already resulted in the donation of funds to a coral restoration initiative, as well as the adoption of webinar content for 4-H virtual summer marine camps and virtual Florida Master Naturalist programs.

Written by UF/IFAS Sea Grant Extension agents for Taylor, Flagler/St. Johns, Okaloosa/Walton and Hernando Counties. McGuire is also interim Associate Program Leader for Sea Grant Extension.



Map of United States viewers



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Conversation Conversations

Over the past few months, we UF/IFAS Extension Agents have had to adapt to the COVID-19 developments and measures implemented to ensure our health and safety. For obvious reasons, both the University of Florida and Miami-Dade County have prohibited all in-person teaching activities. To continue serving our clientele and provide educational engagement opportunities, I pitched an idea for a weekly webinar series to my colleagues at Miami-Dade County ECO Adventures. After some planning and brainstorming, “*Conservation Conversations*” was born. These presentations are given by ECO Adventures staff and me about topics that are local and relevant to Florida. We launched this program on Friday, April 10 and they will continue through the foreseeable future, or when the restrictions begin to ease.

To ensure quality and consistency, I developed a power point template, talking points, and scripts for the introduction and closing. I also held trainings for each of the Eco Adventures staff to train them on the Zoom meeting software, teach them how to use the different features, and give them co-host access to be able to act as producers and directors. I set up “dress rehearsal” meetings for them to do a full run-through of their webinar, provided feedback to them on their content and delivery, and guided them through the creation of simple evaluation tools and polls. These made their presentations not only more engaging, but gave them metrics that they could use for their own reporting. It was important to me that the presenters shine during their webinars, and this was my way of helping them to the best of my ability.

The motivation for me to attempt a webinar series came from Extension Agents Lara Milligan and Shannon Carnevale, who led a fantastic Zoom 101 webinar at the very beginning of the COVID-related changes. Their thorough teaching and support gave me the confidence and skills to try Zooming on my own, as a host. I’ve been very pleased with our results so far. Over the course of seven weeks, we have delivered 16 webinars to a total of 178 participants from Miami-Dade County, elsewhere in Florida, New York State, Maryland, Delaware, and even Austria!

The webinars take place every Friday. For the time being, the same webinar is offered at two different times.

To register, please go here:

1:00pm webinar session

<https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYvd-ygqzsoH9zVSqwJ4xhg0R6CeuoFTZ8E>

OR

5:00pm webinar session

<https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtduCopzwgGdZT0hBDu25evql5SLd2dtp5>

All of the sessions have been recorded and uploaded to my program’s You Tube page, so feel free to check them out! Those distinguished in **bold** are the sessions that I have presented.

- **Friday, April 10:** “[Lionfish: What are they, their affects, and how we can get rid of them](#)”
- Friday, April 17: “[Conservation of Sea Turtles and Their Habitats in Miami-Dade County](#)”
- Friday, April 24: “[Marine Debris: Challenges and Solutions](#)”
- **Friday, May 1:** “[Overview of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease in Florida](#)”
- Friday, May 8: “[Invasive Species Focus: Feral Cats](#)”
- Friday, May 15: “[The Importance of the Everglades](#)”
- **Friday, May 22:** “[The Spotted Eagle Ray](#)”
- Friday, May 29: “[Climate Change 101](#)”

At the beginning of each week, Eco Adventures and I promote the Friday’s topic on our respective social media pages ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)), along with the registration links. I hope that you can join us for this new series, feel free to share with anyone that you think might be interested. Please [contact me](#) if you have any questions. Stay safe out there, FANREP!



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iNaturalist City Nature Challenge Alachua County

A big heartfelt thanks to everyone that participated in iNaturalist City Nature Challenge throughout Alachua County. This was Alachua County's first time participating in this worldwide event April 24-27. Collectively within this period, across the globe, 821,282 observations were made with 32,604 species recorded by 40,941 people. You can view all the observations and statistics for each city [here](#).

Across Alachua County, there were 10,290 observations, 1,773 species, and 377 observers. All kinds of species were recorded with some amazing photographs . . . slime molds, reptiles, amphibians, birds, spiders, insects, many plants, foxes and other mammals, fish, and all kinds of fungi. It is quite astounding the diversity of organisms in and around cities and neighborhoods. You can view all the observations in Alachua County [here](#). Folks also helped identify what was in photographs and we had 457 identifiers that made 14,086 verifications. Because of these observations and identifications, the machine learning has improved for future identifications of species in Alachua County.

iNaturalist is an everyday event so we hope you continue to observe and record observations. Enjoy!



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Youth Science Lessons During COVID-19

Spring of 2020, COVID-19 hits...

Kids are sent home from school. Some parents are sent home from work, some are not. Kids are to continue school virtually at home. Teachers are scrambling to get materials together to keep the kids on track. Parents are tasked with “teaching” their kids, many who have no idea of where to begin or how to do this. Much of what is provided are worksheets, or other assignments, that have the kids sitting inside at a table completing their assignments. There is a need to get outside – but couldn’t there be some lessons that are *designed* to get them outside?

That was my thought process when I decided to develop a series of science lessons for youth that would ask them to explore their yards and connect this to a natural resource lesson – basically outdoor school. In the early days of the COVID situation, we too were asked to work from home. I had to think of things they could do in their yards and used my own yard as the model. I came up with four topic areas – one covered each day of the week (Friday was a day of rest). The topics were those I was already working on in my extension program – albeit it was in the yard and not at the beach. Those topics were:

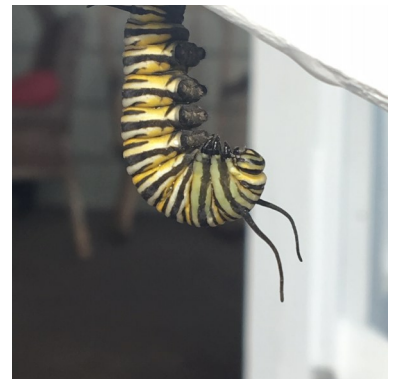
Monday – Invasive Species
Tuesday – Backyard Wildlife
Wednesday – Water
Thursday – Backyard habitats

The lessons began with some background information on the subject for the day – a quick lesson on whatever I saw as I looked out my home office window in the morning. They were then followed by some sort of outdoor activity – “can you find?”, “explore under logs”, “observe and note”. With the water activities there were “experiments” and “homework” in the sense they would begin the water cycle

process and watch it over time. With habitats we began by observing and logging species in different habitats, but as the weeks went on, we turned to building habitats.

All lessons were posted on our county website and promoted through our Facebook page. The lessons went on for eight weeks – until the kids were “officially” out of school. I was surprised by how popular they were. Honestly, I think they were as popular with the adults as the youth. 26,896 families were reached on Facebook, 3144 engaged. I discovered later that some were in California, Texas, and Massachusetts – sent to families by members of our Master Naturalist family. Invasive species were the most popular, the water experiments the least. Building habitats, such as bluebird boxes, were also popular. The number of engagements declined over time. I attribute this to more teachers engaging with their students. But there was a surge towards the end on specific topics, which I attribute to adults still engaged with us.

I am glad the public found the extension lessons useful and have heard from a few since how much they appreciated and learned from them. It is good to provide something the families needed and just got lucky that the subjects were of interest. I am also happy they were able to do school outside; several sent photos of the kids exploring and many of the kids had a “show and tell” on what they found. Though not the primary objective, I also think several families discovered how to make a wildlife friendly yard, and hopefully they did. There will be a follow up in the fall.



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Nature Knowledge Webinar Program



The *Nature Knowledge* webinar program was launched in April 2020 to provide an online opportunity to learn about current Florida's natural resources. The program hosted an expert speaker for one hour each month to discuss new information on a natural resource issue that may be evolving, controversial, or often misunderstood. The goal was to arm attendees with accurate and up to date information to disseminate to their clientele and extension program participants. It was also an opportunity for the speakers to reach a broad audience and share information regarding their own programs.

Topics have included cyanobacteria blooms, Florida bees and the invasive giant Asian hornet, and Florida Friendly Landscaping. Pre-registration was required to receive a Zoom meeting link and average attendance was 135 participants. The June program was also streamed on Facebook live with over 100 views. The program was also recorded and made available on this [IFAS Blog post](#). The April program has over 250 views and the May program has over 30 additional views.

While the program provided continuing education for instructors, volunteers, and graduates of the Florida Master Naturalist Program ([FMNP](#)), the audience also

included county extension agents and other natural resource professionals across Florida. Registrants described themselves as Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) Graduate/Volunteer (38%), FMNP Instructor (7%), IFAS/Extension faculty or staff (3%), other UF faculty, staff, or student (3%), or Other (49%; included natural resource professionals, environmental educators, students from other education institutions, and other extension program volunteers).

A poll near the end of each program revealed a very positive reception overall. An average of 66% of participants strongly agreed they increased their knowledge on the natural resource topic discussed; 54% strongly agreed they intend to use the information in their job and/or share the information with others; and 66% strongly agreed they were satisfied with the webinar format for sharing the new information. Interactions and abundance of questions during the program also indicated a high level of interest in the topics presented.

While this program was initially developed with the intention of only offering intermittently, the high attendance numbers, the positive reception, and continued interest of expert presenters will likely encourage us to continue hosting the Nature Knowledge webinar program for the foreseeable future!



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Florida Master Naturalist Program adapts to teaching online



For all courses, instructors provided synchronous online presentations, discussions, activities, and participant reporting sessions via group video meetings. Asynchronous learning activities were completed between meetings and included a variety of assignments, recorded webinars, readings, and videos. Video conference break-out rooms were used by participants to complete group projects. To ensure participants met the experiential learning requirements, the blended courses included in-person group field activities scheduled at a future date and the 100% online courses included self-directed field activities that participants completed on their own and reported upon during online group meetings.

The Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP; www.MasterNaturalist.org) was developed in 2001 to enhance understanding of Florida’s natural history and conservation issues and develop interpretive skills to effectively share that information with others. Participants in the FMNP include both laypersons and professionals interested in developing skills to become more effective as volunteers, educators, ecotourism guides, consultants, natural resource managers and proponents for conservation. FMNP courses are taught by a statewide network of certified instructors, including extension agents and instructors from other agencies and organizations.

The FMNP courses have traditionally been offered only as multiday in-person workshops that included combinations of classroom and outdoor educational experiences. This nature-based outreach training program adapted quickly during spring of 2020 to accommodate the new challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic; transitioning from a 100% in-person format to blending format that included synchronous, asynchronous, and self-directed learning activities. A flexible model allowed for a spectrum of course formats ranging from 50% blended to 100% online.



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Offering online courses during the early COVID period was a welcome opportunity based on enrollment response, with courses more likely to fill to capacity. We surveyed participants and instructors who have completed the online portion of a course in May-June 2020. Over half commented that convenience, logistics, and/or not needing to commute influenced their decision to enroll or teach in the online format. When asked about future courses, most stated they were likely or extremely likely to enroll in or teach a blended or 100% online course again. A high degree of satisfaction for online course formats was also indicated by 95% of participants stating they would recommend the online FMNP courses to others.



The transition to online necessitated substantial time and expense by the FMNP state office, including revision of the processes for shipping course materials, changes in registration fees, updates to instructor guidelines, providing instructor training resources, and modifying the FMNP registration website. There were numerous factors leading to our resiliency in successful adaptation to online, including a well-defined program structure, dedicated staff, effective communication, established curriculum guidelines, and strong partnerships.

Florida ANREP Award Winners

Achievement Awards		
Innovative Program	Energy Upgrade: Supporting housing affordability though utility saving	Lee Hayes Byron, Sara Kane, Sophia Moundous, University of Florida
Outstanding Educational Materials		
Promotional or Marketing		
Gold Award	Kids in the Woods	Michael Andreu, Annie Hermansen-Baez, and Molly Disabb, University of Florida
Silver Award	UF/IFAS Drone Prep Course	Brittany Scharf, Kalan Taylor, Matthew Smith, Stacy Strickland, University of Florida
Bronze Award	Seagrass Safe Boating Promotional Packet	Savanna Barry, Brittany Hall-Scharf, Emily Colson, Joshua Patterson, University of Florida
Short Publication		
Silver Award	Treejuvenation Florida: My Tree Benefits—Urban Trees	Marguerite Beckford, University of Florida
Long Publication		
Gold Award	This or That? A Beginner’s Guide to Commonly Misidentified Animals & Plants in Florida	A James Stevenson Jr. and Lara Milligan, University of Florida
Bronze Award	Living Shorelines Training for Marine Contractors—Manual	Armando Ubeda and Savanna Barry, University of Florida. Fara Ilami, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Gary Raulerson, Tampa Bay Estuary Program. Jessy Wales, Marine Discovery Center. Tom Ries, Ecosphere Restoration Institute Florida
Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum		
Gold Award	Florida Youth Naturalist Program; Instructor Field Guide	Shelly Johnson and Sarah Hensley, University of Florida
Silver Award	Aquatic Weed Control Calibration and Application Math	Susan Haddock, University of Florida
Newsletter or Series of Articles		
Gold Award	Fire Lines Newsletter	Dr. David Godwin and May Armstrong, University of Florida. Laurel Kays, NC State University
Silver Award	Nature Notes Series of Articles Promote Better Pest Control	Nicole Pinson, University of Florida
Bronze Award	Drumy Tales	Victor Blanco, University of Florida
Televised Conference—Video Conference—Webinar		
Silver Award	Water Quality Summit: Televised Live and Online Videos	Lee Hayes Byron and Abbey Tyrna, University of Florida
TV or Video		
Silver Award	Sea Level Rise Video Series	Carrie Stevenson, University of Florida, Mikaela Heming, Stephen Deal, and Renee Collini, Mississippi State University, Melissa Daigle, Louisiana State University, Rhonda Price, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Christine Buckel, David Kidwell, Marian Hanisko, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Christine Mohrman, Gulf Coast Alliance
Podcast/Radio		
Gold Award	Scallop Season Radio Spots	Victor Blanco, University of Florida
Silver Award	Florida-Friendly Landscaping Principles on Better Lawns & Gardens'	Tina McIntyre, University of Florida
Websites—Apps—Education Technology		
Silver Award	After the Flush Septic System Program	Andrea Albertin, Jim Moll, Mary Lusk, Whitney Elmore, William Lester, University of Florida
Bronze Award	SPM605: Environmental Sports Management	Randall Penn and Jackie Sirmopoulos, University of Florida

Florida FANREP Award Winners

Achievement Awards		
Early Career Leadership	Amanda Marek Florida Friendly Landscaping Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County	
Innovative Program	Alicia Halbritter, Caitlin Bainum, James Yarborough, Jane Cant, and Megan Brew Mann	EcoQuestrians
Outstanding 4-H/Youth	Ariel Blanton, Ray Bodrey, Scott Jackson, Erik Lovestrand, Clair Norden, Laura Tiu, and Chris Verlinde	Camp Timpoochee Marine Camp
Outstanding Team	Katherine Clements, Armando Ubeda, Patrick Williams, and Jennifer Dehart	LIFE - Learning in Florida's Environment
Recognition Awards		
Outstanding Extension Specialist	Dr. Josh Patterson Restoration Aquaculture Specialist, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, Program in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences	
Friend of FANREP	Dr. Dana Stephens Director, Mattie M. Kelly Environmental Institute and Chair of Environmental Sciences at Northwest Florida State College	
Outstanding Educational Materials		
Promotional or Marketing		
1st	Seagrass Safe Boating Boat Ramp Outreach	Savanna Barry, Josh Patterson, Emily Colson, Brittany Hall-Scharf
2nd	Hike with a Naturalist Trail Brochure	Justina Dacey, Diane Howell
3rd	Wildflower Conservation Mowing in Santa Rosa County	Mary Salinas, Suzanne Spencer, Heather Griffith, and Laura Keith King
Short Publication		
1st	Treejuvenation FL	Marguerite Beckford
2nd	Health Benefits of Seafood	Holly Abeels, Elizabeth Shephard, and Tracy Bryant
Long Publication		
1st	Florida Youth Naturalist Program Instructor Field Guide	Shelly Johnson and Sarah Hensley
2nd	State of the Science of HABs in FL	Lisa Krinsky and Betty Staugler
3rd	Living Shorelines Training for Marine Contractors Manual	Savanna Barry, Armando Ubeda, Fara Ilami, Gary Raulerson, Jessy Wales, Tom Ries, and others
Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum		
1st	Florida Friendly Fishing Guide Online Certification Course	Savanna Barry, Angela Collins, Betty Staugler, Brittany Hall-Scharf, Ed Camp, Holly Abeels, Libby Carnahan, Maia McGuire, Rick O'Connor, and Shelly Krueger
2nd	Aquatic Weed Control Calibration & Application Math	Susan Haddock
3rd	Florida Youth Naturalist Program Instructor Field Guide	Shelly Johnson and Sarah Hensley
Newsletter or Series of Articles		
1st	Fighting the Spread of Invasive Plants in Florida	Krista Stump
2nd	Nature Notes Series of Articles Promote Better Pest Control	Nicole Pinson
3rd	Drumy Tales	Victor Blanco
Televised Conference/Webinar		
1st	Water Quality Summit	Lee Hayes Byron and Abbey Tyrna
TV/Video		
1st	Barotrauma Video Series	Angela Collins, Betty Staugler, Ed Camp andHolly Abeels
2nd	Cane Toad Education	Steve Johnson and Al Williamson
3rd	Visualizing Air Traffic Patterns	Krista Stump, Stacy Strickland and Brittany Hall-Scharf
Podcast/Radio		
1st	Scallop Season Radio Spots	Victor Blanco
2nd	Florida Friendly Landscaping Principles on Better Lawns & Gardens	Tina McIntyre