



Contents

FANREP President Message	1
Meet our new UF Specialist	2
FANREP Scholarship Stories	3
2024 Program Success Stories	4
2024 Program Announcements <i>The Florida-Friendly Landscaping Planning Session</i>	5
2024 Program Announcement <i>The Great Southeast Pollinator Census Program</i>	6
2024 Program Announcement <i>The Great Southeast Pollinator Census Program</i>	7
2024 Program Announcement <i>2024 EPAF</i>	8

MESSAGE FROM THE FANREP PRESIDENT! Greetings FANREP members,

Henry Ford once said, “If I asked them what they wanted, they’d have said faster horses”. Too often, we humans, fail to think outside the box. Well, the last couple of years have seen FANREP climbing up, out, and over the box. I am so grateful for those that came before me Yilin, Taylor, Holly, Theresa, and many more. Their work made it possible for FANREP to establish 501c(6) status and transfer funds to a more user-friendly banking entity. These achievements have a tremendous impact on our membership.

Please join me in sending a huge THANK YOU to Shelly Krueger. She has been on the front lines of the FANREP financials since 2017. Shelly, your service to your colleagues has been invaluable. THANK YOU. Congratulations to all the FANREP and ANREP award winners!! Relevant, timely, and impactful programs making a difference to Floridians, everyday.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at EPAF next month. Daytona Beach will be our destination on August 26th – 29th. The EPAF Board has been working to bring all Associations membership an informative and enriching professional development experience. Bring your notebook and pencil to capture the ideas and breakthroughs you will want to share when you return to your offices in September.

Speaking of EPAF, pack your sandals for a walk on the beach after dark and a couple of sweaters to wear during the sessions (it is always too cold inside)

There will be a FANREP membership meeting on Monday, August 26th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. You definitely do not want to miss the fun activities that we have planned for that afternoon. If you know of a 1st time EPAF attendee from your office or district, encourage them to attend the 1st timer’s orientation right after the Association meeting, from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Monday night’s dinner will be “On Your Own”, so make plans with some friends to relax, catch up, and reconnect.

I am so thankful I had the opportunity to serve this Association and all of you. I will be turning over leadership at EPAF to Shannon Carnevale, a rather amazing Natural Resources agent and super-human!! If I can assist anyone, in anyway, know that I am just an email away.

Marnie Ward, Ph.D.
FANREP President



Meet Our New Invasive Species Research Program Coordinator



Eric Suarez
Invasive Species Research
Program Coordinator

Eric Suarez helps research and manage invasive species research projects and staff for the UF Croc Docs laboratory. He is involved with understanding the biology, ecology, habitat use, and behavior of invasive species in Florida, specifically priority invasive species including Burmese pythons, Argentine black and white tegus, Nile monitors, iguanas, and spectacled caimans.

Eric works with federal, state, and local government agencies; as well as tribal and non-governmental entities to understand how invasive species are impacting Florida's native wildlife and habitat.

“Effective research and management of invasive species in Florida are crucial to preserving our unique ecosystems. By understanding the impacts and implementing proactive strategies, we can protect our natural resources and ensure a sustainable future for both wildlife and their habitat.”



CONTACT

3205 College Avenue

Davie, FL 33314

Phone: 954-577-6314

Email: eric.suarez@ifas.ufl.edu

Web site: [TheCrocDocs\(ufl.edu\)](http://TheCrocDocs.ufl.edu)



Hillsborough County Extension Launches Bay Friendly Landscaping Class

Thanks to a \$5,000 bay-mini-grant from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County was able to develop a Bay Friendly Landscaping class. Educational classes were offered to teach residents about protecting the environment by planting low maintenance Florida native plants in their landscape. Florida native plants are adapted to our soils and climatic conditions, and often require little to no irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides after establishment. Reduction of nutrient and chemical pollutants in our home landscapes and subsequently to our water bodies will help protect the Tampa Bay.

The grant funding included a makeover of the landscape around our extension office, money to purchase ‘Plant This, Not That’ flip-books for class participants, and printing of an educational brochure. Watch our [Bay Friendly Landscaping webinar](#) to learn more about native plant selection and design in the Tampa Bay area. Plantings at our office included 152 plants of 16 species including silver buttonwood, Bahama cassia, yaupon holly, marlberry, necklacepod, sea grape, Elliot's lovegrass, muhly grass, rockland lantana, Walter's viburnum, beach creeper, fringe tree, coreopsis, and Simpson's stopper.



Tia Silvasy, Extension Agent II,
Residential Horticulture,
Master Gardener Volunteer
Coordinator, UF/IFAS
Extension Hillsborough County



For more information visit <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/hillsboroughco/2024/07/11/native-plants-to-protect-the-tampa-bay-watershed/>

By Lorna Bravo, Broward County, Urban Horticulture Agent

Restoring Rangpur Lime Citrus Courtyard



Julieta Ross, MG, Class 2020, Geo T. MG, Class 2023,
 John Jors MG, (Wisconsin)



The cloned rangpur lime trees at The Bonnet House



The Bonnet House Botanical Collection

The average lifespan of a citrus tree is approximately 50 years, with fruit production drastically decreasing soon thereafter. The Florida ecosystem presents many challenges for those wishing to grow non-native plant species. With the goal being to keep the original Bonnet House botanical collection intact, removing the diminished existing Rangpur lime tree and replacing it with a new and healthier tree was not an option as it would not be a part of the original collection. Additionally, growing new trees from the seeds of its fruit was not an option, since citrus trees are hybrids and growing one from a seed does not guarantee that the new seedling will have the characteristics of the parent plant.



The cloned rangpur lime trees at The Bonnet House

Broward County and Wisconsin MGVs

To solve this dilemma a team of horticultural master gardener volunteers teamed up to address this problem. Using air layering, which is a propagation method that allows to root branches while still attached to the parent plant, the team was able to produce a collection of new trees identical to the original rangpur lime tree that the Bartlett's brought back from India. Air layering enables the creation of clones from mature trees, meaning that the new trees, even though small, are genetically identical to the parent tree which keeps the original collection intact. An added benefit of air layering is that trees can produce fruit within their first two seasons.

For more information visit [Gardens - Bonnet House/](#)

Program Announcements

Enhancing Florida's Water & Natural Resources Resiliency through Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ The 2024 Planning Session

By Lorna Bravo, Broward County, Urban Horticulture Agent

In the serene embrace of the Austin Cary Forest, Alachua County, a gathering of distinguished experts, UF agents and faculty, industry leaders, and state agencies converged during the 2024 Florida-Friendly Landscaping planning session. Our purpose? To deliberate and innovate, seeking ways to fortify Florida's water and natural resource resiliency through sustainable landscaping practices. As we immersed ourselves in the natural surroundings, we were reminded of our shared commitment to the Florida-Friendly Landscaping vision and mission—a collective effort to harmonize human needs with ecological balance.



Dr. Michael Orfanedes, Lorna Bravo, Donna Castro, Giuseppe Giacinto/ UF/IFAS Broward County Extension
 Cesar Peralta/ GI-BMP Regional Coordinator, UF/IFAS Collier County



Austin Cary Forest, Alachua County



For more information visit <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>

The Great Southeast Pollinator Census Program

By Lisa Strange, Taylor County AG & Natural Resources Agent II,
 Master Gardener Coordinator

How to Count

in the

GREAT SOUTHEAST

Pollinator Census

1 Catch the latest buzz
 Before the count begins, check out GSePC.org.

2 Pick your plant
 Choose a favorite pollinator plant to monitor.

3 Get to counting
 Keep count of each insect that lands on your plant for 15 minutes.

4 Share the results
 Fly on over to GSePC.org and upload your count to the website.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
 EXTENSION

This is a great program for all ages to participate acting as a “Citizen Scientist”. In 2017 a pilot program started in Georgia, by UGA’s Becky Griffin the Project Coordinator for the Great Pollinator Census. In 2022 South Carolina joined through Clemson University, 2023 North Carolina joined through North Carolina A & T, and Florida through UF/IFAS has joined officially this year. Jeremy Rhoden UF/IFAS Extension Agent in Marion County created files the TEAMS app with logos, flyers, brochures, promotional material as well as a webinar that was recorded and available on the Master Gardener Volunteer website. I will be using his webinar as a teaching tool for the Pollinator Census Training next week in Perry. **Thank you, Jeremy, for your enthusiasm, and hard work – you are contagious.** We are calling it The Great Florida Pollinator Census.

What an easy way to learn common insects and butterflies, while providing important data to researchers. I heard that last year the Zebra Longwing butterfly was found in north Georgia area bordering South Carolina. New information like this, tracking populations can help gauge the health of a larger environment, by watching declines in pollinator numbers, or the response to changing climate conditions for example seeing the Longwing butterfly travel so far north. Every bit of data provided is critical to supports a huge range of environmental management efforts. The annual two-day event, a participant can easily sit in front of a plant whether it be on personal property, community garden or public location, for just fifteen minutes using official pollinator count sheets, make slash marks next to photo’s listed of the insects you observe. Then upload that count on the website: <http://gsepc.org> where you can learn more.

Program Announcements

The Great Southeast Pollinator Census Program

By Lisa Strange, Taylor County AG & Natural Resources Agent II,
Master Gardener Coordinator



**GREAT FLORIDA
POLLINATOR CENSUS**

Timely for this time of year, where it's so hot outside, is a simple and practical activity that can be accomplished in 15 minutes, then back inside in AC where the data can be entered and networking (or partying) with others. Anyone can host a Pollinator Party. Businesses could offer the activity and in turn offer a discount on a product when they turn in their census sheet. So many ways this could be used promotionally.

I'm excited to host a Pollinator Census Party at Taylor County's Extension grounds in our Demonstration site, August 23 and 24th. This is a new and major event for the Taylor County Master Gardener Volunteers to participate as well as earn hours by serving refreshments, assisting with hands outs, and assisting anyone in the process. You can make it as grand or small as you like. I had signage made for any of the Volunteers to use at their designated hosting locations. Visit the website <http://gsepc.org> and our TEAMS page (Great Florida Pollinator Census) app for more information.



For more information, contact: Lisa Strange @ lstrange@ufl.edu

Program Announcements



**2024 Extension Professional Associations of Florida Conference
Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort August 26 - August 29, 2024**

To register, go online here:

<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/epaf/epaf-conference/>

Agenda:

<https://extadmin.ifas.ufl.edu/media/extadminifasufledu/epaf/docs/pdfs/2024-EPAF-Agenda.pdf>

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
- Contact Lisa Strange/Co-Chair lstrange@ufl.edu