

Educating with Extension



UF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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May 2008

Third Annual Florida Keys GLEE Expo was a huge success!

Thousands of people came to the 2008 Florida Keys Green Living and Energy Education Expo, held May 9-11 at Marathon High School, to learn and explore how to live in a more environmentally responsible manner through demonstrations and workshops about sustainable living, water and energy conservation, renewable energy, recycling, and green building standards.

Friday, May 9: Professional workshops with continuing education courses on green building standards were held through the Florida Keys Community College Marathon campus. Topics included courses on both large and small scale solar projects, green lodging, and LEED® (Leadership in Engineering & Environmental Design) building construction.

A Business-to-Business reception took place at Tranquility Bay and was followed by the first annual Green Living Awards ceremony, honoring environmentally-friendly individuals, businesses, agencies, and cities.

Saturday, May 10: Speakers, free workshops, green displays, and more than 90 exhibits featuring developers and distributors of green technologies and services showcased their products including solar-water heaters, alternative building materials and energy- and water-saving devices.

More than 40 alternative fuel vehicles were on display, such as solar-powered cars, boats, hybrids, electric bikes, and one of only three biodiesel school buses in Florida. Visitors saw an electric Porsche 959, a Smart Car, and a biodiesel Mercedes that runs on used vegetable oil recycled from local restaurants.



Visitors who spent the day at the Expo purchased healthy food from several vendors, including the high school culinary program's Dolphin Bistro. There also was an organic farmer's market that had vegetables and tropical fruits available.

Sunday, May 11: The "Love Your Mother Earth Networking Brunch" was held at the Key Colony Inn Restaurant and featured a special menu for diners.

The Green Homes & Garden Tours offered participants to visit energy-efficient homes, buildings, and gardens with sustainable attributes throughout the Keys. These tours included houses powered by renewable energy such as solar, structures built from alternative building materials, and renovated houses that are now energy- and water-efficient.

Discounted eco-tours, such as kayak excursions of the backcountry waters through leafy green tunnels of mangroves, a 12-mile bike ride on the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, and electric boat tours were conducted.

More information about GLEE can be found online at www.keysglee.com.



Photos by Doug Gregory



Photo by Katherine Yang Montgomery

Activities, Accolades, and Additions



Donna Hanson, Karin Wolfe, and Karen Beal at the GLEE booth for Earth Day festivities at Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada.




Photo by Hank Kokenzie

At the April 16 BOCC meeting, **Dawn Thomas** was presented with the Employee Service Award for the month of December 2007.

Extension Office has some much needed help with the assistance of a University of Florida student!

From May 5 to June 30, Heather Hutson, will be helping out with the logistics of the Tropical Fruit Fiesta by answering phones, soliciting sponsors and vendors, and doing whatever it takes to make the event a success.

Welcome Heather! 

Not only is Heather helping with the Fruit Fiesta, but she also assisted Kim with a worm composting presentation to K-6 students at Switlik ES. When the kids started squishing the worms their hands, Heather saved them by gently taking the worms out of harm's way and placing them back into the composting bin. Thanks, Heather!



Top 10 Ways to Save our Planet, Starting in the Florida Keys

1. Organize a neighborhood trash cleanup – Get everyone involved.
2. Go to a bridge or a beach, or both, and pick up discarded monofilament fishing line and recycle it.
3. Instead of throwing stuff away or trucking it to the mainland, donate your unwanted furniture, appliances, building supplies, useful tools, clothes, or extra food to KAIR (Keys Area Interdenominational Resources). For more info, call 305-743-4582.
4. Plant a tree; preferably a native such as the Sea Grape which has a high tolerance to drought, wind, salt, and sun.
5. Make and install a rain barrel for your home. Log onto the Extension's Website (<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>) or FKA's Web site (www.fkaa.com) for thorough instructions and a cost analysis. A 55-gallon rain barrel will help water your grass and plants, and can fill up within minutes of a rainfall.
6. Check out www.freecycle.org. It's a kind of eBay experience, but without the financial gain. The city-specific site allows people to post items they want to get rid of and others who live close by, in turn, to "shop" for something they need. The Keys group is growing.
7. Learn to compost. On Extension's Web site (<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>) and the Florida Keys GLEE Web site (www.keysglee.org), you'll learn all about the Four "R's" - reduce, reuse, recycle and rot (compost).
8. Organize an underwater reef cleanup by calling your SCUBA friends, then call your local dive shop and set up a trip. Afterwards, submit an article to the local newspaper describing all about it.
9. Get informed about the effects of inadequate wastewater treatment in the Keys.
10. Work with local nonprofit REEF as a volunteer fish counter. Help monitor area coral reefs, watch for invasive species, and support citizen science. REEF's Web site is www.reef.org.

Media Recap



Doug Gregory, our Sea Grant Agent, spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" show, WIIS Island 107FM Radio's "Fishing in the Florida Keys" show, and WGMX's "Morning Mix" show about the proposed South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's regulations to close all grouper fishing for January through April and to require circle hooks when using natural bait. He also provided local newspapers with information about the same subject that resulted in two front page articles.

Kim Gabel, our Environmental Horticulture Agent, spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" show and WGMX Radio's "Morning Mix" show to discuss the GLEE Expo and to talk about hurricane pruning.

Alicia Betancourt, our Family and Community Development Agent, spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" show and WGMX Radio's "Morning Mix" show about green purchasing and how and where to find more info to green your business.

MORE GLEE EXPO PHOTOS



Photo by Al Sachs



Photo by Carol Tedesco



Family & Community Development
Alicia Betancourt

Alicia held a recycling program for grades K-6 at two schools as part of their Science/Earth Day activities. The children learned about plastic coding, what happens during the recycling process and how to recycle correctly. The 20-minute program encouraged children to think about consumption, reuse, and recycling.

She organized 12 volunteers and educational components of the children's activities for the GLEE Expo.

Alicia met with two local agencies to develop a process for greening the agencies. This entailed development of a coordinated education plan for employees, an institutional audit plan, and key research such as seminars and fact sheets for administration to work through.

Some recommendations for the Agency Greening Program include:

- **An Energy Audit**
Encourage staff to turn off lights, computers, and other electronic devices when they are not in use.
- **Reduce Office Waste**
Start with reducing paper use by implementing 2-sided copies, using the blank side of scrap paper for draft documents, and e-mailing reports instead of making printed copies.
- **Reduce Employees' Commutes**
Carpooling, telecommuting, a 4-day work week, working variable hours, or working at home one day a week are all ways to reduce emissions and pollution.
- **Understand Your Impact**
Conducting a lifecycle assessment looks at the impacts of your products and purchases and can help you identify opportunities to improve efficiency and quality, reduce waste, save money, and provide more environmentally-friendly products.
- **Make Your Meetings Matter**
Try to teleconference, rather than travel to a meeting. If you do travel, stay in a "green" hotel



Marine News
Doug Gregory

Doug participated in the NOAA King Mackerel SEDAR 16 Stock Assessment Workshop in Miami.

He assisted with the Third Annual Florida Keys Green Living & Energy Education Expo by helping the exhibitors set up, organized volunteers, coordinated youth activities, set up a solar display with a solar cooker and a solar-powered satellite radio, presented two workshops, and moderated two workshop sessions.

Doug attended the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association board meeting to present the status of the king mackerel assessments and to develop a strategy for addressing the South Atlantic Fishery Council's Amendment 16 to reduce gag grouper overfishing and the impacts of circle hook requirements on yellowtail fishermen.

He participated in a meeting of the Spiny Lobster Industry Working Group to discuss alternative solutions to the issues of undersize lobster mortality, trap impacts on habitat, and the need to enhance the population of lobsters in the Keys.

Doug and Dawn Thomas, Extension Coordinator, were honored at a Florida Keys Chapter Certified Public Managers luncheon for their diligent work regarding the Government Going Green Symposium held on March 17.

Doug attended the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Scientific and Statistical Committee meeting in Tampa to review scientific information on the Gulf of Mexico gag and red grouper population assessment and advised the Council on appropriate harvest quota levels. The Committee also reviewed the alternatives in draft Reef Fish Amendment 29, which proposes to rationalize effort and reduce overcapacity in the commercial Gulf of Mexico grouper and tilefish fisheries in order to achieve and maintain optimum yield.



Horticulture News
Kim Gabel

Kim and 11 Master Gardeners educated 500 homeowners on proper tree selection at the 14 Annual Tree Giveaway sponsored by Keys Energy Services.

She provided a horticultural education booth with worm composting, at Stanley Switlik Elementary School's "Keys Expo for Young Scientists." Twenty minute sections rotated eight classes from Kindergarten to Sixth grade, with approximately 160 students.

At the GLEE Expo, Kim was a Volunteer Coordinator for 56 volunteers which included the Friday set up, the main event on Saturday, and the Home & Garden Tours on Sunday. She was a speaker at two compost workshops entitled, "Composting to Reduce Waste & Improve Your Garden." She also provided an Extension booth with a horticultural component.

Preparations are in high gear for the **10th Annual Florida Keys Tropical Fruit Fiesta**, set for Saturday, June 28, from 9 am to 2 pm, at the Marathon Garden Club, 5270 Overseas Highway, MM 50, Bayside.

Sponsors include Dade County Farm Bureau, Sunlion Jewelry, Davison Associates, The Keynoter, First State Bank, Marathon Garden Club, BB&T Bank, FCAA, MARC Plant Store, Marathon Publix, Dot Palm, Davison & Associates, Marine Bank, and radio station WGMX 94.3.

Vendors scheduled to attend are Hopkins Nursery, Pine Island Nursery, GLEE, Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Florida Keys Mosquito Control, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Bahia Honda State Park, Bees-N-The-Keys, Fruit & Spice Park, FCAA, Tagua Botanical Jewelry, and the Seasons of Service (SOS) Team.

Anyone interested in volunteering, please call Kim at 292-4504 or e-mail her at kgabel@ufl.edu.

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Douglas R. Gregory, Jr. CED: Douglas R. Gregory, Jr.



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.



Bid on tropical fruit at the Fruit Auction



Mangoes!

**Tropical Fruit Fiesta
Saturday, June 28, 2008
Marathon Garden Club**

Learn all about tropical fruit



Tropical Fruit Basket



Sponsors and Vendors wanted
for the Florida Keys Tropical Fruit Fiesta
Saturday, June 28, 2008 at the
Marathon Garden Club in Marathon

For a Sponsor or Vendor form, log onto our [Fruit Fiesta Web page](http://Monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn_fruitfest.shtml)
(http://Monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn_fruitfest.shtml)
or call the Extension Office at 305-292-4501

QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Phone calls	446	508	449	1403
Office visitors	33	25	25	83
Visits to clients	28	37	29	94
Group teachings	10	15	26	51
Participants	103	246	845	1194
Media materials	6	8	9	23
Bulletins distributed	784	778	789	2351
TOTAL contacts	1410	1617	2172	5199