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SOLUTIONS

Educating with Extension

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

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SAVE-THE-DATE

BIG PINE KEY, FL
GRIMAL GROVE
EST 1955

NEW Plant Clinic in Big Pine at Grimal Grove!
Saturday, February 8th
10am to 2pm
Come on out to the Grove and get one-on-one gardening advice from our Master Gardeners. Plant clinics will be on the second Saturday of the month for February, March, and April and is a free service to the community.

County Offices will be closed February 17th for Presidents' Day!

The 2020 Florida Keys Seafood Festival

By Shelly Krueger, UF/IFAS Extension Sea Grant Agent

The Monroe County Extension Office is busy every Martin Luther King weekend working with our local commercial fishermen and women at the Florida Keys Seafood Festival. This year was the 15th Florida Keys Seafood Festival in Key West at Bayview Park. The Monroe County Extension Service established this annual 2-day seafood festival in 2006 in response to Hurricane Wilma that impacted the Keys in October, 2005. Hurricane Wilma resulted in substantial flooding and reduced the ability of many commercial fishermen and women to participate in the spiny lobster and stone crab fisheries that are the most productive during the autumn season. Collectively, spiny lobster and stone crab dockside landings generate around $90 million per year. Many people in our community rely on these two fisheries for the bulk of their income. Even before the "local food" movement was popular, the Monroe County Extension recognized the need to support the local commercial fishing sector in the Florida Keys.

In Monroe County, commercial fishing supports more than 4,500 jobs directly, and the economic contribution nets more than $900 million to the local economy every year. This is second only to tourism and a leading economic activity. The Port of Key West ranks 10th nationally, out of 128 ports, for commercial fisheries landings.

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Monthly Events

Monday, February 3rd
Plant Clinic
9 a.m. to Noon
Suite 2-260
1100 Simonton Street,
Key West

Wednesday, February 5th
Plant Clinic
9 a.m. to Noon
Suite 244 (2nd Floor)
102050 Overseas Hwy,
Key Largo

Saturday, February 15th
Plant Clinic
9 a.m. to Noon
Marathon Home Depot
Garden Center

Monday, February 17th
Plant Clinic Cancelled
County offices will be closed for Presidents' Day Holiday

Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting
No Meeting this Month

Wednesday, February 19th
Plant Clinic
9 a.m. to Noon
Suite 244 (2nd Floor)
102050 Overseas Hwy,
Key Largo

Thursday, February 27th
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 taught the new Florida Master Naturalist Marine Habitat Restoration course to 15 instructors and law students from the University Of Florida Levin School Of Law. Shelly wrote the module on sponges and edited/reviewed coral reefs, seagrasses, and artificial reefs written by fellow Sea Grant agents.
- Shelly is working with EPA, FDEP, and NOAA staff to prepare the Water Quality Protection Program Report to Congress.
- Shelly was invited to the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association board meeting with FWC leadership. Shelly organized and led the beverage booth for the 15th Florida Keys Seafood Festival in Key West, January 18-19.
- Shelly taught 30 members of the Daughters of the American Revolution about microplastics and recycling.

FLORIDA FRIENDLY FISHING GUIDE

Find out more about the Florida Friendly Fishing Guide Certification Program, here: https://www.flseagrant.org/news/2019/12/fishing-guides-can-now-be-certified-as-environmentally-friendly/

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:

KEY WEST	MARATHON	ISLAMORADA	KEY LARGO
Gato Building Extension Office 1100 Simonton Street, #2-260	**Marathon Home Depot 4555 Overseas Highway (at the Garden Center)**	**Island Home Nursery 88720 Overseas Highway (Mile Marker 88)**	**Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center 102050 Overseas Hwy., #244**
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon	9:00 a.m. to 12 noon	9:00 a.m. to 12 noon	9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
February 3rd March 2nd and 16th April 6th and 20th	February 15th March 21st April 18th	February 27th March 26th April 23rd	February 5th and 19th March 4th and 18th April 1st and 15th

Horticulture News

Michelle Leonard-Mularz
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

Michelle recently accomplished the following activities:

- Master Gardener volunteers are working with kindergarteners at St. James Fisherman Episcopal church to install and maintain wildflower and vegetable gardens. This month, with help from a youth group from Tampa, they built the raised vegetable garden beds and will work with the kids on planting the garden.
- Starting next month, we will be adding an additional plant clinic in Big Pine Key at Grimal Grove. The first one will be held Saturday, February 8th from 10am to 2pm. Come on out to the Grove Saturday and get one-on-one gardening advice. The plant clinics will be on the second Saturday of the month for February, March, and April and is a free service to the community.

(above) Kindergarteners at St. James Fisherman Episcopal Church planting a garden

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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 completed planning for 2020 programs including; Sustainable Floridians, Climate Smart Floridians and Municipal Action on Climate Change.

- Alicia planned a staff training for two South Florida municipalities on climate change issues. The training includes a hypothetical "Game of Extremes" and then moves to specific risks of sea level rise and heat facing South Florida. Managerial staff, who are required to attend, will learn ways that sea level rise and heat my impact their work.

- Alicia held a meeting for the Nation Network of Sustainable Living Education which is an initiative with over 120 national Extension members working in sustainable education.

- Alicia worked with Extension colleagues nationally to form the "National Extension Climate Initiative" to link the work we are doing on climate change-related education and research across Extension program areas and Associations.

- Alicia is the first employee in Monroe County to successfully complete the requirements for the Certified Climate Change Professional® (CC-P®) credential through the Association if Climate Change Officers.

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Furthermore, commercial fishermen and women represent an important cultural heritage and comprise the social fabric of our communities.

What is really unique about the Florida Keys Seafood Festival is that all of the food is provided by commercial fishers and their families, who volunteer their time to cook all of our local species, from stone crab to Key West pink shrimp, yellowtail snapper, spiny lobster, and fish dip. Of course, conch salad, conch fritters, and conch chowder are local favorites, too – and these are the only dishes served not caught in Florida, since the Queen conch is protected, and harvest is prohibited. The deserts are all home-cooked local favorites – flan, natillas de Leche, and bucci. Besides providing local seafood, the event features live music, all day both days, and fun for the entire family. A sea of vendors and local organizations, like Mosquito Control and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, are there to answer your questions and sell their ocean-themed wares.

Today, the event is organized by the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association, whose mission is to work with county, state and federal agencies to minimize the negative impact of regulations on fishermen while improving the conservation of marine resources. All proceeds from food and gate support local sustainable fisheries management and scholarships for high school students entering college in natural resources management, science, or law enforcement.

Save the date -- next year's Florida Keys Seafood Festival will take place on January 16-17.

(above) Alison Johnson, Doug Gregory and Shelly Krueger at this year's Seafood Festival!

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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)
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(above) Brynn Morey, our newest addition to the Extension Team in Monroe County!

Welcome Our New Extension Coordinator Brynn Morey!

Brynn Morey is originally from Elkhart Indiana. In 2001, she moved to Jacksonville Florida where she pursued her bachelor's degree at the University of North Florida. She graduated from UNF in 2005 with a bachelor's in Business Administration, Marketing Major. She has lived in the Florida Keys for over 10 years and has spent most of her time working in public health and Marine Science. During her free time, she enjoys fishing, paddle boarding and creating hot sauce and spices from her home grown peppers.

"If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours." Dolly Parton

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Totals
Phone calls	42	30	49	121
Office visitors	6	8	28	42
Visits to clients	13	11	4	28
Learning events	34	13	24	71
Participants	736	820	640	2,196
Media submissions	8	5	5	18
Publications distributed	697	422	306	1,425
TOTAL contacts	1,536	1,309	1,056	3,901

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