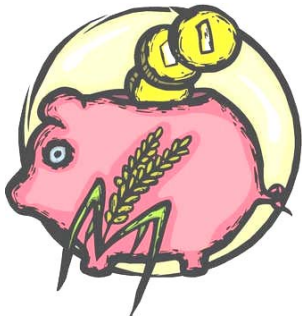


## MASTER GARDENER SEED BANK

By BOB ABBEN, MG



Just a reminder that the “bank” is open most of the time for deposits and withdrawals. Anyone may make a deposit with a deposit slip (of your choice)

that states name of plant, either generally accepted name and botanical name if possible (not Grandmas Purple Plant). Being an AAAA rated “bank” we only deal in Florida Native & Butterfly currency. There are only three known such efforts in Florida. One purpose of the “bank” is to supply free of charge, native seed and butterfly larval seed to schools, organizations and Master Gardeners. The primary purpose is to offset the daily destruction of the habitats of both native plants and butterfly larval plants. All deposits should be either seed or dried seedpods. To make a withdrawal for any of the above purposes, please place a withdrawal slip (of your choice) in the “bank” box on top of the file cabinet in Jean Fields office. Your seed withdrawal will be attached to your sign-out sheet. Unlike the big time banks, deposits may not be made electronically, however, you may make withdrawals electronically. Visit the “bank” for full details. On some special occasions the “bank” may be open to the public ... cash only for withdrawals. Although this article may have some degree of humor ... the “bank” staff is VERY serious about the purpose of the “bank”

## Long Anticipated Trip a Success

By RUTH DAVIES, MG



Excitement overcame the need for sleep as the three intrepid master gardeners sat aboard the British Air plane New York to London. My seatmates were gardeners from Virginia. Smoothly, the 56 people on the English garden tour were shepherded aboard a bus around 8 a.m. LST, destination Windsor Castle. The Queen was in Edinburgh, but her garden was well tended.

Lunch was provided at the Fosters in a delightful orangery – a place to winter citrus grown in pots. The gardens were parterre style and were being trimmed and weeded.

The hotel was in Kensington, north central of the business district, which we walked every evening. The homes are classic and four or five stories high, generally. Antiquities are revered in this county, so the older, 200-year-old town homes, are cherished. The owners embellish them with flower boxes and containers of colorful annuals and ivy.

Canterbury is a town out of a Dickens novel with quaint Shoppe’s and an active cathedral; alas, there were no gardens. Our bus driver

delivered us safely at the hotel with no detours due to the bombings. At Leeds Castle, formerly a 900-year-old garrison, prison and convalescent home that was modernized in 1926, the Culpeper gardens took my heart. We hope to update the cottage garden in the wedding garden in the same fashion soon. In the grotto, the walls were lined with real tufa. Yes, someone made planters of tufa, and of course I took a picture.



**The Hampton Court Palace Flower Show** was huge and breathtaking. The BBC televised preparations of some of the show gardens during the week, so seeing them in person was special. The tents containing the floral marquees were filled with specialty plant displays by nurseries. To then drive over to Kew Gardens was loudly protested, but we were prisoners of a tour. Fortunately, there is a tram that drives through the property, and lacking energy, that's all we could do – and shop. We'll save Kew for another visit.

On the way to the Southampton docks, the tour stopped in Portsmouth. Tours of the HMS Victory and the 400-year-old Mary Rose were an interesting bit of history of this island country. The Queen Mary 2 was all she was cracked up to be – luxury on the waves. As much as we walked in London, we ate on board. Our daily seminars, delivered by a professor of landscape architecture, tied our garden tour together, and we found there were master gardeners on the trip from throughout the country. I'm saving my pennies for next summer's trip with seminar host Robert McDuffy to Bodnant Gardens in Wales. I was there years ago in March, so summer will disclose other flowers. I'm hoping the tour can

include Wisley, the Royal Horticulture Society's learning center, before we enter Wales.

We were like kids in a candy store, "ooh, that's pretty, I wonder what it is!" Some questions were answered, others remain to be researched – and that's the fun of gardening. And, I'm still catching up on my sleep.

## Lawns & God

From: GARY BAXTER

**GOD:** St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in the USA? What happened to the

dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

**ST. FRANCIS:** It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers weeds and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**GOD:** Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**GOD:** The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

**GOD:** They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Not exactly Lord. Most of them



rake it up and put it in bags.

**GOD:** They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**ST. FRANCIS:** No, sir -- just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**GOD:** Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Yes, sir.

**GOD:** These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

**GOD:** What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You'd better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

**GOD:** No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

**ST. FRANCIS:** After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**GOD:** And where do they get this mulch?

**ST. FRANCIS:** They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch

**GOD:** Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**ST. CATHERINE:** Dumb and Dumber, Lord. It's a real stupid movie about ...

**GOD:** Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



## Garden Tips



### “IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME”

(Provided they are still alive)

By BOB ABBEN, MG



If you plan to build a butterfly habitat, please, do it NOW. Time is running out. Imagine yourself flying above our land called Pinellas. Look down, look close, what do you see? Do

you see any real songbirds? Do you see any butterflies? When I look, I see wall to wall concrete ... maybe if you look close off in one corner you may see a little spot of green where some butterflies have congregated. Someone built it! ... and they came. Several years ago, maybe twenty-five or so I made this same imaginary flight; I saw butterflies and songbirds and many open spaces. I saw a “native” Florida, not what it has become, an imported tropical tourists impression of what Central Florida is not. Many newcomers to our area will try with no success to replicate and import the plants they had in their yard in “Indyconnoise”; that not working, now they want the tourist folder Florida. Funny thing about that folder, it was of South Florida. Florida has THREE different climate zones, and in each there are many species of butterflies that are indigenes to that climate zone. That’s where the butterflies find their natural larval food. Through all this building and importing, the songbirds and butterflies have been chased out their habitat or if they stay they can’t reproduce. It has not been recorded that any butterfly has a

charge account at a mall store or fast food place. Our Extension office has many fine Uoff handouts that will help you develop your habitat, a little green space that you can share with those in need. If you need more information, just ask. Your efforts need not be any greater than ONE plant. Build it, and enjoy the results.



can also affect individuals who are young and fit.

**DO:**

- Drink plenty of water.
- Take breaks in a cool, shady area.
- Watch for symptoms of a heat stress, both in yourself and co-workers.

**DON'T:**

- Ignore symptoms of heat stress.
- Try to get a suntan while working.
- Try to "keep up" with the rest of the crew, even though you feel ill.

Source: National Ag Safety Database



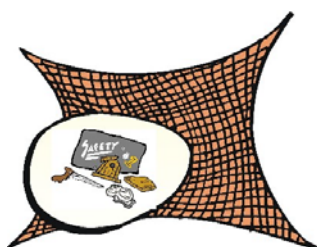
**By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG**

Have you noticed someone from the Horticulture staff wandering around the FBG during lunch looking like a professional photographer? Well its Wilma Holley, Dale Armstrong's FY&N program assistant with camera and lenses in hand (not digital) capturing our growing gardens and wildlife. I promised to showcase a few of her shots each month.

Wilma will also be happy to let you look at her complete collection.

**Safety Nets**

**By PAM BROWN**  
Horticulture Agent



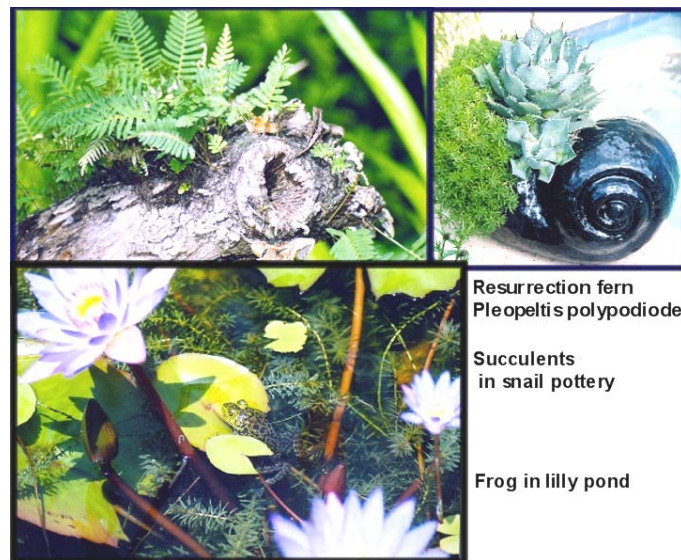
I know that I wrote about heat safety in June, but it has been so hot and humid these past few weeks, that I felt that a review was in order.

Working in a hot environment puts stress on the body's cooling system. When heat is combined with other stresses-like hard physical work, loss of fluids, or fatigue-it may lead to heat-related illness, disability, or even death!

The body is always generating heat and passing it to the environment. The harder you work, the more heat your body has to lose. Heat leaves your body in several ways:

- Transfer from skin to air.
- Evaporation by perspiration.
- Exhaling hot air.
- Touching a cool object.

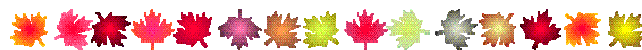
Individuals over age-40 need to take extra care when the weather is hot, because our ability to sweat declines as we age. However, heat stress



Resurrection fern  
*Pleopeltis polypodiodes*  
Succulents  
in snail pottery  
Frog in lilly pond

**Behold the glory of the garden.  
Within its simple beauty  
there lies a glimpse  
of life's miracles.**

Source unknown.



## 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](mailto: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 your 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 include the name of the publication and date published.

### ■ MG Participation in Events

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. Please follow this procedure.

See **Chuck Scaffidi** (582-2117) if you have questions about this procedure. MG members manage the advisory account.



## Volunteers Needed!!!

### For Volunteer Opportunities:

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

### ■ Tour Guides Needed

Tour guide season is between September and May.

Please make your interest known to **Tom Roberts** or **Sue Richardson**; visit them or call **582-2242** to make an appointment. They will brief you on what is required of a tour guide and sign you up to shadow tours. Also, you may assist during a tour to get experience - **sign up!!**

### ■ School Gardening Help Needed:

#### ◆ Pinellas Park High School

6305 118<sup>th</sup> Ave. N.

Teacher would like to establish a vegetable garden with science class students. Requesting a Master Gardener to give technical advice. **Contact Diane Stevens at 538-7410 ext. 186**

#### ◆ 74<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary Gardening Initiative

They want to beautify areas of the campus using staff, parents, and students. Requesting a Master Gardener to guide them with soil preparation, design and planting. Want to include educational signage for plantings. **Contact Suzanne Shirk, Media Specialist at 727-893-2120**

#### ◆ Southern Oak Elementary

The PTA wants to redo the courtyard using parents and students. Requesting a Master Gardener to help with soil preparation, what to plant and proper planting techniques. **Contact Kathy Akers at 560-0867**

#### ◆ St. Josephs Church

2102 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South St. Petersburg

Help needed for one Wednesday afternoon (3 – 5:30 p.m.) children's program in September, October or November to present a lesson on how to plant and care for tomatoes or some other easy to grow vegetable. This is a group of children gathering for Wacky Wednesday and their plan is to encourage good eating. Please contact **Deborah Schechner at 488-4796 or paxsez1@tampabay.rr.com.**

## ■ IFAS Award of Excellence for Master Gardener Projects

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

Pam Brown has approved a proposal from the MG project advisory committee (MGPAC) for the “MG Grand Herb Garden TourFest”

We feel there is a remarkable growth of interest in herbal outreach as evidenced by the HerbFest and GardenFest interest. Also, we have been in discussion with Penny Khaled president of the Herb society and she has offered many suggestions for this project. She is very enthusiastic about continuing to advise and assist us. The Herb Garden TourFest will consist of three parts: an MG guided tour of the herb garden, food preparation by an accredited chef and a keynote speaker on an announced herbal subject.

Please contact Pam, Chuck, Jack or Sam to contribute to this exciting project. We will be in need of a leader for this event, herb garden tour guides, and many helpers to make this a successful award-winning project. We also respectfully welcome suggestions for this event.

The advisory committee will continue to assist MG startup projects and identify projects that have state award potential.

For all project award submissions we are in dire need of the following MG skills: creative writers, editors, reviewers, graphic artists and others willing to help. Please see me or call **582-2117** if you are interested or you feel you are working on a project we should consider.

## Volunteer Opportunities and Events for August/September

### ■ MG Advanced Training Aug 8<sup>th</sup> at 12 N in Auditorium A

This month Vernon and Pam will be presenting their experiences from the Chicago and ABGA conference at the MG advanced training update. – Lots of pictures

**Please plan to be here!**



✿ **SAVE THE DATE** - *GardenFest III* is set for **Saturday, November 19th, 2005!**

MGs are needed to teach various classes that include plant propagation, plant care, rain barrel, micro-irrigation, composting, butterfly gardening, hypertufa, and many others. We are also looking for people to teach holiday crafts using plant materials. Others are wanted to assist with duties related to the running of GardenFest.

The second meeting will be **Tuesday, Aug. 2, at noon in the conference room.**

We will try to expand on the creative ideas that came out of the last meeting.

Thanks go to the many MGs who have volunteered to teach that day. Still need more - composting, propagation. Y'all are needed!

If you are interested, please contact **Ruth Davies at sunflower1368@juno.com** or phone **399-0352**.

### ✿ MG Plant Sale Meetings

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

A reminder to all, the plant sale meetings are the last Friday of the month and all are welcome to attend. **Next meeting is Aug 26 @ 10:00 am in auditorium C.**

#### **Plant sale pricing.**

At the plant sale meeting on **June 24** a concern was raised about pricing plants for sale.

MGs who propagate plants may not always agree with how the plants are priced.

To resolve this, a plant pricing committee led by Michael Petay was formed to consider how to establish fair prices.

The committee will develop a pricing methodology that will maximize our profits.

**A ground rule that has already been established is that those who bring plants for sale or propagation must consider them as being donated to the plant sale committee.**

If you are concerned about how plants are priced join the committee and present your thoughts and help with developing the pricing methodology.

Please contact Michael Petay at **582-2599** if you are interested.

The **Articles of Incorporation** for our MGAA account was completed and notarized. We have applied to the IRS for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. A companion By-Laws document is required and we have a rough copy that will be available in the volunteer office for review and comments. Any questions about either documents or how and why MGAA was organized please see me.

The Plant Sales require an extraordinary amount of MG hours to make this a special and successful event. Your continued support is encouraged and we would like a goal of having the most MGs involved. This is a very rewarding learning experience personally. Knowing that plant sale profits benefit Master Gardener programs from education to supporting charitable organizations is **an added bonus**.

**Get involved!!! Start by coming to our plant sale meetings and/or talk to the plant sale team leaders.**

### 🌻 Landscape Design Basics



Have you wanted to be able to design your own landscape? Do you want information on site analysis and plant selection? Our new design basics class may be just for you. It will be held in four sessions on **Tuesday**

**nights from 7 – 9 p.m. The dates are September 13, 20, 27 and October 4.** The series will end with a design for your landscape (done as homework). Designs will be reviewed during the last class on **October 4** with recommendations from the horticulturists teaching the series. The series will cost \$40 (\$30 for MGs) to cover materials. To pre-register for this class series, please call **727 582-2673**.

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## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER CONTINUED TRAINING CONFERENCE

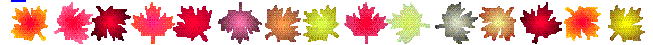
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**October 24-26, 2005**

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**University of Florida  
J. Wayne Reitz Union  
Gainesville, Florida**

<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html#site> for more information



**with you – MGs  
The sun always shines**

The hot summer seems to go on and on. As I write this we have seen five named hurricanes by July 15 all originating in the Caribbean – the times they are a changin' as Bob Dylan wrote many years ago.

I had a great trip to Chicago for the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta conference. I got to visit the Morton Arboretum, Cantigny estate, Garfield Park Conservatory and the Chicago Botanic Garden. All wonderful gardens and it is really neat to see what can be done education wise when there is lots of money in the budget. I was really impressed with Chicago and all of the green space – there were flowers and plantings in nearly every inch of vacant ground. The downtown area is really lovely. Vernon and I will be presenting our experiences at the MG update on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

School starts this month, and that brings requests for help from teachers. Please search your hearts and let Cindy or me know if you can help with any children's activities. Please also peruse the School Help Requests in this issue to see if you can be of assistance to any of them.

**The State MG Conference** is scheduled for October 24 – 26. I have placed information about the conference in the MG workroom near

the logbooks. The registration forms should be available by the second week in August. I will print some out once they are available. I will be taking a van to the conference. There will be room for seven MGs to ride with me. I will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the back wall by August 8<sup>th</sup> – first come, first served. You do need to be a MG in good standing (volunteered at least 50 hours last year) to ride in the van. I will be staying at the Baymont Inn and I think that since the conference starts at 9 a.m. on Monday, I will plan to leave on Sunday afternoon and spend the nights of October 23, 24 & 25 at the Baymont – returning the evening of October 26<sup>th</sup>.

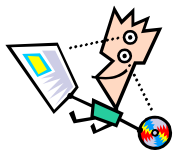
Remember the 2005 Master Gardener training is starting on the tenth of this month. Please welcome the new students when you see them and make them feel at home here. Also, if you want to set in on any of the classes as a refresher, please feel free to do so. The schedule of classes will be posted on the bulletin boards.

As always, we appreciate all of the various jobs that you do that make our jobs so much easier. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

♥ 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 about **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, Editor



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*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**

Please send articles to Pam Brown or e-mail directly to Chuck [cascaffidi@juno.com](mailto:cascaffidi@juno.com) or Pam at [pwbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto: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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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.

*Pamela W. Brown*

Pamela W. Brown  
Extension Agent II, Environmental Horticulture

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