

ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONALS



AWARD RECIPIENTS 2017

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

Stop the Invasion: Unwanted Plants, Bugs, and Other Pests. 4-H Invasive Species Project

Jennifer Fetter, Deborah Dietrich, Keith Diehl, Natalie Aiello
Pennsylvania State University, Penn State Extension

Stop the Invasion: Unwanted Plants, Bugs, and Other Pests is a new 4-H project/curriculum that teaches about invasive species and their impacts on the environment and the economy. It was designed by a team of educators specializing in youth development, natural resources, and STEM education. The curriculum is a complete suite of inquiry-based science activities that youth (and adults) complete to understand what invasive species from basic awareness to taking action to prevent them. Through hands-on activities, the curriculum helps youth to see how invasive species impact their own community, and leads them to consider the action steps they can take to decrease the spread of invasive species and report new sightings of red-alert invasive species near their homes. This project was completed with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

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SILVER AWARD

Property Ownership and Land-Use History for your Forest Stewardship Plan

Lauren Grand, Kevin Zobrist

Oregon State Extension, Washington State University

A written forest stewardship plan is an important tool for helping landowners identify and achieve their forest ownership. In Washington State, a stewardship plan also assists landowners in meeting the eligibility requirements for third party recognition, cost share programs, and property tax reductions. Part of writing a comprehensive plan is understanding the land-use and ownership history of the property you are managing, however there was no comprehensive source of information available to guide private landowners on where and how to find this information. This series of two user-friendly publications provides step-by-step written and pictorial instructions, for completing an ownership and land-use history by explaining how to use the records websites for Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties, in Washington State, as well as the process for retrieving records from other local archives.

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BRONZE AWARD

Oregon Forest Pest Detector Field Guide

Amy Grotta, Brandy Saffell, Ariel Ginsburg

Oregon State University Extension Service, Oregon State University

The Oregon Forest Pest Detector program trains professionals and volunteers from the natural resources, urban forestry and green industry fields to recognize and respond to high priority exotic forest insect threats. Each Forest Pest Detector receives a Field Guide for quick reference following their training. The Field Guide contains color pictures of target insects covered in the training, host trees, look-alikes, and signs and symptoms of infestation. It also includes a decision tree for each insect to aid Forest Pest Detectors in determining whether to report an infestation. To facilitate use in the field, the Field Guide is sized to fit in a glove compartment and made of durable, waterproof paper.

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PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

GOLD AWARD

Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act

Brian Volland, Amanda Gumbert
University of Kentucky

All farms in Kentucky 10 acres or greater in size must have a water quality plan developed and implemented to protect water resources. The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service produced three promotional videos featuring Kentucky farmers who had successfully balanced water quality plan implementation with production agriculture. These videos were widely distributed via social media to educate farmers/landowners about the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act. The videos were also distributed to county Extension agents, watershed coordinators, agency personnel, and other agriculture professionals for use in their respective educational programs. County Extension agents have used the videos at local Extension meetings and at least one county has aired the videos on local government access television.

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SILVER AWARD

Operation Skeeter Stop

Brittany Scharf, William Lester, Stacy Strickland, Nancy Moores
University of Florida

During 2016, reports about the Zika virus and associated health risks dominated the news throughout the nation, especially in Florida. In response, Hernando County Extension Agents participated in the statewide "UF/IFAS 2016 Zika Challenge" program to provide Floridians with current and scientifically accurate information concerning this public issue. Promotional materials were produced in an effort to engage residents while teaching the community on how to reduce mosquito populations and the importance of protection against mosquito-borne illnesses. The promotional pieces include one flyer used for an insect repellent drive for the homeless, 12 donation boxes, and five educational videos..

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BRONZE AWARD

Microplastics Awareness Month

Maia McGuire, Lara Milligan
University of Florida

Microplastics (pieces of plastic less than 5 mm in size) are a growing concern in marine and freshwater environments. The Florida Microplastic Awareness Project (FMAP) is educating people about the sources of microplastics (often from the weathering of large plastic items) and about ways people can reduce their personal plastic waste. We promoted September 2016 as Microplastic Awareness Month and created memes and infographics to raise awareness about microplastics and to provide suggested behavior changes. One image (with accompanying text) was posted on the FMAP Facebook page each day during the month. The posts had a reach of 27,615 and were reacted to or shared a total of 652 times.

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NEWSLETTERS, SERIES OF ARTICLES

GOLD AWARD

Indiana Woodland Steward

Brian MacGowan, Liz Jackson, Dan Shaver
Purdue University, The Nature Conservancy

Three times annually, over 31,000 copies of the Indiana Woodland Steward are mailed to woodland owners in Indiana. This 16-page, two-color publication includes in-depth articles on forest stewardship and health, invasive species and pests, wildlife habitat management, economics, and more. Subscribers own more woods (71.6 ac) for a longer tenure (33 years) than the average woodland owner in Indiana based on data from the National Woodland Owner Survey. As a group, they also have a higher proportion enrolled in assistance programs and having written stewardship plans. Based on a survey of subscribers, 54 percent regularly utilize information from the Woodland Steward. In addition, 51 percent of respondents have implemented at least one practice they read about from the Woodland Steward, potentially impacting an estimated 1.2 million acres of forestland.

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SILVER AWARD

Woodland Fish and Wildlife Series

Andrew Perleberg, Nicole Strong, Richard Zabel, Ken Bevis, Steve Gibbs, Tami Miketa, Brad Siemens, Susan Barnes, Jimmy Taylor, Misty Seabolt, Fran Cafferata Coe, Julie Woodward, Dana Sanchez, Carri Gaines, Michael Ahr, Jim James, Rhidian Morgan, Jennifer Weikel, Ryan Gordon, Nicole Ahr, Candice Polisky, Dominic Bachman, Rod Pfeifle

Washington State University, Oregon State University, Western Forestry and Conservation Association, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC), NRCS, Cafferata Consulting, LLC; Oregon Forest Resources Institute, West Multnomah SWCD, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, WFFA, Oregon Department of Forestry, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, US Forest Service, WA Dept. Fish and Wildlife

Practical “how to” publications written just for small forest owners in the Pacific Northwest. Over 20 available titles covering fish and wildlife habitat, management considerations, and practical advice for landowners. Publications are available for free and can be downloaded at www.woodlandfishandwildlife.com

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BRONZE AWARD

NatureNotes Articles Provide Residents Timely Horticulture Information

Nicole Pinson
University of Florida

Newspaper articles address timely landscape topics and provide answers to residents' gardening questions. To provide homeowners informative and easy-to-understand gardening information, this Agent writes a bimonthly personal column in partnership with The Laker/Lutz News. Topics include proper pest identification, how to grow bulbs, and safety in the garden. This Agent writes articles and submits them electronically to the newspaper editor, along with accompanying photographs, for review prior to publishing. Printed newspapers are mailed to homes and businesses in six rural and urban communities in Hillsborough and Pasco counties, Florida. The newspaper delivers 43,750 papers every week, with over 85% delivered to homes. Because of the paper's 80% readership, Publix, Lowe's, Walmart and other national retailers carry the circulars weekly. Additionally, articles are posted and archived online at <http://lakerlutznews.com/ln/?cat=6341>. These newspaper articles are useful and straightforward, so readers can easily apply the information to their landscapes.

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SHORT PUBLICATION

GOLD AWARD

Pro-Hort Fact Sheets

Susan Haddock

University of Florida . IFAS

This series of three published Fact Sheets focuses on the common theme of having the least possible impact of pesticides and fertilizers on natural resources by implementing best management practices including integrated pest management and appropriate use of pesticides and fertilizers. Fact sheet one, There's a New Whitefly in Town, the Q-Biotype, introduces a new relatively pest resistant whitefly, and includes specimen collection instructions and implications of its escape from managed landscapes. Fact sheet two, The Buzz on Pollinators and Neonicotinoids, introduces factors affecting pollinator health including neonicotinoids and minimizing pollinator risk. The third fact sheet, Fertilizing for Turfgrass Health and Water Quality, discusses warm season turfgrass seasonal physiological changes and proper fertilization practices to promote healthy turfgrass and minimize negative water quality impact. The Fact Sheets serve to educate urban populations about landscape management impacts on natural resources.

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SILVER AWARD

Is My Tree Dying?

Mary Carol Sheffield, Ellen Bauske, Wade Hutcheson, Bodie Pennisi
University of Georgia

An Urban Forestry Issue Team works together through the University of Georgia Center for Urban Agriculture to help address Extension needs for Urban Forestry education and outreach. The members of the Urban Forestry Issue Team are metro agents with expertise in forestry. Over the course of several years of team outreach planning, it was noted that county agents routinely receiving requests that start with the question, "Is my tree dying? " As a result of this common request, the team produced a publication by the same name, "Is My Tree Dying?"

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BRONZE AWARD

Proper Pruning

Jane Morse

University of Florida

This fact sheet was developed to supplement a poster about pruning shrubs, trees and palms. It is provided as a take away reference after viewing the poster. It is also provided as a short publication for clients at the Lawn and Garden Help Desk. The original university publication "Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs" by Edward Gilman and Robert Black is eleven pages long and very detailed. This fact sheet was designed in a simplified format and language for homeowners and maintenance personnel that need basic information about pruning shrubs, trees and palms.

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TELEVISED CONFERENCE - VIDEO CONFERENCE - WEBINAR - PODCAST - RADIO

GOLD AWARD

Gathering Evidence to Confirm Cougars in Alabama

Norman Haley, III; Spenser Bradley
Auburn University

Cougar sightings are increasing in the southeast and agencies in Alabama are often approached with accounts throughout the state, yet none have been confirmed since 1956. Confirming cougar presence in Alabama is important from the aspect of wildlife diversity, management of many game and non-game species, and human safety and education. With this in mind, extension agents from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) developed a 3-part video series to inspire and guide those not only within the state of Alabama, but throughout the cougar's range, to properly gather and provide evidence of cougars.

This series details cougar presence and distribution in the southeast, effective trail camera use, physical characteristics, commonly confused species, ways to identify and differentiate sign left by cougars and other species, and how to properly collect and preserve hair and scat for laboratory DNA analysis. Viewers with evidence were directed to contact their counties extension office.

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SILVER AWARD

Recreational Fish Pond Harvest YouTube Video Series

Spenser Bradley, Norman Haley III
Auburn University

Harvest in recreational fish ponds is an essential, but often overlooked part of managing fishing ponds. This video series was created to assist landowners in formulating goals for their pond, and executing them. "Pond Management: Harvesting Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, & Bream in Recreational Fishing Ponds" presents 5 different strategies for managing recreational fish ponds based on landowner goals. It also gives tips on recognizing imbalances in ponds, record keeping, and fishing tips. Of course, after harvesting fish from a pond, it is important that landowners understand how to properly fillet their catch. "How to Scale and Fillet Fish; Bluegill, Bream, and other Panfish" and "How to Fillet Fish: Largemouth Bass" were created to give step by step tips on filleting fish, and also presents information about game-fish anatomy.

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BRONZE AWARD

Solutions to Better Living: Florida Bay Scallops

Brittany Scharf

University of Florida

Florida's Adventure Coast, Hernando County, relies heavily on marine and coastal natural resources for economic viability. Visitors and residents alike are drawn to the county for fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing. Recreational scalloping is one of the county's largest attractions that comprises 30% of the yearly revenue for the coastal businesses. This 32-minute video gives an overview of Florida's bay scallops. It also provides insight of the biology and life history of scallops as well as the current research and monitoring efforts. Most importantly, it covers the recreational harvest of scallops to help promote sustainable fishing practices. Video was aired on Hernando County Broadcasting during the 2016 scalloping season (83,000 potential viewers).

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WEB SITES - SOCIAL MEDIA - ONLINE COURSES

GOLD AWARD

Oregon Master Naturalist Online

Jason O'Brien, Laura Macnado
Oregon State University

The Oregon Master Naturalist Program has created a one-of-a-kind online course curriculum for adult learners who wish to seek the title of Master Naturalist. This online course acts as a core curriculum, taken in advance of local field courses required to become a Master Naturalist. Offered since 2012, 390 people have completed this course, which covers a broad range of topics, including: Ecoregions, Geology and Earth Processes, Watersheds, Principles of Ecology and Wildlife Management, Forest and Rangeland Ecology and Management, and Climate Change. This course is instructor-led twice yearly, delivered using the Canvas learning system. Each week, participants are asked to read an online, interactive “textbook” and research and respond to a question or issue through a discussion forum. Participants have consistently evaluated the course highly; with over 80% rating their experience positive and enjoyable. Participants indicate the course prepares them for more in-depth study in the field.

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SILVER AWARD

Inside Nature Coast (Blog)

Savanna Barry
University of Florida

Inside Nature Coast is the Extension and Outreach blog for the UF IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station. This blog highlights projects, events, and issues of regional interest to stakeholders in the Nature Coast of Florida (Hernando-Wakulla Counties). Posts aim to be entertaining but also offer educational information about the issues and research projects discussed. Topics include citizen science, habitat restoration, cooperative fisheries research, living shorelines, marine debris, and 4-H marine science events. Posts are made approximately every two weeks and include photos, videos from around Florida's Nature Coast region.

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BRONZE AWARD

Reducing Fire Risk to your Western Washington Home in the Woods

Lauren Grand, Kevin Zobrist
Oregon State University, Washington State University

Landowner and property safety is becoming a rising concern in the west as catastrophic wildland fire becomes a more dominant player in our forests. However, there are almost no resources available to landowners who live in the mesic Pacific Northwest. The online module, Reducing Fire Risk to your western Washington Home in the Woods, offers techniques that are catered to western Washington's moist and lush forests. The module includes a brief introduction to fire in western Washington forests, as well as adapts the Firewise program to match the needs of western Washington forests. Additionally the module discusses the Firewise guidelines for landscaping and construction techniques that will together decrease the vulnerability of the home to fire ignition and damage. Lastly, the module covers quick and easy practices that will aid firefighters in protecting the home and wooded property.

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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

Partnering with the Girl Scouts to Create a Sustainable Pollinator Garden

Lynn Barber, Nicole Pinson
University of Florida

Pollinators are important because an estimated 1/3 of the food we eat comes from animal pollinated plants. Recognizing that pollinators are important, three members of Girl Scout Troop #360 worked in partnership with the UF/IFAS Extension Hillsborough County to plant a pollinator demonstration garden while earning their Silver Awards. Silver Awards encourage the cadets to design their own community project and understand how the project impacts their community. Obtaining the award requires completing an approved cause and issue service project of at least 50 volunteer hours. In addition to planting the pollinator garden, the Girl Scouts wrote newspaper articles and press releases, installed microirrigation, created a pollinator display, and provided docent tours. Involving youth in creating pollinator demonstration gardens is a win-win for the Girl Scouts, Extension and local residents who can learn more about sustainable landscapes.

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OUTSTANDING TEAM

Florida Microplastic Awareness Project

Maia McGuire, Rick O'Connor, Chris Verlinde, Lara Milligan, Shelly Krueger, Lisa Krimsky, LeRoy Creswell, Holly Abeels, Laura Tiu
University of Florida

The Florida Microplastic Awareness Project involves 10 UF/IFAS Extension agents and eight partners. These regional coordinators train citizen scientists to collect and analyze water samples for the presence of microplastics. Over 920 one-liter water samples have been collected and analyzed from over 300 locations around the state. The data show that 88% of water samples contained at least one piece of plastic, with an average of eight pieces of plastic per liter of water. Data from the project have been used to inform Florida residents and visitors about the problem of microplastics in aquatic systems, the sources of microplastics, and the ways individuals can reduce plastic waste. Over 1,000 people have pledged to reduce plastic waste by taking an average of 3.6 of the suggested eight actions. Follow-up surveys show that 90% have made at least one behavior change, with an average of three behavior changes.

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EARLY CAREER LEADERSHIP

Kara Salazar

Purdue University

Kara Salazar joined Purdue University Extension in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant as Sustainable Communities Extension Specialist in 2012. Kara has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in a relatively short amount of time. She provides expertise to professional, campus, and state committees and is an important contributor to statewide sustainability and community planning efforts. Extension program areas address identified needs, with an impressive and comprehensive set of outputs, and a sophisticated evaluation system to assess effectiveness. Kara's leadership of teams has been exemplary, and her community development activities have been well received. Her collaborative signature programs, Enhancing the Value of Public Spaces, Purdue Rainscaping Education, and Tipping Points and Indicators, are exemplars of holistic programming. Program efforts integrate community development best practices to guide, develop, and support the implementation of comprehensive plans, watershed management plans, parks and recreation master plans, and education for natural resource management.