

Notes From the President

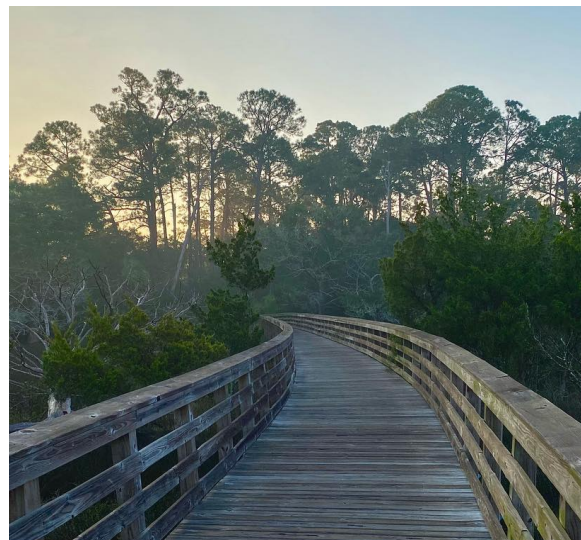
BY BRYAN FLUECH

Hi everyone.

Happy New Years, and welcome to the fourth installment of the GA ANREP biannual newsletter! My term as GA ANREP president is wrapping up, but I want to thank everyone who has helped me in this role over the past year. It has not been a solo effort. An organization is only as strong as the members in it, and we have great people! I am increasingly impressed by the diversity and caliber of natural resources work we're doing across the state as well as how we have adapted and responded to all the challenges thrown at us in the past year. 2022 is looking like it may be another *"interesting year"* to be in Extension, but I am confident we will continue to go above and beyond to serve our stakeholders.

With that being said, please don't forget to take care of yourselves! I have been in Extension for over 15 years, and I'll be the first to say I still struggle to follow my own advice. There is a lot happening around us, and I've heard more colleagues and peers mention being "burnt out" in the past several months than I ever recall hearing. What we do as Extension professionals is extremely important, but not at the expense of our physical and mental well-being. Fortunately, we have our incredible network to support one another if needed, which is one of many reasons why I love being part of GA ANREP.

Finally, I want to wish Heather Kolich good luck as she takes over the reigns as our new president. I have no doubt she will keep the organization moving forward; we are in good hands!



This Issue:

Notes From the President
Page 1

Membership Renewal
Page 2

A New ANREP Chapter is Born
Page 3

Page Early Childhood Education –
Project WET, WILD, and Learning
Tree Training
Page 4

Engaging Georgia's First Commercial
Fishing Pathway Program
Page 5

Bibb Invasive Plant Removals are a
Community Affair
Page 6

Extension, Education and Outreach
Forestry and/or Natural Resource
Programming Delivery Mode & Fees Surve
Report
Page 7

Save the Dates
Page 8

It's that Time of Year Again...

Membership Dues!

BY KIM TOAL

Please see attached the membership renewal for 2022. The National Dues went up this year which explains the increase to \$100. Please contact me if you have any questions. Please submit this form to me, even if you have paid online already, so I have accurate records.

The Georgia Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals (GA-ANREP) is offering 2 convenient ways to renew your membership in GA-ANREP.

1. You may pay your state and national dues with a credit card through the National ANREP site at: <http://www.anrep.org/join>. There is a \$3 convenience fee included when you pay with a credit card. ** If you pay online through National, please let me know.

Or...

2. If you prefer to pay your dues by check, then please use the attached form and mail it with your check for \$100 (\$75 national dues & \$25 state dues) to:

GA ANREP
C/O Kim Toal
Fayette county Extension Office
140 Stonewall Ave. West Suite 209
Fayetteville, GA 30214



The form is titled "GA ANREP Membership Application" and includes the University of Georgia Extension logo. It contains fields for personal information (First Name, Last Name, Title, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, E-mail), membership details (District, Discipline Areas), and payment information. The form also includes a section for new members and a note about online payment options.

GA ANREP
Membership Application

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION

YEAR _____

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
District: _____ NW _____ Ne _____ SW _____ SE _____ State/District Staff

Discipline Areas:

_____ Environmental Education	_____ Recreation
_____ Fisheries	_____ Waste Management
_____ Forestry	_____ Water Resources
_____ Forestry Products	_____ Wildlife
_____ Growth Management	_____ Youth Education
_____ Range	_____ (Other) _____

_____ \$100 Active Member (Includes \$75 National ANREP Annual Dues & \$25 Georgia ANREP Annual Dues).
Are you a new member? _____ Are you renewing your membership? _____
* New Members: Your first year state and national dues are on us, but please fill out this form.
* Please make checks payable to **GA ANREP** and submit to:
GA ANREP
c/o Kim Toal
Fayette County Extension
140 Stonewall Ave W, Suite 209
Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

Or...You may pay online by visiting: <http://www.anrep.org/join>. If paying online, then please email a copy of your application to Kim Toal at kij07@uga.edu.
*To qualify for GA ANREP Awards, dues must be paid by January 31st, 2022.
For more information, contact Kim Toal (GA-ANREP Treasurer) at 770-305-5412.

Click on the application or
visit: [GANREP_Application.pdf](#)

A New ANREP Chapter is Born

BY AMY SCARONI AND KIM MORGANELLO

Hello GA ANREP!

Your friendly neighbors to the north recently established a new SC ANREP chapter, and we are excited to get up and running, and to connect with other members and chapters across our region. Our charter members include Extension Specialists, Associates, and Agents representing Forestry and Wildlife, Water, Horticulture, Natural Resource Economics, Marine Education, and 4H. We held our first elections in Spring 2021, and now with our board established, we are planning our first in-person meeting to be held in April 2022. Extension is structured a little differently here in South Carolina, so SC ANREP presents a great opportunity to bring together members from Clemson, the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, and South Carolina State University, our 1890 Land Grant Institution. Finding new ways to collaborate both within South Carolina and beyond is important to us, and you may see a few of our faces at your spring meeting in Athens. We look forward to learning from you, and with you, and hope to connect more at the May 2022 meeting in Kalamazoo.

SCANREP Board 2021-2022

President: Kim Morganello

Vice President: Dr. Amy Scaroni

President Elect: Brooke Saari

Treasurer: Steven O'Shields

Secretary: Ellen Comeau

SC Sea Grant Rep: E.V. Bell

Upstate Representative: Heather Nix

Pee Dee Representative: T.J. Savereno

Coastal District Representative: Bea Calhoun

Savannah Valley: Parker Johnson

Piedmont District: Karen Jackson



Dr. Amy Scaroni



Kim Morganello

Early Childhood Education – Project WET, WILD, and Learning Tree Training

BY KASEY BOZEMAN, EXTENSION 4-H SPECIALIST

Dissecting gummy earthworms, building owl puppets, crafting rainsticks, and creating edible seed art snacks. These are some of the many new activities Georgia 4-H faculty and staff added to their resources as part of an early childhood environmental education training hosted in the fall of 2021.

Georgia 4-H partnered with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division, and the Georgia Forestry Commission to offer a day-long professional development course specifically focused on environmental education for children ages 5-8. These Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree certifications are part of a national, award-winning, research-based curricula that focus on giving young experiential learning opportunities outdoors.

“To my knowledge, this is the first time Georgia 4-H offered the early childhood training components of these nationally recognized curricula,” said Kasey Bozeman, extension 4-H specialist for science programs. “While our programming traditionally focuses on older youth, many counties are expanding offerings to younger grades. Anytime we can get kids outdoors and engage them in meaningful learning experiences, it is a real win.”

Although the training happened in late August, many county 4-H programs have already started using the curricula and resources for this school year. Shelby Mumma, 4-H educator in Long County, has a partnership with her local library, and many patrons were asking for 4-H programming for younger audiences. “After seeing the training available, I thought this was a great opportunity to educate myself and then implement a new program in our county,” commented Mumma. Each month, Mumma chooses a new topic and teaches multiple activities that relate back to the theme. During her lesson about worms, 4-H’ers observed earthworms, wiggled like worms, listened to a worm poem, and ate some gummy worms as a snack. “The training came with so much relatability and knowledge in the brain development of young students. I loved that we first started out with a discussion about children’s sense of wonder, their emotions, what makes them excited, and their curious nature. This led to all the activities that we completed. We talked throughout about always keeping the children active, getting them to think about certain questions, and developing their fine motor skills through the activities.”

Laura Mirarchi, 4-H agent in Troup County, has been excited to put the new curricula to use with their 4-H members. “We currently have pre-K and Kindergarten groups participating in school garden activities, and the early childhood Projects WET, WILD, and Learning tree align perfectly with the concepts we cover,” comments Mirarchi. “Environmental education encourages youth to develop critical thinking and reasoning skills while simultaneously immersing themselves in the natural world. In this modern era of technology, youth are increasingly divorced from the physical environment in which they live as they spend more and more time behind a screen.”



Photos: Shelby Mumma, 4-H educator in Long County, (photo 1) prepares a dirt-and-worms snack while a Cloverbud 4-H'er (photo 2) observes a live earthworm during the lesson

Engaging Georgia's First Commercial Fishing Pathway Program

BY BRYAN FLUECH

In 2019 Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant helped McIntosh County Academy develop the state's first commercial fishing pathway course for high school students interested in a career in commercial fishing.

Commercial fishing is an economically and culturally important component of the McIntosh County community, yet, in recent decades, there has been a decrease in experience levels of younger generations. Academy students learn about safety techniques, fisheries management, fishing gear and methods, and relevant conservation issues through hands on learning experiences to be better prepared to enter the commercial fishing profession.

The COVID pandemic has delayed the full implementation of the program, but Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant was finally able to engage with the program's students in the past year. Associate Marine Extension Director Bryan Fluech and Marine Resources Specialists Truck McIver and Lisa Gentit organized two field excursions in September and October to familiarize and train students on the use of two common types of fishing nets used in the region: seine nets and shrimp trawls. The team led the class on a beach seining trip using two nets of different length and mesh size to demonstrate the concept of gear selectivity. The class also participated in a series of outreach trawls aboard the R/V Georgia Bulldog using the vessel's trawl net.

Thirteen students participated in the two training sessions. Besides receiving hands on training on using the gear, students also gained practical experience sorting, identifying, and recording data about their catch. They were also able to reinforce what they have previously learned in class about safety at sea practices by participating in a mock rescue exercise aboard the Bulldog.

The class's instructor indicated these activities were a first-time experience for many in the class and would not have been possible without Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant. Fluech utilized Sea Grant COVID-19 funding to support the trip to help minimize the financial impact of the trips on the school. Based on the feedback from the students and the instructor, future excursions are planned to help continue supporting this first-of-its-kind workforce development opportunity.



MCA Commercial Fishing Pathway students gained hands on experience working on different types of gear and participating in a mock at-sea rescue exercise.

Bibb Invasive Plant Removals are a Community Affair

BY KAROL KELLY

According to the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, an invasive species is a non-native species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health. The term “invasive” refers to the most aggressive species, causing major disturbances to the areas in which they are present. In Bibb County, invasive plants are present across the county. They line roadways and the Ocmulgee River, encroach on homeowners’ landscapes and are predominant in public green spaces. Public awareness and partnerships are necessary to begin combatting the problems caused by privet, tallow trees, Bradford pears and many others.

From the fall of 2020 through the fall of 2021, the Macon-Bibb County (MBC) Arbor Conservation Board, led by professionals of the DNR, MBC Parks and Beautification, and Cooperative Extension selected Amerson River Park as a target work area for invasive species removal. The park, located on the Ocmulgee River, is a favorite gathering spot for our community. An enthusiastic gathering of Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and other community members participated in three invasive removal workdays and donated approximately 200 hours toward the effort. Volunteers removed woody invasive plants with loppers and handsaws. Leaders followed with hand sprayers and applied Garlon to cut stumps.

To date, volunteers and staff have removed about 8,500 cubic feet of tallow tree, Chinese and Japanese privet, Bradford pear, autumn olive, and English ivy. Volunteers were introduced to not only invasive species, but tools and tactics to tackle the problems in their home landscapes. Perhaps the best testament of the program success is volunteers looking forward to scheduling the next workday!



**INVASIVE PLANT
REMOVAL
WORKDAY**

OCTOBER 2 @ 9AM
AMERSON RIVER PARK
255 PIERCE DR. N

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
BIBB.EXTENSION@UGA.EDU
OR 478-751-6338

Come work with the MBC Arbor Conservation Board and other local experts to learn about identifying and removing invasive plants covering our community! Tools and instruction will be provided. Masks and social distancing encouraged.

AMERSON RIVER PARK
GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION
NEW TOWN
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA EXTENSION



Extension, Education and Outreach Forestry and/or Natural Resource Programming Delivery Mode & Fees Survey Report

SUBMITTED BY LESLIE BOBY

In November 2020, Southern Regional Extension Forestry conducted a survey to better understand the modes of delivery and fees charged for forestry and natural resources Extension and outreach programs, as well as program fees charged. The survey was divided into two categories for program audiences: professionals and non-professionals. The survey was distributed via newsletters, personal contacts and social media. It was targeted to Cooperative Extension professionals working in forestry and natural resources (FNR) across the country as well as outreach professionals from other organizations such as state agencies or non-profit organizations. While there were 190 survey responses overall, there were 158 respondents who offer/deliver FNR programming (figure 1). The majority of the respondents worked in the southern United States (figure 1) and two thirds of all respondents (66%) belonged to a Cooperative Extension organization (table 1).

To read the full report, click on the image below.



Save the Dates!

GA ANREP Annual Meeting

April 26-28, 2022

Athens, GA

Details Coming Soon!

ANREP National Conference

Kalamazoo, Michigan 2022

May 31st - June 3rd

