



Live session at the IUFRO World Day (Networking session)

An Update of International Extension Forestry Activities

Division 9 – Forest Policy and Economics, Unit 9.01.03

28 September 2021, 23:00 - 24:00 UTC

📍 Annapolis, Maryland, USA (on the IUFRO World Day Map)

To join us, please register for the IUFRO World Day: [Registration](#)

You will find us at the host city on the [Interactive Map](#)

ABSTRACT

We propose to provide an update on the current state of affairs on the IUFRO 9.01.03 EKE Working Party. This includes summaries of innovative responses to program development and delivery during the pandemic as well as other current updates of the Working Party. The objectives of the Working Party are as follows: to serve as a forum for information exchange among Extension forestry workers worldwide, to promote the concept of Extension through the transfer of knowledge and technology to improve the lives of people, to improve the quality, quantity, and effectiveness of Extension programs worldwide and to advance the quality and impact of research on Extension methodologies.

The working party meets biannually and is planning further continuing education events, an updated directory, and enhancements to their website. As issues across the globe become more complex, it is important that Extension and technology transfer experts across international boundaries work together to share education and outreach solutions that affect all of our citizens in equal, equitable and effective manners. This session will involve short presentations by EKE members as well as an opportunity to interact and engage with EKE membership. Please plan to participate and learn about one of IUFRO's most critical, action-oriented Working Parties.

KEYWORDS

- Sustainable Forest Management
- Human Health and Well-being
- Climate Change
- Forest Policy
- Forestry Extension

PROGRAM

Welcome, Introductions and EKE Update - *Bill Hubbard, Coordinator, EKE*

Order of Presentations (5-7 minutes per presentation, including Q&A).

The Teagasc Forestry Development Department, Ireland

Lead Presenter - *Nuala Ní Fhlatharta*

Head of Forestry Development Department, Teagasc, Ireland

Abstract - This is a short summary of what we do in the Teagasc Forestry Development Department. We provide advisory, training and research support to new and existing forest owners in Ireland

Responding to the Pandemic: Extension and other Natural Resource

Professionals Adoption of Virtual Platforms to Reach Their Clientele.

Lead Presenter - *Robert Bardon,*

Associate Dean of Extension, NC State University, USA

Co-Author - *Jennifer Fawcett, Extension associate, NC State University, USA*

Abstract - As the pandemic spread virtual events became necessary, but many professionals did not have experience in hosting such event. To address this issue the authors developed a webinar to share lessons learned in using virtual platforms for outreach. Within this presentation, the authors will share the outcomes of the webinar, addressing the effectiveness and efficiency of technology transfer and diffusion of information using a virtual platform. In addition, they will provide examples of how Extension staff have adapted thus far and, likely, of how Extension professionals elsewhere may be quickly adapting to the challenges that come with a pandemic.

Southeastern U.S. Wildfire Preparedness with Firescaping

Lead Presenter - *J. Holly Campbell*

Abstract - Every year thousands of wildfires occur across the southeastern U.S., threatening both residents and their homes. Fortunately, there are actions residents can take, such as firescaping, to help reduce their wildfire risk. This presentation provides an overview of an Extension training designed to educate southeastern communities about firescaping. The presentation will review the components of the training and their impact in the region, to date, as well as the development of an online version of the training that was influenced by the pandemic.

Terrestrial invasive species: from crowdsourcing to citizen science research projects

Lead Presenter - *Angela Gupta*,
Extension Forester, University of Minnesota Extension, USA

Abstract - The University of Minnesota Extension is a leader in citizen science and invasive species education and research. During the pandemic spring of 2020 and continuing through 2021 several new citizen science and invasive species projects launched. The projects are all quick, timely, low budget and have minimal training. Projects range from crowdsourced Find & Report using a free smartphone app to more time consuming and engaged projects to better understand if Amur cork trees are switching gender and how to manage jumping worms. This presentation will quickly highlight what worked and didn't work and where to find more information about each project.

To Prune or Pursue? Podcasting in Extension

Lead Presenter - *Lara Milligan*,
Natural Resources Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, USA

Co-Author - Shannon Carnevale, Natural Resources & Conservation Agent, UF/IFAS Extension, USA

Abstract - Florida residents are dependent on natural resources, but many are unfamiliar with the state's ecology and ecosystems. "Naturally Florida" was designed to reach these people through short, research-based, and environmentally focused podcast episodes. Faculty record, edit, and release episodes monthly. Podcast episodes have been played 1,665 times since launching on June 21, 2021 and are available on all major podcast platforms. "Naturally Florida" is in its infancy and is already having far-reaching impacts. As faculty continue to market and promote the podcast, more listeners will be reached with critical natural resource information, ultimately protecting, and enhancing the local environment.

The Secret Life of Trees: Launching the Tree Champ tree steward program in Florida

Lead Presenter - *Dr. Marguerite Beckford*,
Horticulture Extension Agent, University of Florida IFAS Extension, USA

Abstract - In 2013, a tree canopy study of Sarasota County, Florida revealed 35% canopy coverage. With continual tree removal from land development, the Treejuvenation Florida urban forestry Extension program was launched to increase community engagement in urban forestry conservation. Tree juvenation hosts quarterly community engagement

projects including urban forestry scavenger hunts, and tree adoption events. With the onset of the 2020 pandemic, a Tree Champ urban forestry tree steward project was launched using a 6-module webinar series. The goal of the Tree Champ project is to equip community members with urban forestry education they can use to conserve neighborhood tree assets.

Successes From the Invasive Grass ID Webinar for Professionals

Lead Presenter - *Tina McIntyre,*

Florida Friendly Landscaping Agent, UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County, FL, USA

Abstract - UF/IFAS Extension in Seminole County took the lead on the first ever virtual grasses webinar. This was developed to increase knowledge on identification of invasive grass species and to safely provide a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) opportunity for pesticide license holders in the categories of natural area weeds management and aquatic pest control during COVID-19. We had over 400 participants and issued more than 570 CEUs. In a post-workshop survey, 97.5% respondents increased their knowledge on invasive species and 100% on grass/sedge identification. 96.7% intend to adopt proper pest identification prior to applying pesticides and 97% pesticide safety practices (PPE).

Concluding Remarks

AN EVENT BY



IUFRO WORLD DAY

28-29 September 2021

SUPPORTED BY

