

Date: 10/31/2018

Subject: UF/IFAS Extension Florida-Friendly Landscaping GI-BMP Program Updates

Attachment: [GI-BMP Regional Coordination map](#)

Dear GI-BMP Instructor,

My name is Tom Wichman and I am the new Statewide Coordinator for the UF/IFAS Extension Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ GI-BMP Program here in Florida. I started in Mid-November and wanted to make sure you know who I am and the results of a few more changes.

- Who I am: I have a background in horticulture, graduating from UF in '86 with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. I have 44 years of experience working in the industry and 25 years of experience working with UF and IFAS. While managing the statewide Florida Master Gardener Program I helped in the development of the GI-BMP materials and even voiced-over the recorded modules for the DVD's. This is a program I am passionate about and look forward to working with you for many years to come.
- Materials: We will be working during the next year to update the handbooks, presentations and other program materials. We will be working with our faculty advisors and FDEP to make sure all the latest research findings and recommendations are included.
- Regional Coordinators: We have three very strong regional coordinators. They each bring a unique set of skills to the program. Between all three we have an amazing team. Below you will find their names and email addresses. Also the regional map showing the Regional Coordinators counties has been updated. FDEP redrew the regional lines to allow us to better serve your needs. I have attached the updated map for your use. Be sure to touch base with your regional coordinator with any questions you may have.
  - Eastern Region: Marilyn Liebsch - [mliebsch@ufl.edu](mailto:mliebsch@ufl.edu)
  - Western Region: Elisha Cash - [ecash@ufl.edu](mailto:ecash@ufl.edu)
  - South Region: Cesar Peralta – [venigator@ufl.edu](mailto:venigator@ufl.edu)
- Future: We look to enhance communication to help us all work together so we can continue to grow this program statewide. We will keep you updated with webinars, advanced trainings, field days and many more ways to stay current on the latest recommendations. And we look to continue to develop ways to measure the program's impact on water quality in Florida.

I want to thank you for all you do for this great program. Your efforts are making a difference in the water quality of Florida. 2018 has been a great year for the UF/IFAS Extension Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ GI-BMP Program. With your help, we look to continue the momentum from the previous years, and look to take the program to the next level. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your regional coordinator or the state office.

Sincerely,

Tom Wichman  
Statewide GI-BMP Program Coordinator  
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