FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS UPDATE
By MARY CAMPBELL, Director, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension

In July, the Campus Sustainability Committee met to discuss several exciting new projects proposed by staff and volunteers alike. We are pleased to report that the gardens will soon host 25 new native trees, purchased with funds granted by the Pinellas Chapter of the Native Plant Society.

The landscape on Ulmerton Road will soon get a facelift and with the remaining funds secured for our "monument" sign we share with Heritage Village. These funds have allowed us to hire a professional landscape architect, who is in the midst of developing the final plan. What is most exciting is that this landscape will be composed entirely of native, Central Florida plants. Once the plan is approved, work will begin on this highly-visible area.

Another exciting development is how close we are to realizing the front landscape here at Pinellas County Extension. Bob Albanese gave the committee an update on how the different areas will demonstrate various water-use levels. This Florida-Friendly landscape will put the plants and practices right at hand for supplementing our Florida-Friendly gardening programming. A list of ferns was approved for the "Inspiration Nook" garden around the deck area, and those plants are being sourced / propagated now. The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation has generously awarded $1,700 toward the purchase of plants for the front landscaping project. Thank you, Foundation!

It has been a summer of change here at Extension, but despite the dust and debris generated as many of us moved our offices, we have continued to keep going forward, offering classes and programs to our community. We could not have kept up our pace had it not been for the tremendous amount of help we have received from our volunteers. The volunteers at the Diagnostic Desk are the "face" of Extension, and have provided expert advice as well as a welcoming demeanor to our guests. We appreciate the extra effort this team has given lately.

I understand that there may be some confusion about the future of the Florida Botanical Gardens, as staff from the Parks Department, and Culture, Education and Leisure (which includes Cultural Affairs) will be moving into this building.

Please be sure of this: The Master Gardener Program is a UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension program and we are committed to our training of these valuable volunteers. MGs will continue to work with Extension Specialists both in the gardens and with outreach. Extension Specialists will continue to use the gardens to train MGs, by providing practical applications of the principles laid out in the MG training. We are so lucky to have so many horticulture specialists here at Pinellas County Extension. Few Extension offices in the state can boast the number of horticulture staff, and such a vast teaching garden as we are lucky to have.

If you ever have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Everyone at Extension has been through an extremely difficult spring. Staff and volunteers alike, have been impacted by the challenges of the economy. I just want to thank you all for your support during this time, and now we can look forward to the exciting projects in the works for this summer and even more for the future.

Thank you for all your support and hard work.
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.

MANAGING EDITOR: Chuck Scaffidi, MG
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Carrie Shelby, MG

Please send articles to cascaffidi@juno.com The Green Leaf is available on-line by clicking on “newsletter” at:

http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml

FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE Demonstration Gardens
By TERRY BERUBE, MG

The Foundation recently provided funding support for the FBG Florida Friendly Landscape Demonstration Gardens. These four distinct and unique areas will demonstrate varying degrees of water usage in order to assist the public in managing their water use while maintaining a healthy and attractive landscape. The project will cover a large portion of the front entrance to the Extension Office from the east end of the Native Plant Garden, crossing the front of the Extension Building and ending at the wetlands near the bridge.

Under the leadership of horticulturalist, Bob Albanese, several Master Gardeners will design, propagate and re-landscape the front entrance into four educational areas: Low Water Use, Moderate Water Use, Rainfall Only and Bahia Turf. All plants selected must be “Florida Friendly” and will be approved by the Extension Sustainability Committee to ensure that the appropriate plants will be used.

In designing the four areas, MGs will demonstrate the use of various ground cover such as perennial peanut, two different types of micro irrigation, landscaping in shady areas and full sun, maintaining an attractive landscape throughout the year, and the use of Florida native plants and Bahia grass.

Removal and relocation of the plants currently in the area began in August and re-landscaping will begin in September. Once the planting is complete, signage will be installed to educate the public on the various areas.

Some Samples from the Potential Plant List for Low Water Use Area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asiatic Jasmine</td>
<td>Trachelospermum asiaticum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty Berry</td>
<td>Callicarpa americana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cape Honeysuckle</td>
<td>Tecoma capensis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown of Thorns</td>
<td>Euphorbia milii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dusty Miller</td>
<td>Senecio cineraria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firebush</td>
<td>Hamelia patens ‘Compact’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goldenrod</td>
<td>Solidago spp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Palm</td>
<td>Rhapis excelsa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lantana</td>
<td>Lantana depressa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhly Grass</td>
<td>Muhlenbergia capillaris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perennial Peanut</td>
<td>Arachis glabrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfection Bromeliad</td>
<td>Neoregelia &quot;Perfection&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purple Lovegrass</td>
<td>Eragrostis spectabilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variegated Dracaena</td>
<td>Dracaena marginata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire Grass</td>
<td>Aristide stricta var beyrichiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yesterday, today, tomorrow</td>
<td>Brunfelsia grandiflora</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml
PLANT OF THE MONTH
A Million Shades of Green
By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

Despite the sultry conditions, there is lots of activity around the gardens this summer. The rains have worked their magic, and there are lots of happy plants on site. With the completion of the magnificent deck at Extension’s entrance, we are now looking forward to the Florida-Friendly Inspiration Garden to take shape.

This project has been in discussion for quite a while, and now it seems about to become reality. In late 2007 a list of shade-loving ferns was submitted and overwhelmingly approved for inclusion in this garden area. There are 14 different native species on this list, many of which can be found nowhere else on site.

Ferns provide a lovely texture in a landscape, and many shade gardens depend on their million shades of green to provide wonderful contrasts and pleasing, peaceful combinations.

As ferns are non-flowering plants, propagation by division is the quickest and easiest way to increase numbers. Of course this is not possible with tree ferns and other single-headed forms, like bird’s nest ferns, but most other ferns grow by branching “runners” called rhizomes. Growing ferns from spores is, however, quite interesting and allows the grower a glimpse of an ancient and fascinating life cycle.

Fern spores are microscopic little bundles of genes. They are dispersed by the breeze, and upon landing on a suitably moist and shaded site, will germinate. But what grows in NOT a fern as we know it.

What the spore produces is an incredibly thin heart-shaped plant called the prothallus. This little speck, no bigger than your pinkie nail, will produce sperm and egg cells. Interestingly, fern sperm are mobile and must have a layer of water to allow sperm from one prothallus to swim to the egg of another. When this happens, the two unite and what we know of as a fern begins to grow.

This whole process must be done in sterile conditions, as fungus and bacteria can wreak havoc on this delicate stage.

And to think, all of this will soon be happening right outside our front door!
THE FBG FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBGF Board Member & MG Liaison

The final decision to move forward with the light celebration will be decided at the next Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation (FBGF) board meeting on August 12th.

So far 40 volunteers have committed to work the holiday lights. Unfortunately we have not received donations from the private sector to defray expenses to date. A grant request was written requesting $10,000 from Publix corporation. We do have our fingers crossed.

Please consider volunteering for this wonderful event and you will be notified after the decision is made. Vivian Haicken, President FBGF, sent the following letter to all FBGF members:

Thank you for your support of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation. We value your membership!

We wanted to share with you the decision to move forward with the plans to host the Holiday Lights again this year. This event becomes an opportunity to showcase the Florida Botanical Gardens to guests who might not otherwise visit. Additionally, the event provides an opportunity to generate both revenue and media exposure for the gardens.

In order to produce the event and keep it free to the community, we have made a financial commitment of $30,000 to produce the event. We will work to offset the expense through sponsorship and donations collected during the Holiday Lights presentation.

We are in need of volunteers to help with donation collection, coordinating the daily process of turning the lights on/off or perhaps helping to set up the train display daily. We would appreciate your help, if you are interested please contact us at the Extension 727-2117 and ask for Chuck Scaffidi or leave a message and we will return your call. We need your response as soon as possible in order to plan accordingly.

- **Event Dates:** Saturday, November 28, 2009 through Sunday, January 17, 2010
- **Event Times:** 6:00pm to 10:00pm Monday through Sunday rain or shine.

We appreciate your consideration. One night shift of four hours adds up quickly in overall savings on the expenses to host the event. All volunteers will be provided with a training session prior to the start date of the event.

Thank you again for your support of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation.

The Foundation Board is in need of a Secretary. The Secretary will be responsible for attending meetings and recording minutes. This position is critical to the Board's well being.

If you have experience with taking minutes (or would like to learn), please contact Vivian Haicken 452 9362, or Chuck Scafiddi 582-2117. (MG Brandy Webb did a magnificent job as secretary, but because of full time employment has resigned)

We are also in need of new Foundation members and are looking for the expertise of Master Gardeners to fill these slots. As an active supporter of the FBG for several years I know that Master Gardeners not only have the knowledge but also the passion to keep the FBG strong over the coming years.

The Foundation's mission is to help the FBG continue to move toward becoming a world-class botanical garden. Our focus over the next year is to increase membership and use those funds to help ensure that the FBG continues to thrive. What better way to do this than to include more Master Gardeners in the Foundation. Please join me in planning and implementing new programs and events that will enhance the FBG. Your help is needed and I hope I can depend on you.

Interested MGs can contact me at 727-581-6740 or via email at vhaicken@tampabay.rr.com or Chuck Scaffidi at Extension 582-2117 or at home 398-9991 or e-mail cascaffidi@juno.com.
WEED CONTROL MADE EASY
By JANE MORSE, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Agent, Pinellas County

Weeds in Florida can be a nightmare. Abundant summer rains and scorching sunshine lead to lots of germinating (sprouting) weed seeds. Weed control in the fall isn’t too bad, but trying to keep up with weeds in the blistering heat of summer, while dodging rain storms, sweating, and swatting mosquitoes is miserable.

To control weeds we need to have a basic understanding of some of their differences and how we can use these differences to our advantage.

First, let’s learn about the types of weeds. There are **broadleaf weeds**. These types of plants generally have net-like veins in their leaves and many have showy flowers. Some examples are dillarweed, creeping beggarweed and Florida pusley. **Grass weeds** have hollow, rounded stems and nodes (joints) that are closed and hard. The leaf blades have parallel veins and they are much longer than they are wide. The leaf blades also alternate on each side of the stem. Some examples are crabgrass, torpedo grass and sandbur. **Sedges** are “grass-like” weeds, but they are not true grasses. Sedges have a solid, triangular-shaped stem with leaves that extend in three directions. Examples include yellow nutsedge and purple nutsedge.

Plants are also distinguished by how long they live. Some are annual (they germinate, grow, flower, seed and die in one year). Others are biennial (it takes two years to complete their life cycle). The hardest to control plants are perennial (they live more than 2 years) because they have several means of reproducing. Not only may they reproduce by seed, but they may reproduce vegetatively by bulbs, rhizomes, stolons, or tubers.

There are two basic methods of weed control -- physical control and chemical control. Usually the best control is achieved using a combination of these two methods.

**Physical weed control** includes mowing, hand pulling, hoeing and mulching. Many weeds in turf can be controlled by proper mowing. In general, Bahia and St. Augustine grass should be mowed at a height of 4 inches and mowed frequently enough so that only 1/3 of the leaf blade is removed each time. Hand pulling can be used if there are a small number of weeds. Mulching is a good weed control method for flowerbeds, footpaths and other areas where there is no grass. Mulch works by smothering out weeds by excluding light. Mulch should be applied about 2 inches thick and kept away from the bases of plants.

**Chemical weed control** is the use of herbicides. There are different types of herbicides. **Selective herbicides** control certain plant types without seriously harming other plant types. A selective herbicide might kill broadleaf plants while not seriously harming grass plants, or vice versa. **Non-selective herbicides** kill most plants regardless of type. Roundup® (Glyphosate) is probably the most widely known and used non-selective herbicide. Then there are **pre-emergent herbicides** that prevent seedlings from growing and **post-emergent herbicides** that are applied to existing weeds when they are small and actively growing.

**Selective herbicides** can be very useful if, for example, you are trying to control grass weeds in a broadleaf planting, or trying to control broadleaf weeds in a grass planting. Grass-B-Gon® (Fluazifop) is a selective herbicide that kills unwanted grasses in and around broadleaf ornamentals. Manage® (Halosulfuron-methyl) is a selective herbicide for controlling nutsedge in turfgrass and landscaped areas.

**Non-selective herbicides** are most commonly used for killing plants in a large area. For example, if you were replacing a turfgrass area and wanted to clear the area of all plants a non-selective herbicide would be a good choice.

**Pre-emergent herbicides** offer very good weed control because they keep the weeds from sprouting and growing. Some weeds like crabgrass can only be effectively controlled with a pre-emergent herbicide. Pre-M® (pendimethalin) is a pre-emergent that controls some annual grasses (crabgrass, etc.) and certain broadleaf weeds. It can be used on St. Augustine or Bahia grass and on many ornamentals for weed control. The most important thing about pre-emergent herbicides is timing. They must be applied before the weed seed germinates. Therefore it is important to know the identification of the weed you want to kill and when it germinates.

**Post-emergent herbicides** are applied to already existing weeds. They work best on young, rapidly growing plants. Some herbicides control some weeds better than others. Again, it is important to correctly identify the plant you want to kill so the best herbicide can be selected to obtain effective control.

Whenever chemicals are used it is extremely important and crucial to read the label and follow the directions exactly. Not following the label directions can be harmful to the environment and people, and is against the law.

Note: Use of brand or trade names in this publication does not imply endorsement of the products or criticism of similar ones not mentioned. Trade names are used herein for convenience only. Mention of a proprietary product does not constitute a guarantee or warranty of the product by the author.

Information for this article came from these publications: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG071](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG071); [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP141](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/EP141) and [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_wq058](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/document_wq058)
CLEARWATER BEACH TOURS
By CARRIE SHELBY, MG

On a steamy Saturday morning in late June two Master Gardeners, Patsy Schamber and Vicky Jackson graciously hosted tours of their North Clearwater Beach yards.

The tour started at Patsy’s, where she’s resided since the mid 1950’s, and where she’s raised her family. Once her children grew up, Patsy was able to dedicate more time to her garden. The passing of the years has resulted in a peaceful setting. Winding brick paths lead from the street, taking you into a resort-like setting; lush, and green, with a variety of tropical plants. Patsy recently added on a pergola to shade the front entrance of her home, where you will find an outdoor seating area surrounded by an assortment of container plants. As you meander along the side of the house under a bright green canopy of palms and blooming plumeria, you’re led into another pergola area outfitted with a fishpond, and plenty of space for entertaining. These outdoor rooms give cool, dappled, shady areas to rest and enjoy the views of the garden and the fishpond. Her tour offered a well-established, flourishing, tropical oasis, easily enjoyed while sipping cold lemonade with fellow MGs.

Those that could be coaxed away from this tropical paradise to walk over to Vicky’s place were treated to an opportunity to see inside and outside her house. Vicky has been splitting her time between renovating her 1930’s home and slowly considering her options for establishing the landscape. From the stories Vicky told it’s been an ordeal to get the beautiful interior setting they can now enjoy. The waterfront views from upstairs and downstairs are spectacular. Vicky, recently awarded a Florida Friendly Yard certification, has just initiated the plans for her landscape. Her property has a lot of potential with multiple shaded seating areas looking out onto the bright sunny garden and the sparkling Intracoastal Waterway. There are many new plantings out front on the street side with the proudly displayed Florida Friendly Yard sign. Ornamental grasses and bright red firecracker plants line the sidewalk. A young bald cypress tree with towering aspirations is establishing its position on the front walk. Vicky has plans in the works for her courtyard area and waterfront backyard. With all that she’s been able to accomplish so far Vicky must invite us back when the garden is ready to show off what she’s envisioned.

Patsy and Vicky’s tours presented a contrast in plant and garden maturity, both tours offered the stimulus to just dig in and start planting and designing. Otherwise your dream garden will never appear. Time will tell, as any patient gardener knows that here in Florida the weather is on your side, with the right choices, placement of plants and tender loving care your yard can turn into a tropical paradise. Thank you Patsy and Vicky for a delightful garden experience.
Master Gardeners are an Invaluable Resource to University Systems

By Joe Lamp’l, Scripps Howard News Service

In Print: Monday, June 29, 2009

If you really want to get those gardening questions answered, ask a master gardener. We’ve all heard the reference before and many of us have used this valuable free service. But just what is a master gardener, and how does one achieve such a designation?

Master gardeners are volunteers. Above all, they have one thing in common: They’re passionate about gardening and horticulture and want to share their time and knowledge. Most are not professional gardeners or horticulturists. In fact, many come into the program as novices. Others have been gardening all their lives.

Master-gardener organizations are active in 48 states and four Canadian provinces. Yet, surprisingly, there is no overall governing body or authority, so the requirements vary. Each state or province's university system is responsible for managing and administering its own program. Overall, the guidelines are set up to provide a win-win for the volunteers and university system.

In exchange for an extensive and comprehensive training program by University staff and volunteers, master-gardener candidates agree to volunteer 25 to 50 hours each year. For many programs, a majority of those hours are spent manning the phones at their respective county extension offices to answer gardening questions. Once volunteer candidates have completed training (which includes subjects such as integrated pest management, arboriculture, vegetable gardening and wildlife management), passed a few exams and logged the requisite volunteer hours, they earn the title of master gardener. To remain "active," master gardeners must continue to volunteer a required number of hours.

In addition to the invaluable resource they provide, the monetary value master gardeners return to the university system is staggering. When the total time given back by volunteers is added up, millions of dollars are saved by not hiring staff to perform the same duties. Across the United States and Canada, master-gardener volunteers perform a variety of services, including answering questions, installing and maintaining public and community gardens, hosting plant-doctor clinics and putting on community outreach programs.

I encourage anyone who has a desire to learn more about the program to contact your local county extension service. And for everyone else, if you want someone to give you a knowledgeable answer to your question, ask a master gardener. To Find the number for the office closest to you visit http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension.

On the Web

Here are Web sites for information about master gardener programs in the Tampa Bay area:

Citrus
Go to http://www.citruscountyfl.org and search for Master Gardener.

Hillsborough
Visit http://www.hillsborough.extension.ufl.edu and click Home Gardening then Master Gardener Program.

Manatee
Go to http://www.manatee.ifas.ufl.edu and click on Master Gardener Program under Lawn and Garden.

Pasco
Visit http://www.gardeningpasco.ifas.ufl.edu and click on Master Gardeners on the left side of the page.

Pinellas
Go to http://www.pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu and click on Master Gardener Program under Volunteer Information.

Times address:http://www.tampabay.com/features/homeandgarden/article1013754.ece

Editor's Comment: Many may have seen this article. Reprinting it in the Green Leaf newsletter is a reminder of how valuable the MG program is and how much the volunteer work is appreciated.
Chuck Scaffidi
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MG Update Meetings
- Growing Fruit
- Grow More Plants
- Gardening with Wildlife
- GEU for MGs
- MG Plant Clinic
- Volunteer Hours Sign in
- Sign up for newsletter
- 4-H Fundraiser
- Extension Classes
- FL MG Conference

Master Gardener Update Schedule - Mark your Calendar!

Friday, August 7, 10AM Jane Morse presents “New Emerging Pests: Invasive Exotic Insects and the Latest Research and Control Methods” followed by a potluck lunch.

Tuesday September 8, 10AM— Dr. Craig Huegel presents “Designing a Florida Landscape for Birds”. Note location change –meeting at EMS

Thursday, October 8 10AM— Dr. Sydney Park Brown via Polycom presents “Perennials”.

Growing Fruit on Florida’s Suncoast

Wonder which fruits grow best in this area? MG Sandy Huff presents expert advice on how to plant, maintain and even use fruit crops in your landscapes. This program will not be an in-depth program on each particular variety, such as citrus. Rather, it will be an informative, broad-brush lecture of how to pick the right plants for the landscape or even for a balcony.

The program is offered on Saturday, August 8, at 2 PM and 6:15 PM. The library is at 2330 Nebraska Ave in Palm Harbor. Admission is free, but space is limited. Register online at www.pinellascountyextension.org with a click on the “Online Class Registration” button or call 727-582-2100.

Grow MORE Plants: Air Layer & Propagate

Learn to multiply the plants you love in your own landscape easily by dividing, using cuttings and air-layering. MG Angela Strain provides basic instruction and tips on how to make new plants from what you already own easily and inexpensively.

The program is offered on Wednesday, August 26, at 2 PM at the West St. Petersburg Community Library, 6605 5th Avenue North, St. Pete. Admission is free, but space is limited. Register online at www.pinellascountyextension.org with a click on the “Online Class Registration” button or call 727-582-2100.

Gardening with Wildlife

Wilma Holley, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Instructor, will share information on attracting birds and butterflies to your yard by using various plants, providing food sources and nesting habitats. The program is offered on Wednesday, September 23, at 2 PM at the West St. Petersburg Community Library, 6605 5th Avenue North, St. Pete. Admission is free, but space is limited. Register online at www.pinellascountyextension.org with a click on the “Online Class Registration” button or call 727-582-2100.

GEUs for Master Gardeners

GEUs now awarded to MGs who attend the monthly classes held at our two off-site teaching locations; Palm Harbor Library and West St. Petersburg Community Library. If you attend or assist at these classes, feel free to enter the 2 hours of class time as GEU credit.

MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library

Get answers to gardening questions, at the MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library on Wednesdays from 10AM to 2PM. MGs offer diagnostic services that include soil testing along with information about identifying plants, treatment for insects and ideas for Florida-friendly landscaping.

RECORDING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please Remember to Sign Out! The computer program for logging volunteer hours is in the volunteer office.

- You must sign in and sign out when you are at Extension.
- You can still log your time in the book or use e-mail, but it is preferred that you use the computer sign-in sign-out method.
- With over 200 volunteers at Extension it becomes a considerable burden on the volunteer coordinators to manually enter your hours.

If you are not at Extension e-mail your hours to: cascaffidi@juno.com

Please direct your questions to coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or an assistant, Susan Baughman or Emma Eshbaugh.
- **Time to Think About Munching on Apples and Pecans**
  The 4-H Foundation is planning their annual fund raiser of apples and pecans for sale and delivery in the fall. Ordering information will follow. Contact Robin Moore at 727-384-2428 or romoore99@yahoo.com for an ordering form. This is such a worthy cause and if you haven’t ordered in the past you’re in for a delicious treat.

- **Sign Up for “Commercial Connections” Newsletter**
  A message from Jane Morse: The Pinellas County Commercial Horticulture Program provides education and training based on the latest research from the University of Florida. The Commercial Horticulture staff is available to help solve local problems, provide CEUs and, improve the quality of life for all citizens. For updates and information sign up for FREE “Commercial Connections” newsletter at: http://commercialconnection.blogspot.com/

- **Series of Extension Classes - Mark your Calendar!**
  The following classes will be offered for free to MGs and Volunteers that register, all others pay a nominal fee to attend. Please see the on-line calendar page for Extension for details and to register.

  **Wednesday, August 5, 6-8:30PM** Florida Style Gardening Series-Landscape Design Clinic at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, Cost $10 per person.

  **Wednesday, August 12, 6-8:30PM** Florida Style Gardening Series-Landscape Maintenance at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, Cost $10 per person.

  **Wednesday, August 12, 9:30-11AM** Landscaping for Wildlife at Pinellas County Extension, Cost $15 per person.

  **Wednesday, August 19, 6:30-8PM** Palms-Keeping Then Healthy at Pinellas County Extension, Cost $15 per person.

  **Thursday, August 20, 6:30-8PM** Salt Tolerant Plants at Pinellas County Extension, Cost $15 per person.

  **Thursday, August 27, 6:30-8PM** Let’s Get Growing with Family Vegetable Gardening at Pinellas County Extension, Cost $15 per family.

  **Wednesday, September 9, 6:30-8PM** Landscaping for Wildlife at Pinellas County Extension, Cost $15 per person.

  **Thursday, September 24, 6:30-8PM** Drought Tolerant Plants at Pinellas County Extension, Cost $15 per person.

  **Wednesday, September 30, 6:30-8PM** Managing Common Landscape Problems at Pinellas County Extension, Cost $15 per person.

- **Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference November 2-4, 2009, Hilton Ocala, Ocala**
  **Early Reduced (by 9/28/2009)**
  Want to learn the latest gardening news from the IFAS specialists? Pack your weekend bag, and join fellow gardeners from around Florida at the annual Master Gardener Continued Training Conference. Carpooling is available and sharing rooms is possible too.
  
  For more information, check out the web site [http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html](http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html). Feel free to call Jean Field at 727-582-2504 if you would like to know more about the "experience" of this worthwhile conference.
  
  **The Hilton Ocala** is offering participants of the **29th Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference**, a very special rate of $99.00 per night (plus 8.5% state and local taxes), for up to 4 people in a room. The group rate will be honored three days prior and three days following the conference dates, based on availability.
  
  If we do not occupy a sufficient amount of guest rooms throughout the meeting, we will incur additional costs for meeting room rental charges. Therefore, we encourage all meeting participants to stay in the host hotel. Consequently, guests not staying at the Hilton Ocala during the conference will be charged a $100 facilities fee to cover their portion of meeting room rental charges incurred. [Explanation of Facilities Usage Fee]
Enhancements to the Children's Trail

- **Needed: A Few Good Woodsmen's (or Women)**
  We would like to create pint-sized chair and table sets for little ones from pieces of tree trunks. At the Cleveland Botanical Gardens Children's Garden, pictured here, these are among the most popular places for the kids. They know they are just-their-size, and if they are situated among larger plants, they become secret spots, forts, etc. Plus, they are clever demonstrations of "reusing" our environmental gifts. **If you are handy with a chain saw and/or have large chunks of tree trunks available, please call Chuck Scaffidi at 582-2117**--the kids will be delighted.

- **Bench Builders Needed!**
  - **Where:** Natural Area (P-2000 property) walking trail
  - **What:** 4-5 benches made from recycled composite material
  - **How:** Plans will be provided for the construction of these benches. Funding secured.
  - **When:** Project will begin in August, after committee approval
  - **Who:** Master Gardeners and volunteers
  - **Why:** To provide comfortable, maintenance-free seating along the Natural Area trail.
  - **People:** A small team of builders to complete this short-term project.
  - **Contact:** Debbie Chayet, Grant Writer, (down the hall, across from supply closet) or Jean Field, Horticulturist 582-2504
FIELD NOTES
By JEAN FIELD, Extension Specialist Horticulture

Have you noticed that change is in the air? No, it’s not our first cold front of the season. It is moving season. The Master Gardener/Volunteer Office has relocated to Andy’s old office and the diagnostic area is now brimming with activity. Chuck and Terry Berube in the new “Diggs”.

Bob, Cindy, Wilma and I will be located in a 4-plex office at the other end of the hall, but one of us will be stationed at the day-office when our office is open so we can support the Master Gardeners at the diagnostic desk and those coming and going from the volunteer office nearby.

I wanted to thank each one of you for the patience and endurance you have shown during this rapidly changing period. It has made our jobs easier most certainly. Once the dust settles, we will be back on track with our projects together.

Speaking of projects… the Florida Friendly Landscape Team Captains met today with Bob and me. After some slight plant list modifications were made, the landscape designs will be completed soon and plant propagation will begin. Please stay tuned for updates in more detail as this exciting project continues.

The reference library has moved around the corner and we have received many compliments about the new location. This move was born out of necessity to provide an office for the horticulturists during the full day we will be working there. I think this new move will work nicely for everyone.

Until I see you in the August 7th update, I wish you happy gardening.

Jean

2009 August

WED AUG 5 & 12, 6-8:30PM
- FL Style Garden Series at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, St Pete

FRI AUGUST 7, 10AM
- MG Update, Jane Morse—"New Emerging Pests". Potluck lunch to follow at Extenssion

SAT AUG 8, 2 & 6:15 PM
- "Growing Fruit on FL Suncoast" at the Palm Harbor Library

WED AUG 26, 2-3:30PM

Looking Ahead!
WED SEPT 9, 6:30-8PM
- "Landscaping for Wildlife” at Extension

WED SEPT 23, 2-3PM
- “Gardening with Wildlife” at West St Pete Comm. Library

SAT SEPT 26, 10AM-NOON
- "Compost Happens” at Extension

For details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website.
Reminder—Mark Your Calendar!

- **MG Update Friday, August 7 at 10AM**
  
  Jane Morse presents "New Emerging Pests"
  
  Potluck lunch to follow at Extension