ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROFESSIONALS

AWARD RECIPIENTS 2015

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

Fish and Wildlife Management: A Handbook for Mississippi Landowners

Adam Rohnke, Lann Wilf, William Hamrick, Wes Neal, John Defazio, Kristina Godwin, Randy Browning, Adam Tullos, Bronson Strickland, Daryl Jones, James Cummins, Marcus Measells, Stephen Grado, John Kushla, Andrew Londo, Rick Hamrick, Jeanne Jones, John Hodges, Rob Ballinger, Samuel Pierce, Andrew Whitehurst, Chad Dacus, William McKinley, Chris McDonald, Adam Butler

Mississippi State University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Mississippi, The Ohio State University, Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Gulf Restoration Network

The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation indicated that nearly half of the state's population (3 million) participated in fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation spending over $1.4 billion annually. As a result, many landowners and recreationalists are interested in managing fish and wildlife on their properties. Yet, there was no comprehensive source of information available to guide private landowners on sound management practices. Recognizing this need, Wildlife Mississippi and the Mississippi State University Extension Service with financial support from The Dalrymple Family Foundation convened a team of natural resource professionals from across Mississippi to assemble a publication titled, "Fish and Wildlife Management: A Handbook for Mississippi Landowners". This 418 page user-friendly publication covers 17 fish and wildlife topics including Mississippi's natural history, conservation planning, soils, Mississippi's ecosystems, game and non-game species management, farm pond management, backyard habitat design, and invasive plant and wildlife damage control.

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SILVER AWARD

A Guide to Florida's Common Bark and Ambrosia Beetles

Jiri Hulcr, Craig Bateman
University of Florida

This illustrated guide provides an introduction to the biology and identification of Florida's bark and ambrosia beetles. It was created as a response to a needs assessment conducted by the senior author among county extension personnel across Florida. Intended for extension professionals, researchers, industry and the public, the guide aims to increase the feasibility of detection and monitoring (through identification) and awareness of these beetles in the State. Florida has the greatest number of native and invasive bark and ambrosia beetles, many of them with significant economic and ecological impact. Therefore it is imperative to enhance the ability to detect, monitor and diagnose damaging beetles. Through innovative design, organized information, the highest-quality photography of these beetles available on the web and accessible language, this guide serves such purpose. First of its kind, this guide is a valuable tool for expert identifiers, educational and extension programs, and the interested public.

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BRONZE AWARD

Rutgers River Friendly for Business

Christopher Obropta, Jessica Brown, Michele Bakacs, Salvatore Mangiafico, Brooke Maslo
Rutgers, The State University; Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Many businesses are becoming more eco-conscious, receiving LEED certification and/or practicing indoor energy and water saving measures. The Rutgers River Friendly Business Program provides clear, direct guidance to assist businesses to reduce impacts to water bodies from impervious surfaces and to create more river and habitat friendly campuses. The Program Overview document discusses the benefits to becoming a Rutgers River Friendly Business including environmental improvement, an increase in employee satisfaction and productivity, being a good community partner and the fact that overall it is a good business decision. The guidance manual provides details on the program structure which consists of four categories: stormwater management, water conservation, lawn maintenance and wildlife habitat.

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PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

GOLD AWARD

Ranger Naturalist Leadership Program

Libby Carnahan
University of Florida

The Ranger Naturalist Program at Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg, Florida provides a service learning opportunity for high school students, ages 15-18, to build leadership skills and environmental awareness. In order to recruit a diverse group of participants, the Agent developed promotional materials including an online video, a website, flyers, and a program application. The agent also promotes the program through an "Overview" program for parents and students with online registration. In addition, the agent promotes the program through Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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SILVER AWARD

Love your Land? Make a Plan. Legacy Planning for Forest Landowners

Allyson Muth, Peter Smallidge, Jim Finley, Gary Goff, Shorna Allred
Cornell University, Penn State University

Penn State and Cornell University Extension professionals working on Legacy Planning came together to address ways to keep forests as forests. One of the most persistent threats to forestland, parcelization and often fragmentation, happens when it changes ownership. Through this joint project, we created a series of outreach materials to engage natural resource educators and landowner peer volunteers as change agents in legacy planning. Legacy planning is a strategic planning process to achieve a shared vision and objectives for the property and ensure a smooth transition between landowners and those they designate as future owners. New York and Pennsylvania have more than 30 million acres of private woodlands and over 10 percent of the nation's private woodland owners. Communicating effectively with these owners is essential for achieving sustainable landscapes, yet agencies and educators have difficulty reaching the broad array of owners through traditional efforts. Effective outreach is essential because their decisions can affect social, ecological, and economic values benefiting themselves and the broader society. The outreach tools shown here were introduced with a companion education program about legacy planning through a series of ongoing workshops and webinars for the target audiences of forest landowner peer educators, natural resource professionals, and extension educators.

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BRONZE AWARD

Habitat Rx: Five Steps to a Healthy Watershed

Brooke Saari, Sheila Dunning, Stacey Jones, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance Restoration Coordinator
Washington State University, University of Florida, Northwest Florida State College

Promotional materials were produced to accompany the Habitat Rx: Five Steps to a Healthy Watershed Program, a grant-funded effort to restore critical habitats in Walton County, FL. Support materials helped in branding the program to bring invasive species programming and watershed education together under one umbrella. Materials created included a program logo, notepads, laminated information sign for the invasive trees, and an information packet for community leaders and homeowners. Packet included: script, liability forms, native replacement list, program timeline, invasive identification deck, and an educational invasive plant brochure. Extension agents and partner organizations worked with University graphics to create the pieces. Skilled volunteers utilized them to communicate with homeowners regarding participation in a no-cost removal project. Program materials utilized led to over 60 invasive trees being removed and replaced with recommended native species. The program materials are applicable to most of the Southeast, therefore enabling continued regional use.

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Newsletters, Series of Articles

Gold Award

Arthropod ID of the Month: Hillsborough County Master Gardener Newsletter

Nicole Pinson
University of Florida

A local needs assessment revealed Master Gardener volunteers lack sufficient pest identification skills. Proper pest identification can be used to accurately answer client horticulture questions. In addition, lesser known pests and insects yield few extension resources or available published information. To assist Master Gardener volunteers with answering client questions, this agent developed, wrote and e-mailed a series of monthly arthropod identification articles focused on arthropod characteristics, identification skills and control methods to 154 volunteers and 5 faculty. Volunteers stated these articles helped them identify pests and make appropriate recommendations for control. Being able to quickly and accurately address client needs increases efficiency and provides quality customer service. Appropriate recommendations save clients' money and time, maintain organization validity and reliability, and minimize negative environmental impacts from improper pesticide use. Positive feedback from this series led to articles adapted as local fact sheets.

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SILVER AWARD

Extension Outdoors

Adam Rohnke, Adam Tullos, Jessica Tegt, W. Daryl Jones, Leslie Burger, Wes Neal, Marina Denny, Bill Hamrick, Bill Maily, Bronson Strickland, Beth Baker, Joby Czarnecki, Ray Iglay, Keri Collins-Lewis
Mississippi State University

The Extension Outdoors column began in February 2014 as an alternative to a Starkville, MS newspaper printing articles written by local businessmen trying to promote their services, rather than provide factual information. Several faculty and staff at the Mississippi State University (MSU) Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture contribute to this weekly column, now distributed statewide. Thanks to a productive partnership with the MSU Office of Agricultural Communications, the Extension Outdoors series covers a diversity of topics, including wildlife damage management, wildlife ecology, natural history of native species, contemporary conservation issues, and outdoor recreation activities. To date, Extension Outdoors has produced 51 columns, published in 393 online and print media outlets in Mississippi with a total circulation of 751,450. An additional 8,665 readers viewed the articles on the MSU Extension website along with other associated social media sites. Columns have also been shared on several MSU social media sites.

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BRONZE AWARD
Headwaters

Eric Buehl, Jennifer Dindinger, Amanda Rockler, Jacqueline Takacs, Krisztian Varsa, Rhonda Barnhart
University of Maryland

Headwaters is the electronic newsletter written, edited, and published quarterly by the University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension's Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP) team. In its first year (2014), the newsletter increased program visibility, collaborative opportunities, and new partnerships.

With an audience of more than 5,000 readers, *Headwaters* provides a platform to share programs and projects with colleagues from partner agencies and organizations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. *Headwaters* keeps pace with the evolving landscape of watershed restoration by addressing relevant topics in watershed restoration & climate science, education, programming, projects, and research.

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SHORT PUBLICATION

GOLD AWARD

Pine Engraver Beetles in the Low Elevation Sonoran Desert in Tucson

Peter Warren, Tanya Quist, Ursula Schuch, Bob Celaya, Chris Erickson, John Richardson
University of Arizona, Office of the State Forester, Arizona State Forestry Division

The phrase "pine engraver beetle" refers to 11 species of insects in the Ips genus that live in the inner bark of pine trees and can cause rapid decline and death of pine trees. Typically, they are found at higher elevations between 4200 to 9000 feet. The distribution of the western subspecies of the six-spined engraver, Ips calligraphus ponderosae (Swaine), has previously only been found at higher elevations in Arizona and other southwestern states (USDA Forest Service 1983). In 2014 these insects were detected at about 2400 feet, in Tucson, infesting non-native Aleppo (Pinus halepensis) and Afghan (Pinus eldarica) pines. This is the first time these native bark beetles have been found in non-native pines in the Sonoran Desert (Arizona State Forestry Division 2014).

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SILVER AWARD
Rain barrels and mosquitoes

Pat Rector, Teresa Duckworth, Dina Fonseca

Rutgers Cooperative Extension, County of Morris, Division of Mosquito Control; Rutgers, The State University

Storage of rainwater for later use, or "rainwater harvesting," is a sustainable or low impact development practice currently in use to conserve water resources and to treat stormwater runoff. As the practice gains momentum we have a responsibility to educate clients about the proper procedures to ensure that rain barrels will not provide mosquito habitat. Human environments can be favorable to some species of mosquitoes, both native and non-native and the proximity to humans increases the potential for a bite, and hence disease. To correctly educate about the potential and the correct procedures to ensure that rain barrels will not provide habitat maintains client trust and also prevents reduced usage of rain barrels due to unfortunate episodes.

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BRONZE AWARD

DIY Composting

Theresa Badurek
University of Florida

DIY Composting covers an introduction to composting and it's benefits and then discusses how to create your own compost while also addressing common questions. The publication is available electronically on our website at http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/home_landscape/index.shtml as well as in hard-copy at our Lawn and Garden Help Desk at the main Extension Office in Largo, FL. The expected outcome of this publication is a better understanding of home composting with the goal of increasing the recycling of yard waste while increasing the organic material in garden soils.

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Televised Conference - Video Conference - Webinar - Podcast - Radio

Gold Award

The Septic System Challenge

Ellen Bauske, Robert Brannen, Keith Mickler, Louise Estabrook, Rolando Orellana
University of Georgia, UGA Extension

The Septic System Challenge (https://vimeo.com/107601730) is an educational video designed to help the general public understand and maintain septic systems. The video uses an interactive and lively game show format, which allows the viewer to test his/her knowledge against a panel of Extension Natural Resource Agents. In the course of the game, the viewer learns how to determine if a septic system is on site, how to locate the system, how it works, how to maintain it, and the signs of septic system failure. The video presents an accurate and considerate picture, which acknowledges that septic systems are an efficient, elegant, and inexpensive way to treat and dispose of wastewater. The video stresses that when properly maintained, septic systems can protect and maintain both public and environmental health for years.

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SILVER AWARD
The Blair Twig Project

Mary Carol Sheffield, Jody Martin, Jeff Harkins, Earl Cosgrove, Bob Banks, Betty Cosgrove
University of Georgia, Paulding County Board of Commissioners

"The Blair Twig Project" is a funny look at proper tree planting, aimed at homeowners in Paulding County Georgia. A spoof of the popular "Blair Witch Project", this project was filmed as a collaboration between Paulding County UGA Extension and the Paulding County Board of Commissioners as an effort to help improve soil and water conservation practices among homeowners. This is an important goal for Extension Educators in the metropolitan Atlanta area and its suburbs. Planting new trees and conserving urban and suburban forests is an excellent way to reduce stormwater runoff in these landscapes. “The Blair Twig Project” was produced in cooperation with the local County Media Outreach Coordinator for the Paulding County Local Access Channel.

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BRONZE AWARD

Mitigating the Pines: Creating a FireWise Community in Black Forest

Mark Platten
Colorado State University

In the summer of 2014 the Black Forest wildfire occurred to the northwest of Colorado Springs, consuming 14,280 acres and 489 homes, making it the most costly wildfire in Colorado History.

The fire has raised awareness of how susceptible the region is to wildfire events and with over 25,000 adjacent acres currently untreated, the potential for another incident is just a matter of time given the extremely dense stands of ponderosa pine.

El Paso County, various fire agencies, and Colorado State University Extension developed a video to educate landowners on best practices they can employ to minimize the risk to their property and how to create an environment for firefighters to defend their property if the need arises.

Although it starts with personal responsibility, our focus radiates to surrounding properties and a landscape-wide plan that needs to be considered.

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WEB SITES - SOCIAL MEDIA - ONLINE COURSES

GOLD AWARD

Understanding Coyotes in Florida

Lisa Hickey
University of Florida

Prior to the turn of the twentieth century, wolves were nuisance wildlife to farmers and residential owners. After eradication of wolves, coyote population increased due to lack of predation by wolves. Coyotes expanded their territory into Florida. Due to their adaptability and behavior, they are easily adjusting in the urban environment (Coates, Main, et.al. 2011). During Manatee County's urban corridor increase, coyote activity in the residential landscapes increased. During the years 2012 - 2014, telephone calls tripled (n=146), expressing concern over the increased activity of coyotes. County Commissioners were called on many occasions to “hunt the coyotes”. Manatee County Extension Service received a request from the commissioners to increase programming on coyote awareness. In the spring of 2014, a residential program complemented with several videos was offered to residents. Attendance has been rewarding and behavior changes have been documented through follow-up surveys.

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SILVER AWARD

You Tube Weather

Duane Friend
University of Illinois Extension

In 2014, Duane Friend developed a series of YouTube videos on weather and climate. As viewings of this type of media continue to grow, especially among younger individuals, Duane has seized the opportunity to provide programming to this audience. Targeting middle school and junior high grade levels, the videos are developed to be viewed in 2-3 minutes and describe specific weather and climate phenomena, such as "The Greenhouse Effect", "Types of Thunderstorms", and "How Clouds Form". The videos can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIq7XlTOe3akG5dgVod_X-3facAp5PLHZ

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BRONZE AWARD

National Webcast on Best Management Practices Enables Improved Manure Management for Horse Owners and Managers

Jamie Cohen
University of Florida

Equine facilities want to improve manure management practices and have an interest in composting, but lack education needed to properly develop effective systems. A national webcast, through My Horse University: https://connect.msu.edu/p8yko9zhhoq/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal , was developed for farm owners and managers. Education about benefits/reasons for composting manure and farm/manure management plans to benefit the soils and protect the ground and surface waters was delivered, with power point, pictures and links. Manure/compost bin designs were drafted for a Horse Trail system in New York State immediately following the webcast. Other short-term outreach indicated over 700 views (on My Horse University Facebook page) https://www.facebook.com/MyHorseU of slides from the webcast. Shares (18) of slides were forwarded to other horse enthusiast social media pages. Lastly, the webcast became the basis of a lead story article in Wisconsin State Farmer. http://www.wisfarmer.com/leadstories/290930631.html Future outreach includes upcoming webcast collaboration with extension specialists from multiple states, generated from the webcast.

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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

Invasive Tropical Soda Apple Biological Control Extension Program for Ranches in St Lucie County, FL

Kenneth Gioeli, William Overholt, James Cuda, Susan Munyan, Julio Medal, Ricky Telg, Buzz Eaves, Kenneth Hibbard
University of Florida, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Tropical Soda Apple (TSA), Solanum viarum Dunal (Solanaceae), is an invasive plant in pasture and conservation areas in St Lucie County, FL. Cattle, livestock and wildlife feed on TSA fruit and spread the seeds to shady hammocks in natural areas as well as open pastures. Pastureland invaded by TSA is less productive, wildlife corridors are blocked and native species diversity is reduced. The TSA Beetle: Gratiana boliviana, is a new addition to the TSA Integrated Pest Management Plan. An Extension program was designed to teach ranchers about TSA biology and how to manage this plant using the TSA beetle as an integral component of their TSA Integrated Pest Management Plan. Use of the Tropical Soda Apple beetle in St Lucie County rancher's TSA management plan resulted in a 50% cost savings. St Lucie County grazing land managers saved a total of $850,000 as a result of these biological control agents.

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OUTSTANDING TEAM

Women Owning Woodlands Peer Learning

Nicole Strong, Allyson Muth, Tamara Walkingstick, Eli Sagor, Amanda Subjin
Oregon State University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Arkansas, University of Minnesota, Delaware Highlands Conservancy

In 2011 a group of Extension educators, representing several regions across the United States, came together with the common concern that women were consistently underrepresented at Extension events and not receiving the technical and financial assistance needed to help them be successful in their woodland stewardship goals. The team set out to identify participation barriers, assess educational needs and provide tools to help these women becomes engaged. The Empowering Women Woodland Owners through Peer Learning team crafted a white paper, developed a peer-learning toolkit, and held educational events with both professionals and landowners in the form of multi-day field and classroom retreats. 30 educational programs were offered to 308 landowners and 334 professionals who work with landowners. Results include increased confidence, stewardship skills, and access to assistance for participants, who collectively own over 20,500 acres of forestland and 4,000 acres of forest and rangeland.

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Distinguished Career Leadership

Jonathan Kays

University of Maryland

Jonathan Kays has been a solid contributor and leader in the forestry and natural resource field for over 34 years and served as an Extension Specialist for 27 years. In that time he has developed numerous successful extension programs including Maryland Woodlands Stewards, Woods in Your Backyard, Wood Energy and wildlife Damage Management. His leadership for these collaborative programs and the variety of innovative educational vehicles including publications, newsletters, trainings, web pages, webinars, and videos have been widely recognized and adopted. The impacts of his team driven programming are significant reaching diverse clientele and stakeholders, trained hundreds of volunteers, empowered thousands of homeowners, and assisted key industry and resource management stakeholders effecting widespread environmental and economic benefits. Jonathan has a strong commitment to help others as evidenced by a voluminous record of service to professional, regional, state and local organizations, the university community and especially to colleagues, staff and students.

Early Career Leadership

Shorna Allred

Cornell University

Shorna Allred is a leader in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources applied research and outreach. She nurtures and grows dynamic teams of extension educators and external partners to address social dimensions of the worlds' most pressing environmental issues such as forestland loss and parcelization, climate change, and water quality. She provides leadership for the extension system on public engagement in the natural resource context and brings applied social science research to bear in helping to address complex social-ecological systems. She has helped numerous natural resources agencies and non-profit organizations in New York State and around the nation to effectively improve their ability to engage diverse stakeholders and address conservation concerns.