Master Gardener
PINELLAS COUNTY

Inside this Issue:

Page

2 Liberated at EPCOT
3 Pinellas County Receives 2007 Sustainable Florida Best Practices Award
4 Staghorn Fern Propagation Workshop
5 Plant of the Month in our FBG
6 Notes from Your MG Library Success Story
7 FBG June 2007 up-date
8 Important Announcements
9 Volunteer Opportunities & Events
10 Pam’s Thoughts
11 Calendar

Bauder Elementary School MG Butterfly Garden Project
By MGs CHUCK SCAFFIDI and MARY CROWE

Last year Seminole Bauder elementary school Principal Jan Johnston approached Mary Frances Lawrie, president of Dracaena Circle Garden Club of St. Petersburg, for assistance in creating a butterfly garden in a school area where a caretaker mobile home existed. Mary appointed Master Gardener Mary Crowe as chairperson of the project and was given a limited budget.

The area was about 5,000 sq ft covered in weeds, wild grass and invasive Brazilian Peppers. The first job was to remove the invasive plants by digging them out and spraying with Roundup. The school was able to get a $500 credit donation from Home Depot which was used to purchase gloves, tools, fertilizer and some plants. With everyone working very hard, an area was prepared by laying down newspapers, mulch spreading (the county delivered a truck load of mulch) and the plantings started. The first meeting was with 28 third grade after school junior gardeners under the direction of Dale Jenrette, the science teacher. Mary Ellen Warner was enlisted, another experienced Master Gardener, who then worked diligently to destroy the rest of the invasive peppers, donated numerous plants and volunteered to be chairman along with Mary Crowe next year. From Master Gardener plant sales numerous bird and butterfly friendly plants were purchased. Trees were obtained for free from Progress Energy at FBG Earthfest. PTEC provided picnic tables and benches. Rain barrels and compost bins were donated, which Dale used for a vegetable garden outside the science portable. A Boy Scout built a butterfly house with planters and micro irrigation as his project to earn his Eagle Scout badge. Raylena Cather, a FBG foundation member, generously donated patio stones, which will be used to make paths through the garden. Donations were made of a bird bath, feeder, garden flag and garden art. The school is very proud of this garden and held their volunteer breakfast there. Teachers use it most days for outdoor classes.

The goal for the next school term is to continue our work with the class (now 4th graders) and also a new third grade junior gardener club. Also, the plan is to organize a MGAA Junior Master Gardener Program with 5 to 10 of our most promising students.

Recently, Mary Ellen invited Carrie Shelby and me to visit this beautiful school garden and we were amazed how it all came together in such a short time.
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:
Pam Brown, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent

PRODUCTION EDITOR:
Chuck Scaffidi, MG

ASSISTANT EDITOR:
Carrie Shelby, MG

Please send articles to cascaffidi@juno.com or pwbrown@co.pinellas.fl.us
The Green Leaf is available online by clicking on newsletter

Liberated at EPCOT
By JUDE BAGATTI, MG

Insects! They crawled up my arm by the dozens. But instead of revulsion and swatting, I welcomed their light-footed ambling and wanted to take them home. Such was my experience Friday, June 1, at Epcot when I took a break from our MG booth at the International Flower Festival.

Twice daily a Ladybug Release is held in a garden next to Germany’s pavilion. Judging by the whimsical costumes and conduct of the man and woman who arrive in a cart with buckets full of matchbook-sized boxes, the Releases seem designed to appeal to children. Whatever. It appealed to the child in me. I’ve had an abiding affection for those tiny, round red and black-spotted ladies.

The man, looking like a cross between Cat-in-the-Hat and a cartoonish farmer, explained that the ladybugs had been refrigerated and asleep. Warmed and awake as they emerged from their boxes, they would be very thirsty and in search of moisture. They would even drink sweat on our skin. He passed out the closed boxes warning us to open them gently, being careful not to let the bugs drop on the rubber mulch pathway where they would be doomed without water as they could not immediately fly.

The frumpy farmer’s wife spritzed water on the back of my hand and wrist. I found a spot next to a flower bed, slid my box open slowly and held it next to my wet hand. Out scrambled a throng of ladybugs. Like alcoholics dying for a drink, they quickly set to sipping the water in the tiny crevasses of my skin. I felt like Mother Earth nursing its creatures as I happily watched the bugs belly up at my freckled bar. It was “All You Can Drink Ladies’ Night,” and I was the barmaid. Fortunately, none ordered Perrier.

After a few ladies took off, I made sure none were left in the box, and shook the remaining bugs off my hand above some plants. Now they could fly. A snatch of what we chanted as children came to mind, and I wondered how that dire ditty originated:

Ladybug, ladybug
Fly away.
Your house is on fire.
Your children will burn.

Plenty of boxes remained in the bucket and the farmer encouraged us to take another. I opened two more and noticed all the adult liberators were delighted and having as much fun as the children. One of my bugs fell into the mulch and I frantically searched for it as it sunk among the rubber pebbles. Finally, I found it, saving it from dry death.

I dearly desired to take a box home and release the ladybugs in my yard to join their kin in my hibiscus tree. I asked the farmer about it. He explained the bugs would not survive long in the box once they were out of refrigeration. The hours before I would be back home in Gulfport nixed that idea. Home Depot has them, he told me. Buying the bugs’ freedom from a megastore may be an even more heroic rescue, but I knew it would not feel the same. I returned to staff our booth, feeling a bit thirsty and liberated myself.

■

at: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml
Pinellas County Receives 2007 Sustainable Florida Best Practices Award

Pinellas County announced today it is the 2007 recipient of the Best Practices Sustainable Government Award. A finalist among 14 nominations for its category, Pinellas won for fostering a culture of sustainability through existing and new innovative programs. Since 1998, the Council for Sustainable Florida has served as the statewide oversight organization recognizing efforts to balance economic interests with social and environmental responsibility.

The state’s second smallest county yet the most densely populated, Pinellas County needed to implement urban sustainable practices for its burgeoning population. With little land for continued growth, the Board of County Commissioners rolled out a strategic plan to address urban sustainability. With a commitment to fund the first Regional Specialized Agent for Urban Environmental Sustainability in partnership with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), the Bushnell Office for Sustainability was formed at Pinellas County Extension to help lead the county’s sustainability efforts.

In December of 2006 the county’s efforts were awarded the first Green Local Government certification in Florida. The county’s overall focus on sustainability has improved collaborations within county government, enabled strategic interfacing with private and non-profit sustainability partners and is inspiring programmatic and policy changes.

“We are very pleased to be recognized for the county’s pursuit of sustainability,” said Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Ronnie E. Duncan. “Today’s world needs governments focused on viable, sustainable change, which enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment. Pinellas County’s receipt of this award serves to increase awareness of local and national sustainability issues and governments working in this critical area.”

Dedee DeLongpré, Director of the Office of Sustainability - University of Florida and Council Board Member, presenting the 2007 Sustainable Florida Government Best Practice Award to Mary Campbell and Devesh Nirmul of the Pinellas County Extension Office.

Accepting the award on behalf of Pinellas County was Extension Director Mary Campbell, who was congratulated by Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet following the awards ceremony on Tuesday, June 12.

“The nomination pool for the government category increased dramatically over years past,” said Tim Center, Director for the Council for Sustainable Florida. “This competition exemplifies the increased understanding by government officials of the growing importance and emphasis sustainability holds for future economic success and quality of life.”

The Council is an independent, non-partisan program of the Collins Center for Public Policy and has been defining excellence in sustainability practices since 1990. Since initiating the Best Practices Awards program in 1998, the Council has recognized and honored more than 100 businesses, non-profit organizations, governmental groups and individuals whose work is committed to the future success of Florida.

For more information regarding Pinellas County’s Bushnell Center for Urban Sustainability, please call Devesh Nirmul at (727) 582-2508 or e-mail him at dnirmul@pinellascounty.org.
extension landscape expert and horticulture advisor, bob albanese, spent a few hours on june 21 showing a small, lucky group of mgs the proper technique for propagating the majestic staghorn fern. after a thorough demonstration, we were able to get some hands on experience using two overgrown ferns from pam brown’s collection.

there are about 14 species that grow well in florida and we have two - the platycerium bifurcatum and p. veitchii. these are both common species and easy to grow. platyceriums are tropical plants native to the philippines, southeast asia, indonesia, australia, madagascar, africa and south america. subtle differences between the varieties and a keen eye and careful study are necessary to differentiate one from another.

this epiphytic plant produces two distinctly different fronds. the basal frond also called the sterile shield can be either rounded or lobed and stand erect forming an efficient method for collecting water. foliar fronds are the fertile fronds and are either erect or pendant and may be divided into lobed or strap-shaped divisions. (ifas fact sheet enh-36)

during the course of the afternoon bob showed us how to harvest the pups and how to mount them in/around wire baskets; how to mount them to the trunk of a tree without causing damage to the tree; and how to mount them in a wooden orchid form. several of these projects will be available for sale at the next mg plant sale.

if you attempt to divide and mount an existing staghorn fern, it is helpful to have moist sphagnum moss; an inexpensive serrated bread knife; staple gun; plastic screening; soil; shredded mulch to lighten the soil; plastic coated wire; and latex gloves to protect your hands when handling the sphagnum moss.

we learned from bob that the “banana fertilizer” practice, although popular with some staghorn gardeners, is not the best way to go. besides only providing a small amount of potassium, it also draws unwanted, pesky flies. he suggests using a well rounded liquid fertilizer or time released granules.

the workshop was filled with helpful hints and great information and we are truly grateful to bob for taking the time on a hot june afternoon to introduce us to the fascinating possibilities for propagation of the staghorn fern.

(information contained in the article is a compilation from bob’s workshop and ifas fact sheet e)
Plant of the Month in our FBG

By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG

One of the most unusual denizens of the Tropical Fruit Garden is certainly having a good year. The Buddha's Hand Citron is loaded with strangely-shaped fruit. Its name *Citrus medica* var. *sarcodactylus* can be translated to tell a bit of its story. The epithet *sarcodactylus* means "fleshy fingers" and it has just that. Each of the lobes of the fruit bear very little, if any, juice or pulp, and instead are mostly rind—giving them a fleshy texture. This rind is not as bitter as other citrus fruits and is sometimes used in cooking for its palatable zest. Medica refers to one of the areas westerners found citron growing: Medea, present-day Iraq.

Citrus have a long history of cultivation; seeds of citron were found in Mesopotamian ruins, dating back 4000 years BCE. During the centuries, different varieties and cultivars were certainly traded around Asia and the Middle East, eventually reaching Europe in the 16th Century, courtesy of the voyages of Vasco da Gamma. Meanwhile, the citron with the strangely lobed fruit was being cultivated further east—eventually becoming part of the Sino-Japanese tradition. The very fragrant fruit was (and is) used to perfume rooms and clothing, and may be offered in religious ceremonies.

According to legend, the fruit with the lobes tightly pressed to one another were preferred by the Buddha, as they represent hands folded in prayer. The fruits with "fingers" open or splayed might best be used for cooking or flavoring.

FBG Fruit Garden

Jessica is taking a break this month (taking a break?) so she can continue to use her artistic talents finishing a tropical mural in, where else, the banana boys and girls Fruit Garden.

Look for Jessica's ninth culinary article next month.

Chuck Scaffidi
NOTES FROM YOUR MG LIBRARY

Books on the Shelves

CONTAINER GARDENING, INTERIOR & GREENHOUSE PLANTS, cont.

- Growing Houseplants-Green Thumb Guide for Children & Adults; Maurer; 1965
- Growing Odd & Curious Houseplants; Elbert; 1975
- Landscaping w/Container Plants; Wilson; 1990
- Plants for the Home; Bagnosco; 1976
- Success w/House Plants Vol. 1-4; unknown; 1965
- Sunset Container Gardening; Sunset Books; 1984
- The Container Garden; Tarling; 1994
- The Ultimate Container Gardener; Donaldson; 1999

Crafts / Design

- A Golden Thread; Butti; 1980
- America's Garden Book; Irwin; 1996
- Arranging Cut Flowers; Stein; 1985
- Flower Arranging; BH&G; 1957
- Flower Craft; Roberts; 1949
- How to Build & Use Greenhouses; Williams; 1978

We have acquired 3 new books thanks to the generosity of Pam Brown. These titles can be found on the MG Library Shelves.

- The Subtropical Garden; Walker; 1992.

Thank you, Pam, for your help and support!

Angela Strain, MG

Success Story

By TOM ROBERTS

Over the weekend of June 16 and 17, Pinellas County Extension participated in Pinellas Living Green Expo at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, one of the most rewarding environmental events ever to be offered in the County. The free show attracted over 5000 visitors from around the Tampa Bay to interact with the 80 eco-friendly vendors. The goal of the Expo is to provide, "...real solutions for people to live better, healthier lives with less impact on the environment. The Expo connects people who are interested in making a positive difference in both their lives and in their communities."

Members of Extension and approximately 30 volunteers staffed 3 booths - “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” Urban Sustainability; Florida Yards and Neighborhoods; and Compost Happens- Recycling Yard Waste. Following a pilot event at Family EarthFest in April, the Living Green Expo represented the full roll-out of the “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” program where participants take a short assessment survey and sign a pledge to work to change simple sustainable practices. Approximately 575 visitors took the Green Commitment pledge at the Expo.

Doing what Extension does best, staff and volunteers provided seven well attended educational workshops over the two days- Rain Barrel Workshop; Reducing Residential Pollution; Compost Happens; Creating a Wildlife Habitat Without a Jungle; Living With Urban Wildlife; Green Building, and Energy Conservation, & Energy Reduction Strategies.

Many thanks to the MGs that supported the booths:
- Dani Carroll, Betsy Hixon, Sue Baughman, Jason Beck, Freda Dexter, Bessie Morse, Natalie Oliver, Michaele Adams, and Mary Sanders.

St. Petersburg Times

James Borchuck

Pinellas Living Green Expo

Success Story

By TOM ROBERTS

Over the weekend of June 16 and 17, Pinellas County Extension participated in Pinellas Living Green Expo at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, one of the most rewarding environmental events ever to be offered in the County. The free show attracted over 5000 visitors from around the Tampa Bay to interact with the 80 eco-friendly vendors. The goal of the Expo is to provide, "...real solutions for people to live better, healthier lives with less impact on the environment. The Expo connects people who are interested in making a positive difference in both their lives and in their communities."

Members of Extension and approximately 30 volunteers staffed 3 booths - “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” Urban Sustainability; Florida Yards and Neighborhoods; and Compost Happens- Recycling Yard Waste. Following a pilot event at Family EarthFest in April, the Living Green Expo represented the full roll-out of the “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” program where participants take a short assessment survey and sign a pledge to work to change simple sustainable practices. Approximately 575 visitors took the Green Commitment pledge at the Expo.

Doing what Extension does best, staff and volunteers provided seven well attended educational workshops over the two days- Rain Barrel Workshop; Reducing Residential Pollution; Compost Happens; Creating a Wildlife Habitat Without a Jungle; Living With Urban Wildlife; Green Building, and Energy Conservation, & Energy Reduction Strategies.

Many thanks to the MGs that supported the booths:
- Dani Carroll, Betsy Hixon, Sue Baughman, Jason Beck, Freda Dexter, Bessie Morse, Natalie Oliver, Michaele Adams, and Mary Sanders.

St. Petersburg Times

James Borchuck

Pinellas Living Green Expo

Success Story

By TOM ROBERTS

Over the weekend of June 16 and 17, Pinellas County Extension participated in Pinellas Living Green Expo at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, one of the most rewarding environmental events ever to be offered in the County. The free show attracted over 5000 visitors from around the Tampa Bay to interact with the 80 eco-friendly vendors. The goal of the Expo is to provide, "...real solutions for people to live better, healthier lives with less impact on the environment. The Expo connects people who are interested in making a positive difference in both their lives and in their communities."

Members of Extension and approximately 30 volunteers staffed 3 booths - “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” Urban Sustainability; Florida Yards and Neighborhoods; and Compost Happens- Recycling Yard Waste. Following a pilot event at Family EarthFest in April, the Living Green Expo represented the full roll-out of the “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” program where participants take a short assessment survey and sign a pledge to work to change simple sustainable practices. Approximately 575 visitors took the Green Commitment pledge at the Expo.

Doing what Extension does best, staff and volunteers provided seven well attended educational workshops over the two days- Rain Barrel Workshop; Reducing Residential Pollution; Compost Happens; Creating a Wildlife Habitat Without a Jungle; Living With Urban Wildlife; Green Building, and Energy Conservation, & Energy Reduction Strategies.

Many thanks to the MGs that supported the booths:
- Dani Carroll, Betsy Hixon, Sue Baughman, Jason Beck, Freda Dexter, Bessie Morse, Natalie Oliver, Michaele Adams, and Mary Sanders.

St. Petersburg Times

James Borchuck

Pinellas Living Green Expo

Success Story

By TOM ROBERTS

Over the weekend of June 16 and 17, Pinellas County Extension participated in Pinellas Living Green Expo at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, one of the most rewarding environmental events ever to be offered in the County. The free show attracted over 5000 visitors from around the Tampa Bay to interact with the 80 eco-friendly vendors. The goal of the Expo is to provide, "...real solutions for people to live better, healthier lives with less impact on the environment. The Expo connects people who are interested in making a positive difference in both their lives and in their communities."

Members of Extension and approximately 30 volunteers staffed 3 booths - “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” Urban Sustainability; Florida Yards and Neighborhoods; and Compost Happens- Recycling Yard Waste. Following a pilot event at Family EarthFest in April, the Living Green Expo represented the full roll-out of the “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” program where participants take a short assessment survey and sign a pledge to work to change simple sustainable practices. Approximately 575 visitors took the Green Commitment pledge at the Expo.

Doing what Extension does best, staff and volunteers provided seven well attended educational workshops over the two days- Rain Barrel Workshop; Reducing Residential Pollution; Compost Happens; Creating a Wildlife Habitat Without a Jungle; Living With Urban Wildlife; Green Building, and Energy Conservation, & Energy Reduction Strategies.

Many thanks to the MGs that supported the booths:
- Dani Carroll, Betsy Hixon, Sue Baughman, Jason Beck, Freda Dexter, Bessie Morse, Natalie Oliver, Michaele Adams, and Mary Sanders.

St. Petersburg Times

James Borchuck

Pinellas Living Green Expo

Success Story

By TOM ROBERTS

Over the weekend of June 16 and 17, Pinellas County Extension participated in Pinellas Living Green Expo at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, one of the most rewarding environmental events ever to be offered in the County. The free show attracted over 5000 visitors from around the Tampa Bay to interact with the 80 eco-friendly vendors. The goal of the Expo is to provide, "...real solutions for people to live better, healthier lives with less impact on the environment. The Expo connects people who are interested in making a positive difference in both their lives and in their communities."

Members of Extension and approximately 30 volunteers staffed 3 booths - “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” Urban Sustainability; Florida Yards and Neighborhoods; and Compost Happens- Recycling Yard Waste. Following a pilot event at Family EarthFest in April, the Living Green Expo represented the full roll-out of the “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” program where participants take a short assessment survey and sign a pledge to work to change simple sustainable practices. Approximately 575 visitors took the Green Commitment pledge at the Expo.

Doing what Extension does best, staff and volunteers provided seven well attended educational workshops over the two days- Rain Barrel Workshop; Reducing Residential Pollution; Compost Happens; Creating a Wildlife Habitat Without a Jungle; Living With Urban Wildlife; Green Building, and Energy Conservation, & Energy Reduction Strategies.

Many thanks to the MGs that supported the booths:
- Dani Carroll, Betsy Hixon, Sue Baughman, Jason Beck, Freda Dexter, Bessie Morse, Natalie Oliver, Michaele Adams, and Mary Sanders.

St. Petersburg Times

James Borchuck

Pinellas Living Green Expo

Success Story

By TOM ROBERTS

Over the weekend of June 16 and 17, Pinellas County Extension participated in Pinellas Living Green Expo at the St. Petersburg Coliseum, one of the most rewarding environmental events ever to be offered in the County. The free show attracted over 5000 visitors from around the Tampa Bay to interact with the 80 eco-friendly vendors. The goal of the Expo is to provide, "...real solutions for people to live better, healthier lives with less impact on the environment. The Expo connects people who are interested in making a positive difference in both their lives and in their communities."

Members of Extension and approximately 30 volunteers staffed 3 booths - “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” Urban Sustainability; Florida Yards and Neighborhoods; and Compost Happens- Recycling Yard Waste. Following a pilot event at Family EarthFest in April, the Living Green Expo represented the full roll-out of the “Check your Green Commitment- Take the Pledge” program where participants take a short assessment survey and sign a pledge to work to change simple sustainable practices. Approximately 575 visitors took the Green Commitment pledge at the Expo.

Doing what Extension does best, staff and volunteers provided seven well attended educational workshops over the two days- Rain Barrel Workshop; Reducing Residential Pollution; Compost Happens; Creating a Wildlife Habitat Without a Jungle; Living With Urban Wildlife; Green Building, and Energy Conservation, & Energy Reduction Strategies.

Many thanks to the MGs that supported the booths:
- Dani Carroll, Betsy Hixon, Sue Baughman, Jason Beck, Freda Dexter, Bessie Morse, Natalie Oliver, Michaele Adams, and Mary Sanders.
FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS REPORT

By MARY CAMPBELL, Extension Director

♦ Campus Sustainability Program – Awarded the Council for Sustainable Florida Government Award
♦ Natural Area Boardwalk- Permitting and general work has been completed.
  We are waiting for contracts and various approvals from Construction and Contracts Division that are to be submitted to the BCC for approval.
♦ Educational Programs- James Stevenson continues to work on tour programs.
  We have added a Discovery Tour for July. This will focus on the P2000 area, and will include a tour and interpretation of the project. The Garden Explorer's Backpacks are nearly ready. These include exploration materials, activities, and a map of the Gardens for young visitors to enjoy.
  Creating a Butterfly Habitat- 2 part class May 20th and June 1st in the Tropical Pavilion. Taught by Master Gardener, Bob Abben.
  Lawn Insects and Weeds at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on May 15th in the Gardenia Room
  Children’s program-Fancy Fruits at 10 a.m. on May 19th in the Gardenia Room
  Children's program for Water Camp on May 30th in the gardens
♦ FBG Website- Currently in draft stage (copy will be available at the meeting for reference) work is being done to make sure none of the pages are text-heavy.
  We will be working to get the initial pages done for the Foundation including one for the Gift Shop working with Ruth Davies and Stacey Zidi.
♦ Roof Construction is complete.
♦ Grants- Phase I in the P-2000 planting are complete thanks to our Eagle Scout, Zack Smardge.
  Phase II of our P-2000 has been initiated and will involve another Eagle Scout and will utilize the grant dollars from our Pinellas County Environmental Foundation grant ($12,600).

At about 1 cent a hit, GoodSearch has earned MGAA almost a dollar. Come on, join in and try this search engine. Most of you probably use Google. Yahoo's search engine also seems to be adequate.
  Let me know if you need help with it. The first time you use it you need to sign in as "Master Gardener Advisory Association" Chuck 582-2117

IFAS awarded MG Maj-Lis Carlson six educational units for completing the On-line Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices Educational Program. Congratulations Maj-Lis for enrolling and completing this free course and passing!!

IFAS awarded MG Maj-Lis Carlson six educational units for completing the On-line Florida Green Industries Best Management Practices Educational Program. Congratulations Maj-Lis for enrolling and completing this free course and passing!!

FBG June 2007 up-date
IFAS Award
Jude Bagatti
GoodSearch

MG Jude Bagatti a contributing writer for The Green leaf received some happy news: "Got a phone call from Mike Wilson, Asst. Managing Editor of News/Features at the St. Pete Times, telling me my essay, entitled Dude Raunch, won First Place in their Summer Essay Contest! They had to be true stories about summer romance in just 300 words. Mike said mine was a "hoot." Can you bet he made my day?! Catch it in the Floridian section of the paper this Sunday, July 1. (The editor might change the title name.)

Congratulations Jude, keep your articles coming.

Chuck Scaffidi

Master Gardeners Advisory Association has been registered on GoodSearch. Your organization will receive a direct donation every time your supporters use GoodSearch to search the Internet! Please go to www.goodsearch.com

GoodSearch is the search engine with a unique social mission. It’s powered by Yahoo!, so you get the same great search results. We donate 50% of advertising revenue to the nonprofits and schools selected by our users. Now you and your supporters can make a difference in the lives of many people, simply by using GoodSearch to search the Internet!

The organizations that have made the most money through GoodSearch have implemented the suggested strategies below.

1. Send an email to all of your organization’s supporters. Here is a sample you can customize: http://www.goodsearch.com/GetInvolved.aspx#supporters
2. Make GoodSearch the homepage on all of the computers in your organization: http://www.goodsearch.com/GetInvolved.aspx#homepage
3. Download the GoodSearch toolbar onto all of the computers in your organization: http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx
4. Add a logo and link to GoodSearch from your website: http://www.goodsearch.com/GetInvolved.aspx#logo
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MG Update
- MGAA
- Sign up for FBG Membership
- Plant Sale Update
- Volunteer at the Botanical Bounty Gift Shop

The computer program for logging volunteer hours is in the volunteer office. You must log your hours the day you volunteer. Those that cannot be at Extension when they volunteer should log hours on a standard form so hours can be entered by an assistant volunteer coordinator. If you have been sending your hours by e-mail, use the form as a guide. Remember to enter travel & GEU time twice.

Send to: MGEDU@co.pinellas.fl.us.

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

- MG Advisory Association, Chuck Scaffidi, Chair
  Next meeting Monday July 9, 9:00 am
  The MGAA documents are available for all MGAA members on request, or by visiting our IFAS/Extension web site at: http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml
  They detail how MGAA operates and is organized, as well as the duties of committees.

  MGAA was approved by the Bay Area Legal Services to obtain a pro bono attorney to discuss our concern about potential individual liability. We had requested guidance in reviewing our documents as a corporation. I have completed the State and Federal application forms and will be making an appointment soon with the attorney. My hope is also to have the attorney speak to us at the meeting. I will keep you informed.

- MG UPDATE-Monday, July 9, 10:30 am
  An exciting program: Wae Nelson, publisher and his wife Kathy, editor of Florida Gardening magazine will be talking to us.
  Pot Luck following lecture

- Mentor Meeting-Monday, July 9, 1:00 pm

- PLANT SALE UPDATE, LINDA ALCORNE, MG
  Greetings from the greenhouse. Sorry I missed a week. There are only 96 more growing days till the next plant sale. We are in desperate need of 1 gallon pots so if you can bring any in to the potting shed it would be great. If you bring them in Wednesday morning, feel free to stick around and help us pot up our 400 new babies. We are continuing to move into our wonderful new potting area. Come and check out what a great job Skip and the crew have done. It’s so nice we hate to get it dirty. We are also continuing to rearrange our growing areas to help with inventory and organization as well as maximizing our space. Our focus category of the week is ongoing and the plan for week one in July includes butterfly and perennials. A short list would include, but not be limited to, pentas (we already have many), salvias, cats whiskers, blue daze, cuphea, lions ear, lantana, milkweed, Spanish lady’s mantle, vinca, geranium and impatients. Week two is ground covers; week three is bromeliads and ferns, and week four will be natives plants. Looking ahead, in August we would like to spend the first week focusing on pinching and grooming what we already have, then finish up with week two pond plants, week three cactus and succulents, and week four-house and shade plants. That brings us to September and more grooming and pinching as well as inventory and labeling. We had a great class with Bob Albanese on dividing staghorns so if you have or know of any that are too big we can add some to the ones we all ready have. Pam Brown donated the ones we worked on in the class. This week we will continue on bulb plants including lily, Iris and ginger. If your beds need thinning, think of us. See you in the greenhouse.

  Patsy Schamber, Team Leader of the greenhouse would like everyone to be aware that numerous plants have been missing from the greenhouse. In the last few months the following are no where to be found: Shaving Brush Tree (2), Variegated Oyster plant (60), Dragon Fruit seeds (6) bought for $20.00, Barbed Wire Cactus, Pilea Stop Light (several), Orchid (1) brought from home for demonstration and several Staghorn Ferns.

  All groups need to be especially diligent to lock the greenhouse when you are through working for the day. We are looking forward to the best plant sale ever and much hard work has gone into propagating and maintaining the plants. Many thanks to all Master Gardeners for what you give to the program. Any one needing access when locked, the combination is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

Call 582-2251 or szidi@pinellascounty.org.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

For July and August

- FBG Children’s Trail

FBG CHILDREN’S TRAIL
BY CHUCK SCAFANDI

The children’s trail is sponsored by the FBG foundation and is committing up to $20,000 to begin the trail construction. MGs Pat Dieterich, Lou La Grande and Chuck Scaffidi will be representatives from the MG program to support the FBG Foundation in this inspiring effort.

I have contacted my friend Lynn Richards in Maryland, I worked with her at Brookside Botanical Garden, and asked for her thoughts about the children’s garden she created. I’m including her message to stimulate and solicit your help in being part of the FBG foundation proposed children’s trail.

“Hi Chuck - Basically our garden changes every three years. Meaning it gets a new theme and interpretation, and plant selection is based on the theme. Some of our themes we have had in the past include, Great Grandma's Garden, Spaceship Earth, Pollinators Garden, Cool Gardening Adventures, and Fairy Folk Garden. My favorite was the Fairy Folk Garden and I hope to bring this theme back in a few years. My second favorite was Spaceship Earth because I was inspired by my father who like you worked at NASA. All of the plants (annuals) had celestial names and the props included a "black hole tunnel", scaled down model - Apollo 11 rocket, and another scaled down model of the space telescope. Both the Fairy Folk Garden and the Spaceship Earth gardens were very successful at capturing the imagination of children while maybe unbeknownst to them they were being introduced to plants and nature at the same time. All of the children’s gardens have an accompanying brochure that hopefully is utilized with parent and child together. The Fairy Folk garden used with permission from the Estate of Cicely Mary Barker her poems and illustrations from her "Flower Fairy Books". Literature in the garden is a good way to introduce children to more specific topics.

I think what is important when planning the garden is to think about what will engage the children but yet still educate the child about nature and plants at the same time - what I mean by this is, for example, some water features would definitely engage the child’s interest but would the water feature put the child in touch with plants/nature? Maybe in some situations and locations it would, but at some gardens I have seen water features used more as a playground area not as an educational tool.

I think Ohio State Extension Service has a good guide, "Gardening With Children", that talks about planning and working with children in the garden - maybe Google it.

Another thought is to think about the state school curriculum and focus garden themes on particular topics. The best children’s garden I have seen is Tuckahoe Elementary School in Virginia - check out their website - they have gardens surrounding the school and meet all state standards using lesson plans in the surrounding gardens - its amazing - and should be the standard for every elementary school.” Lynn

Please share your thoughts as soon as possible with Chuck Scaffidi, at cascaffold@juno.com.

As always, you are our best resource—thanks for the input!

Next planning meeting July 11
Committee Members: Dianne Wheatley, Mary Campbell Vivian Haicken, Betty Lipe, Cindy Peacock, Chuck Scaffidi, Pat Dieterich, Lou LaGrande, Bobbie Jones, and Andy Wilson.

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

Habitat for Humanity

A meeting took place to discuss possible sites and plantings, but we were unable to come up with specifics due to many unknowns. Examples: location of windows and doors, property line, desires of owner, garage vs. shed to name a few. After discussing our questions with the representative from Humanity for Habitat, we are awaiting the building plans before meeting again. There is a property line dispute between HH and the neighbor next door. Until this gets resolved the building plans are on hold. It will take 3 months from the time the first construction is started until the completion. We are moving along, but slowly. I will keep you posted.

Linda Culhane  Linda Culhane 530-1250. e-mail: lbculhane@verizon.net
Avoid overexposure to sun.
Limit the time you spend working in direct sunlight by gardening during early-morning or late-afternoon hours. This way, you'll avoid the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. time period when the sun's rays are strongest. Protect your skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, pants instead of shorts, and a wide-brimmed hat. When skin is exposed, apply sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15. Heat stress can also be a risk; thus keep water by your side to remain hydrated. Remember to take frequent breaks by going indoors and relaxing in front of a fan.

The Pinellas County budget process seems to be winding down. The BOCC meeting June 27 determined the cuts that we will take. Some of the scenarios that we had to present were painful, but some were also very innovative. As it appears now, we will lose two administrative support positions. The rest of Extension remains intact position wise for this year. There may be some implications during the bumping process, but we will probably not know what they are until August. I will let you know the specifics when I know them.

Please remember, if you have a spouse or friend who is helping in a volunteer activity such as the plant sale, they need to sign up with Carol as a Short Term Volunteer prior to the event. This protects them in case there is an accident and they get hurt. If this form has not been executed, then the person volunteering will be left to use their own insurance to cover any costs incurred if they are hurt.

I will be presenting the Florida Style Gardening series in North County at the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center this fall. The class dates are Wednesday October 3, 10, 17, 24, and November 7 from 6 – 8 p.m. I need two volunteers to help with registration and handouts each evening. This is usually a large class of at least 50 people.

I would like to brag on the 2006 Master Gardener training class. Twenty nine of the 36 students have completed their 100 hours volunteer service to become Certified Florida Master Gardeners. This is 80.5% of the class and the year will not be up until November. This is the best ever. Congratulations! And thank you for taking volunteer service seriously.

The lecture series at the Palm Harbor Library is an activity that is going well. This monthly talk (presented twice during the month) has covered a range of subjects. Cheryl Korschek is heading up the project and many of the North County MGs are presenting. The library has purchased books that the Horticulturists recommended. This may be the start of partnerships with other libraries. If you might be interested in pioneering this type of program at a library near you, please let me know.

It is hot outside! As we grow older we are not as attuned to thirst. Please drink plenty of water if you are volunteering outside this time of year. And, don't forget the sunscreen, hat and insect repellant. If you do forget, I have sunscreen or insect repellant in my office on the shelf just inside my door. Also, there are water jugs in the MG workroom that can be filled with water if you need to do so. Be safe while outside this summer.

I know that I say this a lot – but each of you are so very important to our mission and we certainly appreciate everything that you do for us. Thank you!

Source:
http://www.lifeessentialsbyzee.com/zee/safety/zLifeE_safety_fmpshm_016.html
**Special help wanted!!**

- We are still exploring using the raised annual flower beds for growing vegetables at Extension Green Market starting in the fall. John Kingsbury has been doing the investigation and soil testing determined only some of the raised beds are suitable for growing vegetables. Pam's thought is that we may be able to use the unsuitable beds for growing flowers for cuttings. The cut flowers would be sold at the green market. A very interesting idea.
  - Any one interested in pursuing this call or see me at extension.
  - Chuck Scaffidi
  - 582-2117 cascaffidi@juno.com

- Bob Albanese would like to complete the landscaping by the Extension front entrance with a boardwalk thru that area. He is preparing a MGAA Grant form for the boardwalk materials to be evaluated by the budget committee and presented at the July 9 MGAA board meeting for action. Not included in the estimate and what is needed is an engineering drawing to be submitted to the County for approval and proper permit. Also, not included in the estimate is labor for construction of the boardwalk.
  - What is needed is drafting skills for the permit submission and anyone that can contribute to the construction of the boardwalk or any suggestion of who may be able to help.
  - If you can help please see or call Bob at 582-2081 or let me know.
  - Chuck Scaffidi
  - 582-2117 cascaffidi@juno.com

**Don’t Forget the IFAS Conference!! Oct 22-24**

Information is posted on the web, but registration is not available yet. Visit:
http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html
REMINDER FOR MONDAY JULY 9.

- **MGAA Meeting**
  Monday July 9, 9:00 am

- **MG Update**
  Monday, July 9th, 10:30 am
  Florida Gardening magazine

- **Pot Luck Lunch Following**
  At Noon-Bring your favorite food

- **Mentor Meeting**
  Monday, July 9th, 1:00 pm