

# ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONALS



## AWARD RECIPIENTS 2018

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

## LONG PUBLICATION

### GOLD AWARD

## SOUTHEASTERN FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE MODULE

ANNIE OXARART AND MARTHA MONROE FROM THE *UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA*, CHRISTINE LI FROM THE *UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI* AND TRACEY RITCHIE FROM *EARTH DAY NETWORK*

In partnership with PINEMAP (a USDA-NIFA funded research project on southern pine and climate change) and Project Learning Tree (PLT), a team at the University of Florida developed and evaluated an education module with 14 activities that address climate change impacts on southeastern forests. The module is designed for use in high school science and agriculture courses, with potential use with 4-H, landowners, middle school, and college courses (<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/ee/climate>). The program used PINEMAP's research framework to construct the curriculum and addresses carbon sequestration, life cycle assessment, forest ecology, genetics, and how people and forests are responding to current and anticipated changes. More than 175 people helped develop, review, and evaluate the module. Four regional trainings empowered 72 facilitators/coordinators to offer 80 teacher workshops, training more than 1,300 educators. Materials on the website have been downloaded more than 12,500 times by registered users. Evaluations show increases in educator self-efficacy, student knowledge, and student hopefulness about climate change.

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# LONG PUBLICATION

## SILVER AWARD

# AIS IDENTIFICATION GUIDE: A MINNESOTA HANDBOOK

Daniel Larkin, Megan Weber, Christine Lee, and Eleanor Burkett

*University of Minnesota*

The AIS Identification Guide was developed for a new University of Minnesota Extension citizen science program, "AIS Detectors", in which participants are trained to distinguish priority aquatic invasive species (AIS) from common "look-alike" species. The guide is waterproof and large-format, allowing volunteers to use it in the field and place specimens next to life-sized images to aid identification. It also comes with a unique expandable binding which is flexible, durable, and allows users to add new pages in the event that new priority species arise. Copies of the guide were initially only given to participants in the AIS Detectors training, but the quality and usefulness of the guide led to many requests for additional copies. As a result, the guide is now available for anyone to purchase online through the University of Minnesota Bookstore.

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# LONG PUBLICATION

## BRONZE AWARD

# North Woods, Great Lakes: An introduction to the natural history of Minnesota's coniferous forests

Robert B. Blair, Amy Rager and Andrea Lorek Strauss

*University of Minnesota*

The Minnesota Master Naturalist program promotes awareness, understanding, and stewardship of Minnesota's natural environment by developing a corps of well-informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities. Participants in 40-hour biome courses receive the nominated text as supportive reading for their learning about the biome's natural and cultural history. The book is graphically rich with a writing style that is at once technically sophisticated and also easily understandable by a lay audience. Dashes of humor and metaphor are sprinkled throughout to keep it light. Concepts build from one chapter to the next, with thoughtful use of practical examples, species spotlights, and varying perspectives. Evaluation comments such as "very readable," "great mix of science content" and "down to earth" tell us that participants are reading the book and finding it a useful contribution to their learning, even though it is not required reading.

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# PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

## GOLD AWARD

# PROMOTING THE VALUE OF CATTLE GRAZING AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ON OPEN SPACE THROUGH CURRICULUM AND INTERPRETIVE TRAIL SIGNAGE

Sheila Barry, Stephanie Larson

*University of California, Cooperative Extension*

Rangelands are working landscapes, which provide essential biological, scenic, economic, and recreational values locally and throughout the U.S. Grazing can be a tool used on open space parklands to manage natural resources. Grazing supports beef production for meat and by-products, also providing fire fuel control, and management of rare and endangered species habitat. It can maintain the open character of our iconic grasslands and oak savannas. Unfortunately, decision makers and the public have little knowledge services provided by livestock grazing on open space parklands; their lack of knowledge and persistent narrative that livestock grazing is destructive puts the use of this tool at risk.

Promotional materials addressed livestock grazing as a tool on “open space park lands” to manage natural resources. The effort generated and extended educational information (fact sheets, videos and signage) about why grazing is an important tool to use in managing these types of public lands.

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# PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

## SILVER AWARD

# Kayaking Trail

Brittany Scharf, Rebecca Burton  
*University of Florida*

Florida's Nature Coast, including Hernando County, relies heavily on coastal natural resources for economic viability. Visitors and residents alike are drawn to Hernando County for fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing. In 2016, more than 62,000 people paddled the Weeki Wachee River, a magnitude one spring that provides much of the freshwater input to Hernando's coastal ecosystems, causing much congestion and raised concerns of overuse and degradation of the resource by residents. In response, Florida Sea Grant worked with county employees and Girl Scouts to help alleviate this pressure by creating another trail and educating users of the resources. A video was made to bring awareness and promote project.

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# PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

## BRONZE AWARD

# Sea Turtle Lighting Retrofits Promotional Materials

Erik Lovestrand, Michelle Huber  
*University of Florida*

A door-hanger placard was created to reach out to property owners that could not be reached through phone or email. Project staff left door hangers during field visits to save having to make repeated trips to find owners at home.

A "participation thank-you" product was created for property owners who participated by making their property "sea-turtle-friendly" through retrofitting their beach-front lighting: a custom imprinted sea turtle drink coaster set that read "Thank you for being sea turtle friendly." Many of the properties retrofitted are utilized as rentals and having a practical-use item like this that remains in the house for renters is a long-term reminder of the owner's commitment to sea turtle conservation.

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# NEWSLETTERS, SERIES OF ARTICLES

## GOLD AWARD

# Tampensis, a Continuing Education, Plant Identification Newsletter in Pinellas County

James Stevenson, *Pinellas County Extension*

Lara Milligan, *University of Florida*

Elizabeth Childress, *Brooker Creek Preserve Volunteer*

Tampensis is a monthly newsletter distributed to graduates of UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County Natural Resources course: "Advanced Plant Identification." This four-page newsletter contains brief articles on a variety of plant identification topics. Plant profiles, equipment reviews, taxonomic changes are topics that have been covered to date. The newsletter is a way to keep graduates engaged and practicing plant identification techniques after the course. The course is geared for landowners, professionals and interested citizens of the county. Contributors to the newsletter include: Agent, three staff and one volunteer. Contributions include formulation of content, proofing of content and photography. Agent writes a recurring article called "Tree Talk." This newsletter is currently distributed to 120 graduates. The name is honorific of the butterfly orchid, *Encyclia tampensis* that is native to peninsular Florida.

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# NEWSLETTERS, SERIES OF ARTICLES

## SILVER AWARD

## Life on the Dry Side Newsletter Series

Bob Parker, Daniel Leavell, Raeann Van Arsdall, Paul Oester, and Nicole Strong  
*Oregon State University*

Many Extension agents across the country publish newsletters in an effort to market new publications, upcoming programs, or convey time-sensitive information. These homespun efforts have to compete with full-color magazines, fancy catalogs, and an onslaught of digital distractions. For any one individual, developing, writing, and designing these newsletters can be a time-intensive, expensive, and daunting process.

In an effort to increase the efficiency, relevance, and quality of our newsletters, the Life on the Dry Side newsletter series was developed by Oregon State University Forestry and Natural Resources Extension agents Nicole Strong, Bob Parker, Paul Oester and Daniel Leavell, with graphic design expertise and assistance by Raeann Van Arsdall. Our glossy print or digital newsletter currently reaches 3,800 landowners, land managers, and interested stakeholders east of the Cascade Mountains. This newsletter development process and product both have garnered interest and are in the process of replication by other programs across the state.

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# NEWSLETTERS, SERIES OF ARTICLES

## BRONZE AWARD

### Saw Safety Newsletter

Ellen Bauske, Wade Hutcheson, Brian Maddy, Rolando Orellana, Gary Pfeiffer and Heather Kolich  
*University of Georgia*

Phillip Kelley, North American Training Solutions

Saw Safety is an electronic weekly newsletter of safety tips for professional chainsaw users in tree care, grounds keeping, and landscape. The team has created over 70 e-newsletters that deliver one tip each Tuesday morning and incorporate videos and other resources. The safety tips are short, easy to share, and perfect for tailgate meetings. Now in its second year, the subscriber list has grown from 250 to over 400. Many recipients redistribute the newsletter within their company. An embedded feedback button allows us to receive and act upon suggestions. Donna Rayfield of Rayfield Tree Care Inc. told us, "I file every one of your newsletters. Use them at tailgates; they are great!"

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# SHORT PUBLICATION

## GOLD AWARD

# Oysters for the Future

Erik Lovestrand  
*University of Florida*

The eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) provides many important functions in coastal environments, from serving a crucial role in estuary food webs to improving water quality for beach-goers and wildlife. Oysters are also a popular food choice for people - at times the commercial industry landings value has topped \$8 million dockside value annually in Florida.

"Oysters for the Future" is a series of short publications that highlight key ecological and human factors important to the long-term sustainability of this valuable fishery. Three publications in this new series have been completed during 2017. Titles include: "Proper Oyster Culling Techniques Matter," "Oystering Rules: The Whys and Wherefores," and "The Value of Science-Based Management in the Oyster Fishery." Future planned topics include shellfish aquaculture, oyster diseases and parasites, shellfish restoration, and the history of oystering.

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# SHORT PUBLICATION

## SILVER AWARD

# Responsible Boating Protects Coral Reefs

Savanna Barry, Joy Hazell, Ana Zangroniz  
*University of Florida*

The short publication "Responsible Boating Protects Coral Reefs" was created in collaboration with Florida Sea Grant agents from around the state. Vessel groundings and anchor damage are a major source of physical coral reef injuries in Miami-Dade County and southeast Florida. The project lead felt it necessary to produce a piece that could serve as a visually-pleasing reference document available to the boating community. The publication contains information on the biology of corals and coral reefs, benefits of coral reefs to coastal communities, current threats to reefs' survival, and actions that boaters can take to help protect coral reefs.

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# SHORT PUBLICATION

## BRONZE AWARD

# Save Our Lagoon Project Plan Fact Sheets

Holly Abeels and Lisa Krinsky

*University Of Florida, IFAS Extension*

The Save Our Lagoon Project Plan outlines a 10-year, \$302 million dollar plan for projects in Brevard County planned to meet water quality targets and improve the health, productivity, aesthetic appeal, and economic value of the Indian River Lagoon. Implementation of the projects was contingent upon funding raised through a referendum on the November 2016 ballot. The team discussed how best Extension could support Brevard County residents in making an informed decision regarding the vote. It was decided that 1-page fact sheets distilling the core information within the Plan would be a useful tool. A compilation of previously asked FAQs at public meetings was provided and became the foundation for the fact sheet series. These four fact sheets become a primary educational tool for the Brevard County Natural Resources Department. They were used and distributed at approximately 24 public meetings and were posted on their website below the full plan.

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# TELEVISED CONFERENCE - VIDEO CONFERENCE - WEBINAR - PODCAST - RADIO

## GOLD AWARD

## UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY FORESTRY EXTENSION: PRODUCING PURPOSEFUL AND IMPACTFUL WEBINARS

Megan Dettenmaier, Darren McAvoy and Mike Kuhns  
*Utah State University*

The learn at lunch webinar series started in 2012 and has steadily grown into a nationally, and globally recognized program hosted by Utah State University Forestry Extension. These webinars provide a forum for presenters to share their work, field questions from researchers on the ground, and stay updated on issues facing forestry professionals. This monthly webinar series aims to assist forestry specialists by hosting timely webinars on issues they are facing. This information can help inform their decisions, and promote healthy urban and rural forests. The link to our webinar archive can be found here: <http://forestry.usu.edu/videos-conferences-webinars/webinars/index.php>. In 2017, we presented 11 webinars and reached > 2,441 people in 26 countries. From 2016 to 2017, webinar viewership increased 55%; in 2017 we averaged 221 attendees at each webinar.

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# TELEVISED CONFERENCE - VIDEO CONFERENCE - WEBINAR - PODCAST - RADIO

## SILVER AWARD

## Scallop Season Kick-off Livestream

Scott Jackson, Victor Blanco, Rebecca Burton and Savanna Barry  
*University of Florida*

A Scallop Season Kick-off event was held in Steinhatchee, FL and the information disseminated via live audience, Facebook Live, YouTube, and Florida Sea Grant website. A team of Agents and Florida Sea Grant Communications worked together to stream and record presentations for use by the fishing public interested in scalloping.

### PRESENTATIONS IN THE WEBINAR INCLUDED:

- VICTOR BLANCO (UF/IFAS SEA GRANT EXTENSION TAYLOR COUNTY) – “TAYLOR COUNTY MARINE EXTENSION AND SCALLOP SEASON”
- SAVANNA BARRY (UF/IFAS SEA GRANT EXTENSION NATURE COAST BIOLOGICAL STATION) – “BE SEAGRASS SAFE THIS SCALLOP SEASON”
- LT. MIKE GUY (FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION LAW ENFORCEMENT) “BOATING SAFETY AND SCALLOP HARVESTING REGULATIONS”
- STEPHEN GEIGER (FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE) “A LITTLE BIT ABOUT BAY SCALLOPS AND MONITORING”
- RAY CARTHY (UF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) RESEARCH PROGRAM): “USING UAS TO MONITOR THE 2017 BAY SCALLOP FISHERY IN TAYLOR COUNTY”

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# TELEVISED CONFERENCE - VIDEO CONFERENCE - WEBINAR - PODCAST - RADIO

## BRONZE AWARD

### Backyard Nature Network - Video Series

Lara Milligan and Samantha Olsen (Intern)

*University of Florida*

A YouTube video series in the form of a playlist was created to highlight tips for residents to turn their yards into wildlife havens. Each short video (2-4 minutes) is narrated with pictures and videos to emphasize a specific theme and message. A total of nine videos were created and put into a YouTube playlist titled the "Backyard Nature Network". Since November 2017, these videos have been viewed 65 times. These videos support Agent's effort to help educate residents on ways they can support area wildlife in the most densely-populated county in the state. Videos were created by an unpaid intern using the free, Windows Movie Maker software. Scripts were created by intern which were edited by Agent. Draft videos were created using final script and then videos were also edited by Agent. Final draft videos were then sent off for review by a state specialist before being uploaded onto YouTube.

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# WEB SITES - SOCIAL MEDIA - ONLINE COURSES

## GOLD AWARD

## Southern Forest Health Program

David Coyle, Laura Costa, Daniel Drummond, Brent Peterson and William Hubbard  
*Southern Regional Extension Forestry & University Of Georgia*

The Southern Forest Health and Invasive Species program serves as a consistent source of information for forestry professionals and citizens in the 13-state southeastern U.S. Free educational resources are available for common invasive and native insects, pathogens, and plants. Resources include fact sheets, short videos, infographics, and pre-made powerpoint slides. Current forest health news is highlighted, as are important meetings for forest health professionals. A webinar series features experts discussing biology, ecology, and management of forest health pests has provided continuing education credits from a variety of professional organizations. A co-branded social media campaign including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are paired with the more formal website and webinar series to reach different target audiences. The program is run by Dr. David Coyle, who regularly engages with people online to answer forest health questions, clear up misconceptions, and generally promote forestry, forest health, and invasive species prevention and management.

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# WEB SITES - SOCIAL MEDIA - ONLINE COURSES

## SILVER AWARD

# Flipped Classrooms & Early Detection Invasive Species

Megan Weber, Amy Rager, Daniel Larkin, Mike Reichenbach and Angela Gupta  
*University of Minnesota*

Minnesota's Forest Pest First Detector and AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Detector programs both used a flipped classroom learning model in 2017. This learning model relied on online content including videos, reading assignments, online resource exploration and/or required competency quizzes. The online learning created the foundations for participants to succeed in subsequent in-person content focused on peer-learning opportunities, small group exercises, scenario training and content expert led identification stations. The online course and supporting materials provided participants with basic knowledge typically delivered via traditional lectures and paved the way for interactive, engaged and reflective learning once the participants arrive at their respective workshops.

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# WEB SITES - SOCIAL MEDIA - ONLINE COURSES

## BRONZE AWARD

### Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch Training Videos

Savanna Barry  
*University of Florida*

Horseshoe crabs are important ecological components of coastal systems. They also carry immense importance for human health because an extract of their blood allows testing of medical devices and medicines for safety and sterility. There is a fishery for horseshoe crabs in many states, including Florida. Due to a lack of a rigorous and standardized monitoring program prior to 2015, resource managers have very little information about the status and trends of horseshoe crab populations in Florida. However, citizen scientists in the Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch program are working to gather data on nesting horseshoe crab populations for managers. The citizen scientist volunteers are trained and managed using resources (including these videos) produced by UF IFAS Extension and Florida Sea Grant, in collaboration with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the UF Department of Biology.

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# ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

## INNOVATIVE PROGRAM

### Starry Trek - AIS Snapshot Day

Megan Weber, Daniel Larkin and Patrick Mulcahy  
*University of Minnesota*  
Paul Skawinski  
*University of Wisconsin Stevens Point*

Starry stonewort is a new aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Wisconsin and Minnesota where it was first found in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Early detection and rapid response (EDRR) is critical for minimizing impacts of new invaders. Universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin AIS Extension teams joined forces to launch an EDRR citizen science effort to find new populations of starry stonewort and other AIS. Building off an existing event held by the River Alliance of Wisconsin, UMN and UW Extension developed training materials and sampling protocols and leveraged their networks of volunteers and professionals to search hundreds of lakes. This cross-border partnership ("Starry Trek" in Minnesota and "AIS Snapshot Day" in Wisconsin) was first held on August 5, 2017 and will be held annually thereafter. The inaugural event led to EDRR for Minnesota's 10th known population of starry stonewort and educated hundreds of volunteers in AIS sampling methods and identification.

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## OUTSTANDING TEAM

# Southeastern Forests and Climate Change Team

Annie Oxarart, Tim Martin, and Martha Monroe, *University of Florida*

Christine Li, *University of Missouri*

Jackie Stallard, *Project Learning Tree*

Tracey Ritchie, *Earth Day Network*

Kristen Kunkle, *NAAEE*

Jackie Stallard, *National Project Learning Tree*

In partnership with PINEMAP (USDA-NIFA project on southern pine and climate) and Project Learning Tree (PLT), a team at the University of Florida developed and evaluated an education module with 14 activities that address climate change impacts on southeastern forests. The module is designed for use in high school science courses, with potential use with 4-H, landowners, middle school, and college courses (<http://sfrc.ufl.edu/extension/ee/climate>). The program used PINEMAP's research framework to construct the curriculum and addresses carbon sequestration, life cycle assessment, forest ecology, genetics, and how people and forests are responding to current and anticipated changes. More than 175 people helped develop, review, and evaluate the module. Four regional trainings empowered 72 facilitators/coordinators to offer 80 teacher workshops, training more than 1,300 educators. Materials on the website have been downloaded more than 12,500 times by registered users. Evaluations show increases in educator self-efficacy, student knowledge, and student hopefulness about climate change.

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## EARLY CAREER LEADERSHIP

### Lara Milligan

Lara Milligan has been with Extension since January 2012. Since that time she has established herself as a leader in her field and is well-known throughout the state for her significant contributions to new and innovative programs. She is extensively involved in many committees and associations, often assuming leadership roles within the organization. Lara has also received numerous awards for her work and continues to pursue professional development opportunities to expand her knowledge base and skillsets to better serve her clientele. As a result of her efforts, she has presented at local, regional, national and international conferences, which expands her professional network. Lara is a team-player working collaboratively with her state and national colleagues as well as local partner organizations. It is a privilege and honor to nominate my colleague Lara for the honor of Early Career Award for ANREP, she is very deserving of this recognition.

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