

Creating a Wildlife and Invasive Species Educational (WISE) Workshop

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Why Create a WISE Workshop?

Invasive species are severely impacting Florida's native fauna and wildlife. Florida has more invasive species than anywhere in the United States. Latest estimates state that \$90,836,680 has been spent between 1999-2000 on exotic animal and plant control. In fact, 1.7 million acres have been affected by invasive plants alone. Educating residents on the identification and proper removal of exotic invasive species will help protect Florida's unique and fragile ecosystems.



The Genesis

The Wildlife and Invasive Species Educational (WISE) workshop was first created in 2016. The goal of WISE was to provide continuing education for Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) members, and other advocates promoting native wildlife and the control of invasive species.

Agenda Day 1

- 8:30 a.m. On-site Registration
- 8:45 a.m. Welcome – Jim E. Davis (UF/IFAS Extension Director Sumter & Hernando Counties)
- 9:00 a.m. Landscaping for Wildlife – Brooke Moffis, UF/IFAS Extension Lake County, Commercial Horticulture/Florida Friendly Landscaping Agent III
- 10:00 a.m. Break (Visit Booths and IFAS Bookstore)
- 10:30 a.m. Horseshoe Crabs - Brittany Scharf, UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County Sea Grant/Marine Science Agent II
- 11:00 a.m. Venomous Snakes -Dr. Steve Johnson, UF/IFAS Professor, Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Nature Coast CISMA
- 1:15 p.m. Pollinators –Dr. Jaret Daniels, UF/IFAS Associate Professor, Department of Entomology
- 2:15 p.m. Break (Visit Booths and IFAS Bookstore)
- 2:30 p.m. The Florida Black Bear – Mike Orlando, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- 3:30 p.m. Living with Panthers, Ashlee O'Connor, Panther Outreach Specialist Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- 4:30 p.m. W.I.S.E. Adjourns

Strategic Partnerships

- UF/IFAS Extension
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Nature Coast Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)
- Center for Aquatic Invasive Plants
- Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- UF/IFAS Honey Bee Research Laboratory
- Florida Master Naturalist Program
- Florida Master Gardener Program
- Florida Forestry Service

Agenda Day 2

- 8:30 a.m. On-site Registration
- 8:45 a.m. Eye of the beholder: The Recovery of Florida's Native Goliath Grouper, Dr. Angela Collins, UF/IFAS Extension /Florida Sea Grant Multi-County Agent II
- 9:30 a.m. Fish on the Loose– Dr. Jeff Hill, UF/IFAS Extension, Associate Professor Non-Native Species and Aquaculture, UF/IFAS Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory
- 10:30 a.m. Break (Visit Booths and IFAS Bookstore)
- 11:00 a.m. Techniques for Dealing with Nuisance Wildlife, Maxine Hunter, UF/IFAS Extension Marion County Residential Horticulture Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Gopher Tortoises - Krista Stump, UF/IFAS Extension Osceola County Natural Resources Agent
- 1:45 p.m. Break (Visit Booths and IFAS Bookstore)
- 2:00 p.m. The Biology and Management of Hydrilla in Florida Lakes - Dr. James Leary, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
- 3:00 p.m. Techniques for Managing Invasive Plants, Dr. Stephen Enloe, Associate Professor, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
- 4:00 p.m. W.I.S.E. Adjourns

Results

- 154 participants attended WISE. Eventbrite was utilized for registration. WISE was promoted using local media, social media, and flyers. Surveyed participants (n=154) demonstrated a 35% increase in knowledge gain, as measured by pre and posttests.