



Educating with Extension

Volume 16 Issue 4

UF/IFAS Extension Monroe County

April 2017

Controlling Mosquitoes in Your Landscape

Mosquitoes are so abundant in Florida in summer that they are often jokingly referred to as "Florida's other state bird." These pests can greatly ruin your outdoor activities.

A mosquito's bite is not only itchy and sometimes painful, but can also transmit diseases in both humans and animals. Common diseases carried by mosquitoes in Florida include St. Louis encephalitis, West Nile virus, dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and eastern equine encephalitis, as well as the parasite dog heartworm.

Reduce Breeding Opportunities

Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Even small amounts of water can be used as breeding grounds. By reducing standing water

around your home, you can prevent mosquitoes from further infesting your landscape. Gardens are full of water-holding containers, so these need to be closely monitored.

Common breeding sites include clogged gutters, potted plant pans, old tires, over-irrigated lawns, pet dishes, birdbaths, and ponds. Dump water out of containers and change the water in birdbaths weekly and in outdoor pet bowls daily.

If you have a pond, you can buy goldfish or gambusia, also known as "mosquitofish," which feed on larvae.

Protect Yourself

Mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn so plan your outdoor activities accordingly.

The most effective repellents are ones that contain the ingredient DEET. In general, products containing 15 to 40% DEET work best for adults, while products containing no more than 8 to 10% DEET are recommended for children.

And in case you're wondering, University of Florida studies have shown that bug zappers and UV lights are not effective in controlling mosquitoes.

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_mosquito_control

<http://mosquito.ifas.ufl.edu/Index.htm>

<http://www.keysmosquito.org>

Essential MOSQUITO CONTROL TIPS for Homeowners

DAWN & DUSK

Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are seeking blood, which for many species, is during dawn & dusk hours.

DRESS

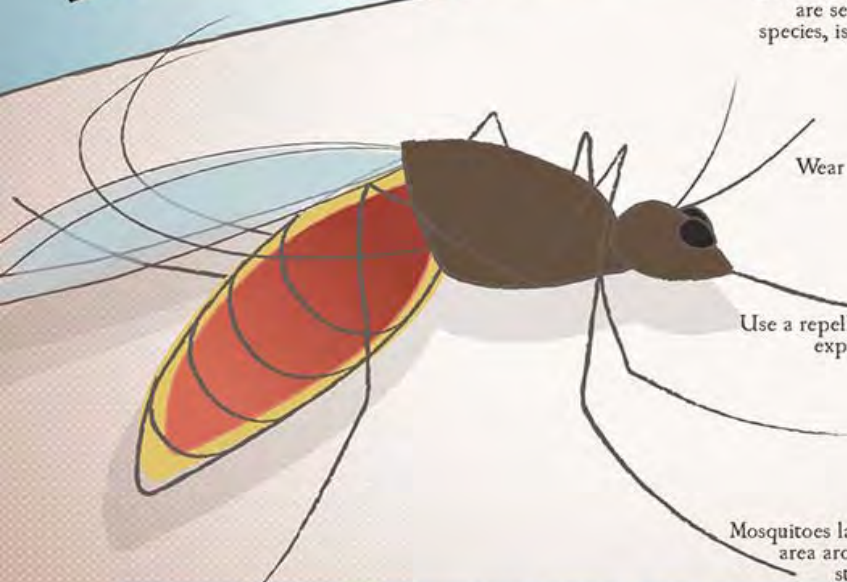
Wear clothing that covers most of your skin.

DEET

Use a repellent containing DEET when exposure to mosquitoes is likely.

DRAINAGE

Mosquitoes lay eggs in water. Inspect the area around your home to get rid of standing water breeding sites.



- ◆ Clean out eaves and gutters.
- ◆ Replace birdbath water once a week.
- ◆ Drill holes in or remove old tires.
- ◆ Empty water in plant trays and hanging baskets weekly.
- ◆ Turn over empty plastic pots.
- ◆ Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent water flow.
- ◆ Check tarps on boats and equipment for standing water.
- ◆ Pump out bilge on boats.
- ◆ Clear out thick brush to increase airflow around the house.

Horticulture News

Kim Gabel



Kim recently accomplished the following activities:

- Worked with the National Key Deer Refuge, Monroe County Emergency Management, Florida Department of Agriculture, and USDA to educate residents and visitors about the screwworm fly at local outreach centers and public meetings. As of April, the screwworm infestation is now eradicated – Key Deer antibiotic treatments have ended, and the final release of sterile flies will be April 25.



- Set up a “How Insects Feed” booth for Migration Mania at the Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden on Stock Island. Educated youth and adults about chewing, sap-sucking, siphoning, and sponging insects. Three Master Gardeners assisted and answered questions for 141 youth and adult clientele.
- Started initial plans for this year’s Tropical Fruit Fiesta, which will be held Saturday, June 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Truman Little White House in Key West.
- Held four regional plant clinics with six Master Gardeners assisting 23 clients.
- Proctored two pesticide exams: CORE and Public Health.
- Made six site visits:
 - Sugarloaf Key - slime flux on neem tree
 - Cudjoe Key - landscape
 - Summerland Key - Key Lime tree
 - Duck Key - palm nutrient deficiency
 - Key Largo - palm decline (2)
- Spoke on US 1 Radio’s Morning Magazine about fertilizing plants appropriately.

Summer Plant Clinics

Kim Gabel and the Monroe County Master Gardeners will help you with plant problems or insect identification at the following locations throughout the summer:

KEY WEST

Gato Building / Extension Office
1100 Simonton Street, #2-260
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

May 1 & 15, June 5 & 19, July 3 & 17,
August 7 & 21, September 18

MARATHON

Marathon Home Depot
4555 Overseas Highway
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19,
September 16

KEY LARGO

Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center / Extension Office
102050 Overseas Hwy., #244
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

May 3 & 17, June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19,
August 2 & 16, September 6 & 20

Can you identify this tree?



Yes, there is “writing” on each leaf, which is permanent until the leaf drops. Hints:

- Maximum height is 30 ft.
- Bark is gray and may send down aerial roots.
- Flowers are large, pink or white.
- Salt and wind tolerant.
- (*Clusia rosea*)

Answer on page 4 or at
<http://www.city-data.com/forum/florida/2337424-10-weird-wild-native-florida-keys.html>



Marine
News
Shelly
Krueger

Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Was invited to be a member of the FDEP Florida Coastal Office (FCO) Statewide Ecosystem Assessment of Coastal and Aquatic Resources Data Team who had a data team workshop to identify priority indices and environmental indicators to provide the best assessment of the condition of submerged habitats within the FDEP FCO managed areas in South Florida focusing mainly on coral reefs and submerged aquatic vegetation.
- Made a presentation about the Water Watch statewide initiative at the University of Florida Extension Symposium in Gainesville.
- Attended the biannual meeting of the FKNMAS WQPP as a steering committee member.
- Presented information regarding the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Blue Fishing Guides with the Florida Sea Grant fisheries work action group with a follow-up meeting to determine how to develop a voluntary charter boat captain angler program to promote ethical angling, decrease mortality for caught and released fish and how to handle sea animal interactions.
- Was presented the Beyond Borders Award for Excellence in developing a water quality monitoring program outside the state of Georgia by Georgia Adopt-A-Stream at the annual Confluence conference.



Seira Baker, Shelly Krueger, Harold Harbert

- Spoke on US 1 Radio’s “Morning Magazine” about boat safety equipment.



Family and Community Development News

Alicia Betancourt

Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:

- Attended the Public Issues Leadership Development Conference in Washington, DC and presented to Extension professionals successes in Monroe County such as energy efficiency. This annual conference was conducted by and for Extension professionals and volunteers.

The conference prepares participants to engage in U.S. public policy and the legislative process. Had the opportunity to connect with congressional representatives to discuss Extension impacts and issues.

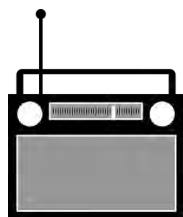
- Attended the annual UF/IFAS Extension Symposium in Gainesville, FL and presented a "Climate 101" toolkit for Extension professionals. The Symposium provides opportunities for professional and personal development, team collaboration, and networking.

Provided resources to other County Extension Directors such as working with non-profit organizations, expanding the role of administrative assistants and community development reporting.

The community development state initiative planning team developed annual objectives and assigned benchmarks for the coming year.

- Coordinated the April 24 [Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee](#) meeting and held a workshop for the development of a Climate Communications Plan. Members also voted to request that the Monroe County Commission conduct solar feasibility for the new Cudjoe Key fire station.

- Spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" about negotiating better rates for credit cards, phone bills, etc.



May Happenings

National Small Business Week

April 30 - May 6

www.sba.gov

Extension Combined Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 4

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Marathon Government Center
2nd floor - BOCC meeting room
2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon

Key West Orchid Society Meeting

Monday, May 8, 1:00 p.m.

West Martello Gardens
Higgs Beach, Key West

keywestorchidsociety.org

Marie, 305-509-7744

Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 16

12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Marathon Government Center
2nd floor - BOCC meeting room
2798 Overseas Highway, Marathon

GI-BMP Workshop

Thursday, May 18

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Gato Bldg., 1100 Simonton Street, KW
First Floor Conference Room

Ocean Life Series

The Effects of Environmental Change
on Coral Reef Fishes

Friday, May 19, 7:00 p.m.

Murray E. Nelson Government &
Cultural Center
102050 Overseas Highway
MM 102, Key Largo

UF/IFAS Bug Week

May 20 - 26

The Good. The Bad. The Bugly.

<http://bugs.ufl.edu>

Happy Memorial Day!

Monday, May 29

Extension Office closed



Economic Resource Development News Harry Crissy

Harry recently accomplished the following activities:

- Met with the commercial fisherman at Safe Harbor Marina to discuss possible solutions to flooding at their facility
- Met with the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association to discuss the refinement of a fishing facility's financial operating documents
- Conducted interviews of local commercial fishermen in order to determine operating procedures for a commercial fishing facility
- Met with a local developer and tour operator to discuss business expansion into a broader market
- Attended a board meeting (as a board member) for the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden
- Attended a grants committee meeting for the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden
- Held a meeting with a consultant for strategic planning for the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden
- Met with the Executive Director of The Key West Historic Marker Tour nonprofit to discuss funding options
- Attended the University of Florida Extension Symposium in Gainesville.
- Conducted exploratory meetings with faculty from Niagara University to develop a possible tourism consumer research project
- Met with a local banker and a local nonprofit operator to discuss expansion possibilities for a marine center in Key Largo.
- Met with a local professor from FKCC to discuss a data gathering plan for product research.
- Participated in the second session of the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys Leadership Success Academy.
- Spoke on US 1 Radio's "Morning Magazine" and WFFG 1300 AM about customer satisfaction and consumer spending.

Announcement: There are three (3) vacant seats on the Monroe County Climate Change Advisory Committee. If you are interested, please e-mail Alicia at betancourt-alicia@monroecounty-fl.gov.

UF/IFAS/MONROE COUNTY EXTENSION

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Newsletter Editor: Dawn Thomas, Extension Coordinator
This newsletter can be accessed online at:
<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

County Extension Director: Alicia Betancourt



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



Facebook



Twitter



<http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>

<http://ufl.edu>

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

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Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

May is National Bike Month (NBM)

- ◆ Sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast. <http://bikeleauge.org/bikemonth>
- ◆ Established in 1956, NBM is a chance to demonstrate the many benefits of bicycling - and encourage more people to give biking a try.
- ◆ Whether you bike to work or school, ride to save money or time, pump those pedals to preserve your health or the environment, or simply to explore your community, NBM is an opportunity to celebrate the unique power of the bicycle and the many reasons to ride.
- ◆ Bike to Work Week is May 15-19; Bike to Work Day is May 19.

On a similar note...

Car-Free Key West is a new program the City of Key West will be implementing soon. What is [Car-Free Key West](#)? Read on:

Key West is about living life to the fullest, soaking up the sunshine, kicking back to watch the sunset, and genuinely appreciating the beauty that is everywhere. That's why you just can't do Key West in a car. Lots of people try, only to end up stuck in traffic and forever searching for that elusive parking space.

Car-Free Key West is a program in the City's Planning Dept. dedicated to promoting a smart and attainable vision for Key West – Life within pedal strokes and walking distance. Their mission is to "Make it safe for more people to bike, walk and use transit and carpool more often."

Car-Free Key West makes our island healthier, happier, more sustainable, and, ultimately, more prosperous. The program accomplishes its mission in two ways: by providing information and education to the public and working to improve infrastructure and services like public transportation. For more information: carfreekeywest.com.

EDIS Publications

Protein and the Older Adult

Protein is a nutrient that provides energy for our bodies and is involved in many vital functions, such as repair, maintenance, and immune function. This three-page document discusses the protein requirements for older adults.



edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fs290

Climate Changes, Shifting Ranges: Climate change effects on wildlife in the Florida Everglades and Keys

Where do the animals go when the sea rises? Learn the probable futures of Florida panthers and other South Florida wildlife in this 5-page fact sheet which explains how a changing climate could impact wild animals. edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw428.



RAIN BARREL INFO

- ✓ By collecting and storing rainwater, you can save money, improve the health of your plants, and protect the environment. A rain barrel provides over 50 gallons of free water each time it fills up.
- ✓ Rain barrels also help reduce stormwater runoff that can contribute to flooding and erosion.
- ✓ Combining water harvested in a rain barrel with Florida-friendly landscaping will help you enjoy your Florida landscape year round.
- ✓ Today's rain barrels come in a variety of materials and designs, or you can build your own.
- ✓ Here are two documents to get you started ↓

http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/fyn/Barrel_and_Trashcan_Rainbarrels.pdf

http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/Hort/Rainbarrel_Booklet.pdf

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Phone calls	186	185	198	569
Office visitors	46	41	34	121
Visits to clients	22	20	30	72
Learning events	34	42	54	130
Participants	544	668	469	1681
Media submissions	5	5	7	17
Publications distributed	573	639	838	2050
TOTAL contacts	1410	1600	1630	4640