

ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONALS



AWARD RECIPIENTS 2016

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

Rain to Drain - Slow the Flow

Jennifer Fetter, Sanford S. Smith, Kristen Kyler, Deborah Dietrich, Vincent Cotrone, Bradley Kunsman, Bryan Swistock, Charles Andrew Cole, Stuart Echols

Pennsylvania State University

Rain to Drain-Slow the Flow is a new 4-H project/curriculum that teaches about stormwater. It was designed by a team of educators specializing in youth development, natural resources, and green infrastructure/landscape design. The curriculum is a multi-stage inquiry-based science experiment that youth (and adults) complete to understand how development effects the movement of stormwater on Earth. Through hands-on activities, the curriculum helps youth to see how stormwater affects their own community, and leads them to consider service learning projects to help improve stormwater management at home, at school, and in public spaces.

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SILVER AWARD

Herbicides and Forest Vegetation Management: Controlling Unwanted Trees, Brush, and Other Competing Forest

David Jackson, James C. Finley

Penn State Extension, Pennsylvania State University

This publication examines the use of herbicides to manage forest vegetation and attempts to set aside misconceptions concerning herbicide use in forests. The target audience for this publication includes natural resource management professionals, forest herbicide applicators, vegetation managers, and private forest landowners. The publication addresses the issues surrounding forest vegetation management and the use of herbicides. Forestry herbicides play important roles in controlling competing plants for regeneration establishment, removing poor quality trees from woodlots (example: timber stand improvement), and for restoring native communities through the control of non-native invasive plants. Topics discussed include choosing the right forestry herbicide and application method; forestry herbicide toxicity; forestry herbicide application talking points; and silvicultural objectives and chemical control methods for forestry.

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BRONZE AWARD

Brevard Oyster Gardening Manual

Holly Abeels

Florida Sea Grant, University of Florida

The Brevard Oyster Gardening Manual explains the ecology, importance, and threats of oysters and the responsibilities of an oyster gardener. It is an easy to read guide that gardeners can refer to as they garden their oysters for the Brevard Oyster Gardening Program. Each gardener who attends a gardening workshop receives a manual and the manual is also available online. The manual includes pictures of oyster spat for identification purposes as well as identification of other organisms that may be found on oyster habitats. There is also a FAQ page and a glossary. Over 1000 residents have attended an oyster gardening training workshop and have received a manual.

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PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

GOLD AWARD

Improving Compliance with a Sea Turtle Lighting Ordinance in Franklin County, FL

Erik Lovestrand, Scott Jackson, Jamie Johnson
University of Florida

Many Gulf beach properties in Franklin County Florida remain out of compliance with a 1998 sea turtle beach lighting ordinance, resulting in high numbers of hatchling disorientations and deaths of these protected marine species. Promotional materials were produced in support of an effort to reduce beach lighting by retrofitting homes with turtle-friendly lighting equipment. Printed materials and a radio PSA were utilized to encourage tourists using rental properties to follow ordinance rules during the turtle season. Owners and property management companies were contacted directly to offer grant-funded assistance with retro-fitting lights that were out of compliance with the existing ordinance.

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SILVER AWARD

Summer Camp Isn't Just For Kids

Lara Milligan

University of Florida

For the past three years, Lara has conducted a week-long Teacher Training Workshop in partnership with a local community college with a focus on environmental education (EE). In public schools, EE is not included as part of the mandated curriculum, but it can be incorporated into lessons to teach topics like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), language arts, physical education and more! Participants of this Teacher Training Workshop include students in the College of Education at St. Petersburg College who are aspiring to become elementary school teachers, current elementary school teachers, and non-formal educators. This workshop provides an opportunity for students to build their resume, teachers to gain their continuing education credits and for non-formal educators to learn new curriculum to use with their audience. Agent utilized two promotional videos, a save-the-date card, and a flyer to successfully recruit 33 participants who completed the week-long workshop.

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BRONZE AWARD

Clean Bay Backers Promotional Materials

Chad Cook, Jeffrey Strobel, Julia Noordyk
University of Wisconsin-Extension

The Clean Bay Backers are a citizen advisory committee for the Lower Green Bay & Fox River Area of Concern (AOC). AOCs are federally designated Great Lakes pollution "hot spots". Citizen Advisory Committees are a crucial link between local communities and regulatory agencies (primarily DNR and EPA) guiding restoration efforts. They provide feedback on restoration targets and projects and engage local communities through outreach and information sharing. UW-Extension and UW Sea Grant provide leadership, facilitation, and organizational development support. UW-Extension Natural Resources Educator Chad Cook and UW Sea Grant Coastal Storms Outreach Specialist Julia Noordyk worked with UW-Extension Senior Designer Jeffrey Strobel to create a series of promotional pieces that could be used to engage with audiences and provide information about the AOC. The promotional pieces included a four-page brochure, a three-panel tabletop display, and a pop up banner.

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NEWSLETTERS, SERIES OF ARTICLES

GOLD AWARD

WSU North Puget Sound Extension Forestry E-Newsletter

Kevin Zobrist
Washington State University

The WSU North Puget Sound Extension Forestry E-Newsletter is sent by email to subscribed individuals on average six times per year. The newsletter includes a mix of program announcements, feature articles, and updates. The newsletter is produced by the local Extension agent serving a set of counties in northwest Washington state. While the focus of the newsletter is on these local counties, much of the content has broader application such that the newsletter has attracted readers from around the state as well as out of state. At the end of 2015, there were approximately 1,500 people subscribed to the newsletter. The newsletter has undergone a comprehensive evaluation process to guide the content and layout of the newsletter as well as assess impacts.

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SILVER AWARD

The Nature of Teller

Mark Platten

Colorado State University

Mark writes a monthly column called “The Nature of Teller” where I highlight a natural resource issue, concern, or area of interest each month. The articles are focused on providing information and education to dispel concerns or help solve mysteries in the natural environment. I base my articles on the calls I receive or if we know there is some noxious weed issue, insect outbreak, or wildlife issue that might cause loss to the landscape or heath.

After each column, I’m inundated with calls and site visits on what steps to take to prevent the various issues, or whether they should take action, and often an appreciation for the information that has saved them thousands of dollars or protected their homes, forest, or animals. In addition, the monthly articles have identified Extension as a place to go for natural resource information.

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BRONZE AWARD

100 Year Celebration of Extension in Nassau County, FL

Rebecca Jordi

University of Florida

To help celebrate 100 years of Extension in Nassau County, we wrote a series of five separate articles describing the various areas of Extension currently serving the county. The over-arching theme demonstrated how Extension had changed over the years yet still provided the best service to the community. These articles were sent to the local newspapers in which we received 587,696 positive media exposures. We ended the series with an open house in which over 150 people attended. Many were family members of those who had served in earlier years. It was a wonderful homecoming for all. We set up various stations which featured a specific part of each program area. These included hydroponics, a 4-H petting zoo, how to make your own recyclable plant pots, proper hand washing demonstration, snacks and even a special photo booth with a cow! We served refreshments which made their debut around 1915.

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SHORT PUBLICATION

GOLD AWARD

Not all fires are wild: Understanding fire and its use as a management tool

Janean Creighton, Carrie Berger, Rebecca Wolf, Christine Olsen
Oregon State University

Historically, fires have played an integral role in the vitality of our forests. Fire changes the landscape by altering population densities, removing some species and allowing others to thrive, and reducing surface fuels on the forest floor. Following a century of fire suppression, our forests have become overcrowded with dense populations of small trees with an overabundance of fuels. Consequently, these landscapes are at risk of uncharacteristically large and severe wildfires. In this publication we discuss the role of prescribed fire in fuels management and treatment, and its use as one of many tools available to help maintain healthy, resilient forests.

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SILVER AWARD

Food Safety, Soil, and Water Testing Recommendations for School and Community Gardens

Michele Bakacs, Meredith Melendez
Rutgers Cooperative Extension

In January 2014, legislation was adopted in New Jersey authorizing public schools to serve students the produce grown in community gardens. The legislation requires that the soil and water used in the garden be been tested for contaminants. In addition, the produce must have been handled, stored, transported, and prepared in accordance with applicable health and sanitation requirements. This purpose of this publication was to provide gardeners with guidance on meeting testing and food safety requirements. Guidance is included on determining which soil contaminants to test for in new verses previously established gardens in addition to soil objectives for comparing test results. Recommendations for E. coli testing frequency and timing for different sources of irrigation water are also detailed. Lastly, good gardening practices are outlined such as hand washing, animal manure based composts, wildlife and pets, and post-harvest handling. This publication is available for download at <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.asp?pid=E350>.

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BRONZE AWARD

Don't Leave it to Beaver

Norm Haley
Auburn University

The partnership between Alabama Extension and Buckmasters Ltd. serves as an example of collaboration expanding Extension's outreach, education, and awareness while also providing Buckmasters and its members with a consistent source of non-biased, peer-reviewed, scientific information that can directly apply to their management and pursuit of white-tailed deer.

One working example is Extension's article "Don't Leave it to Beaver", printed in the July 2015 issue of Buckmasters Whitetail Magazine. Although the value of North American Beaver *Castor canadensis* on the landscape was addressed, the overall article aimed to inform and/or inspire land managers towards effective and economical control of beaver through determining its presence, sound management plan development, and safely and humanely using proper trapping equipment and methods. The goal was to increase stewardship while decreasing the expense and frustration that may otherwise burden the uneducated or ill-informed land manager when managing lands and wildlife populations according to individual goals.

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TELEVISED CONFERENCE - VIDEO CONFERENCE - WEBINAR - PODCAST - RADIO

GOLD AWARD

Pollination and Protecting Pollinators

Timothy Lawrence, Carrie Foss, Darrell Kilgore
Washington State University

Bees are the most important pollinator in the United States and worldwide. Pollination is essential and a critically important process in producing much of the food we eat. Without pollinators, such as the honey bee, we would have few fruits, vegetables, nuts, and many other types of food we depend upon. This 52-minute video gives an overview of the pollination process, the value of all bees and the benefit humans gain from this relationship. It also provides insight into the complexity and challenges of the beekeeping industry. Most importantly, it presents a balanced perspective on the many factors associated with the decline of honey bees and other pollinators. The video concludes with an overview on some of the research currently underway at Washington State University in support of honey bee health and things we all can do to help pollinators.

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SILVER AWARD

Wildlife Wednesday Webinar Series

Lara Milligan, Shannon Carnevale
University of Florida

Adults are exposed to screens in the form of TVs, cell phones, computers, etc. for about 8.5 hours on any given day according to a study by the Council for Research Excellence (2009). With the expansion of technology and a push for social media, Agents collaborated to offer a webinar series for the public. While the public might be interested in learning about local wildlife, they are often reluctant to drive to a public presentation to get their education. The Wildlife Wednesday Webinar series was offered on the third Wednesday of every month, August through December, from 12:15-1:00pm as a lunch & learn opportunity. Webinars are common among professionals, but are an innovative tool for reaching the general public. A total of five webinars were offered in 2015 reaching 147 people. Live webinars had a significant impact on knowledge gain and participants ability to better protect natural resources.

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BRONZE AWARD

Forest Water Quality Instructional Video

Chris Schnepf, Dave Tong

University of Idaho

Forest practices can diminish water quality if they are not carefully planned and implemented. This two-part, 38-minute instructional video, titled “Forest Water Quality” was developed with guidance from UI Extension forestry volunteers, foresters, regulatory inspectors, water quality professionals, and many other stakeholders.

The final video was released in spring, 2015 and is available in multiple formats, including: Blu-ray, conventional DVD, MP4 files on a wooden USB drive for computers without disk drives, and streaming over the University of Idaho Extension Forestry Web site. The hard media options for the video also include PDFs of a 146 page color companion publication.

The video has been viewed by over 600 people, usually in the context of extension programs. In a survey of 230 loggers who viewed the video, 93% indicated they would improve protection of protect water quality during timber harvest operations.

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WEB SITES - SOCIAL MEDIA - ONLINE COURSES

GOLD AWARD

Air Potato Biological Control

Ken Gioeli, William Overholt, Min Rayamajhi, Christopher Kerr, Eric Rohrig
University of Florida, USDA-ARS, Invasive Plant Laboratory, FDACS Division of Plant Industry

A new program connects Floridians managing invasive air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*) with a biological control: the air potato leaf beetle (*Lilioceris cheni*). Researchers with the USDA ARS Invasive Plant Research Laboratory in Fort Lauderdale demonstrated that *L. cheni* is a viable biological control agent and received approval to distribute this insect in Florida to manage air potato. Scientists affiliated with the UF/IFAS, USDA-ARS and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Division of Plant Industry partnered to conduct research on *L. cheni*.

In 2014, this team included the UF/IFAS St Lucie County Extension. The Extension Agent conducted the Air Potato Biological Control Extension Needs Assessment to target outreach efforts for this initiative. As a result of this needs assessment, the air potato biological control website was developed to serve as a portal for research-based information and access to program resources.

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SILVER AWARD

WSU Shore Stewards Website

Bob Simmons, Darcy McNamara, Scott Chase, Matt Brincka, Don Pierce, Thomas Wayne Lundstrom
Washington State University, WSU CAHNRS Computing and Web Resources

The "Shore Stewards" website is designed to provide shoreline residents with the information they need to protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat, along with water quality. The site is based on peer reviewed information formatted into 10 guidelines, each addressing a specific issue, such as septic system maintenance, landscape management, or considerations when building near water. The website provides links to additional resources, as well as video links for each guideline. The website is designed for current Washington State University's Shore Stewards, as well as invites and enables people to become part of the program. It provide FAQs about the program and a link to join. the site also has a news feed that provides up to date information related to WSU Agriculture and Natural Resource programs and activities.

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BRONZE AWARD

Virginia Master Naturalist Basic Training Curriculum: Forest Ecology and Management

Michelle Prysby, Jennifer Gagnon, Adam Downing, Ellen Powell, Karen Snape, Matt Brinckman, Alycia Crall

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Virginia Department of Forestry, The American Chestnut Foundation, National Ecological Observatory Network

The Virginia Master Naturalist (VMN) Basic Training Forest Ecology and Management webpage is a set of online and downloadable curriculum materials designed to support the training of VMN volunteers. The page contains learning objectives, narrated PowerPoint presentations in video format, a presentation script, a handout to accompany the presentation, a comprehensive background reading, a lesson plan for a hands-on activity to be used during in-person trainings, assessment questions, and evaluation tools. Each of these items was created with input from a diverse team of program stakeholders and content experts. In addition, the page contains links to other existing readings and videos from other sources that also support the identified learning objectives. Local chapters of the VMN program use the page and its associated materials flexibly to train new volunteers and connect them to possible volunteer service projects related to forest ecology and management

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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

Rutgers VETS Fish Exchange

Amy Rowe, Jan Zientek

Rutgers University

The Rutgers Veterans Environmental Technology and Solutions (VETS) program's mission is to improve the lives of unemployed veterans in Newark, NJ, and to work with them to protect the Lower Passaic River watershed. The VETS program provides local, unemployed veterans with environmental training and new green job skills. It promotes trainees' civic engagement and leadership by working with a broad cross-section of the Newark community to revitalize distressed neighborhoods through green infrastructure projects and increases healthy eating lifestyles for families and children in Newark through an active greenhouse and community garden. The veteran participants have also implemented the nation's first-ever fish exchange. The exchange is a groundbreaking initiative to reduce immediate health risks to families of subsistence fishermen who eat fish caught in the historically-contaminated Lower Passaic River. It is a pound-for-pound exchange of contaminated fish for clean fish raised by the trainees as part of an aquaponics system.

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OUTSTANDING TEAM

Arizona Project WET

Kerry Schwartz, Mary Ann Stoll, Betsy Wilkening, Holly Thomas-Hilburn, Tara Oakes, Sean Sederstrom, Julie Hasty, Pam Justice, Chuck Dugan, Dee Fife, Erin Gray, Sara Krznarich
University of Arizona, The Nature Conservancy

The Arizona Project WET statewide extension team develops thinking skills, STEM literacy and a water stewardship ethic in K-12 students. Engaged in the Thinking 101 online course and webinar sessions with the Cabrera Research Labs team throughout 2015, we planned, designed, delivered and evaluated all program components in iterative stages. The team mapped program objectives and anticipated outcomes; activated them through interactive teaching tools, exploration and discovery; and used embedded assessment at all levels to check learning and measure impact. To achieve impacts in 2015 with over 2000 middle school students, APW partnered with the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation staff, Hassayampa River Preserve staff, the Maricopa Master Gardeners, National Civilian Conservation Corps, Rob Wilson (State Soil Scientist at NRCS-USDA), Dino DeSimone (Water Supply Specialist at NRCS-USDA), Cox Communications (15 volunteers), Prescott College Environmental Education Class and many metropolitan Phoenix area city water conservation staff members.

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EARLY CAREER LEADERSHIP

Jennifer R. Fetter

Penn State Extension

Jennifer R. Fetter is a Watershed/Youth Development Educator with Penn State Extension. Her primary job responsibilities are two-fold and include leading efforts to enhance youth water education across the state and region as well as leading community outreach and education efforts to increase innovative and voluntary implementation of watershed and stormwater best management practices in the Lower Susquehanna River Basin. She has developed a number of nationally recognized educational curricula, tools and resources to help improve water education efforts across Pennsylvania, the mid-Atlantic region, and the country. In her ninth year working for Penn State Extension, Jennifer serves as the inaugural president of the newly formed Pennsylvania chapter of ANREP.

DISTINGUISHED CAREER LEADERSHIP

David P. Shelton

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Throughout his nearly 40-year career, David Shelton provided strong leadership in the development, delivery, evaluation, and reporting of high-impact University of Nebraska Extension programs addressing critical environmental issues. David's programs evolved from traditional agricultural engineering to an integrated natural resources focus on conservation buffers, watershed management, and green infrastructure for stormwater management. He has been highly successful in marshalling resources and leading successful interdisciplinary teams. He has led or co-led nearly 60 grants totaling over \$4.3 million, many extension-focused. He has authored or co-authored 40 refereed journal articles, over 50 peer-reviewed extension publications, as well as numerous other programming resources. Several of his materials have received national awards for their quality and relevance, including two ANREP Gold Awards. David's expertise continues to be utilized in many ways including the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association, Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, and Northeast Nebraska Arboretum..