

1. AWARD NAME: EARLY CAREER LEADERSHIP AWARD

2. NOMINATOR:

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3. NOMINEE:

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4. PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

In just under five years of working for Extension, Carrie has become a respected source for programs and information on FYN principles, stormwater, and natural resources in Escambia County and the NW Extension District. She has been actively recruited and assumed leadership positions in local and Extension education organizations including FANREP, EPAF, NW Extension District Horticulture Program Implementation Team, and the Environmental Education Coordination Team. Carrie has been a part of more than \$350,000 in grant funded programs and has received numerous awards for her programs and publications. The following information highlights a few of Carrie's program successes.

**Low Impact Development for Development & Landscape Professionals**

In order to reduce the impact of traditional "high-impact" development, which typically includes full clearing of existing vegetation, intense use of impervious paving, and minimal habitat protection, Carrie began a program targeted at Professional Engineers, Developers, Builders, Certified Planners, Environmental Consultants, Municipal Leaders, and Landscape Architects. Carrie formed relationships with an audience previously not reached by Extension. Local developers and builders utilize these

professionals' services, providing a potential positively impact on stormwater management and habitat preservation in large-scale projects

Impacts and success stories include:

- All eleven participants of the first Panhandle Continuing Education for Landscape Architects improved their post-test scores by a margin of 18% or more.
- Presented Florida-Friendly Yard Certification Sign and Certificate to builder West Calhoun at the Parade of Homes ribbon cutting at Nature Trail subdivision. This is the first new home landscaped based on FYN principles in Escambia County and over 7,000 people toured it during the 10-day Parade of Homes in April 2008. The home features a rain garden, compost bin, wildlife habitat, native plants, and minimal use of turf grass.
- Escambia County was awarded a \$1 million grant to build a One-Stop Permitting building featuring low-impact development principles. Extension was contacted for help with designing a green roof, which when completed will be the largest green roof in Florida and the first in this part of the state. Carrie led a group to develop a landscape design for the roof, as well as a drought-resistant landscape for the entire site and its bioretention areas.

## **Rain Barrel Program**

Carrie created rain barrel workshops to introduce the benefits and uses of rain barrels in conserving water and reducing stormwater pollution. Workshop participants construct their own rain barrel, which is then ready for use. Four workshops have “sold out”, with waiting lists created and follow-up calls for months afterwards asking about the next date and where to purchase barrels and supplies.

Activities, Impacts, and Success Stories include:

- Developed “Let’s Make a Rain Barrel” Instruction Guide with 300 hard copies distributed, along with at least 50 electronic copies.
- Conducted three school programs with students decorating and installing barrels and using them for greenhouses, composting, and gardens.
- Survey results from workshops indicate 93% (of 66 respondents) better understood the importance of water conservation and the problem of stormwater pollution, while 97% learned to build a rain barrel and became more familiar with their use. 86% of respondents indicated they planned to make changes in their landscape based on the presentation (in particular, installing and/or building a rain barrel), with another 10% indicating they would “maybe” make changes.
- Using rain barrels in a home landscape can save a single homeowner up to 1,300 gallons of water annually. Provided all 94 barrels built at the workshops are installed and used, 122,200 gallons of rainwater will be recycled, meaning fewer gallons of water will be pulled from the local aquifer and turned into a conduit for stormwater pollution. Due to the rain barrel workshops, three farm supply/hardware stores in the area supplying pickle barrels have indicated an

increase in demand. Area businesses have sold \$2,700 worth of pickle barrels from Extension rain barrel workshops alone.

### **Tree Workshop and Giveaway Program**

After receiving a \$31,500 grant from the Florida Division of Forestry following the 2004/2005 hurricane seasons, Carrie developed multiple public outreach events for property owners who lost trees in Ivan and Dennis. The programs consisted of a 30-minute talk on proper tree planting and care. Each participant received two free wind-resistant 7-gallon trees.

Impacts and Success Stories include:

- 1,130 residents received two new trees each
- Created award-winning brochure entitled, *Planting Trees—More than digging a hole!*, distributed 1,200 to the public at giveaways and in the office
- The owner of the tree nursery who won our bid for providing trees indicated that this grant and another like it was the only reason his business survived the difficult economic situation created by damage from Hurricanes Ivan and Dennis.
- Survey information shows that 100% of (300) participants completing surveys increased their knowledge in the areas of proper planting depth, watering, and mulching practices and planned to use their knowledge.
- The planting of almost 2,300 new wind-resistant trees helped improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, and provide new wildlife habitat. In addition, the homeowners receiving trees will benefit from increased property value and reduced energy bills from the shade the trees provide. By learning proper tree planting and care techniques and passing them on to their families, over 1,000 clients will insure the success of any future tree plantings they undertake.

### **Project BATS**

After receiving \$8,300 in grant funding from the Florida and Escambia County 4-H Foundation, Carrie assembled a team to provide hands-on science education for youth by facilitating the active engagement of children with wildlife that naturally occur in their local environment. She increased awareness of the many environmental and financial benefits bats provide as primary consumers of nocturnal agricultural, forest, and home insect pests, and the role bats play in food webs involving plants and insects.

- Twelve teen counselors, one 4-H club leader, and three agents were trained to lead bat house building workshops.
- 335 youth built their own bat houses.
- Follow-up surveys indicated 4-H youth retained much of the information and an increased appreciation of bats.
- Pre and post test results show an increase from 50% correct to 95% correct.