

Utah State University

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Wildlife and Fisheries

Michael R. Kuhns



Association of Natural Resources
Extension Professionals

Natural Resources Extension Programs and Impacts

Wildlife and Fisheries

Florida Conserves Barn Owls for Sustainable Rodent Control – Since 1994, the University of Florida has been promoting the use of barn owls for sustainable rodent control. As a result the Everglades Agricultural Area has some of the highest barn owl densities on earth. Also many agricultural producers in the Everglades have dramatically reduced their reliance on chemical rodenticides. One sugarcane grower reported that he had totally eliminated his use of rodenticides, which had traditionally ranged from 4-8 tons per year, and actually suffered less rodent damage to his crops.

Owl pellets from the program are used by teachers and students to learn predator/prey relationships and mammalian anatomy. **Contact:** Dr. Richard Raid, Everglades Research and Education Center, University of Florida; phone: 561-993-1564; email: rnraid@ufl.edu.



Urban Wildlife Damage Management a Focus in Ohio – Wildlife are interesting and beautiful, but can cause considerable damage when concentrated in urban areas. Extension specialists in Ohio focused on wildlife damage problems in towns and cities by conducted 21 training programs in 2010 for 702 participants who learned about reducing wildlife damage and human-wildlife conflicts. Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners also were trained in these subjects. A fact sheet on Canada geese damage management was developed. A conference on wildlife conflict management strategies was held for 52 representatives of 34 cities and towns and others. **Contact:** Marne A. Titchenell, Wildlife Program Specialist, Ohio State University Extension; phone: 614-292-0402; email: titchenell.4@osu.edu.

Sea Turtle Friendly Beaches in Florida – Florida's Treasure Coast (St. Lucie, Martin, and Indian River Counties) is experiencing intense population growth, and new residents often don't know about local natural resources issues, including behavior on beaches that can unintentionally harm or kill protected sea turtles. University of Florida Extension Agents targeted visitors, new residents, and long-time resi-



dents with a Sea Turtle Friendly Beaches educational campaign to encourage sea turtle friendly practices of reducing the impact of beach-front lighting on hatchling migration, removing beach furniture and equipment that could inhibit nesting, protecting and restoring sand dunes, and cleaning marine debris regularly. Table top displays, banners, publications, billboards were developed. Banners at the Florida Power & Light Energy Encounter and the Manatee Observation and Education Center reached an audience of 26,193

visitors in 2010. Table top displays were distributed to environmental education centers and sea turtle coordinators throughout the Treasure Coast, and 14,000 publications were disseminated. **Contact:** Ken Gioeli, Natural Resources Extension Agent, University of Florida; phone: 772-462-1660; email: ktgioeli@ufl.edu.



Minnesota Demonstrates Riparian Forest Buffers for Trout – Minnesota's more than 450 miles of trout streams are subject to warming in places due to a lack of shade, which is harmful to the cold water-loving trout. University of Minnesota Extension worked with other agencies to develop a plan to educate landowners about the benefits of riparian forest buffers in trout streams. They conducted a literature review, created five fact sheets and a web site (www.extension.umn.edu/buffers), held educational outreach meetings and tours, and established a demonstration site which included a planting of 450 trees and shrubs. The goal is to protect watersheds and improve trout habitat. **Contact:** Gary Wyatt, Extension Educator-Agroforestry, University of Minnesota Extension, phone: 507-389-6748; email: wyatt@umn.edu.



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