East Coast Sojourn
By, PAT DIETERICH AND SUE ANN CORRIGAN, MGS

Three-headed palms, resurrected banyans, gracious Master Gardeners galore—these and many other wonders awaited, as Pinellas Master Gardeners boarded the bus early on November 8 for a two-day, eight-venue visit to Martin and St. Lucie Counties in southeast Florida. Our first stop was Tropical Ranch Botanical Gardens outside of Stuart, where we were welcomed by Dr. John Alleyene. Owners Diane Rexroad and Jim Haines have created a multi-themed paradise on three acres. Martin County Master Gardeners were on hand to answer questions and guide us through this unique private garden, where MG’s volunteer and provide educational programs at monthly plant sales. Following a yummy box lunch, we headed to Botanics Wholesale Nursery, where we were greeted by owner Jack Miller. After Hurricane Andrew decimated his family’s wholesale nursery, he moved to this area and developed an innovative potting method. His patented “Jack Pot” is a paper-bag-like device created from polypropylene fabric that expands as the tree’s roots grow, and does not readily degrade. It allows enhanced feeder roots to grow and aerate better, and in case of an impending storm, it is easy for workers to lay the trees over on their sides, thus minimizing destruction. He is able to grow 25 acres of palms, bamboos, natives and cycads with just 5 workers, and he presented each of us with our very own “Jack Pot”.

Pinder’s Nursery was our next stop. Owner Terry Pinder led groups on tours of the operation, which began in 1974 as a wholesale business. The retail operation began in 2005, and has been expanded since to become “The Community Garden Center at Pinder’s Nursery”. Terry explained that the business is something like a factory, where cuttings are toned, planted for 3-4 weeks, repotted, and sold, most on a 6 to 8 week schedule with rigorous quality controls. She also noted that a plant is a living organism responding to a changing environment, not unlike humans. The recent drought in the area has thus far only required voluntary conservation, but she believes we all have a responsibility to insure there is water available for our children, so she has begun to restrict the numbers of “water-hog” bedding plants she will provide to commercial landscapers. She also shared the interesting observation that you cannot sell colorful bedding plants if you do not provide white-flowering plants as a contrast.

We were graciously welcomed at the Martin County Extension Service Gardens, where many of the same MG’s who’d given tours at Tropical Ranch were on hand to show us these gardens, which have been created out of virtually nothing in a few short years. Next, Martin County MG’s provided a pot-luck dinner, many making recipes from their cookbook, a recent fund-raising effort. MG Paula Z. Smith, who writes a column entitled, “Edible Gardener”, presented a fascinating program about tropical vegetables, featuring roselles, malangas, chayote, and more. Tired, but super-enriched, we wearily checked in to the Holiday Inn Port St. Lucie for a brief respite.
Bright and early on a gorgeous Friday morning we boarded the bus for more adventures. Heathcote Botanical Gardens in Fort Pierce actually opened a bit early so we could tour. Opened in 1985, Heathcote provides important green space to the increasingly urbanized area, and now is home to Heathcote House, built in 1922, and the 1880 Pioneer Home. Their Japanese garden features world-class bonsai, and it was at Heathcote that we saw the three-headed palm, a remarkable specimen, moved many times and still thriving.

Kate O'Neal, MG Coordinator for St. Lucie County, welcomed us to the Extension Gardens, which she said they'd been "sprucing up" in our honor for months. Master Gardeners led us on tours and were stationed in the various garden areas to field our questions. Besides the gardens and the plant sale area, the property boasts a Hurricane House, built after Hurricane Andrew to demonstrate the latest construction and hurricane-proofing techniques, including a safe room. Kate accompanied us to our next stop, the IREX Research Gardens at the Indian River Research and Education Center, a beautiful new facility. Sandy Wilson, PhD., gave us an overview of the Teaching Garden, which was started in 2000 with a blank slate and a tight budget. This lovely one-acre garden is used to demonstrate things taught in the classes, and for plant identification. Next, Kiona Muller, research assistant, explained the unusual Linear Garden we had observed as we approached the facility. Needing more room to demonstrate plant materials, this 3-foot-wide by one-half mile garden was designed, with intricate considerations. While important landscape design principles had to be ignored, special care was taken to place the plants in a pleasing, undulating arrangement requiring very little active maintenance.

After an amazing lunch at Golden Corral, we traveled north to McKee Botanical Gardens in Vero Beach. McKee, not unlike Bok Tower Gardens and our own Sunken Gardens, was opened in the 1930’s as a grand collection, featuring oddities like the world’s largest mahogany table, and a huge cypress stump. Only 18 acres of the original 80 remain, but the gardens are lovingly maintained, despite the complications of recent frequent hurricanes. It was here that we saw an enormous banyan tree that had been toppled in one of the storms, righted with the aid of a crane, and now thriving thanks to much tender loving care. McKee Botanical Garden is on the National Register of Historic Places, and was happy to honor our reciprocal memberships in the Florida Botanical Gardens, another boon to the MG’s!

Exhausted but enriched, we headed back to Largo. Many thanks to the impressive planning done by the committee, especially Donna Zacharczyk, Chuck Scaffidi, Charlie Iserman, Linda Barnette and Lou LaGrande. To borrow a cliché, "A good time was had by all!"
BUTTERFLY GARDEN DEBUT DELIGHTS
BY PAT DIETERICH, MG

On Saturday, November 3, the new Butterfly Garden outside the Extension Office was officially opened. This new garden, featuring both larval and nectar plants for a variety of butterfly species, was designed by Horticulturalist Cindy Peacock, with the input and assistance of many Master Gardeners. Linda Alcorne and Bessie Morse hosted many sessions to create the mosaic stepping stones featured on the path. Linda’s creative talents are evident in the original sculpture, “DNA helix”, and chair that she fashioned and donated. Linda’s husband, Eddie, donated the original path drawings which the county is reviewing for approval. Eddie is also planning a work crew to install the path under Cindy Peacock’s guidance, planting and maintenance was done by Master Gardeners. Roy Anderberg was a principal contributor along with John Hood who installed the irrigation system, and Bessie Morse helped as needed.

The results are spectacular! For the grand opening, educational exhibits and children’s activities were available. Adrienne Andrews and her daughter worked with the children, other helpers were Maj-Lis Carlson, Dani Carroll, Richard Berube, Linda Barnette and Pat Dieterich. Following a poem and a presentation by Cindy, members of the committee and children thrilled the large assembled crowd with an impressive release of butterflies, which was funded by MGAA. If you’ve visited lately, you will note that many have taken up residence, as was the intent. This garden is also a site on the Children’s Trail sponsored by the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, which will be providing educational signs about metamorphosis. Looking for a delightful interlude for your holiday guests? Treat them to a visit to our new butterfly garden!
Plant of the Month in our FBG
By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

Seasonal Sprigs – Hollies in Florida
For many, December brings decorating for the season, and a familiar motif is the cheerful, red berries and dark green leaves of holly.

Holly is in the genus *Ilex*, and there are about 600 different species of *Ilex* distributed all over the world. The hollies we know and grow here in Florida include several natives such as *Ilex vomitoria*, or Yaupon and *Ilex cassine*, or Dahoon. Both produce lovely red fruit, and make relatively low-maintenance landscape plants.

As a rule, *Ilex* worldwide are acid-lovers, therefore in Florida, hollies tend to be found in moist areas where conditions are often slightly more acidic. However, many can be coaxed to grow in less-favorable conditions.

Hollies are dioecious which means "male" and "female" flowers are produced on separate plants. What this means to the gardener is that a holly purchased laden with fruit, may disappoint in following years if no pollen-producing male plant is growing nearby. The good news is that many of the dwarf, non-fruiting varieties which seem to be a part of many municipal plantings are often clones of male plants.

We have the honor of being home to a clone of a champion *Ilex cassine*. This tree is found on the Tropical Walk, near the mosaic bench and table. The plant is fruiting well this year; it seems there is a "male" somewhere near-by!

The Market will be held every Saturday in the Extension parking lot, through April 19, 2008.
For more information visit the County’s website: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/market/index.html

Master Gardener Booth Opens December 8th at Market in the Park
Master Gardeners Chuck Scaffidi, Cheryl Korschek, Peggy Vincent, Carrie Shelby Marian Cirello and volunteer, Jean Barnes are planning a MG booth on the December 8th market day.

Since this is a new endeavor there is some doubt as to what approach will be most successful. Currently they are planning a fruit theme by selling some fruit garden plants and the MG cook book. They will promote Extension by handing out IFAS educational literature and recruiting potential candidates for the 2008 MG class. The "Ask Me" computer assistance will be available for the public's questions.

These MGs will provide a "lessons learned" report at the next MG update meeting so that future market participation can be beneficial.
ON THE ROAD AGAIN WITH THE MG MOBILE
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

The traveling group, pictured below, made a trek to Monica Brandies open house on Saturday November 17. Many of you have experienced Monica’s lectures at our MG update sessions and have purchased her books. She is a prolific writer of Florida Gardening books. Monica has been gardening since she was a child. In college she studied horticulture and landscape design since she figured she wouldn’t always have a farm. She went to the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, which became part of Temple University from which came her degree.

Not surprisingly we ran into other MGs that paid a visit, Pat Dieterich along with her sister and Linda Alcorne with hubby Eddie.

Yes our visit was longer than expected. How can you explore and absorb the beauty of all the plants that surround her home (was there a house really hidden in this actually over planted property). In the middle of her yard was a large pomelo it is the largest of all citrus. They can grow to be as large as a foot in diameter and up to 25 pounds. Joan and I brought one home to try; well, it lasted all week with the two of us nibbling on it. Time to leave now and talk about another venture with the MG Mobile.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN
By CINDY PEACOCK, Horticulturist

MGs Donna Zacharczyk, Joyce Smith and Chuck Scaffidi each received a certificate of appreciation for participating in the Great American Teach-In at Starkey elementary school. Bob Abben who had presented there for the last eight years was not able to do his butterfly program at the school this year, so Donna and Joyce amicably filled in and did a marvelous teach-in. Chuck Scaffidi for the second time talked about the space program featuring the Hubble Space Telescope and its Universe discoveries. MG Mary Ellen Warner taught saving water and the environment to seven classes at Bauder Elementary.

Thanks to the participants, and remember this is a yearly Pinellas County School program sponsored by Progress Energy, so plan ahead to talk about your life experiences to these children.

Charles Iserman, MG, Thanks MGAA

Dear Chuck,

I would like to take time to mention how grateful I am for MGAA helping me to attend this year's conference in Gainesville. I have attended most of these conferences in the past 12 years as a Master Gardener. This year I would not have been able to attend due to some personal finance problems and MGAA made it possible for me to go by paying for the program. I paid my share of the room with Jack Moss. For those of you MGs that have never been to a conference, you are cheating yourself out of a great learning experience at the campus level, and the camaraderie you have as a group is priceless. You also learn what other Extension Services are doing and share. Being a Master Gardener is not just doing volunteer work at the Extension and taking field trips. You need to take in the whole picture of what our program is all about. Please consider future conferences and see for yourself what you have been missing. Charles Iserman, Master Gardener for 12 years and still counting.
To Die for Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies  
By DICK DAVIS, MG

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 1 ¼ cups firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 ¾ cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt (optional)
- 2 ½ cups Quaker Oats uncooked
- 1-12 ounce package semi-sweet chocolate pieces (2 cups)
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional) broken pecans are great

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Beat together butter (margarine) and sugars until creamy.
3. Add beaten eggs, milk, and vanilla and beat well.
4. Add combined flour, baking soda and salt - mix well.
5. Stir in oats, chocolate pieces and nuts - mix well.
7. Bake 9 to 10 minutes. Cool 1 minute on cookie sheet. Remove to wire rack.

Depending on size of cookies, recipe will make about 3 dozen cookies. Sometimes I use white chocolate and macadamia nuts with the chocolate chips... your choice.

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Master Gardener Landscaping Project  
By LINDA CULHANE, MG

Good News, we are scheduled for installation of the landscape at the Women’s Build House in Largo. Friday, November 30th the lot will be graded and top soil delivered. Tuesday, December 4th we will meet at the house at 9AM to lay out the planting beds. We will meet shortly after the MGAA meeting on Thursday, December 6th to plan the installation.

Items that we still need include: Six Red Leah plants in one gallon pots, 10 wild coffee plants in one gallon pots, bags of decaying leaves, bags of construction sand, and patio blocks. If you have any available, please contact me for delivery to the site.

The plan is to have the owner of the home moved into the home before Christmas; such a fantastic way to start the new year. Linda Culhane: (727) 530-1250 or lbculhane@verizon.net.

MGAA approved $1,000 for the Habitat for Humanity MG Project.

NOTES FROM YOUR MG LIBRARY

Books on the Shelves  
By ANGELA STRAIN, MG

Instead of listing our titles on the shelves, I think you would be interested in knowing just a few of the tasks that are involved in keeping your Library current. Cheryl Korschek has been working very diligently going through each category and comparing our inventory to the books on the shelves and has discovered that there are several books MIA. Naturally we would like these returned so if you have one or see one floating around, please return it to the library. Other tasks include deleting duplicate entries in the database; realigning books that have been misfiled, and re-categorizing titles that make better sense in another area.

On another note we have purchased two new books. The first is “Your Florida Guide to Bedding Plants” by Black and Gilman. It is small but packed full of useful information. The other is a signed copy of Florida’s Best Fruiting Plants; Native & Exotic Trees, Shrubs, And Vines by Charles R. Boning. This book is beautifully illustrated and contains detailed profiles of 80 species; provides an extensive glossary of terms; lists native species by both common and scientific names; and gives names and addresses of nurseries where the plants can be found. We had the opportunity to speak with the author while touring Pender’s Nursery on our recent MG trip. He and his wife have lived in all regions of Florida and he grows many of the plants profiled in the book in his garden. Pam Brown has invited him to speak to us at our May, 2008 update. You don’t want to miss this!

Still looking for books on creating garden rooms and bamboo. Well, that’s all for now. Happy Gardening.
Event Coordinator Opportunity-Tampa Bay Home Expo

More MGs still needed:

Event coordinator or co-coordinators needed to plan, organize, and staff an Extension/FYN exhibit (in a 10’x10’ booth) with MGs at the Tampa Bay Home Expo on January 25, 26, and 27, 2008.

The event will be held at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg on January 25 & 26, 10AM to 7PM, and on January 27, 10AM to 5PM.

Event set-up will be Thursday, January 24, 2008.

Exhibit display materials and literature will be provided, but Extension staff may not be available to assist with the set-up and will be minimally available during the event.

Event tear-down will be 5PM on January 27 after closing.

If you are interested in taking charge of this great community outreach opportunity please contact Pam Brown at (727) 582-2112 or Dale Armstrong at 582-2108. Visit website for more info about the event: http://www.tampabayhomeshows.com/

Volunteer Opportunities throughout the Gardens

Start the New Year with new volunteering opportunities at the Florida Botanical Gardens! Take part in one or several activities to help support the garden’s education, and maintenance programs. Descriptions of the following opportunities can be found on the garden’s website, http://www.flbg.org/volunteer.htm

Education
- Tour Guides
- Youth and Families
- Teaching Assistant
- Summer Camp Activity Assistant
- Record Keeping

Conservation and Sustainability
- McKay Creek Greenway Volunteers
- Native Plant Restoration Teams
- Seed Collection
- Species Recovery

Garden Support
- Gardens Maintenance Assistant
- Gift Shop
- Reception/Clerical
- Special Events

Please contact James Stevenson at (727) 582-2581 or jstevenson@pinellascounty.org.

Help Restore a Habitat

Florida Botanical Gardens and Pinellas County Extension are currently working to restore 60 acres of native Florida habitat right on our property. The work continues, and after a very successful first step, many of the native plants that have regenerated on the site are now laden with seed. Our plan for December is to harvest this seed and scatter it over the whole site, thereby making sure that native species are well distributed.

We are hoping to round-up a few volunteers to help with this endeavor.

The days will be: Wednesday, December 12th and Thursday, December 13th. We hope to make a start at 9:00am and finish around noon.

If you would like to be involved in this interesting and beneficial activity, please contact James Stevenson at 582-2581 or email jstevenson@pinellascounty.org.

Volunteer Opportunities throughout the Gardens

For December & January

- Start the New Year - Try Something New!
- Help Restore a Habitat
- Tampa Bay Home Expo
- Compost & Raised Beds

Help Needed in Composting and Raised Vegetable Bed Areas!

Volunteers are needed to work in the composting and raised vegetable bed demo areas on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Contact John Kingsbury (727) 569-6409, Pam (727) 582-2112 or Carol (727) 582-2124 to let them know if you are interested in this volunteer activity. You might get to take home some wonderful compost!

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Update on the Children's Trail
By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

The FBG Foundation kicked off a pledge drive at the Market in the Park grand opening to rally financial support from the community to develop three new enhancements at the gardens: the Inspiration Corner within the Herb Garden, the Children's Trail and the Archway to the gardens. Dianne Wheatley-Giolotti, FBG Foundation Chair, presented plans to potential donors. Dianne commented, "I was enchanted by the market displays, educational arrangements for the children, and the reception of FBGF members to the three new garden enhancements: the arch; the inspiration corner, and the Children's trail. The Foundation board is very grateful for the MG support, suggestions, and service to FBG."

Committee Members: Dianne Wheatley-Giolotti, Mary Campbell, Vivian Haicken, Betty Lipe, Cindy Peacock, Chuck Scaffidi, Pat Dieterich, Lou LaGrande, Bobbie Jones, and James Stevenson.

Next Children's Trail Committee meeting is Tuesday, December 4 at 11:30AM in the Orchid Room.

MG Advisory Association, Chuck Scaffidi, Chair

The articles and bylaws are under review by our pro bono attorney and when they are finalized copies will be provided to all members. The next MGAA meeting is Thursday, December 6, 10AM.

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

No MG update in December. Tuesday, January 8th next MG update.

MGs Decorate the Cottage Garden

The Tuesday crew of Master Gardeners helps Allen Cordell in the herb garden as well as the cottage garden. They added another challenge to their talents and decorated the cottage garden for the December light display. Shown are Tom Carrell, Nancy Bevilacqua, Ruth Davies and David DeLaMarter. Photo taken by Cheryl Korschek. Working in Santa's workshop were Vicki Jackson, Wayne Sulecki, Barb Orr and Marian Cirello.
- **Plant Sale Update, Linda Alcorne, MG**
  
  Greetings from the greenhouse! It's hard to believe that November is already gone, although there are 6 months until the next plant sale, we have been doing lots of organizing and planning.  
  
  Some fruit and flowering trees were started, and our next group of plants will be shrubs. Now we would love more weeping *podocarpus*. We seem to already have a good supply of assorted copper leafs. We would like to propagate the crotons from our named varieties in the gardens. There is a good amount of snow bush but the dwarf variety would be nice, so, if you can, bring us some cuttings. *Sanchezia* and Natal Plums are already started. We could use some of the assorted *Schefflera’s* that we are permitted to sell. This includes *arboricola*, and the octopus one and the ruffled one. I think as far as natives we should try to start the varnish bush as well as Simpson Stopper and Walter Viburnum. Also, there should be more wild coffee.  
  
  If there are more you have in your own landscape or you can think of any from our garden, please let us know. Remember we would like a wide variety but need to limit the amount to about 25 each to accomplish this goal. Don't forget you need to label donations including date and any other known info such as color or variety. We hope to see you at the plant sale meeting or else in the gardens and greenhouse. Linda A.  

- **MG Discount at Twigs & Leaves**
  
  The St. Petersburg nursery, Twigs and Leaves gives MGs a 20% discount and schools a 20% discount. The nursery is located at 1013 Dr. Martin Luther King St. South (9th Street) between 10th and 11th Ave. It specializes in Florida native plants and carries at least 100 different plants at any given time. For more info phone (727).492.9906 or visit [http://www.twigsnleaves.com/](http://www.twigsnleaves.com/).  

- **An Introduction to Flowering Plant Identification**  
  
  **Thursdays, January 10-31, 9AM -12 Noon**
  
  This four-part series added to the Master Gardener College program in September will be repeated in the new year. The purpose and goals of this course are to provide a strong basis for the complex process of correctly identifying plants.  
  
  During the month long course, we will cover: identifying major groups of plants, what characteristics are necessary to notice when collecting information about an unknown specimen, how to use plant identification tools, and what resources are available to help.  
  
  Class size will be limited to 35, and this class will be advertised to the public so sign up soon! Contact Carol Suggs or see the sign-up sheet on the MG bulletin board to register.  
  
  The class is free to MGs, those who wish to keep the textbook will be charged $5.  

- **Friday Nights & Garden Lights**
  
  **Friday nights at the Florida Botanical Gardens**
  
  **December, 7, 14, 21 from 6-9PM**
  
  Hosted by The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation
  
  Be sure to visit the garden's enchanting and whimsical holiday light display. Enjoy a wonderful outing and delightful way to spend time with friends and family. Each Friday, entertainment will be provided by different musicians. Refreshments, children's activities, and photo ops with Mr. & Mrs. Claus will be available.  
  
  If your wish to have a youngster participate in the Children’s Parade of Wings on December 7th, please call (727) 582-2247. Parade participants will gather in the Gardenia Room at Extension.
I hope that each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and am looking forward to the December holiday season. Time sure flies by. I do wish all of you a very happy holiday season.

I will be teaching “Plant Nomenclature – What’s in a Name” for the Master Gardener Update on January 8th. Please note: we will be meeting for the update at EMS in the first floor Auditorium. In addition, we have some exciting Master Gardener College training opportunities coming up in 2008. James Stevenson will be offering his Plant Identification I class again in January (10, 17, 24, & 31) from 9 AM to 12 N for those of you that missed the first class. The cost is $5 only if you want to keep the textbook. He will then offer it again in February (2, 9, 16, & 23) also from 9 AM to 12 N for the public. He will then be offering a Plant Identification II MG College class in March (5, 12, 19, & 26) from 9 AM to 12 N. The cost of this class has not been determined as yet. Jane Morse (Commercial Horticulture Agent) has some great classes scheduled that will qualify as Master Gardener College classes and you are invited to attend at no cost. Many of these have specialists from UF speaking and are a bit more advanced than our homeowner classes. I have listed those that I think will be of interest and value to you. You will need to register by calling 582-2673. All of these classes are scheduled for the Magnolia Room here at Extension.

- Tuesday, January 22, 1 PM – 5 PM: Turf Day (new varieties, best management practices, dealing with insects and disease)
- Thursday, January 24, 8 AM to Noon: Palm Day (new diseases, insect management, nutritional and maintenance practices)
- Thursday, February 7, 2 – 4 PM: Key Plant, Key Pest (common plants and their associated pests)
- Tuesday, February 12, 2 – 4 PM: Scouting and Pest Identification
- Tuesday, February 19, 2 – 4 PM: Choosing Plants that Thrive in the Landscape
- Thursday, February 28, 2-4 PM: ABC’s of Fertilizers and Fertilization

In addition to these classes, I will be teaching Pruning Basics on January 12 at 10 a.m. here at Extension and will offer the Florida Style Gardening Series at the St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church on Tuesday evenings January 29, February 5, 12, 19 & 26 from 6 – 8 p.m.

We have been notified by the State Master Gardener Office at UF that counties can no longer choose the number of hours that are required for initial MG certification or continued certification. We must comply with the state guidelines. As of the 2008, the new MG training class members will need to volunteer 75 hours to become Certified Master Gardeners. We did decide that each student in the class will need to volunteer 15 hours during class that will not count towards the total 75 hours. To remain certified,
starting in 2008 you will need to volunteer 35 hours and receive 10 hours of continuing education for a total of 45 hours by December 31, 2008.

As we start to think about 2008, county employees have been asked to think in terms of the budget very early. Budget planning in 2008 may be more of a challenge than this past year. It is important to remain positive about our Extension office, programs, and the Florida Botanical Gardens. Negative comments do not serve our mission or our standing in the county. If you are ever in a situation to say a few words to any of our Commissioners, try to use short, specific, positive statements about the programs and successes of our Extension group. We have so much to be positive about and one of the most positive is the volunteer service provided by Master Gardeners.

It has been a pleasure to work with each of you this past year. I am looking forward to another productive and fun year in 2008.

♥ Pam

Holland Trip—Spring 2008
Join us for the 2008 Master Gardener International Trips!
We’ll be going to Holland in the spring.
Date: April 22 (depart U.S.) through May 1, 2008
Cost: $2,500 per person, including $500 advance reservation fee due by December 6, 2007.
For trip information and itineraries, visit the Garden Tours page - http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/tours/index.shtml.

For details on some of the events listed go to the calendar on the Pinellas County Extension Lawn & Garden website. http://www.pinellascounty.org/scripts/publish/webevent.pl?cmd=opencal&cal=cal6
Good Work Volunteers!

Reminders

- **Florida Botanical Garden's Seasonal Sensations**
  Nightly until January 3rd.

- **Friday Nights & Garden Lights**
  Friday nights at the Florida Botanical Gardens
  December, 7, 14, 21, 6-9PM

- **Market in the Park**
  Every Saturday at Extension 8AM-1PM