



# Educating with Extension

## Florida Extension Long-Range Planning Process

### About the Plan

The Florida Cooperative Extension System is currently conducting a planning process that will shape Extension programs for the next decade. "As Florida emerges from the global recession, it is clear that the trajectory of the State's future will, and must, be different." (Florida Chamber of Commerce). The same applies to the Extension System. Florida Extension must have an obvious path of action as an educational organization to support Florida's economy, environment, and people, that is relevant and flexible to meet the changing needs of Florida's communities.

Three primary reasons for this project:

1) It has been several years since a comprehensive long-range planning effort was conducted and much has changed in Florida since then. Considering the budget situation, advancements in technology and emerging issues, it is critical to reexamine programmatic priorities and teaching strategies.

2) The outcome will guide resource allocation within Extension in the future.

3) This is an opportunity to forge new partnerships in support of Extension programs.

### Listening Sessions

Exactly what are listening sessions? In a nutshell, they are sessions (workshops) where Extension agents listen to what the community wants and expects from them.

Listening will be at the core of Extension's long-range planning effort. Extension seeks to acquire diverse viewpoints regarding the future of Florida through listening sessions, interviews, focus groups and surveys with advisory committees, clientele, community leaders, the general public, faculty, local government, business, industry/trade associations, state agencies, health care providers, educators, citizens, etc.



### The Listening Session for Monroe County Extension is set for:

**Wednesday, April 27**  
**6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Marathon Government Center**  
**EOC Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**2798 Overseas Highway**  
**Marathon, FL**

Everyone is welcome to participate!



The purpose of the listening session is to develop a community vision using the following questions to guide the discussion:

- ◆ **What trends and issues are impacting our community that can be addressed through community Extension educational programming?** *This question should be considered broadly and from the context of the specific segment of the community or industry you represent.*
- ◆ **What priority should be placed on each issue and concern?** *This will help to determine which of our existing programs will continue and what new efforts will be undertaken. We will summarize our ongoing programs prior to the session to determine priorities.*
- ◆ **How do you think we should deliver these educational programs?** *New technologies can be used to supplement or substitute for more traditional educational methods.*

### How will this information be used?

After all County Extension Services complete their listening sessions, Florida Extension will formulate a state wide plan that reflects the educational priorities and future directions identified during the planning process.

### How will the plan be implemented?

Implementation of the plan will begin with the formation of interdisciplinary faculty teams to support programmatic priorities. These teams will provide leadership to identify appropriate teaching approaches, educational content / materials, and outcome/impact measures for the organization.

### How will the plan be marketed and monitored?

Under the guidance of the Extension Marketing Committee, a marketing plan will be developed. The main objective will be to communicate statewide programmatic priorities. Target audiences will include Extension clientele and stakeholders. Marketing efforts will also focus internally within the University of Florida and the Florida A&M University, including Boards of Trustees.

Finally, Extension Program Leaders will develop a process for monitoring organizational progress and changing programmatic priorities.

**For more information and FAQs,** call any one of our Extension Agents at 305-292-4501 or log onto <http://pdec.ifas.ufl.edu/lrp/faq.shtml>.



<h2 style="color: green;">Regional Plant Clinics</h2>	<h2 style="color: red;">April Events</h2>	<h2 style="color: black;">Media Recap</h2>
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Kim and the Monroe County Master Gardeners are available to help you with your plant and/or insect problems. Bring a sample to any of the following free Plant Clinics:

**Key West:** Extension Office, Suite 2-260, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.:

April 4 & 18

**Big Pine Key:** Big Pine Academy, 30220 Overseas Highway (turn at entrance to Flea Market), 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon:

April 16

**Marathon:** Marathon Garden Club, 5270 Overseas Highway, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon:

April 16

**Key Largo:** Extension Office, Suite 244, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, MM 102, Bayside, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon:

April 6 & 20

### SUMMER PLANT CLINICS

The Regional Plant Clinics are coming to a close, but have no fear; Kim and the Master Gardeners will be available from May through September to help you with your plant and/or insect problems.

The [Key West Plant Clinic](#) will take place on the first and third Mondays, from 1-4 p.m., and the [Key Largo Plant Clinic](#) is set for the first and third Wednesdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

To see the new schedule, go to the Master Gardener page of our website at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/lawn/lawn.shtml>.



**4/5:** "Rain Barrel Workshop," with Kim Gabel at the Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden, Stock Island

**4/7:** "All About the Animal Hospital," 1:30 p.m., Key West Garden Club

**4/14:** Big Pine Key Botanical Society meeting at Lord of the Seas Lutheran Church, Key Deer Blvd., 7:30 p.m., "Composting 101" by Kim Gabel

**4/15:** "Whitefly Management in the Landscape," Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, Key West

**4/16:** "16th Annual Earth Day Celebration," Bahia Honda State Park

**4/18:** Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee meeting, 2 - 5 p.m., Marathon Government Center

**4/21:** "Solar Presentation" by Doug Gregory at Florida Keys Community College, 12 - 1 p.m.

**4/22:** "Happy Earth Day!"

**4/27:** "Listening Sessions," 6:30 - 8 p.m., Marathon Government Center

For more information on these and other events, check out our online calendar at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>.

### PROCLAMATIONS

At the March 16, 2011 Monroe County BOCC meeting, the commissioners proclaimed the month of April as "Earth Month" and "Water Conservation Month" to encourage all residents and visitors to recycle trash and conserve water as much as possible.

To learn how you can help the environment, see [Monroe County's Recycling webpage](#), and [Extension's Water Conservation webpage](#).

**Doug Gregory** spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" twice; once about a public hearing on crew size requirement for charter boats, and again about the 2010 spiny lobster fishing season, which was a success. On "WGMX's "Morning Mix" he discussed the new emphasis on quota management for Florida Keys fish.

**Kim Gabel** spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" about caring for plants in the dry season, and on WGMX's "Morning Mix" about the Plant Calendar of Events for March.

**Alicia Betancourt** spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" twice, once about the EECBG-SEP grant, and again about tax credits for energy efficiency in the home and what the savings are on efficiency home improvements.

### "WHITEFLY MANAGEMENT IN THE LANDSCAPE" Workshop

Another new whitefly was recently identified attacking ornamental plants in the Florida Keys causing severe damage. To help with this matter, Dr. Catharine Mannion, Ornamental Entomologist at the UF/Tropical Research Center, will give an update on [whitefly management in the landscape](#).

Two free workshops will be held on Friday, April 15, at the Gato Building, in the first floor conference room, 1100 Simonton Street, Key West:

- ◆ 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, for Commercial Landscapers and Pest Control Operators
- ◆ 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., for Master Gardeners and the General Public

To pre-register, e-mail Kim Gabel, [kgabel@ufl.edu](mailto:kgabel@ufl.edu), or call 305-292-4504.



Gumbo Limbo Spiraling Whitefly



**Family, Youth,  
and Community  
Sciences News**  
**Alicia Betancourt**

Alicia worked on the energy grant activities including coordination of reporting requirements and timelines for accomplishments.

She collaborated with regional faculty to coordinate 4-H camp enrollment for Monroe County youth.

Alicia developed a presentation to give to a national Extension audience in April about the opportunities for new programming in climate change.

She developed and submitted the first draft of a six-year promotional packet highlighting her career accomplishments.

Alicia worked with three teachers at Plantation Key School to promote water conservation. She taught 67 kids where their water comes from and why they should conserve water.

She worked with the Florida Keys Council for People with Disabilities to develop media material, educational presentations, and outreach for the upcoming 21st anniversary national celebration of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In an effort to support Monroe County in emissions reduction, Alicia participated in a member strategy meeting with ICLEI staff and an ICLEI state member meeting.

These meetings outlined how local governments are developing sustainability initiatives. Monroe County was highlighted as an innovator by utilizing existing staff, including Extension Services.

On the radio, she talked about consumer issues including the changes to the home energy efficiency credits for 2011. The energy efficiency tax credits are reduced from \$1,500 for 2009 and 2010 combined to only \$500 for 2011. If home improvements were made, such as windows, central A/C, or insulation, the credit will pay for 30% of the cost in 2009-2010. In 2011, it will only pay 10% of the cost, therefore, it is important to claim those items on the tax form in the correct year.



**Marine &  
Green News**  
**Doug Gregory**

Doug presented an overview of Extension Services to the Marathon AARP Chapter.

He prepared a summary of Extension accomplishments for the County Administrator's "State of the County" report to the BOCC.

Doug was interviewed by [Radio Green Earth](#), a County partner in the Stimulus Energy Grant, about the actions taken by Monroe County and local agencies to address potential climate change impacts and measures to mitigate or adapt to those impacts.

He participated in a workshop on climate change education strategies sponsored by the USFWS, National Parks and Refuge Programs.

Doug was a member of the team to help the County Administrator review applicants for the Sustainable Projects Coordinator position.

He was involved in a solar-related webinar designed to identify key barriers to adoption of solar energy technologies.

Doug participated in a Gulf-wide Sea Grant webinar on grant funding availability for coastal wetlands restoration.

He continued to coordinate the writing of the final report with the review panel of international scientists on the yellowedge grouper and tilefish population assessment.

Doug attended a four-day meeting of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Scientific and Statistical Committee in New Orleans, and finalized quota determinations for most of the data-poor species and species groups in the Gulf reef fishery, as well as for the mackerels, cobia, and amberjack.

He attended a meeting of the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association Board of Directors to provide an update on the actions of the federal scientific committees in setting quotas for fisheries in the southeastern United States.



**Horticulture  
News**  
**Kim Gabel**

Kim set up a horticultural education booth at the Windley Key Native Plant Sale, with eight Master Gardeners educating ten clientele about native plants.

She held two meetings, (Big Pine Key and Key Largo), with six Master Gardeners regarding work to begin on the Florida Keys Shrubs Factsheets.

Twenty Master Gardener Interns completed a nine-week, 60-hour horticultural education course, taught by Kim, and passed a 100-question comprehensive



exam. Proud graduates are: Marv Schindler, Bill Walsh, Wendy Gregoria, Ruth Wagner, Trine Nielsen, Ellen Engelson, Hazel Hans, Diann Barber, Bill Warner, Harriet Lindsay, Jennifer Hagood, Jean Tarlton, Deb Crowley, Mary Schlafly, Kathleen Price, Cindy Urban, Kathy Warner, Helen Koenig, Louis Crispino, and Sharon Jones. (See photo on page 4). Congratulations to all!

Kim made two site visits: one to Upper Sugarloaf Key regarding a neem tree seeping fermenting white foam; and a visit to Big Pine Key to check on a nutritionally deficient tomato plant.

Kim and 22 Master Gardeners held six regional plant clinics, assisting 22 clientele with plant and/or insect problems.

Many Master Gardeners were on hand to help out the hundreds of people who stopped by the horticulture educational booth at the 2nd Annual Florida Keys Ocean Festival that was held at the Eco-Discovery Center.

Don't forget to check out Kim's blog for updates on recent hot topics:

[www.floridakeyslandscapeadvisor.com](http://www.floridakeyslandscapeadvisor.com)



**UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION**

1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-260, Key West, FL 33040  
102050 Overseas Hwy., Suite 244, Key Largo, FL 33037

KW Phone: 305-292-4501    KL Phone: 305-453-8747  
KW Fax: 305-292-4415    KL Fax: 305-453-8749

General e-mail: [monroe@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:monroe@ifas.ufl.edu)  
Newsletter Editor: Dawn Thomas, Ext. Coordinator  
This newsletter can be accessed online at the following link  
<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

*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.**

**Master Gardener Interns Class of 2011 Graduated March 25**



Photo by Kim Gabel

Back row (left to right): Marv Schindler, Bill Walsh, Wendy Gregoria, Ruth Wagner, Trine Nielsen, Ellen Engelson, Hazel Hans, Diann Barber, Bill Warner, Harriet Lindsay  
Front row (left to right): Jennifer Hagood, Jean Tarlton, Debby Crowley, Mary Schlafly, Kathleen Price, Cindy Urban, Kathy Warner, Helen Koenig  
Not Present: Louis Crispino, Sharon Jones

**EARTH DAY FACTS**

- ◆ Founded April 22, 1970 by Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis.
- ◆ 20,000,000 Americans participated in the first Earth Day.
- ◆ In 1990, 200 million people in 141 countries took part.
- ◆ In 2000, 500 million people in 175 countries were involved.
- ◆ In 2010, one billion people in 184 countries celebrated.

**edis Publications**

**Turfgrass Disease Management**

Turfgrass diseases are under-appreciated because the biological organisms (plant pathogens) causing the problems are rarely observed. Fortunately, grasses maintained using proper cultural practices (water, mowing, and fertility) are not as likely to become diseased or be as severely damaged as grasses that do not receive proper care. This 11-page fact sheet discusses turfgrass diseases, their causal agents, diagnosis, and management. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/lh040>



**Healthy Living: Exercise and Diabetes**

Staying active is one of the best things you can do for your health. Regular physical activity can help you control your blood glucose levels, reduce body fat, and decrease your risk of heart disease. Staying active also can help you sleep better, improve posture and balance, maintain independent living, and improve quality of life. This 2-page fact sheet offers tips to help you create a fun and healthy exercise program. Get started today! <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy669>



**UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Phone calls	343	339	314	996
Office visitors	40	38	21	99
Visits to clients	18	16	14	48
Group teachings	10	10	16	36
Participants	231	539	302	1072
Media submissions	5	8	7	20
Publications distributed	288	298	392	978
<b>TOTAL contacts</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>1066</b>	<b>3249</b>