



Educating with Extension

3rd Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit

Monroe County will host this year's **3rd Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit** on December 8 & 9 at the Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, MM 102, Key Largo. Several exhibitors will showcase their products. Scheduled topics include:

- ◆ Panel discussions on how businesses can help prepare communities for impacts from climate change
- ◆ A workshop, "Opportunities and Challenges in Energy Financing Programs for Homes and Businesses"
- ◆ Keynote Speaker will be Bryan Norcross of The Weather Channel
- ◆ The effects of expected sea-level rise
- ◆ The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan will be debuted

Although the summit will cover numerous topics, its biggest accomplishment has been a peer review and coordination on a four-county estimate on sea-level rise. A technical working group analyzed data from sea-level rise projections completed by Florida Atlantic University's Climate & Energy Program, the South Florida Water Management District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Broward County.

For 18 months, scientists reviewed the data and the group came up with the 9-inch to 24-inch estimate over 50 years. The information gathered can be used for planning purposes.

Brief History

The Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (consisting of Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Monroe counties) was created following the October 2009 Southeast Florida Climate Leadership Summit when elected and appointed officials came together to discuss challenges and strategies for responding to the impacts of global climate change. In addition, this effort also includes the participation of federal and state agencies; regional transportation planning and water management authorities; and members of the regional Climate Change/Green Task Force committees representing the four counties.

The Compact outlines a collaborative effort to take part in a Regional Climate Team toward the development of a Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan. The landmark agreement was fully ratified in January 2010 with the counties agreeing to work with federal and state agencies on climate-related policy issues, development of a Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Action Plan, and annual involvement in regional summits to mark progress.

The Compact has since completed several key work products including a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory and a preliminary assessment of areas at risk to increased flooding due to sea-level rise. Concurrent efforts include development of regional climate mitigation and adaptation measures in the areas of land use, regional transportation, and the built environment.

Compact Earns Awards

On October 29, 2010, the four-county Compact received the 2010 International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Sustainability Leadership Award for process innovation in a large community. The ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability USA is the leading local government association that

addresses climate change and sustainability.

The Compact has also been jointly recognized by the National Association of Counties (NACo) as co-recipients of this year's Annual Achievement Award for shared efforts in implementing the Compact.

Past Summits

- The first annual summit was held in Broward County on October 23, 2009
- The second annual summit was held in Miami-Dade County on October 29, 2010
- The third annual summit will be held in Monroe County on December 8-9, 2011

Next year's fourth annual summit will be held in Palm Beach County; the date will be announced at the upcoming third annual summit.

**SOUTHEAST FLORIDA
REGIONAL COMPACT
CLIMATE
CHANGE**



Regional Plant Clinics

It's the fall/winter season and Kim Gabel and the Master Gardeners are ready, willing, and able to help you with your plant and/or insect problems.



Just bring a sample to one of the [Regional Plant Clinics](#) listed below and they will dazzle you with their expertise.

Key West: 1 to 4 p.m., Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-260
 December 5 & 19
 January 23, 2012
 February 6
 March 5 & 19
 April 2 & 16

Big Pine Key: 9 a.m. to noon, Big Pine Academy, 30220 Overseas Highway (Look for blue tent)
 December 17
 January 21, 2012
 February 18
 March 17
 April 21

Marathon: 9 a.m. to noon, Marathon Garden Club, 5270 Overseas Hwy.
 December 17
 January 21, 2012
 February 18
 March 17
 April 21

Key Largo: 9 a.m. to noon, Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Suite 244, MM 102, Bayside
 December 7 & 21
 January 4 & 18, 2012
 February 1 & 15
 March 7 & 21
 April 4 & 18



December Events

Monthly Meeting Key West Garden Club

Thursday, December 1, 1:30 p.m.
 Guest Speaker - Bill Becker
 "There are Giants in the Land:
 Growing Giant Anthuriums"
www.KeyWestGardenClub.com

Upper Keys Garden Club Field Trip to Redland Organic Herb Farm

Friday, December 2, 10:00 a.m.
www.UpperKeysGardenClub.com

2nd Annual Key West Triathlon

Saturday, December 3
www.trikw.com

Key West Holiday Parade

Saturday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.
 Come watch Kim & the Master Gardeners march in the parade!

Environmental Film Series

Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center
 Sunday, December 4, 2:00 p.m.

3rd Annual SE Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit

December 8 & 9

www.monroecounty-fl.gov

Key West Garden Club Holiday Cocktail Party

Monday, December 12, 5:30-8:30 pm
www.KeyWestGardenClub.com

Upper Keys Garden Club Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon

Tuesday, December 20, 11:30 a.m.
www.UpperKeysGardenClub.com

Reminder:

Extension Offices will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2011 and Monday, January 2, 2012

For more details about these events and many others, see our online calendar at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar.shtml>.

Media Recap, etc.

Doug Gregory spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" and KONK Community Radio about the 3rd Annual SE Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit (see page 1).

Kim Gabel spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" and WGMX's "Morning Mix" about Master Gardener Preview Sessions. On KONK Community Radio she talked about the Rugose Spirling Whitefly.

Alicia Betancourt spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" and WGMX's "Morning Mix" about the activities of the Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee.

Got Whiteflies?

(Who doesn't?)

Rugose Spirling Whitefly Workshops

Kim Gabel will present three free workshops in December regarding the Rugose Spirling Whitefly, a/k/a the Gumbo Limbo Spirling Whitefly.

- **Upper Keys workshop:** Wednesday, December 7, at the Upper Keys Garden Club, Francis Tracy Garden Center, MM 94, Bayside, Tavernier, from 2 to 3 p.m.
- **Marathon workshop:** Monday, December 12, at the Marathon Government Center, EOC meeting room, 2nd floor, 2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon, from 3 to 4 p.m.
- **Key West workshop:** Monday, December 19, at the Gato Building, 1100 Simonton Street, 1st floor conference room, from 9 to 10 a.m.

For more information on everything you always wanted to know about whiteflies, but were afraid to ask, go to the main page of our website at <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>.



Adult Rugose Spirling Whitefly



**Family, Youth,
and Community
Development**
Alicia Betancourt

Alicia attended an in-service training, "Is Florida's Climate Changing?" presented by the University of Florida's Climate Variability Focus Team as a professional development opportunity for other Extension Agents. She also held a "World Café" workshop for participants to generate knowledge and understanding of the impacts of climate change on different sectors of the community including horticulture, wildlife, and agriculture. A list of specific tools Agents need to educate their clientele about the impacts of climate variability and change were developed.

Alicia was a staff liaison for the [Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee](#)'s November meeting, which focused on the Community Climate Action Plan, including ranking the goals and actions for further development.

She worked with the [Radio Green Earth](#) video production which will highlight sustainability in the Florida Keys and the projects underway by Monroe County and local initiatives.



Alicia worked with contractor Cameron-Cole on the final draft Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy for county operations.

She collaborated with Rhonda Haag, Sustainability Coordinator, regarding site planning and staff coordination for the upcoming [3rd Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit](#).



**Marine &
Green News**
Doug Gregory

Doug participated in the three-day annual Sea Grant Agent and Specialist meeting in St. Petersburg to review various program activities and to develop plans for 2012 program efforts.

He attended two days of the Eco-Summit held in Key West to learn about energy financing, legislative efforts, and business-related sustainability opportunities.

Doug assisted Rhonda Haag, Sustainability Coordinator, with preparations for the upcoming [3rd Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit](#).

He participated in three climate-related programming conference calls with the University of Florida, NOAA, and the Southeast Florida Climate Compact Steering Committee.

Doug met with Mayor Heather Carruthers, Monroe County Administration, and the Trust for Public Lands to discuss potential funding sources for preserving working waterfront.

He assisted [Radio Green Earth](#) with conducting interviews for the grant-funded Energy Efficiency Video that will highlight energy-saving efforts with Monroe County.

Doug helped to organize a workshop of the [Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee](#).

He attended the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association Board of Directors meeting to discuss ongoing fishery issues related to the lobster fishery, preparation for the [7th Annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival](#), and enforcement activities with an FWC Enforcement Officer regarding the current increase in lobster trap thefts.



**Horticulture
News**
Kim Gabel

Kim held three regional Rugose Spiraling Whitefly (RSW) workshops with a total of 51 people in attendance.

She was a guest speaker on the topic of the RSW at the following meetings:

- Key West City Commission
- Marathon AARP
- Monroe County Public Service Alliance
- Key Largo AARP
- Studios of Key West
- Monroe County Commission

Kim attended an all-day field trip to Broward County to see the Waste Management Recycling & Waste to Energy Plant.

She held an Upper Keys Master Gardener meeting, which five Master Gardeners attended.

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

She held three regional Master Gardener Preview Sessions.

- Kim made nine site visits:
- ♦ Big Pine Key (2) - Coconut Palm with boron deficiency; Mango tree suffering salt damage.
 - ♦ Key Largo (2) - Coconut Palms with snapped fronds; Gumbo Limbo borers.
 - ♦ Grassy Key (3) - House fungus; RSW; Coconut Palm with boron deficiency.
 - ♦ Duck Key (1) - Picked up suspected Giant African Land Snail.
 - ♦ Layton (1) - RSW.



**Rugose Spiraling
Whitefly's Egg
Laying Pattern**

UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION

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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>

SOLUTIONS
for *your* LIFE

<http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>

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.



Do You Know Santa's *True* Profession?

Consider the following:

1. You never actually see Santa, only his "assistants."
2. Santa keeps his job until he decides to retire.
3. Santa doesn't really do the work; he directs a bunch of helpers to do all his work for him, but he's the one who everybody credits for doing the work.
4. Santa doesn't work anywhere near a 40-hour week.
5. Santa travels a lot.

Santa is obviously a senior faculty member with tenure!



Don't throw away Christmas cards; Recycle them! For more information, go online to www.stjudesranch.org. In fact, they accept all types of greeting cards: Birthday, Thank you, Get Well, Sympathy, etc. Check it out!

edis Publications

Poinsettias at a Glance

The poinsettia, well known as a decorative potted plant for the Christmas season, will perform as a Florida landscape plant where prolonged freezes are not the norm or where a warm microclimate exists around a home. This fact sheet offers basic information on growing these fascinating plants.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep349>

Quick Overview of Extension Programs to Educate Homeowners about Environmentally Friendly Landscape Practices in Florida

Nationwide, landscape irrigation accounts for more than seven billion gallons of water per day. But up to 50% of this water is wasted due to overwatering, poor irrigation system design, evaporation, or other factors. Additionally, excessive or poorly timed fertilizer application can cause pollution runoff and deterioration of surface and ground water. This 8-page fact sheet presents a quick overview of the Yards and Neighborhoods program that educates homeowners about nine core principles for landscape management.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fe892>

Want to be a Sponsor for the 7th Annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival?

To download an application, log onto http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/environment/2012_Sponsor_Application.pdf

or call Vicki at 305-872-9026

E-mail: vickigale@bellsouth.net

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Total
Phone calls	471	506	499	1476
Office visitors	39	51	43	133
Visits to clients	15	12	11	38
Group teachings	17	25	23	65
Participants	286	547	529	1362
Media submissions	7	8	8	23
Publications distributed	483	479	542	1504
TOTAL contacts	1318	1628	1655	4601