National Volunteer Week

By CARRIE SHELBY, MG

Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, National Volunteer Week is about thanking one of America’s most valuable assets – our volunteers – and calling the public's attention to all that they do to improve our communities.

The 2007 theme is "Inspire By Example" because it truly reflects the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help, as well as, to inspire others to serve!

As Master Gardeners we share a fantastic history of making a difference in our own community by inspiring others through our actions. Since 1979, cooperative extension agents in 56 Florida counties have maximized resources using a "learn and return" program developed in Washington state: the Florida Master Gardener Program. By providing education-based instruction methods incorporated with the latest scientific research, the program capitalizes on the desire of Florida citizens to learn more about horticulture in exchange for a predetermined number of volunteer hours returned to the individual county.

The state does not require Florida counties to have the program. Rather, each individual county extension office determines the focus and structure of the program. The volunteers (or MGs as we call ourselves) execute a variety of outreach tasks as determined by the program leader. Duties include:

- Answering horticultural questions over the phone, in person or through the media,
- Participating in public service projects,
- Giving educational programs,
- Supporting youth activities,
- Performing soil sample evaluations,
- Assisting in field research.

The ultimate end to all these activities is to extend the vision of the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - protecting and sustaining natural resources and environmental systems, enhancing the development of human resources, and improving the quality of human life through the development of knowledge in agricultural, human and natural resources and making that knowledge accessible. To this end, the Master Gardener Program continues to prove to be the "sparkling gem" of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service.

*In 2006 Pinellas County provided 30,000 volunteer hours from a resource pool of 142 trained Master Gardeners.

Some famous quotes to ponder:

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. - Aesop

We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give. - Winston Churchill

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else. - Booker T. Washington

You cannot help someone get up a hill without getting closer to the top yourself. - General H. Norman Schwarzkopf

We can do no great things, only small things with great love. - Mother Theresa

You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another. - Erma Bombeck
Allen Cordell, Pinellas County Urban Horticulturist, was asked to research, “WWII on the Home Front,” for exhibit at the March 17th “WWII and the Swinging Forties” event at Heritage Village in Pinewood Cultural Park. The project focused on Victory gardens and the role of the Agricultural Extension Agency.

Not being a historian, Allen began researching local newspapers from 1942-1945. Articles dealing with 4-H clubs, County Home Extension, canning classes, Victory gardens, the county agent, and fair exhibits, began to emerge. Local historical societies offered leads and tips, but most “living witnesses” had passed away. The greatest contribution came from a senior 4-H volunteer and a senior 4-H agent. Both ladies directed Allen to the 4-H storeroom, where several stacks of aged binders and scrapbooks lay. Almost forgotten, they had arrived from the old county fair and extension office, what is now Largo Central Park, when the new office was opened in 1982. These notebooks held the minutes of numerous 4-H Council and Demonstration Agents’ meetings. The photo albums displayed livestock exhibits, camping, canning displays and awards.

One manila folder of particular interest was labeled “Co-Ho-De”, which stands for County Home Demonstration, a thriving 4-H recreational camp-site, at Indian Rocks Beach for 18 years. After its purchase by the Pinellas Home Demonstration Council in 1940, it served 4-H clubs, and youth groups for one month each summer and rented to locals and tourists alike. As maintenance costs became more prohibitive, the camp was sold in 1959, for $25,000. “Co-Ho-De” would continue as a beach rental, until its disappearance from the “1967 Gulf Beaches Phone Directory”. Sadly, driving by 2208 1st Street today, reveals no evidence that such a beneficial monument to youth, ever existed.

Moments in History
Early Volunteers

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI and CARRIE SHELBY, MGs

Allen Cordell with the Victory Gardens display panel on exhibit in the Extension’s lobby

Down the road at Indian Rocks Beach to Camp “Co-Ho-De” -1941

4-H class group gathered under the pines at Camp “Co-Ho-De” in 1942
It is with sincere sadness that we announce the passing of “Dick” Richard C. Klimpel, on March 2, 2007, at Palm Garden of Largo. Dick was a long time Master Gardener, having graduated with the class of ’94. He was born in Hempstead, N.Y. He was an Army veteran and served in Korea.

Before retiring he was a procurer for Sperry (Hercules). He was an avid golfer and loved to tell jokes.

Bill Mielke, MG remembers him this way:
“It was always a good day working with Dick. He would start the day with a couple of jokes and you would hear the same jokes two or three times a day. He was proud to be a Master Gardener at the Extension Service and enjoyed working with the other MGs. He was a great P.R. man and would talk to all the visitors he could, telling them about the gardens. Everyone left with a smile and a thank you.
He was also proud of the landscape work he did at his church and of his weekly delivery of Meals on Wheels. Dick was a very caring and giving person and truly loved people.”

Dick leaves his wife of 50 years, Alice; son, Douglas of Greenville, S.C.; and daughter Kathleen also of Greenville, S.C. He will indeed be missed.

Sam Skemp, MG, provided these three photos from 1991. They depict the early days of the 4-H garden at the Extension. Sam’s love of volunteering and the inspiring example he set for young gardeners is clearly portrayed. To help put in perspective the site of the early 90’s 4-H garden take a look at the photo on the right. The vegetable garden plot was where the herb garden is now located at the back of the Extension building.
Tribute to Chris Culhane

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

Everyone kindly passed on their condolences to Linda Culhane as they learned about the loss of her son, Chris Culhane, on March 17. A number of Master Gardeners attended the memorial mass and reception on March 26 at Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church. The bus loads of Chris’s friends from the Upper Pinellas Association for Retarded Citizens (UPARC) who attended was a touching sight. A few stories were told during the service about Chris’s closest friends and how they often communicated by cell phone. Several of the them formed a choir and sang two songs in a very emotional tribute to their departed friend.

There are lots of happy memories of the 2004 Master Gardener UPARC therapeutic garden, a project that Linda chaired. Those MGs who participated in this project know the effort that went into its creation. Linda has learned that UPARC has decided to dedicate this garden to Chris. It will be named the “Chris Culhane Therapeutic Garden”. A dedication is planned for the next UPARC board meeting in April.

Included below is a favorite picture of Linda and Chris taken at UPARC when the garden was opened. The UPARC MG project was awarded a University of Florida State Special Audiences award. The UPARC award book is located in the volunteer office if you choose to view the story and photographs.

Plant of the Month in our FBG

By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

Plumeria pudica
Frangipani

Familiar to most of us, the delightfully fragrant Frangipani (*Plumeria rubra*) is one of our only fully-deciduous landscape plants—looking stark-naked for most of the winter in many Florida gardens. We are fortunate to have another species of Plumeria in our gardens, *P. pudica*, the White Frangipanni.

This Central and South American native produces lovely, white fragrant flowers for a *loooooong* time during the growing season. Although uncommon in cultivation, it is easy enough to grow; demanding only a well-drained soil, full sun, and a modicum of supplemental watering.

White Frangipani keeps its uniquely-shaped leaves throughout the winter, allowing it to blend into the landscape a little better than its sister!

The genus name, Plumeria is in honor of Charles Plumier, a French botanist who explored the French Antilles and Central America in the 17th century. It was Plumier who described Fuschia, thus introducing it to Western science and subsequently to horticulture. Plumier was named Royal Botanist to King Louis XIV due to the immense dedication and attention to detail he displayed as he “botanized.” At his death, Plumier had described hundreds of new species, and produced breathtaking illustrations to accompany his descriptions.

The species name, pudica is applied to many plants and means “bashful.” Why Plumier chose to refer to this beautiful shrub as bashful may be known only to him; but as nomenclature must follow rules, the name he gave it has stuck.
Propagating $$
By JUDE BAGATTI, J.D., L.M.T., MG

The soil was rich but I was not.
Who said money can’t grow on trees?
I’d plant and prove with my green thumb
How wrong they are, how dumb!

That Spring I sowed a greenback to propagate my stash.
I carefully chose a crisp new bill to fatten up my meager till.

With coins I fertilized it well, invested it with care.
My rain barrel gave it compound drink, heartier than from simple sink.

I probed for pests that might eat up my interest, and kept watch to keep the dollar weed at bay,
then waited long, day after day.

I talked to it and sent it love to rouse its dormant state.
In God I put a lot of trust, yet no leaves grew to check for rust.

My single buck refused to sprout no matter how I mulched.
You’d think I’d reap at least a penny, but that cash crop did not yield any.

I finally dug the sad stock up and brushed away the dirt.
Its value hadn’t lost a cent.
On me, such lessons are ill spent.

Next Spring I’ll try a bigger bill.
To defeat, I’ll not succumb.
And just to play it extra safe, I’ll use my other thumb.

What’s Cooking in Your Garden?
6th in a series of articles
By JESSICA FOSTER, MG

Kaffir Lime Tree
Citrus hystrix

The Kaffir Lime tree is a 6 to 10 foot tall citrus tree native to Indonesia and is not actually a true lime. The tree produces small, pear-shaped fruit that have a green, wrinkled appearance and although they are used for their zest and juice in medicines, the tree is mainly grown for the heavily scented leaves which are used in cooking extensively throughout Southeast Asia. The dark green, glossy leaves of the Kaffir Lime have an odd appearance in which they look like two leaves joined end to end.

Unlike other types of citrus, a Kaffir Lime can be grown true from seed. Soak seeds for a week in water which is changed daily and then sow about an inch deep in a 6 inch pot of fertile, free-draining soil that is kept evenly moist. Seedlings may emerge in two-three weeks. The plant will grow slowly for the first couple of years and can be easily maintained in its pot. Since the Kaffir has a compact growth habit it can remain container grown or transferred to open ground once good growth is established. As an adult plant it is hardy to 10 degrees F., needs full sun, good drainage and should be fertilized throughout spring and summer.

The Kaffir Lime can be an exotic, welcomed “new” citrus addition to your Florida yard with its beautifully perfumed leaves and conversation piece fruits!
Recipe for Tom Ka Gai - “Thai coconut soup”

3 cups unsweetened coconut milk
2 cups chicken stock
4 stalks lemongrass, bruised and chopped
1” piece galangal, thinly sliced*
10 black peppercorns, crushed
10 Kaffir Lime leaves, half torn, half cut into very thin strips
11 oz. boneless chicken, cut into thin strips
1 cup straw or button mushrooms
Half of a red bell pepper, cut into thin strips
4 Tbsp. Lime juice
3 Tbsp Fish sauce**
Chopped scallion, red chili flakes and cilantro leaves to garnish

Bring coconut milk and chicken stock to a simmer and add lemongrass, galangal, peppercorns and the torn half of the Kaffir Lime leaves. Cook for ten minutes. Strain the stock into a clean pot. Return to the heat and add chicken, mushrooms and red bell pepper. Cook for about 5-7 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Stir in the lime juice, fish sauce and the strips of Kaffir leaves. Garnish with the scallion, red chili and cilantro.

This soup is most delicious with its perfect balance of sweet, salty, sour and spicy!

* Galangal can be purchased at Asian markets and Asian produce stands at flea markets or you can substitute fresh ginger.

**Fish sauce can be purchased at Asian markets and some grocery stores.

And, SunGuard is so easy to use! Add one package of Sun-Guard to a warm or hot water laundry load along with laundry detergent and you wash in skin protection for up to 20 washings. SunGuard won't change the color or comfort of clothing and is safe for even the most sensitive skin.

Source: http://www.sunguardsunprotection.com/

Learn and earn GEU's

E-course is being offered free of charge (see below for enrollment)

Best Management Practices (BMP) for the Landscape is being offered by Green Industries Institute through December 31, 2007, and is sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Upon completion you will have earned 4 hours in GEUs.

Find more information at http://www.greenindustries.org Then check under College Courses> Non college courses> 4 hours>BMPs for Landscape.

Course content includes:

- Appropriate water use in everyday landscape practices
- Irrigation, fertilizer and pest management practices for reduction of pollution and water use
- Mechanisms and techniques to enhance employee and client awareness of the importance of protecting water and other environmental resources
- (4-hour CEU) jointly authored by UF/IFAS Extension, FDEP, SFWMD, the landscape and pest control industries, provides landscape managers with methodologies to protect and conserve the quality of surface and ground water supplies.
- Tuition for this course is sponsored by DEP through December 31, 2007.
- This course is recognized by FDACS for Florida Pesticide License renewal, FNGLA, LMA and PLANET agencies or professional associations.

Safety Net

By PAM BROWN, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent

You may know that you can purchase clothing that is labeled for sun protection. But, did you know that you can get added sun protection by adding RIT SunGuard to your clothing while doing the laundry? SunGuard works by washing an invisible shield into clothing that helps block more than 96% of the sun's harmful rays from reaching your skin. With the active ingredient TINOSORB® FD, a UV protectant from Ciba Specialty Chemicals, SunGuard can boost the UPF protection of a white cotton T-shirt from UPF 5 to UPF 30.
Kudos to MG College

By PAT DIETERICH, MG

On Tuesday, March 20, 35+ MGs gathered at Extension for the first session of MG College 2007, a unique intra-state educational presentation. Technical gremlins were in attendance as well, but eventually the first session began, featuring Gary England from Hernando County. He spoke about budding and grafting, and refreshed our knowledge of the various techniques. Of particular interest was the news that due to threats from citrus canker and citrus greening, citrus propagation is now only allowed in certified citrus nurseries, and beginning in 2008, all citrus trees must come from greenhouses fitted with insect-proof netting.

The next presenter was Dr. Juanita Popance from the Mid-Florida REC, who discussed Principles of Tissue Culture. For those of us lucky enough to attend the MG field trip to Apopka last December, it was a wonderful review of some of the same sites and procedures we had seen then. Dr. Popance addressed callus culture, organ culture, and meristem culture, and emphasized the extensive lengths the growers go to in order to eliminate contaminants. We were once again awed by the incredible attention to detail that precedes our simple “box store” purchase of a new house plant!

After lunch our own Dale Armstrong presented an intriguing lecture about hybridization. Aided by colorful slides, he showed us the results of hybridization in hibiscus, which is fairly simple, and produces results in a reasonably short time. He then discussed hybridization in citrus, which takes years to be fully realized. But when it literally “bears fruit”, we are treated to Honeybells, Tangelos, Clementines, and more.

Enriched and educated, Master Gardeners felt the day back in “college” was a success, and are eagerly anticipating the next session, on April 3. We hope you all can join us then.

Lakeland City Parks Department Chief Addresses MGs

By PAT DIETERICH, MG

For our March MG Update, Master Gardeners were treated to a presentation by Bill Koen from Lakeland. Once again he not only brought us garden news from his fair city, but hauled a truckload of beautiful and unique plants here to both educate and entice.

Lakeland has a palm garden on the shoreline of Lake Wire that now features 124 kinds of palms. On the shores of Lake Morton they’ve planted a flowering tree exhibit that showcases over 100 kinds of flowering trees from all over the world. The city has also assumed maintenance of over 400 large terra cotta pots that are located throughout downtown. He praised the use of Zeba, a granular mixed with soil to conserve water. It works to save and then release moisture.

Responding to a question about what Lakeland uses successfully in beds during the hot summers to provide color, he suggested the Nirvana series of vinca, coleus, gauras (especially Stratosphere type), Antiqua marigold, Profusion zinnia, torenia, and Luna hibiscus. Once again he provided us with many wonderful specimens to propagate for our plant sale. In return, MGAA made a contribution to the Lakeland City Parks Department. We are already eager for his next visit, wondering what amazing plants he will showcase.
Important Announcements!

VSP5, the new county computer program for logging volunteer hours is in the volunteer office. You must log your hours the day you volunteer. Those that can not be at Extension when they volunteer should log hours on a standard form so your hours can be entered by an assistant volunteer coordinator. If you have been sending your hours by e-mail, use the form as a guide. Send to: MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us.

Training is on-going and we will provide forms in the volunteer office. Remember enter travel & GEU time twice.
See coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or an assistant (Cathy Nelson, Carrie Shelby, or Mary Crowe).

Boy Scout & Extension Staff Seek Volunteers for P-2000 Restoration Project

An exciting opportunity to help restore a natural habitat at the Florida Botanical Gardens!

You may be aware of the properties to the east of the formal gardens known as the P-2000. This consists of 60 acres of natural lands that we are in the process of restoring to healthy habitat. After years spent under occupation by humans, cattle and a host of exotic plants, a huge effort is in progress to restore more natural plant and animal communities. The site is host to several rare and or endangered species, including sundews (those sticky, fly-catching carnivorous plants), gopher tortoise, bobwhite quail, and several orchid and bromeliad species.

The area is currently going through exotic species removal and a simulated “burn.” Fire is a critical factor in maintaining the health of many of Florida’s natural areas. As fire has been excluded from this area for so long, if we tried to burn it now, the built-up leaf litter would possibly become an unmanageable fire. Therefore, we are playing the part of fire by mechanically and chemically removing the tops of many of the present vegetation, except for native pines and the larger cabbage palms.

Following this activity, the bare ground will be ready for the re-introduction of native plants and trees that would naturally take advantage of the open ground following a fire.

Therefore, we need teams of volunteers to help with the planting, maintenance, record-keeping, seed collection and species recovery operations.

We are fortunate to have Zack Smaridge, a Boy Scout, who has taken this project on for his leadership badge. He will be coordinating teams of volunteers for the various activities. Zack will take the lead on restoring native plants as part of his Eagle Scout Project in the Southeastern portion of Botanical Gardens. The 10 acre plot will be restored to natural Pine Flatwoods and Sand Hill environments. Volunteers are needed for the first planting on Friday, May 4th beginning at 9:00 AM. Volunteers should bring their own gloves and meet at the parking lot entrance to the Botanical Gardens on Walsingham Road.

If you have any questions please contact Zack Smaridge at 727-320-0235 or email at Saxman9575@AOL.com.

If you are interested in being involved, please get in touch with one of the members of the Natural Area Working Team: Vernon Bryant, Bob Albanese, Jeanne Murphy or James Stevenson at (727) 582-2100.

On June 16 and 17, the Pinellas Living Green Expo will be held at the Coliseum in St. Petersburg. Pinellas County is a sponsor and Extension will be providing several programs. The Extension Sustainability Program Area will have a booth – Check Your Green Commitment!

We need volunteers both days to ask visitors to fill out a pledge. We will hand out a magnet prompt and hopefully another give-away. We will be asking for e-mail addresses to do some follow-up surveys.

We need about 20 volunteers (2 hours each from 9 am – 5 pm) to talk to visitors and help them do the pledge. T-shirts and an orientation will be provided to the volunteers.

Hopefully a few volunteers may want to continue to work with us on sustainability and do some follow up for the pledge.

Please contact Mary Campbell. 582-2100 http://www.pinellaslivinggreenexpo.org/
Plant Sale News
By LINDA CULHANE , MG

I dropped by today (March 28) to help and see how everyone was doing. As I knew you would, all has come together so smoothly. Several MGs have come to the forefront and taken over. We are extremely thankful for all your time and work. We are in a new area this year which added more effort to getting ready. Thanks to everyone for doing such an extraordinary job.

We appreciate all the support from our MGs during these sad days after our son, Christopher died. For those that sent cards and flowers, contributions, provided us with food and were able to attend the church ceremony and/or reception, we thank you. My family will be eternally grateful for your kindness.

Because of your efforts I am very optimistic that we will have a record setting sale Saturday!!

See you soon and thanks again for your support.

Linda

Message From Compost Happens

Save all green cuttings, etc. from around the Extension and put them in the containers in the composting area. Compost made from them will be sold to benefit the MG association.

Please no weed seeds, nut grass, torpedo grass, etc.

Attention Master Gardeners

Anyone interested in fulfilling their volunteer hour requirements should speak to Stacey Zidi Manager, Botanical Bounty, about volunteering at the gift shop.

The shop is open Tuesday -Saturday from 10am-5pm. Each day is split into two 3 ½ hour shifts, mornings (from 10-1:30pm) or afternoons (from 1:30 -5pm). She’s looking for a minimum commitment of one shift a week. No previous retail experience is necessary.

Call 582-2251 or szidi@pinellascounty.org

Need Your Help to Keep Our Gardens Growing

MARY ELLEN WARNER, Membership Chair

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 $30; Family is $50; 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 the Botanical Bounty gift shop.
Volunteer Opportunities and Events for April–May

Spring is always our busiest time. Please look at the opportunities and let Carol Suggs (582-2124 or csuggs@pinellascounty.org) know if you are willing to help out with any of these activities. You may also look for sign up sheets on the back hall bulletin board for the large events. Activities are really fun and informative.

Master Gardener Update Training
The update training for April has been cancelled. The Master Gardener College has taken precedence.

May 8th 10 am Master Gardener Update
Andy Wilson will speak about the selection and care of Palms for our landscapes. He will also include problems that can develop in the landscape related to nutrition, disease and pests.

Master Gardener College Tuesday April 3, 9:30am to 2pm. “Pest Management Update.”

MG Advisory Association
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, Chair

The MGAA documents are available for all MGAA members on request. They detail how MGAA operates and is organized, as well as the duties of committees. The next MGAA meeting will be Tuesday, April 3 following the MG college at 2:00pm. I will E-mail an agenda out prior to the meeting.

Green Thumb Festival
Saturday and Sunday, April 28 & 29 at Walter Fuller Park in St Petersburg
The shifts are from 8:30am to 12:30pm and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. We need at least 4 volunteers for each shift each day – we have a children’s seed planting and butterfly display, so if you like to work with children – this is a good place to be.

Butterfly Garden Stepping Stone Workshops
At Linda Alcorne’s Garden
293 Orange St, Ozona

Friday April 13 1-3:30pm
Design & Create your stone

Friday April 20 1-2:30 pm
Grout (optional)

All stones will be displayed in the new butterfly garden coming to FBG on April 21! $10 covers all materials and refreshments
Registration required. Call Bessie Morse (727)215-6666 or email trophy540@runbox.com

Family EarthFest!
Come Celebrate Mother Earth
April 21 from 10am to 4pm.
The FREE family-friendly event offers a full day of fun and excitement at the Pinellas County Extension and Florida Botanical Gardens. Come dig in a fossil pit, build your own birdhouse, pick up a free tree or shrub for your yard or play with the Monarchs and Zebra Swallowtails in the butterfly tent. Stories for kids, food, music and lots more will round out a perfect day in a beautiful setting.

Volunteers Needed:
12 to staff the Extension tent
8 for children’s area recycling craft table
4 for caterpillar petting zoo
4 for butterfly parade
Help also needed for set up and take down.

The Thursday Green Team is going to have a PIG-Out @ Fort Desoto Park Thursday April 19th
Lunch is expected to start somewhere around 11:30 – 12:00ish (as soon as the coals are ready!). If you would like to attend please plan on bringing a dish to share, and a place to sit and eat (a sign up list is posted in the break room), for more details give Bob a call @ 582-2081.
(Given the time of year we have not planned on an alternate rain date).
Urgent..Urgent!!
Register now
International Master Gardener Conference

Spring is in the air in Arkansas! Daffodils are blooming, and plants are coming back to life. We are gearing up to wow you with our gardens this May.

April 1 is only a few short weeks away. Yes, we know it’s April Fools’ Day, but it is also the deadline for sending in your registration for the International Master Gardener Conference which will be held May 2-5, 2007 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Over 940 Master Gardeners from 43 states and 4 provinces have already registered, and we want to include you in that group. Registration materials can be found at http://mg2007.uaex.edu

Due to the high volume of registrations we will not be offering one-day conference registration. However you can purchase additional meal tickets if you have a spouse/guest wanting to attend either the Wednesday evening meal function or the Thursday evening Taste of Little Rock function. At this time, we are not able to alter the registration form on-line to accept payment for these tickets. If we have a credit card on record that you would like it charged to, you may email your request to me, giving me name, meal needed, and food choice if applicable. **DO NOT send credit card information via email.** A ticket for Wednesday evening includes an invitation to the cash bar cocktail hour, dinner, and presentation by keynote speaker Dr. David Lipschitz for a fee of $42.50. A ticket for the Taste of Little Rock activities on Thursday night from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. can be purchased for $55.00 and includes transportation to the River Market, Clinton Library, Historic Arkansas Museum, and the Old State House, as well as entertainment, dinner, and other refreshments at each of the four stops.

Spouses may also register for the whole conference and attend tours, seminars, meals, etc. even if they are not Master Gardeners but are attending with a Master Gardener. If you have already registered, and wish to purchase these additional meal tickets for a spouse or significant other, please email us with the name and food choice, and we can add it to your credit card bill—or mail it in with a check or credit card information. **Do NOT send credit card information via email,** as it is not secure. Attached is the form you may use to send in for additional meal tickets.

We have several choices of hotels for you to choose from, The Peabody has limited space, but try the Doubletree or Holiday Inn Presidential. There is also space reserved at the Little Rock Hilton, but this is the farthest from the site. Limited shuttle service will be available. If you need a room mate, let us know ASAP. I have heard from a few MG’s who are traveling alone and willing to share a room.
Spring is always so very busy. I really appreciate all of you that have signed up to spend extra time volunteering at the many events that we participate in. If you have not signed up for any of these, we still need a few volunteers for Family EarthFest on April 21, we also need two for the morning shift and two for the afternoon shift for the Earth Day Celebration at Honeymoon Island State Park also on April 21, and it looks like Green Thumb has all the spaces filled. Please check the bulletin board for any additional opportunities. Then, we still have EPCOT to go. We have four dates (May 11, 16, 24 and June 1) to fill – four MGs and one staff person for each date. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board and four participants will be drawn from all the names signed up for each date. You have until April 4 to sign up for this fun day.

I would also like to thank Lou LaGrande and his team who researched and ordered the new T-shirts and Carrie and Chuck who worked on the MG logo so that it would incorporate Pinellas County and have fewer colors to screen print. The shirts look great – I am very proud of all of you. Great job!

We are counting down the hours until the Plant Sale. Thanks to all of you who have been working so tirelessly to make this a great event!

There were several comments on the evaluations from the first Master Gardener College session on March 20 that I would like to address. A summary of the comment, that several made was that Tissue Culture of plants was not the kind of information that can be passed on to the public as education so why are we learning about it? It may not be something that you are likely to discuss with homeowners, but the information does give background on how many plants are propagated in the commercial horticulture trade. This can broaden your understanding of plant physiology and the study of horticulture.

Speaking of Master Gardener College, there are two more sessions scheduled, April 3rd and April 17. There will not be a regular MG Update class on April 9th because of these two classes. We have done a couple of things to improve the transmission of the lectures for the April 3rd session.

Those of you who have been helping maintain the gardens are tireless. You have all been great, as always! We could not do this without your willing service. ♥ Pam

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 for the County Master Gardeners and depends on submission of articles from Master Gardeners, Extension Staff and other authors.

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Assistant Editor: Carrie Shelby, Master Gardener

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

The newsletter is available on the Internet at http://www.flbg.org/
Click on “Master Gardener Program”, click on “MG Newsletter”
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<td>MG College 9a.m. – 2 p.m. Magnolia Rm. Bring a bag lunch MGAA MTG to follow</td>
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<td>Happy Easter!</td>
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<td>9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Lawn &amp; Garden Help Desk at Brooker Creek with Cindy 10 a.m. Butterfly Gardening program at BC</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m. Storms and Trees Pam Brown at Anderson Park in Tarpon Springs</td>
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<td>MG College 9a.m. – 2 p.m. Magnolia Rm. Bring a bag lunch</td>
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<td>Thurs. Green Team PIG Out Ft. Desoto Park Starts at 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Family EarthFest 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Earth Day Celebration Honeymoon Island State Park</td>
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Good Work Pinellas County
Master Gardener Volunteers !!!

We are ready for the Plant Sale Saturday, March 31st

No MG Update Meeting in April.
Proposed MGAA Meeting Tuesday, April 3.
Will notify by email