



Clam Farming Featured at UF's Water Exhibit in Nation's Capital this Summer

As part of a year-long celebration on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the land-grant university system and U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Florida hosted a large, hands-on exhibit at the 2012 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, a major summer event held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about how land-grant universities from around the country are partnering with communities to put research into action in the areas of agriculture and food, sustainable living, and rural revitalization.

UF's exhibit "Water: Discovering and Sharing Solutions" revolved around the wise use of the state's most precious resource—water. Water affects every facet of our lives, and what we do daily impacts the future of a safe, sustainable water supply. The exhibit, featuring live animals and touchable water tables, showed visitors ways in which UF scientists are working to find solutions for global challenges, such as ensuring water quality, quantity, and access. Displays showcased several areas, including invasive plants and animals, citrus, recreation, landscaping, and clams.

Florida's clam aquaculture industry was featured as an environmentally friendly industry that provides food and jobs, and helps improve coastal water quality. In spite of the record-setting temperatures, clam farmers joined Leslie Sturmer, UF IFAS shellfish extension agent, in engaging with thousands of festival-goers about clam farming, an industry that has helped Cedar Key and other coastal communities in the state become a leading producer of farm-raised clams in the nation. A live "mini" clam farm illustrated culture stages and entertained children as well as adults. The clam-farming group also met with Rose Myers, a staff member in Florida Congressman Richard Nugent's office, and toured the Capitol. Ms. Myer's parents are former Cedar Key clam farmers.

The UF WATER EXHIBIT will be on display from September 29, 2012 through January 2, 2013 at the Florida Museum of Natural History located on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. Admission is free. For information on hours, directions, and other exhibits, visit their website, www.flmnh.ufl.edu.



Clam farmer Bobby Witt answered thousands of questions about the Florida clam culture industry during the 2012 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

October 2012

coming up...

Oyster Culture Informational Exchange

October 11, 2012

Cedar Key, FL

Go to page 2 for more information.

Statewide Clam Industry Task Force Meeting and Clam Industry Workshop

November 7, 2012

Cedar Key, FL

Go to page 3 for more information.

The pilot clam crop insurance program will be continued for the 2013 crop year in selected counties. Sign-up by November 30.

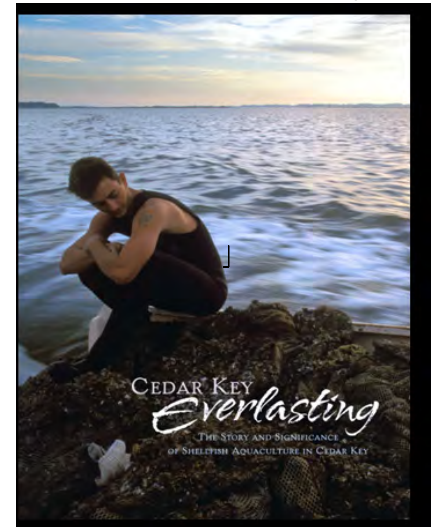


Cedar Key Everlasting Publication Promotes Shellfish Aquaculture Industry

Florida's modern coastal communities are built upon the state's long and storied saltwater heritage. But the fishing communities that once defined the peninsula have all but disappeared in most of the state. The communities and cultures that have survived are facing a combination of challenges—rapid population growth, degradation of local ecosystems, and marine resource regulations, just to name a few.

For most of the 20th century, the island community of Cedar Key remained a small fishing village. However, during the 1990s, increasing regulations affected the livelihoods of its fishing families. A transition to shellfish aquaculture was facilitated through retraining programs in the same decade. Today, clam farming adds an estimated \$45 million a year into the area's economy and supports over 500 jobs. Over the past decade, word spread about this unspoiled region of Florida, often called the "Nature Coast." Although several proposed developments are now on hold, Cedar Key has become a tourist destination. As harvesting of shellfish requires good water quality, future land-use activities could affect the industry's continued viability. The Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, in collaboration with UF IFAS Shellfish Aquaculture Extension Program and Legacy Institute for Nature and Culture (LINC), decided to educate visitors and new residents in an effort to inspire an appreciation for the community's aquaculture and fishing industries, as well as what it takes to sustain them.

A 40-page magazine, entitled *Cedar Key Everlasting*, features a series of essays contributed by experts in their fields about the environmental, economic, and sociological benefits of clam farming. The photography of Eric Zamora and Carlton Ward, Jr. with LINC captures the essence of the community in a way that engages readers and helps carry the science-based messages to the broader audiences. The publication ends with recommendations about what one can do to help keep the coastal environment clean. To reach the intended audiences, community leaders and businesses were invited this past spring to a social and clam bake at which time the magazine was debuted. Following this, local real estate agencies, condominium management firms, hotels, chamber of commerce staff, and others were provided with additional copies. Funding provided by the Florida Humanities Council through the National Endowment for the Humanities assisted in printing the publication. An interactive flipbook of *Cedar Key Everlasting* can be viewed at <http://shellfish.ifas.ufl.edu> or <http://linc.us/category/legacy/>.



This magazine-style publication was designed to educate the public about the sustainable benefits of clam aquaculture.

Informational Exchange on Oyster Culture Activities in the Gulf of Mexico Region

Thursday, October 11, 2012
3:00 to 6:00 pm

Sen. George Kirkpatrick Marine Lab
Cedar Key, FL

*Application of Fishery Enhancement Methods
to Extensive Oyster Culture*

Mark Berrigan, DACS Division Of Aquaculture

Oyster Aquaculture Efforts in Florida

Leslie Sturmer, UF IFAS Shellfish Extension

Developing Oyster Aquaculture in Alabama

Bill Walton, Auburn University, Shellfish Lab

Auburn University's work, which focuses on evaluating the feasibility and cost effectiveness of aquaculture gear for raising oysters, testing of various culture methods to improve oyster quality, and assessing potential markets for a high-end branded Gulf oyster, will be presented.


Louisiana's Oyster Industry—


From extensive to intensive cultivation


John Supan, Louisiana State University, LA Sea Grant

The traditional fishery, which involves the use of public seed grounds and private leases, will be reviewed, as well as LSU's efforts in developing disease-resistance strains, producing triploid oysters for high summertime meat yield, testing of oyster cultch materials, and evaluating off-bottom culture.

CLAMmunications

 The 2011 report of Virginia shellfish aquaculture was released in May. The state's clam culture industry is holding steady, producing over 182 million "market" clams worth \$26 million. Virginia's oyster culture industry is growing steadily despite the struggling economy with more than 23 million oysters worth \$6.7 million sold. Six years ago (2005), less than 1 million oysters were produced. Dockside (farmgate) prices remained stable in 2011. Average prices reported by growers were \$0.16 per clam and \$0.30 per single oyster.

 The most recent assessment of the economic activities associated with Florida's clam culture industry was conducted in 2007. At that time, growers' sales of 184 million clams, valued at \$18.9 million (dockside), generated \$53 million in economic impact. A more current estimate is now needed to better assess the economic values generated by this industry. Beginning in 2013, a survey of certified clam wholesalers will be conducted by Florida Sea Grant marine economists to collect the primary data needed for an impact assessment.

 In August, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services issued a report with bleak projections for the 2012-13 oyster harvest from Franklin to Levy Counties. Recent drought conditions, tropical storms, increased fishing pressure, and other factors may have played a role in oyster declines. Since then, Gov. Rick Scott has requested federal aid for affected communities. Responding to the oyster fishery collapse on Florida's Gulf coast, experts with UF IFAS and FL Sea Grant will join forces with local seafood producers to find ways of restoring sustainable oyster populations.



YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Community Center

809 6th Street, Cedar Key

10:00 AM—1:00 PM

Statewide Clam Industry Task Force

Agenda Items:

Clam Marketing Incentive Program, USDA Farm Service NAP Program, DACS Lease Expansion, ISSC Shellfish Educational Program, HABs, Industry Regional Issues, and More

Noon—1:00 PM Working Lunch

1:00—3:30 PM

Clam Industry Workshop

Project Updates:

Backcrossing Hybrid Clams-Field Trials and Shelf Life Results, Use of Biomarkers for Thermal Tolerance in Clams, Performance of Net Coatings in Reducing Biofouling, Examining Recovery of Soil Properties after Harvest and Culture Intensity, Upcoming Projects

Focus on Sunray Venus Culture:

Broodstock Development and Lines, Growout Trials with Industry Partners, Aqueous Soil and Salinity Preferences for Culture Sites, Wholesale Market Product Attributes and Standards, and A discussion of what we know and what is needed for commercialization

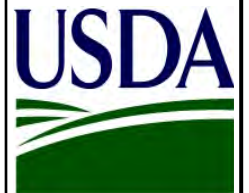
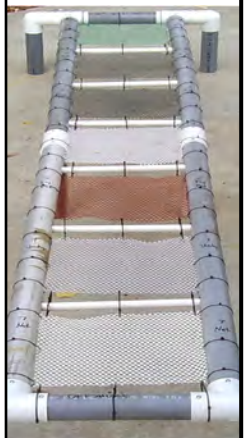
3:30—5:30 PM

Florida Aquaculture Association

General Membership Meeting

5:30—6:30 PM Social Hour

Sponsored by Cedar Key Aquaculture Association



Visit <http://shellfish.ifas.ufl.edu> for the following:

- Updates and reports on applied research projects
- Presentations & summaries from industry workshops
- Archived and "real-time" water quality data (salinity, temperature, and other) for selected lease areas
- Information on how to get started in aquaculture
- Current suppliers lists / Publications / Newsletters

See updates from various research and extension projects and connect with fellow farmers.




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