THE SENTINEL
NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA STATE AGRICULTURAL RESPONSE TEAM

Vol. 10, No. 9
September 2014

SART Advisory Board Meeting - This Month

NOTE: The FSA Dairy Program with Debbie Hendricks will also be featured.

The fall 2014 SART Advisory Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16th. Advisory Board meetings begin at 10 a.m. and are generally concluded by 1 p.m. The September meeting site is the Alachua Regional Service Center, 14101 Hwy 441, Suite 200, Alachua. The agenda is as follows:

10:00	Welcome and Introductions – David Perry
10:10	New State Veterinarian Introduced – David Perry
10:20	SART 2015 Planning Meeting – Joe Kight
10:40	Break
11:00	National Veterinary Stockpile Exercise – Dr. Greg Christy (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2013/fsc_nvs.pdf)
11:20	Florida Horse Park Update – Stephanie Hagins (http://flhorsepark.com/)
11:40	The LECALE Training Project – Dr. Joan Dusky and Scot Eubanks
12:00	Bovine Emergency Response Plan – David Perry
12:30	Board Member Reports – All
1:00	Adjourn

Florida SARC Hosts its First Train the Trainer Workshop

"If you have been an assistant trainer or administrative support person at a SARC class or if you have taken the SARC Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering course and thought, 'I would love to help teach this course,' here is your opportunity," said Florida SARC Director of Training Consie von Gontard in advance of the workshop. Instructors and trainers are needed in all sections of the state.

After the Saturday-Sunday event concluded, von Gontard said, "We could not be happier with the outcome! Now, 33 newly certified Florida SARC instructors are ready and chomping at the bit to train new volunteers to respond to help shelter and protect companion animals in Florida!

"Our two days were spent in a thorough review of Awareness Class materials, concentrating on key teaching points and the proper teaching methods to insure that our future students not only learn, but are able to understand and apply each lesson module in a practical sense. Each trainee instructor worked with their team to develop and practice their presentations."

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The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (Florida SARC) hosted its first "Train the Trainer" workshop over the August 9-10 weekend at Sarasota's Cat Depot. Student positions were filled as soon as the course was announced.

Von Gontard and Operations Assistant Andy Bass forwarded the following student comments:

Tami Treadway: The staff was highly trained; they made the environment conducive for learning. Their personal experiences helped provide vital information to enhance the goals of the course.

Marian Rogers: What a great experience and an honor. The course brought home how important it is that responders be trained properly, not only for responder safety but the safety of the animals, also.

Lacie Davis, MPA: Amazing! I am so glad that I participated. We are increasing our ability to train, which means the ability to train more people, and that means an even better response for the animals because *the entire family matters*.

Shawn Jacobsen: I learned a great deal about becoming a trainer and a great deal about myself … my own strengths and weakness. I would recommend this course to anyone with aspiration to become a trainer.

Patrice Worcester: Thank you for working with all of us in the recent Train the Trainer workshop in Sarasota. The class was very well presented and I feel prepared to assist in future Awareness Level classes. Your presenters were well prepared and knowledgeable, adept at giving helpful suggestions that enhanced the material and gave participants good examples when their turn to teach came. I cannot wait to use my new skills!

Randy Thies: I've been to several [SARC] sessions and I enjoyed this more than all the others. By allowing us to be the teacher it helped me learn the material better and helped me relax in front of peers. I also enjoyed watching others teach. The discussion about "things to avoid while teaching" helped me as an actual classroom teacher. This has started out as the best year teaching I have had.

Mary Ellen Byrne: This training provided the tools needed to teach the materials. It was designed to give students time in the class to plan a lesson. For a seasoned teacher, I did not feel like my time was wasted. Within my group my expertise was used to help others make their presentations. I am looking forward to being one of the trainers.

Kathy Gumph: I've found SARC training to be complete, professional, inclusive and emotionally uplifting. The opportunity to learn from others, because you value what each student brings to the table from their own experiences, is invaluable. We all have something to contribute; respecting and building on those contributions makes the FL SARC training superior.

Schedule Attendance at the 2015 Planning Meeting Now

The tentative seminar and workshop agenda for the 4th Florida SART Planning Meeting has been crafted around the theme *SART – Turning Visions into Action*.

Schedule your attendance and book your room soon. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm on Monday, January 12 and will conclude by noon on Wednesday. The host hotel is the Embassy Suites, Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee, FL 34746.

Monday, January 12

1:00 Call to Order – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
Welcome – Richard Collins, Director, Osceola Co. Emergency Mgt.
Greetings – Dr. Lisa Conti, FDOH
1:30 SERT Program – Bryan Koon, Director, FDEM
2:00 Brevard County Large Animal Plan – Lacie Davis, Coordinator, Brevard Co. Emergency Mgt.
2:30 New Animal Courses – Dr. Matt Hersom, Dept. of Animal Sciences, UF
3:00 Break
3:15 Social Media in an Emergency – David Merrick, Director, Center for Disaster Risk Policy, FSU
6:00 Attendee Gathering

Dr. Matt Hersom

Tuesday, January 13

8:00 Announcements – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
8:15 Radiological Planning – John Williamson, Administrator, Bureau of Radiation Control, FDOH

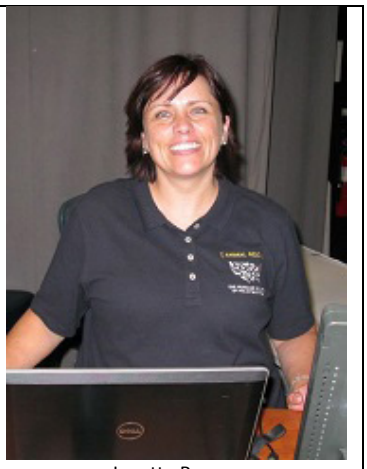
11:30 SART Award Luncheon
1:30 Radiological Planning continued
5:00 Adjourn

Wednesday, January 14
8:00 Announcements – David Perry, FDACS/SART Co-chair
8:15 "Don't Pack a Pest" – FDACS/DPI
9:30 The Lee County Animal Decontamination Workshop
John Haven, Director, College of Veterinary Medicine,
UF & Donna Ward, former Dir. Animal Services, Lee Co.
10:30 Break
10:45 Federal Partner Reports – USDA
12:00 Adjourn

Lacie Davis

Florida SART Editor Attends and Reports on HSUS-Sponsored "Animal Fighting & Cruelty Investigations Course"

Naomi Charboneau

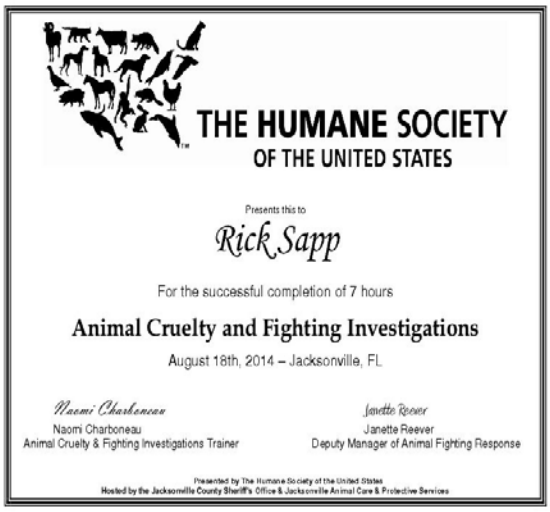

Janette Reever

The Duval County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Animal Care & Protective Services and The Humane Society of the United States hosted a free 7-hour course on Animal Cruelty and Fighting Investigations on Monday August 18th. They also made it available on the 19th. The intended audience for this event was Jacksonville-area law enforcement, animal/humane and code enforcement officers. As a representative of the Florida SART program (as well as an interested individual), your *Sentinel* editor was one of more than 50 attendees for the Monday presentation.

As advertised, the day-long course at the north campus auditorium of Florida State College, Jacksonville, was intended to cover the following:

A. Background on dogfighting, cockfighting and animal abuse in Florida
B. How dogfighting and cockfighting are associated with other felony crimes
C. Investigating a cruelty or fighting complaint: first response to filing charges
D. Recognizing evidence of dogfighting, cockfighting and cruelty
E. Interviews, warrants and evidence collection as related to animal crimes
F. Knowing, interpreting and applying cruelty and fighting laws in Florida

Naomi Charboneau, former law enforcement criminal investigator within several divisions of USDA, taught the morning portion of the course. Now a contract trainer for HSUS, Charboneau covered legal concepts such as evidence collection and seizure procedures, and the necessary documentation. It is a well-substantiated fact, she noted, that animal abuse is linked to other "anti-social" behaviors: spousal abuse and child pornography, for example. In passing, she also discussed hoarding and the fact that animal sacrifice, which is often disguised as a religious practice in Santeria, for example, is not accepted as a legal practice under Florida law. Basic animal care standards for common domestic species – and several that are not – were reviewed in small groups.


THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Presents this to

Rick Sapp

For the successful completion of 7 hours

Animal Cruelty and Fighting Investigations

August 18th, 2014 – Jacksonville, FL

Naomi Charboneau
Naomi Charboneau
Animal Cruelty & Fighting Investigations Trainer

Janette Reever
Janette Reever
Deputy Manager of Animal Fighting Response

Presented by The Humane Society of the United States
Hosted by the Jacksonville County Sheriff's Office & Jacksonville Animal Care & Protective Services

The afternoon session was taught by Janette Reever. Reever is deputy manager of animal fighting response for the HSUS Animal Rescue Team and thus has participated in numerous field operations. Her objective was to give a hard mental overview of the concept, the organization and the results of dogfighting in the U.S. – and, briefly, cockfighting – to the attending professionals. Because she is familiar with the literature as well as on-the-ground circumstances (including legal dispositions) of specific dogfighting cases – from initial tips or complaints to raids to court testimony and eventual disposition of the animals – her photographs and descriptions of events at a match, how dogfighting is part of a way of life and how it is enmeshed in other crimes (gambling, prostitution, etc.), was authoritative and compelling.

On a go-no go, attend-don't attend scale rated from [10 – definitely attend] to [1 – don't bother] the editor rates the presentations and course material as a solid 9. If this information base is part of your job or compelling personal or professional interest, even tangentially, these HSUS presentations will deepen your awareness and understanding of dogfighting in America.

Kate McFall is HSUS Florida State Director (and thus works closely with SART member Laura Bevan and others). Kate says that both the Monday and Tuesday sessions in Jacksonville registered more than 50 attendees for the "Animal Cruelty and Fighting Investigations" course last month.

"I feel the animal protection message – cruelty, fighting and even hoarding – was delivered and well-received," McFall says. "It's important to remember that participating in animal fighting is a felony, a serious crime and this course gives people a chance to network. Sworn officers interact with veterinarians and animal control officers, for instance, so they know who they might call if they see something suspicious. Plus, we give attendees follow-up resources and professional contacts, people who have broad experience in these issues."

Under the Radar

Cotton Seed Bug Eradicated in Florida

The cotton seed bug (Oxycarenus hyalinipennis) was detected in 2010 on Stock Island and Fort Zachary Taylor State Park in Monroe County, Florida (both of these locations are found in the Florida Keys). It was targeted for immediate eradication at the time of detection and, according to Dr. Stephanie Stocks, a member of the Department of Entomology and Nematology at the University of Florida, was officially declared eradicated in March 2014. This pest is found worldwide in tropical, subtropical, and warm temperate environments except in North America.

Photo Credit: Marisol Amador, IFAS/UF

Learn more about the activities of researchers and technicians via the online newsletter of the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network at http://www.sepdn.org/ a SART Partner.

Cotton Production Facts

- In 2007, there were 207 cotton farms in Florida with a total reported acreage of 72,422 acres.
- More than 90 percent of Florida acreage planted in cotton in 2007 was reported as being non-irrigated. The yield in irrigated cotton (576 pounds per acre) that year was nearly 100 pounds less per acre than that of non-irrigated cotton (672 pounds per acre).
- In 2008, Florida cotton production was 122,000 bales (nearly sixty million pounds) harvested from 65,000 acres. The per-pound price (52 cents) growers received equated to a crop value that year of slightly more than $30 million.
- Florida acreage planted in cotton in 2009 (65,000 acres) was slightly less than that planted in cotton in 2008 (67,000 acres).
- Florida cotton production has increased from a low in the early 1990s of approximately 75,000 bales. In 2006, Florida cotton production peaked at 166,000 bales.
- In 2008, Florida ranked fifteenth out of the 17 states reporting cotton statistics. Florida accounts for one percent of cotton grown in the U.S.
- In 2008, the average yield for the U.S. cotton crop was 803 pounds per acre. For cotton grown in Florida that year, however, the average yield was 916 pounds per acre.

Production Regions

All of the cotton acreage in Florida is in the Panhandle. Jackson and Santa Rosa Counties account for two-thirds of the cotton production in Florida. Six other counties — Calhoun, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Walton and Washington — account for most of the remainder.

http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pi220

Nudists Scaring Birds!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) says that nudists – human nudists – are scaring off rare birds on Passage Key.

Passage Key is a small islet at the mouth of Tampa Bay, between Anna Maria Island to the south and Egmont Key to the north. Both islets have areas set aside for rare native bird habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge system. According to FWS, "One of the first national wildlife refuges, Passage Key was established in 1905. This 30-acre meandering barrier island was once a mangrove island with a fresh water lake, but a hurricane in 1920 destroyed most of the island. The island hosts the largest royal tern and sandwich tern colonies in the state of Florida."

Even Wikipedia notes, "Passage Key has suffered substantial shoaling in recent years, and is currently reduced to a small sandbar approximately 100 yards (91 m) long at high tide. Passage Key has been a popular destination for nudists for several years."

"It is a federal crime to walk on the island," a FWS spokesperson says. "Nudists [and presumably non-nudists] are allowed to wade in the water off-shore, but are prohibited by law from being on the island."

The island is monitored on weekends by FWS; officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservative Commission help out during the week. Posted warning signs urge frolicking nudists – and others – to respect the law and this tiny bird habitat, especially during nesting season (April – August). Jail time and/or fines can be given for violating the sanctity of the refuge varies based on the disrupted species.

Florida SARC Schedules Courses

Small Animal Emergency Sheltering – Awareness Level
The Florida State Animal Response Coalition is teaching this course to promote effective response for animals during disasters. Registration is required, but due to grants from Florida Division of Emergency Management and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, no fee is charged for attendance. This course is certified by FDEM as course code FL-003-RESP.

Date & Time: Saturday, September 27, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: Escambia County Emergency Operations Center
6575 North W Street, Pensacola

Date & Time: Sunday, September 28, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Location: The Mall at Millenia Community Room, 4200 Conroy Road
Orlando, FL 32839

For information and registration go to http://www.flsarc.org/Training.html or contact Melissa Forberg training@flsarc.org (352) 658-1224, Pam Burns pamburnssarc@gmail.com, Andy Bass training@flsarc.org or Consie Von Gontard training@flsarc.org.

Hopeful New Tool to Combat Greening

Above: Encasing young citrus trees in tents before a thermotherapy test. (Renee Stern photo) Left: Dr. Eshani

According to a recent story with photos in The Grower (www.thegrower.com) by Renee Stern, exposing infected citrus trees to high temperatures – thermotherapy – "mimics for plants the human body's fever response. In this case, it kills or suppresses the bacteria that causes greening, also known as *huanglongbing* or HLB," says Dr. Reza Ehsani, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering at the University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred.

The bacteria are susceptible to heat, and populations decrease significantly over time starting at about 107 degrees, Ehsani says. Citrus trees can handle higher temperatures for short periods, although thermotherapy may cause some leaf drop and sunburn damage. Researchers and growers are experimenting with different approaches to reach temperatures between 115 and 140 degrees, including tents that focus solar heat over a few days and short steam blasts from an external source. (Read Stern's complete article at http://www.thegrower.com/news/citrus-greening/Growers-enlist-thermotherapy-to-treat-HLB-infected-trees-270200461.html.)

USDA – 2014 Farm Bill

Please rate the following as True or False: "Disaster assistance programs [to agricultural producers] expired in fiscal year 2011. Since then, producers impacted by disease or adverse weather conditions have not received financial assistance for losses incurred."

To discover whether the above is True or False, visit the highlights page for the 2014 Farm Bill at http://www.usda.gov/documents/usda-2014-farm-bill-highlights.pdf.

SART Partner: Florida Agricultural Center & Horse Park Authority

- Occupies 500 acres
- Open year-round but not a "state park"
- Offers local and international caliber competition
- Competition from dressage to polo
- Hundreds of miles of family riding trails
- Created by the Florida Legislature in 1996
- Located in Marion County
- An official training site for the U.S. Equestrian Team
- Limited camping is available: (352) 307-6699 or events@flhorsepark.com

"The Florida Horse Park is committed to serving the community and the state of Florida as an equine evacuation site and partner of SART."

Florida Agriculture Center & Horse Park Authority, Inc.
11008 South Highway 475 Ocala, Florida 34480
(352) 307-6699 http://flhorsepark.com/

About the SART Sentinel

The SART Sentinel is an e-mail newsletter prepared monthly by the members of the Florida State Agricultural Response Team. Past issues of the **Sentinel** are archived on the Florida SART Web Site *www.flsart.org*.

If you have a story or photo that you would like to have considered for publication in **the SART Sentinel**, please contact the editors.

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