

Educating with Extension



By Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator, and in collaboration with Alicia Betancourt, Shelly Krueger, and Michelle Leonard-Mularz

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FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

- Black History Month
- American Heart Month
- Pesticide Safety Education and Awareness Month

February 2nd
World Wetlands Day



February 11th
Virtual Lunch-and-Learn
12PM-1PM via Zoom Topic:
What Plants are Invasive?
Call (305)292-4501 to Register

February 14th
Valentine's Day! 
Follow the link below for sustainable gift ideas:

https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/archive/hot_topics/sustainable_living/green_valentines.shtml



February 21
President's Day
Monroe County Office Closed

February 27
National Strawberry Day!



**Got an Invasive?
Let's Wrangle It!**

By Michelle Leonard-Mularz,
Environmental Horticulture
Agent

Have you been putting off removing those pesky invasive plants? Well, now might be the time to rid your property of these unwanted spreaders. National Invasive Species Awareness Week is February 28th through March 5th and to encourage more residents to ditch these problem plants, the Florida Invasive Species Partnership is hosting a month-long Florida Weed Wrangle event. The terms are simple. To participate:

1. During the month of February 2022, remove 1 or more invasive plants from your yard (before and after photos are necessary).
2. Fill out a 4-question form about the species removed and the amount (details here: <https://www.floridainvasives.org/flwww.cfm>)
3. Email the before and after photos to ecbell@ufl.edu

Participants will be entered into a random drawing to win one of the fantastic prizes listed below:

- 1 made in the USA [UpRooter Weed Wrench Light](#) - an ideal tool for personal property management and volunteer groups, offering the perfect combination of pulling power and ease of use.
- 3 Individual 1-Year memberships to your local [Florida Native Plant Society Chapter](#).

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Plant Clinics

Wednesday, February 2nd
Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Murray Nelson Govt. Center

102050 O/S Hwy. #244
Key Largo

Monday, February 7th

Plant Clinic

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Key West Garden Club

1100 Atlantic Blvd.
Key West

Saturday, February 19th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Marathon Home Depot
4555 O/S Hwy,
Marathon

Saturday, February 19th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

KW Botanical Garden Nursery

5210 College Rd.
Stock Island

Wednesday, February 16th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Garden Club of Upper Keys
94040 O/S Hwy.
Tavernier

Thursday, February 24rd

Plant Clinic

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Island Home Nursery
88720 O/S Hwy,
Islamorada

Sea Grant News



Shelly Krueger
UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Agent

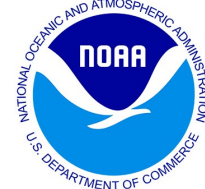
Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Shelly taught the Key West Garden Club and GLEE Community Garden in Key West about sargassum challenges and the pilot composting study the Extension office completed this fall at the Key West Botanical Garden. All 144+ samples are at the lab for processing, and we look forward to sharing the results as soon as possible!



- Shelly taught 24 students at College of the Florida Keys marine data collection course the Florida Keys Water Watch curriculum for the 6th semester! Students are learning how to collect water quality data and writing reports on a topic of their choice.

- The NOAA and state of Florida derelict fishing gear working group has resumed its quarterly meetings. Shelly gave local updates about a recent grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NetEnergy to recycle trap rope and work on end-of-life recycling for crab and lobster traps in the Florida Keys.



The Environmental Horticulture Program and Master Gardener Volunteers remain dedicated to helping you with your plant related questions.

CALL OUR OFFICE:
(305)292-4501

We have many different ways we can assist!

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
mastergardener@monroecounty-fl.gov

Please include a detailed description of the problem and photos if available

VISIT OUR OFFICE:

Email Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu or
Call (305)292-4501 to schedule an appointment

FACEBOOK PAGE:

Visit our Facebook page for updates, requests, information and so much more!

<https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyExtension>



Horticulture News



Michelle Leonard-Mularz
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

Michelle recently accomplished the following activities:

- Michelle and the Master Gardener Volunteers participated in the Flip My Florida Yard TV show. The TV show, which airs on PBS in April, showcases Florida Friendly Landscaping principles and is funded through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Non-Point Source Pollution Grants. A Marathon yard was selected as one of the "Flip" locations for Season 2.



Photo Above:
Master Gardener Volunteers, Mary Brady and LouAnn Steely, plant galangal and lemongrass in raised beds at Grimal Grove.

- Michelle and the Master Gardener Volunteers planted edible raised bed demonstration gardens at Grimal Grove in Big Pine Key. The raised garden beds will feature some unique tropical herbs and vegetables and show different growing containers. Master Gardener volunteers will also start hosting weekly, Saturday plant clinics at Grimal Grove starting in March.



Be sure to "Like" us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)!

Extension Director's News

Alicia Betancourt

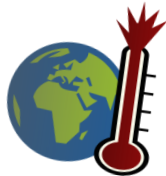
UF/IFAS Family and Community Development Agent and
Monroe County Extension Director

Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:

- Much of Alicia's time this month was spent planning for 2022 educational programs including, Project Drawdown, Climate Smart Floridians, CIVIC and Community Development trainings.



- Alicia will co-lead the Climate Smart Floridians training and she has gotten requests to do the training for Smithsonian's Natural History Museum and Bristol University in Hong Kong.



- Alicia participated in the Fifth National Climate Assessment Coasts Chapter Public Engagement Workshop contributing reviewer comments and suggestions to the U.S. Global Change Research Program. The draft Coastal Effects Chapter outline is currently open for public review and comment. See here <https://www.globalchange.gov/content/request-public-comment-annotated-outlines-fifth-national-climate-assessment>

- Alicia is working with Sarasota County to offer a workshop on project drawdown. Drawdown is a solution-focused approach to climate change, and what you can do locally to make a difference. In joining us for this 1-hour presentation, you'll become more informed on small and large, successfully implemented solutions to slow and eventually stop the climb of greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drawdown-webinar-registration-188645211907>
- Alicia worked on an article for the Journal of Community and Engagement Scholarship (JCES) special issue addressing university-wide Extension and transdisciplinary engagement, teaching, and research.

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- **5** Signed copies of [A Step-by-Step Guide to a Florida Native Yard](#) by [Ginny Stibolt](#)
- **10** pairs of Weed Wrangle Garden Gloves w/the [UF IFAS Plant This, Not That, a Guide to Avoiding Invasive Plant Species in Florida Booklet](#)

Not sure about what plants are invasive in Florida and in the Keys? That's ok, attend our Friday Lunch-and-Learn February 11th What Plants Are Invasive? The Lunch-and-Learn will be hosted via Zoom and we will discuss the problematic species of the Keys, removal techniques, and additional resources.

An invasive plant is one that is introduced to an area and forms self-sustaining, expanding populations within plant communities they are not associated with and has long-lasting ecological impacts. Invasive plants, displace



Photo above: invasive species
Brazilian pepper
(*Schinus terebinthifolia*)

native plant communities (along with the birds, insects, pollinators, and other wildlife that are associated with those habitats), which often include threaten and endangered species. In fact, the Florida Keys is home to over 100 State threatened and endangered plants. From 1997 to 2014 over \$129 million was spent by the State of Florida to control invasive plants in upland habitats alone (habitats at higher elevation than the surrounding vegetation at sea level). Additionally, invasive species rank second, only behind habitat destruction, as a major threat to biodiversity (variety of species) in any given habitat. Thus, the richer and more diverse a habitat, the more wildlife it can sustain.



Photo above: invasive species
beach naupaka
(*Sansevieria trifasciata*)

UF IFAS Extension

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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This newsletter can be accessed online at:

<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

We're on the Web at: <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>



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University of Florida (UF)

<http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>

<http://ufl.edu>

Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS)

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

Scan this code to go directly to our UF/IFAS Website for more information!



An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Nick T. Place, dean for UF/IFAS Extension. Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

<https://ics.ifas.ufl.edu/ufifas-diversity-and-legaleeo-statements/>



UF/IFAS Extension is
Putting Florida First

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

Nov Dec Jan Totals

Phone calls	21	27	
Office visitors	120	48	
Email Consultations	85	56	
Learning events	23	15	
Participants	430	488	
Media submissions	6	6	
Publications distributed	308	121	
TOTAL contacts	993	761	

Climate Smart Floridians Train the Trainer Workshop

Develop Climate Smart ambassadors in your organization.

Climate Smart Floridians is a 9 module, discussion to action course designed to help individuals become climate smart ambassadors for your community or organization. Learn to teach the Climate Smart Floridians course through a 3 hour train the trainer workshop. We will walk you through the program modules, the trainers guides and provide editable slide decks with facilitators notes. This program has been offered through county libraries and sustainability offices but would fit many types of organizations. This free workshop will be offered via Zoom on April 19th or April 20th.

Call (305) 292-4501 or email Moroe@ifas.ufl.edu if you are interested in registering.



DRAWDOWN Webinar

Tuesday March 1st
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

This class is focused on Drawdown, a solutions-focused approach to climate change, and what you can do locally to make a difference.

- Join us for this free, one-hour event to learn about small and large solutions to slow and eventually stop the climb of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Participants will walk away with specific strategies they can implement in their own lives.
- The presentation begins with an introduction to climate change science and impacts and then uses the book Drawdown written by world-renowned author, environmentalist, and entrepreneur Paul Hawken as a framework to talk about the issue of climate change in a positive and proactive way.

Please register for this event at ufl.sarasotaext.eventbrite.com
Once registered through Eventbrite, the system will send you a confirmation email with the webinar link.

Join us for a fun, interactive discussion.
For details or to register, call 941-861-5000 or visit <http://sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu>

UF IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Sarasota County

THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING WHY AREN'T WE?

REAL CLIMATE ACTION