

December
2008



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension

*As we close 2008, here's a **sampling of the impacts** effecting our residents this year through educational efforts by the **Martin County Extension Service**.*

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods **4,454 total - group learning participants**

- 2,335 people attended one or more of 51 programs presented this year. They learned at least 5 FYN practices within the topic areas of: drought restrictions, right plant / right place, invasive exotics, water conservation, Florida green, best management practices, and hurricane preparation.

- 704 homeowners attended 1 of 6 Rain Barrel Workshops. 361 people have made a behavior change to conserve rainwater. Each participant is saving approximately 6600 gallons of water each year within calendar rain falls. In 2008, Martin County residents saved approximately 2.5 million gallons of water for use in landscaping and gardening.

- The FYN tree give away is one of several highly publicized events of local interest. The general public attendees are given a Florida Friendly tree after attending a 30-minute lecture on the proper care of trees. 81 percent of the participants surveyed intend to put into practice 6 aspects of tree care including: selection, planting, watering, fertilizing, pruning, and pest control. Over 300 trees were distributed this year.

- 590 students within 3 schools and 4-H summer camp, participated in a hands-on plant propagation class, with each child given two pots with dirt, seeds and cuttings to plant at home.

Family & Consumer Sciences **6,513 total - group learning participants**

- 617 adults have increased awareness and practice safe food handling procedures.

- 362 individuals learned how to establish and maintain good credit, and money management skills.

- 229 families developed skills in budgeting, record keeping, planning for future goals, and organizing a home inventory.

- The Family Nutrition Program grant received approval through the Martin County School Board, for its start date of October 1, 2008. In an effort to address the obesity issues in Martin County, two Program Assistants were hired and teach 69 nutrition classes monthly in 6 Title One schools, encompassing over 1,300 youth and teachers.

Martin County 4-H Program **10,754 total - group learning participants**

- 4-H Volunteers donated 8,213 volunteer hours for a savings to the county of \$142,741.94.

- Martin County 4-H Youth have donated over 1600 hours of volunteer service to the community. They have also donated approximately \$1500 in money, gifts, clothing and food to needy families and individuals.

- 4-H Eco-Camp - 127 youth explored some of the ecological problems of the day and how we can help. We teamed up with Martin County Reef project and made numerous "reef balls" to replace some of our dying reefs off the coast of Florida.

- 4-H Science Day Camp - 132 youth learned electrical concepts from the 4-H Curriculum "The Power of Electricity."

- 4-H Congress workshops - 82 youth learned about "How to make a Rain Barrel" and "Water, Our Most Precious Resource."

Martin County Master Gardener Program **42,782 total - clientele contacts**

- 102 Master Gardener Volunteers donated 18,439 volunteer hours for a savings to the county of \$320,470.

- 20 new Master Gardeners trained in 2008.

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