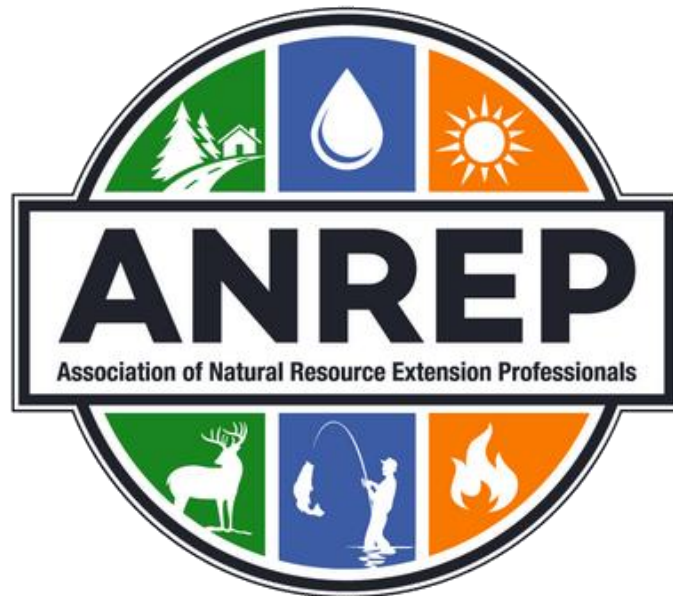


# Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals



## Award Recipients 2026

*With award nomination abstracts*

The ANREP Awards Program fosters high standards within the membership, recognizes significant achievement, and expands the use of high quality, innovative materials and programs by honoring the outstanding members and partners who developed them.

# Achievement Awards

Achievement Awards recognize exceptional ANREP members who exhibit outstanding leadership and program excellence individually and in teams.

## Distinguished Career Leadership

### **Amanda Rockler, University of Maryland, Sea Grant Extension**

For more than seventeen years, Amanda Rockler has led transformative, systems-level change in natural resources Extension across the Chesapeake Bay region. Rising from Associate Agent to Interim Sea Grant Extension Program Leader, she has built durable programs that integrate watershed restoration, workforce development, climate resilience, and behavior change science. She co-founded the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional certification program, established two Watershed Stewards Academies, and helped create the SMART tracking tool to verify nutrient reductions. Her programs have educated more than 19,000 individuals. Verified impacts include thousands of pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus reduced and more than 600,000 pounds of sediment prevented from entering local waterways. Amanda has secured \$4.1 million in competitive funding and helped community partners leverage more than \$4.7 million for restoration and resilience projects. Her leadership exemplifies measurable environmental impact, institutional sustainability, and distinguished career excellence in Extension natural resources programming.

## Early Career Leadership

### **Kaydie McCormick, University of Florida IFAS Extension**

Kaydie McCormick began her career with University of Florida/IFAS Extension Seminole County as the Residential Horticulture Agent and Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator in 2016. Over her career, she has delivered 1,290 educational events, reaching over 25,617 group learning participants, and developed over 600 resources focused on sustainable gardening/landscaping and environmental stewardship. Her efforts have led to the conversion of 202,348 square feet of turf into water-efficient landscapes, saving 1.5 million gallons of water annually. Kaydie also leads the Seminole County Master Gardener Volunteer Program, which has contributed over 53,800 hours of service since she started her career, equating to an estimated \$1.66 million in in-kind donations. She has received numerous state and national awards and is a recognized leader in horticulture and environmental education.

## **Excellence in Natural Resources Extension and Service**

### **Jennifer Fawcett, North Carolina State University**

Dr. Jennifer Fawcett, a distinguished leader in fire ecology extension, exemplifies professional excellence through her visionary leadership and high-impact programming. An active ANREP member since 2013, she has fundamentally reshaped prescribed fire capacity across the Southeastern United States. Her signature contributions include the development of the Southeastern Online Prescribed Fire Course and the institutionalization of the National Extension Wildland Fire Initiative (NEWFI). Through rigorous, evidence-based evaluation and scholarly research, she has bridged the gap between science and practice, leaving an enduring legacy of cross-agency collaboration and mentorship.

## **Innovative Program**

### **Calling the Coast Home: A Continuing Education Series for Coastal Real Estate Professionals**

*April Turner, SC Sea Grant Consortium; Brooke Saari, SC Sea Grant Consortium; Amy Scaroni, Clemson University Extension; Abi Locatis Prochaska, formerly ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve; Maeve Snyder, formerly NorthInlet-WinyahBayNat'l Estuarine Research Reserve*

Calling the Coast Home is a continuing education program that equips real estate professionals (REPs) with reliable, science-based coastal information to share with homebuyers and renters. Training REPs helps share current information and leverage research conducted by the Consortium and its partners. From January 2020 to December 2025, 59 courses were delivered, reaching over 1,300 REPs, with many attending multiple courses. The program generated an estimated \$145,743 in economic benefits through savings in CEU costs, travel, and time. Participants improved their scientific literacy, particularly regarding flooding, sea level rise, erosion, and tides. The program fosters informed communities and greater understanding of coastal resources, while drawing interest from other Sea Grant, NERR, and Extension programs seeking to replicate the model in rapidly growing coastal regions.

## Outstanding Team

### Great Southeast Pollinator Census Team

*Becky Griffin, UGA Extension/Urban Ag Center; Jeremy Rhoden, University of Florida/IFAS Extension; Amanda Bracher, NC State Extension; Amy Dabbs, Clemson Extension; Bethany O'Rear, Auburn University; Kaylin Bruening, Mississippi State University Coastal Conservation & Restoration*

*The Great Southeast Pollinator Census (GSePC) is a high-impact Extension natural resources program led by an interdisciplinary leadership team of Extension professionals spanning six states. Its success reflects strong collaboration in program planning, delivery, and evaluation. Originating in Georgia in 2019, the leadership team strategically expanded the Census into a regional, no-cost community science initiative. The program educates the public about pollinator ecosystem services, promotes sustainable habitat creation, and generates meaningful observational data. Under coordinated leadership, participants have recorded tens of thousands of pollinator observations and created 4,505 sustainable pollinator gardens. Training is delivered year-round, culminating in two synchronized Census counting days each August. The GSePC demonstrates how effective Extension team leadership can drive scalable conservation outcomes while empowering diverse communities across the Southeast.*

## Regional Collaborator

### From the Southeast to the World: A Regional Extension Collaboration Advancing Pollinator Conservation Through Community

*Jeremy Rhoden, University of Florida; Rebecca Griffin, University of Georgia; Amy Dabbs, Clemson University; Amanda Bratcher, North Carolina State University; Bethany O'Rear, Auburn University; Kaylin Bruening, Mississippi State University*

*The Great Southeast Pollinator Census (GSePC) is a highly visible, six-state Extension collaboration engaging residents in pollinator conservation across Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. Built through consistent coordination, shared leadership, and common educational principles, the program has grown from a single state effort into a nationally recognized model for community science and public engagement. In 2025, coordinators from Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Florida extended this regional work internationally through collaboration with pollinator researchers in the United Kingdom. This recognition reflects years of strategic planning, monthly multi-state collaboration, and aligned volunteer training programs that have increased public awareness, habitat stewardship, and regional leadership in pollinator conservation.*

# Outstanding Educational Materials Awards

These awards recognize outstanding Extension natural resources educational materials, featuring innovative presentation, usefulness and impact.

## Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum

### Gold

#### **The Great Pollinator Count Book**

*Becky Griffin, UGA Extension/Ctr. for Urban Ag; Susan Richmond, Independent Author; Bethany Harris, University of Georgia Center for Urban Ag*

*The Great Pollinator Count* is a children's book that supports and expands the Great Southeast Pollinator Census (GSePC), a community science program launched in 2019. Created in collaboration with Census leadership, the book aligns accurately with Census protocols and educational goals, ensuring scientific integrity and program fidelity. Through immersive author participation, factual review, and illustrator collaboration using real Census imagery, the book authentically represents youth engagement in pollinator science. Since its 2025 publication, the book has become a widely adopted STEAM resource, integrated into Extension workshops, educator trainings, and 4-H Pollinator Ambassador programs. Its national reach, strong adoption by educational partners, and recognition as a Best STEM Book of the Year demonstrate its effectiveness in advancing entomological literacy and fostering youth stewardship through Extension programming.

### Silver

#### **The Maryland Master Naturalist's Handbook**

*Joy Rafey, University of Maryland Extension*

This handbook serves as the primary text for University of Maryland Extension's Maryland Master Naturalist training course that provides instruction in support of volunteer environmental stewardship and conservation efforts. Subject-matter experts, including educators as well as field practitioners, contributed essays to this volume. It is a vastly improved teaching tool that is on par with peer publications to share with our trainees and the general public. In a very relatable, narrative format, this handbook is organized so that readers begin with the big picture (land use history, Chesapeake Bay and urban ecology, environmental justice), move into detailed and specific subject matter (geology, soils, botany, invasive species, birds, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles,

mammals, etc.), and finish with tools for engagement (citizen/participatory science, climate communication, interpretation). This narrative flow is intended to foster a deep connection with Maryland ecosystems while providing instruction that empowers action.

### **Bronze**

#### **Aquatic Invasive Plants: A Field Guide for Michigan Lakes, Streams, and Ponds**

*Paige Filice, Michigan State University Extension; Erick Elgin, Michigan State University Extension; Jo Latimore, Michigan State University Extension; Tom Alwin, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Kelsey Bockelman, Michigan State University Extension; Lois Wolfson, Michigan State University; Kevin Walters, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy*

The Aquatic Invasive Plants: A Field Guide for Michigan Lakes, Streams, and Ponds book is an innovative, comprehensive resource developed by Michigan State University Extension to support natural resource professionals, volunteers, and water stewards across the state. It equips users with accessible, science-based information to accurately identify aquatic invasive plants. Featuring detailed descriptions, high quality photographs and illustrations, and practical guidance on reporting and management, the publication strengthens Michigan's capacity to detect invasive species early and protect freshwater ecosystems. Its broad adoption by partners, conservation organizations, and citizen scientists highlights its value as a trusted tool in statewide invasive species prevention and response efforts.

### **Long publication**

#### **Gold**

#### **Community Engagement for Wildfire Adaptation: It's How That Matters**

*Carrie Berger, Oregon State University; Emily Jane Davis, Oregon State University; Kayla Bordelon, Oregon State University; Yasmeeen Hossain, Oregon State University; Manuel Machado, Oregon State University; Christina Frieauf, Boldampersand*

As wildfires increasingly affect Oregon and communities worldwide, practitioners are working to build fire-adapted communities by connecting people to information, resources, and networks. However, outreach efforts often rely on one-time, information-heavy, or fear-based approaches that limit long-term relationships and meaningful change. While wildfire science is well shared, there is little guidance on how to engage communities using adult learning principles, trauma-informed practices, and collaborative approaches. To address this gap, our project team assessed practitioner

needs and developed the first Extension-published, evidence-based primer on community engagement for wildfire resilience in the Northwest. We integrated these concepts into statewide training, shared them at national and international venues, and received strong positive feedback and global interest. This work has laid the foundation for expanded programming, including advanced training and a community of practice in 2026.

## Silver

### **Not All Flame's the Same**

*Carrie Berger, Oregon State University; Emily Jane Davis, Oregon State University; Aaron Groth, Oregon State University; Glenn Ahrens, Oregon State University; Chris Adlam, Oregon State University; Manuel Machado III, Oregon State University; Ariel Cowan, Oregon State University; Micah Schmidt, Oregon State University; John Punches, Oregon State University; Katie Wollstein, Oregon State University; Gretchen Bracher, Independent designer; Christina Frieauf, Boldampersand; Kayla Bordelon, Oregon State University*

*Not All Flame's the Same* is an accessible Extension publication that helps Oregonians understand why wildfire and prescribed fire behave differently across the state. Oregon's landscapes vary from coastal forests to the Cascades and Great Basin, and fire regimes differ accordingly. This resource introduces foundational fire ecology concepts and shows how climate, vegetation, topography, and human activities, including Indigenous burning and fire exclusion, shape fire outcomes. It is organized around seven Oregon ecoregions (Coast Range; Willamette Valley & Western Cascades; Southwest Oregon; East Cascades; Columbia Plateau; Blue Mountains; Northern Great Basin Rangelands), presenting each region's historic fire patterns, major changes over the last 200 years, and implications for today. Accompanied by high-quality graphics, the publication supports place-based learning for residents, educators, and practitioners statewide and beyond.

## Bronze

### **Agricultural Conservation Funding Guide for Pennsylvania**

*Erin Trouba, Penn State Extension; Dana Flowers, Penn State Extension-CACAT; Genevieve Christ, Penn State Extension- CACAT; Eric Cromer, Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission*

*The Funding Opportunities for Agricultural Conservation in Pennsylvania: A Resource Guide for Best Management Practices (BMPs)* stands out as an exceptional long publication that exemplifies the mission of ANREP. Developed through a partnership

between the Penn State Extension's Center for Agricultural Conservation Assistance Training and the Pennsylvania State Conservation Commission, this guide demystifies the complex landscape of conservation funding for farmers and conservation professionals across Pennsylvania to equip them with a tool to navigate funding opportunities effectively. The publication, available online and in print, consolidates state, federal, and nonprofit funding programs into a user-friendly reference, empowering farmers to implement practices that improve soil health and water quality.

## **Newsletter/Series of Articles/Blogs**

### **Gold**

#### **Cook County Extension Newsletter**

*Sarah Waddle, U of MN Extension*

Launched in 2021 by Extension Educator Sarah Waddle, the Cook County Extension newsletter has become a vital resource for local residents in Cook County, Minnesota. The monthly newsletter delivers timely content on natural resources topics to 595 subscribers - reaching 10% of the county's population. Engagement metrics demonstrate its profound value: 2025 data shows remarkable open rates up to 71%. By curating local programming and community partner resources, the newsletter drives action, with readers clicking links up to 114 times per issue. This publication serves as an exemplary model of Extension communication, successfully connecting a significant portion of the community with essential educational opportunities and local resources.

### **Silver**

#### **Gulf Coast Catch and Cook Blog Series**

*Megan Moore, UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant*

The Gulf Coast Catch and Cook series consists of 12 blogs and accompanying fact sheets shared monthly to the UF/IFAS Extension Florida Sea Grant Pasco County followers. Each month, a local seafood species was featured, aligning with the open harvest fishing seasons and community interest on Florida's Gulf Coast. Readers received practical learning tools, including species facts, fishing guidance, and a simple recipe. The series incorporates fishing photos submitted by community members and highlights other UF/IFAS programs. Started in 2025, the blog series has over 5,000 UF/IFAS Blog page views, 91 social media interactions, and photo contributions from 12 individuals. The series offers needed background knowledge, supports sustainable practices, and addresses timely topics that resonate with the Gulf Coast community.

## Bronze

### **Florida's Hidden Invaders: Tackling Invasive Species Blog Series**

*Clarissa Chairez, UF/IFAS Extension Orange County*

*Florida's Hidden Invaders* is a multi-part invasive species blog series developed for homeowners, Master Gardener Volunteers, and budding conservationists. Hosted on the UF/IFAS Blogs platform, the series focuses on common plants that people might not realize are invasive. In the blog series we define terminology, ecological impacts, and reporting steps using EDDMapS, and alternative plants to select instead. Content is written in plain language to ensure accessibility while maintaining scientific accuracy. The series was posted in August 2025 and generated 1,327 page views by the end of the year and resulted in multiple speaker requests throughout Central Florida. By focusing on emerging species, the series promotes early detection and prevention, aligning with Extension priorities in natural resource protection and community-based monitoring.

## Podcast/Radio

### Gold

#### **The Garden Thyme Podcast: 'Native Plants & Their Pollinators'**

*Mikaela Boley, University of Maryland Extension- Talbot County; Emily Zobel, University of Maryland Extension; Rachel Rhodes, University of Maryland Extension; Lisa Kuder, University of Maryland Extension*

*The Garden Thyme Podcast* is a monthly podcast that features three University of Maryland Extension professionals: Mikaela Boley (Principal Agent Associate), Rachel Rhodes (Senior Agent Associate), and Emily Zobel (Senior Agent Associate). Episodes are recorded, edited, and released monthly, and feature a variety of topics related to Environmental Stewardship and Ecological Landscaping. With 70 episodes released since October of 2019, the podcast has built a following reaching over 34,200 downloads since its creation with listeners across the world. The 2025 episode, *Native Plants: Their Pollinators*; features 57 minutes of interview with University of Maryland- Extension specialist Lisa Kuder, and includes 3 recurring segments for native plant, bug, and tip of the month.

### Silver

#### **From Airwaves to Action: Using Community Radio to Educate Residents on Rain Garden Design and Native Plant Landscaping**

*Samantha Porzelt, Clemson Extension*

Get Planting with Meeting Green featured Clemson University Cooperative Extension Services Water Resources Agent, Samantha Porzelt, to discuss rain garden design, water

quality protection, and the ecological benefits of native landscaping. The target audience included environmentally conscious adults interested in sustainable gardening and residential stormwater management. Using conversational storytelling and real-world examples, the program explained how rain gardens reduce runoff, prevent flooding, and filter pollutants before they reach waterways. Listeners were directed to Clemson Extension publications, the Carolina Rain Garden Initiative website, and resources from the South Carolina Native Plant Society for deeper learning. The episode was promoted via Meeting Green's newsletter, which reaches 2,453 individuals, and on social media, with broadcast and streaming metrics showing more than 1,600 listeners on the day of airing. The program demonstrates effective use of public media to expand Extension outreach and inspire environmental stewardship.

## Promotional and Marketing Materials

### Gold

#### **Nature Coast Currents Social Media and Website**

*Savanna Barry, University of Florida; Laura Reynolds, University of Florida; Finella Campanino, University of Florida; Emily Colson, University of Florida*

The Nature Coast Currents (NCC) webinar series uses a coordinated package of social media graphics, cross-platform posts, and a dedicated program website to promote coastal science webinars relevant to Florida's Nature Coast. Launched in 2022, NCC addresses a regional need for clearer communication about ongoing research within the Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve. Consistent visual branding, platform-specific graphic formats, and targeted messaging drive engagement and webinar participation. Website traffic indicates strong and sustained interest, with 2,926 users and 15,290 tracked events in 2025 alone. Social media posts in 2025 exceeded industry standard engagement. The integrated promotional materials strategy enhances participation in the webinar series that ultimately raises awareness of coastal issues, improves public access to science, and strengthens regional partnerships.

### Silver

#### **Virginia Master Naturalist Program Transformations Promotional Video and Shorts**

*Michelle Prysby, Virginia Tech; Elissa Leif, MiniMatters, LLC; Tiffany Brown, Virginia Tech; Abi Mountford, Virginia Tech*

Created in 2025, the video and four accompanying shorts feature crowdsourced footage, interviews, and voiceover by Virginia Master Naturalist volunteers. Together, the videos promote the training, service, and social connections of the program and highlight the diversity of its participants.

## **Bronze**

### **Agents Of Discovery: Explore Nature Like Never Before**

*Katherine Clements, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County; Nathalie Smith, Sarasota County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources; Evelyn Spencer, Sarasota County Intern; Kevin O'Horan, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County; Brendan Davis, Sarasota County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources; Kristina King, Sarasota County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources*

*Agents of Discovery* is a free, interactive mobile app platform available internationally that transforms Sarasota County parks into self-guided, outdoor learning adventures for families. Content was developed and launched in June 2025 by University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County in partnership with Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources. Place-based missions engage youth and families in hands-on exploration of local ecology, conservation, and natural and historical resources. Four missions are active and sites rotate to enhance engagement, learning, and visitation to local conservation areas. In-person events assist families to get started. An extensive promotional campaign of 27 social posts, short-form promotional videos, three informational videos, web page, rack card, flier, press release, signage, and incentives were developed. There were 771 total plays of the 8 missions launched in 2025.

## **Short publication**

### **Gold**

### **Health Benefits Of Nature: Communicating How Nature Can Nurture Our Health**

*Katherine Clements, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County; Zahir Ringgold Cordes, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County; Kevin O'Horan, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County*

Nature and Health, a multi-faceted educational campaign developed by University of Florida/IFAS Extension Sarasota County, includes resources and programs developed to concisely help families, individuals, educators, and other professionals understand how connecting with nature can support mental and physical health of youth and adults. In August 2025, fact sheets for youth and adult audiences were developed that build a bridge between innovative research investigating the health benefits of spending time in nature, and the audiences who would benefit from this knowledge and suggestions for implementation in their lives. They were widely distributed digitally and at community events. A webpage, blog series, webinars, in-person presentations, and mindfulness-based youth and adult programs were developed to further enhance opportunities to engage the community in this important topic.

## Silver

### What's in Your Glass? A Drinking Water Journey

*Brad Kunsman, Penn State Extension; Susan Boser, Penn State Extension; Danielle Rhea, Penn State Extension; Spencer Groff, Penn State Extension*

What's in Your Glass? A Drinking Water Journey is an interactive, youth-focused publication developed by Penn State Extension that teaches where drinking water comes from, how watersheds function, how land use impacts water quality, and why water testing is essential. Designed for classroom and community use, the publication integrates hands-on STEM activities aligned with Pennsylvania STEELS standards, including watershed modeling, nonpoint source pollution simulations, and real-world water quality testing. The resource emphasizes both public water systems and Pennsylvania's more than one million private water supplies, empowering youth and families to understand testing responsibilities and interpret lab results. By connecting science concepts with practical decision-making, this publication builds environmental literacy and promotes informed stewardship of drinking water resources.

## Bronze

### Leave The Leaves Factsheet

*Jacqueline (Jackie) Leboutitz, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County; Kevin O'Horan, UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County*

UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County developed a *Leave the Leaves* factsheet, supported by a companion blog, survey, and free vinyl bumper sticker, to help residents and park visitors understand the ecological value of leaf litter. Inspired by a Sarasota County land manager, the factsheet was shared with Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources staff and distributed through kiosks at local parks and preserves to reach audiences at the point of decision-making. Using clear language and highlighting local species, it explains how leaf litter provides habitat, supports nutrient cycling, and serves as free mulch, while emphasizing keeping leaves out of waterbodies and storm drains. Survey results showed strong intent to adopt recommended practices: 84% intended to leave leaves/use as mulch, 53% to compost, 44% to keep leaves away from water, and 94% to share information. Stickers have been seen on cars and water bottles, extending outreach.

## TV/Video

### Gold

#### **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Educational Video**

*Kelly Oten, North Carolina State University*

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: Biology, Identification, and How You Can Fight Back is an educational video hosted on NC State Extension's YouTube channel that addresses one of the most destructive invasive pests affecting eastern hemlock forests. The video explains the biology and identification of hemlock woolly adelgid and highlights ongoing research efforts aimed at its management. It also provides a clear, step-by-step overview of pesticide application strategies that homeowners and land managers can use to protect hemlock trees. Posted in March 2025, the video has reached a broad audience, accumulating more than 8,000 views.

### Silver

#### **Broadcasting Conservation Leadership: The Pollinator Ambassador Academy Video**

*Jeremy Rhoden, University of Florida*

The Pollinator Ambassador Academy promotional video showcases pollinator conservation, citizen science, and leadership development for community members. This five-minute recorded broadcast integrates engaging storytelling with research-based content to educate viewers about pollinator conservation and report documented program outcomes. The video highlights the work of 169 trained ambassadors, including the planting of more than 3,700 square feet of pollinator habitat and outreach to over 2,000 individuals statewide. Distributed through social media and public presentations, it has attracted many new participants to enroll in the Academy and continues to connect community members with trained ambassadors. Created using accessible technology, the editing process proved manageable for a first-time producer and demonstrates how Extension professionals can develop high-quality educational media in-house.

## **Bronze**

### **Seminole County Virtual Farm Tour Video Series: Wholesale Nursery**

*Morgan Pinkerton, University of Florida IFAS Extension/Seminole County; Kurt Slafkovsky, Seminole County Government TV; Vincent Early, Seminole County Government TV; Shawna Welter, Seminole County Government; Ally Linville, Seminole County Government; Rachel Rector, Seminole County Government; Kelly Field, University of Florida IFAS Extension/Seminole County; Serena Walsh, University of Florida IFAS Extension/Seminole County*

For over 25 years, the Seminole County Farm Tour has connected residents with local agriculture and horticulture. To continue this tradition and expand its reach, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Seminole County partnered with Seminole County Government TV to develop a four video Virtual Farm Tour. The series featured a wholesale nursery, tropical plant nursery, goat farm, and vegetable farm, offering residents an immersive look at local food and plant production. Each video highlights a diverse operation focusing on sustainable practices including efficient irrigation, water protection, and integrated pest and nutrient management. Collectively, the videos received over 1,548 YouTube views and 26,638 additional views across other platforms, creating a long-lasting educational resource that strengthens public awareness and support for local agriculture, horticulture, and natural resources.

## **Webinars**

### **Gold**

### **Farm to Fork Tropical Fruits Webinar**

*Morgan Pinkerton, University of Florida IFAS Extension/Seminole County; Kaydie McCormick, University of Florida IFAS Extension/Seminole County; Wanda Adorno, University of Florida IFAS Extension/Seminole County; JK Yarborough, University of Florida IFAS Extension/Seminole County; Tina McIntyre, University of Florida IFAS Extension/Seminole County; Bennett Llyod, Museum of Seminole County History*

Rapid urban development across Central Florida has contributed to significant farmland loss, mirroring global challenges that threaten the resilience of local food systems. In response to a 2024 needs assessment highlighting agricultural literacy as a priority, UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County launched the Farm to Fork program, a monthly webinar and workshop series designed to reconnect residents with food, land, and sustainable practices. Each month featured a webinar and a hands-on in person workshop, covering rotating topics such as the highlighted webinar on tropical fruits. In 2025, the program reached 604 participants (+198 recording views). Post session evaluations showed 99.5% increased their knowledge (+1.64 on a 5-point scale), and

95.3% adopted at least one learned practice within six months, demonstrating strong educational impact and behavior change.

## Silver

### **Women in Ag, Strength in Stewardship: Empowering Women to Advance Natural Resources Practices**

*Janessa Hill, Ohio State University Extension Holmes County; Nannette Neal, Ohio State University Extension; Heather Neikirk, Ohio State University Extension; Sarah Noggle, Ohio State University Extension; Manbir Rakkar, Ohio State University; Robert Moore, Ohio State University; Dan Lima, Ohio State University; Tracy Winters, Ohio State University Extension; Hurbert Quintero Fonseca, Ohio State University; Amanda Bennett, Ohio State University; Sabrina Schirtzinger, Ohio State University*

The 2025 Women in Agriculture Wednesday Webinar Series delivered accessible, research-based natural resources education to Ohio residents, emphasizing practical land stewardship, pollinator conservation, habitat improvement, soil health, Ohio hunting facts and sustainable perennial crop management. Across nine sessions, participants reported measurable increases in knowledge, confidence, and intent to implement conservation practices. Reported outcomes included plans to establish native and pollinator gardens, improve pesticide safety, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce soil disturbance, and expand perennial plantings such as pawpaws. The series fostered peer-to-peer learning, strengthened participants roles as conservation leaders in their communities, and encouraged Extension-informed behavior change across agricultural and residential landscapes. Recordings of all sessions are available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@OhioStateExtensionWIA>.

## Bronze

### **Nature Coast Currents Webinar Series**

*Savanna Barry, University of Florida; Laura Reynolds, University of Florida; Finella Campanino, University of Florida; Emily Colson, University of Florida*

Nature Coast Currents is a monthly webinar series launched in 2022 to improve public and professional awareness of research and monitoring across Florida's Nature Coast, encompassing three regional Aquatic Preserves. Designed for agency staff, researchers, community members, and resource managers, each 30 to 40-minute session features coastal and marine science topics delivered in an accessible, engaging format. The program has achieved exceptional and sustained reach, with 2,101 registrations from 809 unique individuals, strong repeat attendance, and more than 3,600 YouTube views. Evaluations show 93% of attendees are very likely to return, 85% find content directly

relevant to their jobs or lives, and 49% report applying what they learned. Nature Coast Currents provides needs-based extension education by delivering high quality content with measurable impact.

## Websites/Apps/Educational Technology

### Gold

#### **Tidal Science Oyster Watch: Online Course**

*Megan Moore, UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant; Lara Milligan, UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County*

Tidal Science Oyster Watch is an online educational Canvas Course developed to support the UF/IFAS Extension Vertical Oyster Gardens: Community Oyster Restoration through Education program. The course serves as an educational resource to increase community engagement and stewardship relating to Vertical Oyster Gardens (VOG) restoration programs. The course consists of three modules: Oyster Education, Oyster Restoration, and the Oyster Watch Community Science program. The self-led course consists of educational readings, recorded seminars, worksheets, diagrams, quizzes, and training videos. Since 2025, 182 participants have enrolled, with 10 joining the community science program. In total, 124 completed the course and survey, indicating that 91% (n=113) increased knowledge related to oyster restoration and water quality by an average of 40%, via self-reflection.

### Silver

#### **South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program (SARSRP) Website**

*Brooke Saari, SC Sea Grant Consortium; Crystal Narayana, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium; Jocelyn Juliano, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium; Matthew Gorstein, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium; Emily Osborne, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium; Brooke Saari, South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium*

Red snapper averages recreational economic value estimated at over \$275&nbsp;million annually, making it a critical marine resource whose management has been closely followed. To inform future management of South Atlantic red snapper, an independent stock assessment was conducted from 2021 to 2025, resulting in a final report. Recognizing the need to house and contextualize the report, the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium created the South Atlantic Red Snapper Research Program (SARSRP) website. This resource was provided directly to industry members, fisheries managers, and policymakers interested in the research behind the estimate, best fishing practices, next steps in the decision-making process, and potential impacts for the fishery. Since

October 2025, the website has been viewed over 1,465 times, with more than 313 visitors accessing the report.

**2026 ANREP Awards Committee:** Catelyn Turner (Chair), Alicia Betancourt, Victor Blanco, Sourabh Chakraborty, Taylor Clem, Tim Daly, Jamielyn Daugherty, Thomas Derbes II, Terra Freeman, Judy Jean , Katie Mastenbrook, Dilip Nandwani, David Outerbridge, Femeena Pandara Valappil, Nicholas Polanin, Linda Sapp, Alexander Tays, H. Baris Tecimen, Catelyn Turner, Brooklyne Wassel, Megan Weber, Ondine Wells , Yilin Zhuang

**2026 ANREP Awards Judges:** Holly Abeels, Michele Bakacs, Vivek Bist, Victor Blanco, Mikaela Boley, Jameson Boone, Pressley Buurma, Clarissa Chairez, Rebecca Craps, Tammy Cushing, Jim Ekins, Emily Evers, Jennifer Fawcett, Erin Garrett, Katherine Hayes, Rachel Henry, Alissa Hevesh, Janessa Hill, Kim Ingram, Brenda Jackson, Heather Kalaman, Carolyn Kovacs, Mike Loizzo, Amanda Marek, Kaydie McCormick, Heather Nix, Holly Ober, Abigail Ratcliff, Danielle Rhea, Jeremy Rhoden, Madison Rodman, Brooke Saari, Anna Stockstad, Erin Trouba, Adam Tyler, Sarah Waddle, Megan Weber, Bonnie Wells, Martin Wunderly, Anne Yasalonis