

2017 Award Winners

Early Career Leadership – Shelly Krueger - As the Florida Sea Grant agent in Monroe County for the UF/IFAS Extension, Shelly Krueger has been successful in developing an extensive extension program to address timely and relevant coastal issues such as water quality, habitat restoration, citizen science, and fisheries management. She created Florida Keys Water Watch, a volunteer water quality monitoring program that teaches residents, students and teachers to collect chemical water quality data in residential canals. She is the education and outreach lead for a large-scale sponge community restoration program in Florida Bay in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and several nonprofit organizations.



Mid Career Leadership – Rebecca Jordi CED Environmental Horticulture, Nassau County - The first person in the county to ever use micro-irrigation on municipal property; the first to develop a demonstration garden to represent the 9 Principles of Florida Friendly Landscapes at a location where the BOCC meet twice a month and a building that houses the County Supervisor of Elections, the County Property Appraiser, the County Manager and the Director of Office and Budgets for the County are located; the first to provide CEU for municipal employees and the first to challenge municipals workers to get pesticide licenses to comply with State laws.



Individual Program Leadership – Maia McGuire -The Florida Microplastic Awareness Project is a statewide citizen science effort to quantify the amount of microplastics in Florida water bodies. It is tied to an outreach effort to get people to reduce the amount of plastic waste that they generate. As people discover how abundant microplastics are in their local waterways, we are finding that they are willing to make behavior changes to reduce their contribution to the problem.



Friends of FANREP – Tonya Clayton, Ph.D. Tonya was awarded the Friends of FANREP Award for her dedication to UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County. Tonya is an active member on the Overall Advisory Committee and is an impactful advocate for Extension. She provided significant contributions through the development of state-wide curricula for the new Florida Waters Stewardship Program. Tonya’s contributions to Extension will have a positive, lasting effect.



Outstanding Specialist – Tatiana Borisova, Ph.D. Tatiana Borisova is an assistant professor with the UF/IFAS Food and Resource Economics Department. She works with Agents on the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs that focus on the value of water resources to Florida’s economy, the effectiveness of water quality and allocation policies, and the costs of pollution abatement and water conservation strategies for agricultural and urban areas. Programs like Water Schools and the Florida Waters Stewardship Program would not be possible without her support and contributions.



Innovative Program –

1st place – **Team** - Sheila Dunning, Jennifer Bearden, Scott Jackson, Laura Tiu, Brooke Saari, Dawn Pack, & Brittany Tate “For Dunes in Schools”

Grade school youth are trained in coastal ecosystems and plant production through in class, online and hands-on experience. Coordination with a local non-profit group, AmeriCorps volunteers, teachers and state park system enables each child to grow and install Sea Oats as part of Northwest Florida dune restoration.

2nd place – Libby Carnahan – “Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel”

In response to a stated need, the Agent recruited 16 key research scientists and 9 designated alternates from 12 local, regional, state and federal agencies as well as 4 county governments to serve on the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel (CSAP), an ad-hoc workgroup whose goal is to provide scientific counsel to local governments planning for a changing climate. A few of the scientific organizations represented include the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Water, Florida Sea Grant, Florida Climate Institute, the National Weather Service, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the US Geological Survey.



3rd place - **Team** - Jim Davis, Moffis, B.L., Boughton, R.K., Daniels, J.C., Demers, C., Enloe, S.F., Hill, J.E., Johnson, S.A., Pienaar, E.F., Westervelt, D., Clothier, A., Stout, R., Lester, W. “Wildlife and Invasive Species Education”

This event was formed after assessing the need for more education on invasive species and native wildlife from UF/IFAS Sumter County Hike Sumter events, which were established in 2013. W.I.S.E. provides continuing education to Florida Master Gardeners and Florida Master Naturalists to promote and educate on native wildlife, native plants and the control of invasive species in Florida

Outstanding 4-H/Youth Development – Sheila Dunning – “Dunes in Schools”

Grade school youth are trained in coastal ecosystems and plant production through in class, online and hands-on experience. Coordination with a local non-profit group, AmeriCorps volunteers, teachers and state park system enables each child to grow and install Sea Oats as part of Northwest Florida dune restoration.



Educational Material: Promotional Materials –

1st place Lara Milligan “ECO Teacher Training Workshop Promotion”

Description: Promotional materials for this workshop included a save-the-date card, program flyer, and two videos. Save-the-date cards and flyers were mostly distributed electronically, but don’t showcase all the ECO Teacher Training Workshop has to offer. This is where the two promotional videos come into play, highlighting snippets of workshop activities, participant interviews and benefits of participating, and this is all done in a positive and professional manner.



2nd place – **Team** - Mary Derrick, Elizabeth Bolles, Sheila Dunning, Mike Donahoe, Tracy Bryant, Johanna Welch “Formosan Termites” Workshop flyer

The Formosan Termite Awareness in the Panhandle Event Flyer was created to promote 4 workshops in 3 adjoining counties. 248 individuals attended the workshops and learned about the biology of the Formosan termite, how to better protect their homes from the pest and how to interpret their termite contracts for coverage for this termite species.

3rd place – **Team** - Susan Webb & Erin Elsberry – “School and Community Garden Brochure”

Brochure to promote the assistance (technical and educational) the school and community garden programs offer to clientele in Polk County. The brochure is intended to advertise these programs with target audiences specific to school and community gardening.



Educational Material: Brief Publication –

1st place Lisa Hickey “Palm Nutritional Deficiencies Chart”

Our project was a quick reference guide created for homeowners to understand the nutritional deficiencies for palm trees. Palm nutritional deficiencies is the number one question asked in our plant diagnostic clinic and the short publication gives residents handy information and photos to address most palm deficiencies.



2nd place – Chris Verlinde - “Navarre Beach Seashore Life” - A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Species

This publication provides identification of the most common animals, visitors to Navarre Beach might encounter. It is a thick, laminated 6 fold in full color on 2 sides. The guide provides pictures of common fish visitors might see at the Navarre Beach Marine Sanctuary (a near-shore snorkeling reef), catch on the Navarre Beach Pier or in the estuarine waters of the Santa Rosa Sound. Pictures of jellies, crustaceans, sharks, rays, shells, birds, mammals and reptiles are included. It is distributed to visitors at the Navarre Visitors Center and other locations.



3rd place –Erin Elsberry - “Putting the Garden to Bed for the Summer”

The factsheet was created to assist the target audience with developing a garden summer maintenance plan. The intended audience included teachers, administrators and volunteers. The document was distributed to school garden teams during a gardening workshop, as well as individual contact teachings.



Educational Material: Short Publication – 1st place – Libby Carnahan – “Recommended Projection of Sea-Level Rise in the Tampa Bay Region”

Under the facilitation of the Sea Grant Agent, the Climate Science Advisory Panel participated in a year-long iterative process of literature review, expert speaker presentations, and facilitated discussion, and in September 2015 published the final “Recommended Projection of Sea-Level Rise in the Tampa Bay Region”. With this shared projection, local governments are coordinating, developing, and implementing appropriate coastal adaptation and risk reduction strategies.



2nd place – Mary Derrick – “The Panhandle Butterfly House Expands Environmental Awareness”

“The Panhandle Butterfly House Expands Environmental Awareness” is a 9-page article that was accepted and published in the peer-reviewed Journal of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, Volume 8, issue 2, in December 2015. The publication seeks to inspire other Extension professionals to partner with similarly focused organizations or groups to foster environmental awareness, particularly butterfly and pollinator protection, through the operation of a butterfly house.



3rd place – Lisa Hickey – “Fresh New Landscape” Factsheet Series

The factsheet series were developed to increase the awareness of residents in landscape designs, to help avoid landscaping pitfalls, to determine appropriate plant usage, and to determine the wildlife benefits of selected plant material. The series were supplemental factsheets that supported existing educational workshops and our “Landscape Assistance Program” and to be utilized as residential reference material when they started a new landscape.



Educational Material: Long Publication – 1st place – **Team** - Holly Ober & Bill Giuliano – A series of EDIS publications

We created a series of eight EDIS documents to provide information to the general public about wildlife that commonly cause problems for people in Florida. The documents outline recommendations on how to deal with wildlife that are considered by many people to be either dangerous or damaging, including panthers, bears, coyotes, wild hogs, deer, alligators, snakes, and non-native frogs.



2nd place – **Team** - Sheila Dunning, Jennifer Bearden, Scott Jackson, Laura Tiu, Brooke Saari, Dawn Pack, & Brittney Tate - “Dunes in Schools Volunteer and Student Workbook”

Grade school youth are trained in coastal ecosystems and plant production through in class, online and hands-on experience. Coordination with a local non-profit group, AmeriCorps volunteers, teachers and state park system enables each child to grow and install Sea Oats as part of Northwest Florida dune restoration. The workbook orientated the volunteers to the various stations that are utilized at the installation field trip. Students a provided with worksheet at each learning station.

3rd place – **Team** – Team - Jim Davis & Chris Demers – “Wildlife and Invasive Species Management Education” Booklet

The booklet was used as a supplement to the educational workshop, Wildlife and Invasive Species Education or W.I.S.E. The booklet contains information and resources for native wildlife and invasive species.

Educational Material: Newsletter –

1st place – Chris Demers – The quarterly Florida Land Steward newsletter is sent by mail and electronically to Florida landowners, foresters and natural resource professionals. It was described by one private landowner recently as the “Times Union of the Florida Woods”.



2nd place – **Team** - Mary Derrick, Elizabeth Bolles, Molly Jameson, Matt Lollar, Sheila Dunning, Les Harrison, Gary Knox, Julie McConnell, Matt Orwat, Judy Biss, Carrie Stevenson, Blake Thaxton, Taylor Vandiver, Pete Vergot, Larry Williams, J. Xin – “Gardening in the Panhandle” Newsletter upgrade

Gardening in the Panhandle is an online weekly newsletter that conveys timely and pertinent research-based knowledge on topics such as plant disease, proper gardening practices and new plant varieties to residential clients. Authors are agents and specialists throughout the panhandle. Email links were sent to 3,074 subscribers leading to 78,120 views in 2015.

3rd place – Lynn Barber “A series of articles published in the Florida Community Association Journal”

The Magazine’s focus is homeowner associations, boards of directors, property managers, landscape professionals and community attorneys and community association residents. The monthly horticulture articles were based on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ (FFL) Principles. The four samples I submitted included Gardening with Perennials, Heat-seeking Annuals, Favorite Funky Flowers and Rainwater Harvesting. The purpose of the articles was to provide Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ water conservation, environmental horticulture and plant selection information to the target audience above; providing science based information to educate and empower communities (and residents) in making environmentally responsible decisions for their businesses and residents.



Series of Articles –

1st place – Susan Haddock - Pesticide Poisoning and Exposure.

The series of articles was published in the 2015 *In The Field Magazine* issues, which is circulated throughout Hillsborough County, with the goal is to “raise awareness of agriculture, the farmer, rancher and the blood, sweat and tears that goes into getting the safest food supply to your table each day and to create a bond with those not directly involved in agriculture in order to build a better understanding of the industry”. The series of articles serves to present a complex and serious topic over several months, so as not to inundate the reader with fear, but with a better understanding of the topic and how to respond appropriately. Part 1 defines integrated pest management, the types of pesticide exposure and distinguishes between pesticide exposure and poisoning. Part 2 speaks specially to the potential for pesticide poisoning and the effects of pesticide poisoning. Part 3 addresses responding to and diagnosing pesticide poisoning.



2nd place – Nicole Pinson - The project was a series of articles created for homeowners to address landscape issues. Articles were written for The Laker/Lutz News and topics included beneficial insects, fall vegetable gardens, garden safety, and pet-friendly landscapes. Printed newspapers are mailed to homes and businesses in Lutz, Land O’ Lakes, Wesley Chapel, Zephyrhills, Dade City, and San Antonio. Timely, relevant and straightforward articles enable readers to apply the information to their landscapes.

Radio –

1st place – Judy Biss - This radio broadcast was part of the regularly aired Calhoun County Extension News radio program. In partnership with the local radio station, our goal is to educate the public on topics related to natural resources, agriculture, and horticulture that are current and relevant to the community in the listening area.



2nd place – Taryn Sudol ‘ Radio Interview for pond restoration

Cox Media and News96.5 WDBO reached out to Kids House and myself for an 26 minute interview. The talk covered both Kids House objectives and the importance of stormwater ponds and ways to improve them. It aired on five separate local station. My hope is that this conservation inspired people to think more about how they fit into the watershed and how the waterbody their closest to can be improved. Since the air date, the county and I made a slide show to match with the interview and post it on YouTube so that it is available to anyone interested.



Video/Video Disk –

1st place – Taryn Sudol “Protecting the Lake”

In October 2015 I created a 3:30 minute video discussing aquatic plants and best management practices in the yard to reduce nutrient and pollutant impacts on water quality. My intention was to have a short video, putting less demand on people’s time, but within that time, delivering simple behavior changes and increasing the residents’ awareness of vegetated waterfronts.

2nd place – Elizabeth Staugler “The Great Bay Scallop Search Orientation”

The Great Bay Scallop Search is a citizen science event designed to evaluate the health and population status of the Florida bay scallop. Up to 150 volunteers are recruited in each of four southwest Florida estuaries and two panhandle estuaries annually. Volunteers are trained in survey methods and sent out to survey assigned locations. 122 scallop search participants indicated that they had seen the video prior to participating in the search.

Computer Software/Application –

1st place – **Team** – Carrie Stevenson, Libbie Johnson, Rick O’Connor, Blake Thaxton, Chris Verlinda – “Discover Naturally EscaRosa On-line Application”

The Discover Naturally EscaRosa Application complements the Naturally EscaRosa website. It was developed to attract the growing number of users that utilize technology to receive information. The marketing program was developed so that visitors, locals, and businesses would be aware of the website and app, what the sites offer and to increase use of this technology. The application has been marketed at two conferences, overall advisory meetings, with the website and on the website.

Web Page – 1st place - **Team** - Shannon Carnevale & Lara Milligan

The project was a wildlife webinar series which sought to reduce human/wildlife conflict through web-based education. The project included planning and hosting five webinars in 2015 and six in 2016. All webinars were recorded and are available for viewing on our county UF/IFAS Extension websites.



Mixed Materials –

1st place – Eric Lovestrand - The project involved the creation of a website, a radio PSA and two printed pieces. They were utilized in an outreach campaign as part of a larger effort to improve sea turtle nesting beach habitat and assist property owners by increasing compliance with a local sea turtle lighting ordinance in Franklin County.



2nd place – **Team** - Shannon Carnevale & Lara Milligan - The project was a mixture of wildlife webinars that sought to reduce human/wildlife conflict through web-based education. In addition, we used social media and graphics, a newsletter article, a graphic flyer, and email advertisement to engage users who are likely to be interested in web-based program delivery.

Sustainability – New Category – Leon County Extension Office Sustainability Best Practices

UF/IFAS Leon County’s Zero Net Energy Extension Center has been used to teach 736 clientele participating in workshops, tours and day camps how a 50-year-old building can be renovated into net-metered office space using solar PV and closed loop geothermal HVAC in tandem. Instructional aids developed include fact sheets, kiosk, signage, posters and Web-based energy monitoring feeds. Saving taxpayer’s money, stewardship of the environment and improving the quality of life in Leon County were the primary reasons for pursuing net zero energy goals. Special attention was paid to minimizing peak demand and associated utility costs. The net zero approach also serves to protect the county from risk associated with increasing energy costs and utility bills.