Sustainability at Florida Botanical Gardens – Begin the Journey

By MARY CAMPBELL, Extension Director


The Florida Botanical Gardens at Pinewood Cultural Park will inspire and educate visitors by showcasing flora, fauna and natural resources in surroundings that motivate the visitor to practice environmentally sustainable techniques.

The Florida Botanical Gardens mission statement was developed to provide a vision for the central focus of the gardens in 1998. Sustainability is a very worthy focus for the gardens and will provide a model for our community to understand sustainable practices. Extension has a committee working on how to best implement the practices and educational interpretation to fulfill the original mission of the gardens. How do we model for our community sustainable practices through the gardens?

There are several primary themes that we will be able to expand on and new ones that we will be able to add. The Florida Friendly landscaping principles need to be in obvious use whenever visitors roam the gardens. It is not always easy to “practice what you teach”, but we should be able to showcase things like “right plant, right place”, with how we select and properly place natives and non-natives, based on cultural requirements.

Reduce, reuse and recycle is an important principle for our community and we now have a community recycling location near the Extension building that will also be a way to easily dispose of paper, plastic, newspaper and aluminum cans from our campus. Reducing the waste stream and reusing or recycling products saves both the energy to produce new products and the waste stream. Composting our organic waste from the garden will be increased so that we can showcase for our community how we put nutrients back into the soil from where they came and can reduce chemical fertilizers that may ultimately pollute our watershed.

Water conservation is a critical part of any process to be sustainable. Increasing population is straining available water resources in some areas of Florida. Rain barrels and cisterns will provide new ways to save water, as well as removing sprinklers in areas that are well established and do not really need supplemental water. As new plant selections are made, they will be grouped by water needs and more plants will be showcased that require little or no additional irrigation.

A new Master Gardener program to grow vegetables in the raised beds at the gardens will be a great example of how homeowners can produce fresh and healthy foods from their yard. A new "Market in the Park" farmer's market, starting November 3, 2007 at Extension, will bring local farm produce to this urban area. We can support local farming which helps preserve local green space and reduce the fuel required to transport food. The average travel for many foods we purchase at our grocery store is 1500 miles. That adds to the carbon footprint of our country, which right now is four times that of other countries. We each have a carbon footprint based on how much carbon dioxide
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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Please send articles to cascaffidi@juno.com or pwbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us

*The Green Leaf* is available on line by clicking on newsletter

we generate in our normal daily life, such as, travel, food production, clothing production and our household. If you would like to calculate your carbon footprint go to: [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html)

Or ecological footprint: [http://www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp](http://www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp)

Help us make our garden sustainable and be a model for our community. Find out more about Sustainable Living on the new Solutions for Your Life website: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/)

Check Your Green Commitment - Take A Pledge! Let us know you are a Master Gardener and we will provide those names for recognition in the next newsletter.

[http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/sustainability_form.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/sustainability_form.htm)

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**Local Vendors Sought for Pinellas County's New Farmer's Market**

By MARY BURRELL, Communications Specialist

**Vendors are needed for a new farmer's market** coming to Pinellas County. Sponsored by Pinellas County Extension, *Market in the Park* will bring together farm-fresh local produce, gourmet foods, plant vendors and more. Combined with Extension's popular education seminars and local music, the new market will add a fun, fresh and friendly market for the county's citizens to enjoy.

"Farmer's markets are growing in popularity because people are looking for an old-time sense of community where people gather to find fresh foods, shop local products and enjoy time outdoors with friends and family." said Mary Campbell, Director of Pinellas County Extension. "We are excited that this new market, conveniently located off Ulmerton Road in the central part of the county, will give shoppers an open-air market choice surrounded by the beauty of the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village."

Pinellas County Extension agents and the Garden's Master Gardeners will also provide free weekly educational seminars on gardening, nutrition, cooking and other popular Extension courses. A schedule will be available at [www.pinellascounty.org/events](http://www.pinellascounty.org/events).

*Market in the Park* will be held in the main parking lot at Pinewood Cultural Park, adjacent to Florida Botanical Gardens, Heritage Village and Pinellas County Extension at 12520 Ulmerton Road in Largo.

*Market in the Park* will be held every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., beginning Nov. 3, 2007 and running through April 26, 2008.

For more information or to obtain a vendor application, call the market manager, Richard Kendler at (727) 733-4215. ■
At the western end of the Herb garden and shading the compost demonstration area lives a HUGE and lovely tropical shade tree, *Pseudobombax ellipticum*. This species belongs to a group of closely related trees that share the common name “shaving brush trees”. The common name refers to the large, showy flowers, bearing a multitude of excised stamens giving them the appearance of old-fashioned shaving brushes.

Shaving brush trees belong to a tropical sub-family of trees formerly assigned their own family, the Bombacaceae. Recent studies, involving taxonomists from the University of Florida, have shown the similarities are not strong enough to warrant their own family, but instead they belong to the hibiscus family, Malvaceae. There are approximately 16 genera in this sub-family and 100 species, found throughout the tropics.

As a sub-family, the Bombacoideae share some commonalities such as: flower structure, palmately lobed or divided leaves, and spongy wood, often used for water-storage (the Queensland bottle trees, in the front of the Welcome Center belong in this group). This light wood has made one species, *Ochroma pyramidale*, commercially important as balsa wood; famous for its applications in the toy industry.

Another relative, the kapok (*Ceiba pentandra*) has taken another of the group’s characteristics to an extreme. The fruit of the members of this group contain small hairs, which must serve as some sort of dispersal mechanism. The kapok fruit contains so much “fur” that the hairs were once used as the filling for life jackets, and thus the trees were grown commercially.

In the Tropical Fruit Garden lives the Malabar or Guyana Chestnut, *Pachira aquatica*. This tree flowered this year, and those who noticed it will testify that the shaving brush trees certainly live up to their common names! The question is, for how much longer will the shaving brush be an understood entity? In a few years’ time, the term “shaving brush” may be as obscure as Bombacoideae!

For more information about this interesting group of trees, including how to grow them in your garden, check out Watkins and Sheehan’s *Florida Landscape Plants*, from the University of Florida Press.
Don't Diss Dandelions
By JUDE BAGATTI, MG

A TV commercial shows a bright yellow flower with healthy green leaves being sprayed a shot of death. The drooping, dying target is one too many people love to hate: Dandelions!

I cringe each time I see those poor, golden-headed plants sprinkled with poison. I happen to respect and love them. And what is NOT to love? At least folks in the state of Ohio give this much-maligned, misunderstood plant its proper due. Dover, Ohio celebrates with an annual Dandelion Fest featuring dandelion wine and a cook-off. Chicken Dandelion Pizza anyone? In Avon, Ohio, members of the Society for the Promotion of Dandelions would like to see it made our national flower.

So, what's with this humble "weed" which appears on most herbal lists like Rondale’s chart and Neva Jensen’s Herbal Health Guide? For starters, let's call it an herb, rather than a weed. Dandelion is also known as blowball and white endive, due to the white fuzzy ball that succeeds its initial golden flower. Used for centuries in China, Europe and by Native Americans, the benefits of its roots and leaves are numerous and documented. Extract of dandelion root is one of the botanicals used in the well-known Km supplement drink and lotion. Its brochure states that on the Spanish isle of Minorca, residents subsisted only on dandelion when their harvest was destroyed.

Dandelion greens are high in Vitamin A and C, Niacin and Calcium. Both roots and leaves aid digestion, cleanse the blood and help detoxify liver and kidneys. A general tonic, mild diuretic and laxative, the plant is useful in treating edema, gout, anemia, blood sugar problems, asthma and skin disorders like acne, eczema and psoriasis. It is said to lower blood pressure and cholesterol, prevent bloating, and most surprising, fight age spots and senility! So again, what's not to love?

I can vouch for the fact that dandelions also reduce mental fatigue and boost endurance. An avid hiker, I've wandered for days in mountains miles from fresh food. Knowing dandelion leaves are edible (with chicory they often appeared in salads I ate as a child), I began adding them to my energy-bar diet. Like an Indian shaman, when I came upon the wild plants along my trails, I asked the dandelions for permission to pick a few of them, never depleting all, always leaving some to regenerate. Trusting no pesticides were present in the wilderness, I ate not only leaves but chewed the golden flower as well. It was like swallowing a slightly bitter, miniature sun. Call it imagination but I felt my vigor immediately restored.

If you don't count it as a blessing when dandelions raise their lovely heads in your lawn, please don't spray them with poison. Douse them with vinegar (works just as well) and call me (727-322-6211). I'll add the olive oil for a healthful salad.
WHAT'S COOKING IN YOUR GARDEN?

Recipe for Tequila Lime Shrimp with Avocado and Tomato

Serve this with a crusty, French baguette!

2 TBL. Olive Oil
1 small onion, diced
3 cloves garlic, minced
10-15 shrimp
¼ cup Tequila
3 Roma tomatoes, diced
2 limes, juiced
1 TBL. cilantro, chopped
1 avocado, diced
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Sauté onions and garlic in the oil over medium heat until translucent.

Add shrimp and continue cooking for 5 minutes.

Add tequila, cook 1 minute.

Add tomatoes and sauté an additional 3-4 minutes.

Remove from heat and fold in lime juice, avocado and cilantro.

Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.

9th in a Series of Articles

By JESSICA FOSTER, MG

AVOCADO
Persea americana

The Avocado is a medium to large fruit-bearing tree that is native to tropical America. It is grown commercially throughout the world in the tropics and subtropics, including southern Florida.

We are all pretty much familiar with how to grow an avocado from the large seed inside fruits that have been purchased from the store. First you rinse and blot the seed dry, then three toothpicks are pushed into the thickest part to suspend the seed over a water filled glass. Finally, make sure that only the lower half of the pit is submerged. In two to six weeks a sprout will emerge from the top and roots form at the bottom. It is then transplanted into a container of soil.

Taken care of properly it will make a fine container or landscape plant but the chance of it ever bearing edible fruit is slim. In order to ensure a vibrant, fruit producing plant, you must purchase a grafted seedling from a nursery. Nursery avocado trees are usually grown in 3 gallon containers and stand 2-4' tall.

Choose a site that receives full sun and is far enough away from other trees and buildings. Dig a hole 3 times the diameter and 3 times as deep as the root ball. It is not necessary to amend the hole with fertilizer, topsoil or compost. Position the tree in the hole so that the top of the root ball is level or slightly higher than the surrounding soil. Fill in soil and tamp down removing any air pockets and water immediately.

For the first week water should be given every other day than 1-2 times per week should be sufficient. Fertilize four times a year with a 6-6-6 slow release fertilizer. Grafted avocado trees typically will produce fruit in 3-4 years.

Le Jardin des Plantes, Paris, France
By JESSICA FOSTER, MG

A few weeks ago my husband and I were on vacation in Paris and decided to spend one day away from the hustle and bustle of the city. We took a trip to Le Jardin des Plants, the biggest botanical garden in Paris. If ever an MG decides to make the trip across the pond to this lovely city, do not miss out on this incredible sight! In 1633 Louis XIII built the Royal Medicinal Herb Garden for the use of medical students. In 1640 it became the first garden in Paris to open to the public. Between 1739-1788 the gardens were enlarged and became a center for scientific learning. Botanical and horticultural collections include many types of dahlias, cannas and geraniums, a rose garden and a section containing 400 different types of iris. The Ecological Park is set in the English manner with many trees and shrubs growing wild. The rockery in the Alpine Garden is covered with 2000 species of Alpine plants and has a curious micro climate which enables the temperature to vary by up to 46 degrees! The garden is also the site of a 66 foot cedar of Lebanon, one of the oldest trees in Paris, two large hothouses boasting Mexican and Australian flora, a maze, menagerie, National Museum of Natural History, Museum of Evolution and Museum of Geology.
**Crafts / Design**

- How to Buy Solar Heating w/o Getting Burned; Wells; 1978
- Nature Printing w/Herbs, Fruits & Flowers; Bethmann; 1996
- Outside/Inside The Flowers of Stan Hywet; DuPree; 1987
- Pressed Flower Pictures & Citrus Skin Decorations; Booke; 1962
- Solar Heating & Cooling; Kreider; 1982
- The Art of Driftwood & Dried Arrangements; Ishimoto; 1951
- The Complete Book of Dried Arrangements; Underwood; 1952
- The Complete Book of Garden and Outdoor Lighting; Gladstone; 1956
- The Garden Design Primer; Ashmun; 1993
- Wreaths & Garlands; Hillier; 1994

**Diseases**

- 1998 Florida Plant Disease Mgmt Guide; Simons; IFAS
- 2000 Florida Plant Disease Mgmt Guide; Kucharek; IFAS
- Ball Field Guide; Daughtrey; 1992
- Control of Insects & Diseases of Dooryard Citrus; Brogdon; IFAS; 1976
- Diseases, Nematodes, Mites & Insects Affecting Strawberries in Fla; Howard; IFAS; 1985

The Library Team appreciates the many comments from MGs expressing how helpful it is to have a place dedicated to research. We hope you all find the time to visit our little nook located behind the help desk. Remember to wear your official name tag so you won’t be stopped from entering. Thanks for your support!

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**Master Gardeners on the Go!**

- MGs recently volunteered at **Art for the Garden** at the St. Petersburg Clay Company located in the Seaboard Railway Station. The station is one of the last remaining examples of railroad architecture in Pinellas County. MGs were on hand to promote Florida Botanical Gardens membership and to distribute educational literature from the Extension. Unfortunately, this year the crowd was smaller than in previous years of the event.

- Jean Field and the Native Plant crew spent a summer morning at Brooker Creek Preserve. Led by a knowledgeable guide they focused on the scrub pinelands and the transition to the wetlands. They learned about the various plants that thrive in these zones. Next stop on their fun-filled day was the Suncoast Primate Sanctuary in Tarpon Springs. Mindy Bickey volunteers at the sanctuary and arranged a tour of the impressive facility.


Left Photo: MGs learn about the sand pit trap built by ant lions. Right Photo: Linda Barnette, Marie Singer, Jean Field, Mary Ellen Phillips, Mary Putnam, Tom Carey, Michael Stewart, Roy Anderberg. Seated with chimpanzee is Mindy Bickey & Jason Beck
Hello Master Gardeners!

I am very excited to welcome you back to campus for the 27th Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference. This year, the event will be held in the Reitz Union in the heart of campus. This venue allows us to keep the costs down, enjoy a first class meeting facility, and experience a little bit of campus life GATOR style.

Each year we learn from previous years and try to make each conference better. We took your suggestions and have adjusted the schedule to make this year truly enjoyable. We will hold the 4-H contest prior to the beginning of the conference so those participating will not have to miss any of the educational components. On the first day we have topics that are sure to increase your knowledge base and give you information to bring home to share with your peers. Enjoy an evening reception at the Florida Museum of Natural History and see another part of campus.

Day Two is highlighted by a day of learning at the Pine Acres Research Facility. This station is full of great research projects and you will come away with the latest information directly from the research plots. Following the tour we have a general session and the always lively horticulture auction which helps to fund our recognition and service awards. Following the Horticultural Auction, enjoy the local flavor of Gainesville and the comradery of your friends by participating in the Downtown Dine-Around.

Day Three has more educational sessions and an opportunity to share what you know and to learn from your fellow volunteers about how their programs work. We will complete the day with our awards program and an inspirational presentation from one of America’s top horticulturists, Dr. Robert Lyons.

This will be an incredible conference. Plan to attend and bring the other volunteers from your county. I look forward to seeing you here in Gainesville.

Sincerely,

Tom Wichman
Florida Master Gardener Coordinator

Registration Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Early Registration Fee (For fees postmarked on or before September 21, 2007)</td>
<td>$195.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular and On-site Registration Fee (For fees postmarked after September 21, 2007)</td>
<td>$210.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Registration Fee (includes: Welcome Reception, Hort Auction and reception, Awards Luncheon and Keynote Speaker)</td>
<td>$95.00</td>
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The conference registration fee, combined with funds contributed by our generous sponsors, provides three days of educational program, conference materials, a proceedings booklet, the Monday night welcome reception, daily refreshments, Tuesday field trip to Citra Pine Acres Research Center and catered lunch, the Tuesday evening Horticulture Auction and reception, and the Wednesday awards lunch.

We are happy to announce that a "Guest Registration Fee" will be offered this year. It includes participation in the Monday Welcome Reception, the Horticulture Auction and Reception, and the Wednesday Awards Lunch and keynote speaker. Please note that no reduction in the guest registration fee can be given if you choose not to attend any of these included events.

Registration is limited. Register Early to Ensure Participation.

Online Registration available soon.
IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MGAA
- MG Update
- Plant Sale Update
- Wanted: Your Discards
- Volunteer at the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop
- Sign up for FBG Membership
- Volunteer Hour Sign in

The Gift Shop will be open Monday through Friday, 10-5, until Labor Day. We are short of volunteers - if you know of anyone who can help during the summer, please contact me at the number below. Many thanks to all of you for your continued support! Your business is appreciated. Stacey P. Zidi

Call 582-2251 or szidi@pinellascounty.org

- FBG Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership. Master Gardeners don't forget to use your discount. See: Mary Crowe or Mary Ellen Warner

The computer program for logging volunteer hours is in the volunteer office. You must log your hours the day you volunteer. Those that cannot be at Extension when they volunteer should log hours on a standard form so 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. Remember to enter travel & GEU time twice.
Send to: MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us.

See coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or an assistant (Cathy Nelson, Carrie Shelby, or Mary Crowe).

- MG Advisory Association, Chuck Scaffidi, Chair

Next MGAA meeting Wednesday, August 8, 9:00am, Magnolia Room
At the July 25 executive board meeting the following items were decided.

- Grant the request from Mary Crowe for $350 to start a Junior Master Gardener program at Bauder Elementary School. This money will be used to purchase manuals for teachers and students.
- Visit to Martin and St. Lucie counties. The tentative schedule is to depart from Extension at 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 8. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. A $20 refundable fee is required to reserve a seat on the bus. Attendees will be asked to pay for their own lunches (2) and snacks. We will return on Friday, November 9 between 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. More details will follow. Mark your calendars now!

For MGAA documents visit our IFAS/Extension web site at: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml

- MG UPDATE-Monday, August 8, 10-11:30am

Tricia Weimer, President of the Rose Society, will be speaking about roses.

- PLANT SALE UPDATE, Linda Alcorne, MG

Greetings from the Greenhouse. There are 73 more growing days until the October 6th plant sale. Thanks to everyone who responded to our request for one gallon pots. We again have plenty to keep growing. Richard and Bill helped arrange pots and we now have a new growing table in the cactus/succulent area which Linda Culhane, Patsy and the Friday team promptly filled with cactus dish gardens to sell. They also prepared some lovely shade dish gardens, so plan on picking some of these up for gifts. Their Apopka shopping trip also yielded some new to market plants that we all might want. Thanks for all the continued plant donations. One garden fairy godmother thinned her lilies and brought us lovely crinums and amaryllis as well as pots. I didn’t get her name but THANKS.

We need empty hanging pots - 6", 8", 10" or 12", with or without hanging wires. Please drop them off on the white round table in the hanging pot area south of the shade house.

This week we are focusing on Natives. Linda Barnette and others on the Native Garden team with Jean Fields have already started us many, but we are hoping to continue to increase this plant category as it is in keeping with our Right Plant/Right Place mission and there will be continued interest from the public for this.

The focus weeks in August include pinching, grooming and upgrading during week one, pond plants week two, cactus and succulents week three, and shade and house plants week four. In September we will finish up with pinching, grooming, upgrading, inventory and labeling. Hope to see you in the greenhouse.

WANTED: YOUR DISCARDS. I am working with a non-profit that works with the mentally retarded. We need the following by October.

- plastic detergent or Clorox bottles
- odd shaped glass jars
- children’s buckets (plastic or metal)
- used CD’s
- 1" paint brushes
- silk flowers

If you have any of these items you no longer desire to clutter up your house, please consider donating. Just leave the items on the white table at the south end of the shade house.

Thank you for your offerings. Linda Culhane
FBG CHILDREN’S TRAIL
BY CHUCK SCAFFIDI and PAT DIETERICH, MGs

■ Cleverness Calls
   MG’s, we need your input! The Children’s Trail committee has met several times, and staff and MG’s have identified a list of places on the property that could be enhanced to become a part of the Children’s Trail. Some of these are the new Butterfly Garden, the thatched roof structure in the tropical garden (envision a tree house or fort, perhaps?), and the observation platform near the pond. Educational opportunities abound, but we need a name or title. Remember, we want to keep this whimsical and fun, truly appealing to kids. What do you think? Please share your thoughts with Chuck Scaffidi—and thanks in advance for your ideas.

■ Meeting Minutes
   The Children’s Trail Committee met July 24, 2007. James Stevenson, Cindy Peacock, Bobbie Jones, Dianne Wheatley-Gilotti, Chuck Scaffidi, Pat Dieterich, and Betty Lipe were present. Following a review of the last meeting, Chuck presented an overview of the 16 sites selected, and emphasized the possibility of using sites that are already intriguing and might just need enhancement. Pat photographed each potential station and Chuck will be keeping a note book of these candidates. These are the new Butterfly Garden, the thatched roof hut in the tropical garden, and the observation platform at the native pond. The committee was made aware of the three dimensional tree “bulletin boards”, which are available.

   It was decided to add the Fruit Garden area available near the new mural as the fourth location for a children's stop. We discussed possibly growing a type of vine that could be sculptured so that children could walk/crawl through to explore. Cindy and Chuck will work with the MGs that maintain the area to decide the features of this site. It was also pointed out that each children's station should have a theme, i.e. water conservation, nature, tree conservation etc. We will decide later. Cindy Peacock said she would like to suggest specifics for the themes, i.e. butterfly life cycle, tree facts, facts for water conservation etc.

   The need for an umbrella title or name for the trail was discussed; the use of "Discovery" should be avoided due to overuse elsewhere. Instead of using the word "Discovery" we liked trying “WOW” as our catch term. But, it will require a lot of thought to decide what it will stand for and we are open to suggestions. Also for each station, we talked about identifying 4 special features for each. As an example the fruit garden could offer 4 fruits as educational items. Also mentioned is making ceramic posts for markers identifying each station.

   James Stevenson, new advisory committee member, was asked to show the committee the back pack concept he is displaying in the lobby and using for discovery tours. We decided to somehow integrate this concept into the Children’s trail.

   Bobbie Jones mentioned that one of the Children’s Gardens web sites that Pat had provided, had very interesting information that we should follow up on. The site is:  http://www.greenhome.com/info/news/123.shtml

   The next meeting is Friday August 3, at 9 am in the Gardenia room.

Since the last update there has been no change in the plans. The delay is caused by a property line dispute between Habitat for Humanity and the neighbor next door. Until this gets resolved the building plans are on hold. We are moving along, but slowly. I will keep you posted.

Linda Culhane 530-1250. e-mail: lbculhane@verizon.net
Reporting Master Gardener Contacts
Important Information – Please Read
By PAM BROWN, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent

With cuts in Extension’s budget for the FY 08 fiscal year at both the county and state levels, it is more important than ever that we maintain our image as the one of the best Extension offices in Florida. You, as Master Gardeners, are extremely important in helping maintain this image.

I need to capture all of the educational contacts that each of you make when talking to people answering questions in the gardens or at events, when you make presentations at Garden Clubs, Libraries, Schools or Associations; when you do educational programs here at Extension; when you make yard visits, working with school gardens; or when you are making phone calls on behalf of Extension to answer questions.

The form for capturing this information is on the Pinellas County Master Gardener web page at: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/pdf/record-form.pdf](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/pdf/record-form.pdf). I will also have them available in the MG workroom. Please send or bring these to me on a monthly basis. I capture all of this information for my annual Report of Accomplishment that goes to the University of Florida/IFAS Administration.

All you do and the reporting of this information helps establish and maintain the viability of this Extension office. Please ask me if you have any questions about this form or what needs to be reported.

By PAM BROWN, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent

The drought goes on and it seems to me that this is the hottest summer I have experienced since I arrived in Pinellas County. Or, maybe as I get older I am more intolerant of the heat. Please protect yourselves with sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat when working out in the gardens. And, remember to drink lots of water. You are very important to us.

On July 11 – 13 we had a review team here from UF/IFAS Administration looking at our Extension programming. Several MGs participated in the stakeholder session when they were reviewing the Urban Horticulture program and others participated with the overall Extension review. I was really pleased with the preliminary assessment that they gave us on the last day. We are doing a good job, but they did also offer some recommendations to help us improve. There is always room for improvement. I have a copy of the preliminary review presentation if anyone is interested in seeing it.

Please pay special attention to the section on the Master Gardener College in this newsletter (page 11) for information on the latest class series on Plant Identification. Many of you asked for this class and I think that you will find James an informative and entertaining instructor. There is a class limit of 35, so sign up early on the bulletin board in the back hallway.

I have included an article on reporting educational contacts in this newsletter. Please pay close attention to this and begin reporting your contacts, if you are not currently doing so. These numbers are an important way that we show the importance of Extension to the public. In a crunch when budgets are being cut – numbers can sometimes make all the difference.

The State Master Gardener Conference is scheduled for October 22 – 24 this year. This year the conference will be held at the Reitz Union on the UF campus in Gainsville. See page 7 to register.

I know this seems to be redundant – but we really do care about each of you. We appreciate all that you do for us in support of the Extension mission. Thanks from all of us.

♥Pam
Attention – Master Gardener College

How to Identify Plants Series – taught by James Stevenson
■ Weds., September 5, 12, 19, & 26 from 9 – 11 AM in room 132 at EMS Building
It is important that you attend all classes to benefit from this program. Join James to learn the process of identifying plants. A book will be available for each MG to use during the class. If you wish to keep the book, the cost will be $5.
The class is limited to 35 students. The sign-up sheet will be on the back hall bulletin board.

Designing Outdoor Garden Rooms – taught by Jean Field
■ October 1 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
This class begins at the field trip location in Palm Harbor. You will need to use your own transportation or car pool. There will be more information as we get closer to the date.
All of those who signed up on the sheet have been included in the class roster, including the alternates. This brings the class size to 40.

If you signed up for this class and now find that you will be unable to attend, please let Pam know – we have others who would like to take the class.

Master Gardeners Advisory Association is registered on GoodSearch. MGAA receives a direct donation every time supporters use GoodSearch to search the Internet!
Please go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) At about 1 cent a hit, GoodSearch has earned MGAA $2+. Come on, join in and try this search engine. Most of you probably use Google. Yahoo’s search engine also seems to be adequate. The first time you use it you need to sign in as "Master Gardener Advisory Association".

2007
August

WED, AUGUST 8
■ MGAA Meeting—9AM
■ MG Update—10-11:30AM

THURS, AUGUST 9, 2 & 6:30 PM
■ Grow Your Own Veggies at the Palm Harbor Library

SAT, AUGUST 11, 9-1 PM
■ Rain Barrel Workshop at Sunken Gardens

SAT, AUGUST 18, 10-11 AM
■ Compost Happens at Weedon Island Preserve

Looking Ahead!
WED, SEPT 5, 13, 19, & 26 9-11AM
■ MG College—Series: How to Identify Plants

SAT, SEPT 15, 10-11AM or SAT, SEPT 22, 10-11AM
■ Gardening for Wildlife Brooker Creek Preserve.

For more details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website.
[http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar_hort.shtml](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar_hort.shtml)
Reminders

- **MGAA Meeting**  
  Wednesday August 8, 9:00am  
  Agenda will follow.

- **MG Update**  
  Wednesday August 8, 10-11:30am  
  Tricia Weimer, President of the Rose Society, will be speaking about roses.