

Educating with Extension



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UF/IFAS/Monroe County Extension Services

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Extension Services has a Web page on Monroe County's Web site

Did you know that Extension Services not only has its very own main Web site, but also a Web page on Monroe County's Web site? Our main Web site's address is <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>, where you can find a plethora of information about everything Extension has to offer.



Here you will find our address, staff names, and phone numbers, in addition to articles written by our staff. On the left-hand side, there is a section titled, "News and Announcements." Click on a title, and you will be able to read the article.



To find our Web page, log onto Monroe County's Web site, <http://monroecofl.virtualtownhall.net>.



On the left-hand side, click on "Depts. & Divisions." This will take you to the County's Divisions and Departments page. Scroll down to "Community Services" and click on "Extension Services" (in the right-hand column). [Our Web page address is http://monroecofl.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/MonroeCoFL_ExtensServ/index.]

Speaking of these articles, you can receive them via e-mail if you sign up for the "Subscribe to News" section on the main page of the County Web site. On the left-hand side, click on "Subscribe to News."



Just follow the directions to sign up and be sure to click on the box next to Extension News. Depending on what other boxes you check, you will receive any news posted on the County Web site and Extension's Web page via e-mail.

Upcoming Events

Learn How to Make a Rain barrel Learn How to Compost

These two workshops will be provided by Extension's Kim Gabel. The sessions are scheduled for:

- ◆ **Saturday, September 13**, from 10 a.m.- noon at the GLEE/Key West Community Garden, corner of Leon & Seminary Streets, Key West
- ◆ **Friday, September 19**, from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Islamorada Library, MM 81.5, Gulfside, Islamorada
- ◆ **Saturday, September 27** from 10:30 a.m. - noon at the Florida Keys Birding and Wildlife Festival, Curry Hammock State Park, MM 56.2, Marathon.

The **Horticulture Advisory Committee meeting** is scheduled for 4 - 6 p.m.:

- **Wednesday, September 17**, Gato Building Conference Room #1, 1100 Simonton St., Key West
- **Thursday, September 18**, Marathon EOC Meeting Room, 2798 Overseas Highway, MM 47.5, Gulfside
- **Friday, September 19**, Islamorada Library, MM 81.5, Gulfside, Islamorada

The **28th Annual Florida Master Gardener Conference** is scheduled for October 20-22, 2008 at the Coral Springs Marriott Hotel. The hotel is offering a very special rate of \$129 per night (plus tax) for up to 4 people in a room. Reservations must be made by September 22 in order to receive this group rate. For more information and to view the agenda, log onto

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html>.



"Green" Announcements

We have a new section on our Web site called "**Green Initiatives**" where you can find information and publications pertaining to **going green**. Check it out at http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/community_development/green_initiatives.shtml and let us know what you think!

The **12th Annual Keys Energy Services Energy Conservation Calendars** for 2008-09 are now available. You can pick up a free copy of the calendar at KEYS Service Building, 1001 James Street in Key West, or at the Big Pine Key branch, 13 Ships Way, while supplies last. An eco-friendly, electronic copy is available on the KEYS Web site at <http://www.keysenergy.com/EnergyConservationCalendar.php>.

For energy conservation ideas to keep some "green" in your wallet, log on to www.keysenergy.com and click on the **Growing Greener Every Day** icon, where you will find more information and links to the following topics:

- ⇒ Green News
- ⇒ Green Pledge
- ⇒ Solar Net-Metering
- ⇒ Free Home Energy Survey
- ⇒ Free Online Energy Survey
- ⇒ Track Your Energy Usage and Savings
- ⇒ Energy Saving Tips
- ⇒ Typical Usage of Appliances

The **Dade-Monroe Express bus** has now been extended to Marathon with scheduled stops in Key Largo (MM 98), Tavernier (MM 90), Islamorada (MM 74), and Marathon (MM 50). For the complete schedule, log onto http://monroecofl.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/MonroeCoFL_CommServ/express.



Media Recap

Doug Gregory, Sea Grant Agent, spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine," WFFG 1300 AM's "On the Water," and "Fishing in the Florida Keys" shows regarding the proposed regulations for Gulf and South Atlantic groupers.

Kim Gabel, Environmental Horticulture Agent, spoke on WGMX Radio's "Morning Mix" show to talk about cicadas, and her new blog www.floridakeyslandscapeadvisor.com. She also appeared on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" show to discuss how to bee-proof houses. Kim was mentioned in a *Keys Sunday* news article, "How Key West's garden will grow" regarding a newly-formed community garden committee.

Alicia Betancourt, Family and Community Development Agent, spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" show twice; once about home energy audits and again about hurricane clean-up safety.

The **Marathon Garden Club** is looking for crafters interested in participating in the club's first Fall Festival. The new event, scheduled for November 29, will feature plants, crafts and art for sale, plus a variety of activities throughout the club's gardens. Crafters can bring their handcrafted goodies and set up a tent or rent a table. For more information, call Linnea Cunningham at 743-2008.

Master Gardener Preview Sessions will be held from 2 - 4 p.m.:

- ◆ **Wednesday, December 17**, Gato Building Conference Room #1, 1100 Simonton St., Key West
 - ◆ **Thursday, December 18**, Key Largo Library, MM 101
 - ◆ **Friday, December 19**, Marathon EOC Meeting Room, Marathon
- Classes will be held every Friday beginning January 23 and ending March 27, 2009. For more information on the MG program, log onto http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn_mg.shtml.



Family & Community Development
Alicia Betancourt



Marine News
Doug Gregory



Horticulture News
Kim Gabel

Alicia developed two educational programs (“Working with Community Organizations” and “Creating Public Value Statements and Cost Benefits”) for State Extension Professionals based on her experiences in Monroe County. She presented these two programs at the annual Extension Professional Associations of Florida meeting in Orlando, with over 60 people in attendance.

She has continued to work with the ICLEI software on the Five-Step Process of emissions inventory and is currently collecting data to complete Step One which is a baseline emissions inventory and forecast. She has completed the training to begin using the Clean Air Climate Protection software program that will explain how it can be used for a Quick Action Inventory. According to ICLEI, the quick-action reporting option is available for local governments that have limited staff time and resources, or lack sufficient data to complete a comprehensive report. This level of report is not as exhaustive, but offers the benefits of being simpler, more flexible, capturing a majority of the emissions from the local government’s operations, and focusing on emissions from those sources that can be effectively influenced through policy. This will enable Monroe County to maximize its efforts to curb climate change and keep time and investment of resources focused on taking action in the most critical areas. It is also intended to allow local governments with limited data sets to finish and publish an inventory while continuing to refine and improve their data collection processes.

Alicia will be working to develop a Quick Action Report as a stepping stone toward eventual comprehensive reports. Other training topics included basic government operations data sources and data entry, separating scopes, the waste sector, forecasting and target-setting, and roll-up reporting.

Doug participated in a week-long final review panel deliberation of the King Mackerel SEDAR (Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review) held in Jacksonville, FL, to evaluate the population status of King Mackerel in the southeastern United States. One of the major conclusions was to divide King Mackerel into two populations with a boundary at the Miami-Dade/Monroe County border. At this time, neither population is overfished, but new federal precautionary management guidelines could still result in some restrictions on future harvests.



Many recreational and commercial fishermen have expressed concern about grouper regulations being proposed by the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Councils. Local fishermen are using data provided by us to lobby the South Atlantic Council to not close the Keys grouper fisheries for the most important four months (January-April) of the tourist season. The locals are proposing the Council close only gag grouper fishing south of the Miami-Dade/Monroe County line since our fisheries account for less than one percent of all the gag grouper caught in the Atlantic.

Doug was involved in a review of the Key West Bight and Garrison Bight marinas for acceptance in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Clean Marina Program. Local participating partners include FDEP, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Florida Sea Grant, and the Marine Industries Association of Florida.

He met with Kansas State University Extension Communicators to discuss logistics for an upcoming national conference for the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources to be held in Key West in 2010.

Kim has written five articles and posted them on her blog, “Florida Keys Landscape Advisor”

www.floridakeyslandscapeadvisor.com.

- Assessing Damage and Restoring Trees After a Hurricane
- Follow the Slime Trail [Snails]
- Palm Leaf Skeletonizer [Caterpillar]
- Land Crabs—What can you do?
- Sounds of Summer [Cicadas]

For the Marathon Tree Initiative Program, she developed four Tree Fact Sheets on:

- ◇ Pitch-Apple
- ◇ Gumbo Limbo
- ◇ Wild Tamarind
- ◇ Mahogany

Kim planned and conducted three regional Master Gardener meetings in which 17 MGs attended to discuss the following topics:

- ⇒ Florida Master Gardener conference to be held Oct. 20-22;
- ⇒ Key West Community Garden;
- ⇒ Upcoming activities and field trips;
- ⇒ Developing a newcomer’s horticulture packet; and
- ⇒ Possible regional educational programming comprised of master composters, water misers, and home landscape advisors.

Kim has registered for a three-credit University of Florida distance education class, *Urban Entomology*, and is working towards a certification in Pest Control Technology.

She planned the upcoming fall work schedule for Master Gardener outreach, residential, and commercial programming. Potential plans will be discussed at September’s regional Horticultural Advisory Committee meetings.

The Master Gardener Preview Sessions are scheduled for December 2008, with training classes on Fridays starting January 23 and ending March 27, 2009. (See page 2.)

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Employee of the Month, December 2007

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We're on the Web at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>

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Extension programs and activities are open to all persons and do not discriminate with regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations.

To see pictures of last year's Florida Keys Seafood Festival, log onto our Seafood Fest Photo Web Page http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/3rd_annual_florida_keys_seafood.htm

The Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association and Extension staff are in the initial stages of preparations for the 2009 Florida Keys Seafood Festival set for Saturday, January 17.



www.fkcfa.org



Sponsors and Vendors wanted
for the 4th Annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival, January 17, 2009, Bayview Park

To download an application, log onto http://Monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/environment/env_seafood_fest.shtml
or call FKCF at 305-619-0039; 305-797-2183
or the Extension Office at 305-292-4501

Plant Clinics are scheduled for October 2008 through April 2009.

Exact dates are posted on our Web site's Lawn & Garden page and will be printed in the September newsletter.

**University of Florida
Monroe County Extension**



Plant Clinics

Horticultural questions answered by
Monroe County Master Gardeners



QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	June	July	Aug	Total
Phone calls	391	401	363	1155
Office visitors	34	30	27	91
Visits to clients	19	13	16	48
Group teachings	7	14	10	31
Participants	114	246	105	465
Media materials	5	16	9	30
Bulletins distributed	422	404	329	1155
TOTAL contacts	992	1124	859	2975