



February 2008 VOL. 8 ISSUE 2

# Master Gardener

PINELLAS COUNTY

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## Celebrating Our Volunteers and Valentine's Day

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

Every year we honor our volunteers at a luncheon. One year the celebration occurred on Valentine's Day which made it a very special time. We show our appreciation of your volunteer efforts by celebrating again this year with a Valentine's theme. As Pam always says "we love our volunteers for all that you do"

This year our luncheon and Valentine's Day are about a week apart so what follows is a brief history of Valentines Day.

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honour St. Valentine. Gradually, February 14 became the date for exchanging love messages and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. The date was marked by sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers. There was often a social gathering or a ball.



I hope you made your reservation, if so, please don't forget to join us to be honored on Wednesday, **February 6 from 11:30AM to 2PM.**

And don't forget to stop by our Botanical Bounty gift shop, and pick up something special for your dear ones. There will be a promotional sale starting **February 7th.** If you are a member of the Florida Botanical Gardens this would be a great opportunity to apply your discount to your gift purchases . ■

Thanks to MG Joanne Kliesh MGAA received a \$250 charitable grant from the Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Foundation. This is the second year Joanne made this donation happen. Joanne is a full time worker at Sam's Club where she found out about the Volunteer Always Pays program they offer. Sam's Club, to promote community volunteer involvement, offers this grant program to their employees if they also volunteer more than 25 hours at a non-profit organization. Maximum grant is \$250 which we received as a 501(c)3 Association. Joanne has almost 500 volunteer hours at Extension so far. and she tells me she also works part time at Lowes. How does she do it? Thanks again Joanne for making this happen!! It will add funds to our worthy community MGAA projects.

Chuck Scaffidi, MGAA Chair



We are especially appreciative of staff, MGs, and others who contribute articles, events, and other items of interest to *The Green Leaf* each month. Please submit your input by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. This will help us assemble and publish the newsletter in a timely manner. Also, to save mailing costs, please limit your articles to 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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## Plant of the Month in our FBG

By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

Pink Ball, Christmas Ornament Tree  
*Dombeya wallichiana*

Navigating along the Tropical Walk in the wintertime, our visitors are often awestruck by the fabulous Christmas Ornament Tree, *Dombeya wallichiana*. This small tree produces clusters of shell-pink mallow flowers from December to February, sometimes for longer.

The six inch ball-shaped inflorescences hang from the tree as the common name suggests, providing winter insects with plenty of nectar. Our specimen has grown tall enough to have become a lovely shade tree, and this is one of the benefits of growing *Dombeya* in the home landscape. The felty leaves can grow to 12 inches across and as long, and are a pale apple-green. The shade under this tree is a welcome retreat during the summer. Even in the absence of flowers!

The plant is native to South Africa and Madagascar and is in the mallow family or Malvaceae. Its cousins include the Queensland Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton* spp.) Shaving Brush Trees (*Cieba* spp., *Bombyx* spp., *Pseudobombyx* spp.), Hibiscus, Okra, Cotton, and many others.

Named for Joseph Dombey, French botanist, born in Macon, France, 20 February 1742; died in the Island of Montserrat, West Indies, in May 1794, and Nathaniel Wallich (28 January 1786 - 28 April 1854) a Dutch surgeon and botanist.

The tree is relatively fast-growing; care needs to be taken when planting, to allow for its 30' x 30' spread. Although this plant is not a Florida native, it has shown no sign of "escaping" from cultivation, so its status as non-invasive is so far intact. ■



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** is earning MGAA money. Come on, join in and try this search engine. Most of you probably use Google. Yahoos search engine also seems to be adequate. The first time you use it you need to sign in as "**Master Gardener Advisory Association**" if you need help call Chuck at 727-582-2117. ■

# JUST THE FACTS: Climate Change

By MARY CAMPBELL, Extension Director

## What is Climate Change?

The warmest global average temperatures on record have all occurred within the past 15 years, with the warmest two years being 1998 and 2005. Most of the warming in recent decades is likely the result of human activities. Other aspects of the climate are also changing such as rainfall patterns, snow and ice cover, and sea level. For over the past 200 years, the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, and deforestation has caused the concentrations of heat-trapping "greenhouse gases" to increase significantly in our atmosphere. These gases prevent heat from escaping to space, somewhat like the glass panels of a greenhouse. Scientists are certain that human activities are changing the composition of the atmosphere, and that increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases will change the planet's climate. But they are not sure by how much it will change, at what rate it will change, or what the exact effects will be.

In the U.S., our energy-related activities account for three-quarters of our human-generated greenhouse gas emissions, mostly in the form of carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. More than half the energy-related emissions come from large stationary sources such as power plants, while about a third comes from transportation.

Hints:

- To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases look for energy saving products (Energy Star®)
- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to conserve energy from manufacturing and disposal
- Use a renewable fuel in your vehicle
- Learn about the potential impacts of climate change

## Why is it Important?

The potential consequences of climate change are profound, particularly on people in the less developed countries. The question is therefore not whether climate change is happening, but what to do about it. We need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, which will mean altering how we live and do business.

## Resource:

U.S Environmental Protection Agency/Climate Change - [www.epa.gov/climatechange](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange)

United Nations Environment Program - [www.unep.org/themes/climatechange/](http://www.unep.org/themes/climatechange/) ■



## Mark Your Calendar! Florida Native Plant Society Conference and Plant Sale

The Florida Native Plant Society is having their 28th Annual Native Plant conference and plant sale at the **Manatee Convention Center in Palmetto May 14-18<sup>th</sup>**. This is a fantastic way to learn about landscape design and gardening with native plants, buy native plants and

participate in the classes and workshops. Social events and a childrens conference will facilitate family weekends. Nature photography, a field trip and owl pellet analysis are just some of the activities scheduled for the children.

This is an educational experience not to miss! Listen to Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor re-inact the expedition of botanist Andre' Michaux from the late 1700's, Jon Thaxton, Sarasota County Commissioner and environmental leader, Linda Young of the Clean Water Network, and Jim Eagan of the Marine Resources Council who will speak on how native plants saved the lives of thousands in the Asian tsunami of 2005.

There will be field trips to over 20 natural areas including kayak and canoe trips. The conference features renowned speakers, plant identification, discussions on climate change, gardening for butterflies and birds and scientific research.

Books, environmental art, crafts, and clothing will be on sale. There is something for everyone!

Mark your calendar for **May 14 through 18<sup>th</sup>** and find out what everyone is talking about.

Go to [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org) for more information and to register. ■

## NOTES FROM YOUR MG LIBRARY

### *Books on the Shelves*

By ANGELA STRAIN, MG

#### Florida Friendly Landscape

- A Guide to Environmentally Friendly Landscaping; IFAS
- A Guide to Planting & Maintenance of Common Coastal Plants in Florida; Barnett; UFP; 1997
- A Guide to Planting & Maintenance of Common Coastal Plants in Florida; Barnett; UFP; 1990
- Florida Gardening: The Newcomer's Survival Guide; Brandies; Mackey Books; 2005
- Florida Home Grown: Landscaping; MacCubbin; Sentinel; 1987
- Florida's Best Native Landscape Plants; Nelson; UFP; 2003
- Florida's Endangered & Threatened Plants; Coile; Fla. Dept. Of Ag & Consumer Services; 1993
- Garden in Florida; Noble; 1975
- Landscaping in Florida; Perry; Pineapple; 1990
- Natural Florida Landscaping; Walton; Pineapple; 2007
- Plant Guide; Dawes; SWFWM
- Salt Tolerant Plants; Barrick; Dept of Ornamental Hort UF; 1979
- Seashore Plants of S FL & Caribbean; Nellis; Pineapple; 1994
- Seaside Plants of the World; Menninger; Hearthsides; 1964

There are new titles added to our MG Library weekly. Please take a few minutes to visit and enjoy!

## Outer Harmony With The Garden-Variety Dog

By MARY JACKSON, MG

The animal lovers among us know all too well the dangerous proximity of the Extension Service to both Animal Services and the Largo SPCA. One fine spring day, after a morning of volunteering in the gardens, I stopped by the SPCA on my way home "just to see what they had" (an incident a friend of mine has likened to an addict stopping by a dealer's house "just to say hi"). Of course, I brought home one of what they had: an adorable 10-week-old border collie / ridgeback mix we named Maddy. She would join our dog, Cooper, who had come to us as an 8-week-old puppy, grown to 90 pounds, and never harmed my garden in any way. Maddy would grow to merely half his size, and decimate my yard in the process. I know it's difficult to pinpoint the precise parentage of a rescue pup, but I suspect the SPCA intentionally hid the obvious: Maddy has bulldozer genes.



It had taken me a few years to remove the lawn from my back yard, and get it to more natural setting. I had planted lots of native grasses, wildflowers, and vines, and the whole was coming along quite well. Then along came Maddy. It was soooo cute the way she would fly into and roll puppy belly up in the big tufts of increasingly flattened grasses. She provided us with sidesplitting entertainment as she ran through, over, and around beds of wildflowers. She would emerge from my native plumbago with flowers adhering to her fur, looking like the puppy version of a hippy chick. All of this was extremely cute, if somewhat destructive. Most native plants tend to be very tough and resilient (yet another reason I love them); mine didn't show damage right away, but after a few months of being Maddy-ized, most were on the way out. I was at a loss for a while, but was determined not to end up with a dirt pit for a yard. I truly believed that dogs could coexist happily with beautiful gardens; I just had to come up with a better plan. The answer, I decided, was shrubbery.

Fortunately, Florida has a plethora of interesting, fragrant, and beautiful native shrubs. I moved the surviving wildflowers (frightened, cowering, but still viable) to my front yard, and started planting bloodberry, firebush, bird pepper, fiddlewood, wax myrtle, snowberry, marlberry, and others. Each new shrub received a "teepee" of 4 wooden rods tied at the top until it grew big and strong enough to be Maddy-proof. The teepees turned out to be fairly aesthetic, and actually look more artsy than protective, so most are still in place. The coral honeysuckle, passion, and cross vines fared well, and still cover the fence and arbor. A well-established patch of porterweed also continues to stand up beautifully to all canine assaults. So far, so good: Maddy still manages to snap off small branches, but does no real harm, and the shrubs are established and growing well.

Although it was frustrating having to basically start over with my backyard landscape, (it is still a work in progress), I feel I achieved a better, more interesting and diverse garden that flourishes along with two large, playful dogs. I hope to always have both gardens and dogs, and have learned that, with a few reasonable adjustments, canine-loving gardeners can have it all. ■

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

*For February  
March & April*

- Class Registration Help
- Herbfest
- Bloom & Garden Fest
- Compost & Raised Beds
- EPCOT International Flower & Garden Festival
- Earth-day Celebration

## ■ 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!

## ■ Help Needed with Class Registration

James Stevenson will be teaching his Plant ID class at Extension for the public on **Saturdays in February from 9AM to 12 noon**. He will need a couple of volunteers to help with registration and taking money on the first Saturday (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>). Please let Carol know 727-582-2124 if you can help.

## ■ 2008 Herbfest Culinary Herbs and Spices: Sat, Feb 16 8AM to 1PM

Come visit the Master Gardeners, the Florida Herb Society, and the commercial vendors adjacent to the Market in the Park. Here's the events planned for under the large tent by the butterfly garden near Market in the Park.

9-9:40 AM	<i>Accent Your Recipes with Herbs and Spices</i>	Monica Brandies
	20 Minute Break	
10-10:40 AM	<i>Growing Herbs Organically for Flavor, Nutrition, and Beauty</i>	Willow LaMont
	20 Minute Break	
11-11:40 AM	<i>Flavorable and Nutritious Herbal Teas</i>	Emily Wenzel
	20 Minute Break	
12-1 PM	<i>Herbal Cooking Demonstration</i>	Nan Jensen, Family & Consumer Sciences

Also, at 10-11 AM, Cindy Peacock, will gather with individuals and families, at the gazebo for an educational tour of our Herb Garden. Afterwards, her group will be treated to a salsa class, but not the dance!

## ■ Bloom & Garden Fest in Downtown Safety Harbor

Saturday, **March 15 from 9AM to 3PM** on Main St at the gazebo in downtown Safety Harbor. Vendors and local gardening clubs will be on hand to get your spring planting going. Enjoy educational seminars, fun craft for kids and a mini Farmer's Market.

## ■ It's EPCOT Time Again

We currently have three dates to man the MG Information Booth at the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the back hall. The dates are:

**Tuesday, March 25** (Cindy will be driving)

**Wednesday, April 10** (Michael will be driving – it's his birthday!)

**Wednesday, May 7** (Jean will be driving).

Each day needs four MGs. If more than 4 sign up, we will draw names for the list. It really is a fun day – and there is time to wander the festival and a free lunch.

Plan on a full day-from early AM to late PM

## ■ Looking for a Fun Learning Experience with Kids?

Earth-day Celebration is **Saturday, April 19 from 8AM to 1PM** at Extension There will be a tent set-up with Earth type activities for kids to do; in conjunction with the Market in the Park. Cindy Peacock would love to have some fun loving volunteers to work with kids. Contact her at 727-582-2671.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MG Advisory Association**
- **MG Update Meetings**
- **Palm Harbor Library Garden Series**
- **Volunteer Hours Sign in**
- **Habitat for Humanity MG Landscaping Project**
- **Plant Sale Update**
- **Update on the Children's Trail**

### Important Change for Signing Out

#### Recording Your Volunteer Hours

**NOTE:** As of February 15, there will be a shorter list of assignments to choose from when you **sign out** in the volunteer computer system. Instructions about this new feature will be posted by the computer to guide you in selecting your assignments.

### 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 have been sending your hours by e-mail, use the form in the log book as a guide and send to: [MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us](mailto:MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us). Please direct your questions to coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or an assistant, Carrie Shelby, or Mary Crowe.

### ■ **MG Advisory Association, Chuck Scaffidi, Chair**

The articles of incorporation have been approved and filed with the State of Florida as of December 12, 2007. The current bylaws are in effect until the changes to the bylaws are complete. The bylaws are being modified to comply with both Incorporation and UF/IFAS requirements. If the new bylaws are completed by the next board meeting the changes will be presented then for approval. Even though the board gave their approval to modify these documents for incorporation, the recent need to change them to comply with UF/IFAS requires the board to re-approve.

There is no planned February board meeting. The annual MGAA meeting for elections and 2008 budget approval is **Saturday, March 8th, 11AM to 1PM** with a potluck lunch.

Visit IFAS/ Extension web site [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master\\_gardener/index.shtml](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml) for MGAA documents.

### ■ **February MG Update**

**Friday, February 8th, 10AM.** Our own Florida Yards & Neighborhoods, Wilma Holley, will be the presenter. See leaves in a new way in her photo montage, with texture, and identification. You'll create a leafy craft. **Mentor Meeting directly after the update – all Mentors please plan to be there.**

### ■ **Looking Ahead to the March MG Update**

**Saturday, March 8th, 10AM.** Sylvia Durell from the Southwest Florida Water Management District will present, "**Understanding and Preparing for a Drought.**" She will compare the historic drought of 1998-2000 with how conditions are today and discuss what the water management district has done to address the current drought and what everyone can do to help. Please plan to attend this important update.

### ■ **Free Small Flowering Trees Class Offered by Master Gardener**

Pinellas County MGs are offering a free *Small Flowering Trees Class* **Wednesday, February 13**, as part of their monthly *Palm Harbor Library Garden Series*. **The same class will be held twice with one at 2PM and another at 6:30PM.** This *Small Flowering Trees Class* is the second in the 2008 monthly series. Please note that the series will be held at the Crystal Beach Community Hall, 517 Crystal Beach Ave. in Crystal Beach, while Palm Harbor Library undergoes renovation.

MG Sandy Huff presents an information-packed slide show that highlights the 20-plus trees that thrive right here in the Tampa Bay area. This class will help participants understand which small trees are perfect for that tiny spot in the yard. Learn how to select a tree that produces gorgeous blooms, smells great and even bears fruit.

Admission is free, but space is limited. Call Pinellas County Extension at 727-582-2673 to reserve a seat for this class.

### ■ **Update on the MG Landscaping Project**

Pam Yauch, the Habitat for Humanity homeowner, was happy to receive a handy reference notebook compiled by MGs which has IFAS fact sheets on all her plants. This practical information will help her maintain her officially certified Florida Friendly Yard.

*MGAA approved \$2,000 for the Habitat for Humanity MG Project.* ■



## ■ Plant Sale Update

Hey Y'all. Just a quick update from the plant sale committee. We had a meeting on Friday, January 25. Thanks to those of you who attended and for all the great input. As for all those who missed due to being in Costa Rica we are looking forward to hearing all about your adventures.

As you know, we are adapting to some changes and are working on creative solutions to meet new challenges. We are coming up with a new list of plants to propagate that are more in keeping with the Extension mission of environmentally friendly landscaping. The list is still quite extensive and will include more native and more drought tolerant plants. Our goal is to encourage landscaping that will help minimize the impact on our environment by growing well here in Pinellas with a minimum of extra water, fertilizer and pruning while providing beauty and habitat for those we share this paradise with. Due to the time constraints that we impose on ourselves we may consider selling smaller plants. James Stevenson will be working with us more and sharing his extensive expertise in the nursery business.

The Horticulture staff greatly appreciates the financial support MGAA has provided in the past from the proceeds of our plant sales. With the future county budget, they hope to count on our continued support. At this time we are planning only one sale this year on May 10. There are 97 growing days left until that date. We discussed several other retail options that may be considered to supplement the proceeds from our big sale. This includes the possibility of participating in the Market in the Park. A trial participation day was done and some banana, papaya and dragon fruit plants were sold. An "ask me" educational booth was included. We do not have to commit to every weekend

## ■ Update on the Children's Trail

Following is an update from the January 9th meeting:

- Need to determine how much design detail to provide to designer.
- Four stations approved by Sustainability Committee. Proposing up to 16 stations.
- Illustrator Todd Still to receive Cindy's posters as possible inspiration for his artwork.
- Binoculars to be installed in February .
- Obtaining risk management approval of the sites.
- Targeting March 1st approval of educational content by Extension staff.

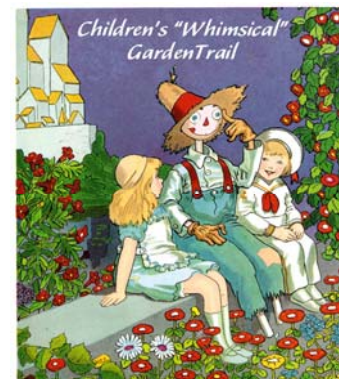
**Committee Members:** Dianne Wheatley-Giolotti, Mary Campbell, Vivian Haicken, Betty Lipe, Cindy Peacock, Chuck Scaffidi, Pat Dieterich, Lou LaGrande, Bobbie Jones, and James Stevenson.

Next Children's Trail Committee meeting is Wednesday, **March 4, at 11AM to 12PM**, in the Orchard room.

**MGAA approved \$2,000 for the Children's Trail MG Project.** ■

but if there are interested volunteers we could participate intermittently. We do not have to pay for our booth and as long as our prices are within a competitive range, we can duplicate what others have for sale. We also could sell plants at other planned events such as large conferences and workshops. This would enable us to select plants at their peak. Again, if this seems like it would be a volunteer opportunity you would enjoy please let us know. We also discussed the possibility of having a table in the shade house set aside for plants that could be sold during our regular volunteer hours on Mondays and Fridays. Think about this and share your thoughts.

The propagating teams have been busy keeping the plants we currently have in stock in good growing order. We should be getting very busy within the next few weeks making baby plants. We are hoping to add some specialized propagating workshops as the staghorn workshop was very positive. We will keep you updated on the details of this. We also discussed the possibility of bringing in plants from home to sell to ourselves at master gardener events and meetings. This would be acceptable as the plants would be inside and not be introduced into our stock with the attendant risk of pest introduction. Pat Dieterich brought this up as she has some choice african violets that she has been growing. We have done this before with Mary Ellen's bulbine and it worked out, and we all know we are always our own best customers. So **thanks** again for all the great suggestions and I hope to see you in the greenhouse. Just a quick note that due to changes in my own work status, I am hoping someone else would like to take a turn as the committee chairperson. It is not difficult as all the great team leaders do the hard parts. Think about it and let me know. Linda A ■



## SAFETY NET



By PAM BROWN  
Urban Horticulture Extension  
Agent

### Driving Safely

Always wear your safety belt when driving and insist that your passengers wear a safety belt, too. Wearing a safety belt is required by law in every state, except New Hampshire. In Florida, front seat passengers also are required by law to wear a safety belt.

- Never exceed the posted speed limit.

To maintain a safe distance between you and the car ahead, keep a following distance of at least two seconds. Add one second for each adverse driving condition such as bad weather.

- When stopped at a red light and it turns green, proceed slowly. Look left and right before you drive through the intersection.
- Never look directly at an approaching car's headlights. Use the right edge of the pavement as a lane guide until the other car has passed.
- The tires on your car can lose traction on wet roads. Slow down if the roads are wet.
- When driving on a highway, always be prepared for drivers to change lanes suddenly in order to exit.
- Do not let your emotions dominate your driving.
- Do not drive when you are tired. If you feel tired, pull off the road for some exercise and fresh air or a cup of coffee.

Additional tips are available at:  
<http://orthoinfo.aaos.org/topic.cfm?topic=A00240>

By PAM BROWN,  
Urban Horticulture  
Extension Agent

Can you believe how fast 2008 is flying by already? January is just a blur for me.

Our annual Volunteer Recognition and Awards Luncheon is coming up very soon – Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM. We have a lovely lunch and program planned, so please try to attend.

I want to thank Marie Singer for taking charge of our booth at this year's Home Show. This was a great help to us. Thanks also to all of you who helped her with this booth. We appreciate your help and dedication.

February is a very busy month. We have Dr. John teaching Compost Happens on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, the volunteer luncheon on the 6<sup>th</sup>, Master Gardener Update and Mentor Meeting on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>, then HerbFest on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and African American Heritage celebration on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. James will be teaching his Plant ID class for the public on Saturdays in February from 9AM to 12 noon. He will need a couple of volunteers to help with registration and taking money on the first Saturday (Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>). Please let Carol know (582-2124) if you can help.

Looking forward – there will be another Master Gardener College opportunity the four Thursdays in March. James will be teaching Plant ID II – for those who have taken one of the Plant ID I classes. This continuation will go into further depth of the subject. The class is limited to 30. The sign up sheet is on the back hall bulletin board – and it looks like it is half filled already.

As the budget tightens in the County, we may be looking at different Master Gardener duties in the future. There is so much uncertainty, but we must be prepared. I have been so pleased at the number of you who have been presenting educational programs. You are doing a great job in this arena and I would encourage others to find out how rewarding this can be. In addition, I would like you to consider whether you might be interested in learning to do horticulture phone consultations and the help desk. We may have fewer horticulturists in the future to assist with this or those horticulturists may have a much expanded list of duties. This is a reality of the downturn in our economy and the roll backs in property taxes mandated by the Florida Legislature. If you think that you might be interested in learning how to do this – please let me know (582-2112). In most Florida counties, the Master Gardeners are performing these duties.

I am so grateful for all that you do for us. We cannot accomplish our mission without you!

♥ Pam



with you = MGs  
The sun always shines





## MG College - Plant Identification II

Thursdays in March from 9AM-12 noon

A continuation of Plant Identification I, this series examines the theme in greater depth.

**Objective:** Expand on concepts introduced in Plant Identification 1

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Ability to recognize ten plant families
- Creation of a family-characteristic notebook, with sketches and pressed specimens for reference.
- Creation of a Plant Family Outline for three plant families.

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to Pam's Office. ■

## Africanized Bees

Wednesday, April 9 from 7-8PM

**Sponsored by: Jeanne Murphy and the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP)**

Maintaining your family's safety while enjoying the outdoors includes increasing awareness about the aggressive, Africanized bee. Join bee expert Jerry Hayes with Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to learn how this non-native bee differs from other important Florida pollinators. Mr. Hayes will help us understand where these bees came from, how they have impacted the European honeybee and the effect of their invasion on our own, docile, native pollinators. We will also learn how to recognize a potentially Africanized colony, what to do, and the negative impacts of over-reacting to the presence of non-threatening insects. No fee. For registration, call (727) 582-2673. ■

# 2008 February

### SATURDAYS IN FEBRUARY, 8AM-1PM

- Market in the Park at Extension

### SAT, FEB 2, 10-11:30AM

- Compost Happens Workshop at the Extension

### WED, FEB 6, 11:30AM

- Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

### FRI, FEB 8, 10AM

- MG Update with Wilma Holley, "Look What You Can Do With a Leaf"

### TUES IN FEB, 6PM-8PM

- Florida Style Gardening Series at the St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

### SAT, FEB 16, 8AM-1PM

- Annual Herb Fest at Extension

### Looking Ahead!

### SATURDAYS IN MARCH, 8AM-1PM

- Market in the Park at Extension

### THURSDAYS IN MARCH, 9AM-12 NOON

- MG College - Plant ID Part 2

### Looking Ahead!

### SAT, MAR 8

- 10AM MG Update - Sylvia Durell, SWFMD, "Understanding & Preparing for a Drought"

- 11AM to 1PM - Annual MGAA meeting for elections and 2008 budget approval with a potluck lunch.

### SAT, MAR 29, 9-10:30AM

- Rain Barrel Workshop at Extension Cost for workshop free, optional \$22 fee for a barrel

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=openca&cal=cal6>



Pinellas County  
12520 Ulmerton Rd.  
Largo, FL 33774-3695  
Phone: (727)582-2100  
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The enclosed material is provided as one of the many services relating to the educational programs offered by this agency. Our statewide network of faculty is prepared to provide current information on food, agriculture, marine and natural resource science, energy, nutrition, family and 4-H youth, and related fields. We will be happy to help you with additional information upon request.

*Pamela W. Brown*

Pamela W. Brown  
Extension Agent II, Environmental Horticulture

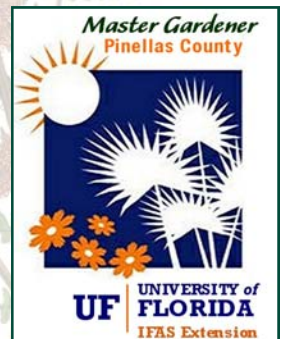
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# Good Work Volunteers!

## Reminders

- **Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon**  
Wednesday, February 6 at 11:30AM
- **MG Update & Mentor Meeting**  
Friday, February 8 at 10AM



University of Florida/IFAS  
Pinellas County Extension  
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