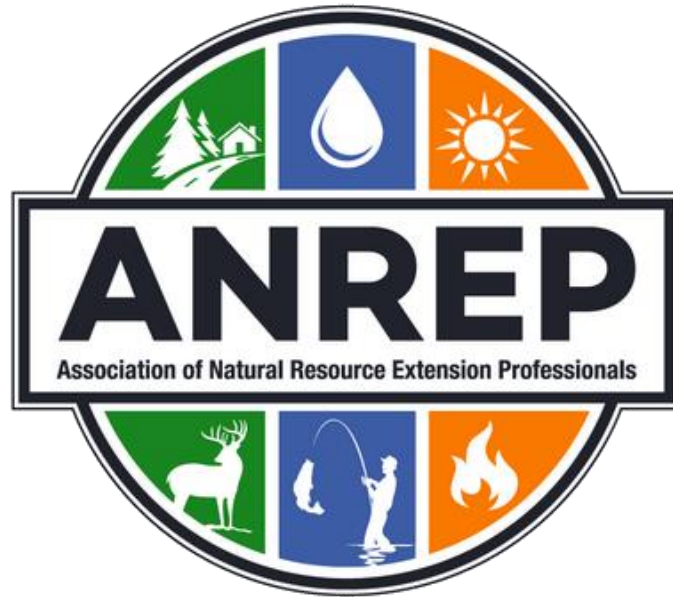


Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals



Award Recipients 2023

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

Fostering Stewardship: A How-to Guide for Trainers

Fostering Stewardship: A How-to Guide for Trainers is a new, comprehensive curriculum package based on the award-winning Land Steward program that helps natural-resource professionals train landowners on best practices in resource management. Topics include forests, fire, streams, wildlife, soil, pastures, water systems and economics — all issues facing landowners in many parts of the West. The curriculum package includes detailed guidance for delivering the Land Steward program in field-based, online, or hybrid formats. Also included are nine Land Steward Rural Resource Guideline documents that highlight best management practices for key resource topics and guide readers through resource assessment checklists they can use to create a personalized land management plan. The Land Steward curriculum has proven highly effective at reaching and motivating landowners toward best practices.

Rachel Werling, Max Bennett, Gordon Jones, Janet Donnelly - Oregon State University Clint Nichols - Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District

Don Goheen - U.S. Forest Service (retired)

Rhianna Simes, Jack Duggan, Cat Kizer, Stan Dean, Scott Goode – Land Stewards

Silver Award

Wildlife and Water Habitats 4-H Curriculum

Many of our natural resources are threatened by pollution and overuse. Malicious intent is rarely the cause; instead, it is often that people don't know how to control pollution and wisely use land and water resources. Education is a key component to water security and habitat conservation. Authors, Jim Ekins, Ph.D. (U-Idaho Extension Water Educator), and Marcie Galbreath-Rawls, Ph.D. (Executive Director, NexGen Learning Institute), co-developed the peer-reviewed Wildlife and Water Habitat 4-H Curriculum as an integrated, activity-based, hands-on, and place-based natural resources curriculum, written to a middle school-aged audience. Published in 2022, the overarching goal is to teach youth (and their adults) about wise management of the wildlife- and water resources found in every Idaho community.

Jim Ekins, Ph.D. - University of Idaho

Marcie Galbreath-Rawls - NexGen Learning Institute

Bronze Award

Urban Forest Management: A Primer to Strategic Planning for Municipal Governments

Urban planners and city administrators face daily challenges in managing complex urban environments, such as maintaining sufficient levels of clean water, clean air, energy, housing, and green spaces, as well as addressing conflicts of interest related to land use. More than ever, local leaders must rise to the challenge of ensuring that their cities are economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable. The purpose of this publication titled: Urban Forest Management: A Primer to Strategic Planning for Municipal Governments is to assist local planners and managers in the initiation, or redesign, of an urban forest management program. It was initially developed for use in the State of Florida, but this framework can be applied universally.

Michael Andreu - University of Florida School of Forest, Fisheries & Geomatics Sciences Robert Northrop - University of Florida/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County

Wayne Zipperer - United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service

Long Publication

Gold Award

Guidance for Using Maryland's 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections

"Guidance for Using Maryland's 2018 Sea Level Rise Projections" is intended to assist state and local decision-makers in Maryland with incorporating science-based sea level rise projections into planning, regulatory, and site-specific projects. This resource provides a step-by-step approach for selecting a relative sea level rise estimate based on a project's timeframe, location, and flood risk tolerance. The recommendations in the document were based on examples of guidance from other states, along with input from potential end-users and experts representing federal, state, and local government agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, and the private sector.

Kate McClure - University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension

Allison Breitenother - Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Sasha Land - Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Silver Award

Planting Southern Pines in Florida

Florida landowners have contributed vastly to the Southeast's planting of pines over many decades. State and federal cost-share Incentive programs have encouraged further interest. Understanding the factors that affect pine seedling quality and survival will assure a more successful forest plantation, whether objectives focus on timber production, recreation, wildlife habitat, water quality protection, etc. This 10-page publication includes important guidelines for planting the seven species of pine that are native to Florida. The importance of site selection and soils as they relate to each species, the landowners' objectives, and their target markets are all discussed and illustrated. This publication is to be used as a guide to facilitate selection of appropriate pine species and offers guidance on best practices for handling seedlings throughout all stages of tree planting.

Elysia Lewis, Michael G. Andreu, Chris Demers - UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Edible Ornamental Landscaping Guide for North-Central Florida

This EDIS publication number ENH1354 was a collaborative effort between faculty at the University of Florida and UF/IFAS Extension to help guide Floridians on the design, installation, and maintenance of their edible ornamental landscapes using best management practices. Readers are first introduced to the nine principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ in the context of an edible ornamental landscape. Readers are then provided descriptions, design considerations, and full color photos of more than 10 Florida-friendly edible ornamental plants best suited for north-central Florida complemented by a table that summarizes characteristics of these and other plants to help Floridians have productive, attractive, low-maintenance edible ornamental landscapes that conserve water, produce fresh food, and provide wildlife habitat.

***Amanda Marek and Mark Bailey - UF/IFAS Extension Marion County
Dr. Gail Hansen - UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Department***

Newsletters or Series of Articles

Gold Award

Energy News - a One Stop Shop for all Things Energy

Energy News is a quarterly online newsletter (recent issue: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H9UC6_Hcf1Onk-zUHdP_OgIEnQuouD4r/view) produced by Statewide Energy Extension Drew Schiavone who joined the University of Maryland Extension (UME) in 2019. Being a new topic and position role for UME, Drew conducted needs assessments with faculty and key stakeholders identifying a gap and opportunity to provide

timely and practical energy related information for homeowners and the agriculture community. Energy News is the resulting educational resource that provides comprehensive information on all things energy in an innovative and user friendly manner. This newsletter covers the gambit of topics including: biomass and biofuels, climate considerations, conservation, cost considerations, efficiency, equity, funding and finance, fossil fuels, geothermal, power grid and utility news, solar technology and siting, storage and transportation and wind power. The newsletter provides energy programming updates, spotlight on new energy installations, useful tips, and links to important energy news stories and movers in the industry as well as archives of previous materials. All of this information is presented in a concise and user-friendly style utilizing appealing graphics and format that enhances learning and simplifies key take home messaging.

Drew Schiavone - University of Maryland Extension

Silver Award

Tampa Bay Times Gardening Feature Article Series

This agent wrote a series of feature stories for the Tampa Bay Times, a Pulitzer Prize winning newspaper, about topics that were impactful to the Southwest Florida gardener to improve gardens and personal wellness. The result was an ongoing series of feature articles. Frequent questions about these issues served as a needs assessment for the chosen topics. The Tampa Bay Times is available through subscription, online, and in stores throughout the region with readership numbers of 534,400 on Sundays when articles are published. Many readers have shared with the agent how much they learned from these articles. The exposure in this newspaper has also elevated the awareness of UF/IFAS Extension to the reading audience.

Theresa Marie Badurek - University of Florida IFAS Extension

4-H Pollinator Ambassador Newsletter

The University of Georgia 4-H Pollinator Ambassador program allows 4-H members with a strong interest in pollinators to apply to be part of a program where they receive in-depth information on pollinator health, participate in a weekend centered on pollinators, and are equipped to engage in outreach using what they learn. These 4-Hers receive a newsletter with information on a particular pollinating insect, at least on activity that the 4-Hers can do within their 4-H groups or in their communities, a longer article related to pollinator biology, habitat, or health, and information on using the Ambassador program as part of their 4-H careers. These newsletters are delivered once a month through email and are a way to keep the Ambassadors engaged and excited about pollinators.

Becky Griffin, Kasey Bozeman, Laura Mirarchi - University of Georgia.

Podcast or Radio

Gold Award

The Natural Resources University (NRU) Podcast Network

The Natural Resources University (NRU) podcast network was launched in 2020 as a collection of podcast series with a unifying theme of disseminating natural resource information to the public. Hosted by Extension Specialists at various land-grant universities, the current series include Deer University, Fire University, Habitat University, Fish University, Timber University, and Working Wild University. As of December 2022, 103 episodes received more than 469,000 downloads across all 50 states and 86 countries. A survey (n =1186) indicated that respondents owned or managed 21,460,305 acres of land that they intended to apply knowledge learned from information provided by our network. The NRU network has broadened the scope of information provided to listeners and increased impact for natural resources management

Charlotte Nowak, Marcus Lashley - University of Florida

Jarred Brooke - Purdue University

Adam Janke - Iowa State University

Mitchell Zischke, Megan Gunn - Purdue University

Alex Few, Jared Beaver - Montana State University

Bronson Strickland, Brady Self, Shaun Tanger, Neal Wes - Mississippi State University

Zach Altman, Louis Wertz - Western Landowners Alliance

Silver Award

In the Woods Podcast

“In the Woods” is a monthly podcast series brought to you by the Oregon State University Forestry & Natural Resources Extension program. This podcast brings the forest to listeners by sharing the stories and interviews of forest scientists, land managers, and enthusiastic members of the public. Each month we bring the listener research and science-based information on a new topic related to forests that aims to offer some insight into what we know and are still learning about forest science and management. Since its inception the podcast has over 30 episodes with listeners from all over the world.

Lauren Grand, Jacob Putney, Scott Leavengood, Stephen Fitzgerald, Carrie Berger, Jason O'Brien, Kellen Soriano - Oregon State University

Promotional and Marketing Materials

Gold Award

The South Carolina Water Chats Program

Natural resource managers depend on research to inform decision making. However, obtaining applicable research can be problematic. The Water Chats program was created through a collaborative, stakeholder-driven process, and a comprehensive marketing and promotion plan was implemented to address this need. This program was a multi-faceted, free water quality technical training program facilitating access to and use of new and emerging water quality research to inform natural resource management decisions in South Carolina. Program components included a summer webinar series, a student abstract call, a journal special issue and a state water conference special session. With over 470 attendees representing targeted technical audiences, a well-rounded and cohesive approach to branding and program launching played a critical role in the success of the program's first year.

***Brooke Saari, Crystal Narayana, Emmi Palenbaum, Matthew Gorstein - S.C. Sea Grant Consortium
Guinn Wallover - Clemson Cooperative Extension***

Silver Award

First Fridays with Florida First Detector Promotional Kit

The University of Florida/IFAS Seminole County Extension and Florida First Detector Program hosted a monthly webinar series on invasive species targeting diverse professional audiences including those working in natural resources and agriculture. The team developed promotional materials including a flyer, promotional blogs, social media graphics, and end of class advertisements shared through email listservs, social media, and in person delivery, collectively reaching 54,000 people. To date, six highly successful webinars have been offered with 420 participants. In post-webinar surveys, 94.3% (317/336) self-reported an increase in knowledge on invasive species, 95.5% (321/336) agreed/strongly agreed that they understood the topics (+30.3% from before webinar), and 99.4% (328/330) intend to adopt at least one practice learned. Behavior change will be evaluated using 3-6 month follow-up surveys over time.

***Morgan Pinkerton, Amanda Hodges, Tina McIntyre - University of Florida
Rachel Rector, Ally Lineville - Seminole County Government
Kelly Field - UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County***

Bronze Award

Florida Friendly Angler Promos

This online training was created to address statewide educational needs regarding ethical angling. The free, interactive program has been promoted through multiple avenues including printed materials,

blogs and newspaper articles, radio spots, and public signage. The state wildlife agency co-produced the training, promotional materials, and assists with ongoing course promotion and administrative tasks. Since launch in May 2022, 1,545 anglers have enrolled and 535 people have fully completed the course. Exit surveys indicate a high potential for behavior change and have resulted in numerous positive testimonials.

***Savanna Barry, Mike Sipos, Ryan Smith, Donielle Nardi - University of Florida & Florida Sea Grant
Thomas Vatter, Melissa Crouch, Nicole Nichols - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission***

Short Publication

Gold Award

Tomato Care Factsheets

Tomato care is one of the most common questions received by horticulture agents and Master Gardener Volunteers. To create a simple and comprehensive quick reference, a series of factsheets were developed. The fact sheets address the following topics: Site Preparation and Timing, Propagation and Planting, Tomato Care and Solutions for Common Pests and Diseases. To support these factsheets a blog was written (88 views in the first two weeks), an article published in the Tampa Bay Times (current print circulation of 102,266 copies) and they are currently hosted on the UF/IFAS Posters/Factsheets website.

Alyssa Vinson, Heather Griffith, David Outerbridge - UF/IFAS Extension

Silver Award

Water-Wise Landscape Tips, Georgia Water-Wise Council News

Water use is a vital part of landscape maintenance during the growing season and water utilities can help inform land managers about water conservation measures to reduce pressures on the resource. This article was published in the Georgia Operator magazine for municipal and public utility water providers under the Georgia Water-Wise Council news. This educational piece can be used by resource managers to educate customers about techniques for saving water in the landscape. A list of water-saving methods is divided into immediate actions for quick onset drought conditions and long-term landscape plans for sustainable water resource protection and future drought

Martin Wunderly - University of Georgia Extension

Bronze Award

Florida H2OSAV Insights: Home Water Use in Osceola County

This short publication shares the basics of residential water use in Osceola county. It includes average home characteristics and average daily water use. That water use is then converted to

bottles worth of water to help the reader visualize the amount of water. The publication also highlights that the group of highest water users are using more water than the other homes combined, and that they're using almost 60% of this water for irrigation. The goal of this publication is to help all Floridians, including water utility conservation staff, UF/IFAS extension agents, and Florida homeowners, in their efforts to reduce water use. The accompanying infographic makes the content accessible to a wider audience.

Nick Taylor, Kaitlin Robb Price, Bradley Spatz, Parker Johnson, Pierce Jones - University of Florida

TV or Video

Gold Award

Better Buffers for Cleaner Water

Begun in 2020, the Everyday Environment Webinar Series continues to be offered by the Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy team at Illinois Extension. This monthly webinar series addresses environmental issues with a focus on enhancing and preserving natural resources while engaging home and community landscapes. The twelve live webinars offered in 2022 had 1,443 live participants. Individual webinars drew between 68-210 live participants. Each webinar was recorded and shared to Illinois Extension's YouTube channel under the Everyday Environment playlist. So far, recordings of the webinars delivered in 2022 have garnered 4,588 additional views. 100% of viewers who completed the end of year evaluation reported engaging with the content from one or more webinars in some way.

Amanda Gumbert, Brian Volland - University of Kentucky

Perry Thomas, Becca Trueman - Salt River Collaborative

Greg Kuhns - Salt River Watershed Watch

Silver Award

Plant This, Not That Video Series: Avoiding Invasive Plants

Some invasive plants are listed as "prohibited for sale" on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Noxious Weed List; however, many invasive plants, categorized as such by credible organizations, are still readily and commercially available. Invasive species pose significant threats including economic losses in agriculture, human and animal health hazards, disruption of native ecosystems and more. This video series, utilized in a larger educational campaign, was created to educate on invasive species and promote a handy, ring-bound and laminated flipbook about invasive plants that are commonly available for sale. Overall, the 4 videos received over 2,150 views. The seminars and the book have helped to protect our natural resources, reduce costs of invasive plant management, and beautify our landscapes.

Tina McIntyre, Morgan Pinkerton - UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County

Bronze Award

DIY in the A.M. Spring and Summer Home Gardening

As Extension Educators it is important to be known as subject matter experts within the community and take advantage of opportunities to reach clientele through a variety of outlets. Over my ten-year career with UF/IFAS Extension I have developed good relationships with local television stations by making myself available for interviews on short notice and at inconvenient times such as early morning live broadcasts. Those relationships have led to numerous invitations to appear on the morning shows of local television stations for in the field and in-studio segments. For this award I am submitting a video of a live broadcast from WJHG News Channel 7 that aired on April 29, 2022, as part of their “DIY in the A.M.” series where we discussed foodscaping, planting techniques, pollinators, and landscape diversity. I prepared for the show by deciding on 3 key talking points then purchasing items that would have high visual impact in the studio and could be explained in short segments (less than 5 minutes) with hands-on interaction with the anchors. There is no opportunity to rehearse with the news anchors before the broadcast, so preparation and the ability to flow with impromptu questions and actions is crucial when appearing on live television as depicted in this video. WJHG is an NBC affiliate and serves Bay County and surrounding areas with a potential reach of approximately 800,000 viewers.

Julie McConnell - University of Florida

Televised Conference - Video Conference - Webinar

Gold Award

Everyday Environment Webinar Series

Begun in 2020, the Everyday Environment Webinar Series continues to be offered by the Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy team at Illinois Extension. This monthly webinar series addresses environmental issues with a focus on enhancing and preserving natural resources while engaging home and community landscapes. The twelve live webinars offered in 2022 had 1,443 live participants. Individual webinars drew between 68-210 live participants. Each webinar was recorded and shared to Illinois Extension’s YouTube channel under the Everyday Environment playlist. So far, recordings of the webinars delivered in 2022 have garnered 4,588 additional views. 100% of viewers who completed the end of year evaluation reported engaging with the content from one or more webinars in some way.

Erin Garrett, Abigail Garofalo, Rachel Curry, Layne Knoche, Peggy Doty, Michelle Berg, Jay Solomon, Duane Friend, Kevin Rohling, Amy Lefringhouse - University of Illinois Extension

Eliana Brown, Illinois - Indiana Sea Grant and University of Illinois Extension

Paris Collingsworth, Janice Milanovich - Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

Silver Award

Wildlife & Invasive Species Education virtual webinars

WISE is a trademarked program from the University of Florida/IFAS. WISE focuses on educating clientele on native wildlife, native plants, and invasive species. Speakers consists of Extension faculty and Professors from The University of Florida. There was a total of 13 webinars in 2022, hosting 551 participants. Webinars are conducted through Zoom Webinar. A pre and posttest was distributed using the Zoom polling feature. Percentage knowledge gain was then calculated. Webinars are approximately 1-hour long, broadcasted live every other Friday of each month at 1:00 pm eastern time. WISE is promoted weekly through the WISE Facebook page and monthly newsletter. A follow-up survey was distributed at the end of the year to determine behavior change. Link to recordings: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCic7c4x1L342D_bxqTeBlwA.

Jim Davis, Dr. Jaret Daniels, Dr. Steve Johnson, Brittany Scharf, Brooke Moffis, Maxine Hunter - University of Florida/IFAS.

Bronze Award

Florida First Detector, Invasive Species on Palms Webinar

The University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), Seminole County Extension partnered with many organizations to offer premier virtual programs on invasive species. In collaboration with the Florida First Detector Program and the Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CFCISMA), we hosted a series of webinars including the highlighted Invasive Species on Palms webinar. Interdisciplinary agendas targeted professional audiences including those working in natural lands, agriculture, and horticulture. The webinars were highly successful with 345 participants. Post-webinar surveys revealed 90.3% (254/281) agreed or strongly agreed that they understood the topics taught in the webinars. In a 6-month follow-up survey, 89.9% (78/87) had adopted at least one practice (i.e. submitted samples of suspicious pests, employed IPM for management, etc.) since attending.

Morgan Pinkerton, Amanda Hodges, Tina McIntyre - University of Florida.

Natural Resources Webinar Series

In 2022, Alabama Extension's Natural Resources Management Team continued the 'Natural Resources Webinar Series' (25, bi-weekly, 1-hour ZOOM sessions, including 15-min. of Q&A with presenters, with all registrants receiving a link for OnDemand viewing) to provide free, consistent, virtual programming and outreach to stakeholders on a variety of topics delivered by Extension agents and specialists and other partners (U.S. Forest Service, Tall Timbers, AL Department of Conservation, Hollins University, University of Arkansas). This proved successful in creating appeal, interest, and benefit to broad audiences across multiple states, as well as a following behind reliable, convenient, and easily accessible programming.

Bence Carter, Norm Haley, Ryan Mitchell, Drew Metzler, Robert Tufts, Jack Rowe, Josh Elmore, P.J. Waters, Jessica Kelton, Jessie Curl, Richard Cristan, Christy Mendoza, Lynn Dickinson, Adam Maggard, Eve Brantley, Allie Logan, Gavin Mauldin - Alabama Extension

Mark Sasser - Tall Timbers Research Station

David Kennedy - University of Arkansas

Mary Ann S. Sayer - US Forest Service

Chris Cook - Alabama DCNR

Heather Alexander - Auburn University

Elizabeth Gleim - Hollins University

Websites – Apps – Educational Technology

Gold Award

Online Prescribed Fire Course for Southeastern Extension Ag

A new free self-directed online course (<https://ifas.instructure.com/courses/1313>) produced by the University of Florida/IFAS, NC State University, and Clemson Extension introduces participants to the fundamentals of southeastern US prescribed fire, fire ecology, and community-led prescribed burn associations (PBAs). The 4-6 hour long course was developed in response to a southeastern Cooperative Extension agent prescribed fire training needs-assessment. The needs-assessment demonstrated a strong desire for prescribed fire training within the southeastern natural resource extension community. The inaugural class of 155 students, which included over 30 extension agents, were invited to join a virtual symposium with experts in fire ecology, smoke management, and PBAs. Since launching the course in the spring of 2022, nearly 1,000 participants have signed up, including over 80 extension agents.

Marcus Lashley, Ph.D., Charlotte Nowak -UF/IFAS Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Rae Crandall, Ph.D., David Godwin, Ph.D., Hope Miller - UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatic Sciences / Southern Fire Exchange

Jennifer Fawcett, Laurel Kays – North Carolina State University

Ryan Bean - Clemson University

Mary Nell Armstrong - Southern Fire Exchange / Tall Timbers Research Station

Silver Award

Florida Friendly Angler Online Course

This online training was created to address statewide educational needs regarding ethical angling. The free, interactive program is delivered through Canvas and includes an exit survey designed to measure comprehension, attitude change, and planned behavior change. The state wildlife agency co-produced the training and assists with ongoing course promotion and administrative tasks. Since launch in May 2022, 1,545 anglers have enrolled and 535 people have fully completed the course. Exit surveys indicate a high potential for behavior change and have resulted in numerous positive testimonials.

Savanna Barry, Mike Sipos - University of Florida & Florida Sea Grant

Thomas Vatter, Melissa Crouch, Nicole Nichols - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Bronze Award

Boat Stories Story Map

Commercial fishing has deep cultural ties to Georgia, particularly shrimping, which is the state's largest and most economically valuable fishery. Oral histories are a powerful tool to preserve the heritage of commercial fishing for current and future generations. UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant developed an ArcGIS Story Map called Boat Stories to promote the cultural importance of Georgia's shrimping industry using stories collected from a commercial fishing oral history project. The site visually and spatially highlights select commercial shrimpers and their families who participated in oral history interviews conducted by researchers and Extension faculty. The Story Map shares excerpts from their recorded interviews, and the site's featured map also connects users to the full recorded interviews housed on NOAA's Voices Oral History Archives.

Bryan Fluech, Emily Kenworthy, Trey Cooper - University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant

Jennifer Sweeney-Tookes - Georgia Southern University

Achievement Awards

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

Early Career Leadership

Tina McIntyre, UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County

University of Florida

Tina McIntyre, Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Agent at the UF/IFAS Extension in Seminole County currently serves as the Central District Director for the Florida Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals. She exhibits outstanding leadership and excellence in planning, designing, delivering, and evaluating extension programs. Her fertilizer programming has improved water quality and has been shared throughout UF/IFAS Extension. This work has been added as a workload indicator so agents can federally report impacts. She published a book that helps consumers and landscapers avoid commercially available invasive species, has been recognized by ANREP with a three Awards, recognized as the FFL Educator of the Year,

received eleven FANREP awards, and was awarded Art Hornsby Soil & Water Sciences Professional Development Award by UF/IFAS

Innovative Program

Aquatic Invasive Species Management 101

Megan M. Weber, Daniel J. Larkin - University of Minnesota

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management 101 is a one-of-a-kind online course aimed at creating more informed consumers of AIS management programs. Few invasive species management and pesticide education programs are created for non-professionals, and even fewer target aquatic environments. Development of the course was inspired by feedback from stakeholders following a pilot and focus group for a participatory science program, leading to a new strategy for reaching our intended audience. This interactive course is offered annually and has trained over 180 people in principles of AIS management since 2020. Tests and evaluation data indicate students felt more prepared to make key AIS management decisions. Follow-up surveys indicated that nearly 3/4 of participants applied what they learned within one year.

Outstanding Team

Florida First Detector Invasive Species Webinar Team

Morgan Pinkerton, Amanda Hodges, Tina McIntyre, Shannon McAmis, Julia Rycyna, Sarah Birkmire, Sarah Tafel, Jenny Gavilanez-Slone, Andy Jean Louis - University of Florida

Rachel Rector, Ally Lineville - Seminole County Government

Kelly Field - UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County

Brad Danner - Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The Florida First Detector Invasive Species Webinar Team collaborated to host a monthly webinar series on invasive species targeting diverse professional audiences including those working in natural resources, agriculture, and horticulture. The team developed various promotional and educational materials shared virtually and in person, collectively reaching 54,000 people. To date, six highly successful webinars were offered with over 420 participants. In post-webinar surveys, 94.3% (317/336) self-reported an increase in knowledge on invasive species, 95.5% (321/336) agreed/strongly agreed that they understood the topics (+30.3% from before the webinar), and 99.4% (328/330) intend to adopt at least one practice learned. Behavior change will be evaluated with follow-up surveys as the series continues.

JCEP Creative Excellence Award

Angela Gupta, University of Minnesota Extension

UMN Extension Forestry educator Angela Gupta has built a long career on innovative thinking and the development of creative, efficient, and impactful Extension programming. Her programs leverage emerging technologies to engage community members in participatory research crowdsourcing local knowledge, alongside research, to solve real-world problems. For example, her Forest Pest First Detector program led to the first discovery of the highly destructive emerald ash borer in northern Minnesota. Related programs have engaged volunteers in targeted crowdsourcing to inform interagency triage and response to potential invasive species issues. Her EmpowerU! program has been adopted by numerous states. Angie has also led collaborative efforts to adopt more inclusive species common names, and the early adoption of unique educational tools like 3D printing, augmented reality, and virtual reality.

Outstanding Regional Collaborator

Online Prescribed Fire Course for Southeastern Extension Age

Marcus Lashley, Ph.D., Charlotte Nowak - UF/IFAS Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Rae Crandall, Ph.D., David Godwin, Ph.D., Hope Miller - UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatic Sciences / Southern Fire Exchange

Jennifer Fawcett, Laurel Kays - NC State University

Ryan Bean - Clemson University

Mary Nell Armstrong - Southern Fire Exchange / Tall Timbers Research Station

A new free self-directed online course (<https://ifas.instructure.com/courses/1313>) produced by the university of Florida/IFAS, NC state university, and Clemson extension introduces participants to the fundamentals of southeastern us prescribed fire, fire ecology, and community-led prescribed burn associations (PBAS). The 4-6 hour long course was developed in response to a southeastern cooperative extension agent prescribed fire training needs-assessment. The needs-assessment demonstrated a strong desire for prescribed fire training within the southeastern natural resource extension community. The inaugural class of 155 students, which included over 30 extension agents, were invited to join a virtual symposium with experts in fire ecology, smoke management, and PBAS. Since launching the course in the spring of 2022, nearly 1,000 participants have signed up, including over 80 extension agents.

Distinguished Career

Alicia Betancourt, University of Florida

Alicia has been an Extension agent working in natural resource, resiliency, and climate change since 2006. Alicia provides leadership for program delivery at the local, state, and national levels and she had shared her work 7 times with international audiences. She was invited to the Risk Management Solutions (RMS); Exceedance International Conference. The RMS conference was held for international participants such as investment bankers, risk management professionals, and local government decision-makers. She was an invited speaker in local climate policy decisions and served as a panelist on climate preparedness, risk management, and municipal bond ratings. She was also invited to provide expertise and resources to environmental consultants from five Caribbean Islands as part of a Gulf Coast and Caribbean Fisheries Global Education Lab workshop.

Service to ANREP Award

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.

2023 ANREP Awards Committee: Terra Freeman, Victor Blanco, Pat Williams, Holly Abeels, Alicia Betancourt, Tim Daly, Megan Weber

2023 ANREP Awards Judges: Holly Abeels, Rachel Sutz Pienta, PhD, Amanda Marek, Laura G. Tiu, Ph.D., Michele Bakacs, Savannah Barry, Ph.D., Martin Wunderly, Sabrina K. Schirtzinger, Carrie Brown, Brooke Saari, Erin Garrett, Don Hanley, Yilin Zhuang, Ph.D, Andrea Lazzari, Heather Nix, Megan Weber, Pat Williams, PHD, Rachel Cochran, Rachael Pienta, Amy K. Stone, Ana Zangroniz, Andrew J. Londo, Ph.D, Sarah Cranston, Matthew Anderson, Amanda Bennett, Titus Seilheimer, Ph.D., Susan Boser, Krista Stump, Joseph E. Lucente, Kara Salazar, Megan N. Brew, Leslie Bobby, Drew Schiavone, Ph.D, Karen Bennett, Julie Finzel, Bence Carter, Shelly Krueger, Beth Scheckelhoff, Timothy Daly, Cynthia Nazario-Leary, Ph.D., Brenda Jackson, Carrie Stevenson, James Ekins, Mark Megalos, Victor Gabriel, Sheila Dunning, Terra Freeman, Victor Blanco.