

Educating with Extension



By Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator, and in collaboration with
Alicia Betancourt and Shelly Krueger

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FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS



American Heart Month
Pesticide Safety Education Awareness Month

February 18th

Garden Club of the Upper Keys
Annual Garden Walk— plant sale, vendors & art show
MM94 Bayside 10AM-4PM



February 20th

Presidents Day Monroe County Office Closed

February 24th-25th

Garden Club Midtown West Meander— KW Garden Club
Tour 5 Private Gardens
10AM – 3PM (305) 294-3210



February 26th

Sherriff's Animal Farm Open House 1PM—3PM
College Rd. Stock Island



February 27th

National Strawberry Day!!



Florida Friendly Angler

By Shelly Krueger,
Sea Grant Agent

Did you know that in Monroe County, 64% of our residents 16-65 have a recreational saltwater fishing license? Florida residents under the age of 16 and 65 and over are exempt from purchasing a fishing license, so the actual number of recreational anglers in our county is extremely high, the highest in Florida, in fact. Coupled with the fact that a high percentage of visitors come here to go fishing in the Fishing Capital of the World, that equates to a lot of time spent out on the water enjoying the beauty of the Florida Keys and catching something to cook up for dinnertime!

NOAA Fisheries estimates that more than 60% of the fish that are caught by recreational anglers are released. There are many reasons a fish may be caught and released – the species could be too small or too large for regulations, out of season, not the targeted species, or perhaps a fish that is fun to catch but not good to eat, or regulations may prohibit its take, like bonefish or tarpon. Because we have so many recreational fishing anglers, and because so many fish are released after being caught, it becomes even MORE IMPORTANT that the fish that are caught SURVIVE after being released. This is the purpose of the Florida Friendly Angler program.

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Plant Clinics

Every Saturday

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Grimal Grove

258 Cunningham Lane
Big Pine Key

Wednesday, February 1st

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Murray Nelson Govt.
Center

102050 O/S Hwy. #244
Key Largo

Thursday, February 2nd

Plant Clinic

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Key West Garden Club
1100 Atlantic Blvd.
Key West

Saturday, February 21st

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Marathon Home Depot
4555 O/S Hwy,
Marathon

Saturday, February 18th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

KW Botanical Garden Nursery
5210 College Rd.
Stock Island

Tuesday, February 21st

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Garden Club of Upper Keys
9400 O/S Hwy.
Tavernier

Thursday, February 23rd

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:

- The Florida Coral Disease Outbreak Response Communication Team wrote a media release **Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease & Response on Florida's Coral Reef: Winter 2023 Overview** (<https://www.flseagrant.org/stony-coral-tissue-loss-disease-response-on-floridas-coral-reef-winter-2022-overview/>) through UF/IFAS Communications that links to the status report written by the team on the Florida Sea Grant website.



- Florida Sea Grant is sponsoring two ½-day sessions at the Benthic Ecology Meeting in Miami, Florida. Shelly was asked by Florida Sea Grant director, Dr. Sherry Larkin, to organize the sessions and co-lead the search to solicit abstracts for speakers and determine session themes for students and researchers. This conference is student-focused for undergraduate and graduate students presenting research on invertebrates, aquaculture, and submerged aquatic vegetation.

- Shelly returned to the Boy Scouts of America Brinton Science Center on Summerland Key for the 7th year of teaching and training the spring STEM teachers about stony coral tissue loss disease underwater observer training and Florida Keys Water Watch. The STEM teachers are college students from around the nation that spend the spring teaching Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to earn badges in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- Shelly spoke on US1 radio 104.1 Morning Magazine about the Florida Keys Seafood Festival, the Florida Friendly Angler program, and parrotfish!

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!

VISIT OUR OFFICE:

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

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

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

FACEBOOK PAGE:

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

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



Horticulture News



JUDY SHAW
MARATHON GARDEN CLUB



WANT
TO HELP
OUR KEYS
COMMUNITY?

FIND OUT
HOW AT

VOLUNTEERKEYS.COM



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

**VOLUNTEER
OF THE WEEK**

Congratulations to Judy Shaw for receiving the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys Volunteer of the Week Award!!

Not only has Judy Shaw been an active volunteer with the Marathon Garden Club, she has also been a Master Gardener Volunteer for 25 years. Educating residents in the middle keys on sustainable practices and running the Marathon Plant Clinic at Home Depot. Thank you Judy for always supporting your community and being an invaluable asset to the University of Florida, IFAS Monroe County Extension Services.



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Extension Director's News

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

Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:

- Alicia and some of the [CIVIC](#) team worked to edit the [National Issues Forum. Climate Choices](#) guide to help people think about community-based solutions to climate change and we are updating this guide to include examples that speak to local efforts. Communities wanting to have a deliberate dialogue about climate choices will be able to pick from a drawdown menu of options that reflects their communities' needs and culture.
- Alicia was invited to be a key informant for the 3-day Extension Foundation Impact collaborative on climate change. The impact collaborative is where Extension program teams from across the country come to take a deep dive into program planning using skill-building tools. Teams are connected with subject matter experts in a variety of fields to help fill gaps in their program planning. Agents receive training in skill-building to catalyze innovation with Extension programs locally. Since 2019, Extension teams that have incubated through the Impact Collaborative have received more than \$5.7M in grant and partnership funding. 93% of participants identified new skills, tools, and resources to help move their projects and programs to the next level.
- Alicia is working with Solar United Neighbors of Florida and has helped to launch the Florida Keys 2023 Solar Coop. Find out more at SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Keys
- Alicia is working with Paul Evens from the UF, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, and the [Croc Docs](#) project, teaching people to identify and report invasive species. They have reached over 1300 individuals through 16 outreach events and seminars. In the first six months of this project, they have attained 200% more public reports of invasive species than the previous year in the upper and middle keys.



Continued from page 1

[The Florida Friendly Angler](#) is a free, narrated, online, short, do-at your-own-pace educational program that informs users about our state's aquatic environments, best practices when fishing and the inner workings of fisheries management. By teaching the how and why behind topics that anglers encounter while interacting with Florida's fisheries, the program hopes to reinforce practices that can ensure quality fishing experiences are here to stay, providing great memories and the economic impacts that follows. This program was created in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Sea Grant, and the University of Florida IFAS Extension. There are three short modules on environmental ethics, best fishing practices, and fisheries management.



Florida Friendly Angler is FREE, takes less than 2 hours, and can be completed at your own pace. Google "Florida Friendly Angler," and then register with your email address. Finish the course all at once or a little at a time. The information taught is not only applicable to fishermen and women, but anyone who is interacting with the marine environment. There is boating information to prevent destroying coral when anchoring, stop sea grass scaring, and making sure that the fish you just caught and released gets back into the water and swims away.

<https://ifas-seagrass.catalog.instructure.com/courses/florida-friendly-angler>



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

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



UF/IFAS Extension is
Putting Florida First

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/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Totals
Phone calls	75	25	20	120
Office visitors	57	5	3	65
Email Consultations	104	36	51	191
Learning events	25	13	17	55
Participants	445	286	332	1063
Media submissions	5	2	6	13
Publications distributed	230	165	161	556
TOTAL contacts	941	532	590	2063

Join the Florida Keys 2023 Solar Co-op!



 **SOLAR UNITED
NEIGHBORS**

Save money & stress by
going solar in a group.

BIT.LY/FLkeys2023



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LOWER KEYS



The Boy Scouts of America
Spring STEM Team