Lesson 3

The Three D’s

By BOB ABBEN, MG

Distribution and Disbursement leads to Diversity. If the seeds were not disbursed by the plant, or distribution by broadcasting is not done by humans, there would be very little diversity. Just clumps of this here, and clumps of that over there (your personal landscaping not withstanding). So, once again nature has provided a “wonder”. The Mistletoe is a parasite that lives a lonely life, except at Christmas. Its seed distribution is even more exciting than the peck on the cheek it provides at Christmas time. The seeds are coated with a sticky substance, if a bird gets to the seed pod for a snack before it opens, the seeds will stick to the birds beak. The only chance of getting them off is to rub against a tree limb, thereby distributing the seeds. Once off the beak the bird won’t have anything to do with the seed, but if the seed pod were left alone, it would explode. A gas generated in the seed pod is heated by the sun, upon exploding the seeds are propelled in all directions at a “G” force of 500. It takes a “G” force of 10 to lift a rocket off the ground. The seed will stick to the first thing it hits and grow, if it falls to the ground it will die. Being the parasite it is, there is a need to hit a plant or preferably a tree that is alive.

It takes 75 bean seeds to weigh an ounce. It takes 400,000 orchid seeds to weigh an ounce.

Seeds in today’s world have changed many plants; mostly the food plants.

With hybridization, cloning and radiation, many of these plants are suspected of side effects both to humans and to the plant itself. The reproduction of the seed is effected in some cases. Electrical fields have an adverse effect on the germination of the seeds. The pollen from the silk of altered sweet corn is deadly to some insects. When the pollen falls or is blown onto a nearby milkweed plant it will kill the Monarch Butterfly caterpillars.

They Truly Are a Miracle

Good News!!

Get some classroom hours without leaving home. The series of short articles entitled “KNOW THE SEEDS” are being published monthly in The Green Leaf. The series will run possibly into March. We all understand nothing is free. With the final article will be a quiz. Take the quiz, submit your answers and enter your hours as GEUs. A generous average guideline will be available. Be amazed at one of the many wonders of nature. Seeds are truly a miracle. Learn about them.

(back lessons are available)
ELECTRONIC BUTTER "FLYS" AGAIN

By BOB ABBEN, MG

Butterflies are popular and with their popularity come MYSTERIES …

There is a Solution.

The Master Gardener Advanced Training "E-mail" Butterfly Course will take flight in January (date TBA). The course is divided into ten lessons. The first and last will be at "Extension" … the lessons in between will be sent to you by E-mail at 10 day intervals (snail mail is ok). There is a quiz with each lesson. Mailing dates of lessons will be provided in advance (no lessons during holidays).

Master Gardeners interested may pick up and read the Mission Statement of the class from Carol Suggs. See Carol after your reading of the Mission Statement. Urgent! Cut off date for enrollment will be January 9, 2006. Please! make your intentions known in person as soon as possible since enrollment will be very limited. If you have a preferred day of the week for first and last live classes, please note on the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please call me at 585-0509 or by e-mail rabben@ij.net

Garden Tips

By JOANNE DRAKE, MG

Most gardeners give tender loving care to their plants during all seasons. Cooler weather with chance of freeze really gets us concerned about their survival through the winter. Those of us that can grow tropical plants outdoors will appreciate any tips that will help keep our plants warm and cozy.

Tropical plants, such as Frangipani (Plumeria), are sensitive to cold. This deciduous plant loses it's leaves every year on it's sausage-like branches. Socks or leg-warmers will slip right over the bare branches and only need to be secured at the end openings. A plastic newspaper bag may be pulled right over the socks or leg warmers and also secured. Once the threat of freeze is over … these coverings may be removed. You can expect a wonderful blooming season full of color and fragrant flowers.

Safety Nets

By PAM BROWN

Lawn and Garden

Horticulture Agent

While our backyards and gardens are usually peaceful havens from the world's hustle and bustle, their upkeep can lead to injury when proper safety precautions are not followed. Each year about 400,000 people are treated in hospital emergency departments for injuries related to the use of lawn and garden tools.

"Although most injuries are minor, like cuts and scratches, some can be quite severe," said Larry Alexander, MD, of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). "While you may have a green thumb with plants, it is not a good idea to be
Important Announcements!

Palm Education

Pam Brown has a CD produced by Drs. Monica Elliott and Tim Brochat of the University of Florida containing PowerPoint presentations on Palm Diseases, Palm Fertilization, Physiological Disorders of Palms, Palm Nutrient Deficiencies, and Palm Transplanting and Pruning. There are scripts to go with each presentation. Three of these CDs are available for MGs to check out and use for study. If you go through all five of the presentations it will equal 7 hours of continuing education units. Please see Pam if you would like to check out one of the CDs for study.

ACEP offers the following safety guidelines to prevent yard injuries:

♦ Wear protective eyewear (glasses, goggles, face shield) when operating all gardening equipment.
♦ Wear earmuffs or earplugs.
♦ Wear protective clothing such as close-fitting clothes, gloves, long pants, long-sleeved shirts and slip-resistant shoes.
♦ Wear sunscreen and stay hydrated.
♦ Don't lift yard waste that is too heavy for you. Utilize a dolly or wheelbarrow to help transport heavy loads.
♦ Don't walk on slippery or uneven surfaces while carrying yard waste or operating equipment.
♦ Follow the manufacturer's directions when using any chemicals on your lawn.
♦ Keep your child away from the lawn after chemicals are used.
♦ Store all gardening chemicals in a locked, ventilated area that is out of a child's reach.
♦ Hoses should be stored properly after use to avoid tripping. Lay ladders on their sides. Lay rakes with tines down.
♦ Never work with lawn and garden equipment in damp or wet conditions.
♦ Install a ground-fault circuit interrupter to avoid electrical shock.
♦ Before mowing, remove debris from the lawn such as rocks, metal, glass, sticks and branches.
♦ Keep a first-aid kit in your home and emergency medical numbers posted near your phone.

Taken from the American College of Emergency Physicians web site

Cottage Garden in Progress

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

In a true cottage garden, there are flowers for cutting, color for looking at, herbs to pick for the kitchen and even a tomato plant.

MG volunteers with the guidance of Horticulturist Allen Cordell are creating this new look by refurbishing the Cottage garden in FBG’s wedding garden.

Tom Carrell with other MGs built the picket fence and made the frame to hold Linda Culhane's beautiful stained glass piece. Ruth Davies added flowers to showcase it.

This winter the jatrope looks like a tree with red balls hanging on it.

All we need is warmer weather to fill it completely with color.

Here is a picture taken as work progressed. Clockwise from foreground; Allen Cordell, Ann Engle-Brown, Anne Puffer and Ruth Davies.
**It’s here and working**

You now have the ability to send your volunteer hours by e-mail. The e-mail address is: MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us. Please be specific when doing this – include individual dates and hours worked just like you would in the logbook. MG Jan Curtin will be recording these hours that are sent in by this method. I appreciate those that are using this method to report their hours and hope you will continue to do so.

**Pinellas County Extension & Florida Botanical Gardens**

We need help in collecting all publicity related to the Extension and FBG Gardens. Please clip any articles you see that mention us in any way, including weddings and outside events. Please bring the clippings to the volunteer office.

Please remember to include the name of the publication and date published.

**MG Advisory Association**

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

The Articles of Incorporation are completed. We applied for 501(c) (3) IRS tax-exempt status and the IRS responded recently requesting changes to the articles. Noel Bell and I responded to their questions and hope it will satisfy IRS’s concerns.

Members of the bylaws committee (Linda Culhane, Angela Strain, Noel Bell, Gail Robertson and I) have completed the companion By-Laws document. I presented this document to our lawyer for comments and we made his recommended change. This committee is now feverishly working on the Policy and Procedures document, which will contain the details of how MGAA operates and is organized, and establishes and defines the duties of committees.

We held our second board meeting on Friday Nov. 8. Association secretary Linda Barnett's minutes were distributed to all by e-mail. If you did not receive a copy please see me in the volunteer office.

I have scheduled a general meeting of MGAA on January 9 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am in the Magnolia room to elect new board members. Please!! Try to attend.

A quorum (51%) of current directors and 51% of the general membership present is needed to approve business.

The election committee members Linda Culhane, Angela Strain, Noel Bell, Gail Robertson and myself received interest to become board members from the following MGS: Linda Culhane, Angela Strain, Noel Bell, Gail Robertson, Chuck Scaffidi, Jack Moss, Bob Abben, Donna Zacharczyk, Patsy Schamber, Sam Skemp, Linda Barnette, Rogers Davidson, Elsa Soto, Yvonne Edmonds, and Barb Orr.

Article VII, Section 1. of the Bylaws allows a maximum of 25 board members. This proposed slate is 15 MGAA members.

After the Jan. 9 election of new board members, they will appoint the following officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. Article VII, Section 2, requires the officer appointments take place within 5 days of the annual meeting.

A budget committee (Donna Zacharczyk and Patsy Schamber) identified budgets for the coming year. They contacted Staff and MGs to determine yearly needs. The financial/budget committee will meet soon to determine allocation amounts and spending priorities for the new year.

MGs participating in special events should get prior approval and a check voucher from the MG Advisory committee if they are going to expend money for any event and expect reimbursement.

**Volunteer Opportunities and Events for January**

For Volunteer Opportunities:

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

**Tour Guides Needed**

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

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

I have been leading tours for about 4 years and enjoy them all. Each tour gives me an opportunity to learn more about our growing FBG and also the interests of visiting people from all walks of life.

I will personally work with you if you have an interest. Call 582-2117 or see me in the volunteer room.
74th St. Elementary Gardening Initiative

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

Southern Oak Elementary

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

IFAS Award of Excellence for Master Gardener Projects

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

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

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

Please contact Pam Brown, Chuck Scaffidi, Jack Moss or Sam Skemp to contribute to this exciting project. We also respectfully welcome suggestions for this event.

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

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

In 2006 the Conference will be in a different location. Rumor says it may be Jacksonville. Wherever, please join us this year!

We are so very proud that we received a state award for the Plant Sale project submitted this year. To celebrate this great honor, Linda Barnette and I, with Carol Suggs assisting us, are arranging a luncheon for all MGs, the maintenance crew, and staff who work so diligently to set-up and assist in the plant sales.

A catered luncheon will be served on January 9th in the Magnolia room from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Please see me or RSVP by January 4 on the reservation line 582-2247. “All MGs welcome.”

MG Advanced Training Trip to Sarasota

By Linda Barnette

Fifty-two master gardeners boarded the bus and headed south on Thursday, December 8. First stop was the Florida House Learning Center on the grounds of the Sarasota Technical Institute. The first thing I noticed was the perennial peanut thriving as a ground cover. We divided into three groups; one group toured the house while the other two toured the grounds. I was lucky to be in the group led by Patricia Porchey, a horticulturalist with Sarasota Extension.

The grounds have many different areas. Each area has a mailbox containing a list of plants growing there. Patricia explained that having a garden is an ongoing process of learning and changing plans. Haven’t we all experienced that? Inside the house Lydia Towner gave us a tour pointing out the energy efficient appliances and carpet made from recycled soda bottles among many other things. When we got on the bus for our next stop we were each given an energy efficient fluorescent light bulb.

Next stop was lunch on the grounds of the Ringling Museum at the Banyan Cafe. After lunch we were free to walk around the grounds and smell the roses in Mabel’s rose garden.

Last stop was Crowley Nursery where we were met by Kathy and Charlie Crowley. This is not your typical nursery with rows and rows of plants for sale. Kathy and Charlie love their plants and grow them in a natural setting. Charlie is particularly fond of bamboo and Kathy loves hummingbirds. Too soon it was time to board the bus for our return to reality and Clearwater.
Up-coming Master Gardener Update Training Topics

Mark your Calendar!

January 9th (Monday) – Soil, how do we keep it alive? - Pam Brown 10:00 -11:00am-Magnolia room following MGAAs first annual meeting. Remember free plant sale appreciation luncheon following Pam's lecture (please RSVP).

February 8th – Pollination and Problems With Pollination – Outside speaker

March 8th – Let Yvonne Edmonds know if you have a speaker you recommend.

MG Plant Sale Meetings

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

The plant sale committee, starting with the April 2006 sale, is planning to expand items for sale by adding specialty plant varieties.

The specialty plant group leaders are: native plants, Maureen Crawford; flowering vines, Elsa Soto; and tropical & exotic, Linda Culhane.

Lists will be posted on the bulletin board that suggest the plant types that we would like to add to our stock. It would be greatly appreciated if you would help us in this endeavor by offering cuttings or volunteering to propagate these at home. If you are able to help, please peruse the lists and sign your name next to the desired plant.

This will help us to offer a greater variety at the plant sale. Also if you have any plants in these categories that have not previously been for sale, please contact us to see if we would like to use it. The lists are not confined to those named. It’s just that we couldn’t think of other plants.

If you would like to help, please contact me at hpw163@aol.com Thanks, Linda Culhane.

We are also excited about starting a "flowering vine" line of sales. If you have a flowering vine on your property, we would like to obtain cuttings so we can get started on preparing plants for the next sale. Please call Elsa Soto at 726-6159 and she will make arrangements to take cuttings.

Please contact Maureen Crawford at 392-2206 for native plants.

Thank you for your help in making this one of the greatest plant sales in the county. We’re working on it becoming the best in the state, and with your assistance we can succeed. The plant sales require an extraordinary amount of MG hours to make it a special and successful event. Your continued support is encouraged and we would like to set a goal of having the most MGs involved.

This is a very rewarding learning experience personally. Knowing that plant sale profits, by far our biggest source of income, benefit Master Gardener programs from education to supporting charitable organizations is an added bonus.

Don’t forget-January 9 in the Magnolia room is the Plant Sale appreciation luncheon for all MGs.

Please see me or RSVP by January 4 on the reservation line 582-2247. All MGs are welcome.

Next plant sale meeting is January 27.

Emily’s Greenhouse/ Shade House Etiquette Part II

By MIKE PETTAY

A number of MGs have approached me to suggest that it might be helpful to have some kind of chart, posted out in the Greenhouse, delineating what routine maintenance needs to be done and how often.

I’ve come up with one, using that modern, technological miracle, the Dry Erase Board. This will live somewhere in the potting area of the Greenhouse, as soon as we figure out where it can be both visible yet not in someone’s way.

Basically, I’ve charted maintenance stuff that should be done daily (after each day’s use) weekly, periodically and monthly. We have four regular crews: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, and smaller, occasional crews on other days. Monday and Friday crews will continue to do the weekly chores,
but I would greatly appreciate it if all crews would make sure that the daily tasks get done, on those days that they are out there, and that all crews would rotate through the monthly pressure washing the floor thing. This is a safety issue that must be done!

Thanks everyone! I know you all work very hard out there and sometimes it’s easy to overlook little things until they pile up and bite somebody. This way we can all see at a glance what needs to be done and when it was done last.

Seasonal Sensation’s Holiday Lights

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, MG

Opening of holiday lights on Dec. 3 and on that evening the FBG board sponsored a wine and cheese event, Fantasy of Light, for members of the Florida Botanical Gardens in the wedding garden. The Holiday Lights came to a close and for all that visited it was a breathtaking experience.

Seasonal Sensations and Fantasy of Light opening celebration pictures. Top left corner and clockwise around. Mary Ellen & Lyle Warner, Ruth Davies and Monique Moujaim; lobby display; wedding garden reception lights; Carla Levesque & Donna Zacharczyk; Barbara Orr, Bill & Pam Brown, and Bruce & Gail Robertson; Donna Zacharczyk, Carol Lucia, Mary Crowe, Lana Fleckinger, and Mary Campbell; children on stage after parade; Mindy Bickey & Suzanne Girves; Rogers & Mary Davidson and Bruce & Gail Robertson; Marva Perry, and Sam & Sonja Skemp.

See me if you would like to see more pictures.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

In June of 2006, Chattanooga will host the 2006 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference. They are expecting between 500--1,000 Master Gardeners from 16 states for the 4-day event. (June 8 to 11). I would personally like to invite all Master Gardeners to attend what we think will be one of the best regional conferences that will be held in the southeast.

We will have a very special project for all Master Gardeners to get their hands a little dirty while they are attending the Conference. The project will be located between the two Tennessee Aquarium buildings along the banks of the Tennessee River. Once the project is completed it will be used as an educational tool for the schools and aquarium groups. Once completed, we feel the project will be one that all Master Gardeners can be proud to have been a participant.

We will also be hosting an open Informational Day to the public. On Saturday the 10th, we will have national and regional speakers starting at 10:00 am till 5:00 pm in the evening, and a large vendor area open to everyone to view and buy products and crafts for the lawn and garden.

Below is a link to the Conference Webpage: The Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, A Blending of the Waters, June
Happy 2006! You may receive this prior to the New Year due to the holidays. I trust that everyone is having a great holiday season. If you are or will be traveling, I hope you are all safe.

January is the beginning of our very busiest season. Please consider volunteering for the Tampa Bay Flower Show [http://www.flowershow.com/t_show_1.php](http://www.flowershow.com/t_show_1.php). The gardens will not have a display this year, but we will need volunteers to help in the Master Gardener booth. We need quite a few helpers for this event. The Flower Show will be January 19 – 22. I will have more information about our times for volunteering in the booth in early January. Please let me know if you might be available on any of these dates.

January also brings another Florida Style Gardening class. It will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 9 p.m. from January 31 – March 7 here at the Extension building. I could use two MGs each evening to help with this program. Let me know if you are available.

There will be a lot of activities at the next Master Gardener Update on January 9th. The Master Gardeners Advisory Account Board will be holding their election. Please be open to serving if asked, or volunteer if you have the time and inclination. We will have an appreciation lunch and I will be presenting on Soils. There will be a mentor meeting as well.

I cannot say this enough - We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful group of Master Gardener volunteers – we couldn’t do it without you! Thank you for all that you do for us.

♥ Pam

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The Green Leaf is mailed courtesy of MG Plant Sale funds

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 at 727-582-2117.

Chuck Scaffidi, MG Editor

The Green Leaf is published by Pinellas County Extension Service for the County Master Gardeners and depends on submission of articles from Master Gardeners.

Managing Editor: Pam Brown, Extension Agent II
Production Editor: Chuck Scaffidi, Master Gardener

Please send articles to Pam Brown or e-mail directly to Chuck cascaffidi@juno.com or Pam at pwbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us

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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
Extension Agent II, Environmental Horticulture

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