Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals

Award Recipients 2022

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

Outstanding Educational Materials Awards

Book or Comprehensive Program Curriculum

Gold Award

Selling Logs from your Property: A Curriculum package

The Selling Logs from your Property program is a two-day program for small private woodland owners that are interested in learning the process of selling timber from their land. The program typically draws over 100 small woodland owners from the local and neighboring counties. Since its inception in 2015, over 600 landowners have attended this program in two states. Extension faculty and staff from three states collaborated to develop a curriculum of the comprehensive program which was distributed to over 50 Extension personnel in the Western United States. This program helped landowners make informed harvesting decisions while still meeting forest management goals, follow their state Forest Practices laws, and get a fair market price for their logs.

Lauren Grand, Alicia Christiansen, and Francisca Belart. Oregon State University. Tamara Cushing. University of Florida.
Chris Schnepf. University of Idaho.
Kelsey Ketcheson and Kevin W. Zobrist. Washington State University.

Silver Award

Plant Biotechnology Middle School 4-H Curricula

As the world population continues to expand, there is a critical need to address food supply concerns. Kalia (2018) explains that plant biotechnology “encompasses a multitude of scientific tools and techniques for screening and genetic manipulation of plants to develop beneficial or useful plant/plant products.” Plant breeding and biotechnology assist in the developing of new varieties and traits, leading to higher-yielding crops and food with improved nutrition, taste, and storage life. While 4-H is certainly rooted in agriculture and natural resources, no national curriculum related to plants exists. Through a grant awarded by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), Georgia 4-H created a 6-part curriculum about “appreciating the power of plants” for middle school youth.

Kasey Bozeman. University of Georgia

Bronze Award

Junior Water Academy Curriculum

The UF/IFAS Junior Water Academy is a six-week interactive and educational program for youth ages 8-14, addressing issues of water quality and conservation. The purpose of the Junior Water Academy is to introduce or reinforce common subject areas referring to water. Through a cumulative curriculum, we aim to empower youth to protect their local waterways, people, plants, animals, and the environment. Through hands-on activities, participants will learn about important, relevant water-related topics that have an impact on our daily lives. The curriculum includes six lesson plans intended for one-hour of instructor led participatory activities. Lesson plan topics include: the water cycle, aquifers, stormwater and watersheds, Indian River Lagoon food webs, pollutants, and water conservation.

Lisa Krimsky, Natalie Parkell, Jessica Moses, and Madison Borman. University of Florida

Long Publication

Gold Award

Simple Solutions for Your Eroding Backyard Stream

When Pennsylvanians have small streams running through small, mostly residential properties, they can have big problems. Many of Pennsylvania's streams suffer from extensive erosion, threatening infrastructure and carrying valuable property away downstream. For large landowners, opportunities to work with agricultural conservation or municipal stormwater programs exist. But these small, residential stream owners typically have little support. In response to the demonstrated need, Penn State Extension developed a how-to guidebook that leads these landowners through steps that they can take on their own to help protect and restore their streams. Simple Solutions for Your Eroding Backyard Stream is a 20-page manual covering stream assessment, stream repair options, instructions on choosing plant materials, potential grading and required permits, and maintenance tasks for a successful project.

Jennifer Fetter, Danielle Rhea, Susan Boser, Kristen Koch, Mary Wilson, Julianne Schieffer, Vincent Cotrone, Amanda Grube, Amanda Kirsten, Jenny Walker. Penn State University

Gold Award (cont.)

Stream Bank Repair Manual for South Carolina

In July, 2021 the Stream Bank Repair Manual for South Carolina was released statewide. This manual is designed to help homeowners and professionals choose practices that will slow property loss, stabilize stream banks, and protect water quality. Within the first 4 months of release, three hundred and thirty individuals visited the Stream Bank Repair website, where they can view and download the manual. Clemson's Stream Bank Repair program helps homeowners and land managers to address erosion and instability on stream banks, using techniques like grading, erosion control matting, and livestaking with native vegetation. All of the actions recommended in the manual are cost-effective and covered by nationwide permits.

Katie Collins, Karen Jackson, and Kim Morganello. Clemson University

BRONZE AWARD

How to Use Compost in Gardens and Landscapes

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide research-based information about how property managers can use compost in gardens and landscapes. State and local government agencies asked OSU to develop the publication after visiting numerous properties while investigating herbicide-contaminated compost in the region. The agencies noticed that compost was being overapplied and used on its own to fill raised garden beds. This publication provides general audiences with detailed information about how to correctly use compost in gardens and landscapes. It helps readers to choose the right type and amount of compost for their situation. It also helps them avoid overuse of compost which threatens waterways. The fact sheet is available online (optimized for mobile devices) and as a PDF.

Weston Miller and Janet Donnelly. Oregon State University

Tree Health Assessment and Risk Management

This nomination is for a Mississippi State University Extension publication, Tree Health Assessment and Risk Management. People need to be aware of the proper care for the trees around them. As trees age, defects may develop in trees. While trees are very resilient, defects can eventually create hazards for the tree remaining in place. This publication discusses what healthy trees look like, how defects develop, how to evaluate those hazards, and techniques for mitigating hazard risk. This is essential for people to make proper decisions about the care of trees in the landscape for improved safety and welfare

John D. Kushla, and Jeff Wilson. Mississippi State University

BRONZE AWARD (CONT.)

Standardized Invasive Species Terminology

The excessive jargon associated with invasive species, and its often-incorrect usage, hinders stakeholder education about invasion impacts and control. Extension professionals need a clear, concise, and consistent language for education. Our UF/IFAS EDIS Publication meets this goal by introducing, and demonstrating the utility of, a standardized list of seven terms: native, nonnative, introduced, established, invasive, nuisance, and range change. This paper does not resolve scientific debate, but instead provides a tool to improve stakeholder understanding about the causes, consequences, and control of invasive species. These terms are applicable across all taxa, easily understandable, and can describe most situations involving invasive species. We also list terms to avoid and often-encountered legal terms. This proposed standardized language can strengthen the impacts of invasive species extension programing.

Basil V. Iannone III, Emily C. Bell, Shannon Carnevale, Jeff E. Hill, Julie McConnell, Martin Main, Stephen F. Enloe, Steven A. Johnson, James P. Cuda, Shirley M. Baker, and Michael Andreu. University of Florida

Newsletters or Series of Articles

Gold Award

Panhandle Outdoors e-Newsletter

Panhandle Outdoors is an e-newsletter developed by the UF IFAS natural resource extension agents in the Florida panhandle. This weekly publication reaches clientele from around the southeast region each Friday. Article subjects include a variety of natural resource interests including invasive species, marine life, wildlife, trees, plants, insects, as well as their habitats. There are articles about outdoor activities including fishing, hunting, hiking, and pond management. Many readers are interested in environmental topics such as climate, water quality, and impacts from local hurricanes. We also include articles on local seafood and aquaculture, outdoor youth activities, as well as our extension events. In 2021, seventeen agents wrote 92 articles that had 171,391 views. This publication is popular with outdoor enthusiast from around the region.

Richard O'Connor, Dr. Andrea Albertin, Jennifer Bearden, Ray Bodrey, Shelia Dunning, Scott Jackson, Molly Jameson, Daniel Leonard, Erik Lovestrand, Mark Mauldin, Danielle Sprague, Carrie Stevenson, Mark Tancig, Dr. Laura Tiu, Chris Verlinde, Kalyn Waters, and Dr. Patrick Williams. University of Florida

Silver Award

Rutgers Earth Day, Every Day E-News Blast

As a complement to our state-wide Earth Day, Every Day webinar series, Rutgers Cooperative Extension initiated an E-newsletter to provide written material to the public about actions they can do at home or in the community to protect the environment. Articles topics are planned out in advance based on seasonal issues, current events, and webinar topics. Seven articles were produced in 2021 covering green new year's resolutions, reducing plastic use, flooding in New Jersey, invasive species, ecotherapy, 7 year Cicada emergence, and Spotted Lanternfly. Thus far over 3000 individuals receive the newsletter via email and the articles have been viewed 705 times via social media and had 36 likes, comments, or shares. The newsletter is available at https://salem.njaes.rutgers.edu/category/earth-day/

Michele Bakacs, Amy Rowe, Steve Yergeau, and Sal Mangiafico. Rutgers University

Bronze Award

Forest Stewardship Education Newsletter

Forest Stewardship Education e-Newsletters are published bimonthly to expand outreach and education for the Forest Stewardship Education Initiative, developed in 2019 by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. The target audience is over 250 participants who have completed a 9 week Forest Stewardship Workshop series. Newsletters are also available to the general public via the UC ANR Forest Stewardship website http://ucanr.edu/forestrynewsletters. Each newsletter focuses on forest management topics that address specific landowner needs or requests. The newsletters serve to provide readers with additional knowledge, connect them to a variety of natural resource professionals and resources, link them to Cooperative Extension or partner organization events both past and present, and provide forest landowners motivation to engage in forest management activities

Kim Ingram and Susan Kocher. University of California

Podcast or Radio

Gold Award

Introduced Podcast

Introduced is a podcast about the human decisions and invasive species that are changing Wisconsin's waters. The ever-expanding series explores stories about aquatic invasive species, an area of focus for our university-based research and outreach program – the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant College Program based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Introduced is an ambitious new way to advance our brand by bringing listeners relevant, science-based, academically grounded information that serves the Great Lakes communities' needs. Through conversational, engaging storytelling, Introduced unveils the consequences of introducing aquatic invasive species. It also inspires listeners to be better freshwater stewards, which is the core goal of Wisconsin Sea Grant's outreach.
Bonnie Willison, Sydney Widell, Tim Campbell, and Titus Seilheimer. University of Wisconsin Sea Grant College Program based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Silver Award

Naturally Florida Podcast

Florida residents are dependent on natural resources, but many are unfamiliar with the state's ecology and ecosystems. "Naturally Florida" was designed to reach these people through short, research-based, and environmentally-focused podcast episodes. Faculty record, edit, and release episodes monthly. Podcast episodes have been played 6,604 times since launching on June 21, 2021 and are available on all major podcast platforms. "Naturally Florida" is in its infancy and is already having far-reaching impacts. As faculty continue to market and promote the podcast, more listeners will be reached with critical natural resource information, ultimately protecting, and enhancing the local environment.
Lara Milligan and Shannon Carnevale. University of Florida

Bronze Award

The Garden Thyme Podcast

The Garden Thyme Podcast is a podcast that features three University of Maryland Extension professionals; Mikaela Boley (Senior Agent Associate), Rachel Rhodes (Agent Associate), and Emily Zobel (Senior Agent Associate). Episodes are recorded, edited, and released monthly, and feature a variety of topics related to Home Horticulture and Environmental Stewardship. With 29 episodes released since October of 2019, the podcast has built a following reaching over 10,000 downloads since its creation with listeners across the world. Episodes are approximately 35-45 minutes long, and feature a main topic or interview of a specialist, plus 3 recurring segments for native plant, bug, and tip of the month.
Mikaela Boley, Rachel Rhodes, and Emily Zobel. University of Maryland

Promotional and marketing Materials

Gold Award

Promoting Naturally Florida Podcast

It's one thing to have a podcast, but another for listeners to discover it. Faculty collaborated on a variety of promotional and marketing materials to help spread the word about their new Naturally Florida podcast. Materials developed to date include a website, conference poster, media kit, press release, blogs, social media graphics, promotional video, and guest podcasts. The media kit includes several downloadable promotional fliers with a variety of skin tones for various audiences, links to other podcasts faculty have been featured on, links to media sources promoting the podcast and more. Naturally Florida's download rate has increased 22% since launching in June 2021.
Lara Milligan and Shannon Carnevale. University of Florida

Silver Award

2022 Phenology Calendar

Phenology is the study of the timing of seasonal events in nature such as the blooming of dogwood trees and the mating of whitetail deer. Wildlife emerging from hibernation, birds nesting and migrating, and flowers blooming are a few of the phenological events happening all around us, every year. For many, phenological events are important markers of the changing seasons. Phenological record-keeping has become increasingly popular with citizen scientists. This calendar was created in an attempt to educate the public about the type and timing of phenological events in their region of the state.
Lynn Dickinson, Becky Barlow, Bence Carter, Nancy Loewenstein, Mark Smith, Wesley Anderson, Cameron Boland and John Kush. Auburn University

Bronze Award

Celebrating Earth Day 2021: Restore Our Earth

Several statewide activities were carried out in 2021 in honor of Earth Day and Earth Month. For the second year, numerous Earth Day public celebrations were canceled because of COVID-19. Nonetheless, spreading the message of Earth Day and Earth Month was still very important to Alabama Extension. Mother Earth was still glowing in all her splendor, and there were numerous reasons to celebrate her and the environmental advances made over the past 51 years. Several promotional and marketing materials were shared online, via social media and radio. These alternatives allowed citizens to celebrate Earth Day, despite COVID-19. Going green is easier than people think, so let's get started. Become an Earth Day hero today was the slogan used to awaken the Earth Day spirit.
Dr. Karnita Garner, Dr. Tyler Mason, Allyson Shabel, Mary Dixon, Dr. Roosevelt Robinson, Kerry Steedley, Shannon Schoeneweiss, and Wendi Williams. Alabama A&M University

Short Publication

Gold Award

Increasing the Catch-and-Release Survival of Black Sea Bass

Black sea bass are commonly caught and released by recreational anglers along the US east coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. Barotrauma effects reduce the catch-and-release survival when captured in deeper waters, but swim bladder venting, when done properly as instructed in this fact sheet, can significantly increase the survival of black sea bass that are released by recreational anglers. Additional angling practices, such as reducing fight times and avoiding fishing in locations and seasons with high discard rates or with abundant predators, could also help to increase catch-and-release survival. Following the recommended catch-and-release practices in this fact sheet will encourage responsible angling practices and help to support the long-term sustainability of the black sea bass population and the east coast fisheries.

Dr. Douglas Zemeckis and Dr. Eleanor Bochenek. Rutgers University
Dr. Jeff Kneebone. New England Aquarium
Dr. Connor Capizzano. Atlantic White Shark Conservancy

Silver Award

Life Along the Salt Marsh: Troubleshooting Salt Marsh Decline

South Carolina is home to some 350,000 acres of salt marsh ecosystem. The salt marsh is ranked as one of the most biologically productive ecosystems on earth and provides many ecosystem services including flood control, nursery grounds for commercially and recreationally important fish and shellfish species, and filters pollution from the water. The salt marsh is currently threatened by sea level rise, development pressure, and pollution from stormwater runoff. The salt marsh is integral to the way of life in coastal South Carolina; therefore, involving and educating communities on stewardship and management of this habitat is crucial to its future protection. Based on ongoing research from the SC Department of Natural Resources, the tidal creek health and estuarine environment is at risk in South Carolina. Many of the stressors are associated with land use change and the increase of impervious surfaces which leads to an increase in polluted stormwater runoff. As Clemson Extension regularly receives calls from citizens concerned with salt marsh decline, a need was identified for a resource that can help residents determine if actions on land are negatively impacting nearby salt marshes; actions include septic tank management, swimming pool discharge, gardening practices and more. The result is the Clemson Extension Home and Gardening Information Center's (HGIC) factsheet "Life Along the Salt Marsh: Troubleshooting Salt Marsh Decline." Since publication in early 2021, the factsheet has had 1,080 pageviews and 972 unique pageviews. This publication has been incorporated into the Salt Marsh Short Course, newly developed in 2021 by Clemson Extension, SC Department of Natural Resources and SC Sea Grant Consortium and will be incorporated into the upcoming Living Shorelines Contractor Training to be developed in 2022.

Kim Morganello. Clemson University

Bronze Award

Chainsaw Safety: Personal Protective Equipment

Each year more than 3 million chainsaws are sold in the United States to users with a variety of skills and experience. This inherently dangerous piece of equipment, combined with hazardous cutting situations and lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), contribute to more than 36,000 injuries each year. In Alabama alone, state agencies have reported more than 70 chainsaw-related incidents over the past 5 years. Proper use of PPE can significantly reduce the chances of severe injury or death. This publication outlines essential and suggested PPE for chainsaw operation, as well as proper use and fit. Detailed, high-resolution images are used to visually demonstrate use and maintenance of PPE, and overall help experienced and novice operators use this equipment more effectively.
Bence Carter and Beau Brodbeck. Auburn University

TV or Video

Gold Award

Video for At Home DIY Rain Barrel Workshop

Harvesting rainwater for later use is one way to reduce the environmental and financial cost of irrigating our yards. To encourage rainwater harvesting in Sumter, Florence, and Darlington counties, we hosted a DIY Rain Barrel, At-Home workshop. Participants received a pre-cut 55- gallon drum, donated by South Atlantic Canners and prepared by Clemson Extension agents. They also received all necessary fixtures and an instructional video. The video taught participants how to assemble, install, utilize, and maintain their rain barrel. It also included optional steps to paint their rain barrel. The video has been viewed 399 times on YouTube.
Katie Collins and Tancey Belken. Clemson University

Silver Award

IDAH2O Master Water Stewards Educational Video Series

U-Idaho Extension's IDAH2O Master Water Stewards citizen science water quality monitoring program created a series of seven peer-reviewed educational videos to improve the classroom experience of the certification workshop. The online videos are free to anyone interested in water quality, eliminating travel to access the content. As each video reflects one Prezi presentation slide set, I used Prezi Video to build the foundation. I then layered clarifying images, video clips, additional audio, and text on top of the base with Premiere Pro, something I could never accomplish in the classroom. Jim Ekins solely coordinated the project, assembled technical content, graphics/design/layout, photography, videography, post-production, and authorship, accounting for 300+ hours of work during 2020-2021.
https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/idah2o
Jim Ekins. University of Idaho

Bronze Award

Forest Inventory Videos

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resource's Forest Stewardship Education Initiative developed a four-part Forest Inventory video series used in conjunction with the Forest Stewardship Workshop series. This comprehensive video series demonstrates how to perform basic forest inventory; reviews tree measurement tools and items needed for evaluating a forest; and includes overview of what inventory is, why it is important, and how to set up plots to gather meaningful data. It is used to complement the flipped classroom Forestry Stewardship Workshop series, so participants can learn basics, before attending a field day where they get hands-on instruction using the same tools. The video series is also useful for anyone interested in furthering their knowledge relating to basic forest inventory tools and methods. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvuLaWGQD2U&t=6s

Kim Ingram and Susan Kocher. University of California
Kestrel Grevatt. UC Berkeley

Televised Conference - Video Conference - Webinar

Gold Award

Which Grass is Which? Webinar Series

In a world accustomed to plant blindness, or failure to notice plants growing around us, Extension Educator Erin Garrett strives to inform others about one of the most underappreciated groups of plants – grasses. In her webinar series Which Grass is Which?, Garrett teaches how to tell grasses apart, and why it is important to do so. Her intended audience includes natural resource managers, NRCS staff, farmers, hikers, plant enthusiasts, Extension volunteers, and more! Her programs focus on identifying grasses found in Illinois, but participants have joined from across the United States, and even internationally. Building upon an initial 3-part webinar series created in 2020, Garrett developed and delivered two new webinars in the series in 2021: Cool-Season Grasses and Warm-Season Grasses. The webinars were offered during spring and summer to correspond with the flowering of these groups of grasses. CoolSeason Grasses illustrates how to identify 22 grasses and Warm Season Grasses covers identification of 18 grasses, for a total of 40 grasses. The recording of the Cool-Season Grasses Webinar can be found at https://go.illinois.edu/coolseasongrassrecording while the recording of the Warm-Season Grasses Webinar can be found at https://go.illinois.edu/warmseasongrassrecording

Erin Garrett. University of Illinois

Silver Award

Natural Resources Webinar Series

Alabama Extension's Natural Resources Management Team developed the 'Natural Resources Webinar Series' (25, bi-weekly, 1-hour ZOOM sessions, 15-minute Q&A with presenters) to provide free, consistent, virtual programming and outreach to stakeholders on a variety of topics delivered by Extension agents and specialists, USDA-NRCS, and the College. This proved successful in creating interest and benefit to broad audiences across the United States behind easily accessible programming. 39% of attendees viewed more than 6 of 25 offerings. Participants totaled 2,235, with underserved audience outreach attributing to 45% female and 28% minority race viewership. Impactful was the reported 75% of attendees that implemented some type of practice discussed in one of the viewed webinars and the 3,013,709 acres impacted by the series. ROI calculations indicated a 5,023:1 return.

Bence Carter, Norm Haley, Ryan Mitchell, Drew Metzler, David Cline, Nancy Loewenstein, Mary Dixon, Doug Fulghum, Mark Smith, Eve Brantley, Chip East, Richard Cristan, Becky Barlow, Lynn Dickinson, Robert Tufts, Wes Anderson, Kerry Steedley, Adam Maggard, and Lori Eckhardt. Auburn University. Tim Albritton. USDA-NRCS

Bronze Award

The World of Invasive Species: Insect Edition

The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), Seminole County Extension partnered with the Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CFCISMA) to host a Zoom webinar on invasive species, specifically focusing on insects titled "The World of Invasive Species: Insect Edition." The 4.5-hour agenda targeted diverse professional audiences including those working in natural lands, forestry, agriculture, and horticulture. The webinar was highly successful with over 260 participants, and an additional 50+ views on the recording. In a post-webinar survey, 99.1% (227/229) reported increasing their knowledge on invasive species. In a 3-month follow-up survey, 94.9% (129/136) had adopted at least one practice (ie. submitted samples of suspicious pests, taken caution to avoid spreading invasive species, employed IPM for management, etc.) since attending.

Morgan Pinkerton and Tina McIntyre. University of Florida

Websites – Apps – Educational Technology

Gold Award

4-H at Home Website - Appreciating the Power of Plants

https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/power-of-plants/

As the world population continues to expand, there is a critical need to address food supply concerns. Kalia (2018) explains that plant biotechnology "encompasses a multitude of scientific tools and

techniques for screening and genetic manipulation of plants to develop beneficial or useful plant/plant products." Plant breeding and biotechnology assist in the development of new varieties and traits, leading to higher-yielding crops and food with improved nutrition, taste, and storage life. While 4-H is certainly rooted in agriculture and natural resources, no national curriculum related to plants exist. Through a grant awarded by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), Georgia 4-H created a 6-part interactive website module series about plant biotechnology for the national 4-H at Home website.
Kasey Bozeman. University of Georgia

Silver Award

Georgia Green Landscape Stewards Program Website

https://site.extension.uga.edu/georgiagreen/

The Georgia Green Landscape Stewards certification program provides educational resources that teach Georgians about protecting natural resources, increasing plant and animal biodiversity, conserving soil and water, providing wildlife and pollinator habitat, and improving public and environmental health. Participants can measure their own sustainable land management activities with the program metric scorecard and earn certification status for their landscape. The program can be used as a self-guided education tool or delivered by county extension agents and assistants as a series of topics or singularly. The program website functions as the control center, complete with educational presentations, program description and participation steps, additional learning links, agent only resources (powerpoints, graphics, promo materials, and program data), and contact information
Jessica Warren, Martin Wunderly, and Ashley Williams. University of Georgia

Bronze Award

Wildlife Outdoor Leadership Camps: Virtual to Personal

https://sites.google.com/ufl.edu/4-h-w-o-l-f-camp/home

Wildlife Outdoor Leadership Focus (W.O.L.F.) Camps incorporated many environmental components for youth and volunteers. This program highlighted the complexity of natural resources and connections to fields of discovery. Objectives: Participants were able to 1) identify Florida wildlife and plants, 2) demonstrate knowledge of best management practices for wildlife, and 3) describe natural resource management. Methods: Agents and volunteers hosted stations that instructed participants on wildlife management, nutrition/health, teamwork, and marine science. Results: Over 300 youth enrolled in virtual and in person camps. Evaluations revealed over 80% of participants reported a knowledge increase in concepts and identification. Furthermore, 90% considered the importance of teamwork. Participants self-assessed a knowledge increase of 60%. Participants conducted a beach cleanup. All participants indicated consideration of personal impact on wildlife habitat.
Ronnie Cowan, Sheila Dunning, Brian Estevez, and Aly Schortinghouse. University of Florida

Achievement Awards

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

Early Career Leadership

Yilin Zhuang

University of Florida

Yilin Zhuang is the Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent in UF/IFAS Extension Central District. She has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in enhancing water quality, quantity, and supply in Central Florida. She has developed several collaborative signature programs in the areas of on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems, private drinking well water systems, agricultural and residential water conservation, and K-12 water education. Yilin currently serves as the president of Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals and secretary of the UF/IFAS Extension Water Initiative.

Innovative Program

Sustainable Floridians Benchmarking and Monitoring Program

Jennison Kipp-Searcy, Dr. Basil V. Iannone III, Dr. Pierce Jones, Dr. Nicholas Taylor, Dr. Alexander J. Reisinger, Dr. Eban Z. Bean, Dr. Mark Hostetler, Dr. Mark Clarke, and Brooke Moffis. University of Florida.
Dr. Patrick Bohlen. University of Central Florida

The Sustainable Floridians Benchmark and Monitoring Program (SF-BMP) is an innovative Extension program that leads collaborations among non-traditional/emerging Extension audiences on real development projects aimed at advancing the sustainability of master-planned residential landscapes, arguably the fastest growing and most environmentally impactful landcover type in the US. These emerging audiences include land developers, urban planners, landscape architects, green industry professionals, and conservation organizations. Through these collaborations, SF-BMP has generated many environmental benefits/impacts, including developer support for applied research and outreach, increased land conservation and native landscaping plant production, adoption of irrigation-free, predominantly native landscaping impacting thousands of new homes, and interest from the Nature Conservancy in replicating SF-BMP elsewhere. Thus, SF-BMP provides a replicable model to promote adoption of sustainable development practices by non-traditional/emerging extension audiences.

Outstanding Team

Clearwater Basin Elk: History, Research, and Management

William A. Warren, James Peek, Meladi Page. University of Idaho
Tera King. Idaho Forest Group
John and Rachel Cook. NCASI
Michael Wisdom and Kevin Labrum. US Forest Service
Zachary Swearingen and Clay Hickey. Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Dave Cadwallader. CBC

This project involved an interagency team effort at two levels. First, the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) in Idaho, including ANREP member Bill Warren of University of Idaho (UI) Extension, directed a study of elk nutrition and habitat needs in the Clearwater Basin with a grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMF) and others. This research provided paradigm-shifting results on the importance of elk summer range. Secondly, Bill led an effort, in partnership with the CBC, to conduct a two-night webinar that included presentations on the results and management implications of the research, as well as the history of elk populations in the Basin.

JCEP Creative Excellence Award

UF/IFAS Marion County Edible Ornamental Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program

Amanda Marek and Mark Bailey, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County
Gail Hansen, University of Florida Environmental Horticulture Department

To address the rising public demand for information on low-maintenance, attractive, edible landscapes, the UF/IFAS Marion County Extension Sustainable Agriculture agent, Mark Bailey, and Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ agent, Amanda Marek combined forces to develop and deliver the new UF/IFAS Marion County Edible Ornamental Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program.

Bailey and Marek installed an FFL edible ornamental demonstration garden designed by Dr. Gail Hansen at the 4-H farm in 2020 and finished it with signage early in 2021. However, in lieu of in-person programs, online Edibles for your Landscape programs were presented via Zoom. Between 2020 – 2022, 1,018 people have participated in 6 of these online programs. In spring of 2021, the first in-person field day at the edible ornamental demonstration garden was offered as a supplementary sequel to the online program. During the in-person programs at the 4-H farm, participants were provided a program on Creating your Edible Landscape that was followed by a guided tour of the edible ornamental demonstration garden. There, participants could see the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles put to practice with the recommended FFL edible ornamental plants they had learned about. Three field day programs were offered in 2021 to 27 people.

Service to ANREP Award

Chad Cook

University of Wisconsin

Distinguished Career

No nominations received

Outstanding Regional Collaborator

No nominations received

National Partner or Friends of ANREP Award

No nominations received

Amy Grotta and Jim Finley Excellence in Natural Resources Award

No nominations received

2022 ANREP Awards Committee: Victor Blanco, Tim Daly, Pat Williams, Terra Freeman, and Megan Weber.

2022 ANREP Awards Judges: Cynthia Nazario-Leary, Holly Abeels, Amy Scaroni, Carrie Brown, Tim Daly, Michelle Probst, Erin Garret, Michele Bakacs, Drew Schiavone, Eli Sagor, Leslie Bobby, Brittany Scharf, Danielle Rhea, Rachel Pienta, Brooke Saari, Jane Maginot, Yilin Zhuang, James Ekins, Shelly Johnson, Alicia Christiansen, Justin Mansberger, Tracy Wilson, Bence Carter, Ryan Mitchel, Tamara Cushing, Victor Blanco, Pat Williams, Terra Freeman, and Megan Weber.