



Know the Seeds

They Truly Are a Miracle Seed Quiz Answers

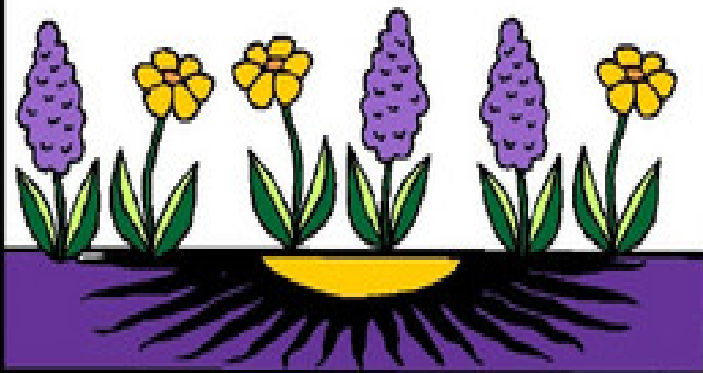


BOB ABBEN, MG

#1 FALSE ...#2 END .. ,#3 FALSE

#4 The answers to this question were very good. Although there were three preconceived answers, here's a partial list, anyone of which would be correct. DIRTY LAWNMOWERS, FISH & SUDD (floating vegetation that will catch or trap seed and move them downstream), WORMS, FLOODS, FIRES, FECES, INSECTS, EXPLOSIONS, SHIPS OR BOATS.

A real "Thank You" to all that took the time to both read the articles and enter your answers. Hope you all enjoyed it!



It Takes Light to See the Beauty

By **BOB ABBEN, MG**

If a beauty contest were held between the butterflies and the moths, there is no doubt that the butterflies would win, by default. The popularity and beauty of the butterflies are seen by all during the day time hours. BUT there are many moths that have beauty that would match the daytime flyers. The beauty of most all moths can not be seen as they are cloaked in darkness. Except one, the **Bella Moth** (*Utetheisa ornatrix*) is a day timer, and a real stunner. (pictured below)

The larval food for this very interesting "garden friend" is *Crotalaria spectabilis*, aka, "rattlebox". This is a very pretty native garden plant and the seed pod has some very interesting possibilities as decorations. The larval or caterpillar will not eat the leaves of the plant, they are interested in the seeds in the large seed pod. The seeds contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids; are poisonous and very essential for both the caterpillar and the adult for their protection. The caterpillar will enter the seed pod by making a small hole in the shell (or rattlebox) and eat the seeds within the pod. When all seeds are consumed it will exit pod and enter another until it is time to pupate.

The sex life of this interesting insect is XXX rated. Go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/> to find out.



University of Florida





Garden Tips

Prevent & Treat a Rash



By **IRENE COSTELLO, MG**

from March issue Martha Stewart Living

Dress Appropriately Wear long sleeves, pants, and boots when hiking or working outdoors. Put on gloves to remove clothes, then wash these and other items that may have come in contact with poison ivy or poison oak. The rash-inducing urushiol in the plant stays active on anything it touches, so handling exposed garments can cause irritation.

Arm Yourself When it's too hot for heavy clothing or you simply want added protection, take a cue from U.S. Forest Service rangers. Before working in areas infested with poison ivy or poison oak, they often spray themselves with an aerosol deodorant containing aluminum chlorohydrate, a chemical found to block urushiol absorption. Also effective is bentoquatam, the active ingredient in IvyBlock (available at drugstores), the only product approved by the Food and Drug Administration to protect against poison ivy and poison oak. Apply fifteen minutes before exposure.

Act Quickly Urushiol must be removed within ten minutes to keep skin from absorbing it. The easiest and best way to do this is to shower with warm water and soap. If this is not possible, rinse the affected area thoroughly with water. Dermatologists recommend waiting to use soap, which has a tendency to pick up oil and redeposit it, until you are able to do a full cleansing. Even better: Bring a bottle of isopropyl alcohol with you when hiking and apply to affected skin. Commercial waterless cleansing solutions, designed for preventing poison oak or poison ivy rashes, are another good option. Find them at drugstores.

Ease Symptoms A rash typically appears twelve to forty-eight hours after exposure to poison ivy or poison oak and lasts ten to twenty days. Cool wet compresses and baths can help relieve discomfort. Consider adding baking soda or commercial bath products that contain alu-



THE SPOTTED BOY.

minum acetate or oatmeal to a tub of warm water to help dry blisters. Calamine lotion and hydrocortisone creams may provide some relief from itching; oral antihistamines have also been found to work. In severe cases, consult your doctor, who may prescribe oral steroids, such as prednisone, or a stronger topical hydrocortisone cream.

Smart Clean-up Tip

By **SANDY HUFF, MG**

Part of the fun of gardening is playing in the dirt. But it's also nice to leave some of that dirt behind when you're ready to head inside.

A simple hand washing station is simple to set up. Tuck a bar of soap into the toe of a knee-high stocking, knot the top, and hang it close by the tap. Just wet your hands, and rub the soap. The suds come right through the nylon. It's self cleaning and air dries. To make it even easier, mark the faucet handle so everyone knows how to turn on just a trickle and not get drenched.



Grandma's Hands

By **JUDY FLEISS, volunteer**

Is life revealed in a woman's hands? Strong, gentle and wrinkled, with calloused palms and blue veins bulging on top, these were my Grandma's hands. Beyond their physical appearance, there was so much more to these loving hands.

Grandma's hands nurtured two children and five grandchildren. She raised chickens, dogs, cats and a vegetable garden that was the envy of neighbors.

Houseplants flourished under her gentle care. I inherited her jade plant which after 40 years is now a small tree. Each day throughout her life, intertwined hands prayed to God in thanks and hope for understanding and faith.

When I was eight years old, Grandma's hands passed on a special gift. She placed tiny, round, radish seeds in the palm of my hand, showed me how to plant them and revealed the miracle of growing things. Each year when I plant my garden, I feel her presence as I sow small seeds, and trust that the miracle of growth which she taught me will always happen. I believe her spirit is embodied in beautiful butterflies and whenever one appears, I know it is Grandma watching over me.

Now when I look at my own hands, wrinkles multiplying and blue veins starting to bulge, I can only hope that I have inherited some of the magic which Grandma's hands possessed.



Dependency.....

By **ROBERT ABBEN, MG**

... everything ... human, plant, insect, animal is dependent upon one or more of the other "species". The human dependency is a little more complicated and would not be a good subject for the "Green Leaf". The other species are very straightforward. Some plants and insects are equally dependent upon each other for survival. If one species declines in number, the other will decline by almost the same number. And as the decline continues both will surely become endangered. Example!, the Blue Agave. This plant is no longer found as a native plant growing in the desert in the Southwest U.S. or Mexico. It has been poached out of existence. It is now farmed for its byproduct, tequila (that should explain the poaching). The plants are so valuable that they are guarded by armed guards 24/7. Some humans may have a dependency on the byproduct, but the real depend is the Mexican **Long Nosed Bat**. The bat is the only pollinator for this agave species, therefore the plant is dependant on the bat.

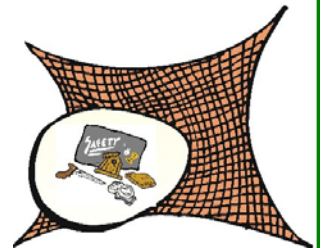
It is unusual for a bat to pollinate, as they are primarily dependent on insects. Other bats find these



insects with their built in sonic system or echo ranging. However the **Long Nose Bat** can smell the fragrance of the agave flowers, and will fly directly to the flower head, without seeing the flower, kind of like a puppy, they can find their "mother's milk" with their eyes closed. The agave produces "pups"; flowers and then will die, very similar to its cousin the bromeliad, but that only applies to those that are native, if not found by poachers, the cultivated ones will be processed before they die. That is not where the story ends, how *does* this dependency chain end?

Safety Tips

Making your Garden Safer



By **PAM BROWN**
Horticulture Agent

You can help to avoid accidents by following some simple guidelines:

- Design a garden so that it reduces the need for high maintenance and lifting.
 - Avoid trip hazards such as loose paving slabs, hoses left uncoiled or uneven surfaces.
 - Use surfaces that provide a good grip underfoot.
 - Do not leave sharp tools lying around. Lock them away from children.
 - Learn which plants are poisonous and ensure children and pets stay away from them.
 - Electrical equipment should never be used in wet weather.
 - Use an GFI (Ground Fault Interrupt) to prevent electric shocks. It cuts out the flow of electricity when a cable or flex is cut through.
 - Lock away chemicals such as weedkillers and insecticides. Just because they have the words 'organic' or 'bio' on them, does not make them safe for children to touch.
 - Wear safety equipment - such as goggles, hard hats, gloves and steel toe shoes - when using machinery. Tuck in loose items of clothing.
- If you are in the least bit unsure about the safety of tackling a job, call in professionals.

Source: bbc.co.uk/gardening



Important Announcements!

It's here and working

You now have the ability to send your volunteer hours by e-mail. The e-mail address is: MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us.

Please be specific when doing this – include individual dates and hours worked just like you would in the logbook. MG Jan Curtin will be recording these hours that are sent in by this method. I appreciate those that are using this method to report their hours and hope you will continue to do so.

Pinellas County Extension & Florida Botanical Gardens

We need help in collecting all publicity related to the Extension and FBG Gardens. Please clip any articles you see that mention us in any way, including weddings and outside events. Please bring the clippings to the volunteer office.

Please remember to include the name of the publication and date published.

Palm Education

Pam Brown has a CD produced by Dr's. Monica Elliott and Tim Brochat of the University of Florida containing PowerPoint presentations on Palm Diseases, Palm Fertilization, PhPhysiological Disorders of Palms, Palm Nutrient Deficiencies, and Palm Transplanting and Pruning. There are scripts to go with each presentation. Three of these CDs are available for MGs to check out and use for study. **If you go through all five of the presentations it will equal 7 hours of continuing education units.**

Thursday, April 27th, 11:39 am

Robert J. Albanese Horticulturist II
Everyone welcome!

Sign up in the Lounge
(Grills will be used if needed)



Green Thumb Festival 20th Year Celebration!

By JOANNE DRAKE

Spring is in the air! Join the fun and excitement at **Green Thumb Festival, April 29 & 30, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Walter Fuller Park, 7891 26th Avenue N., St. Petersburg, Florida.** You'll find lots of gardening ideas offered by environmental and horticulture displays. Attractive vendor displays will get most of us in the spring planting mode, with a wide array of plants and garden accessories to choose from. Each day of the festival will thrill you with the free entertainment, programs and other activities. Listed below is just some of what you'll find.

Flower Show presented by The Garden Club of St. Petersburg, inside the Walter Fuller Community Center, **Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Children's Plant Fair, also inside Community Center

Plant Auction

Diagnostic Clinic

\$3.00 Trees ... More than 2,000

Free Mulch

Free Butterfly Plants

Food Court

Children's Activities

Linda Nash Trio (Jazz)

Enjoy two days of fun at this exciting event. Don't forget to bring your wagon!



We need help!!-Green Thumb-afternoons and mornings available. Earthfest-lots of openings Please sign up now!!!

MG Advisory Association

By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG**

The **Articles of Incorporation** and **Bylaws** were approved for 501(c) (3) IRS tax-exempt status. However, the Bylaw committee agreed to and incorporated the changes to the Bylaws I indicated in the last newsletter. They were sent to the IRS for approval. Please see me if you are interested in receiving a new Bylaw copy.

The Bylaw committee (myself, Linda Culhane, Noel Bell, and Gail Robertson) is now meeting every Friday to work on the Policy and Procedures document. We are detailing how MGAA operates and is organized, and defining the duties of committees.

I have scheduled a general meeting of MGAA on Wednesday April 12 at 11:30 am in the Magnolia room to conduct association business. This follows the Update training so bring a brown bag. Please!! This is your association try to attend.

MGs participating in **special events** should get prior approval and a check voucher from the MG Advisory committee if they are going to expend money for any event and expect reimbursement.



Volunteer Opportunities and Events for April

For Volunteer Opportunities:

Please see or call **Carol Suggs** to volunteer for events (**582-2124**) or the contact person in the help wanted ad.

Southern Oak Elementary

The PTA wants to redo the courtyard using parents and students. A Master Gardener's advice is requested to guide them with proper soil preparation, what to plant and good planting techniques. Even a phone call to discuss this would be very helpful. **Contact Kathy Akers at 560-0867**

Up-coming Master Gardener Update Training Topics

April 12 (Wednesday)–10:00-11:30am- Magnolia Room. MGAA's Board meeting to follow. Brown Bag Lunch

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, 4/12, 10 am, for another **MASTER GARDENER UPDATE** in our series on soils and non-soil potting media. **Michael Polen, owner of Art Stone Orchids**, will give us the word about potting media for orchids when he talks to us about :

DENDROBIUMS: NEW TREASURES FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC .



Mentor meeting April 24th

There will be a Mentor meeting on April 24th at 9 a.m. We will be discussing changes to the MG training application and other issues pertaining to this years training class.

MG Plant Sale Meetings

By **CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG**

As I go to press , MGs are vigorously preparing to set-up our Spring plant sale. With the effort that's taking place under the leadership of Linda Culhane we expect this one to be a great success. Weather forecast says we will be warm, but no forecast of rain. Our advertising agent Brenda Payne has done a great marketing job. Most of the media has carried this event and we have had banners up for some time.

So, lady luck be with us , so we can set another record.

Next plant sale meeting, on April 28.

I Need Your Help to Keep Our Gardens Growing

We need your membership in The Florida Botanical Gardens. You can get into other gardens free or at discounted prices, and that alone pays for your FBG membership. Discounts are offered at most gift shops. Membership offers prior notice and invitations to special FBG events. FBG membership makes a good gift for friends or family. FBG membership allows early admittance to the MG plant sales. Individual membership is \$25; Family is \$35; a supporting garden friend is \$250. If you'd like a leaf on the tree with your name on it, \$1,000 will help grow the gardens

See me or stop in at Botanical Bounty.

Mary Ellen Warner, Membership Chair

Attention Master Gardeners!!

Anyone interested in fulfilling their Volunteer hour requirements should speak to Stacey Zidi about volunteering at the Botanical Bounty gift shop. Call 582-2251 or szidi@pienellascounty.org



April 8, 2006 EarthFest

I need volunteers, morning and afternoon in the Extension tent to talk about composting, FY&N, Rain barrels, Micro-irrigation, and to help with the table where visitors come in to get their "passport" stamped. Please let Carol know if you are able to help.



Are You Aware of SHARE?

SHARE is a not-for-profit organization that builds and strengthens community through volunteer service. SHARE offers savings on food. Everyone who volunteers just two hours a month is welcome to participate. There are no income requirements, just a desire to make a positive difference in the world. If you want to enroll or need additional information about this program, please call 800-536-3379 or e-mail aboutshare@juno.com.

Master Gardener Regional Training Tuesday, April 18

Training sessions and registration information brochure available in the volunteer office. \$20 fee.



"with Asian Delights"

April 8th, 2006

Saturday Evening

from 6 to 8:30

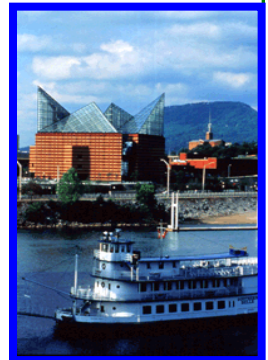
This special evening will feature wine tasting and exotic foods. Music will fill the air. An auction will offer rare bamboo, palm, hanging baskets, art and more. Door prizes will please all. To travel with us, your ticket is \$25 for FBG members and \$35 for nonmembers.

For reservations, call 582-2191. A check is confirmation, make payable and send to:

the Florida Botanical Gardens
Spirits of Fancy
12520 Ulmerton Road
Largo, Florida 33774

Mark Your Calendars Now!

In June, Chattanooga will host the 2006 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference. They are expecting between 500--1,000 Master Gardeners from 16 states for the 4-day event. (June 8 to 11). All Master Gardeners are invited to attend what will be one of the best regional conferences that will be held in the southeast.



There is a special project for all Master Gardeners to get their hands a *little dirty* while they are attending the Conference. The project will be located between the two Tennessee Aquarium buildings along the banks of the Tennessee River. Once the project is completed it will be used as an educational tool for the schools and aquarium groups. Once completed, the project will be one that all Master Gardeners can be proud to have been a participant

We will also be hosting an open Informational Day to the public. On Saturday the 10th, we will have national and regional speakers starting at 10:00 am till 5:00 pm in the evening, and a large vendor area open to everyone to view and buy products and

Below is a link to the Conference Webpage:
<http://srmgc.tennessee.edu/>

Early Bird Registration ends April 17th. Only \$100!



Logging Volunteer Hours and Garden Education Units (GEUs)

Have you been confused about what hours count towards your Master Gardener certification and how they are logged in the Log Book? Hopefully, I will be able to clear this up for you.

Hours spent volunteering, including your travel time (in 15 minute increments) to get to and from your volunteer site, should be logged in the "Hours Worked" column along with the date and what you did volunteering in the appropriate columns.

When you attend a Master Gardener Up-date (usually on the 8th of the month), you will log the time spent during the educational presentation in the "GEU's" column. Your travel time and time spent in the Master Gardener Advisory Association meeting should be logged as volunteer time in the "Hours Worked" column. Be sure to indicate the date and activity in the appropriate column too. Do not enter any information in the "Month" and "Year to Date" columns.

Each Master Gardener who is certified (completed the initial 100 hours volunteer service) is required to serve at least 50 hours volunteer service (in the "Hours Worked") column **and** to attend 10 hours of continuing education (GEU's) each calendar year to maintain Master Gardener certification. The continuing education can be the educational presentations at the monthly Master Gardener Update, field trips (time at destination only) attending other horticulture educational presentations, completing the Palm CD lessons, visiting other botanical gardens, or attending other activities as approved by Pam (ask me). Please note; with the exception of the Master Gardener Update and field trips, travel time to these educational programs is not counted as volunteer time.

If you are a student from the 2005 Master Gardener Training, you do not need to attend any continuing education during the first 100 hours volunteer service that are required for you to become a certified Master Gardener. However, you are certainly welcome to come to the Master Gardener Updates and would log the hours as described above.

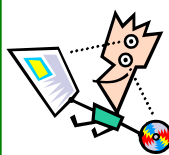
Please let me know if you need any additional information or explanation.

Date	Activity you did/Seminar you attended	Hours Worked	*GEU's	Month	Year to Date
11/10/06	M.G. update and M.G.A.A. meeting	1.5	1.5		

You are all such valuable resources and I certainly appreciate all that you do for us.

♥ Pam

Plant Sale funds contribute to *The Green Leaf* mailing. Urgent!! To save mailing costs please tell Carol or me to remove your name from the mailing list if you can consistently and reliably access the internet version.



We are especially appreciative of staff, MGs, and others who contribute articles, events, and other items of interest to the *Green Leaf* each month.

Please submit your input **by the 20th of each month**. This will help us assemble and publish the newsletter in a timely manner. Also, to save mailing costs, please limit your articles to **700-800** words or less.

Limited newsletter space does not allow for full photograph viewing. If you would like a copy of any photograph presented in the newsletters, please contact me @ **727-582-2117**.

Chuck Scaffidi, MG Editor



The *Green Leaf* is published by Pinellas County Extension Service for the County Master Gardeners and depends on submission of articles from Master Gardeners, Extension Staff and other authors.

Managing Editor: Pam Brown,

Extension Agent II

**Production Editor: Chuck Scaffidi, Master Gardener
727-582-2117**

Please send articles to Pam Brown or e-mail directly to Chuck cascaffidi@juno.com or Pam at pwbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us



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The enclosed material is provided as one of the many services relating to the educational programs offered by this agency. Our statewide network of faculty is prepared to provide current information on food, agriculture, marine and natural resource science, energy, nutrition, family and 4-H youth, and related fields. We will be happy to help you with additional information upon request.

Amela W. Brown

Pamela W. Brown
Extension Agent II, Environmental Horticulture

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Extension leads program for Urban Environmental Sustainability

A series of articles provided by **MARY CAMPBELL, Extension Director**

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners completed a blueprint for urban sustainability in Pinellas County following a strategic plan, known as Vision Pinellas in 2005. Pinellas County Extension is in the unique position to bring together subject matter experts from the University of Florida, as well as experts nation wide, that work on the complex issues of urban environmental sustainability. Urban sustainability is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UN World Commission on the Environment and Development). Sustainable communities recognize that their economic and social structures and the health of the local environment are intertwined. Sustainable communities share common themes and concerns: economic security, environmental protection, social justice, and a commitment to the welfare of future generations.

Pinellas County Extension provides educational programs that complement the communities desire to understand the benefits of creating a sustainable community and the ways in which it is achieved. Extension programs have always focused on educational programs for sustainability. Natural Resource conservation, urban horticulture that improves the environment, youth development and engagement, healthy lifestyles and financial management are all areas of education that improve people's lives. To further the initiative of urban environmental sustainability, Pinellas County Extension will develop a multi-disciplined approach to educational programming to provide a broad base of programs that engage the community in the process of urban environmental sustainability.

The program will be led by a new Endowed Professorship for Urban Environmental Sustainability. Extension will lead the county wide program, which will bring special emphasis to its multi-faceted approach to education directed at fostering environmental stewardship among residents and visitors alike. Pinellas County will continue to work in partnership with its citizens, neighboring governments, developers, businesses, educators and agencies to achieve this vision of sustainability.

The goal is to create a coordinated, multi-discipline approach to providing programs and information on urban sustainability to the community and local governments. This will enhance our local and regional efforts to provide the most appropriate methods and engage a wider audience on an ongoing basis. The Extension office will provide our community with the most up to date information on the benefits, costs and implementation strategies. An additional goal will be to evaluate the Green Local Government designation for Pinellas County, a state wide designation by the Florida Green Building Coalition that would provide a framework for future environmental sustainability and track its progress.

Extension is proud to lead this effort and all the Faculty and educators will be working together closely to coordinate the program. Pinellas County has had a very progressive approach to urban sustainability. Extension will be working together with the Department of Environmental Management, Planning, Development Review Services and many other departments. Pinellas County government will be a regional model for sustainability and programs will be comprehensive and integrated. Instilling a sense of stewardship in our citizens and businesses for our environment will be integral to the vision.

April

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			March 29 Plant Sale Set-up	March 30 Plant Sale Set-up	March 31 Plant Sale Set-up	1 Plant Sale 8a.m. – 3p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Family EarthFest 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
9	10	11	12 MG Update Michael Poulan from Art Stone Orchids. 10 a.m. MGAA brown bag lunch to follow	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Mentor Meeting 9:00 a.m.	25	26	27	28 Plant Sale Meeting – 10 a.m. Aud. C Everyone Wel- come!	29 Green Thumb Walter Fuller Park
30 Green Thumb Walter Fuller Park						

2006



Good Work Pinellas County Master Gardener Volunteers!!!!

ATTENTION!
Master Gardener Update Training
Michael Polen of Art Stone Orchids
Orchid potting media and Dendrobiums
April 12 (Wednesday)–10:00-11:30am
Magnolia Room.

The logo for the University of Florida Pinellas County Extension. It features the University of Florida seal on the left, followed by "UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA" in blue, "Pinellas County" in blue script, and "EXTENSION" in blue. Below this is "Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences". To the right is a stylized sun with red and yellow rays.
University of Florida/IFAS
Pinellas County Extension Service
12520 Ulmerton Rd

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