



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

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SAVE-THE-DATE



2020 FLORIDA KEYS SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Saturday, January 18th

11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 19th

11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bayview Park
1320 Truman Avenue
Key West
Cost: \$5 per person

County Offices will be closed January 1st and 20th for New Years and MLK Day!
Have a wonderful holiday!



Climate Leadership Summit Re-Cap

By Alicia Betancourt, UF/IFAS County Extension Director

Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Monroe counties form the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact. Each year the Compact holds a



Climate Leadership Summit to share knowledge and contribute to the region's community of practice on climate action. The Summit was held in Key West, December 3-5th and the theme for this year's event was "Bridging the Gap", which reflects the Compact's efforts to bridge the gap between climate change issues and resiliency across the region. Roman Gastesi, Monroe County Administrator, acted as the master of ceremonies. Over 550 participants were treated to three days of learning, sharing and collaborating on climate issues facing South Florida and worldwide. On the first day participants enjoyed a 'rapid fire' showcase of resilience from both municipalities and businesses.

The second day, the Compact released the new sea level rise projections for South Florida. The Southeast Florida Climate Compact updates its projected sea level rise for the region every four years. In the short term, by 2040, sea level is projected to rise 10 to 17 inches. The new projections call for up to 31 inches of sea level rise by 2060. People in Monroe County were not surprised as we have seen many 'dry day' flooding events in the last few years. The new projections extend for the first time out to 2070 to account for a 50-year planning horizon. Participants also heard from the state's first chief

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Monthly Events

Wednesday, January 1st
Plant Clinic
Cancelled
County offices closed for New Years!

Monday, January 6th
Plant Clinic
9 a.m. to Noon
Suite 2-260
1100 Simonton Street,
Key West

Wednesday, January 15th
Plant Clinic
9 a.m. to Noon
Suite 244 (2nd Floor)
102050 Overseas Hwy,
Key Largo

Saturday, January 18th
Plant Clinic
9 a.m. to Noon
Marathon Home Depot
Garden Center

Monday, January 20th
Plant Clinic
Cancelled
County offices will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting
No Meeting this Month

Thursday, January 23rd
Plant Clinic
9 a.m. to Noon
Island Home Nursery
88720 Overseas Hwy
Tavernier

Sea Grant News

Shelly Krueger
UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Agent

Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Shelly is co-leader for the Florida Coral Disease Outbreak Response Communications and Outreach Team that holds bi-weekly conference calls regarding the stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) outbreak in the Florida Reef Tract and Caribbean.

To get updates and more on Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease in the Florida Keys, please check out the FKNMS page, here: <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/coral-disease/>

- Shelly co-developed the UF/IFAS Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Underwater Observer Program and trained more than 240 divers to identify and report SCTLD to FDEP at Seafan.net/SEAGRANT.



- Shelly was invited to Puerto Rico to train natural resource agents, nonprofit agencies, and diver shop owners/operators how to identify SCTLD and disease response management.

- Shelly was invited by the Sanctuary to speak about the disease response to delegations from the US Virgin Islands and 8 other Caribbean nations.
- Shelly is the outreach and communication leader for the Florida Keys Community Sponge Restoration Program. In 2019, we achieved our goal to restore >15,000 sponges at 6 sponge nurseries in the Florida Keys.
- Shelly wrote the sponge restoration module for the new UF/IFAS Florida Master Naturalist Marine Habitat Restoration course, in addition to editing and reviewing the modules on corals, seagrasses, and artificial reefs.

Plant Clinics

The Monroe County Master Gardener Volunteers will help you with plant problems or insect identification at the following locations throughout the Winter and Spring:

<p>KEY WEST Gato Building Extension Office 1100 Simonton Street, #2-260 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon</p> <p>January 6th February 3rd March 2nd and 16th</p>	<p>MARATHON Marathon Home Depot 4555 Overseas Highway (at the Garden Center) 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon</p> <p>January 18th February 15th March 21st</p>	<p>ISLAMORADA Island Home Nursery 88720 Overseas Highway (Mile Marker 88) 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon</p> <p>January 23rd February 27th March 26th</p>	<p>KEY LARGO Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center 102050 Overseas Hwy., #244 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon</p> <p>January 15th February 5th and 19th March 4th and 18th</p>
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Horticulture News

Michelle Leonard-Mularz
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

Michelle recently accomplished the following activities:

- In 2019, 43 Master Gardener volunteers donated over 2,100 hours helping residents identify and address horticulturally related issues in their gardens and landscapes that contributed to the reduction in pesticide and fertilizer use and helped reduce water consumption through emphasizing best management practices. This has an estimated



value to Monroe County of \$51,470 in volunteer services, which represents one full-time employee.

- Monroe County Extension Service received a grant from Florida Wildflower Foundation to

install a wildflower demonstration garden at the Gato Cigar Building in Key West. The garden will not only serve as an educational tool emphasizing Florida Friendly Landscaping practices, but it will serve as a pathway for pollinators and have a visual impact in an area that is so heavily utilized by travelers, pedestrians, bicyclists, automobile drivers and buses. The garden will be installed in 2020.

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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 presented “Handbook for Municipal Action on Climate Change” and other Extension tools to 550 participants at the Climate Leadership Summit. She was contacted by 3 municipal staff members and two non-profit organizations to partner on activities in 2020.
- Alicia taught 35 Extension professionals “Time Management Strategies” at the Southwest Extension District meeting.
- Alicia worked with the Community Rating System, Program for Public Information to develop goals and outreach material for 2020.
- Alicia wrote one article for the Extension Newsletter “Climate Leadership Summit”.
- Alicia worked with three communities to determine Extension resources to help them begin to address climate change issues.



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resilience officer, Julia Neshiewat and Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried who acknowledged the challenges the low-lying regions of the state face from rising seas. Neshiewat said there are also economic opportunities for the state in clean energy and adaptation.

The highlight of the event was a presentation of the work of scientists Dr. Sergei A. Zimov and Dr. Robert Max Holmes. Dr. Zimov presented his finding on permafrost melt in the Arctic Circle and his solution being tested at Pleistocene Park.

Read more about the Pleistocene Park here:
<https://pleistocenepark.ru/>



(above) View from the Dias: Rep. Kristin Jacobs, Monroe County Mayor Heather Carruthers, Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Palm Beach Commissioner Gregg Weiss.

This year the Summit helped innovative thinkers and leaders from business, government, academia, and the nonprofit community to exchange ideas and dialogue through panel discussions and networking breaks. In 2020, the 12th annual Climate Leadership Summit will be held in Palm Beach County.

Find out more about past Summits at the Compact's website:
<https://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/the-summit/>.

(on the cover) Monroe County Administrator Roman Gastesi joins an innovation panel, moderated by Rep. Kristin Jacobs, along with City of Delray Beach Mayor Shelly Petrolia, Assistant City of Miami Beach Manager Susanne Torriente, Bague Group's Irela Bague, Jones Edmunds' Terri Lowery, and Corelab Structure Inc's Lenny Salvo.

All images courtesy Kristen Livengood, Monroe County BOCC



(above) Monroe County Administrator Roman Gastesi and Sustainability Director Rhonda Haag.

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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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All good things must come to an end.

Liz Yongue, our Extension Coordinator, will be leaving us at the end of the year. In the two years she has been with Extension, she has skillfully maintained our monthly newsletters, helped coordinate our programs, worked on various administrative tasks, answered many questions by our clientele (even those not associated with Extension), and did it all with a heartwarming, genuine smile. If you called or stopped by our Key West office, you were likely greeted with that same warmth and attention. Liz is headed to the County Administrators office and they have gained an invaluable talent. Please join us in wishing Liz the best of luck on her new journey.

- Michelle Leonard-Mularz



(left) Your Key West Extension office, Shelly Krueger, Michelle Leonard-Mularz and Liz Yongue at the Climate Summit in Key West. Photo credit Kristen Livengood

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.

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Phone calls	49	42	30	121
Office visitors	11	6	8	25
Visits to clients	15	13	11	39
Learning events	39	34	13	86
Participants	404	736	820	1,960
Media submissions	5	8	5	18
Publications distributed	200	697	422	1,319
TOTAL contacts	723	1,536	1,309	3,568