In early February, an email was distributed to MGs and Michaele Adams and I answered the call because of the interesting nature of the request. The director of Pilgrim Child Development Center in St. Petersburg, Diane Brown, needed help redesigning the existing playground to make it a more natural environment. Ms. Brown recently received a small amount of grant money to begin this project.

Pilgrim Child Development Center is a not-for-profit accredited preschool serving children from the age of 2 until they enter kindergarten. About half of the children are government subsidized.

Michaele and I met with Ms. Brown to hear what she had in mind and when we heard the wish list, we wondered if maybe we were in over our heads. The easy part … they wanted plants and a vegetable garden. The challenge was designing and giving guidance on materials for a tricycle path; reading nook; stage for gathering and expression; a messy materials area/craft area; a sound and/or music area; additional climbing things; bamboo teepee hiding place; sink near hose connection; and some sort of screening from busy 1st Avenue North.

Luckily, all of this on the wish list did not need to happen immediately. It was challenging to figure out which ones could be done within the existing budget. Several things needed to be completed by the end of May to satisfy the grant specifications. With the help of an eager and devoted group of parents, several goals were accomplished.

With construction help from parents and planting help from Master Gardeners, an outdoor reading nook is now functional and pretty. Florida Yards & Neighborhoods donated a rain barrel to help with supplemental watering when the vegetable garden becomes reality. Michaele and I truly enjoyed this project and it is ongoing. We could use donated drought tolerant or butterfly-attracting plants!

The first planting day with the children was June 3. We planted some beach sunflower in one of the playground tires, ornamental grasses at the reading nook, and some ferns in another tire in a shady area near the space reserved for the stage. The ferns were transplanted from another area on the property … we know, they are the invasive variety but they were free (Ms. Brown only had $12 left from her grant money) and are containerized.

I think Michaele summed up the experience well: “Our contribution was to support and give hope to go forward.”
We are especially appreciative of staff, MGs, and others who contribute articles, events, and other items of interest to *The Green Leaf* each month. Please submit your input by the 20th of each month. This will help us assemble and publish the newsletter in a timely manner. Also, to save mailing costs, please limit your articles to 700-800 words or less. Limited newsletter space does not allow for full photograph viewing. If you would like a copy of any photograph presented in the newsletters, please contact me @ 727-582-2117.

Chuck Scaffidi
MG Editor

*The Green Leaf* is published by Pinellas County Extension for the County Master Gardeners and depends on submission of articles from Master Gardeners, Extension Staff and other authors.

MANAGING EDITOR: Chuck Scaffidi, MG

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Carrie Shelby, MG

Please send articles to cascaffidi@juno.com *The Green Leaf* is available on line by clicking on newsletter at: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/master_gardener/index.shtml)

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**THE FBG FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!!**

By CHUCK SCAFFIDI, FBGF Board Member & MG Liaison

The final decision to move forward with the light celebration will be decided at the next Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation (FBGF) board meeting on July 8th. Prior to that, Vivian Haicken, Mary Campbell, Paul Causey, Terry Berube and I are meeting to review our progress to date.

So far 40 volunteers have committed to work the holiday lights. Unfortunately we have not received donations from the private sector to defray expenses. Please consider volunteering for this wonderful event and you will be notified after the decision is made. Vivian Haicken, President FBGF, sent the following letter to all FBGF members:

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

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

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

> We are in need of volunteers to help with donation collection, coordinating the daily process of turning the lights on/off or perhaps helping to set up the train display daily. We would appreciate your help, if you are interested please contact us at the Extension 727-2117 and ask for Chuck Scaffidi or leave a message and we will return your call. **We need your response by July 1, 2009 in order to plan accordingly.**

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

> We appreciate your consideration. One night shift of four hours adds up quickly in overall savings on the expenses to host the event. All volunteers will be provided with a training session prior to the start date of the event. Thank you again for your support of the Florida Botanical Gardens

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

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

Interested MGs can contact me at 727-581-6740 or via email at vhaicken@tampabay.rr.com.
Most gardeners jump at the chance of viewing the thriving gardens of others. Occasionally, garden tours are offered in Pinellas County and we make every effort to see them for inspiration, new ideas and tips. Sometimes inclement weather or obligations don't allow us to attend.

May 23, 2009, the day of the event the weather report was not good. Dark clouds and wind made some turn around and head back home as the sky continued to darken by the minute. Nothing will discourage Donna Zacharczyk! The heavy rain came just as she and her passengers, Pam Brown, Marsha Williams Colin and Joanne Drake, pulled up in front of Sue Hamill’s house. Her trusty blue van, most often referred to as the MG Mobile, gave us shelter for about twenty minutes, until the rains dwindled to a light mist. We braved it with our umbrellas and enjoyed every minute. The view was magnificent along the bank of Lake Tarpon. Sue has a beautiful yard full of color and curved brick pathways. She also has artistically arranged urns and planters with lovely assortments of plants.

Art in the Garden Tour was sponsored by Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce, Saturday, May 23 from 9:30AM to 4:30PM. The ten gardens were hosted by the Garden Fairies who were so gracious and full of enthusiasm about their gardens. You could just feel it rubbing off! We could hardly wait to try some of their ideas!!!

Most yards were showcased with artists and their works that complimented the gardens. Some of their work was available for purchase. I believe Pam found a unique bird bath or feeder, just in time for her hubby’s Father’s Day gift! Complimentary snacks and beverages were offered to those on the tour. Tickets to the event were $25 and well worth the price. Tickets were available through the Greater Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce and several businesses including Wilcox Nursery on Indian Rocks Road, Largo. Next year we hope this opportunity arises again and we all have a chance to see these gardens in person. It was so wonderful meeting the gardeners and artists that know how to present a real treat for the eyes.

For those that didn’t have the chance to tour the yards I’m including photos for this issue of our newsletter and plan to add more next month. I hope our enthusiasm will continue to take us on many more yard tours. They are so educational.
SEAWEED—A REAL TREASURE HAS BEEN FOUND!
By JOANNE DRAKE, MG

Gardeners in Pinellas County are so lucky to have good weather most of the time and the beach nearby. Fresh air and sunshine! But there is more! Spending a week at a Treasure Island resort has given me a chance to get some exercise and see a lot of nature walking along the beach.

During my early morning walks I saw all sorts of seabirds and stumbled upon heaps of seaweed that had washed up along the shoreline just north of the Thunderbird Motel on Gulf Blvd. & Central Avenue. Realizing seaweed has lots of beneficial nutrients, plant hormones and chelated micro-organisms I wanted to gather as much as I could in trash bags after resort check-out. I took it home to use in my compost barrel. It’s not something you want to hoard in your car for a few days, in the hot sun!

Before adding it to my compost I spread the seaweed on our patio and hosed it down to remove any salt. Just to make sure it got a good rinsing I left it there, for a couple more days, to take advantage of heavy rains. Next I turned it and left it for a few more days before wetting it and adding it to my compost barrels. I’ve tried this method before, at our previous residence, with great success. We were rewarded with healthy crops that were larger and tastier than if we would have used chemical fertilizers. We feel safer using natural organic methods in gardening.

You can bet I’ll soon be walking the beach again in search of more seaweed. A few shells for the grandkids would also be good!

You may enjoy exploring this gardening website:

THE LONGEVITY OF RAIN LILIES
By JUDE BAGATTI, MG

It was 1969. Summer. Nixon was president. I was at the home of friends in Miami. Our small group stationed itself in front of the TV to watch the inconceivable spectacle of a man setting foot on the moon’s Sea of Tranquility. We felt anything but tranquil. Would he float off into space? Sink into a deep layer of moon dust? Would he get back to the Eagle, and then safely back to the mother ship, Columbia? This was alien ground! A million unforeseen mishaps could spell disaster. On pins and needles we leaned forward on our seats as Armstrong took that small step and giant leap while mankind held its collective breath. Buzz Aldrin soon joined him on the moonscape doubling awe and anxiety. No one exhaled till both astronauts returned to the craft safe from whatever unknown lunar creature might suddenly attack.

As a token of that memorable evening, the hostess gave me a small pot holding two or three rain lily bulbs with green shoots. Till then, not one houseplant adorned my Coconut Grove pad. Over years, those lilies and I have been transplanted to three different Miami-area apartments. Each time I relocated I gave away other plants, but the lilies always came with me. If they could weather the upheavals, so could I.

The first blooming I recall coincided with an emotional move to a Coral Gables apartment. Three or four wavering lilies marked that transition. Later, during a long tenancy back in a Grove studio, I once counted 11 blooms, the most so far, their fragile petals opening to attract my notice like so many tender throats of baby birds. My lilies were mute, familiar companions sharing often-tumultuous life changes, enduring my long travel absences, and serving as living threads of comforting continuity.

It is 2009. July 21st will mark the 40th anniversary of the first moonwalk. That’s how I know the age of my still-potted rain lilies. In time, their pots and my dwellings have grown in size. Nearly seven years ago we settled into our own Gulfport home, but with the future unknown, I’ve yet to plant them in the ground opting instead to keep
them transportable. The bulbs, like my possessions, have multiplied surreptitiously, one requiring roomier repotting, the other, more storage space.

Their latest, largest pot rests on an outdoor plant stand exposed to the elements but for quite awhile, no flowers had appeared due to drought. Then, during 12 days of heavy showers in May, true to their name, the bulbs awoke to the drumming raindrops like Sleeping Beauty to the Prince’s kiss. A grand profusion of buds on green stalks sprang up overnight. More than I’d ever seen at one time. The next day the pot was ablaze with blooms. Delighted, I rushed out to admire and count them. Forty delicate, deep pink lilies swayed in the breeze like gossamer curtains at an open window. Forty! A new record!

Could it be my lily bulbs remembered? Do botanical membranes retain vestigial memory of their history on some level in bulbous *membrains*? I can’t help feeling the bulbs had consciously burst forth in a live bouquet of forty blooms to celebrate our own 40-year-old earth walk. No human anniversary gift could have been more touching.

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**PLANT OF THE MONTH**

*By JAMES STEVENSON, Public Education Specialist, FBG*

**Cereus peruvianus - Peruvian Apple**

**The Evening Garden**

Early arrivals to Pinellas County Extension this summer may have borne witness to a spectacular event; the flowering of the large cactus just outside the entrance to the main parking lot. This cactus (*Cereus aff. peruvianus*) opens its huge white flowers at night, attracting rather unusual pollinators—bats. In the deserts where these cacti are native, the daytime temperatures would easily melt a fragile flower. This clever succulent has adapted to this pressure by having night-time flowering events. Cacti are only found in North and South America. Other deserts around the world have cactus-like plants that have evolved the same mechanisms (water storage, leaf-reduction, only respiring at night, etc.) to survive arid conditions. Night flowering is one of the characteristics that make members of this group horticulturally interesting.

Other plants take advantage of night flowering, including the evening primrose (*Oenothera*) and the moonflower (*Calonyction “kal-on-ICK-tee-on”*) whose huge, white morning-glory flowers swirl open every night attracting nighttime denizens like moths and beetles.

A few plants have adaptations to take advantage of evening pollinators and merely wait until after dark to release fragrance. The Lady of the Night orchid (*Brasavola nodosa*) produces one of the most delightful fragrances in the plant kingdom from its white, waxy flowers; but only after dark. Another evening-scented plant, and another South American, is the Angel Trumpets, *Brugmansia*.

We are fortunate to have many of these plants in our collections, even if few ever get to take advantage of their full beauty. We can rest assured that some of our native moths and beetles are kept well-fed by the bounties of these interesting entities.
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MG Update Meetings
- Sprucing up the Shade House
- Butterflies 102
- MG Plant Clinic
- GEU for MGs
- Safety Harbor Garden Club
- 4-H Fundraiser
- Volunteer Hours Sign in
- Group Hug for Greg Charles
- Neighborhood Gardener
- FL MG Conference

RECORDING YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

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

If you 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. Please direct your questions to coordinator Chuck Scaffidi or an assistant, Susan Baughman or Emma Eshbaugh

See note bottom page 8

Master Gardener Update Schedule - Mark your Calendar!

July - NO UPDATE SCHEDULED

August – Friday, August 7, 9AM Jane Morse presents “New Emerging Pests: Invasive Exotic Insects and the Latest Research and Control Methods” followed by a potluck lunch.

Sprucing up the Shade House

Wow! Some hard-working Master Gardeners and volunteers have been resurrecting the shade house lately. Just take a look out back and you’ll notice the difference immediately. The plants are being appropriately spaced and pinched back and the floors are weeded and raked. Empty pots are gone and sickly pants are discarded. Thanks to all of you, Monday and Friday greenhouse crews, for bringing the shade house back to life.

Go Beyond the Basics of Butterfly Gardening

Adrienne Andrews, MG, provides expert advice at a free program at the Palm Harbor Library. Learn more in-depth information about butterfly gardening and gain knowledge on combating some of the problems that come with it at Butterflies 102, a program designed to go beyond the basics. Learn how to recognize and prevent butterfly disease and how to repair damaged wings. Discover how to raise and release butterflies and explore important pollinator information.

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

MG Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library

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

GEUs for Master Gardeners

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

Safety Harbor Garden Club Meeting

Phil Compton, representative from the Sierra Club, presents “Healthier Waters Through Responsible Landscaping” at the Safety Harbor Library on July 15, 9:30AM. For our Fun Flower Arrangement, bring an arrangement of your choice, using LEAVES ONLY! It can be in any vase, any type of leaves, any shape or size. You can take this back home to enjoy, trade with another SHGC member, gift it, or whatever. Get as wild and creative as you wish.

Time to Think About Munching on Apples and Pecans

The 4-H Foundation is planning their annual fund raiser of apples and pecans for sale and delivery in the fall. Ordering information will follow. Contact Robin Moore at 727-384-2428 or romoore99@yahoo.com for an ordering form. This is such a worthy cause and if you haven’t ordered in the past you’re in for a delicious treat.
- **Group Hug for Greg Charles**
  What could bring together a famous nightspot like *Ferg's Sports Bar* in downtown St. Petersburg with hundreds of adults who like to play in the dirt? The answer: a celebration and a helping hand.

  All those involved in the horticulture, agriculture and environmental industries throughout the state of Florida are encouraged to attend an important event to provide support for one of their own on **Saturday, July 18, 2009 from 4-10PM at Ferg's Sports Bar, 1320 Central Avenue, St Petersburg**.

  Greg Charles, Horticultural and Agricultural Instructor in Central Florida since 1976, is facing 6-12 months of strenuous rehabilitation following a serious accident. While nothing can keep this irrepressible teacher, mentor, environmental watchdog and friend down, the Horticultural Industry will be gathering to raise funds to offset Greg's significant medical expenses.

  Mark Ferguson has generously offered Ferg's as the venue for this evening of fun fundraising, with **music by Madman Mac, from 4 – 10 p.m., entitled “Group Hug for Greg.”** Hourly drink specials, various raffles, silent and live auctions and meal tickets will round out the organizers' efforts to help provide financial relief for Greg and his family. Richard Carroll of Carroll's Nursery is chairing the event.

  For more than 35 years Greg Charles has been a driving force in all areas of the Florida green industry. Besides teaching and guiding hundreds of professionals in their horticultural journeys in Pinellas County, Greg spent two years as an Agriculture teacher in Sarasota County. He has served on the Boards of Directors for the Florida Nursery and Growers Association, the Green Thumb Festival, the Pinellas County Cooperative Extension Service, and the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Nursery Growers and Landscape Association. Greg's many professional awards include Outstanding Volunteer of the Year (Green Thumb Festival – 2009), Outstanding Educator of the Year (FNGLA -2002), Outstanding Landscape Division Member (FNGLA – 2001), Waterwise Landscaping Award (Pinellas Xeriscape Task Force – 1997), Special Environmental Award (City of St. Petersburg – 1996), and the Outstanding Agriculture Program of the Year (State of Florida – 1990).

  To volunteer or to offer an item for auction, contact Caela Paioff at paioffc@pcsb.org or Victoria Bay at victoria@soundsites.com, respectively.

- **The Neighborhood Gardener**
  *The Neighborhood Gardener* is a monthly e-newsletter of the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods and Florida Master Gardener programs. Distributed by the Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology Information Office via e-mail, it's also available on the Florida Master Gardener Web site at [http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/newsletters.shtml](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/newsletter/newsletters.shtml).

- **Campus Sustainability Committee Open to Master Gardeners**
  Just a reminder that our Campus Sustainability Committee is open for volunteers and staff to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for **July 2nd 3:00-4:30 pm at Extension**. Please call Jean Field at 727-582-2504 or email jfield@pinellascounty.org for details.

- **Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference**
  **November 2-4, 2009, Hilton Ocala, Ocala, Florida**

  Want to learn the latest gardening news from the IFAS specialists? Pack your weekend bag, and join fellow gardeners from around Florida at the annual Master Gardener Continued Training Conference. Carpooling is available and sharing rooms is possible too. For more information, check out the web site [http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html](http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/gardener/index.html). Feel free to call Jean Field at 727-582-2504 if you would like to know more about the "experience" of this worthwhile conference.

  The Hilton Ocala is offering participants of the **29th Annual Florida Master Gardener Continued Training Conference**, a very special rate of $99.00 per night (plus 8.5% state and local taxes), for up to 4 people in a room. The group rate will be honored three days prior and three days following the conference dates, based on availability.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & EVENTS

For July & August

- All About Trees
- Diagnostic Desk
- Ochs 4-H Vegetable Garden
- Every Hour counts

- **All About Trees—Wednesday July 8, 9AM—5PM**
  This is an all day event at the Extension. Join Ed Gilman, Ph.D. Professor of Arboriculture, UF/IFAS and Ed Bernard, Ph.D. Forest Pathologist from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a day of trees. Planned topics for day include:
  - Growing quality trees in the nursery, roots and canopy
  - Reporting new research that improves planted tree performance
  - Pruning young and mature trees
  - New research on structural pruning
  - Designing urban spaces for sustainable tree growth

  Cost is $80, although this class is offered at no cost to Pinellas County Master Gardener Volunteers, there is a $10 fee to cover the provided lunch. **Identification must be provided on the day of class to attend for the discounted rate.** Register online: [http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/)

- **Critical Need at the Diagnostic Desk**
  Diagnostic Desk volunteers needed to work ½-day shifts 2-4 per month in teams of two. This is the best volunteer position for learning and sharpening your plant and insect ID skills. Supportive staff back-up is available and monthly trainings are now offered.
  - 3rd and 4th Fridays—9AM-12:30PM with Stan Warner or 12:30-3:30PM with Carole Farrand
  - 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons with Dick Davis

  Contact Jean Field for more information. jfield@pinellascounty.org 582-2504.

- **Ochs 4-H Vegetable Garden in Need of MG Volunteers**
  The Ochs 4-H vegetable garden needs your help! If you enjoy working with children, spending time outside and gardening, this volunteer assignment is for you.
  The Ochs vegetable garden is located on Hamlin Blvd in Largo. It includes 70 vegetable plots and is open from September until mid-June, three days a week. As an MG volunteer you would be involved in educating the 4-H’er on plot preparation, seed sowing, fertilizing, harvesting and soil amendment. Additional duties include mulching, composting and general upkeep of the garden area.
  If you are interested in this volunteer assignment please contact Jean Rogalsky, 4-H Youth Development Agent @ jrogalsk@pinellascounty.org or 727-582-2597.

**Every Hour Counts**

Hello to our off-site, weekend and outreach MGs and volunteers! Thank you for your tireless educational outreach and weekend activities. Every hour you spend volunteering for your Extension office counts. **Please, please record and log your time** spent helping our community... no matter how small the project. For those who volunteer when the office is closed or those who work mostly out of their homes, please email your hours to our Master Gardener Office Manager, Chuck Scaffidi at cascaffidi@juno.com. Thanks to Chuck for taming the Volunteer Service Program database for us! What a beast it can be.

-Jean Field
UF Master Gardener Awards of Excellence

Note from Chuck - “We strongly encourage you to participate in the IFAS award program by submitting your favorite project. The awards this year are due by July 31st probably not leaving enough time to properly prepare your project submission. We do encourage you to think about next year’s award ceremony which will give you time to identify your project, properly document and photograph it so you have a complete record of the evolution of your project. The benefits are apparent in that you may receive a distinguished award from IFAS for an outstanding project competing in the entire state of Florida. A history of prior awards is indicated in the following photographs. Jean Field indicated the categories that you should be thinking about in her message below. ”

Tell the world about the Master Gardener project you have been involved in by nominating it for an IFAS Award of Excellence. Twelve educational categories exist from which to choose:

- Beautification, demonstration garden, educational materials development, Extension awareness, county displays/exhibits, general achievement, outstanding master gardener, personal communications, service to 4-H and other youth, special audiences, written or verbal mass communications, county Master Gardener newsletter

Gather with your gardening comrades, grab the photos, flyers and newspaper articles from your project and nominate your project for this prestigious award. Forms are on the round table in the MG office. Get an early start, as entries are due by July 31st. Please call or email Jean Field if you have any questions.

MGs at the 2007 State Conference: Front Row L to R - Donna Zacharczyk, Charlie Iserman, Carol Pilsbury
Back Row L to R - Chuck Scaffidi, Jack Moss, Marsha Williams- Collins, Sam Skemp

Ruth Davie’s Hypertufa Project recognized in 2003.
L to R: Chuck Scaffidi, Jack Moss, Ruth Davies & Pam Brown

At the 2006 Conference Dr. T. Nell presented Chuck Scaffidi and Cindy Peacock with the UPARC award

Hello Volunteers and Friends:

Are you drinking enough water? Summer blew in on the heels of a cool spell in late spring, barely giving us time to brace ourselves. Please remember to hydrate yourselves before going outside to work. As abruptly as the heat arrived, the horticultural inquiries shifted to insect ID and vegetable problems like the flip of a switch.

Popular vote wins! We won’t be having a MG update in July as many folks are visiting or being visited. I hope everyone has a happy and safe 4th of July holiday. Remember to thank a veteran for the freedom we enjoy in America.

Planning ahead, I have been toying with the idea of doing something entirely different for the December update on Tuesday the 8th. Perhaps a hands-on “make and take” class? If you have any ideas or suggestions, please email Sharon Bond slbond@aol.com or Chuck Scaffidi cascaffidi@juno.com or call me at 582-2504.

September will bring a new group of volunteers to our gardening “family”. We will be partnering with Pinellas County Schools Exceptional Student Education program during the school year. Six young cognitively disabled adults (with two teachers) will be volunteering on the grounds to learn work and social skills. We will be helping them transition into the work force from a life spent mostly with parents and teachers. If you have the interest and patience in working with some very special young adults, please call or email me for more information at jfield@pinellascounty.org, 582-2504.
Good Work Volunteers!

Reminder—Mark Your Calendar!

- No MG Update in July
- MG Update Friday, August 7 at 9AM
  Jane Morse presents "New Emerging Pests"
  Potluck lunch to follow